

TOWN and AROUND

A young girl with blue eyes, wearing a grey hijab and a red cape, is smiling at the camera. She is holding a sword in her right hand and a shield with a red cross on a white background in her left hand. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and a building.

ISSUE 222 APRIL 2024

PRICELESS!

Local News • Events • Great Outdoors • Features

First word



Spring at last; it's been a long time coming but all of a sudden the tulips are up and everything seems that little bit more colourful.

Wendy Warner (page 32) suggests we have at least one Agapanthus in our gardens for a long colourful show throughout the summer - and they are tolerant of salty sea breezes. Why not give one a try?

Local authority finances are scarcely out of the news these days and on page 58 the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance at Norfolk County Council, Andrew Jamieson, writes a thorough review of Norfolk's budget. It is a long article, but well worth reading especially if you have a glass of something beside you, and what better than a locally produced beverage - turn to page 77 for details of Norfolk producers who attended the inaugural West Norfolk Seasonal Food and Drink Festival in Hunstanton for inspiration.

Elsewhere in this very full issue there's a wide variety of articles and information that I hope you'll find interesting.

The April events listing can be found on the centre pages, and there looks to be something for everyone; we update the listing on our website throughout the month so do check the What's On page at www.townandaround.net

Our cover photo was taken by Ian Burt at Clenchwarton Primary School's World Book Day - so perfect for St George's Day on 23rd.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to this edition.

Until next month,

Elaine

Elaine Bird, Editor,
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Final section of coastal path in Norfolk has opened

A thirty-three mile (53 km) stretch of the King Charles III England Coast Path from Hunstanton to Sutton Bridge has opened to the public. This section of the path links up with existing paths so the entire Norfolk coastline is now accessible to walkers.

Passing by Hunstanton, Heacham and Snettisham, the path aims to stay as close to the coast as possible and in many places that means walking right alongside the coast, while in others it heads inland, though usually only for short distances.

Between Heacham and Snettisham, the path passes Wild Ken Hill estate, known for rewilding, regenerative farming, and traditional conservation practices.

It also introduces seven miles of new access between Snettisham and King's Lynn, crossing the seaward edge of Sandringham Estate.

The shoreline on the open coast between Snettisham and Sutton Bridge is predominantly alongside sea banks that were constructed to protect the drained arable farmland. The banks and adjacent saltmarsh are also grazed by cattle. Walkers should be aware that there are no public facilities or connecting paths for a number of miles along the sea banks.

Between King's Lynn and Sutton Bridge the path follows the Peter Scott Walk along the sea bank between West Lynn and the lighthouse on the mouth of the river Nene, which was once owned by Sir Peter Scott.

Once completed The King Charles III England Coast Path will be a 2,700 mile National Trail around the whole of the English coastline, and by the end of this year over 95% of the route is expected to be walkable.

James Marshall, Natural England deputy director for Norfolk and Suffolk, said: "This new stretch of the King Charles III England

King Charles III England Coast Path - Stretch Progress
East Hub Team - 6th March 2024



Coast Path will give people from all over the country access to our beautiful local coastline, connecting them with nature and providing health and wellbeing benefits.

"The trail will also support the local economy - bringing walkers and visitors to the towns and villages for day trips, refreshments and places to stay."

Andrew Jamieson, chair of the Norfolk National Trail Partnership and deputy leader of Norfolk County Council said: "This new section of national trail enables visitors and local communities to enjoy and explore this remote coast through the Norfolk Coast National Landscape, overlooking The Wash, with big skies, stunning sunsets, and spectacular bird life."



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TOWN GUIDES DONATE MORE THAN £5000 TO KING'S LYNN'S ORGANISATIONS AND BUILDINGS

Gary Walker

Some of Lynn's most important period buildings will be better protected because of walking tours of the town conducted by King's Lynn Town Guides.

At the guides' annual donations ceremony on Wednesday (February 21) King's Lynn Deputy Mayor Cllr Paul Bland, presented a donation of totalling more than £5000 split between nine recipients: King's Lynn Civic Society, True's Yard Fisherfolk Museum, King's Lynn Minster, The Jewish Cemetery in Stonegate Street, Marriott's Warehouse Trust, All Saint's Church, Hampton Court Residents, King's Lynn General Charities and King's Lynn and West Norfolk Archaeological Society.

The money, accrued from the guided walks the guides undertook last year, is mainly going to crucial maintenance, upgrading of buildings, the provision of vital equipment and a wide range of ecological improvements,

"I'm delighted that, once again, we are able to make donations to so many good causes," said chairman Paul Allford. "We are all proud to show off the town to visitors and locals alike. "It's a real bonus that we can share out some of the money we raise to reward those who look after the fabric of the town so well."

Lynn General Charities will be upgrading the boiler house and improving insulation at its Gaywood almshouses, Marriotts Warehouse Trust plans to carry out essential maintenance of the building which given its Grade 11* listing is particularly complicated and expensive. Once accomplished the trust will be working on its displays setting up Fred Hall's many models of the town while before addressing it displays the True's Yard Fisherfolk Museum has an eco-friendly boiler to purchase. A new audio system, is much needed at the Minster.

King's Lynn Civic Society has an ambitious project to refurbish 12 signs from 1970, which give the current and former names of streets. The society has also commissioned 18 new signs and an adult and children's walking trail. "The money from the guides donation will



help towards this project which we hope will be useful to them on their walks through the town with visitors," explains chairman Alison Gifford. "The old signs are currently with the company to be cleaned up and repainted and the new ones are ready to be installed by the Borough Council which has been very supportive throughout the scheme.

Over on Stonegate Street, the Jewish Cemetery Friends Association is tackling the modest – and frequently over-looked – site of the cemetery, the walls of which have suffered from inappropriate repair with hard cement. Grade 11 listed they need re-pointing with lime mortar. Several small pieces of tomb stone stacked against the rear wall actually belonged to three larger in situ headstones.

"Repairs to these stones, will improve the whole site," explained Paul Allford. "There will no longer be a ramshackle pile of broken artefacts leaning against the rear wall. This is precisely the kind of project to which we like our donations to be put."

Regular guided walks of historic King's Lynn take place every week from Easter to October, beginning at 2.00pm from Saturday Market Place. Private walks can take place at any time throughout the year to suit individual

requests. The Guides walks cost £5 a head for adults and are free for children.

They range from the basic Historic Lynn walk, which gives an overview of the town's history, to specialist topics such as 'The Darker Side of Lynn'. Private bookings and team building events for a minimum of six people are available at the same price per head. Full details are available on the website: www.kingslynntownguides.co.uk



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David Young provides unique musical entertainment on clarinet, tenor saxophone and wind synthesiser. The instruments are accompanied by pre-recorded musicians and covers all tastes from jazz standards, film/show music, Latin (cha cha, samba, bossa nova), ballroom and upbeat pop music from several decades.

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Dedication and Long Service Awards for local volunteers

On Sunday 3rd March representatives from the individual Squadron Civilian Committees of the Norfolk and Suffolk Wing of the RAF Air Cadets attended the Wing Annual General Meeting which was held at the combined 231 Norwich Squadron and Wing Headquarters building in Norwich.

The day saw Squadron Civilian Welfare Committee members from most of the Wing's twenty-five squadrons able to attend.

In addition to the usual AGM agenda, the day saw the representatives given short presentations by the Wing's Commanding Officer, Wing Commander Jason Allan, and the Wing Padre Rev Ron Tuck.



Mike Lister (left) receives his award from East Region Air Cadets Chairman, David Ellis

To oversee the AGM the Central & East Region Air Cadets Chairman, David Ellis was also in attendance. He took the opportunity to present a number of volunteer awards amongst which were the Chair of 42F (King's Lynn) Squadron Air Training Corps,



Peter Pygall (left) receives his award from East Region Air Cadets Chairman, David Ellis

Mike Lister, for 24 years dedicated service and the Lynn Squadron's Treasurer, Peter Pygall for 30 years dedicated service.

David Ellis concluded by saying "Thank you to all of our committee members. You, like our uniformed team are all volunteers and do a huge amount to help fundraise for our cadets to give them as many opportunities as possible."

Mike Lister commented "We volunteer because we see the benefits and great opportunities the Air Cadets gives our young people. Unfortunately, today our Squadrons find it increasingly difficult to recruit adult volunteers, especially to the uniformed and civilian instructor roles. King's Lynn is no exception and would welcome some additional volunteers."

Interested? Start your journey on the www by looking up RAF Air Cadets.

Girl Guides Thinking Day

Rosemary Rayner



Forty brownies, guides and rainbows and their leaders from Docking, Hunstanton and Heacham had a celebration of Thinking Day in February half term, with a Swiss theme, at the Docking Ripper Hall.

Spaces are available at Docking brownies, which meets from 1715-1845 on Wednesdays in term time. If your child is interested, please register via the website www.girlguiding.org.uk

NORWICH 100/60/30 BIKE RIDE

Sunday 2nd June 2024

A scenic summer bike ride to suit many abilities. Starting and finishing in the beautiful city of Norwich this event comprises 3 circular cycle routes around Norfolk.

All routes set off from outside The Forum and head north. The shorter 30 mile route splits off east at Coltishall. The medium 60 mile route heads to Walcott then turns south to the finish via Horsey Mill. The longest 100 mile route heads further north before turning east at Blakeney and following the coast back to the finish.

Choose your route and enjoy some perfect cycling country along quiet roads and through picturesque villages. Finish back in Norwich at the Lower School to receive your medal.

There will be refreshment stops at regular intervals throughout the routes and Bike Events provide full back-up including route signing, GPX, marshals, mechanics, medics and pick-up.

Choose to take part and fundraise for your favourite charity. This is an open event with several supporting charities including local charities Star Throwers and Diabetes Norfolk.

Register online at www.bike-events.co.uk

Norwich 100 <https://www.bike-events.co.uk/norwich100>

Norwich 60/30 <https://www.bike-events.co.uk/norwich6030>

Additional information and photos: Emma Carne, Bike Events, Unit 4, Spike Island, 133 Cumberland Road, Bristol BS1 6UX emma@bike-events.com



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The information you must provide when selling your home

By Stephanie Connor, Associate Solicitor, Hayes + Storr

When selling your home, you may recall the expression 'buyer beware', but what does this mean, and is it still relevant today? Nowadays, there is more legal protection in place for buyers, who also now expect greater transparency.

If you're selling a property, it is important to provide the correct information, and to get the right advice about any problems.

What information must I give to potential buyers?

Firstly, you must disclose any latent title defects you are aware of. A 'latent' defect is one which the buyer could not reasonably discover from inspecting the property. For example, a right of drainage or any problems with your drains, or a restriction affecting the use of your home.

Secondly, the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 places anyone acting as a business under certain duties which include not withholding information which the buyer may need to make an informed decision. While you may not be a business, the regulations apply to your estate agent and solicitor including to statements they make on your behalf.

Discuss any issues with your estate agent and solicitor early on. This will enable them to give you the best advice and will help your

transaction to progress smoothly.

What information should I disclose when selling my home?

Most buyers will expect you to provide information about your home, and replying to their solicitor's enquiries is an established part of the conveyancing process.

There is a standard form for this (the TA6) which your solicitor will ask you to complete, covering topics such as boundaries, insurance and whether you have had any disputes with neighbours.

It is not a legal requirement to complete the form, or to answer all the questions. But, refusing to do so may raise suspicions and could delay or even jeopardise your sale.

What if there is something that may put off my buyers?

It is important to discuss any concerns with your solicitor early on. Do not be tempted to lie or tell a half-truth. If you do, and the buyers rely on that statement, you may be liable for misrepresentation. In a worst-case scenario, your buyers could reject the contract and you may have to pay them compensation.

How can my solicitor help me?

If there is something you think may concern potential buyers, talk to your solicitor. They



can advise you on the best approach, one which will not expose you to unnecessary risk while hopefully reassuring your buyers. Often there will be a relatively straightforward solution. For example, if there is a technical breach of planning or building regulations, it is usually possible to buy an insurance policy to satisfy any concerns.

How we can help

For further information, please contact Stephanie Connor in the residential property team on 01328 863231 or email stephanie.connor@hayes-storr.com.

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

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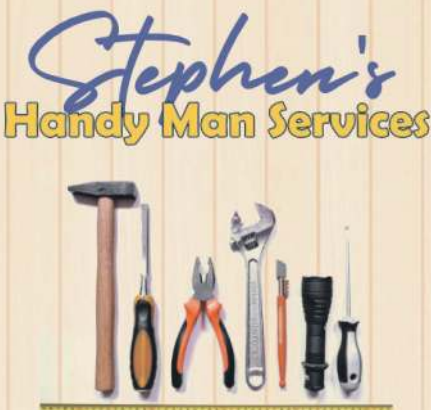


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WORLD TAI CHI DAY COMES TO HUNSTANTON

World Tai Chi Day is on Saturday 27th April and to celebrate it there will be a mass come-and-try Tai Chi event on the Green in the morning. This will be everybody's opportunity to experience Tai Chi first hand in a relaxed, enjoyable environment with likeminded people. All are welcome from complete novices to those who have participated before. Let's see the Green as full as possible with everyone doing Tai Chi!

Tai Chi is a Chinese martial art known for its slow, intentional movements and is popular as a gentle form of exercise and moving meditation with benefits to mental and physical health. Qi Gong is a simple form of Tai Chi harnessing the power of breathing and movement.

The morning is organised by ABC Tai Chi and offers a fun introduction to Tai Chi and Qi Gong:

-10.00 to 11.00 Gentle standing Tai Chi and Qi Gong
-11.00 to 12.00 Limited mobility session including seated Tai Chi

If attending the limited mobility session then you may bring your own chair or use the ones provided. Meet by the bandstand. The sessions are free of charge but donations to the RNLI are welcome.

Come and join a global health and wellbeing event for World Tai Chi Day!

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BUDGET 2024 – MORE STICK THAN CARROT?

By Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton

Now that the preliminary assessment of the 2024 Budget has been made - with most commentators using words like “dull”, “safe” and “predictable”, it is perhaps worth looking behind the headlines to see exactly what will be changing.

Firstly, the big and well leaked headline was a second cut in National Insurance, with a 2% reduction building on the similar amount given in the Autumn, such that the average employee will be some £900 a year better off – or about £650 for the self-employed. These will be welcome amounts, but they will only be enjoyed by those in work. Meanwhile, although not mentioned in the Budget, everyone, including pensioners, will be paying rather more Income Tax, due to the freezing of personal tax allowances which have not increased since 2022.

In addition to the big headline, there was also welcome change to the tax treatment of Child Benefit received by those who are better off, with an increase in the level at which the benefit is clawed back, from £50,000 to £60,000 thus relieving to some extent (but unfortunately not entirely) the excessively high marginal rates of tax suffered by some parents. This tax has in the past caught many people who were unaware of its impact, and there has now been a promise that it will be taxed on a “household basis” by 2026.

Having reduced the tax burden for some, the Chancellor also announced a change in the treatment of those who live in the UK but are “domiciled” elsewhere (Non-Doms) - in future such individuals will pay full UK tax after four years – this move pre-empted a promise for the opposition, and as such was largely political tactic. More alarmingly it was countered shortly afterwards by an announcement from the shadow chancellor that she would now be looking at other tax “loopholes”, such as some of the business Inheritance Tax reliefs. The use of the word “loophole” is something of a misnomer, because these reliefs were deliberately granted to avoid a forced sale of



businesses and farms on the death of the owner. Irrespective of the terminology, those contemplating passing a business on, might now wish to consider doing so sooner rather than later.

One of the key announcements, however, was that the tax favoured status of Furnished Holiday Lettings (FHLs) would be revoked from April 2025. It is not quite clear how this will work, and what transitional arrangements might be put in place, but the main point is that mortgage interest will be restricted to Basic Rate, and the Capital Gains Tax (CGT) reliefs on the disposal of an FHL property will be withdrawn. To temper this slightly, the top rate of CGT will be reduced from 28% to 24%. The cynical among us might think that the tax take might actually be increased by reducing the rate – unlike Income Tax, CGT is within the control of the taxpayer and many will simply not sell when the marginal rate is 28%.

Ostensibly, the rationale behind these changes is that too many rural and coastal properties are being used as FHLs and this is pricing locals out of the rental or buying market. Given the relatively “high end” nature of local holiday lets, and the apparent reluctance of landlords to risk “the tenant who won’t leave”, it is by no means clear, however, that the loss of some marginal tax reliefs will have the desired effect.

If you require advice regarding either the impact of the High Income Child Benefit marginal rate or you are currently running a Furnished Holiday Let and are worried about the withdrawal of the existing favourable tax treatment 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.

N.B. Article written in March 2024.

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

The Norfolk Coroner's Service is trying to trace the next of kin of Malcolm Edward STEBBING, aged 88, who resided at North Wootton, King's Lynn and died on 1st March 2024.

There were no suspicious circumstances that led to his death, but despite extensive enquiries no next of kin have been identified.

Anyone with information relating to Mr Stebbing is asked to contact the Coroner's Office on 01603 774773 or by emailing coroner@norfolk.gov.uk

Kathryn Gigg

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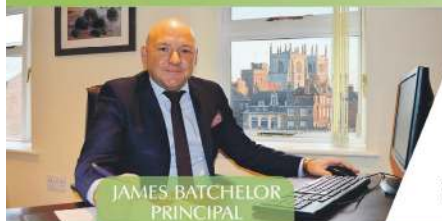
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Help with Council Tax is available

The Borough Council's Council Tax Support Scheme will be more generous in 2024/25, meaning people entitled to the most help through this scheme will not have to pay council tax.

New rules agreed in the council's budget mean that more people will be eligible for some help under the scheme and those on the lowest incomes will not have to pay any council tax at all.

Cllr Chris Morley, the Borough Council's Cabinet Member for Finance, said: "We are funding a building programme totalling £170m over the next 4 years, with a much greater proportion of much-needed affordable and rental homes, which will start to come on stream next year.

"Where prices have increased this has been done in a measured way and the overall approach means we have a fully-funded budget, with no cuts to any of our existing services, unlike many other Councils.

Changes to the council tax support scheme were agreed by the council as part of a range of financial measures for 2024/25, which included a £500,000 package of support for local charities.

The council's financial plans include raising income by charging extra council tax on empty homes and second homes* and raising fees and charges by an average of 10%. The council is also continuing to lobby Government over the way Internal Drainage Boards are funded: the current rules mean that the council has to pass on the equivalent of around 43% of its income from council tax to pay for the Boards.

The increase in the Borough Council portion of the council tax is 3.1%; this means the average increase for a Band D property will be £5 per household.

Anyone with concerns about their council tax bill can find information and support on the council's website at www.west-norfolk.gov.uk. The site includes information on council tax bills, discounts and exemptions, as well as support with the cost of living.

*The second homes element of the extra council tax comes in from 2025/26.

Quiz Night at Thornham Village Hall

19th April 2024 Doors open 6.30pm

Put your thinking caps on and gather a group of friends and family to come along and compete in our Quiz Night on Friday 19th April.

Ian Barrett, our Quiz Master, is devising an evening of questions to entertain, challenge and make us all laugh!

Book as a team (maximum 8 people), or just book and come along for us to create teams. It's a great way to meet new people! Team tables and individual places will be allocated on a first come/first served basis.

Supper will be served in the interval and the bar will be open all evening.

Tickets, including supper, are £10 per person. To book or for more information, email Sue Herbert, sueherbert50@gmail.com

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Getting ready to celebrate...

John Maiden

According to the law, Local Authorities are obliged to respond within 20 working days to requests for information made under the Freedom of Information Act. In spite of the law, it took the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk more than six months to come up with information relating to Hunstanton's non-pier. In spite of the unacceptable delay it was well worth waiting for, once the information finally arrived in the form of attachments to an email I received on September 1st 2023.

The attachments did not provide a complete record of correspondence between council employees and an assortment of individuals claiming to represent CHS Amusements Limited. However, an email from a borough officer confirmed everything that I had been telling councillors and council staff repeatedly since 2002. This fact was immediately recognised by Elaine Bird, the founder and editor of this most excellent publication. As soon as she read the officer's email, complete with extracts from deeds, covenants, bylaws, etc, she suggested that I had every reason to celebrate. I had to admit that I thought it would be almost impossible for the borough council to sweep this vital evidence under the carpet, along with many other documents relating to the non-pier.

It goes without saying that the current leader of the borough council has not been in post long enough to realise the full significance of the officer's email. However, Terry Parish did chase up the Freedom of Information Team for a response to my outstanding FOI request, which was



The Green - no longer a Grass Green Only, due to the non-pier!

already six months overdue. Unfortunately, the dates when CHS paid the rent, and the sums involved, are still being kept secret. This is doubly disappointing because the rent for those parts of the non-pier that overhang the promenade and The Green was set in 2003 at £10,000 per year index linked, with just £1 per year rent for the bulk of the building, presumably based on the theory that the 'hangar' would one day turn into a real pier.

Compared with the need to comply with the restrictions imposed on The Green by the 1955 Covenant, the way children's rides have been permitted to spew out onto a public footpath merely adds insult to injury. Back in 2009 David Gretch of English Heritage expressed disbelief that borough planning officers had passed plans for the hangar, and was doing nothing to protect what was left of the original character and appearance of The Green as a grass green...



Children's rides and doors opening outwards obstruct a public footpath.

NATIONAL COASTWATCH INSTITUTION (NCI) BRANCASTER

The New Year has been a quiet time for the Brancaster station, as the adverse weather conditions have kept many people from the beach and coastal areas. However, continued vigilance is still important, and watches have to be kept in all weathers.

The foundations for the new station have been laid (see picture, which also shows existing station)) but, unfortunately, a minor hitch in manufacturing has led to a short delay in the delivery of the building. It is hoped that the new facility will be operational by the end of March at the latest, in time for the Easter break period. Thanks go to Watchkeeper Frazer for all his hard work on plans and during the completion of the foundation phase. The new station cannot come soon enough, as the old one has leaked badly and also fails to keep out the wind and cold.

NCI Brancaster attended the "Green Day" event held at Brancaster Staithe Village Hall. Visitors heard about the service's environmental considerations that have gone into the design of the new station, along with advice on water safety and matters concerned with ocean health in line with NCI Environmental Policy.

We extend a warm welcome to Stephanie, a volunteer new to the station, and wish her well in her training phase.

For further information about NCI Brancaster, please contact Richard Burrows, Deputy Station Manager and Watchkeeper, on 7535 612777.





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Hunstanton Society news

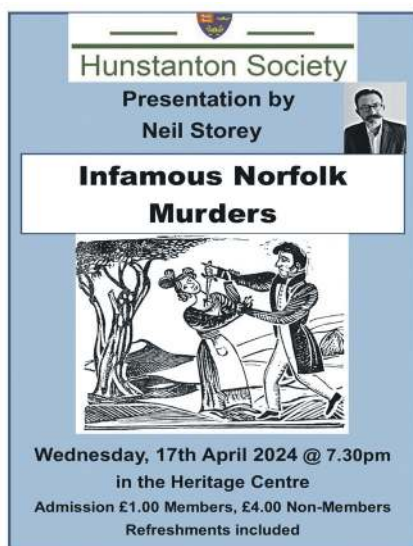
TALKS

We had one talk in January given by Ben Colson which opened up a window on the character of Prince, and then King, Edward VII. A full house enjoyed this very much indeed.

There then followed two talks in February, the first given by Anna Keay all about her book – *A Restless Republic* – Britain without a crown. This took place on Sunday afternoon, 18th February. This was also very well attended and she spoke very eloquently all about the history around that time with particular reference to the involvement of the Le Strange family.

Then on Wednesday, 21st February we had a talk given by Colleen Roper about Hunstanton's Rainbow Park. This was also well attended and the audience learnt all about how the Park operated over the past 60 years.

On 20th March we are expecting another interesting talk from Pat Richardson on Farming an NCC Smallholding in the Good Old Days. Then in April we shall have Neil Storey returning to talk to us about 'Infamous Norfolk Murders'.



HERITAGE CENTRE

We reopened the Heritage Centre on Wednesday, 14th February to visitors. Although attendances have been disappointing, there have been some interesting visitors who have brought stories of the past history of Hunstanton.

Our Treasurer, Phil Thomas, has headed up the process of Archiving many of the items held at the Heritage Centre and has produced the following article that will interest many of you:

The Heritage Centre Museum Accreditation Process

Those who have passed the Heritage Centre in the recent dark evenings may have noticed lights from within. This is evidence of the work of a few members of our committee working on the museum accreditation process.

As you all may know, we have been working towards official accreditation as a museum for the heritage centre. This has benefits, the major ones being that we will have full documentation of our collection, and that we will be eligible for grants.

Ongoing work involves:

- Documenting and labelling our collection.
- Establishing a database for managing the collection
- Writing and publishing rules and procedures for handling of our collection, including taking in new objects and handling movements of our existing objects.

Most of the work so far has been in documenting and labelling our exhibits. To date we have labelled over 500 objects. These have been labelled, photographed and recorded on our database.

You may have noticed that our books are no longer on display. You couldn't see the covers, so we decided to free up display space by moving them to the office, where there are filed by author in alphabetical order. This makes them easy to find, and to spot duplicates. They are labelled the same as other objects (artifacts).

During our accessioning we came across the following item which seems to be a specially sewn table-cloth. Does anyone know which organisation this was sewn by and for what purpose? If you do know, please do contact our secretary, Sheila Kent, at secretary@hunstantonsociety.org.uk



As you may see, it includes the dates 1966 to 1972.

In addition Phil has prepared a report about one of the original walks around Hunstanton

A Victorian Walk in Hunstanton – Part 1

It's a lovely day, March 2024, so we set out for a stroll in Hunstanton based on "Jarrold's Guide to Hunstanton". This is undated, but it is thought that it dates to the 1890s. It's a little out of date perhaps, but we will give it a go. The guide is in Italics, my comments in standard type. Where I get lost or get something wrong, hopefully some of our Hunstanton Society members/readers can help me out.

For the convenience of visitors, it is our intention to take a pleasant walk through the

town, noting the various objects of interest as we pass along.

Leaving the Railway Station, we pass "Wales's Railway Hotel," which is a Commercial House, on the right, and The Sandringham Hotel," a large Family Hotel with its commanding view of the sea, on the left.

Well, not a great start, as there is no railway station, so we set off from the old Coal Shed, which is still there. The station was where Southend Car Park is. The railway hotel is now the "Wash and Tope" but sadly the Sandringham Hotel is long-gone, it's now the rather monstrous "Harlequin House". This contains Azams, which still carries on the old tradition of the various bazaars, selling cheap goods and souvenirs to our visitors.

Near the Station is the Studio of Mr. W. McLean, a well-known photographer; through whose courtesy we are enabled to present our readers with several good views of this delightful watering-place. At his establishment there is a large assortment of fancy articles, and visitors should not lose the opportunity of inspecting the varied stock.

Near this is "The Camera Obscura," which is largely patronized during the season.

Nothing much is left of this site except perhaps the "Waterside Bar" (which wasn't a station refreshment room until later). The area stretches down to the "Tubbies" take-away kiosk and "Driftwood Café". The Mikado Theatre Hall and refreshment rooms (not mentioned) burned down with the rest of the site in the 1920s. There is a current planning application to build a new hotel here.

Passing Dr. Whitty's residence, and "Brenda Lodge," we notice "The Golden Lion," a large Family and Commercial Hotel, which stands on the top of the promenade: in front of which the visitor cannot fail to notice the remains of an old stone cross.

I have no idea about Dr Whitty's, but "Brenda Lodge" is still there in the guise of "Five Flying Fish" – or am I getting "Brenda Lodge" and "Minna Lodge" mixed up? (See later where I get confused). However, I can definitely see "The Golden Lion" and I don't fail to notice the old stone cross.

Passing over the green sward in front of this hotel, we arrive at the Pier; which was erected in 1870. This is more than 800 feet in length. Owing to the flatness of the beach, at low water visitors can walk on the sands quite round the head of the Pier; but at high water the sea flows its entire length.

Oh, the Pier. Sadly missed. The 2002 building sits unattractively where the entrance once was.

Near the entrance to the Pier is one entrance to "The Esplanade Grounds," the admission to which is nearly always free. There is accommodation here for Lawn Tennis (five courts), Archery, Quoits, &c., for which convenience a small charge is made to the players. This is a great acquisition to the town, as the whole of these grounds are

exposed to the invigorating sea breezes, an uninterrupted view of the sea being obtained from any part.

No one charged me for entrance today, which was nice. It's still a pleasant area. The amusements have changed.

Below these grounds, and nearer the sea, is what is known as "Beeton's Promenade," on which stands a Bazaar and Refreshment Room, with Mace's Photographic Studio at the southern end.

This is the Northern Promenade, nothing much of note remains here. Beeton was a local businessman who bought up most of the buildings along here. The Bazaar was Jones' London Bazaar and I believe the Refreshment Room was "St Edmunds". The other "Camera Obscura" was here too, but not mentioned, so maybe it was later. There was a bandstand much later (built 1911, demolished 1947).

Standing parallel with "The Esplanade Grounds," and at the top of the Cliff, are two terraces of well-built lodging-houses, known, as "Cliff Esplanade," and "Beaconsfield Terrace."

I am pretty sure these are the two grand terraces at the start of Cliff Parade, though the names are no longer apparent. Site of many hotels and guest houses along the years, with hints of their names in the house names on the glass panels above the doors. Cliff Terrace isn't mentioned, it would have been there at the time (Built 1870s).

Retracing our steps round "The Golden Lion," with its mounted pieces of artillery, we

pass, on the right, "Pierpoint House," "Minna Lodge," the residence of Bagge, Esq., and St. Edmund's Terrace, the houses in which are let as lodging-houses. Opposite is the residence of Miss Scott-Durbin.

No artillery in site, and I can't see any "Pierpoint House" but that's not what confuses me. I thought "Minna Lodge" it what was later "Cassie's Restaurant" and is now known as "Number 21" (Being 21, The Green), but as this is the other side of "Brenda Lodge" I don't know why it's mentioned at this point. The Town Hall is not mentioned at all, and as this is a grand building, I can surmise the guide is from before it was built (1896).

Turning up Greeve Gate Road we next notice "Kelly's Library and Reading Room," which is a great convenience to visitors during their stay here.

I know there were various libraries (where you could buy or rent a book) along the years on Greevegate and the High Street, but I'm not sure where this one was. As it is mentioned at this point, it must be on the west side of high street, around where "Fisher's" fish and chip shop is.

Crossing High Street, we pass "Victoria Buildings" on our right, and "Clifton House" on our left.

Indeed we do. "Victoria Buildings" stretches from Hunstanton Pizza (Number 1?) to the "Norfolk Deli" on Greevegate (Number 5?). The area behind this was "The Royal Arcade" which is still used in addresses years

afterwards and ends somewhere on Greevegate. Barclays Bank would have been there at that time. I meet the current owner of "Clifton House" Mr Andrew Murray, and he confirms that this is indeed the "Hunstanton Heritage Centre". Many remember it as the Natwest bank.

The Church of Hunstanton St. Edmund now engages our attention.

It's closed! On a Saturday! I will have to go in at a later point. The famous windows showing the life of St Edmund are later anyway.

This church has been recently built, and is unendowed, being entirely supported by voluntary contributions. This is a somewhat plain building without steeple and is built of carr-stone faced with flint, with stone dressings. It consists of a wide nave and chancel, with north and south aisles, the side aisles being divided from the nave by massive stone pillars. It has a small organ, and the church is seated throughout with rush-seated chairs, accommodation being afforded for nearly 500 worshippers. The church is lighted with gas, when required.

(I have edited out a lot of information at this point on hours of service etc). The only points of interest being:

*The Rev. A. Waller is the present Vicar.
All Seats are Free.*

Next month we shall continue with Phil and Alison's walk.

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NEWS FROM BRANCASTER VILLAGE HALL (BVH)

Geoff Wingrove

This has been another very busy month for BVH, with lots going on: it is really gratifying to see the community coming together in making maximum use of the facility and joining in all these activities.

It is pleasing to report that St. Mary's church has linked with the organisers of Music in the Burnhams to bring a series of seven recital concerts to Brancaster. We are grateful to Lucinda Mackworth-Young for her very generous loan of a fine grand piano essential for the recitals. The first concert will be held on Saturday 13th April at 7.30pm with the highly acclaimed violin and piano duo, Joo Yeon Sir and Irena Andrievsky. Full details of this and other recitals can be found on the BVH website.

A pickleball roll-up is being held at 10.00am each Tuesday morning, using the newly laid surface. Everybody is welcome (weather permitting): if you are interested, please contact Diana Walton at dianawalton1@gmail.com

A reminder that the coffee mornings, which take place every Wednesday from 10.30-11.30am at BVH, would welcome new members: come along for a hot drink, a chat, meet new friends and join in the free raffle.

Bar 71 continues to provide a range of activities, where you will be sure of a warm welcome, and there are new services being offered by the Shop/Post Office. For full details and opening times, together with a list of our regular activities and Easter events, please visit our website - www.brancastervillagehall.co.uk and for enquiries: brancastervillagehallcommunitybookings.co.uk - or check out our pages on Facebook and Instagram.

FROM THE BRANCASTER VILLAGE HALL ARCHIVE: NELSON AT BURNHAM THORPE: Part One 1758-1768

Nelson's parents Edmund and Catherine (née Suckling) were married in 1749. Edmund had trained for the church, and through his wife's connections, the whole family was able to move to the Rectory at Burnham Thorpe, which also benefitted from the livings in Burnham Sutton, Burnham Ulph and Burnham Norton.

The Rectory at Burnham Thorpe was really just an enlarged farmhouse and was situated about a mile south of the church, on the way to the village of North Creak. The Rectory was demolished in Nelson's time, but the church - which dates back to the thirteenth century - still exists. Nelson was born at the Rectory in 1758 and lived there until he went to school in Norwich in 1768. In his younger years he was known as Horace, after his godfather in the Walpole family.

The village at this time had a population of 396, who shared 73 dwellings. There were four freeholds, including the Rectory, which had about 30 acres, and a tavern - called at that time The Plough. All that Nelson remembered of the village in his later life was that it was "lonesome". His father Edmund agreed with this, saying of the village "All is hush at high noon as at midnight". The village was situated in the valley of the River Burn, which flowed through the area to the wild marshes of the Norfolk coast.

The main occupation of the village was agriculture, and Nelson would certainly have explored the farms in the area. A short distance away was Burnham Overy Staithe, which in those days was a small port

bustling with schooners and small vessels transporting barley to London for brewing and bringing in many goods for sale across the area. The port would also have been home to fishermen specialising in oysters and mussels.

To the east of the Rectory lay the large estate of Holkham. This was the home of the very powerful Coke family who built Holkham hall in the eighteenth century, completing in 1764. The Cokes became the Earls of Leicester; Holkham Hall and its estates are important visitor attractions today. Further east was the only town of any size in the area - Wells - which again had a thriving port and fishing industry.

Nelson's mother, who produced eleven children altogether, died in 1767 at the age of 42, leaving Edmund, who was totally distraught, to look after the eight surviving children alone. As a result, he became the dominant figure in Horatio's early life. As such he admonished Horatio to work hard and honourably, to pray, to keep himself clean and to value good schooling. Edmund was by nature reasonably strict, but also kind, modest and generous. As demonstrated on numerous occasions, he was someone who could be counted on in times of crisis.

Perhaps, in view of later events, the most dramatic influence on the young Nelson was his mother's brother, and his uncle, Maurice Suckling. He was a captain in the Navy and would enthral the family with exotic tales of faraway places and daring exploits against the French. Undoubtedly this would have given the young and impressionable Horatio, already acquainted with sea life at Overy Staithe and other coastal villages, his first taste of the prospect of the excitement of action and adventure at sea.

Nelson left Burnham Thorpe in 1768 to attend boarding school in Norwich and from there transferred to a grammar school in North Walsham. He cannot be said to have distinguished himself at either school, both of which offered a fairly restricted curriculum.

At home during the winter of 1770/71, Nelson read in the Norfolk Chronicle that his uncle, Captain Suckling, had been appointed to a new 64-gun ship, the "Raisonnable", which was fitting out at Chatham. Nelson quickly decided that he wanted his uncle to take him to sea. His father was not averse to the proposal, as the career of sea officer offered opportunities without the necessity of incurring cost that a career in the professions, church or army would have involved.

It was common practice in those times that captains in the Navy should be allowed to take relatives and other sons of prominent people into their ships as captains' servants. This was the regular route by which such boys could become midshipmen and then advance their careers as lieutenants and above. It is interesting that Suckling was unsure that Nelson, who had a frail disposition, would be suited to sea life: "What has poor Horace done, who is so weak, that he above all should be sent to rough it out at sea? But let him come, and first time we go into action a cannon ball may knock off his head and provide for him."

In 1771 Nelson was summoned from school to report aboard the "Raisonnable". He travelled to London with his father and from there joined his new ship, which was probably continuing to fit out at Sheerness: he was not to return for any length of time to Burnham Thorpe until 1790.

The pictures show the plaque on the site of the Burnham Thorpe Rectory where Nelson was born and All Saints' Church, Burnham Thorpe, where he would have worshipped.



One year on...

We are right now looking back over the last year, and we are so grateful to all our wonderful customers locally who have supported us since we opened on the 16th of March 2023.

We are also very grateful to the many customers who have travelled from all over the UK to visit us because they themselves, a child, another loved one or friend can't eat gluten. We have had many customers who've told us they haven't eaten out for some years because of bad experiences with cross contamination. We have also many loyal customers who have no dietary requirements who just love eating or drinking coffee at The Spontaneous Cuppa.

In 2023, we supported The Princess Theatre's Macmillan fundraising event and when the Christmas lights were turned in Hunstanton November 2023 we held a special event at The Spontaneous Cuppa to support three local Hunstanton Charities. We are looking forward making these charity activities a yearly tradition at The Spontaneous Cuppa.

Since we opened, we've been invited to participate in many marketing activities however we wanted to get some experience under our belt before over promoting ourselves.

This year, we were approached by The Coastal Café Guide, <https://www.coastalcafeguide.com> the creators of the best-selling guide book, The Extra Mile <https://theextramile.guideto> to join over 100 other mainly small, independent cafés and places to eat around the coast of England, Scotland and Wales. We reflected some time, looked closely at their brand, had conversations with their wonderful editor Kerry O'Neill and decided 'yes', we would love to feature in and hopefully with more Hunstanton eateries in the first edition of the book out this summer. Last but not least we would like to thank Town and Around Hunstanton for all your support in the last amazing 12 months!

Adrian and Anne



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Marriott's Warehouse Trust

Tricia Rowlands

Marriott's Warehouse Trust is pleased to announce its series of Pleasant Sunday Afternoon talks will be returning again this April and May. MWT is a small local charity which promotes the architectural heritage of King's Lynn and is based in one of the town's historic buildings Marriott's Warehouse dating from 1580 on the South Quay. The Pleasant Sunday Afternoon talks all start at 3pm and take place on the 2nd floor of the Grade 2* building where there is a lift available.

The first talk will take place on Sunday 7th April and be on the King's Lynn Power Station – its history and uses. It will be presented by Simon Bell, a former employee at the station and now a qualified Town Guide. He will cover the history of electrification of the town, the development of the national grid and the power station that we see today. It will be mainly focused on the planning, construction and operation of the power station – something we all rely on but rarely know much about.

The second talk in the series will take place on Sunday 21st April and is "Worktown – the Mass Observation Project" by well-known retired teacher Jeff Hoyle. Mass Observation was a social research project set up in 1937 which aimed to record everyday life and used the northern town which they named 'Worktown' as a base for their study. This provided fascinating social research results and Jeff is always an entertaining speaker.



The talks are all free to attend, but donations towards the charity's work are always gratefully received and there is no need to pre book. Anyone coming to Marriott's Warehouse will also have the opportunity to see the wonderful scale models of the town's most iconic buildings carefully crafted by local carpenter Fred Hall on the 1st and 2nd floors. Refreshments, including drinks to full meals, can be bought from the excellent Marriott's Restaurant on the ground floor.

Two further talks will take place in May on the 5th and 19th and details of all can be found on the MWT website and Facebook page.

The talks are held in the Fred Hall Room, 2nd Floor Marriott's Warehouse at 3pm. Free entry, donations in aid of Marriott's Warehouse Trust very welcome. Booking not required. Charity Reg Number 1153929

Photo credit: Marriott's Warehouse Trust



Marriott's Warehouse Trust Promoting the Architectural Heritage of King's Lynn Pleasant Sunday Afternoon Talks

Sunday 7th April
"King's Lynn Power Station – its history and use"

By Simon Bell

Sunday 21st April
"Worktown – A Mass Observation Study"

By Jeff Hoyle

Sunday 5th May
"King's Lynn Jewish Cemetery and who may be buried there"

By Marsha Parker

Sunday 19th May
"Vaughan Williams in King's Lynn"

By Jill Bennett

Musicians help the homeless

Homeless people in West Norfolk have benefited from a generous donation from a community music group.



The West Norfolk Wind Orchestra used the occasion of their inaugural concert to raise £250 for the Purfleet Trust, which supports homeless people across the region.

The group is part of the West Norfolk Academies Trust Community Music Initiative, and is led by Robin Norman, Director of Music at both WNAT and WNAT member Springwood High School.

"Each concert member of WNWO nominates charities for proceeds to be given to, and the members vote based on those nominations," he explained.

"On this occasion the members felt it appropriate to donate to the Purfleet Trust to assist with their valuable work in the West Norfolk community.



"The money will be used by the Purfleet Trust to aid with the great work they do in helping homeless people in the King's Lynn and West Norfolk areas."

The money came from ticket sales from the orchestra's Festive Overture event at the end of last year, and Mr Norman presented the cheque to the charity at a recent rehearsal, ahead of the group's next performance, which will support a different cause.

"At Springwood we consider ourselves to be part of the community in which we are based," he added. "WNWO is a community group, and so it seems a natural fit for us to help local charities – to give something back to the charities based closer to home, here in West Norfolk."

Photos: Ian Burt

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News from the Woottons

Richard Coates

Tattoo Studio

At its March meeting the Borough Council's Planning Committee considered the application for a change of use to convert a garage to a tattoo studio in a pleasant residential road of North Wootton. Understandably, the neighbours were opposed to this application and I told the committee that, if I lived there, I'd probably oppose it as well! But, having inspected the proposed change of use, I felt confident it would have negligible effect on the surrounding property, except for one thing. When a property is sold, I felt it would have a detrimental effect on property values and I asked the committee to take that into account. However, the planning officials said that planning law didn't allow the committee to consider that. After many committee members gave their views on the application, it was decided to give permission for 12 months and then look at the matter again in the light of experience.

New Doctors' Surgery

The new doctors' surgery on the edge of South Wootton at Edward Benefer Way was due to open at the end of March and a fine looking building it is, too. It's the St James Medical Practice relocating from its town centre premises at County Court Road but, I understand, it will have space to take on new patients and I'm sure many people in South Wootton will be interested in transferring to it and not just those within walking distance of it either. Since the Woottons Surgery merged with the Southgates Medical Centre, many Woottons patients have found their appointments are now at Goodwins Road in King's Lynn rather than Priory Lane in North Wootton so the prospect of a more local doctors surgery with an easier car park is going to be very attractive for many.

At the same time, many town centre residents are going to be faced with a journey out to The Woottons when they want to visit the doctor and they will be want to consider switching to the other town centre practice in Goodwins Road so patients switching over will all make a great deal of sense.

New Roundabout

After a lull waiting for the go ahead from Norfolk County Council, the contractors building the new roundabout on Edward Benefer Way for the new Allison Homes Estate have finally been given permission to start and motorists will have seen lots of work taking place during the last month or two.

Norfolk County Council Highways Department seem to control this one and have decided that it will take from March to the end of April for the work to be done. It has issued a permit to close nearby Hamburg Way during this time, sending all the traffic that would normally use this light controlled junction to the Bergen Way access to the industrial estate. I can foresee this would cause many traffic problems here.

But Allison Homes' contractors Bateman are made of stern stuff and are certainly getting on with the work which they had wanted to get done many weeks ago but were held up by the Highways Department. So if they have no outside delays imposed, including bad weather, they plan to have the roundabout completed around the end of March - almost a month before the County Council authorised road closure expires. This will save local motorists several weeks' of frustration. Let's hope this is an indication of the speed this company will operate at for the remaining work that will affect local people.

House on the Green Pub

A representative of the architects attended the March North Wootton Parish Council meeting and explained that the plans to expand the pub meant that they had to increase the size of the car park. Originally, they had wanted to open up the first floor but that would have required an even bigger car park so those plans were being abandoned and the extensions were being limited by the size of the car park but the owner was determined to press ahead with the improvements so that they would be done to the high standard to complement the new upmarket houses being built at the back of the pub. It seems we could have a new The House on the Green ready for use as soon as the end of the year and if that should happen, I'm sure there will be many from The Woottons waiting to call it their local once more. But it'll be the restaurant trade which will make the big difference this time. Both as a convenience to local people able to walk to somewhere nice for a meal and for those from further away who want to drive there. I can see The House on The Green



creating a new market for itself in 2025.

Local schools and traffic

There has been some agitation in recent months about the car parking outside the schools in both North and South Wootton. Of course, the problem exists only during the time that children are taken to school or collected from school. When these schools were planned, it was expected they would draw their children from the area immediately local to them and nearly all of them would walk to school. Life has changed considerably since then; very few children now walk to school alone and, of those who it is felt must be accompanied to school by a parent or grandparent, most seem to be taken by car and that is what causes the problem because there's no provision for car parking. Priory Lane, where North Wootton school is situated, carries a lot of traffic (including large harvest lorries this time of year) and that doesn't mix well with young children. Who would want to send their children to walk to school on their own with such dangers about if they could be driven by a parent or grandparent?

Many people feel the speed of the traffic is too fast. Parish councils' monitoring equipment (SAMs or Speed Awareness Monitors, I think they are called) show that, by and large people do stick to the speed limits. In fact around school times with all the parked cars, it's difficult to drive very quickly anywhere but some people have the impression that a 20 m.p.h. speed limit would help. Try arguing against that to a group of mothers!

Highways (and education) are Norfolk County Council services and the email address for the local county councillor is john.crofts.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk. I deal with Borough Council matters and can be reached at cllr.richard.coates@west-norfolk.gov.uk but don't worry about sending to the right councillor. If you're not sure which one, send any enquiry to me and I'll make sure it gets to the right council (it could even be a parish council matter).

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West Norfolk pupils speak out

What do Sir David Attenborough, Greta Thunberg, Amelia Earhart, Sir Isaac Newton, Rosa Parks and Napoleon Bonaparte have in common?

The answer is that they all provided inspiration for young orators taking part in a West Norfolk public speaking event.

The West Norfolk Academies Trust Literary Event took place at the Corn Exchange and was open to children at each of the Trust's six member primary schools.

Each school was represented by a team of three Year 5 pupils who worked together to give a presentation on their chosen inspirational person.

The Clenchwarton trio spoke on American Black rights activist Rosa Parks, while Gaywood gave their speech on environmental campaigner Greta Thunberg, Heacham Junior spoke on veteran presenter and naturalist Sir David, Snettisham chose pioneering airwoman Amelia Earhart, West Lynn's choice was the Emperor Napoleon, and Walpole Cross Keys opted for 'father of gravity' scientist Sir Isaac Newton.

"Children presented a speech on a significant person of their choosing," said Nicki Maddison, who is Executive Deputy Head at Clenchwarton, West Lynn and Walpole Cross Keys.

"Each child had a particular part to play in the public speaking event. Children researched their chosen person and wrote their speech themselves. Each group of children presented their speech."

The annual event, which was led by WNAT Director of Engagement Hayley Roberts, was attended by Trustees, Governors and WNAT staff members, along with the Mayor.

"Public speaking benefits children, as it develops essential skills like communication, confidence and leadership," continued Mrs Maddison. "This event gives children the opportunity to express their ideas and highlight the importance of the significant people that they have chosen."

"They also learn how to engage with others, and they will be able to transfer the skills of public speaking and take them with them going forward."

Photo: Ian Burt



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Wild in Westminster and West Norfolk

Budget Day is one of the major political events of the year. It also means getting into the House of Commons early to put a green card in the slot above the seat you want to reserve. I was in my place as Jeremy Hunt set out the progress the economy has made after the last few years which have been very difficult for the people and the economy with Covid and then the war in Ukraine.

Families and businesses across North West Norfolk have faced higher bills and day to day costs. That's why the focus was on halving inflation - that makes everyone poorer - from over 11 per cent to 2 per cent in the next few months. He also highlighted that wages are rising and, contrary to some commentary, the UK has economy has performed better than other major European countries.

Clearly the job is not done. But progress has been made to turn a corner which means tax cuts are affordable to reward work and grow the economy. The main item was a £11 billion tax cut - reducing national insurance again for 27 million employed people and 2 million self-employed from this month. Together with the cut announced in the autumn, a nurse's income rises by £1,050, a typical teacher would be better off by over £1,270, and a self-employed plumber by £846.

Small businesses are the backbone of the economy and an issue I have raised with



ministers previously is the VAT threshold for small firms which can act as a disincentive to grow and take on more staff, or offer more hours. So I welcome the increase in the threshold from £85,000 to £90,000 - this will mean the UK's VAT registration threshold will be the highest across the EU.

It was great news that King's Lynn will get up to £20 million over ten years as part of the government's long term plan for towns. This is a further commitment to create more opportunities in Lynn and the wider area. Local people will be able to shape the plans and priorities to support high streets, sports, heritage, transport or regeneration.

Changes were also announced to Furnished Holiday Let rules and it will be important to get the detail right here to strike the balance that helps local people to rent and buy their own home and supports visitors coming and

spending money with our great leisure, tourism, and hospitality businesses.

Although inflation continues to fall, there will be further help with the cost of living. Driving is a necessity in rural areas rather than a luxury and maintaining the 5p cut in fuel duty and freezing rates for the 14th year in a row will help drivers as they fill up. Also being frozen is alcohol duty which along with business rates support will help the hospitality sector.

Finally, the Household Support Fund which has helped many people across Norfolk will be extended - again an issue I raised directly with the Chancellor. This extra £500 million will help provide targeted support for the most vulnerable for essentials such as food and energy. That support comes in addition to increases in the state pension by 8.5 per cent, the National Living Wage increasing by 9.8 percent, and a boost to local housing allowance rates.

As the Chancellor sat down, I ticked off the issues I raised on behalf of constituents when I met him before the Budget - easing taxes, helping small firms, boosting Norfolk's economy, and continuing support for the most vulnerable. I was pleased he had listened.

James Wild MP

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA
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Borough Council News

Terry Parish, Leader of the Borough Council, Ward Councillor for Heacham Ward

Heacham, Sedgeford and Fring

Heacham. There has been a lot of 'paper' activity regarding the many issues affecting Fenway. A public enquiry has gone away as the number of cases has been whittled down one way or another. Remaining matters will be decided by written presentations. This is a pity as residents were fired up and their case is substantial. Speaking your mind is better than an email any day. Reserved matters of the Cheney Hill development not due to go to planning committee before July. I believe both applications may have timed out. The first application is 9 years old, the second 8, I suggest interested parties make appropriate representations to find out if that is the case. The advantages of a resubmission are: Reconsideration of the need for 130+ houses; new consultation on access given traffic growth over the last 9 years; twice as much CIL money for the Parish as one application was pre CIL; requirements for new Biodiversity Net Gain regulations to be met, and all policies in the Neighbourhood Plan to be followed. Letters to planning at the BC might achieve something.

Sedgeford is calm I think, though issues regarding the river may still be around when the next drought begins, and a decision about housing on the school site is still to be made. The Parish Council organised an extremely useful litter pick. The village hall had an excellent drama production, The Hollyhock Trilogy, which played to a full house.

Fring suffered badly with flooding again and it must be addressed but quite when I do not know. The local landowner has moved forward with reestablishing the Heacham River in its old bed. That may help reduce flooding downstream but, whatever, it looks better,

The Borough Council

Let us hope that councillors refrain from emulating hares in this season. The budget was passed though some seem to insist on clinging on to false assumptions and make unhelpful statements. The truth is quite simple, the budget for 23/24 is the start of a process which will enable this council to function as it should beyond the next council elections. The road to ruin has been diverted but a new destination will take a little longer.

At the last council there were two amendments to the budget proposals. £50K to food banks was agreed without debate and discussions have taken place with interested parties. This money will be allocated to energy vouchers during the autumn so freeing up money for more diverse provision that food banks provide. The way forward for using £50K for domestic abuse support is currently being considered.

I attended the King's Lynn Festival launch and there are many programme events planned which will quite outstanding. It is worth noting that continued financial support for such non statutory events depends upon a healthy income from whatever sources the Council can utilise. The only secure ones are Council Tax and fees and charges. We are pursuing a better share of increased council tax from empty properties and second homes and chasing, with partners, a different funding structure for IDB's. Two meetings, both positive, have taken place but a sensible outcome has yet to be realised.

I spent some hours reading all the many nominations for the Local Hero Awards and joined others, including the Mayor, to compare notes. I look forward to the forthcoming ceremony and warmly thank Your Local Paper for the great effort they put into this event.

I attended the East of England Local Authority Water Summit. This was attended by many delegates from across the Eastern region and was fully funded. There were several topics but the thrust of it, to me, was ensuring sustainable water resources. After a season in which too much water has been of concern, it is easy to forget that drought might follow. In addition, there is an insufficient water supply to meet the needs of an increasing population and, also, growth in and sustainability of industries such as agriculture. This has come to a head in Cambridgeshire where the government's desire to significantly develop science parks etc cannot be achieved without water supply

problems being resolved. We are experiencing similar difficulties in West Norfolk when use by farmers is restricted and extraction increases with the summer influx of visitors. Managing down public demand is one route to follow but I was intrigued by the fact that there are targets for national reductions in use which are most significant for new builds. Cambridgeshire and others have a water management strategy in their local plans. Perhaps we need to think of one when we amend ours.

Flooding was also part of the day and I signpost you to the EA's 'Reclaim the Rain' concept which seeks to stop all the excess water in winter being pumped straight out to sea and to create storage, ponds, on land for use in the summer.

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The political pulse with Mackenzie Large

Wisbech Incinerator

A decade after plans for an incinerator in Kings Lynn were reversed, the government have now approved plans to build an even larger incinerator in Wisbech. Due to the size of the incinerator, having the capability to produce over 50 megawatts of electricity, it is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). This means that the decision rests with the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero instead of the local authorities. The incinerator, proposed by Medworth CHP Ltd, is intended to burn waste, preventing it from going to landfill and generating electricity in the process, known as a waste-to-energy scheme. It would take around three years to build, generating around 700 jobs, and costing approximately £300m. Local authorities including Wisbech Town Council, Fenland District Council, King's Lynn Borough Council and Norfolk and Cambridgeshire County Councils opposed the plans. Following recommendations from the Planning Inspectorate, the Secretary of State for Energy Security & Net Zero, Claire Continhou, approved the plans on February 20th. Providing the developer obtains an environmental permit, the only chance of halting the approved plans at this stage would be via a judicial review of the decision, which must be elected by local authorities in the six weeks after the approval. Following the approval, Mr James Wild MP took to the House of Commons to share his opposition, noting that the incinerator would result in 300 extra lorry trips each day on the already congested road network. I have spoken to our local Conservative MP, James Wild, as well as County Councillor and Liberal Democrat candidate Rob Colwell, who shared with me their thoughts on the plans. At the time of print, I had not received responses from the Green Party's Michael De Whalley, Independent Alexandra Kemp or the Borough Council's Labour Leader Francis Bone.*

Both Mr Wild and Mr Colwell noted the prevailing winds that blow from Wisbech towards North West Norfolk in their concerns. Micro-particles produced by the incinerator cannot be filtered, and long-term exposure to these particles could potentially impact the health of local residents. Mr Colwell also mentioned that there could be "potentially adverse impacts on delicate Sites of Special Scientific Interest", a consideration I expect will be investigated by The Environment Agency when issuing the environmental permit. The public consultation on the environmental permit, which closed on February 22nd, garnered over 870 comments, most of which were passionately written and in opposition of the plans. These can be viewed on The Environment Agency's website. Waste from various parts of England will be transported to the incinerator and burned, which might lead

readers to ask 'why Wisbech?'. Mr Colwell suggested that, being "a town with significant pockets of urban deprivation", Wisbech may have been considered by the developers as the easy choice, with perceived minimal opposition. However, Mr Colwell notes, the WisWIN campaign group have proven this to be otherwise, with ongoing campaigning taking place. Mr Wild also spoke of the scale of the incinerator, which will be one of the largest in Europe, bigger than Ely Cathedral and also situated in close proximity to a secondary school. A particularly salient aspect of this discussion noted by Mr Wild and Mr Colwell is the fact that there are existing incinerators in the country that are operating below capacity, so, to quote Mr Wild, "why build a brand new facility?".

I asked Mr Wild and Mr Colwell what can still be done at this stage by individuals who oppose the incinerator. Whilst locals can hope that The Environment Agency does not issue the environmental permit, Mr Colwell emphasised the significance of recycling, stating "if we can increase our recycling rates sufficiently there will be little need for alternative methods of waste disposal". The incinerator requires waste to serve its purpose, and whilst we cannot eradicate household waste entirely, we can endeavour to reduce it, thus decreasing the financial viability of the incinerator. Mr Wild said that individuals "can contact their local council and councillors and encourage them to look at the judicial review option". If you do feel strongly about this subject, I would also suggest joining WisWIN's social media page, 'Wisbech without incineration WisWIN', to keep up to date with developments.

If you have taken the time to read this article, I hope it has been insightful. Since last month's article, I have been really pleased to hear from individuals who have various ideas for improvement within the locality. Again, I would love to hear from you at

kenziemarlar@gmail.com

* On 13th March Tim Lever was selected as Labour's Prospective Parliamentary Candidate. T&A will be contacting him in time for next month's issue.



Hunstanton Mayor's report

Cllr Michael Ruston

The last two months have been busy in Council and personally. The revised plans for the bus station/travel hub were shared in a Zoom meeting.

The service to commemorate the 1953 Flood was appreciated by the many people who attended and was a very sobering morning. A happier event was the presentation of a cheque to Lady Romney for £2,771 for Children with Cancer UK. Hannah Burton raised this from her "Hannah's Roses" selling her homemade crafted items. Great work by her every year. You can find her work every Tuesday at the Indoor

Market at the Town Hall.

Next up was attending the opening of the Mart in Kings Lynn on Valentine's Day. Fascinating history and the Showmen's Guild are great people, very dedicated and very hospitable.

We have two new businesses in Town, Crabpot Cottages and G G's Treasures by the Oasis car park which I formally declared open. Supporting local arts and crafts producers and offering a range of vegan food in their café. Wishing you all every success.

The refurbishment of the Golden Lion Hotel roars on and it will have re-opened by the time

you read this. Good luck all.

The first West Norfolk Food Festival in the High Street was on Sunday 17th March promoting local produce. A "Jobs Fair" in the Town Hall on 13th March had over 35 employers looking to recruit staff and Smithdon High School held their "Smithdon salutes Broadway" musical event on 27th March. Lots of work for Jan, Louise and Steve at the Town Hall in organising these events, my thanks to you all.

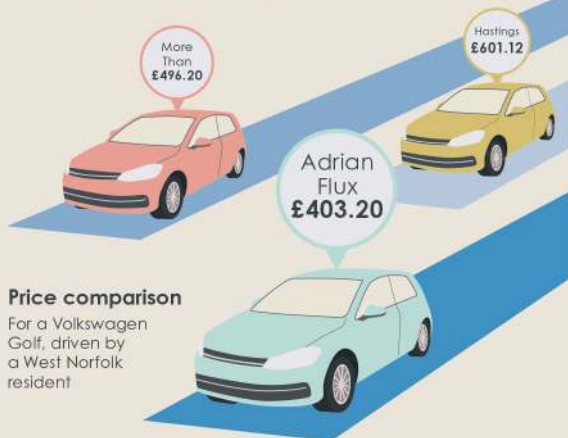
Norfolk County Council and our Borough Council are drafting an "Economic Development Strategy" and the first meeting was in January to set the scene



and kick ideas around. Follow up is also on 27th March which I will be at with numerous businesspeople and Councillors. Let's see what emerges.

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On the turf with Charles Joyce

No sooner had I sent March's article than Milton Harris withdrew his appeal to the suspension of his licence. I'm sure that many T&A readers spotted the deliberate mistake (or misquote if you wish). The government don't spend £7 million a week on hotel accommodation for people coming across the Channel in small boats. It's £7 million a day. My apologies for the fat figures when typing.

Maureen Mullins

It's a few weeks now since racing lost the matriarch of the Mullins family when Maureen died aged 94 years old. She was the wife of Paddy Mullins who was one of the best trainers of his generation which included Vincent O'Brien and Tom Dreaper trainer of Arkle. Maureen Doran as she was at the time attended Fairyhouse racecourse to see her beau win his first race as a trainer in 1953. Originally from Kildruther (remember the name) in Co Carlow she was the daughter of a large farmer at Doninga riding with the Mount Loftus Harriers. She rode in the last point to point race at the local track in 1955, a few weeks after marrying Paddy Mullins in November 1954 at St Mary's Church, Haddington, County Dublin. As a young girl, Maureen had attended the Brigidine Convent in Goresbridge with Paddy Mullins's sisters. Among Paddy's top horses were Vulpine that in 1967 won the Irish Grand National at Fairyhouse which is around a half hour's drive from Slane Castle. He ended a 7 year winning streak of Tom Dreaper's which included such legendary names as Arkle and Flyingbolt still the two highest rated horses in national hunt history. Paddy had 3 other Irish Grand National winners including Herring Gull who followed up Vulpine's victory in 1967. Later Paddy turned his attentions to the flat when in 1973 he saddled the 3 year old filly Hurry Harriet to win the Champion Stakes at Newmarket where she beat the French trained Allez France one of the best fillies in history who in 1974 won the Prix De L'Arc de Triomphe and in 6 races was never beaten by another great filly of her generation Dahlia. In 2003 he saddled Vintage Tipple to win the Irish Oaks beating the Epsom Oaks winner and runner up Casual Look and Yesterday. But the best known horse trained by Paddy Mullins was Dawn Run. The mare is still the horse to win the Champion Hurdle in 1984 and Cheltenham Gold Cup in 1986, and the first horse to ever win the Champion Hurdle, the Irish and French equivalents all in 1984.

Maureen was with Paddy Mullins throughout this period. They are the parents of Tony who was Irish champion jockey in 1984, and Willie who is the leading trainer at Cheltenham with his 100th winner coming on the Wednesday when son Patrick rode Jasmin De Vaux to victory in the bumper. They are also the grandparents of Aintree Grand National winning trainer Emmet Mullins, and top amateur jockey Patrick along with Danny and David Mullins who are also jockeys. As a tribute to Maureen Mullins a race has been named after her at the Cheltenham Festival this year. It is the Amateur race that was won on Tuesday by Corbetts Cross trained by grandson Emmet who booked top amateur rider Derek O'Connor for the ride.

Affordability Debate in Parliament

The affordability debate took place in Parliament in mid February where George Freeman MP gave a very good speech warning of the dangers of the affordability checks on punters and the effects it could have on horse racing. Freeman is the son of Arthur Freeman who rode Mr What to win the 1958 Aintree Grand National. The Queen's national hunt jockey Arthur Freeman proposed to his wife in that year. But less than 2 years later in 1960 at Plumpton racecourse Arthur Freeman fell. It was a time when health and safety for jockeys involved a cloth cap worn on the head, and a head injury caused him to be in a coma for 3 days. He gave up being a jockey turning to training, but alcohol and depression got the better of him and the marriage ended in divorce when George was still a toddler. Arthur died in 1988. In his memory the member of Parliament began Bridge of Hope a charity to give people a second chance who have fallen including those who have been victim to homelessness, mental and physical health sufferers, former addicts, refugees and veterans.

The debate on financial risks checks for gambling was moved by Christine Rees the Labour and Co-Op member for Neath. This was following an online petition exceeded over a hundred thousand signatures. Auntie Carolyn Harris quoted figures produced by the Gambling Commission that 44% of the adult population have a bet of some description. This equates to 22.5 million people in the UK. She suggested that research by the Gambling Commission identified 1% (that is one percent) of the most profitable gamblers make up over 70% of the gross gambling yield. In response to a question she claimed that she is not anti-gambling. She explained that background checks would trigger in when a punter lost £125 in a month and £500 in a year. I do wonder how many people who play bingo in their local community centre or village hall spend less than £10 a week. It has been suggested that only 3% of accounts would be subject to these checks. But how are accounts included in this 3%. I personally have many accounts with bookmakers which I never use, because any amount I wish to bet is reduced through account restrictions. There will be people across the country in the same boat. The affordability checks do not distinguish between what some MPs said were bets based on skill such as horse racing or football and straight forward games of chance such as lotteries, bingo and casinos. Nor will any affordability checks be able to restrict someone buying any number of scratch cards. Several MPs made the case that racing could be severely affected by these affordability check, especially the even more intrusive checks that a punter needs to hand over personal financial details. Already punters are going to unregulated firms to place a bet where a punter can use a credit card which the regulated bookmakers no longer take. The slot game features no longer available on regulated bookmaker sites are available with some of the unregulated. And there is then the real possibility of backing a winner, but winnings are withheld. It's not unknown for this to happen with regulated firms, but there is an appeal process with them which is not available with unregulated firms.

In putting the Labour Party's view shadow gambling minister Stephanie Peacock the MP for Barnsley East accepted that the petition had reached its target of 100,000 in only a month showed there is a strong view in relation to the issue. She gave punters little hope of a Labour Government getting to grips with the real problems of addictive gambling which Tracey Crouch MP did when she reduced the stake on fixed odds betting terminals and the denial of credit cards as a method of betting was abolished. One of the MP's for Chatham and Aylesford key supporters was Matt Hancock who at the time was her boss as Culture Secretary. Several MPs argued that horseracing should be excluded from affordability checks on the grounds that any problem gambling on the grounds it would have a severe effect on the industry and supply industries that rely on horse racing. They referred to the National Lottery being excluded. Ms Peacock said affordability checks are part of the future of gambling. She went on to say that stake restrictions would be included as would information sharing between bookmakers. It's this last part that more than anything else that will send punters to the black market. Ms Peacock suggested there would be a crackdown on black market bookmakers. This will be impossible to implement because as with drug dealers and loan sharks, closing one down means two more open up to fill the market gap. She did reject calls for games of skill such as betting on horse racing be exempted from the checks as it is with the National Lottery. But did say that everyone "deserves clarity about how the Government will ensure that affordability checks are carried out with accuracy and in a way that does not cause unnecessary friction for those gambling responsibly." In responding the Minister, Stuart Andrew MP, accepted he recognised the importance of horseracing and was clear that the checks "do not adversely affect horseracing and those who work in the sector." Nor should the checks. "push away high net worth individuals such as owners and trainers who invest in the sport."

On the Wednesday during the Cheltenham Festival the winner's prize for a Class 5 at Kempton was £6,000 at Happy Valley in Hong Kong the winner's prize for a Class 5 was £50,000. And for a Class 3 at Kempton



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it was just shy of £9,000 while at Happy Value for the same class of race the winner's prize was over £100,000. When the costs of keeping a horse in training continue to rise and are now £500 a week it shows how difficult the funding of racing has become. It's not just the lads from Coolmore or Sheikh Mo and his Godolphin pals who want to own a racehorse, but with such meagre returns the dream is being denied, and as many MPs made the point during the affordability checks debate without those smaller time owners the sport will wither and revert back to just the handful of rich who can afford to pay. At the moment syndicates are propping up racing, but that is a very fragile support as even syndicates have a limit. When affordability checks officially come in there is no valid reason to believe many punters will not refuse to hand over their personal information and will either stop betting altogether or in many cases, they will search out the unregulated bookmakers. The more punters leave the regulated betting market and bet with the black-market unregulated bookmakers the less money there will be available for funding the sport. It's a vicious circle which will do little to improve the situation for anyone except the killjoys who want to control everyone's life in any way they can and in some ways they can't. A bit like Texas law that the former wannabe US presidential candidate Ted Cruz wrote in defence of, that sex for pleasure is not covered by either the Constitution or the Bill of Rights hence nor are privacy rights and thus the state was allowed to legislate and if necessary, outlaw it. In Lawrence V Texas the randy sons and daughters of the lone star state won.

Election year

Sleepy Joe Biden seems to have woken up to the fact that there is an election this year. In his State of the Nation address he referred to the Wade V Roe case being overturned by the Supreme Court. With all 9 of the Justices sitting in front of him Sleepy Joe gave a commitment that Wade V Roe will become the law of the land if he is returned as US President in November. He put it beyond doubt that he considered access to regulated and safe abortion was a healthcare issue which must be available across the USA. He said that women have electoral and political power which he expects to be used at the election when he said abortion will be on the ballot paper which he considered helped him win in 2020 and the Democrats win in 2022.

I can't help wondering if women locally will use their electoral and political muscle when the General Election comes around. At the Budget setting meeting of the Borough Council at the end of February an amendment was proposed that meant the council would fund £50,000 to organisations in the voluntary sector who combat domestic abuse and violence. Before it was approved there was plenty of hand wringing. The record shows there was no approval from any of the councillors present who are likely to put their name forward to become a Member of Parliament later this year. There were some borough councillors who claimed they agreed with the proposal but voted against because they did not know where the money was going. It is public money and where and how it is spent is important. But that's a really weak argument to oppose supporting those who are fighting domestic abuse and violence. Around this time last year, the Pandora Project

which helps women and families who are subject to domestic abuse and violence had to cancel their fundraiser, because not enough tickets were sold due to the cost-of-living crisis. The Pandora Project is one of Borough Mayor Margaret Wilkinson's chosen charities and they will know better than me where the money can be best used. All I did was to put forward the proposal that the Council should try and help with funding. Some councillors said the amendment came too late in the process. That is very harsh as some who used this argument for opposing the amendment have previously themselves put forward amendments during a debate taking place in Council meetings. This proposal was posted on the internet as well as being passed to all the councillors in advance of the Council meeting.

Cheltenham Festival

Enough of the Council shenanigans Cheltenham brought a bit of a mixture. Tuesday was not a good day. Wednesday was better with Dan Skelton winning again this year with Langar Dan. Then with no Jonbon in the Queen Mother Champion Chase it looked as if El Fabiolo only had to hack round to win, but a serious mistake at the 5th fence left the door open for our each/way shot Captain Guinness who duly did the business. He was 33/1 when suggested as a possible each/way bet in March's T&A. Queen Camila presented the trophy to the Queen of Cheltenham winning jockey Rachel Blackmore.

More racing

Going forward I'll be hoping the fairytale continues with bargain £800 buy Hewick winning the Grand National for Shark Hanlon. The turf season usually begins in earnest with the Newmarket Craven meeting where Guineas hopefuls often strut their stuff. Before getting too engrossed in turf racing there is still time to help ourselves to some bookmakers' cash with Willie Mullins training winners in Ireland in the spring months of March, April and May. They won last time they ran which was more than 3 weeks ago and less than 11 weeks but not at tracks such as Clonmel, Downpatrick, Kilbeggan nor Wexford and go off at a single figure price. This was a particularly good feature for the Punchestown Festival towards the end of April. Another for the Spring and early summer months is Peter Bowen. Last year this did show a slight loss but had been successful over the previous 11 years. So perhaps last year was a blip. It's reasonably simple. Avoiding novice hurdle races including novice handicap hurdle races with runners that finished in the first 5 last time they ran so long as they were rested more than 10 days and less than 45 days.

With both of these systems Betfair starting price pays better than the industry starting price. Other firms do have their own starting prices which differ slightly from Betfair. But the difference is it's possible to seek a price with Betfair SP knowing the bet will still stand if a horse is withdrawn before the start of the race. Other betting exchanges can cancel your bet. The bookmakers' prices can often beat the starting price if taken early in the day, make sure the bet is with a bookmaker that pays best odds guaranteed.

As always 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.

Nature notes with Carrie Carey

We have an area at the bottom of our garden that we lamely call 'the orchard'. In reality, it's just five apple trees, a couple of pear trees and a rather lovely plum tree. Since moving in two decades ago we planned to harvest the fruit to make cider and fruit pies but other than baking the occasional apple crumble, the trees are largely neglected and the fruit given over to wildlife. We did make a conscious decision to let the grass here grow at its own pace, it's never mown. Every summer we're rewarded with swathes of velvet grass and meadow foxtail making the orchard one of my favourite summer retreats. But this is also a valuable area for wildlife and forms part of our wildlife corridor.

The purpose of a wildlife corridor is to connect patches of fragmented habitats with each other and provide safe routes for insects and other animals to move safely through these ecological niches. Urban wildlife corridors are becoming more common in areas where human dominance has altered natural migration routes. Banff National Park, Canada, is home to Grizzly Bears, Wolverines and Elk. However, the Trans Canada Highway cuts through it hindering wildlife movement. Overpasses and underpasses have been built to allow these animals safe passage through the area. Not all animal crossings are designed for large species. On Christmas Island, Australia, over 20 kilometres of man-made construction guides millions of migrating crabs from their homes deep in the island's forest to the ocean where they will breed.

Connecting core wildlife habitats plays a vital role in conserving biodiversity and it's relatively easy to create smaller versions in our own gardens. Wildlife corridors traditionally run along a property edge but adding an extension that gives wildlife access to the middle of your greenspace is a terrific addition where possible. Imagine being a frog or small mammal trying to cross an open area of mown grass, you would be very exposed to predators, summer heat or winter chill. Using log or rock piles, a mini-meadow or even a small pond are great ways to connect scattered trees and shrubs together. The fringes of our mini orchard are within easy reach of hedging that forms the garden boundary. Sweeping boughs of willow trees dance languidly over a log pile that connects both areas. Each year we add to it and in time small critters will be able to move from hedge to grassland without exposure.

Creating any form of wildlife corridor is a straightforward way to wild your garden with minimal maintenance. Adding a small hedgerow, as opposed to a hedge, will complement existing habitats. Native species of shrubs and trees are relatively low cost in comparison to their continental or tropical cousins and require minimal upkeep. Where space is limited, you may still have room to plant dwarf fruit trees, berry yielding shrubs and native wildflowers. Even a small hedgerow opens a broader range of food sources for wildlife, hooks up different populations (prevents inbreeding), aids the balance of predator and prey and helps populations of fauna and flora flourish.

Sadly over 50% of the UK's hedgerows have disappeared in the last century. This natural network of trees and shrubs traditionally spanned pastures, meadows, valleys and fields providing homes and safe passageways for a variety of creatures. Hedgerows have been around for thousands of years but old laws which once protected them from being cut during the bird nesting season no longer exist, so these habitats are under real threat. Hedgerows, whether on a large or small scale, not only benefit wildlife but they are an important ally for us too. They function as buffers to noise, wind and pollution, conserve water through their root system, reduce soil erosion, slow water flow – important for areas prone to flooding, and pull carbon out of the air and store it. They provide shelter for gardens, warm the soil (great for vegetable plots and agricultural land) and can shade an area up to 16 times their height. These much-needed habitats are important not only for nature but for agriculture and protection against climate change.

Despite being a priority habitat for some of the UK's most iconic



Bullfinch in hedgerow

species such as Dormice, Hedgehogs, Song Thrush and Bank Voles, hedgerows are under threat because the rules protecting them ended in December 2023. This seems incredulous in a time of nature and climate emergency. However, there is growing recognition that planting new hedgerows is a major step to protect fragile ecosystems in intensively farmed landscapes. And the good news is that the current Government has set out plans for renewed domestic hedgerow regulations, however, we don't know when this will start. The new requirements will be introduced as soon as Parliamentary time allows but the longer the gap in protection lasts, the longer species such as Greenfinches, Bullfinches and Brown Hairstreak Butterflies are at threat.



Brown Hairstreak Butterfly

I'm heartened to know that we can do our bit to help by creating wildlife corridors in our own gardens or campaigning for them to be incorporated into urban landscaping. A hedgerow is fantastic but if this is not for you, then even a neatly pruned hedge can help wildlife to a degree. Perhaps you can add in some herbaceous plants along the base mixed in with a few small, woody shrubs. This will craft a lush, wildlife friendly ecosystem for all sorts of insects, birds and mammals and give you an area of interest and colour all year round. And if you would like to do more, then do write to your MP calling for urgency in the reinstatement of vital hedgerow protection.



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Wendy Warner's plant of the month - Agapanthus

If you're looking for a stunning flower to give a long show throughout the summer, Agapanthus is the plant to choose. Also known as the African Lily, although not a true lily, Agapanthus is native to South Africa, and available in various shades of blue as well as white and purple. They all have spherical flower heads made up of hundreds of tiny star-shaped florets, on sturdy stems above clumps of strappy green foliage but come in various sizes from compact plants that flower at just 30cm to those that grow up to one metre tall. Agapanthus can be evergreen, semi-evergreen or deciduous and as a general rule the evergreen ones tend to be more tender than those that lose their leaves in winter.

Their main requirement is full sun but they can be used in numerous styles of display. They work well in a traditional cottage garden with other herbaceous perennials, in a gravel garden or amongst grasses where their tall flowers will be the star of the show or as specimens in pots on the patio. They are also tolerant of salty sea winds making them an ideal choice for coastal gardens. Agapanthus don't require a rich soil as this can encourage strong leaf growth and fewer flowers, although they will benefit from a high potash feed such as Tomorite once buds appear and throughout the flowering period. They require very good drainage and once established, Agapanthus will become reasonably drought-tolerant. Dead-head them after flowering to encourage more buds to form. In the autumn give them a mulch of home-made compost, chipped bark or straw to help protect them from the winter wet and cold.

The evergreen varieties tend to be the least hardy so it would be advisable to grow them in pots so they can be moved to a more sheltered position such as a cool greenhouse for the winter. If growing in pots, use loam-based John Innes No. 2 compost mixed with sand and horticultural grit to give them good drainage. When planting Agapanthus don't bury them too deep and plant them quite snugly in the pot.

There are so many to choose from.



Agapanthus Black Jack



Agapanthus Blue

Agapanthus "Black Jack" won Chelsea Flower Show Plant of the Year 2023 with its jet-black buds opening to velvety, black-purple florets and will flower for up to three months. Other relatively new introductions are "Poppin Purple" with many heads of a true purple flowers, "Poppin Star" which is mid-blue with a darkened line down the centre of each petal emphasising the star detail, "Ever White" a compact form with pure white flowers and "Fireworks" with white buds opening to bi-coloured trumpet shaped white flowers with purple-blue bases. However, all these are evergreen so will need some winter protection. For more hardiness choose deciduous varieties such as "Brilliant Blue", "Northern Star" a deep blue or "Arctic Star" which is white.

Agapanthus are a magnet for bees and other pollinating insects and make a great cut flower too. Buying Agapanthus now and getting them planted in the garden or into pots will mean you benefit from their full show of flowers throughout the summer.



Agapanthus Fireworks

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Mudpies & Butterflies

with Louise Barby, Balanis

"April, the angel of the months, the young love of the year." – Vita Sackville-West

Unlocking the Beauty of April

As April dawns upon us in the UK, the air is filled with the promise of warmer days and the sweet scent of blooming flowers. For gardeners, it's a time of excitement and anticipation as we eagerly prepare our outdoor spaces for the abundance of the growing season ahead. Let's delve into the wonders of April gardening, exploring the best plants for impact, essential tasks to complete, and techniques for retaining moisture in the soil for a thriving garden throughout the summer.

Monty Don's Wisdom

Renowned for his expertise and passion for gardening, Monty Don serves as an invaluable source of inspiration for gardeners across the UK. With his gentle demeanour and wealth of knowledge, Monty encourages us to embrace the rhythms of nature and nurture our gardens with care and attention.

Plants for Impact in April

1. Tulips: Monty Don often extols the beauty of tulips in the spring garden, and April is the perfect time to showcase these stunning blooms. With their both pastel and bold colours and elegant forms, tulips add a touch of drama and sophistication to any planting scheme. If your ground is often waterlogged or you have heavy clay, it may be worth potting up tulip bulbs and planting in the soil in their own little environment. Alternatively, you can plant in pots and pop within the flower beds while they are in their prime, removing and popping by the shed to die back gracefully.

2. Magnolias: Celebrated for their exquisite flowers and graceful presence, magnolias are a highlight of the April garden. Whether you choose a delicate pink variety or a pristine white cultivar, these majestic trees never fail to captivate with their early spring blooms.

3. Daffodils/Narcissi: Cheerful flowers herald the arrival of spring with their sunny disposition and vibrant hues, bringing joy to both the garden and the soul. Many are scented, there really is an option for everyone, whites, dwarf and blowsy butter yellow.

4. Forsythia: As one of the first shrubs to bloom in spring, forsythia is a beacon of hope after the long winter months. Its bright yellow flowers cascade like golden waterfalls, casting a warm glow over the garden landscape.

5. Clematis: Montanna for a large, blowsy display and Armandii for a semi evergreen option. Stunning seen trailing on an old shed roof, through and over fencing or pergolas.

Plants and Trees for Summer Colour

1. Roses: There is still time to plant roses for a summer filled with

fragrant blooms. Choose varieties that suit your garden style, whether it's climbing roses for vertical interest or compact shrub roses for borders and containers.

2. Lavender: With its aromatic foliage and delicate flowers, lavender is a must-have for any summer garden. Plant it en masse for a stunning display of colour and scent that will attract bees and butterflies alike.

3. Salvia: Renowned for their vibrant blooms and long flowering period, salvias are an excellent choice for adding summer colour to your garden borders. From fiery reds to cool blues, there's a salvia variety to suit every taste.

Essential Jobs for April

1. Weeding: Keep on top of weeds before they take hold in your garden beds and borders. Regular weeding prevents competition for nutrients and ensures that your plants have ample room to thrive.

2. Mulching: Apply a layer of organic mulch, such as compost or bark chips, around plants to retain moisture in the soil and suppress weeds. Mulching also helps regulate soil temperature and encourages beneficial soil organisms.

3. Pruning: Prune back any dead or damaged growth on trees, shrubs, and perennial plants to encourage healthy growth and maintain shape. Be sure to research specific pruning requirements for different plant species.

Retaining Moisture in the Soil

1. Watering Techniques: Water deeply and infrequently to encourage plants to develop deep, drought-resistant root systems. Use a soaker hose or drip irrigation system to deliver water directly to the root zone and minimize evaporation.

2. Mulching: As mentioned earlier, mulching is an effective way to retain moisture in the soil by reducing water evaporation from the surface. Apply a thick layer of mulch around plants, leaving a small gap around the stems to prevent rotting.

3. Companion Planting: Planting companions that have deep root systems can help to draw moisture from deeper soil layers and make it available to neighbouring plants. Consider inter-planting with species like comfrey or yarrow to enhance soil moisture retention.

In conclusion, April is a time of great potential in the UK garden, where the beauty of spring unfolds before our eyes. By following Monty Don's sage advice and incorporating the best plants for impact, planting for summer colour, completing essential tasks, and implementing techniques to retain moisture in the soil, we can cultivate gardens that are not only visually stunning but also vibrant, resilient, and full of life. Let's embrace the magic of April gardening and revel in the wonders of the natural world that surround us.

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Tree-mendous planting in King's Lynn

New trees were planted in The Walks and Tower Gardens in King's Lynn by volunteers from the Gaywood Valley Conservation Group with borough council workers on Monday 4 March.

Cllr Michael de Whalley, Cabinet member for Climate Change and Biodiversity and Chair of the Gaywood Valley Conservation Group, said: "I'm pleased to see over 20 volunteers from our conservation group worked with the borough council public open space team to plant these trees. 12 new trees have been planted, a mixture of lime, London plane and Cherry trees."

Cllr Bal Anota, Cabinet member for Property and Corporate Services, added: "The Walks and Tower Gardens are two immensely popular parks that our residents enjoy visiting and I hope these new additions can be enjoyed for many years to come."

John Hayes, Secretary of the Gaywood Valley Conservation Group who helped plant the trees and also cleared some foliage, said: "The Walks is an asset to the town and an asset for wildlife. I think many of the trees in here were planted at the same time and will gradually die off, periodic replanting is by far the best thing to do."

**Are you interested In gardening?**

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If not, why not come and join us? The benefits are considerable! You will not be disappointed! Why not ask for an information pack from our Membership Secretary, Anne Patterson, 21 Kings Road Hunstanton Tel 01485 297591.

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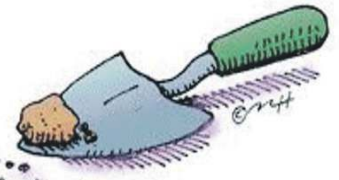
We hold our monthly meetings in the Memorial Hall, Old Church Road, usually on the last Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm.

The schedules for the 2024 Open Show on Saturday 13th July are now available to all. Classes vary from flowering plants and flower arrangements, vegetables, Cookery and preserves, through to Crafts and Photography.

There are classes for Children and Adults with prize money for winners.

Our April meeting on Wednesday 24th will bring Emma Pickering of Emma's Hedgehogs to give us a talk on the activities of these endangered little creatures that are so useful in our gardens.

Any further information about our club can be obtained from Gail on 01485 541279 or Addie on 01485 544754.

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Hunstanton In Bloom

Christine Earnshaw

It's April and our gardens are looking so colourful with the daffodils and polyanthus in full bloom, and so many bergenias! (elephant ears) They all seem especially good this year, must be all the rain. I know we all feel we have had enough of it, but it was very timely for the six new trees planted in town. Have you seen them at the top of Sandringham Road and two in the Spinney, Silver Birch and Liquid Amber? Just wait for the autumn colours.



Our public spaces offer a wonderful opportunity for residents to be involved in looking after our town. Would you like to 'adopt-a-bed' to weed and dead-head? You will get an elegant plaque with your name on it to plant in your assigned flower bed and everyone will admire

how well kept it is! Furthermore, if you would like to be involved in any way we are holding our annual tea party on April 22nd in the Town Hall where we can meet the gardeners and learn about the plans for this year. (RSVP to 2chrisearnshaw@gmail.com if you would like to attend - it helps with catering!)

This is a very special year for Britain in Bloom so I quote from their website as follows :

"To celebrate 60 years, the RHS will be sharing more than two million 'friendship flower seeds' with community groups up and down the country.

The flowers will include sweet peas, cosmos, nigella, gypsophila, rudbeckia and zinnia and will be grown by the 3,000 community gardening groups that make up RHS Britain in Bloom and its grass roots version It's Your Neighbourhood. The 60th anniversary is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate community gardening," said Kay Clark, RHS community development manager. "We're providing the seeds as a thank you to all our existing groups and the hundreds of thousands of passionate volunteers who work with plants year-round to strengthen their communities and improve the local environment. We're encouraging people to grow some of these flowers for wildlife and share some as bouquets with friends and other people who deserve them in their communities. We hope these gestures of friendship will inspire even more people to get growing, too."

Please do contact me, I'm the secretary of our local group, 2chrisearnshaw@gmail.com and I will keep you updated with our activities.



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Peter Beales Roses to unveil 'With Courage' rose at RHS Chelsea 2024



Leading grower Peter Beales Roses will unveil Rosa 'With Courage' at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in May – an exquisite new bloom that's poised to raise more than £40,000 to help support the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI). The spectacular rose marks the start of a touching new collaboration between Peter Beales Roses and the RNLI and will commemorate the charity's 200th anniversary with a breathtaking floral showcase that will grace Chelsea's Great Pavilion.

Peter Beales Roses – a 28 times RHS Chelsea gold medal winner – and the leading lifesaving charity are bursting with excitement to debut their new alliance at RHS Chelsea, presenting a display that not only celebrates the exquisite allure of roses but also pays homage to the extraordinary efforts of the RNLI and its valiant volunteers who, together, have saved over 144,000 lives since the charity's formation in 1824.

Rosa 'With Courage' is a modern classic floribunda, bred to reward the nation's gardeners with an abundance of beautiful coppery orange double flowers set against mid-green glossy foliage. Free-flowering, compact and growing to 3ft tall, peachy pink tones add charm to outer

petals which display yellow accents at their base, while a sweet apple scent fills the summertime breeze with delightful fragrance. Having performed spectacularly during Peter Beales' own field trials, the 'With Courage' rose has taken six years to come to market to ensure it can more than meet the demands of modern gardens.

For Ian Limmer, head of the nursery and plant breeding programme at Peter Beales Roses, the launch of the high-profile rose is personal, because his grandad spent 30 years serving as a volunteer for the RNLI and saved over 160 lives. Ian said: "In my mind, the colour of the rose reflects the orange of the RNLI's boats while the yellow is reminiscent of the colour of the uniform. Gardeners who grow the rose will be supporting the RNLI and its flowers will be a constant reminder in the garden of the life-saving work that volunteers do."

Ideal for growing in all parts of the garden including borders or containers, in sun or part-shade, 'With Courage' is a superbly healthy and highly versatile new rose, that boasts exceptional resilience to summer heat and shrugs off winter cold. What's more it will happily withstand temperatures as low as -10C, whilst blooms last well when cut for the vase, too.

Set to be the talk of RHS Chelsea 2024, 20% of proceeds from sales of the rose will help to support the indispensable resources that the RNLI needs to survive, including crew, kit and lifeboats. Developed in Britain, the extraordinary plant embodies the fearless commitment of RNLI volunteers who have been saving lives at sea for two decades, from the times of wooden lifeboats with oars and sails to the motor-powered, all-weather lifeboats they have now, complete with state-of-the-art technology and communications.

At the heart of Chelsea's Great

Pavilion and spanning over 100 square metres, a breathtaking display will unfold, showcasing the partnership between Peter Beales Roses and the RNLI in a truly spectacular fashion.

Central to this display will be a real RNLI rib, surrounded by thousands of Peter Beales' most stunning roses. Designed to evoke the iconic image of a lifeboat launching from its house, a sight synonymous with the RNLI, this floral masterpiece will capture the essence of the partnership's commitment to saving lives and protecting communities and is set to be a major highlight of the show, offering countless photo opportunities for Instagram enthusiasts and plant-loving visitors.

Ian Limmer expressed his excitement: "The RNLI's 200th anniversary is a testament to their unwavering commitment to saving lives at sea. It is an immense honour to stand alongside one of the UK's oldest charities as partners during this historic milestone and we feel truly blessed that, of all the exhibitors at RHS Chelsea, the RNLI chose us to partner with."

"The unveiling of the garden, with its centrepiece lifeboat alive with roses, will be a truly magical moment. As the world watches, we hope to not only captivate visitors with the beauty of our display but also to raise awareness and much-needed funds for the vital work of the RNLI. This partnership is a celebration of resilience, strength, and the enduring spirit of humanity, and we are proud to be a part of it."

Peter Beales Roses can be found on London Road, Attleborough, Norfolk, where you can view its two-acre rose garden, historic rose collection, garden centre, and an unrivalled programme of workshops and rose events. See more at www.classicroses.co.uk or call 01953 454707.

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Hunstanton Lifeboat Station

Four of our crew joined personnel from stations around the coast of the UK and Ireland to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the RNLI.

Lifeboat operations manager Rigil Kent, crew members Victor Dade and Andrew Craven, and our station visits officer and water safety lead Kate Craven attended the service of thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey on March 4, to mark the bicentenary of the charity that saves lives at sea.



From left, Andrew, Kate, Victor and Rigil at Westminster Abbey

Rigil said: "It was such an honour to be in such an iconic abbey, with all its history and traditions, celebrating 200 years of lifesaving by the RNLI.

"To be able to represent past, serving and future crew members and everybody else who makes the RNLI the wonderful organisation it is was extremely humbling.

"The atmosphere inside the Abbey made things quite emotional. I'm so proud to have been part of the day."



That evening crew members gathered at the station to raise a toast to the current crew and all who have gone to sea before them.

Since 1824, when a lifeboat service was first founded at Hunstanton, the station has carried out 1,249 launches and saved 153 people's lives.

That's around the population of a typical street in town like York Avenue.

Times may have changed since our first crew put to sea in a wooden rowing boat, wearing life jackets made of cork.

But the resolve of those on board the search and rescue craft we operate from our station today, along with all who support them remains the same.

Charlie Parfitt, one of our hovercraft commanders, told what drives our volunteers and thousands like them during an interview with BBC Look East which aired on the anniversary.

"There's no better feeling than going out and bringing someone back home to their family, back to safety," she said.

Stacey O'Donnell's twin daughters Molly and Daisy, along with their older sister Zoe, became cut off by the tide at Brancaster in August, 2013 and ended up clinging to a bouy in the fast-flowing current before being rescued by our crew.



Stacey O'Donnell, who is running the London Marathon to raise funds for the RNLI, with her three daughters and crew members at Hunstanton Lifeboat Station, whose hovercraft brought Daisy, Molly and Zoe back to safety after they were cut off by the tide at Brancaster in 2013 (credit Chris Bishop...)

Mum Stacey is running the London Marathon on April 21 to raise funds for the charity that saves lives at sea. You can find her just giving page at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mollydaisyzoee.

Returning to the station earlier this month, the family met Victor, who was piloting the hovercraft on a sunny afternoon that could so easily have ended in tragedy.



From left Daisy Cole is pictured with, Hunstanton RNLI volunteer Victor Dade, with her sisters Molly and Zoe. Victor was the pilot of the hovercraft which saved the trio back in August, 2013 (credit Chris Bishop...)

Our station on Sea Lane will be opening up to visitors again at weekends from Saturday, March 30 (10am - 4pm).

We'll be open daily to visitors (10am - 4pm) from Monday, April 15.

If you'd like to find out more about the ways you could help our lifesaving work, we train at the station on Sunday mornings or you can e-mail hunstanton@rnli.org.uk.

Stay Safe, Respect the Sea

April Diary of events - see also: <https://townandaround.net>

Monday 1st

Car Boot Sale at Glebe House School field. PE36 6HW. Buyers 7am-1pm. Donations on the gate.

Easter Fun at Holme-next-the-Sea Village Hall. Quiz, Easter Bonnet Parade, raffle, activities for children, homemade refreshments. 10am-noon.

Snettisham Art Group Easter Art Exhibition at the British Legion Hall, Snettisham 10am-5.30pm Free entry, donations to RBL

Pre-loved clothing sale at Hunstanton Town Hall in aid of the Hunstanton Mayor's Charity: East Anglia Children's Hospice 10am-3pm

Monday 1st – Sun 14th

The Wash: An exhibition of paintings, textiles and other phenomena at The Custom House, King's Lynn 10am-4pm

Wednesday 3rd

Community Cinema at Burnham Market Village Hall 2.30pm: The Hundred Foot Journey (2010). £5 on the door or Diana on 01328 738604 www.burnhammarketandnortonvillagehall.org.uk

Ingoldisthorpe Sports and Social Club Pool League 7.30pm – Bar open. All welcome.

Thursday 4th

Dersingham Choir free concert 'Bangles and Beads' St Cecilia's Church Hall, Mountbatten Road, Dersingham, PE31 6YE. 7pm. Doors 30 minutes pre concert.

Friday 5th

Fincham Memorial Hall PE33 9EJ QUIZ night is at 7.30pm Entry £2 per person. 50/50 Raffle. BYO refreshments.

Saturday 6th

Hunstanton Fire Station on-call recruitment day 10am-noon. Family Fun Day with indoor crafts at Hunstanton Community Centre PE36 6BQ 11am-5pm. Free entry.

Dersingham Choir free concert 'Bangles and Beads' St Cecilia's Church Hall, Mountbatten Road, Dersingham, PE31 6YE. 2pm. Doors 30 minutes pre concert.

Ingoldisthorpe Sports and Social Club BINGO 7.30pm – Eyes down for a full house! Buy your tickets from 7pm. Lots of great prizes and a cash quickly. All welcome as ever.

Sunday 7th

Car Boot Sale at Glebe House School field. PE36 6HW. Buyers 7am-1pm. Donations at gate.

Marriott's Warehouse Trust Pleasant Sunday Afternoon talk at 3pm in the Fred Hall Room, 2nd Floor Marriott's Warehouse. Free entry, donations in aid of Marriott's Warehouse Trust very welcome. Booking not required.

Music in the Burnhams 3pm Leo Popplewell (cello) and Ionel Manciu (violin) Bach 'Air on a G String,' a Boccherini Sonata and Handel's Halvorsen Passacaglia at All Saints Church Sutton cum Ulph in Burnham Market PE31 8HQ. All tickets are £20 each. Children under 18 come free. Booking: www.musicintheburnhams.org call 07989 177079

Monday 8th

Arts Society North West Norfolk talk Sedgeford Village Hall 2pm Michelangelo: A troubled genius theartssocietynwnorfolk.org.uk

Anmer Social Club BINGO NIGHT – Club opens at 7.00p.m. 'Eyes Down' at 7.30 p.m. £ Fully licensed bar and Raffle – Info : anmer.club@outlook.com

Wednesday 10th

Sea Shanties and Words with Nelson's Shantymen and Norfolk Poets at St Mary's Church Docking 7-9.30pm. All in aid of Hunstanton & District Foodbank.

Ingoldisthorpe Sports and Social Club POOL night - 7.30pm – support our local teams compete in the Heacham and district Pool League. Bar open. All welcome

Thursday 11th

Arts Society King's Lynn talk by Twigs Way 'The divine sunflower in art and culture'. West Winch Village Hall 2pm theartssocietykingslynn.org.uk

Friday 12th

Kings Lynn U3A Meeting. Gaywood Community Centre. Talk by Sarah Doig, The A-Z of Curious Norfolk. Doors open 9.30am. £3. Tea/coffee/biscuits

Snettisham Memorial Hall Coffee Morning 10am-12 noon

Saturday 13th

Snettisham Flea Market at the Memorial Hall PE31 7LX 50p entry 9am-3pm.

Old Hunstanton Beach Clean 2-3.30pm Meeting Point: Near the Lighthouse Café (PE36 6EL)

King's Lynn Festival Chorus present Brahms German Requiem and Elgar Sea Pictures at King's Lynn Minster 7pm. £20 under 16s free Tickets 01553 764864 kingslynncornexchange.co.uk

Music in the Burnhams 7.30pm at St Mary's Church Brancaster PE32 8AU. Joo Yeon Sir (violin) and Irina Andrievsky (piano) Schumann, Grieg and the Concert Fantasy on Gershwin's Porgy and Bess. All tickets are £20 each. Children under 18 come free. Booking: www.musicintheburnhams.org call 07989 177079

Anmer Social Club DARTS AND DOMINOES TOURNAMENTS NIGHT 7.30 p.m. Club opens 7.00 p.m. anmer.club@outlook.com Or Call or text: 07896 139210

Ingoldisthorpe Sports and Social Club Race night. 8pm. 6 races, . All welcome for what is sure to be an entertaining night.

Sunday 14th

Car Boot Sale at Glebe House School field. PE36 6HW. Buyers 7am-1pm. Donations at gate.

Tuesday 16th

Brancaster Camera Club 7pm in Brancaster Staithe Village Hall. The topic for the evening will be 'Aspects of Spring'. We are a small friendly club and welcome visitors. If you are staying in the area or generally interested in photography, please come along. The cost per evening is £3 to include refreshments. Contact Sue Till on 01485 210013 or Wendy Calow on 01553 674725

Wednesday 17th

Come and try croquet at Hunstanton Croquet Club 2-4pm. Free

Community Cinema at Burnham Market Village Hall 7pm: The French Lieutenants Woman (1981) £5 on the door or contact Diana Walker on 01328 73860 www.burnhammarketandnortonvillagehall.org.uk

Hunstanton Society presentation by Neil Storey 'Infamous Norfolk Murders' 4.30pm in the Heritage Centre. Admission £1 members, £4 non-members. Refreshments included.

Ingoldisthorpe Sports and Social Club Open Mic. Open to all aspiring public performers- All welcome as ever

Friday 19th

Quiz night at Thornham Village Hall including supper. Teams of up to 8. £10 per person. Doors 6.30pm 7.30 start. To book or for info, email Sue Herbert, sueherbert50@gmail.com Tickets, including supper, are £10 per person.

Anmer Social Club FILM NIGHT – ONE LIFE 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

Music in the Burnhams 7.30pm All Saints Church Sutton PE31 8HQ The Wild Men of the Baroque will play a very varied programme of music on a selection of recorders (Piers Adam) and harpsichord (David Wright). All tickets are £20 each. Children under 18 come free. Booking: www.musicintheburnhams.org call 07989 177079

Massingham Historical Society 7.30pm at the Village Hall. An illustrated talk and Q&A Session about the history of the Massingham Fire Brigade with a photographic display. Members free, guests £3, bar open.

Fincham Memorial Hall PE33 9EJ BINGO night is on Friday 19th April. Cash bingo with raffle and other games. Just pay for the games you want to play. Doors open 7.30pm BYO nibbles & drink.

Saturday 20th

The Burnhams Market 9am-2pm info: Hannah Bingley theburnhamsmarket@outlook.com

North Wootton Village Market 9am-2pm North Wootton Village Hall PE30 3PT

International Organ Day 10.30-4.30 in NW Norfolk churches www.heachamchurch.org.uk or facebook @StMarysHeacham or contact Heacham Church Office tel. 01485 572539

Fincham Memorial Hall PE33 9EJ There will be a National Theatre Encore performance of 'Vanya' at 7.15pm. Entrance £5 pay via Eventbrite or at the door by either cash or card. Licensed bar available from 6.45pm.

round.net/whats-on/april

Sunday 21st

Car Boot Sale at Glebe House School field. PE36 6HW. Buyers 7am-1pm. Donations at gate.

Monday 22nd

Hunstanton in Bloom Tea Party at Hunstanton Town Hall. Meet the gardeners and learn about the plans for this year. (RSVP to 2chrisearnshaw@gmail.com if you would like to attend - it helps with catering!)

Wednesday 24th

Snettisham Gardening Club talk by Emma Pickering of Emma's Hedgehogs 7.30pm Memorial Hall, Old Church Road

Thursday 25th

New Hunstanton WI Methodist Church Hall, Austin St at 2.15.

A taster Tai-Chi session with Allan Howlings. Come and join us, £5 to include tea and cake.

By the book celebrates the launch of 'Forms from Chaos' by Ian Enters. Golden Lion 7pm Tickets £7 01485 522349 email: adrian@buyanotherbook.com

Friday 26th

Coffee concert at King's Lynn Town Hall PE30 5DQ Dvorak's Opus 106, performed by rapidly rising stars, the Kleio Quartet. <https://www.kingslynncornexchange.co.uk/theatre/whats-on/opera-classical/coffee-concert-kleio-quartet/>

Fincham Memorial Hall PE33 9EJ Fincham Film for all is showing 'The Old Oak' at 7.15pm. Entrance £3 pay via Eventbrite or at the door. Licensed bar from 6.45pm.

Anmer Social Club QUIZ NIGHT - Club opens 7.00 p.m. Quiz starts 7.30 p.m. Entry £2 per person. Licensed bar - Raffle

Saturday 27th

Ingoldisthorpe Church Hall PE31 6NZ Plant Fair 10am-2pm Plant stalls will be outside. Hot drinks & cakes for sale inside.

Family Fun morning 10am-12noon at Glebe House School and Nursery. Activities and entertainment for ages 2-8 years.

World Tai Chi Day Mass come and try day on The Green Hunstanton 10.00 to 12.00 incl limited mobility session including seated Tai Chi.

www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/hunstantonevents

Hunstanton Craft Fair, Town Hall PE36 6BQ. 10am-4pm

Magpie Centre Quiz with Hog Roast supper at Stowbridge Village Hall 7pm for 7.30 start. £12.50pp 07715 467866 or magpiecentrewnrda@hotmail.co.uk

Syderstone Village Screen Amy Robsart Village Hall 7.30pm The Great Escaper (12A) £4 01485 578171 syderstonecinema_ARVH@outlook.com

Ingoldisthorpe Sports and Social Club. We welcome back the fantastic Nelson's Shantymen for a night of toe-tapping music you are guaranteed to enjoy.

Sat 27th- Sun 28th

Docking St. Mary's Church are holding an 'Umbrella Festival' 10.00am - 4pm daily in the Church. Tombola, Raffle, and Refreshments available.

Quiz with Hog Roast supper (with veggie) for the Magpie Centre. Stowbridge Village Hall, Downham Road, Stowbridge PE34 3PW. 7pm for 7.30 start. Teams of 4-8 Tickets £12.50 each. Booking: 07715 467866 magpiecentrewnrda@hotmail.co.uk.

Sunday 28th

Car Boot Sale at Glebe House School field. PE36 6HW. Buyers 7am-1pm. Donations at gate.

RAF Bircham Newton Heritage Centre, PE31 6RH open day 10am-4pm

Snettisham Bowls Club Open Day grand re-opening at 12 noon. Competitions & refreshments

Tuesday 30th

Dersingham Village Cinema presents WONKA (PG) at 7.30pm Dersingham Village Centre. Doors open 7pm £6 and under 16s £3, includes tea/coffee/squash. Licensed Bar. Chocolate treats available...

Looking forward to May

Saturday 4th: Spring Fayre at St Edmund's Church Hunstanton. Join us between 11am and 4pm for stalls, "music and more" in the church and refreshments.

All welcome.

Editor's note: Please let me know about your May events by 12th April editor@townandaround.net



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Come down to our recruitment open day and meet our firefighters.

Where: **Hunstanton Fire Station**

When: **Saturday 6th April**

Hunstanton Fire Station are holding an On-Call Recruitment Open Day at their Cromer Road depot on Saturday, 6th April from 10am until 12pm. They are inviting anyone interested in finding out more about the fire service or enrolling as a volunteer, to pop down for an informal chat where they can view the station, equipment, and fire engines.

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service covers the county of Norfolk with 42 stations, 39 of which have an on-call commitment, including Hunstanton and Heacham. Being an on-call firefighter is like having a part-time job - you must commit to certain hours, and you get paid for it.

A firefighter on the on-call duty system provides cover when required to respond to fire and emergency calls. An on-call firefighter uses the same appliances and equipment as full-time firefighters. The difference is that on-call firefighters are available in their homes or workplaces rather than at a fire station. You must live or work within five minutes travelling distance of your local on-call fire station during your hours of declared availability. Full training is provided which includes courses where you will learn skills that can also be transferred to your primary place of employment such as applying first aid and fire safety training. A uniform and paid holidays are also provided, whilst you will also receive an 'on-call fee' for being available, as well as being paid for attending fire calls, drill nights and training events.

The roles offer flexible working hours and could suit people with a variety of employment backgrounds. On-call firefighters can provide part cover (days, nights, and weekends) or full cover (24/7).

Copy date for the May issue is 12th April

THE BARKING BUGLE NEWS



It never ceases to amaze me how woof friendly the county of Norfolk is! My sisters and I just love being cuddled and made a fuss of by so many of the adorable human beings who live here. As usual we have been very busy out and about exploring some of the nicest places to visit.

The other day we discovered GG's Treasures, which has only just opened, located near the Oasis Leisure Centre in Hunstanton. As soon as we entered we thought what a pawsome shop this is! There are lots of gift ideas for humans here and even a doggy section including a wide variety of treats. I have to admit that I didn't want to leave this area as the smells were so enticing. Miss Zsa Zsa told me off and barked in no uncertain terms that I was here to do some repawting, not sniffing!

Inside GG's Treasures you can find Em's Den Café which is supaw friendly. The lovely human who served us brought over some very tasty doggy bone shaped biccies for us to eat. The café overlooks the Wash and when the weather is nice you can sit outside and enjoy the view. We shall certainly be back!

I'd like to woof thanks of appreciation to the owners of Fakenham Garden Centre who also have a very dog friendly café. They even have signs on certain tables telling humans to leave them for owners with four legged furry friends. How thoughtful is that - places reserved just for us, totally pawsome!

Whenever I visit Fakenham I also like to do a spot of retail therapy, being the diva I am and so I visit Aldiss. It really is such a smart, clean shop that I couldn't believe it when I was first told that doggies of all shapes and sizes can go inside to sniff out the latest bargains. And the best bit is that this shop too has a very woof friendly café.

One weekend my sisters and I were feeling pawticularly energetic and so we decided to walk part of the North Norfolk Coastal Path. It was a lovely, sunny day and all three of us loved all the sights and smells along the way. We got so carried away that before we knew it we had been walking for well over two hours, so my pawrents decided that we had better catch the local Coastline bus back. We were all really excited because none of us had ever been on a bus before! Wow, it was supaw comfy and it only costs £1 per doggy to travel. Well worth it we felt!

We would love to hear about any woofastically friendly doggy places you come across on your travels so please drop us a line to newsdesk@thebarkingbugle.co.uk if you discover any. Have fun out there!

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Spring into action with Magpie Centre activities

Caroline Dudley

Shaking off the winter blues in fine style, more than 90 participants enjoyed the Ceilidh/ Barn Dance at Stowbridge Village Hall on February 17.

The event was a huge success and boosted funds for the Magpie Centre, home of West Norfolk Riding for the Disabled by £1175.

Next up is a Quiz with Hog Roast supper (with veggie alternative), scheduled for Saturday April 27, again at Stowbridge Village Hall, Downham Road, Stowbridge PE34 3PW. Bring your own drinks and glasses. The Hog Roast is accompanied by an array of salads and followed by a mouthwatering selection of desserts.

Teams of 4 – 8 people are welcome or come along and make up a team on the night. Doors open at 7.00 pm for a 7.30pm start.

To book tickets, £12.50 each, call 07715 467866 or email magpiecentrewnrda@hotmail.co.uk.

Calling all crafters.....there will be a Craft Fair on Saturday June 8 at the Magpie Centre, Wallington Hall, South Runcton, PE33 0EP 10.00 am – 3.00 pm. Find us on the A10 about three miles north of Downham Market. The fair will be held in the indoor school, with wheelchair-accessible surface, so no worries if the weather is wet. Stalls are £12 per 3 metre space and more than 30 have already been allocated.

To book yours, please contact 07715 467866 or email magpiecccraft@outlook.com.

And last but not least, our popular Tea With a Pony afternoons will resume in April. These take place on Wednesday afternoons from 2.00 pm – 3.00 pm at the Magpie Centre and offer the opportunity for those living with health/mobility difficulties to meet, stroke and spend time with one of our friendly ponies; enjoy tea/coffee and cakes; chat to friends, and take time to relax in our new sensory garden, full of fragrant flowers, plants and water features.

Complete wheelchair access is available, and we welcome individuals, small groups or larger groups, up to a maximum of 30. Booking is essential, at £6.00 per person. To secure your place, visit our website: www.rda-westnorfolk.org, call the Magpie Centre on 01553 810202 or email magpiecentrewnrda@hotmail.co.uk. We look forward to hearing from you.



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Hello April!

We've tipped the balance from longer nights to longer days and after the dark days of winter the sunshine triggers the release of serotonin (the happiness hormone). Our spirits are lifted, we feel more energetic - and ready to conquer the wardrobe.

A wardrobe spring clean will make you feel better, and the process will make every item of clothing you own work hard for you. The basic rule is to simplify, refresh, and embrace a capsule wardrobe with style; if something doesn't make you feel good, let it go and make space for something new.

Allez Chic's Cheryl Daubney says: "Casual everyday dresses are a great choice for this time of year, paired with boots and knitwear for chillier days, or sandals as the temperature rises.

"Our new stock has arrived in store, the colours and fabrics are fabulous and the styles tick all the boxes."

In recent years sustainable yarns such as Tencel™ lyocell that use less water in their manufacture and are compostable and biodegradable have become part of the fashion scene, and this pretty blue Eden Dress from Lily and Me is a perfect example. Made from soft lightweight Tencel™ denim it is a super easy yet stylish design with a v-neckline, mandarin collar, side splits and pockets and belt tie to cinch you in at the waist. Wash it at 30 degrees and do your bit for the planet.

You are guaranteed to find a warm welcome from Cheryl and her staff at Allez Chic, they are fashion specialists and they've got you covered! Head down to Castle Rising where you'll find free, easy parking and excellent customer service as you browse the rails in the light, airy store.

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West Norfolk Methodist Climate and Justice Group

Circuit twinning and a campaign to raise money for the Methodist High School in Matjinge, Zimbabwe



Matjinge school

Last year, the West Norfolk Methodist Circuit decided to twin with Matjinge Circuit in South Matabeleland, Zimbabwe. This is where our current minister Rev Dr Richman Ncube grew up and attended the Methodist boarding school. It is a poor area which has been badly affected by drought, due to climate change. The two circuits are exchanging ideas and problems and are praying for each other.

The circuit raised enough money last year for a survey of Matjinge High School's water supply to be carried out. Thank you very much to the churches who organised events and collections for Matjinge!

The survey was carried out on Nov 3rd. The existing borehole has failed and a new borehole will need to be drilled as soon as possible. Then, a solar pump, new pipes and tanks will also be needed. We are investigating how much this will all cost and have asked for a number of estimates to be produced, by companies recommended by the charities Practica Action and Children in the Wilderness.

The circuit has already raised more than £5,000, but more will be needed. There is a plan to hold a celebration event at London Road Methodist Church in King's Lynn from 3pm on May 12th. There will be some Zimbabwean music, a performance from the West Norfolk Singers, presentations, Fen Song children from Downham Market performing, other children's activities and a faith tea, followed by a circuit service at 6.30pm.

Meanwhile, we have created a crowdfunding campaign, which can be shared on social media platforms, and we hope to get some matched funding. Hopefully, we will get permission to share this throughout the Methodist district, and via Churches Together in King's Lynn. This will be launched in time for U.N. World Water Day on March 22nd.

Zimbabwe has recently been in the news, because of increasing problems with drought in many parts of the country, due to climate

change, and outbreaks of diarrhoeal illnesses and cholera are becoming more widespread.

Although the government of Zimbabwe is promising that there will be a programme to drill more boreholes, it is likely that this will concentrate on the capital city of Harare and the surrounding areas, not the more rural areas like Matjinge in the south. Also, it is likely to concentrate on government-run schools, rather than schools run by the churches.

Having reached the initial target of £5,000, required to do a hydrogeophysical survey and to drill a new borehole, we are now hopeful that this project can be completed later this year.

For further information, please contact Rev Dr R Ncube at richiemncube@gmail.com

West Norfolk Methodist Circuit

Come and Celebrate our Circuit Twinning
with Matjinge Circuit, Zimbabwe

on

Sunday May 12th from 3pm

with

**Music from West Norfolk Singers, Zimbabwean
Singers and FenSong children**

at

**London Rd Methodist Church, King's Lynn
Refreshments from 5pm**

and

Circuit service from 6.30pm



We have raised money for a new borehole to be drilled at Matjinge High School, which is a Methodist boarding school in Matabeleland South, attended by 125 children from poor rural communities. This is the school which was attended by our minister, Rev Dr R Ncube. More donations are needed to finish this project now, so please give generously! For further information, please contact richiemncube@gmail.com.

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They say 3rd time's a charm!

For Hunstanton Town Events Team, it really is....

The events team are planning the biggest carnival in Hunstanton since lockdown. It has always been a wonderful family event and brought much enjoyment to all that attend. Chairman for Hunstanton Town Council's Town Events Team Cllr Mark Williamson says "when the idea of bringing back the carnival was born in 2022, we were all nervous about the reception it would receive. Needless to say, it was a great success, and each year we have tried to improve. Last year we saw crowds rise to over 2000 attendees, which is fabulous for our seaside town and brought many new visitors to the town. This year, with the help of our friends at KL1 Radio, Lynx & The Borough Council of King's Lynn, we are bringing a 3 Day event to showcase Hunstanton and it's talent."

Here are the plans so far...

It all starts on Friday 21st June – with live bands performing on stage at the green from 4pm.

Saturday - The team from KL1 Radio are up and running from midday, then we have live bands/performers leading into 'buskers' corner'. A wonderful chance for local talent to showcase themselves, Dancing into the night with their headlining act **** to be revealed nearer the time!

Sunday – It's carnival time.... The KL1 team kick off nice and early with the Breakfast show (with Paul Baker). The Green & Upper Green will be busy with over 30 stall holders arriving from 8am, to set up and showcase their goodies & treats. So far in the parade we have the Caledonian Band, Stilt walkers, Morris Dancers, Crazy Bananas, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Costa Coffee, the Molly Dancers, Little Light's, Police Cadets, the Ukrainian Community, Heacham Red Hat Ladies, Shelly Keep Fit, the local Fire Crew and returning by popular demand Stamford Show Stoppers, with many more to follow, so keep checking our social media for updates...

The Town Events Team would like to express their gratitude to the following for their support;

KL1 Radio for organising the 'Party on the Green' and entertaining us for the 3 day event

Hughes Electrical for donating an awesome raffle prize, a massive 55in Hi Definition TV. Tickets will be on sale from 10 am in the Hunstanton Town Council gazebo on the Green.

Lynx Buses for organising a late bus at 10pm back to King's Lynn via the villages on route.

Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk – without the help and advice from Resort Services we would not be able to host the event on the green for all to enjoy – huge thanks to you guys.....!

Also a massive thank you to the local business's who are sponsoring the weekend, Princess Theatre, K Brown Autos to name a few. Without you the event could not go ahead.

If your business would like to get involved and sponsor our event please email the office to make your pledge: clerk@hunstantontowncouncil.gov.uk

WEEKEND OF CARNIVAL
21st - 23rd June 2024

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Proud to be supported by: KL1, Lynx, Hunstanton, Princess Theatre, Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk

International Organ Day

20th April 2024

WOW!! Seven different local church organs to hear and to try out. Children and adults welcome.

Ever wondered how and what makes the noise in an organ – as in musical instrument not the heart or lungs in your body! Come along and discover on Saturday 20 April.

The day will run from 10.30 to 16.30, in some of the village churches in our corner of NW Norfolk. Local organists will be on hand to demo and help you to have a go.

At 1pm in Heacham Parish Church, you can bring your own lunch and listen to Adrian Richards (from King's Lynn Minster) 'pulling out all the stops' in a short recital.

Keep a watch, for full details of the village churches involved and timings, on the Heacham Parish Church website – www.heachamchurch.org.uk or facebook page – @StMarysHeacham or ring Heacham Church Office 01485 572539.

For now – note the date in your diary or organiser; and start thinking of what tune you would play – anything from a Taylor Swift melody, through Elton John, the Beatles, or all the way back to Bach.

Awesome!!

RCO International Organ Day

Saturday 20th April 2024

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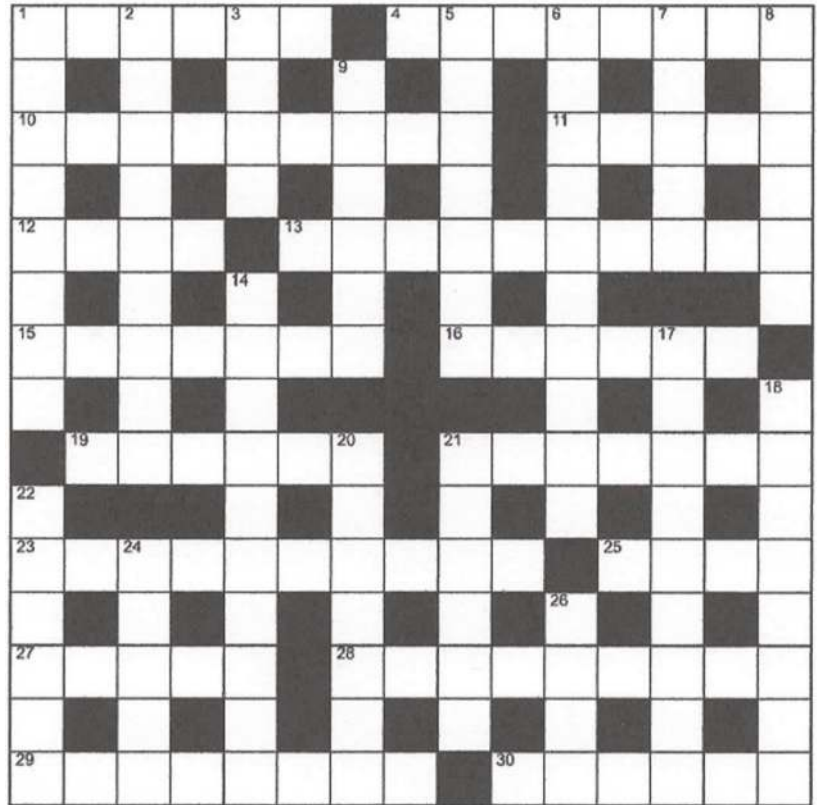
David Elsey's cryptic crossword

Across

1. Copper and half of constabulary go to area of Dome (6)
4. Connected record player? Sorry, no idea about that (8)
10. Lack of faith in law officer's conviction (9)
11. Supporters surround small section of players ... (5)
12. ... me? I'm leaving in no time (4)
13. Hires bands, accidentally making waves (10)
15. Take off around island with foremost biathlete and coach (7)
16. In concert go back to repair lead ... (6)
19. ... ahead of live number being broadcast (6)
21. Hide, after dismissing a bishop starts gossip (7)
23. Criminal one needs to be agile to nick (3,7)
25. Liquidate to realize ready cash (4)
27. Talk at length, taking time out with Hebrew scholar (5)
28. Cut hair, me? Unlikely, in this condition (9)
29. Threaten to cut out spleen (8)
30. Whispered comments on singles earmarked for popularity (6)

Down

1. Rules call for such secrecy (8)
2. Tried showing an example of this, performing neat steps (4,5)
3. Security provided by foreigner lacking capital (4)
5. Not working during last month ... sport on TV? Not half! (7)
6. Underground cells have openings at top level (10)
7. Orderly shown over hospital in Welsh town (5)
8. Leave off dress regularly to sit for sculpture (6)
9. Caught one in rush to cut down fruit tree (6)
14. Release tar mixture (10)
17. Fully discharged unsettled taxes due around end of month (9)
18. Develops and crops first of snaps (8)
20. Cause to expand and diversify – go green? (7)
21. Having a favourite station when crossing Italy and Germany (6)
22. Get together a vocal group ... (6)
24. ... first appearance is backing with pipes? (5)
26. Censure muscle-bound runners from down under (4)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION IS ON PAGE 49

Home Instead East Walks the Distance:

5 Million Steps to Support Local Dementia Cafes
Kelly Knight

Home Instead East, a leading provider of home care services, is celebrating a heartwarming achievement! Their dedicated teams in Norfolk and Cambridge collectively walked an impressive 5.8 million steps in a charitable initiative to raise funds for a digital activity table for local dementia cafes.

This inspiring journey reflects Home Instead's commitment to enhancing the wellbeing of individuals in the community, especially those affected by dementia. The fundraising effort aims to acquire a specialised dementia digital activity table designed to stimulate cognitive functions and promote social interaction in a safe and welcoming environment.

The campaign kicked off on February 1st, 2024, and concluded on February 29th, 2024. During this time, Home Instead team members enthusiastically participated in daily step challenges and wellness activities.

"We are thrilled to share that our teams in Norfolk and Cambridge have surpassed their goal, reaching a remarkable 5.8 million steps, raising a fantastic £1,505 so far! This initiative goes beyond the physical challenge; it reflects our unwavering commitment to the wellbeing of our community members, particularly those facing dementia," said Tom McEwan, Managing Director, Home Instead East.

The funds raised will directly contribute to purchasing a dementia table for local cafes, creating a stimulating and supportive environment for individuals with dementia and their families. This specialised table offers sensory stimulation and cognitive exercises, fostering a sense of connection and joy for its users.

Home Instead extends its sincere gratitude to everyone who supported the campaign, whether through participation, donations, or spreading awareness. The success of this initiative underscores Home Instead's dedication to making a positive impact beyond traditional caregiving services.

There's still time to donate to this fantastic cause! Visit our JustGiving page and search for "Home Instead East."



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Hunstanton Eyecare blog

PRUE comes to Hunstanton Eyecare!

This month I'm delegating to Nicky, our Optical Assistant, who volunteered to tell you about the new stock we have acquired. No excuse not to LOVE YOUR SPECS! Over to you Nicky.

At the end of February, a group of us from Hunstanton Eyecare and Cromer Eyecare, our sister branch, attended 100% Optical at Excel in London. It's the largest optical event in the UK and attracts over 9K UK and International visitors. There are more than 200 exhibitors of frames and optical equipment. Held over 3 days there's lots to see and do, from seminars and workshops to attend, demonstrations of products, as well as catwalk shows where models showcase the latest ophthalmic and sunspec frames. And of course, we get to try on the frames before putting our orders in!!

Our customers' needs are very important to us and we always keep this in mind whilst browsing through the many frames on display, which is why we really do believe we have chosen something for everyone.

Now in stock we have the new season of WOOW, a brand we first introduced last year from Design Eyewear, which have been very popular. Both bold and subtle colours and styles have been chosen to appeal to everyone's tastes and this year we've added a jazzy sunspec range.

We also have a new collection of children's frames of various colours and styles which we're sure our younger clientele will enjoy wearing.

Of course we haven't forgotten about our stylish gents (after all, why should it just be about the ladies?) So lots of new gents frames from Caterpillar and Hero among others are available here at Hunstanton Eyecare.

And finally, arriving in April is a brand new range we are excited about from none other than one of The Great British Bake Off judges, Prue Leith. Anyone who has seen Prue on TV will know how she loves

to wear bright, bold colours and larger style frames and this collection doesn't disappoint. Perhaps your new frame will be a Prue Leith frame!!

Thankyou Nicky. So, if you fancy a new look, bored with the specs you've worn for the last few years, drop in to see us and try on some of the fabulous new ranges. Remember too, that Essilor, our lens supplier, has a promotional offer, buy one pair of lenses and get a second pair half price, even the most expensive varifocals. So you can have a sensible pair and a really wacky pair!

We look forward to seeing you soon,

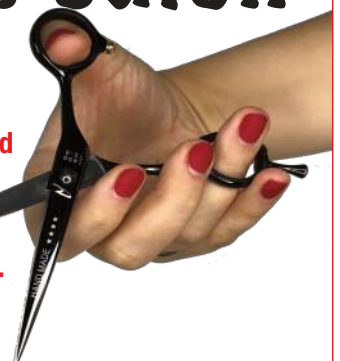
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HUNSTANTON & DISTRICT LIONS CLUB

11th CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT
FRIDAY 10th May 2024

We are delighted to announce that we are holding our 11th Annual Charity Golf Tournament with the kind permission of Heacham Manor Hotel. This year we are supporting the local charity "The Bridge For Heroes". This is a great opportunity to have fun with friends and support local charitable causes.

As with previous tournaments, we are inviting Teams of 4 to play 18 holes (Stableford) and enjoy a Breakfast of Bacon Roll with Tea/Coffee and lunch in the Heacham Manors Pavilion Restaurant. There will be prizes for Nearest Pin on Hole 7, Longest Drive on Hole 4, a Hole In One competition and a raffle to be won on the day.

To take part please complete the entry form or if you wish to take the opportunity to advertise your business/company by sponsoring one of the 18 holes for £50.00 or require further details, please contact Gerry Desroches at desrochesjerry1@gmail.com

We sincerely hope you will be able to support this event and we look forward to welcoming you at Heacham Manor Hotel.

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Across: 1. Cupola, 4. Adjoined, 10. Disbelief, 11. Brass, 12. Note, 13. Brandishes, 15. Minibus, 16. Tether, 19. Before, 21. Blether, 23. Cat burglar, 25. Quid, 27. Rabbi, 28. Rheumatic, 29. Endanger, 30. Asides

Down: 1. Codename, 2. Past tense, 3. Lien, 5. Deft, 6. Oubliettes, 7. Neath, 8. Desist, 9. Citrus, 14. Absolution, 17. Exhausted, 18. Produces, 20. Engorge, 21. Biased, 22. Accrue, 24. Tubed, 26. Emus



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Entry Form
Lions Charity Golf Day
Friday 10th May 2024

Lead Booker Details:

NAME/TITLE:
ADDRESS:
POSTCODE:
TEL NO:
EMAIL:
TEAM NAME

FULL NAMES	H/CAP	CLUB	CDH No. (IF Known)

Special dietary requirements:

Teams of Four: 18 Hole Stableford 75% of slope handicap allowance (maximum 28).
Scoring Format: Teams of 4 best 2 scores on each hole count.
Nearest the Pin on hole 7 & longest drive on hole 4, & hole in one competition.

£220 Per Team entry Fee is inclusive of: - Coffee and Bacon Roll on arrival, 4 ball playing 18 holes golf & lunch in Heacham Manor's Pavilion Restaurant.

Please return the completed form with a £220 cheque made payable to: Hunstanton Lions, CO Mr Gerry Desroches, 28 Homefields Road, Hunstanton, Norfolk PE36 5HL

Closing date of entries Friday 3rd May 2024

Tee times from 09:28 will be advised from 6th May 2024

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The Norfolk Hospice

"How I found myself again after losing Bernard"

After my husband Bernard was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease our lives changed as it became progressively worse year on year. He managed admirably for over ten years, but eventually his condition got so bad that it was difficult to leave him alone; I wanted to be with him all the time. I became his full time carer and was with him all of the time. When he could no longer eat I spent a day at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital learning how to feed him through a tube.

Two years later Bernard got pneumonia and I had to call the doctor. We really didn't want Bernard to go to hospital so the doctor arranged for us to have Hospital at Home. I remember that was in January, and it was only supposed to be for a few days but ended up being for four and a half weeks.

I don't know how we were referred to The Norfolk Hospice Tapping House, but a social worker from the Hospice came to see us. She was absolutely fabulous. She arranged for me to have some complementary therapy, a home sit for a couple of hours and a night sit service. I didn't expect that I would be able to sleep, but surprisingly I did, I knew that they would wake me if they needed to. I trusted them completely.

In early March the doctor took me to one side and told me that it was time to remove his feeding tube because Bernard's organs

were starting to fail. When the doctor told Bernard, he said that he wanted me to remove the feeding tube; I didn't want to, but I did it for him. Bernard died peacefully the next day in my arms.

The next couple of weeks I was numb. When someone dies, everyone is around to support you, then after a few weeks people go back to their own lives. I felt that everyone thought I should be ok. I had a devastatingly bad time, but the Hospice didn't leave me. I had six weeks of bereavement counselling which I found was so healing; I felt I'd started to find myself again.

Bernard was incredibly lucky; he was able to have some control over his death and being able to share his last breath was really important to me.

A lasting legacy for the hospice

For 40 years, The Norfolk Hospice Tapping House has been providing outstanding compassionate care for adults living with life-shortening illnesses in North and West Norfolk.

Each year The Hospice cares for 1,500 patients at the end of their lives and supports a further 4,500 families to find their way after losing their loved ones.

Please consider including a gift in your Will to The Norfolk Hospice Tapping House. This form of support is a crucial element of our



income from generous supporters, who many years ago had the forethought and generosity to include a gift. It is something everyone can do, regardless of wealth, family and domestic circumstances; even a gift of 1% can make a huge difference in the future to those using our hospice services and it's so easy to do.

A gift in a Will can come in a variety of ways; a specific sum of money or a percentage of your estate, or something more specific such as property, a piece of jewellery, or an antique.

For more information about leaving a donation in your Will please contact Carol Mott at The Norfolk Hospice Tapping House on 01485 601701 or fill out the form below and return it to Carol.

Please send me information about leaving a gift to The Norfolk Hospice Tapping House in my will.

Title: _____

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone number: _____

Email Address: _____



Keeping in touch with us

We would like to contact you to ask and inform you about other ways to support The Norfolk Hospice.

☐ Yes I am happy to be contacted by email and post

☐ No I am not happy to be contacted by email and post

Registered Charity No:
1062800

Please return this to: Carol Mott, The Norfolk Hospice Tapping House,
Wheatfields, Hillington, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE31 6BH

Nigel Day – The new Probus President

By Michael Walker

On Thursday 7 March, at a luncheon meeting at Knights Hill Hotel, Nigel Day took over as the new President of the King's Lynn Rural Probus Club. He succeeds Baz Bloy. Nigel worked as a manager in the NHS for over 30 years. He has had wide experience of health care commissioning, negotiating contracts for hospital services as well as those provided by GPs, dentists and pharmacies. After taking early retirement he founded his own management consultancy company, working both for the NHS and for charities for a number of years before deciding to change direction completely.

In 2012 he invested in land near Bircham which included some World War I trenches. These were dug by the Lovat Scouts in 1915 and the site is listed by English Heritage as one of national importance. The Dreamy Hollow Woodland Campsite is now run by his daughters.

Nigel is also a singer in the bass section of the King's Lynn Community Choir.



Nigel Day - President of the King's Lynn Rural Probus Club

Rotary help for the Samaritans



At a recent meeting of the Rotary Club of King's Lynn Michael Upton, from the local branch of the Samaritans, gave a most informative talk about the work of this organisation, which was founded in 1953 by Chad Varah, an Anglican priest. However, it is completely independent of any religious groups. There are over 20000 volunteers in the UK who give their time to provide a listening ear to anyone who is faced by problems of whatever kind. People from every walk of life, of every colour, every race, every age and every sexual orientation seek help from the Samaritans.

The Rotary Club has supported the Samaritans for the past few years and following his talk to the Club a cheque for £250 was presented to Michael Upton to support the King's Lynn branch which has some 90 volunteers.

There is a national free phone number which people can call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year. That special number is 116 123 and (importantly) it does not appear on any phone bills. Alternatively, people can email jo@samaritans.org

Photograph: Samaritans David Eatwell and Michael Upton and Immediate Past President of the Rotary Club, Derek Harvey.

Rotary Young Chef, Rotary District 1080 Final on Saturday 2 March 2024

Held at West Suffolk College, Bury St. Edmunds
John Hardy, Trinity Rotary Club



Students and parents coming from the Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire took part in the Rotary Young Chef competition. There were six young students from Secondary Schools, aged around 15 years. There were students from Farlingaye high school, Woodbridge high school, Comberton Village College, Thomas Clarkson high school. Three students represented West Norfolk and they were, Gabriela Skate from Smithdon High School, Isabel King from Marshland High School and Lily Stewart from Springwood High School.

Their task was to prepare and cook a two-course meal within 2 hours for two people at a maximum cost of £18. They had to produce a healthy menu, do the costings, and prepare a work plan and present their dishes appropriately. The judges were Peter Senior and John Thorpe, both Rotarians and retired Chef/Caterers.

Our District Governor and the parents were taken on a conducted tour of the kitchen during the cook off and parents were able to see their family members in action. When the students had completed the challenge, they displayed their dishes for the judges.

The winner, Lily Stewart (pictured above) and Runner-up Gabriela Skate will now go forward to the next Round, which comprises a cluster group of Rotary Districts. It will be held at Newbury College, West Berkshire, on Saturday 23rd March 2024.

Lily cooked what she called Firecracker Salmon (marinated in spices) served with Buttered Baby, new Potatoes and Rocket. Her dessert was Passion Fruit Parfait, and both dishes were presented professionally. She received a Prize and Certificate from District Governor Bob Maskell and Judge Peter Senior.



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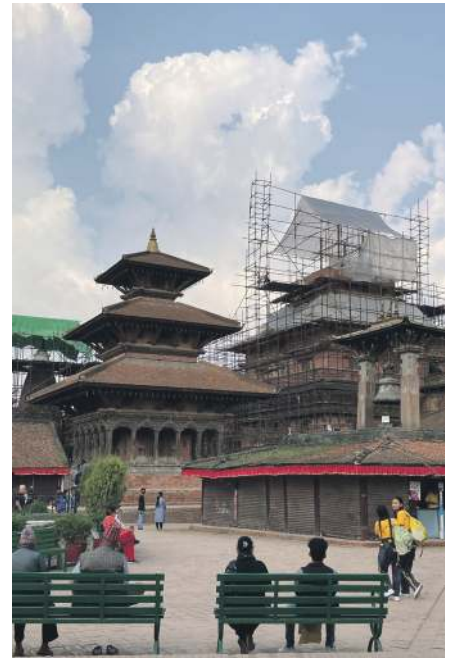
Sandra Ellison

Being able to meet together with other women for fellowship and friendship is one of the aims of Inner Wheel. It was good to meet for a coffee morning at the house of one of our members at the end of February for a chat and catch up.

At our March meeting we had an enjoyable talk with slides from one of our members who had visited Nepal last October. Nepal is a fascinating country about the size of England and Wales. The people are friendly and welcoming, they live up to Nepal's name of 'never ending peace and love'. Guests are very welcome with the general greeting being to place hands together and bow towards the visitor saying 'Namaste.' This is a general greeting and bowing down to the 'divine qualities' in the visitor. Many major religions are practised in Nepal, there is communal harmony between the many religions and festival days are shared. With its numerous Temples, Stupas and shrines in Nepal there is a constant reminder of the importance of faith. Old Kathmandu was designated a UNESCO world Heritage site in 1979. Sadly in 2015 a major earthquake destroyed much of the city. Slowly - when funds allow this is being rebuilt. The Chitwan National Park offers a chance to see crocodiles, rhinoceros, elephants, deer, boar, monkeys, a plethora of



birdlife and if really lucky a Bengali tiger. Travel through the park can be by canoe on the Rapti River or by jeep safari. And of course the Himalayas are never out of sight for long!



More locally - here in Hunstanton District branch we continue our monthly meetings and look forward to a demonstration of Malaysian cooking later in March.



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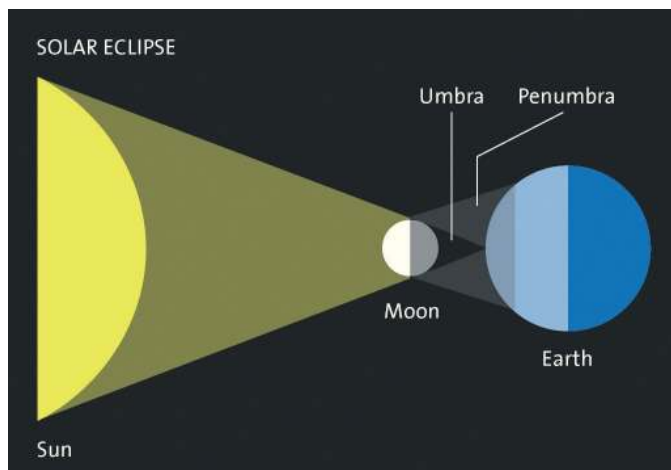
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The dark skies of West Norfolk

Terry Parish

On the 8th there is a total eclipse of the Sun. Its only visible from a narrow track across North America but I shall be there at Waxahachie in Texas. If the sky is clear, I will send some images. If there is cloud then I will send those I took in 2017 at Casper, Wyoming, which was the first Great American Eclipse; you won't know the difference except, maybe, a comet will be visible in the eclipse blacked out sky.

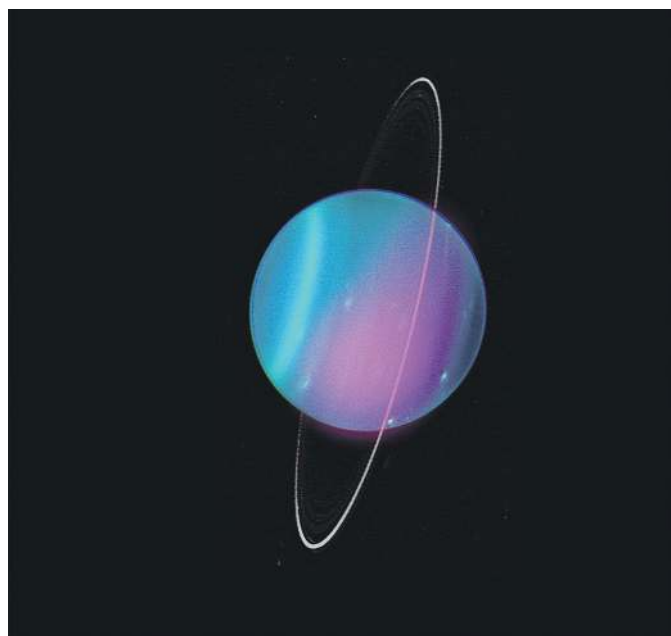


Eclipse

This is Comet Pons-Brookes which I mentioned last month. At the time of writing, 10th March, I have heard of no-one who has observed it. Given the continuing cloud cover I am not surprised. However, it is getting brighter and will reach maximum brightness on 21st April. You will need steady binoculars as its not predicted to be better than magnitude 4.5. This is on a par with a faint star. However, the comet is much, much, closer within the solar system and it is a diffuse body, so look for a fuzzy ghost. Google it to find the track and where to see it on different nights.

On the 12th, the comet will be just below and to the right of Jupiter. Look from around 9pm and, if you also scan your binoculars just above and to the right of Jupiter, a blue green dot should pop up. This will be the planet Uranus.

Uranus is in a similar position for the first half of the month and is at its closest to Jupiter on the 20th. This close approach is called a conjunction. Uranus sets at 10pm so you need to catch it before then. It



has a magnitude of 5.9 so fainter than the comet but a single point of light.

Below left: Uranus. This is an X ray image taken by the Chandra space telescope. The rings are evident but seen a little differently than the image given last month.

Jupiter is the brightest 'star' in the west and also sets around 10pm. It has been moving into the west earlier and earlier through the winter, setting earlier too and, by the end of the month it will not be visible at night or at dawn. Neither will any other planet. Catch the Galilean Moons of Jupiter now or wait until after summer holidays have finished and be prepared to stay up very late or get up early. On the 10th of April, Jupiter is picture perfect with the Crescent Moon. On or around the 27th, look into the WNW from Heacham beaches or Hunstanton cliffs to see Jupiter set and, above it, the Pleiades star cluster. Off to the left of the Seven Sisters will be the orange star Aldebaran.

The second half of the month should raise the chances of seeing meteors as the Lyrid meteor shower is preminent between 14th and 30th. However, the peak on the night of the 22nd / 23rd will be washed out by the Full Moon. The meteors are the debris of Comet Thatcher burning up in the atmosphere. An omen for a May election?

Talking of comets and shooting stars takes us to asteroids, an old term for a minor planet. William Herschel coined the word as it means 'star like' and gave the name to the rocky objects found, mostly, between Mars and Jupiter. The first discovered, Ceres, was called a planet for a time and is on a par with distant Pluto which is now classified as a dwarf planet which, I suppose, is a rank higher than a minor one. There is little difference in size, the diameter of Pluto is about 2400km whilst Ceres is 2000km.



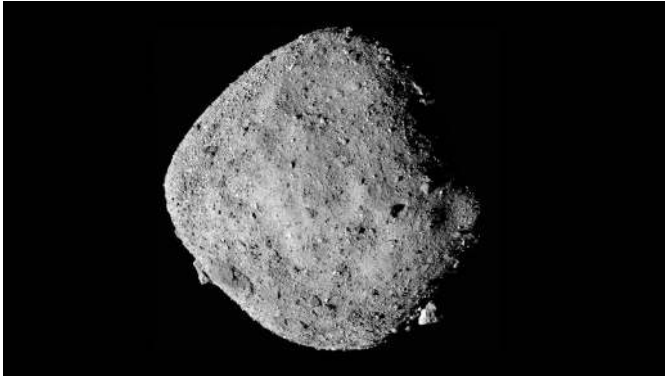
Ceres

These are giants compared to the average asteroid which have diameters between 30 and 50 metres. Hence the terms minor and dwarf planets. The largest asteroid is Vesta with a diameter of 530km. There are 1,308, 871 known asteroids, lumps of rock and metal hurtling around the Sun. A few come close to the Earth and one of them Bennu will pass between the Earth and the Moon in 2135. It is 500m in diameter so, if it hit the earth, would not be an extinction event but it would make a large dent. The probability of this happening is just 0.05%.

Your brain may have registered Bennu. It is the asteroid from which 120g of material was recovered by space mission Osiris Rex. This was safely dropped to Earth in September 2023 whilst the spacecraft has gone on towards another asteroid, Apophis, where it will arrive in 2029.

There have been 3 returns of asteroid samples, another mission is in transit and others are planned. Why all this interest? Asteroids are the left over remnants of the formation of our Solar System and contain

pristine evidence of the start of it all. Benu seems to be mainly water bearing clay, serpentine, with a magnesium rich phosphate mineral. The working hypothesis of the lead mission scientist, Dante Lauretta of NASA, is that Benu is from an ancient ocean world. More finds are soon to be revealed.



Benu

May the clouds rollback and dark skies envelop the Earth (I hope you can see something up there).

New Hunstanton WI

Thursday 28th March 2.15pm

Methodist Church Hall, Austin Street, Hunstanton

Ken Ward, an author who lives locally, will be giving a talk on his series of crime books.

Visitors are most welcome, we charge £5 which will include tea and cake

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My own experiences..... for holiday home owners to learn from.....

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

Last year I took the plunge and booked a holiday in Scotland with Airbnb. Any holiday now has to tick certain boxes as my husband is disabled after a stroke so this was the perfect property for us. Upon arrival there was no folder with instructions for anything in the flat, no holiday information whatsoever. The internet and TV were intermittent but we accepted this due to the Scottish weather even though it was June. My issue was the induction hob/cooker. With the temperamental internet – my port of call for instructions – I endeavoured to find out how it worked as had never used one and the property description just said electric cooker. Of course, I never thought to ask for details! (I am sounding like one of our guests!). Eventually, I sussed it out and we had our meal. We cruised the patchy internet to decide where to go each day. As the weather was not good to us, our pre-made plans did not pan out as we had hoped. Older people or families with children, maybe would not have been so aware of places of interest, where to eat, picnic etc. and even not having internet access, so a folder with tangible, easy information would have been very helpful to them. Also to tell guests that internet connection/phone signal could be hit and miss. All in all, we had a very enjoyable stay for our first time across the Scottish borders!

A Year in Provence.....well not quite, but similar story to the 1989 best-selling memoir by Peter Mayle (book/TV series).....for those who may recall.....

This year's holiday is already booked and we have already discussed Burgundy in France for next year. So, planning ahead, I searched for a single storey property which ticked all our boxes and found a delightful cottage definitely giving off all good vibes! Not many photos but we fancied it. The large shower had a very deep step which looked as if a handrail would have been useful. I asked the English owner if there were any handrails not seen in her photos. Big issue in holiday homes. People have places renovated to a high standard and

forget that guests (or themselves) may need something safe to hold on to whilst in and out of the shower. All comes down to cost too. The owner came back with a photo of a small plastic flimsy stool in front of the step suggesting this may help. Yep it may help someone slip on it who is unsteady or it may not bear weight. Her message sounded a bit exasperated "Oh, I did think about this when we converted. I suppose now I will have to find someone to buy some rails, measure up and drill the holes. I'll also have to decide where they can go so the look of the shower is not ruined and I suppose it will take ages to find someone to do it. Plus the mess it will make. Oh dear." I had this vision of the time in Peter Mayle's book when they needed builders to renovate their 200 year old cottage, who never gave a time to start, arrived late, departed in the middle of part of a job leaving a mess and did not return for several weeks leaving poor Peter and his wife totally exasperated. Not forgetting his frustration in trying to understand their French and get them back to work. I had a vision of my lady owner left with no workmen and handrails hanging off for several weeks... ..You get the picture and apologies to Peter Mayle (sadly now no longer with us) if my memory of his story is not totally correct! I told the good lady, that she did not have to go to all that trouble for me, after all we were only looking for the future and I only asked a question. But the small addition to the shower may change the amount of bookings she would get.....

So, a word to the wise – if you are planning on letting out your holiday home, always supply some clear written information for your guests. This is also a 'go to' for children if it has flyers inside too for places which may be of interest to them to keep them busy. Also, try to think of everything for your guests. They will appreciate it so much and will return or pass on how much they enjoyed their stay to friends and family as the property had everything they needed and maybe more! Not everyone has, or knows how to use the internet.

You are welcome to call in to our office for further advice of course!



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THE SUNDAY TIMES

The 10 best fish and chip shops in the UK



Fishers, Hunstanton

6. Fishers, Hunstanton, Norfolk

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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ROTARY SWIMMARATHON 2024

Hunstanton & District Rotary Club in conjunction with King's Lynn Priory Rotary Club organised, with the help of Alive Oasis Pool in Hunstanton, a Swimarathon to raise funds for local organisations.

The event took place on the 10th February 2024, with 9 teams of up to 6 swimmers covering a combined total of 1,244 lengths of the 25metre pool, a distance of 19 miles in 5 hours.

The event main sponsor was Specsavers in Hunstanton, with a number of other local businesses giving donations. They were: By the Book, Cafe Legge, Denote Print, Elite Property Improvements Ltd, Glebe House School, Golden Lion Hotel, Henry's Fish and Chips, The Lodge Hotel.

In addition to the contributions from the local businesses and the money raised by the swimmers, £2,500 was collected.

Several local organisations benefited from the funds and 3 trophies were presented to teams on Friday 15th March 2024 at Hunstanton Alive Leisure to the following teams:

- The best adult swimming team: Oasis 2
- The best children swimming team: Blue Fish
- The best fund raising team: Mini Wash Monsters

Jean Marie Vernon, heading up the event for Hunstanton and District Rotary, paid a special thank you to the pool staff from Alive

Leisure Hunstanton, the volunteers on the day, and most of all to the swimmers whose enthusiasm made it a fantastic day with a great atmosphere of fun. The amount raised for charity was well beyond our expectations, making the whole event incredibly worthwhile.

Next year's event is provisionally booked for Saturday 8th February 2025.



Mini Wash Monsters



Blue Fish



Oasis 2

Cllr Andrew Jamieson's report

Deputy Leader of Norfolk County Council and Cabinet Member for Finance, North Coast Division

Council agrees £528m budget

Councillors have backed a budget that "delivers for Norfolk", in the face of major challenges facing local government. This is despite major cost and demand pressures facing all councils.

We are a well-run and well-managed Council, which has balanced its books year after year, improving the way we work and delivering budgeted savings of £170m in the past 4 years. Over the past year in particular, we have focused on streamlining our structures to remove duplication, automating processes where possible, and using new technology to help us anticipate need and provide people with support earlier. Promoting a culture of continuous improvement has been and continues to be essential for driving changes within our services and finding better ways of doing things wherever possible.

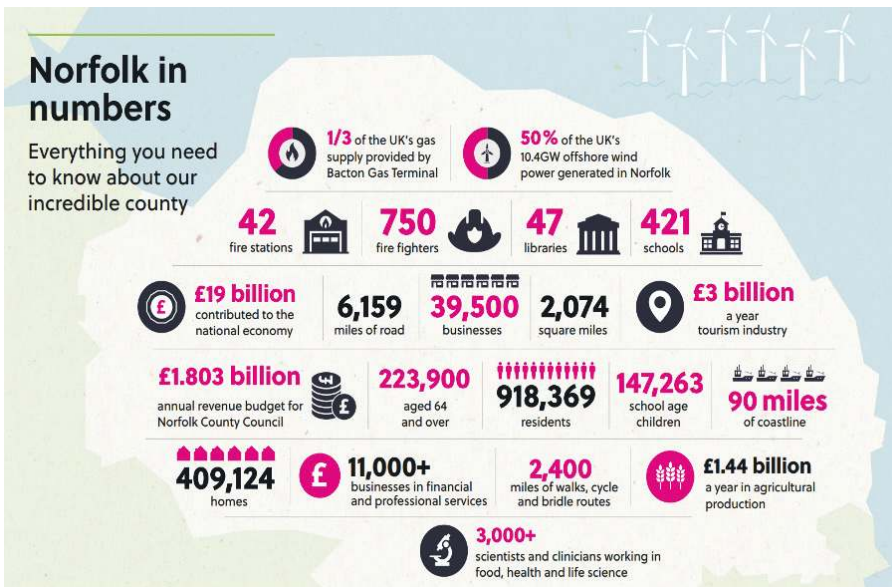
The key headlines from the budget agreed are:

- £122m of investment to meet demand and cost pressures next year - including £34.6m for inflation, £38m for legislative requirements, £39.7m for demand and demographic issues and £9.6m for policy decisions.
- £41.5m of new savings, including £9.6m from transforming how the council operates.
- A proposed 4.99% increase in the County Council's share of Council Tax, in line with the Government's capping level (2.99% for general Council Tax and 2% for adult social care). This would increase the Council's share of band D bills to £1,672.11. A 4.99% rise would generate £24.9m.
- A small number of the budget proposals have been identified as requiring consultation, as they may relate to a policy or service change. Cabinet will take decisions on these proposals in the summer, after considering the consultation results.

However, It is important to be absolutely honest about the financial context in which we have set our plans and our budget for 2024-25. With central government currently unable to commit to improving local government funding, and with unprecedented levels of demand for our services, driven by our demographics (26% of Norfolk's residents are over 65, compared with 19% in the Country as a whole) and an increased cost of living, we will have to prioritise and make the most of our resources. Be in no doubt though, that we continue to press to government the significant financial pressures facing us, both through national bodies such as the Local Government Association, as well as through our local MPs.

Councillors accept £600 million devolution deal

Financial pressures aside, the year ahead is also cause for optimism. In December 2023, Council Members voted to endorse the proposed Devolution Deal for Norfolk which brings an investment fund worth £600 million



over 30 years, with additional powers and devolved funding for, transport, brownfield regeneration, local skills, plus further opportunities to expand the deal. In July 2024, Councillors will vote on the change of governance needed for a Level 3 deal, which offers Norfolk a generational opportunity not only to unlock long-term funding, but also to gain greater freedoms to decide how best to meet local needs here, in Norfolk, and not in Whitehall.

Specifically, a County Deal would mean:

- Having a Council Leader who is directly elected by the public, enabling Norfolk's voice to be heard by the Government
- Targeting funding and resources to Norfolk's own priorities
- Unlocking housing and employment sites
- Investing in the skills we need and attracting and retaining key businesses
- Opening the door to more – further powers and funding in future

Alongside this, we will set out our new Economic Strategy for Norfolk, which in being developed with other local councils and our partners in business, education and the voluntary sector. This strategy will drive current and future investment, ensuring we are spending precious funding on all the right things. The integration of the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) into the Council in April 2024 will also strengthen the council's capabilities in supporting economic growth and in attracting further investment into Norfolk.

This means that as Devolution develops, we will not be bidding in for minutely proscribed pots of money but will have ring fenced funding to be able to deliver the sort of regeneration that we need right here in Hunstanton: renewal of the Oasis and Promenade, for example.

Our economy though cannot fully thrive without the right infrastructure. So we will also continue to work with partners and

government to ensure that key utilities such as energy and water are available for the future of our county; that we build on previous successes to draw down more funding for key projects like dualling the A47 and the West Winch by-pass; that we look at how to best address the causes and impact of flooding in our County; that we continue to deliver the rollout of Project Gigabit, aiming to improve connectivity particularly in our most rural and hard to reach locations; and that we do so while also protecting our unique and precious natural heritage.

Norfolk flood protection took centre stage in Westminster

The threat posed by flooding and coastal erosion in Norfolk has been laid out starkly for MPs as Norfolk County Council has taken their case for change to the heart of Westminster.

The delegation from Norfolk, led by Norfolk County Council Leader Cllr Kay Mason Billig and the Chair of the Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance (NSFA), Henry Cator, met with MPs, on the 71st anniversary of the 1953 North Sea Flood, to explain the risks Norfolk faces and how those risks could be addressed.

As demonstrated over this winter, our county faces regular risks of flooding, with Norfolk ranked tenth most at risk of surface water flooding out of 149 local authority areas. In addition, the county's position on the North Sea exposes it to tidal threats as well as significant coastal erosion: without action, it's estimated that in North Norfolk alone approximately 1,030 residential and commercial properties could be lost to erosion by 2100. That number could be up to 10,000 in all of Norfolk.

These risks threaten both Norfolk residents and the contribution Norfolk makes to the wider country, as home to 54% of the offshore wind generation capacity in the UK and a major producer of food.

In a presentation delivered in Portcullis House, part of the Parliamentary Estate in Westminster, Norfolk's delegation made the case for MPs to:

- Push for legislative permission to build reservoirs designed to capture excess water in times of flood, for use in times of drought
- Advocate for Property Flood Protection measures to be granted directly to the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for faster allocation for those who need it
- Reduce bureaucracy by granting greater autonomy in funding allocation for surface water flood mitigation schemes
- Combine enforcement and maintenance powers and responsibilities for LLFA's
- Support the creation of a dedicated Minister for the Coast

Locally, I have held meeting in Burnham Market and Thornham, bringing together representatives from Environment Agency, AWA, the IDB, and NCC's Flood and Highways teams to learn directly from residents what is needed as well as explain what is being undertaken in the short to medium term.

More people 'choose the bus' in Norfolk after first year of bus service improvement plan

It's been just over a year since Norfolk County Council received £49.55m of funding from the Department for Transport (DfT) to improve bus services across the county. There have been huge numbers of improvements already made across the county, and the latest figures show that passenger numbers have increased throughout the year with the number of fare-paying passengers now exceeding pre-covid levels.

Passenger numbers across the UK fell dramatically during the covid-19 pandemic with an average drop across the UK of 50.3% but in many areas even more.

Latest figures for Norfolk show that overall bus passenger numbers have increased by 18% in the last year with the number of fare-paying passengers now at 107% compared to pre-pandemic baseline figures. Norfolk is bucking the trend as nationally bus usage figures are at between 89% to 98% of pre-pandemic levels*.

Concessionary pass holders, who have been the slowest to return to using the bus since the pandemic, are now at 83% of pre-pandemic levels and have increased by more than 12% since January this year.

Norfolk received the sixth highest allocation in the country and the funding consists of £30.9m of capital funding and £18.6m of revenue funding. About a third of this is being spent in West Norfolk and work is starting shortly on the new bus station in Hunstanton, along with our refurbished library. In all, a total of 306,000 people in 93 parishes have seen improvements have been made to services this year. Many services are now seeing later timetables, including here along the coast.

Additionally, from 1 February 2024 all Norfolk residents who hold a disabled concessionary travel pass will be eligible for free bus travel 24 hours a day, seven days a week when travelling within the county.

Funded by Norfolk County Council, it means that more than 14,500 people across the county who hold a concessionary bus pass due to disability, and their eligible companions, will now be able to travel on any bus at any time free of charge across Norfolk.

Householders can have free DIY waste disposal for small projects

Norfolk residents have been able to dispose of small amounts of DIY waste at Norfolk's Recycling Centres free of charge from 31st December following changes made by Norfolk County Council.

The change applies to small-scale projects carried out by householders on their own home, allowing them to bring a maximum 100 litres (must fit into 2 x 50l bags) for free or one single item (maximum size of 200cm x 70cm x 75cm). Each household is allowed four free visits with DIY waste every four weeks. Anything beyond this will still be charged at normal rates.

I am pleased to say that despite significant belt-tightening across the Council, Docking remains to continue to serve local residents.

Climate Strategy was launched at Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse Museum

Norfolk County Council's Climate Strategy, adopted by Cabinet last May, was launched at Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse Museum with special guest Kate Strong, world record holder and endurance cyclist.

The Climate Strategy sets out how the council will work not only to reduce its own carbon emissions, but to drive down emissions across the county, protect the unique environment of Norfolk, and to seize the opportunities the move to a green economy represents, securing investment and growth for Norfolk.

Key proposals include:

- Supporting active and sustainable transport, including further bus improvements and electric vehicle charging
 - Providing space for nature and developing a nature recovery strategy
 - Retrofitting council buildings to take out gas and oil heating and improve insulation – and encouraging businesses, residents and other organisations to do the same
 - Reducing emissions from the council's companies, such as Norse
 - Developing the green economy, with support for green skills, sustainable tourism and businesses
 - The development of a nature recovery strategy to protect our natural assets and encourage greater biodiversity
 - Working with the Tyndall Centre for climate change research at the University of East Anglia, to understand climate change impacts and how Norfolk might adapt to them
 - Close collaboration between public sector, business, community and voluntary groups
- Norfolk Trails, which I chair, continues to be busy locally: the Brancaster stretch has now been renewed and means that our stretch of the King Charles III England Coast Path is fit for purpose.

Norfolk County Council and Suffolk County Council have been formally appointed

by Government as responsible authorities for preparing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for their respective counties.

This means that they will be working together to help improve wildlife habitats and reverse the decline of biodiversity across the region, working with local communities to develop a tailored nature recovery strategy for their areas.

Locally, the Norfolk Coast Partnership, which I also chair, is working on a significant landscape recovery plan within the AONB, involving landowners from on A149 from Old Hunstanton through to Mundley.

Annual awards recognise dozens of outstanding contributions to Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service

Achievements including saving a village from the clutches of wildfire, helping transport a horse mannequin called Brandy, and restoring a fire station flower garden, all received recognition at the Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service Annual Staff Awards.

The ceremony recognised the efforts of fire fighters, fire staff, their friends and families and community partners and volunteers, showing how everyone has a unique part to play in to make in making the service great.

Award-winning Adult Learning service rated 'Good' by Ofsted

Norfolk County Council's Adult Learning has been rated as 'Good' following their latest Ofsted inspection.

The inspection report praised the ambition of the service, which provides community-based and online learning for around 6,000 adults a year. The service achieved a 'Good' rating across all six areas that were inspected, alongside the overall 'Good' rating.

Inspectors commented that learners are 'highly motivated' and committed to their studies. They praised the number of people who have a 'clear plan' for their future careers and that they want to improve their economic prospects.

In particular, inspectors highlighted the work with residents of retirement homes who have increased their confidence, self-care and resilience after completing courses in basic cookery. They commented how, following the course, learners felt less isolated and 'excited to prepare and eat their own meals'.

More than ten thousand Norfolk children benefit from mental health programme in first year

A children's mental health and wellbeing programme, funded by Norfolk County Council, has supported more than 10,000 in its first year.

The Rise Up programme gives children and young people valuable knowledge and strategies to support their mental health and is being delivered in secondary and special schools across the county. 93% of young people said that their ability to manage their wellbeing improved after completing the programme.

Created and delivered by Future Action, in partnership with Norfolk County Council's Virtual School for Children in Care, Previously in Care and Children with a Social

Worker, the course aims to help children build confidence, reduce their anxiety, and create a sustainable wellbeing programme within 90 days.

More than 350 teachers across 62 secondary and special schools in Norfolk have taken part in the online training programme, which delivers a nine-step programme to help support the mental wellbeing of children and young people.

In conclusion, this is just a high level review of some of the things we have been doing at Norfolk County Council. We continue to look at how we deliver services, finding new and innovative ways to deal with increasing demand and reduced budget, but this only goes so far. You will have seen recently in the national media that the financial pressure facing local authorities, particularly county areas with responsibilities for care, has reached a critical point.

Recognising this, we have made a concerted effort to influence decision-makers on areas which we cannot immediately control ourselves. 2023 saw us kick off a highly successful renewed engagement process with our MPs, which sees regular meetings held to discuss the most pressing issues facing the county, with a clear focus on actions to improve outcomes.

Winter is here.
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Letter to the Editor

As a resident of Hunstanton and former dog owner I am getting increasingly annoyed at the selfishness of some (not all) dog walkers in the town.

My son and his friends enjoy a game of football as many young people do and the recreation ground is perfect for this. As many dogs are walked here the children sometimes prefer to play on the enclosed courts where there are goalposts. However even in this enclosed area which should be a place for children to play, they are still having to watch out for dog excrement.

I realise this is a few dog owners letting the side down and the majority of responsible owners will be as annoyed as me, so I am asking the dog owning community to be on the look out for these few who are spoiling the reputation of many and creating a problem for others.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the dog owners who do take the time to clean up after their pets and stay out of the areas designed for children.

Grace Ologhoejebi

Old Hunstanton Village Hall news

Carol Greening

Partygoers at the Village Hall danced the night away to the sounds of Planet Abba on Saturday 24th February. Many people dressed up in outfits from the 70s. Fish and chips were provided by Henry's of Hunstanton and the bar was busy. The evening was voted a great success.



On Saturday 2nd March Adrian and Anna from 'By The Book' in Hunstanton entertained visitors with a Murder Mystery. Sleuthing skills were required to determine who murdered the lady on the train. Each table had a suspect and a variety of clues with the guilty suspect being tracked down. The hall committee provided the refreshments of sausages and mash followed by cheesecake.



Funds and Goods for Hunstanton and District Food Bank

SEA SHANTY AND WORDS NIGHT

So many people do so much to support so many during tough times. On Wednesday 10th April 7.00pm-9.30pm, St Mary's Church, Docking, is mounting an evening of Sea Shanties and Words to celebrate the work of Hunstanton and District Food Bank, to raise awareness of the continuing need for the help it provides and to raise funds and contributions to the bank.

Nelson's Shantymen will be leading the evening with their superb shanty songs and a few of our fine Norfolk wordsmiths-Paul Berry, Ian Enters, Liz Radley, David Redfield- will be chipping in with readings about the sea. There will be refreshments and an invitation to join in the singing. The event promises to be fun, to touch the heart strings, and, most importantly, give much needed help to those struggling to cope.

The trustees of the food bank provided the following statement about the increasing need:

"We always need regular donations of food and groceries, as so many people are suffering in the cost of living crisis. Last year, the number of food parcels we provided went up by 59% - and the number of children who needed a food parcel went up by 84%. We also supported more-and-more people unable to pay rising utility bills, with the total cost of these utility top-ups increasing by 82%. This event in Docking is a great opportunity to raise awareness of the continuing need for generosity towards those families and individuals in our community who are in extreme poverty."

There will be boxes for goods often in short supply: tins, toothpaste, toothbrushes, sanitary towels, shampoo, soap etc. and the chance to donate by cash or card.

The district around Hunstanton is served by the food bank through local volunteers. Perhaps this evening will help extend the reach of this essential provision.

Further Information: Contact the Coordinator for the Event: Ian Enters ianenters@btinternet.com 07951230084

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6th April Quiz night (bar open until 11pm)

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Mondays : Strength and Balance Class 4.30pm. Tuesdays: Cash Bingo starts at 7.30pm

Wednesdays : Scrabble 10am, Whist Drive 7pm.

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Hunstanton Croquet Club

Caroline Harper HCC

Hooray! The new season at Hunstanton Croquet Club has begun! March activities included a coffee morning at Norfolk Lavender; opening up the clubhouse ready for the new season and measuring out and creating 120 carefully aligned holes for hoops (Hoop-setting).

Club afternoons recommenced on Monday 25th March. As I write this in advance, I have no idea whether the opening session was played in sunshine or snow! I hope the former!

I'm pleased to announce that we shall be running our 4 week introductory course to Golf croquet on Tuesday mornings throughout April. At a cost of only £12 for the course, this is an excellent way to learn the basics and decide if you would like to join our friendly club. As I write there are places left, so do get in touch - via the website or email me directly at littlehumph@gmail.com

All equipment is provided, you just need to wear flat-soled shoes or trainers and wrap up warm!

If you can't make Tuesday mornings or the course is full, we shall also be holding a free taster session on Wednesday April 17 from 2-4pm. People who are on the introductory course are welcome to practise on the 'Come and Try' afternoon in addition to the Tuesday morning sessions. To assist with catering, please let us know your intention to attend - it would be disastrous to run out of biscuits!

Look forward to seeing you on the lawns.

Happy hooping!

hunstantoncroquetclub.co.uk

Armchair Sports Trivia

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QUESTION: The Grand National takes place at 4pm on Saturday, 13th April. The lowest number of horses to finish the race is two, what was the name of the horse that won that year?

ANSWERS TO: editor@townandaround.net or by post to:

The Editor, Town & Around, 18 Tapping Close, Snettisham PE31 7FF
Please note we do not accept entries by any social media channels or text message. CLOSING DATE 15.04.2024.

Last month's question was: Of all the teams to have ever won the English League Cup (presently known as the Carabao Cup) since it began in 1961, who are presently the lowest ranked in the English football ladder system? The answer was Swindon Town League Two, winners in 1969. The winner, picked at random was William Cox.



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Sporting corner with Tim Keogh

New Squash Ladder at Hunstanton Oasis

The game of squash as we know it today was invented more than a century and a half ago in England, born out of the game Rackets - believed to have been invented at Harrow School around the 1830's. Pupils realised using a punctured racket ball actually involved a wider range of shots and tested the players more. Nowadays, Squash balls are regulated between 39.5 and 40.5 mm in diameter and weigh 23 to 25 grams. They are made with two pieces of rubber compound, glued together to form a hollow sphere and buffed to a matte finish. Different balls are provided for varying temperature and atmospheric conditions and standards of play: more experienced players use slow balls that have less bounce than those used by less experienced players (slower balls tend to "die" in court corners, rather than "standing up" to allow easier shots). Squash balls must be hit dozens of times to warm them up at the beginning of a session; cold squash balls have very little bounce. Small coloured dots on the ball indicate its dynamic level (bounciness). The "double-yellow dot" ball, introduced in 2000, is the competition standard, replacing the earlier "yellow-dot" ball. There is also an "orange dot" ball for use at high altitudes

whilst the blue dot ball is the bounciest.

Squash is often considered to be a game you play when you are fit rather than to get fit, probably because the temptation of trying to reach a ball almost always in play is, well, just too tempting, leading to over exertion. This is somewhat of an overstatement as, of course, you can control the tempo which you play at.

In 1886 the first set of rules were agreed and in 1920 the first British Open took place for men and women at Queen's Club in



London.

The present world number one is 31-year-old Ali Farag from Egypt (pictured here) whilst Pakistani, Jahingar Khan, is widely regarded as the best of all time, having won the World Open title six times and once going unbeaten for 555 matches in the 1980's - the longest winning streak by any athlete in top level sport.

The Alive Oasis in Hunstanton, in conjunction with Town & Around, are looking to launch a squash ladder in May.

This will allow people to play against players of equal ability on a regular basis, with a plan to also run a league later on in the year.

If you are interesting in signing up, please email oasis@alivewestnorfolk.co.uk by the end of April with:

Your name
Email address
Contact tel. number
Level of ability (beginner, medium, advanced)

Any queries, please contact Alive Oasis on 01485 534227 or call 07927 552572. Taster and introductory sessions are available on an individual basis at a cost of £15.

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Sporting corner with Tim Keogh

Submariner, Vicar, Dentist

Ian Smith is a former international Scottish Rugby Union player. He was also a well travelled Army dentist before he set up the Grange Dental Practice in Snettisham. He has already written one book about his Rugby career and is due to release a second about his travels in 2024. Ian has been giving Town & Around's Tim Keogh monthly insights into his fascinating life.

I have often been asked why on earth did I become a dentist. Spending your life staring into people's mouths, and some not at all nice either. Firstly, can I say how much I loved the 54 years I was privileged to be in practice, but becoming a dentist wasn't exactly straightforward.

When I was about thirteen, I had an absolute fascination with submarines, and I wanted to be a submariner. My heroes were two Germans, and one British submarine captain during the war, and I devoured any book I could get my hands on about them.

The first was a man called Gunther Prien who commanded UB 47 which sank the Royal Oak in Scapa Flow. The second was Otto Kretschmer, one of the most successful U Boat commanders of the war.

My British hero was Lieutenant Commander Wanklyn who won the Victoria Cross. Sadly two of the three did not survive, and common-sense should have told me that with over 70 of our submarines sunk, and 30,000 out of 35,000 U Boat crews lost this would not have been a job with prospects.

I was also entranced by an account of two VC's won on the same submarine at the same time on HMS Thrasher. In this case the two men removed a live bomb from the casing of a surfaced submarine in broad daylight, when it could have been attacked on the surface at any time which meant certain death. What was even more incredible was the fact this story was to re-enter my life many years later.

There was an occasion I went on board a submarine in Hong Kong harbour to a wardroom drinks party, and only lasted 10 minutes before claustrophobia overwhelmed me and I fled out onto the deck never to return!

In my early teens I became a member of a Christian boys' club in Scotland called the SSC, the Scottish Schoolboys Club, founded by a man called Stanley Nairne. He was part of a group close to Eric Liddell, better known today because of the Oscar winning film Chariots of Fire.

By the time I was fifteen I was quite intent on becoming a minister in the Church of Scotland. This may come as somewhat of a surprise to people who have known me over the past 50 years! The fact that I was in a relationship with my minister's daughter had little to do with it! Having said that, by the time I was seventeen I realised the church was not for me, and oddly enough, the girl had decided I was not for her!

By this time, I was 'going steady', gosh isn't that an old-fashioned statement, with a dentist's daughter. This may have had more than one influence on my choice of career!

I well remember being at a summer camp with the SSC when Stanley Nairne, whom I had got to know very well, asked me what I was going to do with my life. I knew by this time for certain that the Church was not an option and, also, I could not become a doctor, because at that time you needed Latin as a subject with a pass and I certainly didn't have that. I felt very strongly that to maintain his respect I needed to tell him I felt my future lay in a caring profession.

With a spark of latent genius, I told him I wanted to be a dentist, mostly because I felt he would approve as it had something to do with healing and helping people. Little did I know what most folk were to think of dentists!

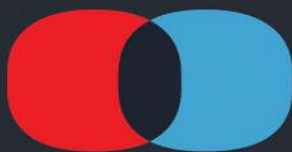
When I told my parents of my choice, my father told me not to be stupid. He said I was completely handless, the only thing my hands were good for was catching a rugby ball! So that is how careers that were to last a lifetime are borne, and if you were a patient of mine during that time, don't take my father too seriously!

In terms of the church, when I was twenty-three, I was asked at the SSC Easter Camp to do the Sunday Service in the local church. That meant the readings, prayers, and sermon from the pulpit, in front of the local congregation and campers, plus unbeknown to me the minister of the church himself. That was something I have never forgotten.

I eventually married the dentist's daughter Maureen, and we were happily married for 25 years before she died very suddenly of meningitis. Her father happened to be an army dentist, so guess what? Yes, why break good habits! I became an army dentist, eventually leaving the army in 1977 settling in to Norfolk, married my nurse Julie, and have lived happily here ever after.

Not long after I opened the practice in Snettisham, a patient came into my surgery, and I discovered he had been a submariner. Lieutenant-Commander Albert-George Davies was the last British submariner to sink a Japanese warship in the Second World War. Not only that he told me that his jacket won a VC. When asked how, he then told me he had just come off watch on HMS Thrasher and gave his jacket to the replacement watch officer which he was then wearing when he defused the bomb I had read about all those many years before.

To round off this tale as a dentist, I have been in the privileged position of extracting the last teeth of not one, but two mothers in law!!



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Jim Clarke is an experienced and respected personality in the field of Cricket, who was named England Cricket Board Coach of the year in 2014. Jim is the Development Office at Thornham CC and continues to teach cricket in schools and the local community. The catch up was made the more interesting with the hilarious and entertaining interjections of Jim's son, Logan, throughout the interview.

Name: Jim Clarke (but my mother calls me James!)

Age: A very youthful 46.

Star Sign: Aquarius (hated having my birthday so close to Christmas as I only received one lot of presents).

Where born: In the Land of the Yellow Bellies (Spalding)

Where live: Old Hunstanton

Occupation: Teacher and Director of Cricket - I now work as a Development Coach and also run a Sports Grants Company.

Family: My Son, Logan, who is 7, Mum and Dad and my brother Ben.

A Cats or dogs person: Dog

Sports Teams Played for - Well! Rugby (Spalding) Cricket (Pinchbeck, Spalding, Baston, Seas End Hall, Lincs Gents, Motley Crew, Holkham Hall, SGS OB's, Winchmore Hill, Thornham, MCC) Football (Punchbowl, Fenway, Brennans, Spalding Town FC - My footballing claim to fame is that I never scored a goal in open play in 25 years, but I did score in a penalty shoot out and subsequently got booked for taking my shirt off in celebration.

Sports Team Support: Crystal Palace, Somerset CCC (I grew up in the era of Richards and Botham, every Kid would have supported them), Saracens. England at any and every Sport.

Biggest Break: When I was 4 years old I watched my mum score 104 for the parents v the teachers at Gosberton Clough Primary School. She never played again so she has a higher average than Sir Donald Bradman! Also going to watch my brother play a game for Pinchbeck when I got called up as they only had 10 players - I soon learnt the hard way that a cricket ball is hard! Playing with a soon to be diagnosed fractured ankle only diagnosed when I dropped a catch that broke my hand. X-Rayed that day at Pilgrim Hospital I left the place with 2 plaster casts on - something to tell the grandkids!

Worst injury: Getting hit in the face whilst batting for Spalding CC and breaking my jaw, with a few teeth knocked out to boot - I continued batting until the ambulance arrived ! Different times!

Funniest Memory - Batting for Winchmore Hill against Bessborough a few years ago, I played and missed the first 6 balls - the opposition wicket keeper said I was the worst opening bat he had ever seen - he was your typical keeper, sledging. I had the last laugh though, scoring 109 not out - he told ME to be quiet in the end as I was doing HIS head in! But at the end we shared a drink and a laugh where I told him his bowling attack was the worst I had ever seen as they couldn't get me out and I was terrible!

Hero: My son who continues to amaze me everyday (he has autism and attends Churchill Park Complex Needs School in Kings Lynn) he is the most amazing happy and positive influence that I could ever dream off - I am so proud that he calls me Daddy. He has come such a long way in life and makes me smile everyday . My dad as well - the



best moment of my sporting career wasn't winning batting or bowling awards or winning leagues, but playing a game of cricket with him (he hates cricket !) when we went out to bat in a tour game (the same day as the famous Ashes test at Edgbaston in 2005). As we walked out to bat, I told him what to do - I was subsequently clean bowled first ball and he made 46 and never played again. The sheer joy I had in walking out with him was my proudest moment - he is also a great man who I have always looked up to (although now look down to as he is now a lot shorter than me).



Jim receiving an ECB award

Sports Hero: Chris Taveré - his patience when batting was always something I dreamed off - he didn't care about scoring runs but of survival against the formidable bowling attack of the 80's West Indian Team.

Hobbies/interests: Sport of course I think I play everything, also walking and spending time with loved ones. Cooking (I learnt how to cook in Lockdown). Socialising and just sitting down and relaxing after a busy day at work (I sound so exciting!)

Best memory: Bar the day I became a father which can not be replicated - the journey of what we achieved at Spalding - I was chairman for nearly a decade and we took the club from the bottom rung of the league into the Lincolnshire Premier League - a labour of love but moving here back in 2014 meant that, with the distance, it was time to start a beautiful new chapter. A few years later I joined the amazing Thornham CC.

Favourite international meal/cuisine: Chinese (Sweet and Sour Pork Balls , Prawn Toast, BBQ Spare Ribs and Special Fried Rice and I am in Heaven).

Favourite drink: Cup of Tea, but back in the day, Stella, JaegerBombs, etc!

Favourite holiday destination: Northern Scotland, love the ruggedness of the coastline up there plus I have a massive fear of flying and the last time I flew in 2013 for a cricket tour I echoed the words of BA in the 1980's TV programme, the A Team, "You ayn't gonna get me on that plane you fools!"

Three items for a desert island: Logan, a house and electricity (if that is allowed!) I hate sleeping on anything that isn't a bed!

Favourite Film: Groundhog Day - brilliant and funny. Bill Murray was amazing in that film.

Favourite band/singer: Queen and Freddie Mercury - what a singer he had the most amazing voice.

Worst habit: Picking my nails - others might say other things - I am always biting for no reason. My parents used to put marmite on my fingers! Now I am obsessed with marmite!

Pet hate in others: Lying and Greed - why do people want more than they need, be nice and kind to each other and share what you have.

Biggest achievement in life: Winning the ECB National Coach of the year in 2014, a very proud moment. In my years at Winchmore Hill we built up the biggest FREE school coaching scheme where in the past 9 years we coached 92,000 in state schools in the boroughs of Enfield and Barnet, hopefully inspiring many children to take up the game

Best advice ever given: My motto is 'Doubt Kills More Dreams than Failure ever will'. The best advice I was ever given was to worry about the team and not the individual - after scoring my first 100 we lost and I got dropped for basking in my own self importance rather than the team so I soon learnt the hard way and joined in the team ethos.

What would you change in the world: Just that we need a lot more kindness in our world than hate. I always aim to make the world a better place

Like to live forever: No - I have already lived a dozen lifetimes in my years - I am also so blessed to have a job that does not feel like work either.



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Holt United FC launch Ladies and Girls Football Programme

Tim Keogh



In the quaint town of Holt, nestled in the heart of Norfolk, a new era of football is dawning. Holt United FC, a club steeped in tradition and community spirit, is entering new territories and championing inclusivity with the introduction of girls and ladies football. This groundbreaking move marks a significant step forward in the local football scene, promising opportunities for girls and ladies to shine.

With the rising popularity of women's football globally, local clubs like Holt United FC are recognizing the importance of providing avenues for female players to develop their skills and passion for the game. The decision to establish girls and ladies teams within the club reflects a commitment to equality and the belief that football is a sport for everyone, regardless of gender.

The inception of the girls and ladies football at Holt United FC is not merely about creating opportunities for participation; it's also about fostering a supportive and friendly environment where female players

can thrive. Led by experienced coaches dedicated to nurturing talent, developing skills and fitness, and instilling values of teamwork and sportsmanship. Through regular training sessions, friendly matches, and eventual participation in the local leagues, players will have the chance to hone their skills, build confidence, and forge lifelong friendships.

Holt United FC are extremely excited about this new chapter; and being able to give girls and ladies a platform to enjoy the beautiful game!

Anyone interesting in signing up to this venture can email secretary.holtunited@gmail.com

HOLT UTD FC

Weetabix Wildcats



What is it:
Fun, non-competitive football sessions (with FA qualified coaches)

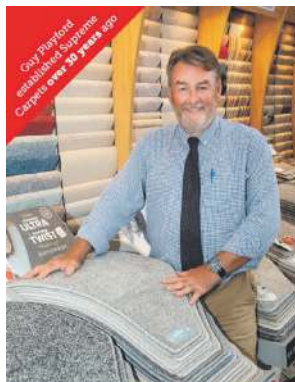
Who is it for:
Girls aged 5-11 (Perfect for beginners wanting to give football a go)

Benefits:
Make friends, be active, boost confidence.



LET US KNOW IF THIS IS SOMETHING YOU'D BE INTERESTED IN US INTRODUCING TO THE CLUB.

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Brancaster School news

This half term is very short but we are packing a lot in!



a wonderful time and many of the children came running back in when they returned to school, bubbling with excitement and telling us they were going to ask their parents to take them back. As well as the activities provided, the children enjoyed exploring the cathedral – and I'm told that they and Mr Johnson lay on the floor, looking up at the roof, to the bemusement of other visitors! Everyone was impressed with the details the children spotted.

Thrift Class are looking forward to a local visit to the park as a reward for good behaviour and a trip to True's Yard to see the fishermen's houses (our topic is houses and homes).



Samphire Class have just been on a trip to Norwich Cathedral to learn about the Trinity. They had

We are also organising an Easter experience day.

We all enjoyed World Book Day on Thursday. Across the whole Federation, we focused on the book "Here We Are" by Oliver Jeffers. The children could dress in pyjamas for a cosy read, or in book costumes. We got some good work from the book and have made some lovely displays.



the tests from the year above – and are so proud of how well we did.

We want to say a massive thank you to Deepdale Stores who donated 2p for each carrier bag sold, to our school – and raised a huge amount of money for us. We hope to get our playgrounds redone and buy new equipment.

Also thank you to The White Horse who are hosting a meal to raise money for our school, followed by an art auction. This will take place on Monday 29th April 6pm for 6.30pm. It will be a set menu – 3 course meal for £40 with £10 for each meal going towards the school. Art work will be displayed at The White Horse prior to the evening. You are welcome to attend either or both events. Please contact The White Horse to book your tickets.

Term Finishes on Wednesday 27th March and restarts on April 15th.

Our Mother's Day Service is on Monday, when we will be celebrating all our families. Our value for this half term is collaboration and we all agree that families are a good example of collaboration – living, working and loving together.

We are currently busy planning an Easter afternoon, with an Easter Egg hunt, testing "eggmobles" and decorating eggs.

As well as all the fun, we are working hard. We have all just done our assessments and our teachers are pleased with our progress. Some of us even tried

A recipe from the Prudent Pensioner

Beetroot, known as a Vitality plant has been a tonic for me in the past. I enjoy this simple soup warm in a bowl or cold in a glass like a smoothie.

Beetroot, Celery & Courgette Soup.

Makes approx. 800ml

1 medium size Onion or Shallot

Butter

Potato approx. 230g/8oz

Beetroot, trimmed & peeled approx. 230g/8oz

1 medium size Courgette (one like a small marrow)

2 medium size sticks of Celery

Chicken or vegetable stock cube dissolved in 500ml hot water.

Salt and Pepper to taste.

Peel potato and cut into small pieces. Clean celery, trim off and discard ends and slice fairly thinly. Cut beetroot into small pieces.

Clean courgette, trim off and discard ends and cut into small pieces.

Peel shallot or onion and slice thinly.

Place a knob of butter in a saucepan over a low to medium heat, add onion slices, stir and cook for a minute stirring constantly. Carefully add stock, potato, beetroot, courgette and celery slices, mix well. Increase heat and bring to boiling point. Reduce heat, cover and leave simmering gently, stirring occasionally for 25 minutes or until vegetables are 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 for a

minute or so until vegetables are pureed. Carefully return liquid to pureed vegetables in a saucepan, stirring gently to mix well. Season to taste. Reheat if required then serve and enjoy.

"Less Waste more Soup" 30 easy, budget friendly recipes for nourishing soup is available in Kindle format from Amazon. The 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 and Robert & Christine home shopping. Email: prupensioner@btinternet.com

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GLEBE HOUSE SCHOOL & NURSERY UPDATE

February was a very short month, despite the extra day this year, as we enjoyed our half term break midway through! Either side of the holiday, we embraced some excellent musical, sporting and literary opportunities. Please read on to find out more!

Children's Mental Health Week



Our main event this term was our commitment to Children's Mental Health Week, which we embraced across the whole school. Under the theme 'My Voice Matters', the school community prioritised children's well-being. Activities commenced with Pyjama Day, advocating the importance of rest. Everyone came to school in their PJs and Prep pupils shared bedtime stories with Pre-Prep children. 'My Voice Matters' day empowered the children to express opinions on a range of topics in their House Meetings. Pause Day was a day away from the curriculum which encouraged mindfulness and self-care, with a range of activities including beach walks and creative sessions. We ended the week with 'Express Yourself Day', where children came to school wearing whatever was an expression of themselves, promoting the importance of individuality. It was also a chance to raise over £70 for a mental health charity. The annual Children's Mental Health Week at Glebe signifies our commitment to supporting and enhancing children's mental health, which is also evident in ongoing initiatives like our weekly Wellness Afternoons and the presence of our Mental Health Champions, Miss Stephenson and Mrs Hancock.

Uppingham Orchestra Day

What an amazing day our musicians had at Uppingham School for this year's Orchestral Day. Over 300 pupils joined together to play well known songs and theme tunes, including Raiders March, Guardians of the Galaxy, The Avengers and music from Beauty and the Beast. Following sectional rehearsals in the morning and full rehearsals in the afternoon, parents and staff were blown away by what these talented children collectively achieved in a day. It was a pleasure to be part of such an uplifting day and we were very proud of all the Glebe musicians who took part.

Young Voices Concert

Later in the month, the Prep school choir travelled to Birmingham Resorts World Arena

to take part in the Young Voices 2024 concert. Twenty of our pupils performed with 5,000 other children from different schools, alongside a live band and guest artists Natalie Williams, MC Grammar and Nandi Bushell. Our pupils had a fabulous day rehearsing and then a magical evening performing over 10 musical numbers from a range of musical genres. What an incredible experience to end the Half Term break!



U12 In2Hockey Norfolk Champions

We have great pleasure in announcing that our U12 hockey team are Norfolk U12 In2Hockey Champions! It was a true team effort as they recorded four wins against Langley Prep, Langley Senior School, Taverham High and Cromer Academy, and with just one defeat against Norwich School, this saw them finish in 1st place. A huge well done to everyone on such a great performance. The team go onto the regional finals later this term.



Rotary Swimarathon

Congratulations to some of our Prep boys and girls who took part in this year's Rotary Swimarathon at Alive Oasis Hunstanton. Our Division IV boys team were the Mini Wash Monsters and achieved an impressive 90 lengths. Our girls joined three others to form their team the Oasis Orcas and swam an incredible 102 lengths, and our Senior boys took part on the Blu Fish team. Not only did the children do themselves, their families and the school proud, the three teams combined raised an incredible amount in excess of £1,000! Well done to everyone who took part!

Inter-house Pancake Races

Our school pancakes races took part just before half term.

In the Pre-Prep Pancake Race all our

youngest children raced brilliantly, particularly as they were faced with the extra challenge of tyre negotiation. The overall winners of the Pre-Prep Trophy were Barbers - congratulations!

Prep pupils were excited about their inaugural Prep Pancake Race. They took part in a shuttle relay event where all pupils had to run at least once, combining speed with pancake flipping skills. The pupils gave it their all, not only with their speed and flipping skills, but also their vocal support. Excellent racing all round, with congratulations to L'Estrange, winners of the Golden Frying Pan, the newest house trophy.

Inter-house Performance Poetry Competitions

The Glebe Poetry by Heart Inter-House Competition was a two-day event to close the month.

The Pre-Prep children assembled in the school hall for their competition. The children, some as young as four, had been diligently rehearsing poems in their house teams. The children's performances, complete with actions and props, were a testament to their hard work and creativity. After much deliberation, the judges announced Barbers as the winning team.

The following morning, the Prep children took the stage. They had spent weeks perfecting their chosen poems, with the highest-scoring performers from each class earning a spot in the final to represent their houses. The teaching staff were impressed by the children's confidence and ability to breathe life into their poems. St Edmund's emerged victorious in the Junior Prep section, while L'Estrange claimed victory in the Senior Prep.

Parents' Committee Quiz Night

What fun we had at the annual Parents' Committee Quiz Night hosted at Briarfields in Titchwell. With a good turnout, this was a thoroughly enjoyable social event to kick off February. Well done to all the teams who took part and congratulations to this year's winners The Plankers!

Come and see us!

Does your child start school in September? Is your child looking for a new school? Would your child benefit from a new start?

Did you know we offer a comprehensive co-curricular programme until 6pm? And that we provide daily transport from many convenient locations across North West Norfolk?

Find out more about life at Glebe House School & Nursery. Our next Open House is on Wednesday 8th May. Contact Mrs Fraulo on 01485 532809 or email tjf@glebehouseschool.co.uk to register.

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SCHOOL AND NURSERY**

EYFS Family Fun Morning

10:00am - 12:00pm Saturday 27th April 2024

Join us for a fun-packed morning of activities and entertainment!

Activities for ages 2-8 years. All the family welcome

FREE refreshments for children • Refreshments for adults from Red Kite Coffee • FREE car parking

We look forward to seeing you!

Glebe House School, 2 Cromer Road, Hunstanton, PE36 6HW

Mini Monsters

Wartbeeps

Number Blocks

Nursery Open Morning
Take the opportunity to visit our Outstanding nursery.

Easter Holidays Cricket Coaching Camp 2024

 **GLEBE HOUSE
SCHOOL AND NURSERY**

Everyone's welcome to join us!

Boys and girls aged 5-13 years are invited to join two fun days of quality cricket coaching with our four cricket coaches. Suitable for all abilities.

From 10am - 3pm
Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th April
£20 per day or £30 for both days
Glebe House School Sports Field
Hunstanton, PE36 6HW

To book please call 01485 532809 or email ghsoffice@glebehouseschool.co.uk quoting 'Easter Cricket Camp'.

Places limited! Bookings close Monday 1st April 2024

CAR BOOT SALES 2024

Hunstanton & District Men's Shed
Glebe House School, 2 Cromer Road, Hunstanton, PE36 6HW

One of Norfolk's largest Car Boot Sales is on every Sunday morning from April to June, starting on Easter Sunday 31st March and all Sundays up to and including 30th June (weather permitting).

Bonus Car Boot Sale on Easter Monday, 1st April!

Sellers from 6am to 1pm - £5 pitch fee per car/van (any size). Buyers from 7am to 1pm - donations at the gate. The playing field, Glebe House School. Teas, Coffee, Snacks and Ice Cream will be available, also access to toilets. Come along and support your local car boot sales and pick up a bargain (or three)! We look forward to seeing you there!

Raising money for Hunstanton & District Men's Shed and school charities.

Contact Chris on 07774 650606 or at chrisHDMS7@gmail.com.

 **GLEBE HOUSE SCHOOL
AND NURSERY**

CAR BOOT Sales 2024

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EXTRA CAR BOOT SALE Easter Monday 1st April

Weather permitting

Sellers 6am to 1pm - £5 pitch fee per car/van (any size)
Buyers 7am to 1pm - Donations at the Gate welcome

**Playing Field, Glebe House School,
Cromer Road, Hunstanton PE36 6HW**

Raising money for Hunstanton & District Men's Shed and school charities

NEW NAME FOR LOCAL CHOIR!

Hunstanton Voices (formerly Hunstanton District and Community Voices) are looking for new members who love to sing, have a laugh and share the joy of music with people. You do not have to audition and you don't need to have singing experience.

Artistic Director, Liz Dark, who hails from Australia, has been leading the choir for the last three years and also runs a second choir, 'Coastal Vocals' in Hempton, near Fakenham. As both choirs learn the same repertoire, Liz thought it might be great to join them together for two concerts a year.

The idea is to connect to a wider audience and socially connect to other choirs and perform together, while also having a separate identity. So, two smaller choirs become a larger 40 voice choir for performances and concerts.

As both groups pay an ongoing membership fee, if you miss one session on a Friday at Hempton, you are welcome to go to Hunstanton on the Monday at 7-9pm for free, to make up the missed session and vice-versa. This is also a great way to familiarise oneself with members from the other choir.

'Coastal Vocals' and 'Hunstanton Voices' are preparing for their July Summer concert - 'Musical Mayhem', which covers some of the great Musical Theatre numbers like, 'Somewhere', 'Bring Him Home', 'He Lives in You', 'Rhythm of Life' and the 'Grease Mega Mix'.

Save the dates for 13th July, 6pm at St Edmunds Church and 14th July, 6pm at St Mary's, Sculthorpe Village Church. We will advertise the shows and ticket availability closer to Summer.

If you are interested, please call Noelene on 07709 986046 or email noeleneud@yahoo.co.uk We look forward to meeting you!



'THE SUFFERING ARTIST'

Lesley Nadel

On Monday 8th April 2024 at Sedgeford Village Hall at 2 pm, The Arts Society (North West Norfolk) guest speaker will be Douglas Skeggs, to tell us about Michelangelo, "A Troubled Genius". The painter was the living embodiment of an artistic genius, tormented and pursued by his ambition. Douglas Skeggs, an art historian and author, has been well known to us for many years as a skilled lecturer on painting. He has given thousands of lectures all over the world and has led many tours around Europe. There have been three one-man exhibitions for his own paintings in England and Switzerland and you may have seen him presenting TV documentaries.

Many will remember the song Vincent by Don McClean and the lyrics "Now I understand what you tried to say to me, how you suffered for your sanity." We have been led to believe that artists suffer because they are guided by their destiny, which intends them to be poor, with a genius that cannot be taught; burdened with inspiration and talent in a way that others are not, gifted with an authenticity that defies pigeonholing with a simple label. As long ago as 1934 two German scholars, Kris and Kurz, based their study on the assertion that "from the moment when the artist made his appearance in historical records, certain stereotyped notions were linked with his work and his person – preconceptions that have never entirely lost their significance." The recurring themes over many years portrayed in artists' biographies were of child prodigy, talent discovered by chance, artistic destiny etc. All these myths play into fitting the story of an artist's life into certain patterns, but art is a reflection of humanity through which man's greatest virtue is to overcome suffering, heartbreak, misery and many more of life's adversities. Adversity has inspired some of our greatest works when artists have not recoiled from their personal trauma.

Perhaps the most tragic figure in art history is Van Gogh. Born into an upper middle-class family, he had a troubled childhood and coped poorly with certain rejections that happened in his early life and from which he would never recover. His famous correspondence with his family, almost daily, gave insight into his mental illness as well as his artistic progress. He painted almost 900 paintings but only sold one during his lifetime. The Starry Night was painted by him whilst in emotional turmoil. We know he suffered from anxiety, absinthe addiction and debilitating seizures, and we believe his suffering gave him insight to create a new form of art called 'Post-Impressionism'. Another famous and brilliant Post-Impressionist, Henri De Toulouse-Lautrec, also suffered a short and tragic life as a legendary alcoholic embedded in the seedier side of Parisian bars and brothels.

Caravaggio, regarded as one of the most important artists ever to have lived for his legendary highly dramatic paintings, had a reputation for being 'dark' behind his public persona of arrogance, swagger, and short temper. But his life was just as tumultuous as many of his famous paintings. He would obsessively work on one of his paintings for two weeks at a time and then spend month-long periods bounding around Rome brawling with any and everyone. His notorious brawling cost him dearly in 1606 when he unintentionally killed someone over a gambling debt and was forced to flee Rome, ending up in Naples. This 'troubled' but brilliant artist died too soon at thirty-eight and in mysterious circumstances. Some say a fever, others argue he was murdered. Tragedy surrounded Goya throughout his life. During the first part of his career, he was regarded as an artistic celebrity in Spanish circles. However, he became depressed and withdrawn following the tragic loss of his hearing in 1792. His mental health severely diminished but this 'dark' period produced a series of bleak aquatinted etchings that seemed to reflect Goya's outlook on life during this period. They have become some of his most well-known works.

More Art for More People is our intention, and now is a good time to join us. We invite you to come as our guest for £5 to one of our meetings and explore how much art may benefit you. Or you can join as an annual member for £45 (or less if joining later in the year) and enjoy a range of benefits - nine monthly talks which cover a wide range of subjects, trips and tours in the UK and abroad, interesting study days, regular newsletters and magazines, and a warm welcome from a very friendly society. www.theartsocietynorthwestnorfolk.org.uk



Have you always wanted to learn more about the arts?

Then start now with our next talk at Sedgeford Village Hall at 2:00pm on Monday 8th April 2024

Michelangelo: "A troubled genius"

An artistic genius, tormented and pursued by ambition.



We aim to make art mean more to more people

There's never been a better time to join! Try us out for £5 to see if you like us.

There are many benefits apart from our interesting and varied talks:

- * Trips and tours in the UK and abroad
- * Special Interest Days
- * A social event with a warm welcome

For more information & how to join, visit www.theartsocietynorthwestnorfolk.org.uk

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The Arts Society King's Lynn

The Arts Society King's Lynn will reach its penultimate talk of the current season on Thursday 11th April when they welcome Twigs Way to speak about the "The Divine Sunflower in Art and Culture." The sunflower was highly prized by the Aesthetic and the Impressionist movements in particular, but it also features frequently across art and culture. It is used to signify the divine and the regal from classical myth to twentieth century painting. She will be looking at paintings from Van Dyck, Van Gogh, Klimt, Monet and Rivera.



Twigs Way is a professional researcher and writer fascinated by the past and intrigued by the role of flowers, gardens and landscape in art and culture of all kinds. Her work explores the themes of symbolism and meaning, class and gender, art and literature. She has written on the history of women in the garden and she retains an active research interest in this topic. Her most recent publications include the art and culture of specific flowers including the carnation and the daffodil and her book on the Chrysanthemum in Art and Culture was published October 2020 and she is currently working on the Daffodil in art and culture.

The lecture 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 the remaining 3 talks membership is just for just £30 or you can go along to individual talks as a guest for £10. Anyone interested in finding out more about TASKL can visit their website at www.theartsocietykingslynn.org.uk or to join the Society contact the membership secretary on 01366 328648 or via email at info@theartsocietykingslynn.org.uk.

An exciting year ahead for Music in the Burnhams

We started Music in the Burnhams just before Covid and can't believe that despite all the challenges, we are now moving into our 4th year and what a year we have planned. From Bach to Flanders and Swann, with music of all genres, we are moving into an additional venue at Brancaster church.

On April 13th at 7.30pm we shall welcome back Joo Yeon Sir (violin) and Irina Andrievsky (piano) to open the series of seven recitals at St Mary's Church Brancaster. Joo Yeon is well known to our audiences and to Norfolk more generally. The programme includes music by Schumann, Grieg and the Concert Fantasy on Gershwin's Porgy and Bess. Joo Yeon and Irina's sensitivity, musicality, and artistry are astonishing.

Before that Leo Popplewell (cello) and Ionel Manciu (violin) will play Bach "Air on a G String," a Boccherini Sonata and Handel's Halvorsen Passacaglia at All Saints Church Sutton cum Ulph in Burnham Market on Sunday April 7th at 3pm. Leo had us fixed to our seats last year with his unaccompanied Bach performance. Leo and Ionel are part of the Mithras piano trio.

To round off the month, you will need to hold onto your seats as the brilliant Wild Men of the Baroque will play a very varied programme of music on a selection of recorders (Piers Adam) and harpsichord (David Wright) They are co-members of Red Priest, (who will be playing in Overy in September) and bring all the energy and freedom of the super-group into their duo recitals. With an astonishing larger-than-life range of virtuoso techniques and expressive colours, they will walk us through the wild side of the Baroque. As excellent raconteurs, you will be amused by their lesser-known stories of the composers. Not a recital to miss!

Quite a month to look forward to.

All tickets are £20 each. Children under 18 come free.

BOOK NOW on www.musicintheburnhams or call 07989 177079 where you will find details of all the concerts in this year's series.

BRAHMS
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King's Lynn Festival Chorus
Ben Horden

Bethany Horak-Hallett MEZZO SOPRANO
Felix Kemp BARITONE

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KING'S LYNN MINSTER
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The final month of KLCCC's current season will be another busy one with two film screenings. Firstly, on Thursday 4th April they will be screening the comedy thriller Vengeance which gives an interesting insight to the current state of American society. It follows Ben, a writer and podcaster from New York, who attempts to solve the murder of a girl he had hooked up with and travels to southern USA to investigate what happened to her. B.J. Novak, who is better known as a writer, actor and comedian, makes his directorial debut with this film.



Later in the month on Thursday 25th April it's over to the other side of the world with a film from Bhutan Lunana: A Yak in the Classroom. A reluctant teacher and aspiring singer dreams of getting a visa to move to Australia, but he learns some tough life lessons when he is sent to the remotest school in the Himalayas to complete his training. This subtitled rom-com was nominated for the Best International Film Oscar last year.



Both films will be screened at St George's Guildhall starting at 7.30pm and are free to KLCCC members. Non members are very welcome to come along as a day member for £5 on the door. Please note payments to KLCCC must be by cash on the door. Anyone over 18 wishing to join KLCCC can do so by emailing the club at communitycinemaclub@googlemail.com

Full details of all the club's films and social events can be found on the club website and Facebook page.



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BBC Big Band to headline at King's Lynn Festival in July

Friday night is a music night on Friday 19 July at the 2024 King's Lynn Festival as the BBC Big Band swing into town with a celebration of the music of Gershwin. Headlining the Festival programme that day, the BBC Big Band mark the centenary of the premiere of Rhapsody in Blue with an evening honouring the music of George Gershwin at King's Lynn Corn Exchange.

Through a wonderfully diverse programme, arranged and curated by conductor Barry Forgie, the concert showcases the music of Gershwin – whose work would go on to become a core part the 'Great American Songbook', and whose legacy and influence continues to define a classic era of music.

The evening will feature a sparkling selection of Gershwin's most popular and acclaimed work, all specially arranged for big band and performed in the orchestra's own inimitable, swinging style. Ranging from Fascinating Rhythm through to Porgy & Bess, and from Our Love is Here to Stay to The Man I Love - the programme will (of



course) culminate with a special swinging version of Rhapsody in Blue, with its iconic and memorable opening clarinet solo, specially arranged for the Big Band.

Widely regarded as one of the world's leading and most versatile Orchestras, The BBC Big Band continues to delight audiences around the world through their broadcasts on BBC Radio and their live performances.

Audiences can expect an evening of truly world-class music, celebrating one of the most influential composers of the 20th century, and inspired by the 2024 centenary of, perhaps, his most best-loved work.

Tickets cost £25 and £22, with 50% off for under 25s. Tickets go on sale to the public from Monday 13 May 2024 via 01553 764864 or online at www.kingslynnfestival.org.uk. Join the Festival friends scheme to access priority booking from 29 April at <https://www.kingslynnfestival.org.uk/support-us/become-a-friend>

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Foodie adventures are the best adventures at Seasonal Food and Drink Festival

Sunday morning drizzle didn't dampen the enthusiasm of Norfolk food and drink producers as they set up their stands at the first West Norfolk Seasonal Food and Drink Festival in Hunstanton High Street on 17th March.



Mark & Rosie Kacary - Norfolk Deli

Producers spoke with a passion about their products that was inspiring, and their entrepreneurial spirit was evident as they described their production methods and innovative marketing and distribution skills.

Whilst there isn't room in this issue of Town and around to talk about all the participants, here is a flavour of the event.

I am thinking about a 'Norfolk producer of the month' column in future editions. Do let me know at editor@townandaround.net if that would interest you.



Just north of Norwich, the husband and wife team at KK Bees have created a one-stop shop for all things bee-related and are about to start a bee experience at Eves Hill Farm Call 07780 596490 or visit kkbears.co.uk



They also collaborate with Jesse Plunkett-Hall at the Norfolk Chilli Farm, who grows and produces a wide range of chilli products at Wolton Hall, in the creation of a super-hot honey perfect for drizzling on a variety of dishes.

In the middle of the Wensum Valley The Walnut Tree distillery produces farm crafted

gin with botanicals from the farm.



Slightly closer to home is Brancaster Gin, made with sea buckthorn, samphire, gorse, elderflower and a dash of Brancaster honey. Delicious.



Producing a range of spirits using natural products are Sunfire Spirits who pride themselves on supporting local growers and beekeepers.



Moving to a different spirit, Rusty Krab invites customers to explore the world of Rum. Husband and wife team Joe and Lisa operate from Tower Street in King's Lynn and are passionate about their re-use and refill packs, perfect for mail order as a 1 litre refill pack not only saves you money but will also go through your letterbox. Their own Norfolk rums are complemented by their stock of 170 rums from around the UK.



Handcrafted rums were on offer from Harry from Norfolk Rum who also have a Rum Club.

Wines were well represented at the event and included Chet Valley, Burn Valley and Cobble Hill Vineyards.



Dad and daughter Marcus & Emily Pruden from Cobble Hill



The High Street's 'by the book' store supported the event with a range of cooking and foodie books. Co-owner Anna Pugh said: "It's much busier than a usual Sunday."

The event was spearheaded by Mark Kacary, Managing Director of The Norfolk Deli who said: "It's all about community and breathing life into the High Street."



Mark raising a glass with Chet Valley Vineyard

Mark Kacary believes that the high street should be the beating heart of the town. "We have managed to secure the attendance of some fantastic Norfolk producers; every business attending is a small Norfolk business and the festival's purpose is to provide a delightful culinary journey, combining local gastronomy with the unique charm of Hunstanton."

Hunstanton's Mayor Michael Ruston commented: "In my opinion Mark has done an excellent job getting all this together and his idea is to have a regular market here to showcase Norfolk food and bring people into the High Street; it's got to be a winner!"

The next market will be held on 16th June 2024.

Behind the scenes

Welcome back to another edition of Behind the Scenes. With Easter Sunday being the end of March, in this edition we will speak about a fun family show performing here during the Easter School Holidays, as well as taking a look at other exciting acts coming to the theatre this April, such as *Legend – The Music of Bob Marley*.

But first, April starts off with a bang as Timothée Chalamet plays the lead in the award-winning film *Wonka*, showing on the 2nd of April as part of our Cinema and Film Club. Based on the Roald Dahl novel 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory', this film tells Wonka's origin story, as we learn about his journey into becoming an extraordinary chocolatier. With this screening falling just after Easter weekend, it seems a fitting time to screen this fun musical, as it celebrates Wonka's unique and otherworldly sweet treat creations.

Also, towards the start of April, (as mentioned previously), we have *Treasure Island*, a great family pantomime, here this Easter break on the 4th of April at 2pm. This panto comes from the creators of "Alice's Adventures in Easterland" and "Goldilocks and the Three Bears at the Circus", both of which have been performed at our theatre previously. When I spoke with Rachel-Elizabeth Hewitt, one of the show's directors, regarding the show, she told me that, Voulez-Vous Productions, cannot wait to bring their swashbuckling pantomime *Treasure Island* to Hunstanton.

Upon asking Rachel to give some details about this fun-filled production, she said that this is a great family show, so get ready to "join Silly Billy's pirate gang as he embarks on his adventure and tries to defeat the evil Captain Hook, with his hilarious Mum, Dame Dotty and the magical Mermaid Marina." Furthermore, Rachel added "this pantomime is sure to have you singing, dancing, and laughing 'til it hurts!". So, come to the theatre on the 4th of April, and get ready to enjoy some family fun, the perfect way to spend the Easter Holidays!

Heading towards the end of April on the 21st we have *Legend – The Music of Bob Marley*. I spoke with director, Stephen Morrison about this show. When talking about how the show began, Stephen noted that it was first put together in 2006, making this its 18th year! He explained that in 2005 he handpicked musicians within the community, and from here he gave them each some material. After a short amount of time, when they rejoined, Stephen said he "knew we had something". It's clear that he was right because from 2006 to present day, the show's success has continued to skyrocket.

Stephen explained that the show also connects with him on a personal note as he, himself, lived in Jamaica for 10 years. He was able to see Bob Marley live at the National Arena. Stephen particularly reminisced on a memory from when he was younger, when he got to attend a live show that featured both Bob Marley and Stevie Wonder.

He continued that he remembered thinking "woah I would love to be up there" and on discussing Bob Marley, he also noted "his music is so important to the world".

On talking more about the performance, Stephen told me that this show has a 7-piece band, stating that everyone involved is very passionate and takes the show very seriously. He continued by saying that *Legend – The Music of Bob*



Jemma

Marley is a show all about getting people together, and described the performance as "energetic, uplifting, a show that people love." Stephen also expressed that everyone is looking forward to coming to Hunstanton this April! It was great to speak with him, and it's clear just how much passion and talent is put into this production, so make sure you get your tickets now for the 21st!



'Legend – The Music of Bob Marley'

That concludes our April edition of Behind the Scenes. As always, thank you for reading through this edition, and thank you for your support towards the Princess. A full list of what we have showing this April can be found on the back What's On Page, but until next time, break a leg!

Hunstanton Music Festival 2024

The Sixth Hunstanton Music Festival will be held on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21 July. The annual summer event is extremely popular and attracts large audiences of local people and visitors to the town. This year for the first time there will be two days of live music on the Green.

There will be many different acts and bands performing with a wide variety of music to suit all tastes. The entertainment starts at 12.00 and runs through until 7pm with the headline acts '2nd Sunset' on the Saturday and 'The Melody Beats' on Sunday on stage at 6pm.

Music Director of Hunstanton and District Festival of Arts (H DFA) Ian Wells says 'The festival is a great opportunity for young talent to gain experience and have the opportunity to perform on a large stage. There will also be more established bands entertaining the audience and a whole range of music from folk and metal through to rock and roll, acoustic covers and rhythm and blues. The two headline acts are well-known and always put on a great show.'

More events are listed on the centre pages of this issue





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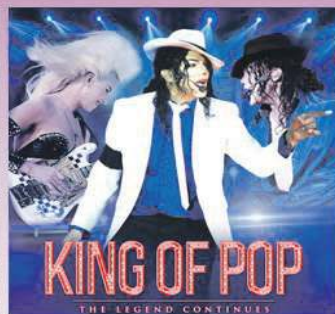
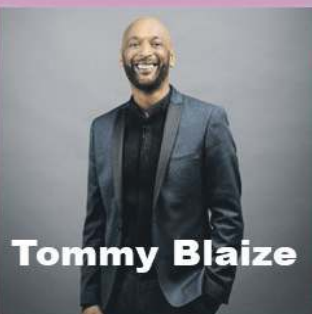
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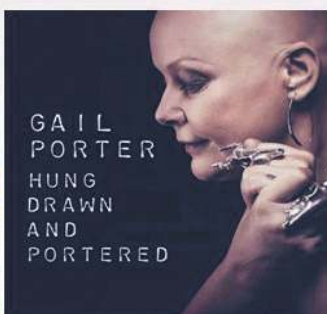


Thursday 4th

Friday 5th

Sunday 7th

Thursday 11th

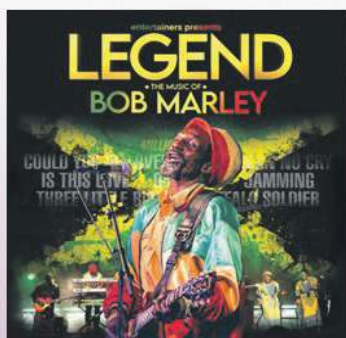


Saturday 13th

Sunday 14th

Thursday 18th

Saturday 20th



Sunday 21st

Saturday 27th

Sunday 28th

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