

TOWN and AROUND

ISSUE 226 AUGUST 2024

PRICELESS!



Local News • Events • Great Outdoors • Features
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First word



On the cover of this very full issue is nine-year-old Alyssa. She was one of the eighty competitors in the famous World Snail Racing Championships recently. You can read all about it on page 4.

Outdoor events dominate the month's diary listings that you will find on pages 70 and 72 - do check our website What's On page as we add more events as we hear about them. I'm pleased to report that there are free events for all the

family to enjoy including outdoor theatre and cinema in Hunstanton.

Terry Parish invites you to look heavenwards the night of 12th-13th. He says it is potentially a good year to view the Perseid meteor shower. Turn to page 36 for the details.

My thanks as always to our advertisers, the revenue from them pays for the print. We must order our pages in multiples of sixteen, and currently we print 80 pages. With a few more pages of advertising we would be able to jump to 96 pages so if you have a business please get in touch about advertising it here. All the prices are on this page.

Thanks also to everyone who has provided information and editorial making this an edition with (hopefully) something for everyone. Articles I couldn't squeeze in will be posted to the magazine's website.

I hope you enjoy the summer holidays, the weather is kind and you have time to enjoy the month ahead.

With all best wishes,

Elaine

Elaine Bird, Editor,
Town and Around
The Perches, 18 Tapping Close, Snettisham PE31 7FF
T: 01485 540620
M: 07533 088196
E: editor@townandaround.net

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Ready, Steady, Slow!

Tim Keogh

The World Snail Racing Championships took place at Congham Hall on Saturday, 6th July. The quaint Norfolk village of Congham is to snail racing what Newmarket is to horse racing.

Over 80 snails attended the event, with owners either bringing their own fully conditioned snail or choosing from a pool of snails, in some cases people finding snails in the Hall grounds.

As well as snail racing, the "Summer Bash" event also included a craft fair, family fun day, Mark Redhead memorial cricket match and live music in the evening. The day itself was borne out of the joining of two competitions which date back generations - The World Snail Championships and The Hancock Cup, both founded in 1960, the latter being relaunched in 2019 as the Mark Redhead Memorial Trophy, in honour of Mark, from Grimston, who died the day after his 43rd birthday in 2018, following a six-year battle with cancer having been diagnosed with a brain tumour in 2011. All proceeds from the day went to the local St. Andrew's Church.

The snail championships can be traced back to the 1960's when founder, Tom Elwes, witnessed a snail racing event in France. The 1995 event saw the setting of a world record benchmark time of two minutes by a snail named Archie. The rules are that the snails start in an inner circle, with the first to reach an outer circle 13 inches away declared the winner. There were eight heats, with the winner of each progressing to the final.



Snail masters (L) Nicholas Dickinson & Ian Haynes



Mark Redhead memorial match



Nicholas Dickinson, Jeff the snail, Simon Lilley and Ian Haynes

It was an ecstatic Simon Lilley from Spalding - with snail "Jeff" - who won the coveted World Championship Trophy this year with a relatively mediocre time of four minutes and 5 seconds. Snail masters, Nicholas Dickinson and Ian Haynes, presented the trophy.

Snails can live up to five years, so it is hoped Jeff will be available to defend his title in 2025. Next year's event in July is already slowly building up to be as big and better than ever.

No snails were harmed during the day.



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Hunstanton's 3-day carnival weekend

Over four thousand people attended the first three-day carnival over a wonderfully sunny weekend at the end of June. It was organised by the Hunstanton Events Committee in partnership with KL1 Radio.

Following the incredible success of the first Party on the Green last year KL1 Radio, the commercial radio station for King's Lynn and West Norfolk, were back with an even bigger offering of music for all ages.

As part of the Hunstanton Carnival weekend KL1 Radio kicked off this musical journey with a selection of live music from the 40's and 50's in the capable hands of local duo Richard and Linda Tree, The Swingtones. Following from them was duo McNamara Reid playing music from their own songbook which was just the ticket for the audience relaxing on the green on Friday afternoon.

Another local band, The Gliders saw a group of youngsters take the stage by storm with musical covers from rock bands of the seventies and eighties and to round off Friday evening local DJ L.IAM held a dance audience in the palm of his hand with a two-hour mix set that lit up Hunstanton.



Jun Tu

Party on the Green continued Saturday with a line up of live radio shows and live acts including giving the big stage treatment to two local buskers Jun Tu and Scott Anderson who performed stripped down versions of both their own material, and some familiar hits. The Last Train to London took audience participation on a different slant with their lead singer Al who was clearly Busta

Blood Vessel re-incarnate.



Local lad *Liam Osler AKA DJ L.IAM* reprised his dance mix that saw the audience build to the headline act for Saturday.



Songwriting royalty graced the KL1 Radio stage as *Graham Gouldman and his current band Heart Full of Songs* reminded the audience that Graham was not only making hits for his own bands 10cc and WAX over the decades but many other well known acts are to his credit. Herman's Hermits No Milk Today and The Hollies Bus stop to name just a couple. Add to this the flawless performance of hits like Dreadlock Holiday. I'm not in Love and Good Morning Judge and there you had a Saturday evening of first class entertainment.

Richard Dix, Programme Controller of KL1 Radio commented on the success of the event: "This our second Party on the Green saw an estimated audience of 5,000 people sitting on the green and enjoying what was an eclectic mix of music, I was fascinated to see that people of all ages were enjoying music from every decade.

"That is what KL1 Radio is all about, bringing this sort of event to the public is just our pleasure.

"We want to thank Hunstanton Town Council and The Hunstanton Events Team for their unbridled support for this event and we look forward to curating and even bigger and better event in 2025"

Part of the Hunstanton Carnival weekend, the KL1 Radio team hosted the stage on Sunday with a day of entertainment from all genres.

Chairman for Hunstanton Town Council's Town Events Team Cllr Mark Williamson said: "We have all been blown away by how well the carnival is received, each year our team strive to make it a fun, family orientated event.



"There is so much hard work that goes into it, we started planning the event in July 2023 and this year we saw crowds rise to over 4000 attendees, which is fabulous for our seaside town and brought many new visitors to the area from all over the country and showcased what Hunstanton has to offer."



"We had an amazing line up on stage ranging from local talent to a global great! So much interest from stall holders that wanted to be a part of the carnival this year, we had to expand out onto the upper green, just to get everyone in!"

The Town Events Team



expressed their gratitude to:

- KL1 Radio for hosting the weekend and entertaining Hunstanton for the 3-day event.
- Lynx Buses for organising a late bus at 10:05pm, back to King's Lynn via the villages on route.
- All of their amazing sponsors so many local businesses to thank for coming onboard and supporting the Town Events Team, without which the event could not be possible.
- The Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk for the use of their stage as well as the help and advice from all officers and staff at Resort Services.

Images: Ian Burt





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Greyfriars pupils bring sunshine to The Walks

Greyfriars pupils from class 6-7 decided earlier in the year that they would like to add a bit of colour to The Walks by planting a bed of sunflowers, with the added aim of seeing which pupil's sunflower grew the highest.

With the assistance of the Parks staff who prepared the dedicated flower beds, complete with wire fencing to give the plants support, they set about preparing the pots and seeds for planting.

Under the direction of Teaching Assistant Maria Gabriel and with the active backing of Deputy Head Janice Moyle, the pupils made up their named pots and planted the seeds, tending them each day until they were ready for planting outdoors.

With the plants ready to go outdoors, the sunny weather in the week proved the perfect opportunity for planting and with the help of the staff and parks staff who were on hand for the watering, a selected group of pupils got down to the task of planting all the seedlings.

The were sponsored in their activities by the newly reformed Friends of The Walks group who provided the pots, seeds and compost.

Member of the Friends of the Walks group, Gary Walker said "it was lovely to see the youngsters so enthusiastic about planting the sunflowers. The Walks is a fantastic civic amenity and with the park on the school's doorstep, having Greyfriars involved can only be of benefit to both the pupils and the park. We must now wait to see whose sunflower grows the tallest!"



Greyfriars pupils from year 6-7, with Deputy Head Janet Moyle centre rear, and TA Maria Gabriel far right.

'Educational groundwork' supported by local businesses

Hunstanton Primary School has had some new benches installed thanks to three local businesses.

On Friday 28th June a representative of one of the sponsors visited the school to meet the children and hear about their plan for outdoor learning.

Kiera McGuinn, whose father Tony attended the school, explained: "When Dad heard the school needed benches he said 'we'll do it' and he asked me to come along today for the official presentation."

Keira attended the assembly before going outside for tea and cakes with some of the pupils. Currently a Law student at Northeastern University London, she told the children that when their family company, A McGuinn Groundwork and Equestrian, start a new construction the most important thing is that there is a strong foundation. "It's the same with education, your primary school is the strong foundation, the groundwork, and from here you will move on to senior school then to college or university and a career."

Mrs Tandy explained that the benches were used for smaller group working, one-to-one sessions, reading - and sometimes staff lunch breaks!

Mr Paul Stafford (Ling's Lynn Self Storage) and the Golden Lion Hunstanton were the sponsors for other benches at the school.



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Borough Council of
King's Lynn &
West Norfolk



Five reasons why you may need a cohabitation agreement

By Emma George, Solicitor, Hayes + Storr

Moving in together can be an exciting step in a relationship, and the absence of formality has its attractions, but it's important to note that the lack of legal clarity and protection can be problematic if a dispute should arise in the future.

Therefore, it's important to consider how to put safeguards in place. Below I have outlined five important reasons why you may benefit from a cohabitation agreement.

1. Escaping the 'common law marriage' trap

The phrase 'common law marriage' is a myth. There is no such legal concept as a 'common law marriage' and, regardless of the length of the relationship, cohabiting couples have no legal financial obligations towards each other if they separate.

Having a cohabitation agreement means that you can tailor the agreement to state the responsibilities towards the home you share such as mortgage/rent and utility payments, alongside what you wish to happen post-separation.

2. Obtaining clarity on your legal position

A cohabitation agreement will give you a useful understanding of what your rights (if any) are.

A lawyer can help you consider your personal objectives and the law, and help you think through important matters before finalising any agreement.

3. Protecting a property you own

If your partner moves into your home, which you legally own in your sole name, while they will not benefit from an automatic right to a share of the property they could acquire some rights, known as a 'beneficial interest'.

A cohabitation agreement is a way of safeguarding your property, as it can confirm that your partner will not gain any legal interest or rights in your property by living there, even if they pay towards the bills or mortgage.

4. Clarity over how bills will be paid

As with any shared household, it's sensible to agree on who will be paying for what. You will want to have clarity on how much you each agree to contribute towards the bills.

Whilst monthly outgoings will be a level of expense you regularly review, a cohabitation agreement will clear up any confusion when it's time to pay an annual bill, such as renewing insurance policies.

5. Confidence and reassurance

Entering into a cohabitation agreement can provide peace of mind because you will know



exactly where you stand on key finances.

Working with a solicitor to draw up a cohabitation agreement makes it much easier to discuss tricky questions and the issue of what might happen if the relationship were to end.

How we can help

It's never too late to enter into a cohabitation agreement. Whether you're thinking of moving in with your partner or have been living with them for several years.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Emma George in the family department on 01328 863231 or email emma.george@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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Hunstanton Bridge Club

A super summer sale

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Sale season is the opportunity to freshen your look so head down to Allez Chic for some beautiful pieces that will put a spring in your step for the late summer season.

Sale shopping is a treasure hunt to discover something that's perfect for your shape and colouring that will make you feel great – and Cheryl is offering discounts across the labels in store.

You are bound to enjoy shopping at Allez Chic, the personal, caring service that Cheryl Daubney and her team provide is second to none.

They will help you choose and sometimes suggest you try something you'd might have otherwise overlooked, rather like a personal shopper. They have the fashion know-how to put an outfit together that will make you feel super.

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A recipe from the Prudent Pensioner

This is my favourite recipe for cooking Red cabbage. It is nice served hot with pork steaks, roast pork and pork sausages or cold with bread and cheese and cheese flans.

Red cabbage

For 2 generous portions.

Approx. 140g/5oz. of red cabbage

1 small onion

1 medium size cooking apple

2 rounded teaspoons of brown sugar

25g/1 oz. sultanas

Knob of butter about size of a walnut

Discard outside leaves of cabbage, cut the rest finely and put to soak in a bowl of lightly salted cold water.

Peel and slice onion.

Remove peel and core from apple and slice fairly thinly.

Put butter in a saucepan over a low to medium heat, add onion and stir, add sultanas, apple slices and sugar, stir to mix well. Strain water off cabbage, rinse well in cold water and add to saucepan together with a tablespoon of cold water and stir well. Cover and leave simmering, stirring frequently, until cabbage and apples are soft, this will take about 15- 20 minutes.

Then it is ready to 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.

A search in Amazon for Doreen Reed will find both books (together with my books of light hearted poems & tales)

Copies are available to borrow from Heacham Library & Hinckley Library. See more recipes on The Prudent Pensioner Facebook page.

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New products at Sandringham Sawmill

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The Admiral's Drive sawmill has recently established a new garden furniture display where customers can see furniture made from the Estate's timber, together a range made from legally sourced teak which is surrounded by the sawmill's selection of fence panels.

The chunky Flintstone Furniture can be left to 'silver', treated with preservative, or painted, and examples of each of these are on display.

Sales manager Paul Crown explained: "We offer a number of standard sizes, and because we make the benches and tables here, we can make them any size the customer needs, recently we supplied a 12 foot long table with benches for a camping site."

Made on site, the obelisks, troughs, and boxes come in a range of different sizes.



Sitting in this favourite chair (The Windsor) he continued: "This year we've expanded the range of teak furniture and there are table and chair sets, coffee tables and garden benches in various styles - all with Royal names of course!"



"We stock teak oil for maintenance along with furniture covers for winter use.

"And for the Flintstone range there are preservatives and a variety of paints."

Open six days a week the Sandringham Sawmill looks forward to seeing you.



Annual Charity Golf Event continues to thrive

Tim Keogh

The annual Campaign Care 94 Charity Golf Day took place on Sunday, 23rd June. This popular event was held at Heacham Manor Golf Club, raising money for Campaign Care 94 (CC94) which primarily donates to the Norfolk Hospice Tapping House and the Bob Champion Cancer Trust. Sixty players converged at the local venue to take part in long overdue blazing sunshine.

CC94 began in 1994 with all the Trustees being local people. Organiser and Trustee, Jim Race, said, "I played golf about two to three times a year and had the idea that I could organise a Golf Day on behalf of CC94". And so it began in 2007 with 12 teams taking part. Jim added, "we were fortunate enough to have ex Grand National winner, Bob Champion himself, come down for the prize giving". Bob Champion CBE won the Grand National on Aldaniti in 1981 whilst recovering from cancer.



John Burton & Bob Champion

The individual Bob Champion Trophy went to John Burton, whilst the Adrian Large team trophy for the best Stableford score (130 points) went to Ness Heighton, Dave Heighton, Colin Brown and Sandra Joseph. Adrian's daughters, Jemma and Jessica, presented the Trophy.



Colin Brown, Sandra Joseph, Ness Heighton, Jemma Greef, Bob Champion, Dave Heighton & Jessica Large

Heacham Golf Club captain, Denny Turner, won the Terry Kendal 'Player of the Day' Trophy for his 11 pars. Terry's wife, Janet, presented the Trophy. The Keith Kendal 'Shot of the Day' Trophy went to Paul Boon for his amazing chip on the 17th hole for birdie. Keith's grandson, Harry, presented the award. The Ladies Trophy was won by Ness Heighton with Sandra Joseph second.



Mason Bernstein, a 22 year old greenkeeper from King's Lynn Golf Course, achieved an eagle on the par 5 11th hole, which won him the Arthur Massen 'Special Hole' Trophy. This was presented by Arthur's son, Simon, who is Chairman of CC94. Mason shot an incredible 67 on the par 72 course. He also won 'Nearest the Pin' on the 15th to conclude a very successful day. Mason, who has a handicap of plus 5, is aiming to turn professional.

In total there have been 16 Golf Days

raising close to £20,000 for CC94, with over £1,500 added to the total from this year's event. Jim continues, "these tournaments would not have been the success they have been without the regular support of my wife Janet, her Mum June Critcher and helpers Janet Kendal, Mandy and Vaughan Barton and Val Minns. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year".

*Turn to page 16 for Bob Champion 'In the Spotlight' feature.



Denny Turner, Bob Champion & Janet Kendal



Simon Massen, Mason Bernstein and Bob Champion



Bob Champion, Paul Boon & Harry Kendal



Ness Heighton & Bob Champion

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In the spotlight Bob Champion

Bob Champion is the patron of the Bob Champion Cancer Trust. In 1981 he famously won the Grand National on Aldaniti whilst recovering from cancer and is a huge advocate of the ongoing research which, ultimately, saved his life. Having also recovered from a serious injury prior to the race, the chestnut horse took a lead as early as the 11th fence and went on to win despite a late challenge from favourite, Spartan Missile. More than 3,000 people welcomed the pair back to their stable in Findon, West Sussex.

The triumph was made into a film called Champions, with John Hurt portraying Bob whilst Aldaniti starred as himself. Aldaniti retired from racing in 1982 and spent the remainder of his life out to pasture at his owner's farm in Sussex. He died in 1997 aged 27.

Awarded a CBE in 2021, Bob now lives in Newmarket.

Full Name: Robert Champion

Age: 76

Star Sign: Gemini

Where born: I was 'reared' in Yorkshire

Where live: Newmarket

Occupation: Ex Jockey and Trainer, now a Fundraiser

Family: Janette and a daughter Henrietta

Dogs or cats: Dogs

Team Support: Middlesbrough

Worst Injury: So many as a jockey. I suppose broken bones in my back and fractured skulls spring to mind

Biggest Break: Riding for Champion Jockey, Josh Gifford

Idols: Lester Piggot and John Francome

Funniest Memory: Going to the races !

Best Memory: Being told the cancer treatment had worked

Favourite Cuisine: Italian

Favourite Drink: Champagne or Coke

Favourite Band/singer: ABBA

Favourite Film: The Magnificent Seven (and of course, Champions!)

Favourite Holiday Destination: Florida

Three items for a Desert Island: Mobile Phone, Food & Drink and a Boat

Worst Habit: Impatience

Pet Hate: People being late

Biggest Achievement: Getting over Cancer

Like to live forever: Live for the day, tomorrow could be your last



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PHONING HMRC? DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH!

By Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton

By the time this article is published we will know the shape and flavour of the Government and may even have some inkling of the tax regime for the next five years or so. One aspect which has received very little exposure in the run up to the election is the current state of interaction between HMRC and the taxpayer.

In strategic terms we know that in April 2026 many taxpayers will need to start filing quarterly figures under the "Making Tax Digital" initiative which will apply to those with untaxed income above £50,000 in 2026 and £30,000 in 2027. This is part of the move to digital communications generally, and HMRC are already trying to persuade taxpayers to engage digitally rather than by telephone or letter. According to statistics received last month, in the first 11 months of 2023/4 taxpayers contacted HMRC on 228m occasions, and plans are afoot to expand these in the future to give greater access to employment benefits records, tax codes, reliefs and appeals. However, there are clearly areas where the online services are inadequate, and 69% of telephone callers had contacted HMRC because they could not resolve matters online.

It is at this point that communications start to deteriorate. In March HMRC announced plans to shut down key helplines, since they were unable to cope with the pressure of enquiries. This decision was rapidly reversed following pressure from the Government, but the fact remains that the historic paths to communication are coming under pressure. According to an National Audit Office (NAO) report:

- In February this year HMRC had 1 million items of unanswered correspondence
- Only 2/3rds of telephone calls are answered, after an average wait per call of 23 minutes
- Although HMRC took 22% fewer calls in 2022-23 compared to 2019-20, each call took an average of 21% longer to handle
- Between 2019-20 and 2023-24 HMRC cut staffing levels by 9%,



presumably in anticipation of demand falling as a result of digitisation. It appears that this may have been somewhat optimistic

• Even the special dedicated phone lines used by tax agents are suffering (this we know only too well!), with only 43% of agents giving a positive rating to their dealings with HMRC compared to 65% of individuals and 74% of small businesses (although this may reflect the tendency for simple problems to be resolved by app or website with more complex ones requiring personal contact)

Perhaps the worst statistic is that in 2022-23 taxpayers collectively spent 798 years on hold, waiting to speak to HMRC. Or putting it brutally, HMRC have cut back and digitised services to save costs, but the result is that taxpayers have to waste hundreds of years of their own time listening to music in the hope that they might eventually speak to someone before they are "timed out".

Perhaps one of the first things a new Chancellor might like to consider is creating HMRC helplines which are both helpful and accessible.

If you require any tax advice, whether personal or business, please contact us at Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton on 01485 534800 or kate@kathryngigg.co.uk.

N.B. Article written in June 2024.

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White Horse Holme-next-the-Sea reopens

White Horse Holme-Next-the-Sea is the 10th addition to the ACI family. Situated in the charming village of Holme-next-the-Sea along the breath-taking North Norfolk Coast, the historic Grade II listed pub has undergone a stunning transformation, emerging with a fresh new look and reinstating the original features of the property.

The stylishly refurbished 70 cover pub is warm, cosy and welcoming, with low ceilings, an inglenook fireplace and charmingly restored dining furniture to cater for all dining needs including a large table for family get togethers. The locals bar with a good selection of real ales and craft beers, including St Giles Distillery, Woodforde's Brewery and wines from Burn Valley Vineyard, completes the picture inside the pub. Outside there is a spacious south facing garden with fire pit, more dining areas, a pétanque area and designated kids' playground. The new entrance to the pub leads to a spacious parking area.

The food also has a new look with Will Pryke, General Manager and Ian Daw, Head Chef, designing new menus to support the best local produce from farmers, fishermen and Norfolk suppliers, including Sandringham Farm, Morley Farm in South Creake, Mrs Temples Cheese and Billy Ward's lobsters.

Reflecting on the project, Head Chef Ian Daw expressed his enthusiasm for showcasing the region's best ingredients. "I feel very honoured to have been in at the beginning of this amazing adventure," said Daw. "To me, this isn't just another pub in Norfolk; it's a testament to the community, its people, and its produce. Will and I have poured our hearts into ensuring that authenticity shines through, and we're confident our guests will taste the difference."

Guests of White Horse Holme-next-the-Sea can expect to feast on Brancaster Oysters, Cromer Crab Crumpets, Tim Allen's Pork T-Bone Chop, Sandringham Farm Mutton Chops and Billy Wards Lobster with

Garlic and Herb Butter. The seasonal menu will also serve weekly specials based on supplier availability and there's always Fish & Chips on a Friday.



White Horse Holme Will Pryke, General Manager, Carrie and Martin Harvey - First drink at Opening

In keeping with its commitment to the local community, the team has prioritised recruiting locally to ensure that the spirit of the pub remains deeply rooted in its surroundings. Will Pryke, General Manager, said, "Keeping the community at the heart of the pub will be key to its success – like locals Carrie and Martin Harvey who were the first to join me for a drink across the bar, they were also the first at The White Horse, Brancaster Staithe all those 27 years ago! We've recruited a fantastic team of local talent who share our passion for creating a memorable experiences. At White Horse Holme-next-the-Sea, our ethos of making people happy is at the forefront of everything we do."

Guests can book a table at White Horse Holme-next-the-Sea at www.whitehorseholme.co.uk 01485 525512



We are open and can't wait to welcome you



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Hunstanton Lifeboat Celebrate 200th Anniversary

Tim Keogh

Hunstanton RNLI held their celebration on Friday, 28th June at their Old Hunstanton station.

On March 4th, the RNLI celebrated 200 years of saving lives thanks to volunteers giving their time to save others, all funded by public donations. The volunteer lifeboat crews and lifeguards have saved an incredible 146,277 lives in their history, equating to an average of two lives a day for 200 years. A thanksgiving was held at the Palace of Westminster, where RNLI CEO, Mark Dowie, acknowledged the volunteers who have given so much in saving lives. He said the charity had survived this long simply because of the kindness of people and their donations. He hoped that the RNLI family will continue to inspire generations to come.

The RNLI was formed in a London tavern in 1824 following an appeal by Sir William Hillary who lived on the Isle of Man and had witnessed so many shipwrecks. There are now nearly 250 lifeboat stations around the coast of the UK and Ireland. Two centuries have seen vast developments in the lifeboats and kit used by the charity's lifersavers – from the early oar-powered vessels to today's technology-packed boats, which are now built in-house by the charity; and from the rudimentary cork lifejackets of the 1850s to the full protective kit each crew member is now issued with.

Hunstanton RNLI held their own celebration on Friday, 28th June at their Old Hunstanton station. Chairman, Charles le Strange Meakin and Lifeboat Operations Manager, Rigil Kent, led the presentation which also involved crew and volunteers, past and present. Over 100 people attended the event greeted with a glass of fizz on arrival and treated to a buffet in the café - originally the old boat house - afterwards.

There have been some heart warming stories, one of which was relayed to the audience. Twins Daisy and Molly Cole, then aged 12 and their older sister Zoe were left clinging to a marker buoy after they were cut off by the tide at Brancaster in August, 2013. Volunteers from Hunstanton RNLI attended the scene on board the station's hovercraft, arriving just as the tired trio began losing their grip in the fierce incoming tide. Daisy, Molly and Zoe were all plucked from the sea and returned safely to shore by the crew. Their mother, Stacey O'Donnell made an emotional return to meet the crew that saved them recently, with the family meeting long-serving volunteer Vic Dade. Vic, who joined the station as a tractor driver in 1979, was the hovercraft pilot on the day of the rescue. So impressed was Stacey that she undertook to run the London Marathon this year, raising over £3.5k for the RNLI.

Today's volunteers operate a fast inshore lifeboat and a search and rescue hovercraft, kitted out with state-of-the-art lifesaving equipment.

As well as heroic rescues, the trail-blazing station has notched up notable firsts, including



trialling the first tractor to launch its vessels. Hunstanton also pioneered the use of the hovercraft, while its crew includes the RNLI's first female pilot and first female 'hover commander'.

Its early, primitive wooden boats saved many lives in the station's early years, but as activity dwindled between the wars, it was mothballed in 1931. It re-opened after a 48-year hiatus, as tourism boomed on the Norfolk coast.

Alan Clarke, who became its first modern-day helm, told how a new crew was formed to operate Hunstanton's first inshore lifeboat. In a video interview, the decorated volunteer described some of their many rescues - including a runaway speedboat with a dog at the wheel and three men adrift in a motorised bathtub. Then Alan turned to what makes Hunstanton unique - ranging from long hauls across the beach to launch and recover its craft at low tide, to the distances the crew must sometimes travel in all weathers in an open boat or hovercraft to cover their large 'patch', which consists of the 100 square miles of The Wash.

Rigil Kent traced the history of the station's lifeboats, through to today's Atlantic 85 Spirit of West Norfolk. Rigil highlighted how concerns about the increasing numbers of people being cut off by the tide around Brancaster between 2018 and 2021, leading to soaring numbers of launches, had led the station to step up its efforts to educate people about the dangers. Call-outs have fallen from 56 in 2020, to 37 in 2022 and 2023.

Kate Craven, the station's visits officer and water safety lead, told how outreach volunteers give safety talks at schools and colleges, as well as showing school parties around the station, which is open to the public throughout the summer.

Treasurer, Bob McDonald, outlined the cost of equipping and training the crew, before explaining how generous supporters along with those who leave legacies help keep the people on 'the big orange things' ready to respond 24/7, 365 days of the year.

Volunteers from the station's souvenir shop and the Hunstanton and West Norfolk Lifeboat Guild spoke of their fundraising work.

Then a pager sounded, before shore and sea-going crew kitted up for a dummy 'shout', with members explaining their different roles when the call comes to launch.



Crew stalwart Andrew Craven was awarded an official Certificate of Thanks from the RNLI by Lifeboat Operations Manager Rigil Kent, in recognition of his dedication to the station.

Charles made further reference to and thanked all their supporters. Rigil also talked about the process and methodology behind 'preparing for action', - the 'smeac' process - delivered by Senior Helm, Dave Cleland (Situation; Mission; Execution; Administration; and Command, Communication & Confirmation). With such high running costs - it costs £3k to just kit out a member of the crew - Hunstanton Lifeboat rely on donations, proceeds from their own fundraising events (the charity golf day raised £40k), souvenir shop proceeds, charity boxes and individuals/organisations that raise money on behalf of the RNLI.

Mark Dowie said of the RNLI, "I am immensely grateful to everyone who is involved with the charity - our volunteers, supporters and staff. This is our watch and it is our role to keep our charity safe and secure so it can continue to save lives into the future, as we strive in our vision to save every one".

The evening closed with the crew members reciting the RNLI's 200th anniversary pledge to a rousing round of applause.

To donate to the RNLI please visit www.rnli.org.

Images credit RNLI/Chris Bishop



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Hunstanton Eyecare update



Colour is tops at the moment, or so it seems. Writing today, it's raining so a splash of colour brightens the mood. Here at Hunstanton Eyecare we have every coloured frame you could think of, with the introduction of the PRUE Collection bright and beautiful is everywhere. Although you may feel a definite colour is restrictive, we also have our second pairs promotion, the next pair of lenses will be half price, and that includes premium varifocals. So you have the excuse of choosing two contrasting pairs of specs! I've always liked my rimless specs as they are so lightweight, but I now have a bright red pair for work with lenses that are designed for the room distance and close work that I am doing most of the day.

I received the sample set of the new Transitions Generation S lenses last week, and there are now eight colours as Ruby has been added to the collection. The material does change amazingly fast and the fade back to clear time has certainly improved.

By the time you read this summer should be here and we have a large range of sunspecs to protect your eyes from harmful UV rays. There are several wrap-around designs as well as RayBans and WOOW for the designer conscious. And it's 50% off all sunspecs in the month of August. So come in and have a browse.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Annette



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Your Choir Rocks the Corn Exchange!

On Friday, 28 June, Your Choir lit up the Corn Exchange with an unforgettable performance. Those fortunate enough to attend were treated to a spectacular evening as 150 choir members delivered a floor thumping show! The audience were on their feet, dancing, singing and cheering throughout an electrifying repertoire of contemporary hits.

Mike Tandy, who founded the Choir just two years ago shared, "Our Choir is all about giving back to the community. We've raised around £10,000 for local charities since we started. This year, we are proud to support MIND and The Pandora Project. Our concert raised £3,000.00, which will be split between these two wonderful organisations.

I couldn't be prouder of our Choir members. We're a joyful, inclusive and friendly bunch and everyone's hard work paid off at the Corn Exchange. We are looking forward to many more concerts in the future. We often perform around the area, so come and see us, or better yet, join us!"



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Pack your bubbly, chairs and picnics and witness the comical confusion of Oscar Wilde's hilarious masterpiece, The Importance of Being Earnest!

Audience Comments

"Rain or Shine at their maniacal best yet again. Another master class in multiple role playing, expert timing, rapid costume changes, and all played out on their trademark minimal set. Vintage Rain or Shine that's utterly hilarious sending everyone contentedly away into the night."

"We just love going to see travelling shows and this company has to be one of the best. Great acting, super friendly, lots of humour and a fascinating trip back in time. Many congratulations."

Running time 25 hours approx. Cancellation in the event of dangerous weather only, when performance will be rescheduled. Tickets are non-refundable, except for cancellations due to Covid-19 government mandates. Booking fees may apply.



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Nature notes with Carrie Carey

Superheroes, Transformers and Titans

A ricochet of sharp high-pitched notes bounces off the trees, growing louder as I stroll along the trail. The snappy 'tic tic' sound intensifies, and then, voilà! a feisty Robin pops out from the bushes revealing the maestro behind the mayhem. I hope he isn't having a bad day. Further off, other songbirds are singing and chirping away and the robin's grumpy soliloquy becomes lost in the chorus of jaunty melodies. There's a flash of movement overhead and I retrace my steps to the small clearing where picnic tables and seating provide a welcome retreat for visitors. Scanning the skies, I'm aware that the strains of morning song have gone quiet, then in the centre of the silence I spot an aerial predator soaring overhead.

The picnic area has been strimmed and the slightly sweet, earthy fragrance of cut grass reminds me of days of childhood play. Picnics are a real summer treat and eating al fresco is an easy and fun way to make a connection with nature; you won't have to sit there long for the wildlife to appear, and I don't just mean the wasps! Sit back in the picnic spot and witness a butterfly ballet amongst the bushes, mischievous blackbirds scouting for crumbs, and dainty ladybugs pausing for a break. Keep your eyes peeled, and you might just catch a glimpse of a shy Muntjac Deer tiptoeing through leafy shadows.



The natural world is a great place for children to explore and let their imagination govern playtime. It's often the enthusiasm of children that sets the pace as they dart from one place to another becoming more and more immersed in nature. Excited chatter fills the air as they investigate the underside of a mossy log or peek inside a bug hotel or spot a playful robin feeding from a visitor's hand. Given the opportunity, children really enjoy a chance for their imaginations to take flight as they discover the wonder and excitement of being outside. A walk across a meadow becomes a hunt for mythical beasts, a stroll along the beach is the ultimate scavenger hunt and if you are really clever, you can convince children that lying still and quiet on the grass is an adventure in itself. Anything related to water opens the door to new possibilities, and there's something about a pond that holds an irresistible lure for anyone under 12 (and lots of us over that age!). The simple activity of pond dipping transforms an ordinary day into a thrilling treasure hunt, fostering a sense of wonder and awe. Armed with nets and trays, children eagerly peer into the watery world of a pond hoping to catch a glimpse of wriggling tadpoles or Water Boatmen skimming across the surface. Water-filled trays teem with tiny critters and turn young explorers into budding naturalists with wet knees and wide grins.



Shrills of delight can be heard when children spot Whirligig Beetles as they zip across the surface of the water. Their rapid spinning motion helps confuse predators and makes it easier for them to catch prey.

Compound eyes allow them to see both above and below so they can simultaneously home in on potential snacks while avoiding hungry marauders. That's a pretty impressive superhero quality! Known for its prowess in back stroke, the Backswimmer is another popular sighting in a pond dipping foray. Do you know that Backswimmers carry a bubble of air in their abdomen? This acts like a scuba tank, allowing them to breathe underwater for extended periods. They must hang on tightly to a plant stem otherwise they pop up to the surface fairly sharpish. These Titans of freshwater lakes and ponds are great allies in controlling the mosquito population; patrolling the shadows they drag their prey down to a watery death. I feel they need their own cheerleading squad just for that!



Don't be fooled into thinking that exploring watery worlds is just child's play. During my last pond adventure, I stumbled upon the delicate shells of Dragonfly exoskeletons perched on a dancing reed and wanted to investigate. These vacant shells capture the moment when a drab water-dwelling nymph blossoms into a dazzling airborne adult! After spending up to four years underwater, Dragonfly nymphs drag themselves from their murky abode to emerge. It's a laborious task as the wannabe adult pulls its body free of its extra tight casing. Imagine struggling to get out of a body suit that's three sizes too small and you'll get the drift! At some point the insect falls backwards hanging vertically upside-down exposing a squishy body to opportunistic predators. Using a last burst of energy, it sways pendulum like gathering enough momentum to swing itself back upright. Once free of its casing, the soft, wrinkled body slowly hardens and delicate wings stiffen and unfurl. In time pale, teneral body colours are replaced with vivid blues, greens or reds as full adult colouration is gained. It's a blockbuster makeover that makes this tiny critter one of nature's grandest transformers.



Migrant Hawker Dragonfly

This summer we invite you to embark on a wild journey at Titchwell Marsh reserve where the whole family can let loose their inner wildlings! Dive into pond exploration, hunt for mini-beasts, search for beach treasures and enjoy an unforgettable outdoor escapade! Swing by and snag one of our adventure kits at the Welcome Hub or sign up for a Family Activity Day! There's something for everyone no matter how many candles are on your birthday cake! What could be more fantastic this summer than creating epic family memories with a day at Titchwell Marsh?

Check out our events page at Family Activity Day (rspb.org.uk)

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Wendy Warner's plant of the month - Autumn Crocus

Unlike many bulbs or corms that need to be planted a season ahead of flowering, Autumn Crocus will flower within a few weeks of being planted once they become available for purchase in August. Colchicum which are collectively known as Autumn Crocus are actually members of the lily family. They flower in September and October without any leaves, hence one of their common names being "Naked Ladies"! The goblet-shaped flowers which can be white, pink or purple, and 15cm to 25cm tall, will last for some weeks yet their leaves only appear in winter and should be left until midsummer when they die down naturally. For this reason, positioning is important and they wouldn't want to be grown in a prime position in the border unless you wanted to look at plain green, strappy leaves through spring and early summer. The bulbs need a drier summer rest before early autumn rains trigger the new flowers.

Colchicum grow well in moist but free-draining soil in dappled shade or sun. They look good naturalised in grass (if it can be left unmown throughout the Spring), beneath trees or in borders. Colchicum cilicicum 'Purpureum' has rosy purple single flowers, 'Waterlily' has dramatic double pink flowers resembling those of a waterlily, white varieties are also available.

Just to confuse things further Autumn-flowering Crocuses are actually crocuses! They are very similar in looks to spring-flowering crocus with flowers 10cm to 15cm tall. Like Colchicum their flowers appear before their leaves but they prefer a sunny position and strongly dislike wet soil. Plant them en masse or in drifts in borders or on rockeries and if left undisturbed they will multiply and come back year after year. Crocus kotschyanus has stunning lilac-pink flowers with a yellow centre. Crocus sativus with it's rich lavender blooms with deep purple veins has bright red stigma which are used to produce the spice saffron. You may be aware saffron is an expensive spice, but be warned, if you're thinking of going into production, it takes approximately 75,000 crocus flowers to make one pound of saffron!

Crocus 'Conqueror' has rich violet blue flowers and is one of the tallest and the earliest autumn crocuses to flower. Crocus speciosus has silvery lilac blue flowers and speciosus albus is pure white. Both open out fully on sunny days and as with all the autumn crocus and single flowered Colchicums are magnets for bees and other pollinating insects.

If not planted immediately after purchase, both colchicum and autumn crocus can flower in their packets without being in any soil! In fact, a colchicum bulb could just be placed on a windowsill and it will produce a lovely flower. Don't worry if you haven't got round to planting them and they do flower, leave the flower stem on and then plant them in the normal way and the bulb will then produce its leaves and build up its energy to flower properly the following year.



Crocus sativus



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Five west Norfolk parks awarded the coveted Green Flag Award

Five locations based in King's Lynn & Hunstanton raises prestigious Green Flag Awards after achieving international quality mark for parks and green spaces. Boston Square Sensory Garden and Heritage Gardens in Hunstanton, along with Mintlyn Crematorium, Tower Gardens and The Walks in King's Lynn have all once again received Green Flag Awards.

Cllr Bal Anota, Cabinet member for Events and Open Spaces, said: The news that five locations in west Norfolk have achieved the accreditation - the international quality mark for parks and green spaces - is testament to the hard work and dedication of the team that care for the green space so that visitors and residents alike can enjoy it. This is a well deserved win for our passionate council staff.

Keep Britain Tidy's Green Flag Award Scheme Manager, Paul Todd MBE, said: "I would like to congratulate everyone involved at the borough council on achieving a Green Flag Award once again.



These sites provide vital green space for communities in West Norfolk to socialise, enjoy nature, for children to play safely and it provides important opportunities for park users to improve their physical and mental



health.

We know that staff and volunteers work tirelessly to ensure that it maintains the high standards of the Green Flag Award, everyone involved should feel extremely proud of their achievement.

It is important that our free to use spaces are maintained to the Green Flag Award standard, making them accessible for all members of the community while ensuring the environment is protected."

The Green Flag Award scheme, managed by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy under licence from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of green spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.

Images: BCKLWN

SNETTISHAM GARDENING CLUB

At our August meeting on Wednesday 28th we will welcome Johnny Walkers of Walkers Bulbs, RHS winning growers who will talk about bulbs at RHS Shows. There may also be some to purchase.

Meetings start at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall, Old Church Road Snettisham and all are welcome.

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

The copy date for the September edition of Town and Around is Monday 12th August
editor@townandaround.net

Ceramic Tile Workshop

Ann McKimm

The HDFA has installed a new panel of Ceramic Tiles down on the Sea front. This is the work of children and adults from local schools and visitors to the Town over the past year.

This year we hope to complete two more panels of 180 Tiles and a painting workshop will be held in the Town Hall on Hub on August 21st from 11 till 1 and 2 till 4pm to help with this.

You can book in advance with The HDFA Secretary on 01485 533933 or just turn up on the day. This is completely free with all materials and tuition provided by local artist Kate Dunbar.

The tiles will go up on the sea wall near the Sailing Club. Please come along and have some fun.



Hunstanton & District Festival of Arts
HDFA
CERAMIC TILE WORKSHOP
2 Sessions:
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Wednesday 21st August
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Ann McKimm on 01485 533933

www.festival3bythesea.org

King's Lynn & Hunstanton District Council
Hunstanton Town Council
HDFA Registered Charity Number: 1044787

Northfields Allotments

Hunstanton Allotments Club has enjoyed a successful year in the 2023-2024 growing season and going forward has welcomed many new members for the current year following the retirement of several long-standing members at the turn of the year. Having had a healthy waiting list we are now, for the first time in many years, in the position of all our plots being let. We hope the new members will enjoy the benefits of a friendly community and the delight of home-produced fruit and vegetables. To crown a great year, the club is also proud to have won best "Grow your own" category in the Anglia in Bloom awards in 2023.

Situated on the edge of town behind Glebe House School, the allotments are managed by the membership in conjunction with Hunstanton Town Council and thanks to grants from the Borough Council and Hunstanton Charity Shop we have continued to develop an accessible plot with a new club house, raised beds and

an accessible greenhouse. The funding from the Borough Council went a long way towards the purchase price of an ecofriendly and accessible toilet which thanks to the significant efforts of the membership is now fully installed and commissioned (much to the relief of many members!).

While ensuring the provision of a healthy growing space for our members the situation of the allotments mean that nature also remains at the heart of what we do. Ensuring we embrace wildlife of all varieties is fundamental to the maintenance of a healthy site, be it providing plenty of food for pollinators or the joys seeing the native wildlife up close. Pheasants and partridges regularly nest on site, ponds provide habitats for all kinds of amphibians and the local raptor population are regularly seen overhead (Red Kites and Buzzards and several smaller species). The local mammals are also regular visitors to site with muntjac deer and hares being regularly seen.

NORTHFIELDS ALLOTMENTS OPEN DAY

SUNDAY 11th AUGUST 11am – 3pm

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On Sunday 11th August 2024 the club will once again throw open its gates for an open day. Visitors can enjoy the opportunity to buy freshly picked produce, home-made items and preserves, plants, second hand goods also have the chance to win prizes at the raffle stall. Delicious food from the homemade cakes stall will tempt all visitors entering the site and hot and cold drinks will be available. We look forward to welcoming allotment members, Hunstanton residents and visitors to our tranquil corner of the town.

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Campaigns update

County Councillor Alexandra Kemp, Clenchwarton and King's Lynn South

Alexandra.Kemp@norfolk.gov.uk 07920 286636



Purfleet Pantry was Highly Commended and finished in the top 3, for all England, in the Transforming Lives Category in the MJ Council Awards this year. A stunning achievement for a project up and running for just a year. A tribute to the Community of South Lynn; to the hard work of all the volunteers, to the dedication of Norfolk County Council's Nourishing Norfolk initiative, the Purfleet Trust and Borough Council. Thank you to all the residents who donate to the Pantry. This is the community helping the community. Everyone who joins – cost is £3 per year- benefits from 38% lower food bills, than at an average supermarket, low-priced furniture, household goods and clothes. Free toothbrushes and toothpaste for young people. Advice, even an Optician. As a Ward Councillor, I started the ball rolling by asking for an Affordable Food Hub here in West Norfolk when the County Council was going to put them all in other Districts. I was honoured to help Purfleet Pantry with the Dental Campaign. But this is about teamwork and partnership working across organisations. Lorraine Gore, the Borough's Chief Executive, Billie Lawlor at Nourishing Norfolk, Paula Hall, Chief Executive of the Purfleet Trust and Karen Mason, Manager of Purfleet Pantry have all worked tirelessly. Now that we have a Labour Government, we look forward to growth, prosperity and equality so that residents can afford the basics of life. The Financial Conduct Authority's recent report found in January 2024, 28% of people (14.6m) were finding it difficult to cope financially. Last year, Money and Pensions Service found that 1 in 5 people were borrowing to pay for food or essential bills. Food

prices increased 25% between January 2022 and 2024. So I am really concerned that Norfolk County Council is planning to cut the incomes of young disabled people by cutting the Minimum Income people are left to live on, after care charges.

Fighting Income Poverty at County Hall the Minimum Income Guarantee for Non-Residential Social Care

The Conservatives running Norfolk County Council, are proposing to save half a million pounds by cutting the minimum amount that disabled people of working age are allowed to keep, before they have to pay for non-residential social care or Supported Living Accommodation. County is not taking into account the effect on the parents and families, who will be under pressure to make up the shortfall. What about retired parents? Young people may have to reduce their Care and access to the Community. I have tabled Questions to the County Scrutiny Committee. County has to cut £188 million over the next 4 years. But it is unconscionable to take from the most vulnerable. The Conservative Cabinet agreed without a murmur to write a cheque for £1.54 million overspend, on a budget of £12.4 million that has just spiralled to £14.2 million – to transplant the Lynn Library from purpose-built Carnegie to a concrete shell. Under the first proposal, disabled people up to Pension Credit Age would lose £16.40 of the Minimum Income Guarantee. Under the second option, people aged 25 up to Pension Credit Age would lose £16.40, but young people aged 18-24 would lose £39.35. A huge amount. County says it is bringing the Minimum Income Guarantee in line with national standards, but the cost of living in isolated rural Norfolk can be high. In this cost of living crisis, every penny counts. Option 1: Reduce the Minimum Income Guarantee for 18-year-old to pension age from current NCC rate of £187.13 to government rates for 25-year old to pension age £171.75 • Option 2: Reduce to the government rate for people aged 25 to pension age of £171.75 and, also introduce a reduced rate for people aged 18 to 24 of £150.25. The ramifications are complex. Norfolk County Council says that some disabled young people could lose as much as £40-£50 per week.

Doctors in the Hub Campaign

I have written to the new Labour Government to ask for GP's in the new £12 million Health Hub being built in South Lynn. Campaigned for, as the replacement surgery for St James' move out to Wootton, but the NHS announced there would be no doctors in it. A bit like building a restaurant without a kitchen. Evidence is residents in deprived areas miss timely diagnosis of serious illness, due to poor access to GP Surgeries. We need doctors in the hub. A recent advertisement for a hospital doctor produced 650 applicants. Make the Hub into a Training Practice to convert qualified doctors into GP's.



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NORFOLK HOLIDAY HOMES

Seriously, this month.....Wheelchair accessibility

Sandra Hohol, 01485 534267 info@norfolkholidayhomes.agency www.norfolkholidayhomes.agency

I have just returned from a week in North Wales after staying in a lovely barn conversion which ticked all the boxes especially as my husband uses a wheelchair.

However, what did not tick boxes, were the amount of places in the area (plus other parts of Wales), which did not have wheelchair access or accessible toilets. This applied especially to pubs and restaurants. We managed after making phone calls when planning our days out but no one should have to.

So, I set about investigating nearer to home. Asking the internet to find 'pubs in Norfolk with disabled access' brings up 27 pubs with links to their respective websites (I am sure there are more but this was a start). Click on these and you get their facilities which are obviously just filled in from a 'tick' box form including 'Wheelchair Access'. I may be being pedantic but does this include a wheelchair accessible car park? Wheelchair accessible entrance (no threshold or a small one)? Wheelchair accessible toilets? Wheelchair accessible eating area and/or entrance to outside eating space?

This also applies to places of interest. Many places on line and in their literature have details about accessible toilets and parking and clearly state what they do and don't have. I imagine they have to comply with certain legal standards to meet public safety and accessibility etc. I have not looked into these legal details. Please note that I am not 'tarring everyone with the same brush'.

If only every place which deals with hospitality and the public could actually state what they have? Wheelchair users and less able persons may be the minority but they still want to be able to visit places and not be limited. I get many guests who always ask questions about toilet facilities, access, places to visit etc, where they WILL be able to visit comfortably.

Again, this also applies to holiday homes. We try to outline if properties will suit less able guests and can usually answer most questions or have our own to ask to find the most suitable property. There are of course quality standards to comply with via Quality In Tourism if a property owner wishes to go down the inspection/grading route. New private property owners please take note and I will check new properties when enrolling on our register, when I make my initial inspection. Wet rooms are particularly lacking in holiday homes by the way. A large shower may be able to take a shower chair but the high threshold into it will not help.

Going out to eat - the menu and surroundings may be attractive and appealing with top notch design but if we come there, can we use the loo?

I am shouting out to shop owners, holiday home owners, pubs, restaurants, everyone in the hospitality industry in fact - if you are able to state on the front page of your literature/website if you have/or have not got wheelchair accessible toilets plus accessible entrances and no steps. Also helpful is if you state that you have accessible parking which usually means that a wheelchair is easily pushed to the destination building. (No gravel/stones/cobbles). Saying you are 'Wheelchair Accessible' is clearly not enough information. You may be able to get a wheelchair through the door, but are there suitable toilets facilities all via a flat surface?

As I said disabled persons may be in the minority - about a quarter of people of the UK population are disabled but they are still people who want to do the same as everyone else.

Public toilets with accessible toilets..... another thorny subject. By the way - dog friendly information is more common than disabled accessibility info!



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NEWS FROM BRANCASTER VILLAGE HALL (BVH)

Geoff Wingrove

The early summer has been a very busy time for BVH. Following the D-Day 80th Commemoration, BVH welcomed a hungry crowd to the Thai Food Night; there has also been a darts tournament and the screening of the Euros. BVH has also become the home for a few weeks to two local artists in residence, who have been running an Open Studio between July 1st and 31st.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Brancaster Summer Party will be held on Saturday 3rd August: as usual there will be a Cake Competition, based this year on an Olympic theme. There will be two classes, adults and children up to 14 years old.

REGULAR GROUPS

Yoga, Baby and Toddler Group, Coffee Morning and Mobile Library continue. Full details can be found on our website at www.brancastervillagehall.communitybookings.co.uk or on Facebook and Instagram. For enquiries, please contact us at bvhsetup@gmail.com

BAR 71

A full programme continues at Bar 71, with darts, skittles, snooker and Quiz Nights. Come along and enjoy two new beers – Skittle from Moongazer and Hazy Day from Greene King.

FROM THE BRANCASTER VILLAGE HALL ARCHIVE: BRANCASTER BABY AND TODDLER GROUP



One of the most important functions of a village hall is to provide a safe and secure environment for villagers to meet, either to socialise or to take part in leisure or learning activities. Brancaster Village Hall (BVH) has a long and distinguished history of providing such opportunities, which have done so much for community cohesion, as well as offering entertainment and serving village needs. The Trustees of BVH have taken account of these requirements in their strategic plan for the facility and take every opportunity to promote these factors. I have been fortunate to attend part of a couple of sessions of the Brancaster Baby and Toddler Group (BB&TG) and have experienced at first hand the value it offers to local parents/carers and children.

This group is one of the established users of BVH; it has been meeting for a number of years, providing an essential service to parents/carers in Brancaster and the surrounding area. The BB&TG meets every Tuesday between 9.30 and 11.30am, including during the school holidays, and is open to any parent or carer to come along with their child(ren) for the whole or a part of the session and to join in the activities on offer.

The group provides an opportunity for parents/carers of babies and very young children (ages 0-5 years) to access a number of benefits for their youngsters and themselves, with older siblings welcome during holiday time. Being in a small village environment can be a little restricting for very young children before they reach nursery age: moreover, Brancaster Primary School does not currently have a nursery, so the nearest such facilities are at Docking or Hunstanton.

Both the ability and opportunity for young children to socialise with their peers – to play and learn developmental and social skills – are crucial. The recent Covid lockdown across the country has clearly demonstrated that the effect on this age group of removing peer contact and opportunities for play has been disastrous. Being able to play with other youngsters is an essential stage in child development; it is also important in enabling children to acquire social, learning and manipulative skills. The BB&TG provides great opportunities, offering as it does a range of equipment and educational toys in a safe and secure environment where children can really express themselves.

The BB&TG offers a warm, friendly and welcoming atmosphere which is completely relaxed. Parents/carers accompany their children and participate in their play and learning; the group currently caters for up to 30 children at any one time. The experience includes the routine of sitting at table and taking refreshments together: this again is an important part of socialising, where children learn to share, take turns and be aware of other children's needs.

The other important aspect to this group is the experience it provides for the parents/carers: those with young children can also feel somewhat isolated in a small village environment. The opportunity to mix with other parents/carers, exchange views and information helps to make people feel part of the community and enables them to find out about what is going on in the village. Parents/carers can also learn from each other about the developmental and social skills that are so essential for their children to acquire.

The BB&TG is keen to expand by extending its reach into the local community and is seeking grant funding to increase the range of toys and educational/learning tools as well as extra seating appropriate for the age group. Music has recently been introduced as an additional activity, so the purchase of basic instruments suitable for the very young would be a great advantage. The group has recently welcomed Hartbeeps North Norfolk with interactive music sessions, Go Awesome with a Balloon and Magic Show and 1st Academy of Dance with a Dance Party. The BB&TG would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to hold an event or run an activity within the group's time. The BB&TG is also keen to provide outdoor activities when the weather allows, and to organise a summer event for the children. Membership of the group, pictured here, is currently free, with a charge of £2 per family made each week to provide snacks for the children and a hot drink and biscuits for the parents and carers.

As a further initiative, the BB&TG is relaunching its baby and toddler Swap Shop and would welcome donations of items such as baby/child clothing, equipment, nappies or toys. These will be displayed on the Swap Shop table and free of charge to any parent/carer attending the BB&TG: local pick up and drop off can be arranged.

If you would like to know more, please contact Annie on 07813459049, email brancasterbabyandtoddlergroup@yahoo.co.uk or just come along on a Tuesday morning: you will be sure of a very warm welcome.





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Hunstanton Lifeboat Station

Thanks to everyone who attended our memorable celebration evening at the station, to commemorate both the 200th anniversary of the RNLI and the founding of a lifeboat service at Hunstanton.

There's a special report in this issue of Town & Around on Page 19. While much has changed since 1824, there's one thing which remains the same. Like more than 200 lifeboat stations around the coast of the UK and Ireland, we could not carry out our work without those who support the charity which saves lives at sea.

Their kindness, whether they donate or remember us in their wills helps us to remain ready to launch 24/7, 365 days a year, and ensure our crew have the equipment and training they need for their lifesaving mission.

Golfers tee'd-up an incredible £40,000 at a sponsored golf day at Hunstanton Golf Club on June 21.



The Hunstanton RNLI team who finished just outside the leader board (from left), Seamus Griffin, Bob McDonald, Jeff Lenton, Charles le Strange Meakin and Paul Searle

The event was organised by the Hunstanton and West Norfolk Lifeboat Guild. Its joint president Angie Coker said: "Hunstanton Golf Club give us the course for the day, which is unbelievable.

"It's a great course and a lot of people want to come and play on it, so we get a full entry every year."

Johnathon Jarvis is just seven years old, but with mum and dad Kayleigh and Lee he raised almost £3,000 after trekking 40 miles from his home in Upwell, near Downham Market, in early June.

Our crew were on hand to thank him for his incredible effort, when he came back to the station to hand us a cheque.

Our visits and water safety lead Kate Craven, who presented him with a special framed certificate, told him he only had to wait another 11 years before he pulls on his yellow wellies for real.

More than 180 runners also raced to Beat The Tide along the beach in June, raising £750 for our station.

West Norfolk council put on the run and its cabinet member for events Bal Anota and event organiser Roger Partridge toured the station before presenting the proceeds to the crew.



Front (from left), Roger Partridge and Bal Anota present a cheque for £750 to Jackie Merralls, from Hunstanton RNLI

Bal said afterwards: "I'm pleased that a borough council organised event can support a local team providing life-saving support along our coast. A pleasant day out at the beach can turn volatile very quickly.

"I never knew that everybody here was a volunteer - they're such a brilliant team."

As Bal and Roger heard, we're also a very busy team. It takes a lot of people to run a lifeboat station which operates both a fast inshore lifeboat and a search and rescue hovercraft.

They include both sea-going and shore crew, along with launch authorities and tractor drivers.

Our station visits team, outreach and shop volunteers also play vital supporting roles.

All are in turn supported by the Hunstanton and West Norfolk Lifeboat Guild, which organises events to help fund our work.

If you'd like to find out more about joining our team, we train on Sunday mornings when you're welcome to come and see us at the station. Or you can e-mail hunstanton@rnli.org.uk

Stay Safe, Respect the Sea

Hunstanton RNLI

Pictures: RNLI/Chris Bishop

NATIONAL COASTWATCH INSTITUTION (NCI) BRANCASTER

As to incidents, the summer has so far proved very quiet, although the service continues to remain constantly vigilant. The beach has attracted many visitors on sunny days which have, up until now, been few and far between. Whilst there have been no new joiners since the last report, two Watchkeepers, Steph and Andy, have successfully completed their certification assessment: congratulations to them both and to their trainers, John G and Frazer, for doing such a good job.

The station passed a full Declared Facility Status assessment last month with flying colours. This is an important accreditation process that evaluates and assesses facilities and standards at the station. Successful completion means that NCI Brancaster has reached the standards required to become an integral part of the UK Search and Rescue Service, which includes HM Coastguard and the RNLI and reflects all the hard work and dedication of our volunteers.

We are most grateful to Brancaster Parish Council for a very generous grant which has supported the operation of the station and the much-needed VHF radio training and licence for our volunteers.

The picture shows Watchkeepers Andy T and Bob E on duty at the Brancaster NCI station. For further information about NCI Brancaster, please contact Richard Burrows, Deputy Station manager and Watchkeeper on 07535 612777. You can also find us on Facebook, if you search NCI Brancaster.



Hunstanton Lifeboat Sandcastle Competition Wednesday 7th August 2024

Start 2pm, registration from 1.30pm. Entry £1 only.

On the beach at Old Hunstanton in front of the RNLI boathouse and shop.

Everyone welcome, especially families with children. The competition lasts for about an hour (weather permitting) and is in three age groups. Prizes will be vouchers for the RNLI shop. Parking available at the Le Strange car park.



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Ruby Goold

The Kings Lynn Corn Exchange hosted over 90 Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers from the Snettisham, Sandringham, Dersingham and Gayton units.

On arrival, the atmosphere was buzzing with excitement about the upcoming movie and the air was filled with the delightful aroma of popcorn.

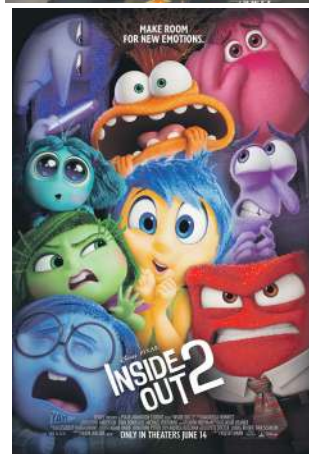


The girls had a blast at the movie-style photo booth, sharing giggles and capturing memorable moments before settling down with their snacks and drinks to watch the screening.

It was a fun-packed afternoon, during which our groups could come together and watch a film in a lovely, comfortable, modern cinema.

Thank you to the Kings Lynn Corn Exchange and all the girls and volunteers who came.

For more info on becoming part of Girlguiding you can register your



interest on girlguiding.org.uk or for any information please feel free to contact me at ruby.goold@girlguiding-anglia.org.uk

Hunstanton Brownies and Guides

Wow - what a busy summer term Hunstanton Brownies and Guides have had.

We took 12 Brownies away on a pack holiday for 3 nights, the Brownies made a lovely apple Crumble, took part in sewing & completed the first aid badge.

Guides have been busy completing their first aid and feel good badges, tie-dying bag, sewing and have been on a guide camp for 4 nights in Norwich.

We also have some joint events together, we entered into Hunstanton Carnival and won the most imaginative award for our Guiding through the years float - Picture below and we finished this term with a Roller Skating meeting.

If you have a daughter aged 7-10 years (Brownies) or 10-4 years (Guides) and they would love to have some fun, make friends and learn new skills - please register their interest at <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child/> or contact Sarah Dennis-Burrell.



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The Dark Skies of West Norfolk

Terry Parish

Time rolls on and it doesn't seem a year since I was telling you to look out for the Perseid meteor shower. Front runners have been hitting Earth's atmosphere for the last few weeks, but the peak is on the night of the 12th-13th. Over the years, I have seen hundreds, a handful, or none (clouded out). This year is, potentially, a good year to look up as the Moon sets at 11pm so its light will not wash the fainter meteor trails out. Don't despair if that is past your bedtime as you just need to look away from the Moon or between the clouds from about 9pm. The later you can stay up then the better the show. Turn any outside lights off and tell your neighbours to do the same.



The Perseids in a dark sky. The Milky Way provides a backdrop. Internet

The streaks of light caused by dust particles burning up in the upper atmosphere can appear anywhere in the sky. Lying on your back looking straight up is a good idea but I always manage standing or sitting with my back towards the lightest part of the sky and observing the 180° in front of me. Occasionally I will whip around to catch out the magnificent display going on behind my back, but I always seem to miss it. We are in meteor season due to the number of showers which peak through autumn and into winter. A dark, clear, sky should always have a meteor trail if you are prepared to spend a few hours looking up when the sky is dark, but the Perseids guarantee success for minimum effort. Take it!

What else to see? The planets are about but it is early morning observations to see the best of them. Venus is an exception as it sets, goes below the horizon, at 9pm. However, it is low in the sky in the west where the Sun is, so its brilliance, magnitude -3.9, is lost against the light sky. Binoculars will reveal it, or a good pair of eyes, but be very careful and let the Sun vanish before you start looking. On the 5th, a very slim crescent Moon will be to the left of the Goddess of Love.

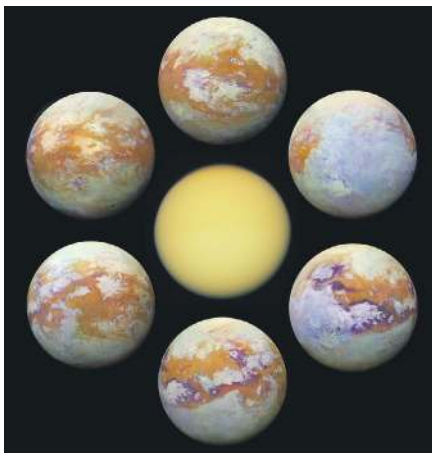
The ringed planet, Saturn, rises in the east around 9pm but don't start looking for it until 11pm when it will be low in the ESE. Search for a pale yellow dot which looks mysterious – certainly not a star. My view to the east is blocked by my roof and I have to wait a couple of hours for planets to pop above the ridge. If I stand in front of my house and look across the road, then I can often glimpse a

planet between buildings earlier. Make the most of whatever location you are in.



*Saturn from Hubble.
Tell me if you see it this good.*

Saturn is always worth looking at through a telescope. A birding scope will do, and it doesn't have to be an expensive one. The rings will be discerned and a first sight of them always grips the observer because they are, unsurprisingly, unworldly. Rings aren't unique to Saturn, Uranus and Neptune have them too but theirs are less extensive and made of dark dust which doesn't reflect light well. Saturn's are composed of reflective icy particles and are visible from Earth. A good telescope will reveal a spark close to Saturn, this is Titan the second largest moon in the Solar System after Jupiter's Ganymede. The Dutch astronomer Christiaan Huygens discovered Titan in 1655 some 45 years after Galileo's revelations about the moons of Jupiter.



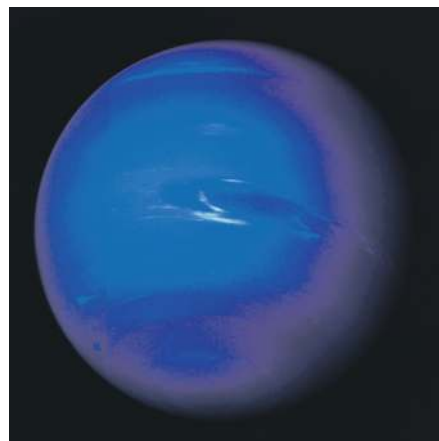
Six images of Titan created from data collected by an infra-red camera on Cassini. It took a long time to integrate the information. Infra-red penetrates the murk surrounding the planet.

Titan is bigger than the planet Mercury but far less massive as it is composed of mainly icy materials rather than rock and metals. It is very cold, -179°C, and has a dense atmosphere of nitrogen with methane and ethane clouds. Pools of these are on the surface forming lakes and seas and there is weather like Earth's though the rain is not water but liquid methane. A probe, Huygens,

landed on Titan in 2005. It was despatched from Cassini a joint NASA ESA mission to Saturn which functioned between 2004 and 2017.

If you are up at 4am on the 21st then look at the Moon and find Saturn. At around 4.28am the Moon will pass in front, occult it. Occultations are what astronomers seek out when there is nothing better to look for.

Neptune rises at 9.30pm but the most distant planet, with a magnitude of +7.7, really does need a telescope. Try looking ESE at 11pm. It will be to the left of Saturn by the width of a good fist at arm's length. I have seen its blueish disc hanging in space quite a few times when it is 'closest' to the Earth at around 2.7 billion miles. It is an ice giant, a little smaller than the similar, closer, Uranus. On the 21st at 10.30pm, look to the Moon and go above it by about 1/6th of its diameter. A telescope will find Neptune.



Neptune taken by Voyager 2. Voyager is the only craft to have visited Neptune. It is now in deep space.



Impression of Voyager2 at Neptune 35 years ago on August 25th. Voyager is the only craft to have visited Neptune. It is now in deep space.

Uranus rises at 11.30 and will have a magnitude of +5.8 which is just outside the limits of good eyesight so decent, steady, binoculars should find it. You can use an app to locate it but look low in the ENE and then further west and higher as the night progresses. It is just to the right, and a little

below, the Pleiades star cluster – the smudge most people can see.

Jupiter will rise in the ENE after midnight and will be a bright -2.2 magnitude. It will rise a little earlier as the month progresses and will be seen at 11.45pm on the last day. Remember it must clear whatever is in your line of sight and will generally be high enough about an hour later. The red dot of Mars rises just before Jupiter and is to its right early in the month but the relative orbital speeds of Earth,

Mars and Jupiter move it eastwards and it is very close to Jupiter on the 15th from 1am onwards. This is called a conjunction and they are much better than occultations, two planets for the price of one observation.

Mars has a magnitude of +0.9 which is 20 times fainter than Jupiter. Remember that the magnitude scale is logarithmic (small changes make a big difference) and that negative magnitudes are brighter than positive ones.

And, if you greet clear skies before sunrise

on the 27th and 28th, look up and see a Crescent Moon, Jupiter, Mars, The Pleiades star cluster, and Aldebaran the orange star which is a 'rival to Mars.'

Keep scanning binoculars along the Milky Way which should be visible as a pale wash of light running north south even in our increasingly light polluted skies. And the Perseids meteors should be worth a few hours in the garden or even hanging out of a window with the lights turned off.

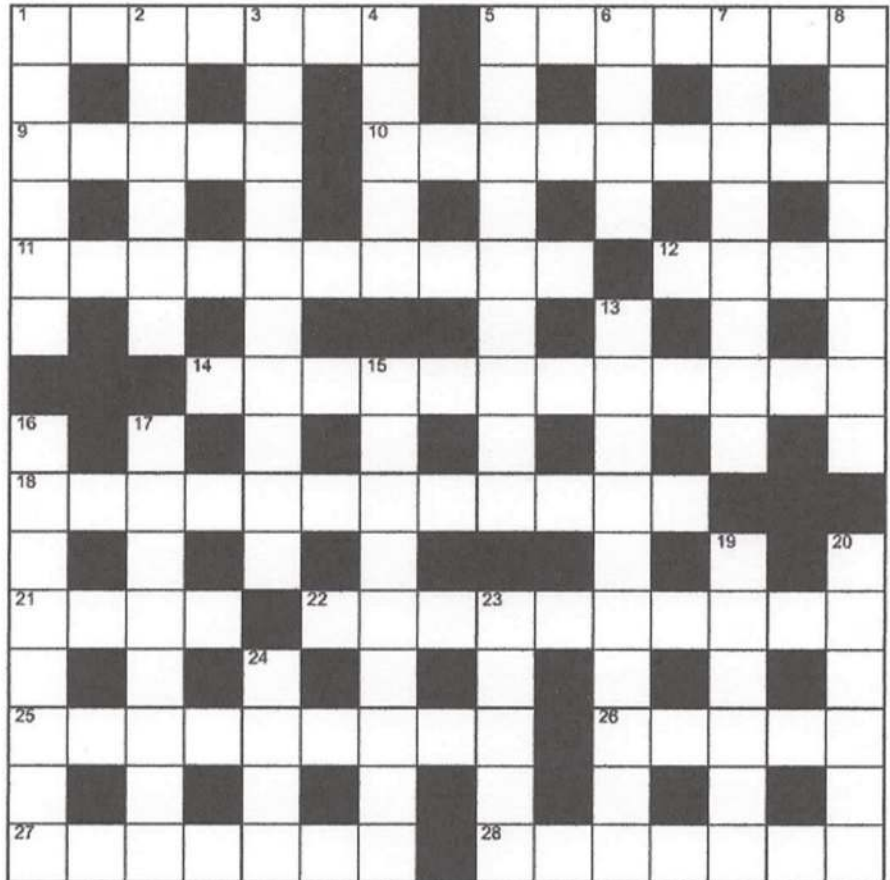
David Elsey's cryptic crossword

Across

1. Nelly has row at golf club (7)
5. Composer considers withholding score (7)
9. Must use boat to get around in (5)
10. French ruler can't bother to get in shape (9)
11. Thoroughly unpleasant woman, often drunk (6,4)
12. Australian spinner is on (4)
14. Give recent ballad a new arrangement for performer (6,6)
18. Trying to fence boundary is too much (12)
21. Looking uncertain, starts party game (4)
22. Notwithstanding slight disagreement, giving discount (5,5)
25. A short stay (9)
26. One's poor use of argument (5)
27. Back Cockney runner to finish first (7)
28. Succeed in part with appeal (7)

Down

1. Had a go bargaining over a memorial shrine in Sri Lanka (6)
2. One needs to block unacceptable idea (6)
3. Grey and almost bald, needing a makeover on the whole (2,3,5)
4. Cut off the odd loose thread (5)
5. Belted coat, red and yellow, one does up (9)
6. Relax line on account of fish moving around (4)
7. Major with baton may be seen as a threat (3,5)
8. They aren't woke, but appear on track to offer support (8)
13. Making full use of allowance after day at university (10)
15. See latest loan on country house extending well into the future (4-5)
16. Gather together at old king's church around the beginning of April (8)
17. Reel after first blow to face (8)
19. A small business provided backing before complete failure (6)
20. Renounce Green plan on energy (6)
23. Small-time kind of deal could be the last (5)
24. Service return, following ace, is a long way off (4)



Learn something different this August

There are lots of new things to learn and enjoy in August with the HDFA.

There is a new series of Arts and Dance workshops for both adults and children based either at the Community Centre or the Town Hall Hub.

Starting 7th August and again on 15th August there's a watercolour workshop for beginners from 10 till 4pm with a qualified tutor. Cost £20 at the Town Hall Hub. Please bring your own materials.

8th August there's a Space themed creative words and movement workshop for 6 to 11 year olds. This costs £10 per session and lasts from 2 till 4pm at the Hunstanton Community Centre.

14th August there's Learn a Basic Jive Workshop from 2 till 3pm at the Community Centre. This is for active adults and will cost £10. Per session.

21st August there are two Sea Wall Ceramic Tile painting workshops at the Hub. This one is free with all materials supplied and suitable for both children and adults.

22nd August There is a Bollywood Dance Workshop for adults from 2 till 3pm at the Community Centre. Cost £10, materials provided.

25th August there is Folk on The Green at the bandstand. This is an open mike event for local bands and singers or just come along and watch.

Finally on August 31st there is the popular Craft Fair full of beautiful hand made goods at Hunstanton Town Hall from 10 till 4pm. Please book in advance via the www.festival3bythesea.org website to secure your place or you can turn up on the day.



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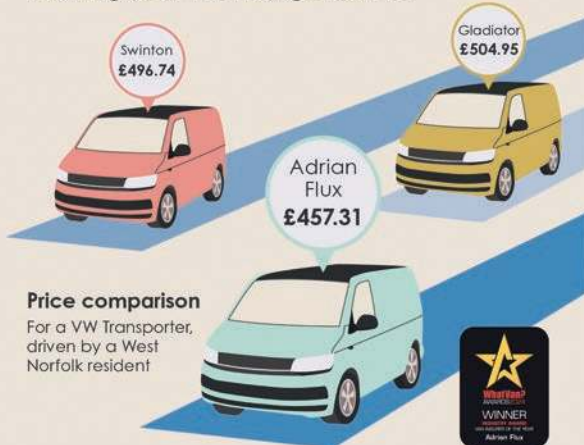


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A Spotlight on Thurlow Nunn MG in King's Lynn

Nestled in the heart of Kings Lynn, Thurlow Nunn MG represents more than just another dealership—it epitomises a legacy of dedication to the automotive world and a genuine commitment to customer satisfaction. Since the opening of their MG showroom in October 2023, the team has not only embraced the iconic MG brand but has also continued Thurlow Nunn's tradition of exceptional service, reflecting a family culture that has thrived for nearly 150 years.

A Rich History of Service

The story of Thurlow Nunn began in 1875 in Stowmarket, initially as an oil merchant. Through the decades, the company evolved and diversified. By 1970, it had ventured into the agricultural sector as a Massey Ferguson site. Twelve years later, a pivotal move saw the acquisition of the first Vauxhall dealership in Stowmarket, laying the foundation for its expansion into the automotive sector. Today, Thurlow Nunn proudly operates 12 Vauxhall dealerships, 2 Peugeot dealerships, and, most recently, the MG dealership in Kings Lynn. This historical journey underpins their profound understanding of the automotive industry and a deep-rooted commitment to their customers.

Meet the Enthusiastic Team



Ryan Albone, MG Sales Manager

Ryan Albone, the MG Sales Manager at Thurlow Nunn Kings Lynn, brings over a decade of experience in the automotive industry to his role. Having spent the last two years specifically with MG, Ryan has cultivated a deep appreciation for the brand's evolution and its modern offerings.

"My favourite MG in the range is the MG4, and of course, the MG4 XPower is my favourite model," Ryan shares with enthusiasm. "The 0-60 acceleration would put a smile on anyone's face." His passion for the MG brand is palpable and is mirrored in the exceptional service he provides. Ryan's tenure at Thurlow Nunn has been marked by a commitment to fostering a family-like atmosphere within the team, ensuring that every customer experience is as enjoyable as it is satisfying. The numerous positive Google Reviews serve as a testament to the quality of service Ryan and his team strive to deliver.



Sophie Willoughby, Sales Executive

Sophie Willoughby, who has been with Thurlow Nunn for two years and MG since its inception in Kings Lynn, brings a wealth of experience and expertise to her role. With seven years in the automotive industry and specialised Motability training since 2019, Sophie has successfully delivered over 300 Motability vehicles, reflecting her dedication to meeting the unique needs of each customer. "MG has a fantastic range to meet the needs of every driver," Sophie states proudly. Her deep understanding of the Motability scheme and her commitment to customer satisfaction ensure that every client, regardless of their needs, receives the best possible service and guidance.



Richard Tasker, Sales Executive

Richard Tasker, another integral member of the team, has been involved in the automotive industry since 2013, with a brief interlude in estate agency. His passion for cars drew him back to the industry, and he eagerly joined Thurlow Nunn's MG division.

"I have a passion for cars and missed the industry whilst out selling houses," Richard reflects. "When the opportunity arose with Thurlow Nunn to move to MG, I jumped at the chance. The brand has been fantastic, and our customers seem so pleased there is now a representative in Norfolk with strong family values." Richard's enthusiasm and commitment to customer service resonate with the values that Thurlow Nunn holds dear.

The newest addition to the team, Zay Boxall, brings a fresh perspective and a keenness to prove his expertise in the automotive sector. Like Sophie, Zay is also Motability trained and is excited to contribute to the team's success.

"I'm the newest member of the team, but I'm

keen to show my experience and knowledge with future customers," Zay shares. Her eagerness to learn and grow within the MG family reflects the welcoming and supportive environment that Thurlow Nunn fosters.



Zay Boxall, Sales Executive

The MG Experience

Thurlow Nunn MG in Kings Lynn offers an extensive range of MG vehicles that cater to a diverse array of drivers. From the compact and stylish MG3 to the family-friendly MG ZS EV, the dealership provides models that blend practicality with modern design and technology. The MG4, Ryan's favourite, stands out with its dynamic performance and innovative features, making it a popular choice among enthusiasts and everyday drivers alike.

The MG4 XPower, with its thrilling 0-60 acceleration, exemplifies the brand's commitment to combining fun with functionality. This model is a perfect representation of MG's modern evolution, appealing to those who crave a blend of performance and practicality.

A Culture of Customer-Centricity

Thurlow Nunn's commitment to customer satisfaction is not just a corporate mantra but a lived experience. This dedication is evident in the glowing reviews and feedback from their clientele. The team's passion for their work and their drive to ensure every customer leaves the showroom happy is at the core of their operations.

The family culture at Thurlow Nunn, as Ryan mentions, is about more than just business; it's about building lasting relationships with their customers. This ethos is what sets Thurlow Nunn MG apart and ensures that every interaction is positive and memorable.

Visit Thurlow Nunn MG

Located at Campbells Meadow, Kings Lynn, PE30 4YN, Thurlow Nunn MG invites you to explore their showroom and meet the dedicated team. Whether you're in the market for a new vehicle or simply curious about what MG has to offer, the team at Thurlow Nunn is ready to assist you with enthusiasm and expertise.

"I look forward to meeting you in our Kings Lynn showroom soon," says Ryan Albone, echoing the welcoming spirit that defines Thurlow Nunn MG. Their commitment to exceptional service and customer satisfaction promises a dealership experience that is as enjoyable as it is fulfilling.

See also pages 40-41

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Change of Command for the Night Owls

John Maiden

Anyone who lived in or around Hunstanton in the 1950's will realise why my hometown rejoiced in the name of "Little America". Living at 79 Westgate (where the Sue Ryder shop now occupies the ground floor) my family was surrounded by families of USAF servicemen based at RAF Sculthorpe. My mother would often be called upon to baby sit for these lucky Americans, who could see what a good job she had done in raising three fine offspring of her own.

It was while on leave from the RAF that friendship with my USAF neighbours led to a mildly amusing incident. Dressed almost entirely in American clothing, and sporting a crew cut, crafted by my Irish friend, Lorcan O'Sullivan a barber at RAF Sculthorpe, that I was challenged by the US Air Police. Their patrol car pulled up alongside me as I was walking up Westgate and a voice said: "Hey Buddy, you know it breaches the dress code to wear Levis off the base!" To which I replied: "I am not one of your guys," in my best English accent.

It should be noted that I was not alone in dressing like a 'yank', but for their part many of our USAF friends were doing their best to integrate with the local population. This was made easier for them following the shared experience of the 1953 Floods, and the lives that were saved by two members of the USAF who were both awarded the George Medal for their bravery. Of course, it is well known that they were not the only ones to risk their lives in trying to save others on that dreadful January night, but Reis Leming and Freeman A Kilpatrick fully deserved the special recognition they received.

Sixty years later, RAF Flt Sgt Mark Service, the official historian of the USAF 67th Air Rescue Squadron, asked me if Hunstanton would like to be involved in celebrating the 60th anniversary of the squadron, by then renamed the 67th Special Operations Squadron, also known as the 'Night Owls' and based at RAF Mildenhall in Suffolk.

To prove that the renewed special relationship is of a permanent nature, last Tuesday afternoon was spent with my good friends David Jones and Jilly Hall, in the



*Lt Col Michael Bein
and Lt Col Christopher Beets*

company of the present generation of USAF personnel and their families at RAF Mildenhall, where the Night Owls were holding a Change of Command Ceremony, at which Lt Col Michael Bein handed over to Lt Col Christopher Beets. According to my records, Lt Col Beets is the ninth person to command the 67th since Hunstanton was invited to rekindle the special bond between town and squadron. For this reason, it was really good to have Hunstanton's current mayor, Michael Ruston at the ceremony, and I wonder how long it will be before the 67th is invited back to Hunstanton, in recognition of the unique twinning of the Victorian seaside town of Hunstanton with the USAF



Lt Col Christopher Beets

67th Special Operations Squadron. Come to think of it, ten years ago this October the Night Owls were granted the Freedom of Hunstanton, so perhaps it is time to invite them back to exercise that Freedom?



Across: 1. Dingbat, 5. Delibes, 9. Gotta, 10. Rectangle, 11. Bloody Mary, 12. Atop, 14. Ballet dancer, 18. Overgenerous, 21. Ludo, 22. Brush aside, 25. Stiffener, 26. Issue, 27. Endorse, 28. Winsome
Down: 1. Dagoba, 2. Notion, 3. By and large, 4. Thrum, 5. Decorator, 6. Loaf, 7. Big stick, 8. Sleepers, 13. Saturation, 15. Long-range, 16. Coalsece, 17. Headwind, 19. Fiasco, 20. Renege, 23. Straw, 24. Afar

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Can a painting be described as a Rhapsody? In music the term is used to describe something irregular in form, an improvisation. So, yes. If George Gershwin can use the colour blue to describe his rhythmic jazzy 'Rhapsody' then 'Rhapsody in Green' can be used to describe my painting of barleycorn blowing in the wind.



I'm Barbara King and I'm re-examining my paintings with the intention of showing the symbiosis between visual art and music and how there can be a crossover between the two disciplines. There is much precedent for this for example James McNeill Whistler's beautiful portrait of a 'pre-Raphaelite' girl entitled 'Symphony in White'. Both Joan Miro and Chopin had their 'Nocturnes'.

Debussy had two 'arabesques', utilising a word used to describe the intertwining plant and abstract designs of Islamic art for his sinuous and flowing piano melodies. Mussorgsky's 'Pictures at an Exhibition' (from where I pinched my title) is a piano suite with ten movements each inspired by artworks seen at an exhibition by Viktor Hartman.

And that's before one contemplates 'synaesthesia' whereby the brain engages two or more unrelated senses to process information as with Kandinsky, famous 20th century painter, who claimed to could hear colours and would actively set out to paint pictures which would stimulate both aural and optical senses.

And so my 'concerto' of paintings for which I am the conductor, will be set out in movements, and will include a red hot 'Tango' of Valerian, a 'Crescendo' of Rosebay Willowherb full of 'bravura' with undertones of Creeping Thistle, 'Major' and 'Minor' harmonic landscapes, 'Nocturnes' with fireworks and 'symphonic abstracted patterned reflections on water' – expressive and 'agitato'. Maybe even a playful scherzo section of dancing figures.

Musical terminology is such a rich and

expressive resource drawing on our fundamental instinct for music, that I think its employment in the description of paintings may be transformational and enhancing.

I am also hoping to create a 'fugue' or two, (a theme repeated and developed by different parts throughout the piece) and some new experimental works for which I will take the musical definition, e.g. 'glissando' and 'capriccio', as the starting point. Definitions of the terms will be included on the labels along with 'etudes' from my sketchbooks, showing the initial ideas and sketches for the paintings – preludes to the final composition.

Finally, poetry, lyricism in words, will also be represented with individual poems by Michael King (www.fabtimes.com) placed alongside some of the paintings to further enrich your experience.

I hope I will have the pleasure of seeing you and hearing your thoughts on whether the addition of evocative musical terminology enhances your understanding, appreciation – or otherwise – and your all-round experience of these 'Pictures at an Exhibition'. Why not bring your favourite piece of music and we will try and match a painting to it!

<http://www.barbaraking.co.uk>

<http://www.instagram.com/bekinstag>



Snettisham RBL

June Barrett

Standard Bearer Ted Barrett represented Snettisham RBL at The Royal Norfolk Show on 27th June and seen here chatting to Duke of Edinburgh.



Hunstanton Business Needs Survey

In 2018 Focus Consultants produced a report on behalf of the Borough Council, to consider the needs of businesses in Hunstanton. It looked at identifying potential demand for business start-up premises and business support services in order to provide an indication of future land and premises requirements.

A lot has changed since the issuing of this report, events locally, nationally and even internationally have had an impact on businesses in the area and we are now hoping to re-run the survey, the results of which will help inform the development of the investment priorities for the West Norfolk Economic Strategy.

The survey can be completed online at:

<https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/hunstantonbusinessneeds>

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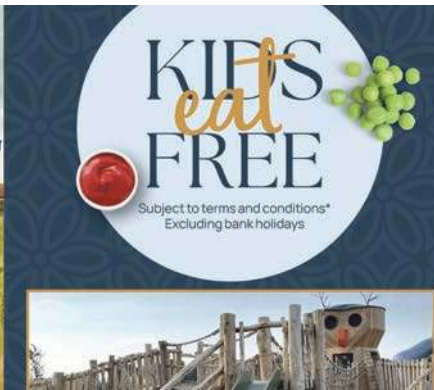


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Hospice at Home in the heart of the local community

The Norfolk Hospice Tapping House has relaunched its Hospice at Home service. The service provides care for those who wish to remain in the comfort of their own home when nearing the end of life. The teams have been restructured to offer dedicated daily visits and support for patients and their families. These registered nurses and palliative nursing assistants provide personal and clinical care along with emotional support for patients and their loved ones - day and night.



Phil's Story



Life changed in September 2015 when Glynis began experiencing symptoms. It only took a couple of weeks to get a diagnosis that she had a brain tumour.

Within a month she had an operation at Addenbrooke's. This stopped the symptoms, however, tests showed that the tumour was 'Stage 4' and we were told that she had between five and eight months to live.

We decided to fight and started a course of chemotherapy and radiotherapy. It was an exhausting nightmare travelling from Kings Lynn to Cambridge for treatment as well as the constant trips to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for blood tests and transfusions. It held the cancer at bay, although the

chemotherapy needed to stop earlier than planned because of a reaction to it. We tried again in the following spring but it didn't work and from then Glynis experienced a gradual deterioration.

We carried on as normal, still going to see friends and out for meals as much as possible. We had a great support network to help us.

By the end of October Glynis could no longer shower. She opted to be cared for at home, which was made possible thanks to the Hospice at Home team. They came in from early November and were absolute heroes. They did a really good job caring for her and supporting me. Without the guidance

they gave I would have been completely blown out of the water. I don't think you can get this level of expertise anywhere else. They never left the house until we were stable and positive. They were so knowledgeable about everything. Towards the end, they knew and helped me to prepare.

Glynis died in the following January. The district nurse came in the night she died and the Hospice at Home team came to see me the next day.

The support didn't end there though. I was offered bereavement support and saw Joanna first and then Jenny for several weeks. Jenny helped me to make a memory box which contains lots of good memories.

Our hospice at home service provides patients like Glynis with choice and control around how they would like to die and lets them prioritise what matters most to them. All of our care services are provided free of charge to people in Norfolk and North Cambridgeshire, to anyone suffering with a life limiting condition.

But, as we look to the future the state of our aging population increases the demand and need for our services both through hospice at home and on our inpatient unit. The UK population is undergoing a massive age shift. There are over 11 million people aged 65 and in ten years this will have increased to 13 million (22% of the population).

West Norfolk tends to have an older population compared to the rest of the UK – today we already have 26% of people aged over 65. Many of them have retired into the area and do not have family carers close by.

With an increasing demand and continued need for services, alongside rises in the cost to deliver services, Tapping House need the support of the community more than ever. Town and Around have chosen to support The Hospice for 2024. Thank you to all who continue to support Tapping House.

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WALK BY THE SEA TO D'FEET MND

Fifty-five enthusiastic local supporters set out to walk from Hunstanton to Heacham and back along the Prom, despite a forecast for heavy rain. Luckily the group could take shelter and sustenance in the Café at the Alive Oasis Swimming Pool beforehand, the rain easing just in time for the start, although the wind was strong.

The weather meant that visitors to Hunstanton were very thin on the ground, but nevertheless, £654.96 was collected for the Norfolk, Norwich & Waveney Branch of the MND Association to help support local people living with MND.



Most of the families walking have been affected by Motor Neurone Disease in the last few years, losing a mother, father, husband, wife, son, daughter or friends. All are keen to make a difference for those living with MND now. They were joined by members of the West Norfolk Community Neurology Team who provide amazing support to people living with MND and their families.

Despite the poor weather, £654.96 was collected for the Norfolk, Norwich & Waveney Branch of the MND Association to help support local people living with the disease.

Motor neurone disease is a fatal, rapidly progressing neurological



condition affecting up to 5,000 adults in the UK at any one time. The disease causes messages from nerves (motor neurones) in the brain and spinal cord that control movement to gradually stop reaching the muscles, leading them to weaken, stiffen and waste. The result is that people become locked in a failing body, unable to move, talk and eventually breathe.

MND kills a third of people within a year and more than half within two years of diagnosis. It affects people from all backgrounds and a person's lifetime risk of developing MND around 1 in 300. Today six people will be diagnosed and six will die from MND.

There is no cure.

Many more people are now aware of the disease due to Rob Burrow CBE, the well-known former rugby player, who described MND "First it comes for your voice. Then it takes your legs. It tries to rob you of your breath. But it can't sap your spirit."

Sadly, Rob died in early June, four and a half years after he was diagnosed, having bravely chosen to publicly share his journey with MND. He, his family and friends have inspired so many to take on fundraising or challenges and leaves an extraordinary legacy.

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Hannah Burton from Hannah's roses

I would like to thank all the kind people in and around Hunstanton, for their help in my fundraising, for "Children with Cancer" with your kind responses in your sponsoring for my dog walk this Sunday (7th July). Even though we got soaked, we still raised over £250 on the day.

I would also like to thank the gentleman across the road who came to offer tea, coffee and soup to my mum. This gentleman lives at 82 Cliff Parade. Sorry I do not know your name but the thought was very much appreciated.

Only three of us were brave enough to walk in the rain, my dog Kiwi and I and Mr and Mrs Tong and their dogs Tilly and Tupence. It was still a good day and we are still collecting for it so hopefully it will be more. I will add this to my yearly total and let you know at the end of the year what that is. The total so far is £476. And we are still collecting.

Thank you again.



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The shop that keeps on giving

Richard Bird (cub reporter)

Established just fifteen years ago, a shop in Hunstanton has recently topped £100,000 in charitable donations to various West Norfolk causes.

The brainchild of Angela and Kevin Green, the Hunstanton Charity Shop is on Westgate (opposite Sanisbury's), and is staffed entirely by volunteers who all help to choose which causes should benefit from their endeavours.

Their latest donation was £1000 to Fridham Care Home in Heacham which was spent on two specialised wheelchairs that are fully adjustable to help residents enjoy days out and improve mobility. With their large wheels and their ability to accommodate most sizes of users, the chairs are a much-needed asset to the care home.



Pictured here outside the shop are residents and helpers of the care home together with shop volunteers.

Resident (yellow hat) Valerie, Management Christine, Resident (purple coat) Christine, Young helper Bethan, Manager Angela, Coordinator Alan, Shop Bethany Green, Shop Mngnr. Sandy O'Donnell, Shop Angela Stray, Shop Angie Green, Shop Sue Jones and Shop Wendy Mottaz.

Angela Green said: "It was a pleasure to meet some of the residents and staff today from Fridham and we are so pleased that we were able to help with the wheelchairs, hopefully this will lead to lots of days out for more of the residents.

The shop is always keen to recruit more volunteers, so if you can spare a few hours to help the friendly team, please call in and talk to Angela.

Barton Bendish 14th Annual Art, Photography and Craft Exhibition and Sale

21st September 2024 10 am – 5 pm
22nd September 2024 11 am – 5 pm

Barton Bendish Village Hall and St. Andrew's Church (PE33 9GF) will be transformed into art galleries showcasing a large variety of talented local and well known Artists, Photographers and Crafters. All art exhibited is available for purchase with the proceeds to benefit St. Andrew's Church and the Village Hall.

Admission £1.00 (children free)

Home-made cakes, teas and light lunches will be available.

Contact: Liz Stephen.

Telephone No. 01366 347549

Contact email: bartonbendishevents@gmail.com

King's Lynn Heritage Open Day

Sunday 8 September, 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

King's Lynn's Heritage Open Day is part of a national fortnight of activities. This year's theme is Routes – Networks – Connections and we've got lots on offer related to it, including:

- Dr Paul Richards giving a talk on Pilgrimage in Medieval England & Europe
- an exhibition on some of the lost railways of West Norfolk
- vintage buses travelling around the town
- boats on the pontoons and the West Lynn ferry will be running
- learn how ships get safe passage up the river at the Pilots' Office.

If going up is your thing, climb the tower at the Pilots' Office or at Clifton House, or book a Bell Tower Tour at the Minster (book on the day from 11.30). If you fancy going underground, try the WWII air-raid shelters on Tuesday Market Place or the vaults at Bank House.

The Town Hall will be open, so pop in for a cup of tea raising money for the Mayor's Charity. Hop on the bus to visit the South Gate, or venture down to Hardwick Cemetery.

There is a wide range of entertainment on offer this year, including traditional folk music, re-enactors, Morris dancers, singers, talks, walks and exhibitions.

There will be stalls in King's Staithe Square, as well as entertainers, and the East Norfolk Militia will be mustering next to the Custom House. And there's a local produce market on Saturday Market Place.

Visit the ninth Borough-run Classic Car Day in Tuesday Market Place, where there is plenty to see, including the Corn Exchange, 19 Tuesday Market Place, the WWII air-raid shelters and the Pilots' Office.

Programmes will be available soon (pick up from the Tourist Information Centre – open every day 10.00–4.30) or for all of the listings, plus the bus timetable and a timetable of activities on the day, check the Civic Society webpage.

PS A lot of our buildings require stewarding. So, if you have a spare couple of hours and would like to get involved, please email info@kingslynncivicsociety.co.uk



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News from the Woottons

Richard Coates

Councillor Vacancies

No sooner did the parishes have success at filling one or two of their parish council vacancies than we're faced with a county council vacancy on the sudden passing of County Councillor John Crofts who held the Freebridge seat, which is 75% made up of The Woottons. It means there will be another by-election, probably in September. John Crofts had only been a county councillor for less than a year, following the early death of the former councillor Nick Daubney. Normally, councillors are elected for a four year term so whoever takes up the reins will serve only until May 2025 when the normal cycle of county council elections will be held throughout the country, including Norfolk. Watch out for the formal notice of election being published, probably in early August.

At the time of writing, Norfolk County Council's website still shows John Crofts as the councillor for Freebridge but no doubt someone will officially tell it that he died several weeks ago. When it does catch up, the County Council will appoint a neighbouring county councillor to deal with any queries he would have dealt with but, in the meantime, I'll be happy to deal with any problems you may have. I did this before when Nick Daubney was ill and after he died until a formal substitute was appointed so I know it can take a little time. My email address is at the bottom of this column.

Not a new care home!

There's a spare bit of land between the new St James Medical Centre and the Allison Homes housing estate that has recently started to be built off Edward Benefer Way on the edge of South Wootton. It's almost hidden from view but it's actually an even bigger site than the doctors' surgery site. It had been thought by some that there would have a care home on this site and that might almost be correct. There's now plans afoot for what's called an independent living project. Basically, it's a development of 77 social rent apartments for the over 55s. They're one

and two bedroom units set out over 3 floors and they're for those people who need care and support to enable them to continue to live independently in their own homes. They'll do this by providing care and support on site 24 hours a day if needed. Residents can live inside their own apartment if they wish with their own kitchen and bathroom or they can make use of communal facilities if they prefer. Many people will see this as a good idea. They've yet to get planning permission but, if they can do that later this year, they hope to get the detailed design sorted out and a building contractor on site by next Spring. It's a two year build contract so it would be well into 2027 before anyone could actually move in.

New homes

Whilst you're waiting to be old enough to qualify to move into the proposed independent living apartments, you might want to buy one of the many new homes that are available in South Wootton. You can have a 3 bed semi at Lavender Fields for just under £300,000 or, if you're prepared to wait whilst they get them built, which shouldn't be long now, you could spend the same money on a 3 bed semi at the new Allison Homes housing estate, right next to the independent living apartments. Both estates provide bigger houses (at bigger prices). The other new major development is off Grimston Road near Knights Hill where the temporary road has been built which is just to get the construction vehicles on to the site to build the new roundabout. Once the roundabout's been built, the temporary road will be ripped up! When I told the groundworkers who built the road with such pride, they were aghast that their care and skill would be torn up so easily. Work on the roundabout is now due to start mid July and I hope it will be complete before the autumn rains. That temporary road does have a most interesting wheel wash facility installed so we shouldn't have mud on Grimston Road. If the traffic's stopped on Grimston road as you drive by and it's safe to do so, have a look at it in operation.

Peacocks

We've all seen and admired peacocks displaying their tail feathers in the grounds of some country mansion, well now you can have your own - peacock that is, not the county mansion. Some parts of South Wootton have more peacocks (and pea hens) than they want and some residents would be more than happy if you were to entice them away to your garden. Other residents love them. Those who don't want them complain about the mess they leave behind and the noise they make (from early morning). Things have got so bad that the South Wootton Parish Council is conducting an informal referendum to gauge the number in favour of keeping the birds and those in favour of rehoming them. I'll let you know the result, hopefully next month.

If you've got any views about peacocks or anything else about The Woottons, contact me at cllr.richard.coates@west-norfolk.gov.uk.





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Borough Council News

Terry Parish Borough Councillor Heacham Ward which includes Sedgeford and Fring

Nothing of note appears to have happened in the Borough in the last month from the time of writing which is 9th July. The General Election has a lot to answer for as archaic rules seem to give an excuse to freeze any and all actions which might give credit or criticism to the increasingly diverse actors seeking a part in the plot. Perhaps things may now start to move again.

Local news has some positives. A planning inspector dismissed an appeal about the use of Fenway which should make life better for residents. The problem has been escalating for years and all credit to the people who have persisted in their efforts to improve matters. They, and I, now need to hold the Borough to account to ensure it plays its part.

Planning permission was given to a development in Sedgeford which has strong Parish Council support. The fact that it breaches several planning rules should not be taken as carte blanche for speculative developers to follow suit. This is a very unique site which sets no precedent.

The Cheney Hill developments are now to come to planning committee on the 7th October. I have asked what is happening about the request for a new ecology report, whether the flooding issue has been addressed, if the noise generated by a potential 135 air source

heat pumps has been fully considered, and what has been done to ensure there are no complaints by future residents of noise and smells generated by peripheral industrial activity. I recommend that all potentially affected local residents and businesses submit fresh comments to the planning portal and that as many as possible attend planning committee. A resident who can speak / represent others would be useful. Five minutes is allowed. The principal of development has been established when outline permission was granted and the houses cannot be stopped. However, the manner in which they are distributed across the site and how their impact can be mitigated can be debated.

Back to the general election. You got what you wished for or did you? I am an independent and have little truck with any political party. Due to my interests, I do follow party planning policy. Labour is now apparently intent on relaxing planning rules designed to protect people from excesses; bringing back mandatory house building targets; develop on 'grey' belt (green belt which has had a previous use); allow on shore wind turbines (with associated infrastructure including battery storage and cabling) and giving the green light to extensive solar farms and grid infrastructure. Much of this was originally Conservative excess which proved



unpopular with their members and which other organisations lobbied against with popular public support.

Just for information, in West Norfolk, the total Conservative vote was 35,969, Labour had 31,100. Reform 18,655, Liberal Democrats 10,110. Others 10,782 though most of this, 6282, was for an independent who seemed to have just one aim. I can't see that any party has the mandate to determine what happens in West Norfolk and I hope that both winning candidates reflect on that and pursue the best interest of residents here, not their party dictates.

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Wild in Westminster and West Norfolk

It is now a few weeks since the general election and I'm delighted to have the opportunity to write in these pages again having been re-elected as the MP for North West Norfolk. I certainly appreciated a little break over the summer enjoying our coast and everything on offer.

Over six weeks of the campaign, I was out every day knocking on doors in Hunstanton, Heacham, and many villages and talking to people about local and national issues. My campaign focused on my track record over the last four and a half years helping constituents and as the strong local voice speaking up in Parliament on many issues. I am very grateful people put their trust in me again to continue standing up for our area.

There is no denying it was a tough election. Lots of people I spoke to were frustrated with parts of our record and for too often having failed to deliver on our pledges. I can assure people those conversations and concerns are at the forefront of my mind as my party begins the process of rebuilding. We need to focus on the issues people are concerned about and act to help restore their trust once again.

Looking forward, I will continue to pursue the issues from my campaign and, clearly, as



the political make up in Norfolk has changed, I will work with other MPs on issues of common interest.

Top of the list is a new QEH by 2030. My first meeting post-election was with the Trust Chairman and Chief Executive to review plans for the new hospital and then urging the Health Secretary to commit to ensuring QEH remains a priority scheme.

I also want to see our local economy grow stronger with better bus and other transport

links and digital connectivity. That includes working to improve mobile coverage and gigabit broadband availability.

Improving our rivers and coastal water quality particularly at Heacham is an issue I have worked hard on and I'll also continue to press key agencies to ensure we have a better approach to prevent and respond to flooding.

Better access to dentists is essential and I'll hold the NHS to account to deliver better services, use incentive payments and bonuses to attract dentists to rural areas, support dental buses, and promote dental training locally.

Those are just some of the issues I will be focusing on. In the last Parliament, I dealt with 30,000 individual cases on issues from NHS, housing, and more. As well as casework, I've visited many schools, charities, businesses, and other groups. If you think I can help, want to give your views on local or national issues, or would like me to visit then please do get in touch.

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New whale shelter officially opened

A new landmark sculpture was officially opened in South Lynn as Cllr Paul Bland, Mayor Kings Lynn and West Norfolk cut the ribbon to declare the structure 'open'.

Alderman and local historian Paul Richards spoke about the long and complex maritime and industrial history of the port of King's Lynn.

A new interpretation board, telling the story of the King's Lynn whaling history and the whale shelter was also unveiled, thanks to funding support by the King's Lynn Town Guides.

Rick Morrish of HPCA wished to thank all the local firms and volunteers who have contributed to the process of delivering the scheme. He said all of the grant money has been spent locally.

Right: Cllr Terry Parish, Paul Alford (KLTG), Cllr Paul Bland, Paul Richards, Gordon Foreman (Able Engineering), Rick Morrish, Kim Leonard (KLTG)



Sporting corner with Tim Keogh

Get ready to rumble for Hunstanton's Soap Box Derby

The popular trail blazing Soap Box Derby returns to the streets of Hunstanton on Sunday, 22nd September.

Organised by the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk's Roger Partridge, the 2024 event is already full.

The first event took place in 1953 when a local school teacher decided to challenge his protégées with a small karting challenge. The rest, as they say, is history and this popular spectacle goes from strength to strength.

Popular favourite, Ed Napolitano, will be returning this year and Charles le Strange Meakin has just confirmed that he will be defending his Soap Box Derby 2023 title, whilst veteran racer, Dave Curtis (78), from Heacham (pictured below right) is looking to cause an upset. There are always spills and thrills, particularly as drivers have to deal with a steep slope start, a jump half way down before manipulating a tight corner finish. The half a mile course starts on Greevegate before weaving down to Beach Terrace Road near the sea.

Don't be fooled, despite the fun element, this is serious stuff! Whilst most racers are doing it for charity, the coveted title is still highly acclaimed and respected.

It is recommended you get there early as the streets are expected to be busy, particularly with Hunstanton's traditional Indian Summer on the cards. Racing commences from 11am.



Ed Napolitano
Photo from 2019



2023 winning team of Charles le Strange Meakin,
James Wild and Stuart Dark



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Snettisham Juniors Cricket Club goes from strength to strength

Snettisham CC Junior Cricket Club and coaches invited all their key sponsors down to their regular training night on Wednesday, 3rd July.

This was an opportunity for all the youngsters to thank the people who have kitted them out with new team shirts and training tops for the 2024 season. As well as all of the sponsors, Ladies captain and organiser, Michelle Knott, also thanked all the coaches and volunteers without who's help the Junior set up would simply not exist.

Sponsors Lynx bus, Dersingham News, EM Kelly Electricals, TJE Joinery, KL1 Radio, GT Sixty Seven Automotive and S & M Builds Ltd all had representatives in attendance. The All Stars have been sponsored by Greenyard Frozen UK whilst the proceeds from the Queen Vic's weekly meat raffle, supplied by Howard's Butchers, were donated by landlady, Ann-Marie Wing.

The club boasts several mixed teams of boys and girls playing a variety of formats that include - Hardball u11s and u13s, Softball u9s, u11s and the very popular All stars (u7s). Unique to the club for this season is the introduction of our first ever girls U13 team that sees the club continue to go from strength to strength.

Michelle welcomes new boys and girls of all ages to showcase their skills at their training sessions taking place every Wednesday (6pm) weather permitting. Any new juniors attending our free introductory session will be made to feel most welcome and do not need to worry about kit as the club will supply the required protective equipment. Parents please just take your children to the registration desk for a meet and greet with the ECB coaches and wander off to enjoy the evening with choice of hot and cold refreshments available at our kiosk.

The junior set up is very popular with over 50 children regularly attending each week and includes organised junior cricket league matches against other local teams. With the senior men's and ladies teams all performing well this season, it looks like the future of



Snettisham cricket club looks very rosy indeed.

For more information about joining the junior setup or attending training nights, please contact Michelle at michelleknott1973@gmail.com.

There is also a charity barn dance at Snettisham Park Farm on Sunday, 28th July which is raising funds for the new village pavilion. For more information or to purchase tickets please email fundraising@snettisham.org.uk.

On Thursday, 1st August, North Runcton Cricket Club, in conjunction with the Norfolk Cricket Board, are hosting a "Girls Softball to

Hardball Transition Session" from 11am to 1pm at their ground (PE33 0RA).

This is aimed at 11-15 year old girls who are either new to hardball formats or are looking to improve confidence in using a hardbat.

It is completely free with kit provided. For more information please contact Jamie Ring on 07809 407938.

Picture below of some of the sponsors from left: Tim Edmunds - TJE Joinery, Paul Baker - KL1 Radio, Ann-Marie Wing - Landlady of the Queen Victoria, Steven Choppen - S & M Builds, Lee Chivlock - GT Sixty Seven Automotive, Andy Warnes - Lynx buses, Mike Rivers - Dersingham News.



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QUESTION: The new football season starts in earnest in August. Since records began in 1888, which team has scored the most goals in a single season in the top four divisions in England?

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 15.08.2024.

The answer to last month's question was Diederik de Groot (wheelchair singles) and Peter Holdridge from Hunstanton was the lucky winner.

Sporting corner with Tim Keogh

New Football Season, Refereeing and VAR

With England's heartbreaking failure in the Euro Final still fresh in the memory, the new football season is now just a matter of weeks away with all local clubs in the midst of preparations for the 2024/25 season.

A new look Heacham FC have a new manager in Paul Hunt and Chairman in Chris Dear in office. Whilst pre-season results have not been particularly favourable thus far, it is often difficult to read too much into this. Heacham enter their second season in the Thurlow Nunn Premier Division with a remit to improve on last season - where they came third from bottom - and maybe even offer a play-off challenge whilst contending for cup silverware. Hunt will be assisted by Heacham FC stalwart Royce Rawlings. With experience of a season at this level now firmly under their belts, along with a manager familiar playing and coaching in this division, the Magpies can enter the new campaign with confidence.

Early signs indicate Heacham do have a solid game plan forming, focussing on keeping the ball on the deck, retaining possession and game management. The signing of Toby Hilliard from higher level Corby Town is going to be key. Originally from Heacham, the 28-year-old talisman already looks to have created a potent partnership with Nathan Davies. Hunt is positive, saying, "It is a case of blending old with new which I feel we are getting right. We have a terrific U18 set up too, so expect to see some youth this season. I am really looking forward it". Heacham do have a couple of suspensions from last season to deal with in their first match against Walsham-le-Willows FC at home on Saturday, 27th July (3pm ko). This is quickly followed with a trip to Fakenham Town on Tuesday, 30th July (7.30 ko). Heacham have been drawn away in the FA Cup (Harleston Town) and FA Vase (Diss Town)

To create some depth to the squad and club, they will also field a reserve team this season playing in Division Five of the Mid Anglian Combination League and a team in the Thurlow Nunn U18's League. Training nights are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6pm.

Heacham FC are also looking for volunteers to help out on match days. Supporters Club Chairman, Denis Cooper, said, "if you've got a few hours a week to spare we would love to hear from you and will welcome anyone interested into the Heacham football family". For more information please contact Michael Parish on 07707556474 or email him at MLPARISH1980@gmail.com.

Dersingham Rovers and Ingoldisthorpe FC are moving into new territory. The former will be playing in Division One of the Anglian Combination, with another promotion top of the agenda. The latter will be in Division Three of the same league with a similar remit.

One person also looking at a promotion this season is local referee, James Durham. He achieved promotion from Level 6 to 5 last season meaning he will now be officiating in the Anglian Combination Premier Division and assistant referee in the Thurlow Nunn League. The 27-year-old Hunstanton based referee is looking to reach Level 4 this season. It does take a certain personality to referee and Durham certainly seems to possess the traits and discipline required to go all

the way, as he seeks a fourth promotion in five years.



James Durham

VAR or not to VAR? The jury is out on that one. Initially introduced for goal line technology, VAR seems to control a lot more in games from penalties to offsides, bookings and sendings off. Whilst advocates believe it has improved decision making, sceptics feel it has ruined the sport with delays and even getting some decisions wrong. Although Durham will not have the luxury - or hindrance depending on which side of the fence you sit on - of having VAR available at his level, he does believe it helps out and reduces pressure on the referee. It would certainly have resolved three key World Cup incidents, all involving England - did the ball cross the line in 1966, Maradona's 'Hand of God' and Frank Lampard's 'equaliser' against Germany at the 2010 South Africa World Cup that was clearly over the line. The latter, in fact, set in motion the ultimate introduction of VAR in 2018. No one is infallible, especially referees, and the VAR process at the recent Euros did seem to run more smoothly and quickly than in recent years. Either way, it seems VAR is here to stay.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES
The 10 best fish and chip shops in the UK



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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Sporting corner with Tim Keogh

Open Bowls Tournament

Cliff Parade Bowls Club hosted their 41st Hunstanton and District Open Bowls Tournament from 29th June to 5th July. Over 200 bowlers from across the Eastern region converged to take part in the tournament on Cliff Parade Bowls Club's picturesque lawns.

Alive Active Community, in conjunction with Sue Clare and her team at Cliff Parade Bowls Club, ran the annual event which first took place in 1981, welcoming players from as far as Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Cambridgeshire, with local clubs all well represented. The local club first played in 1913, with a thatched clubhouse. Unfortunately, this burnt down in the early part of the 20th Century, with the resulting clubhouse and lawns basically what you see today.

The flagship Open event final turned into the "Battle of the Wash" as local player Graham Keeley took on John Hey from Skegness. In the end, Keeley prevailed winning a tense affair to secure his third title. The presentation was then held in the clubhouse.



John Hey (left) and Graham Keeley

Alive Oasis spokesperson, Kathryn Bithray, said, "A huge thank you to all our advertisers and sponsors for their continued support, including the Salad Bowl Café, Eric's Fish & Chips, Ward Gethin Archer, Hunstanton Town Council, Searles Leisure Resort, Alive Oasis, Stories Of Lynn and all the local businesses who support this fantastic event. Of course a special thanks to Sue and her team at Cliff Parade Bowls Club".

Joe Murfitt, Active Community Manager said, "It was fantastic to see so many people enjoying the Hunstanton Bowls Tournament once again. Not only does this tournament



All winners and runners up with sponsors and Hunstanton Mayor, Cllr Michael Ruston

showcase some brilliant bowls but also helps to highlight Hunstanton as a town and all that it has to offer to both the local players and the tourists who make the trip for the tournament every year. We hope to see lots of you again next year".

If you are interested to find out more information about the competition or to enter next year's event please contact Joe Murfitt on Joe.Murfitt@Alivewestnorfolk.co.uk. The closing date for receipt of entries is 1st April 2025.

Finals Results:

Singles: Sponsored by Stories of Lynn

Winner – G Keeley

Runner Up – J Hey

Men's Pairs: Sponsored by Eric's Fish and Chips

Winners – R Frohawk & M Chapman

Runners Up – M Bell & G Jordan

Ladies Pairs: Sponsored by Alive Oasis

Winners – S Hammond & B Cave

Runners Up – W Stevens & P Hill

Mixed Pairs: Sponsored by Searles Leisure Resort

Winners – R Frohawk & K Shepherd

Runners Up – K Law & P Hill

Men's Triples: Sponsored by Ward Gethin Archer

Winners – K Crane / K Crane / J Hey

Runners Up – T Moore / M Bell / G Upton

Ladies Triples: Sponsored by Salad Bowl Café

Winners – G Golland / S Chandler / J Clifton

Runners Up – G Ashby / C Lewis / G Rye

Mixed Triples: Sponsored by Hunstanton Town Council

Winners – K Crane / K Crane / J Crane

Runners Up – K Chapman / G Keeley / F Harman

Consolation Pairs:

Winners – T Crane & N Hunter

Runners Up – P Gyton & G Robbins

Juniors: Sponsored by Stories of Lynn

Winners – G Almey

Runners Up – A Bricksles



Graham Keeley (second from left) with Paul Searle (left) and other winners

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Sporting corner with Tim Keogh

Major Illegible

Ian Smith is a former Scottish international Rugby Union coach player. He was also a well-travelled Army dentist before setting up the Grange Dental Practice in Snettisham. He has already penned one book about his rugby career and is planning a second about his travels. He is now retired and still lives in Snettisham. Ian has been giving Town & Around's Tim Keogh monthly insights into his fascinating life.

When I first arrived in Hong Kong in November 1971 as a very young Army Officer, my wife and I were invited to a party to meet all the other dental officers and their wives in a lovely flat overlooking Repulse Bay beach on the Island.

The first thing I noticed were some wonderful, signed prints of Nepalese and Tibetan faces on the wall of my host's flat. He happened to be my boss, Lt. Col. Frank Ashenhurst, and I said to him "how lovely they were, and where could I buy them?"

His reply was quite brief and to the point, which was, 'You can't because I bought them in Nepal, and you won't be going there.' He then explained to me that the army dentists in Hong Kong were responsible for the garrison in Nepal twice a year, and Seria in Brunei, three times a year. Luckily everyone gets a tour in Brunei, but as my time in Hong Kong was 30 months, no Nepal trip for me because unluckily I would miss out because not everyone could go there. When I asked why he said, that there were seven army dental officers each in Hong Kong for two and a half years, so there would be seven Brunei tours during that time, but only five Nepal trips, meaning a total of twelve trips and sadly I would miss out because of my tour of duty dates and the fact my predecessor went.

As things turned out, one dental officer left Hong Kong early and I was then listed to go to Nepal. HOWEVER - and it was a big however - my Colonel did his tour in Brunei, and wrote a report to say the Gurkhas teeth were very good. This meant we only needed to go to Brunei twice a year, and so I would now not be going to Nepal, as the total number of tours was now reduced from twelve to ten.

My tour to Brunei came next, and I think the Gurkha battalions had been rotated because I had to do a lot of fillings. It was very noticeable that the children of Gurkhas who had lived in Hong Kong with their parents had very bad teeth, due to their exposure to sugar, whereas a Gurkha soldier who had been recruited straight from the hills of Nepal had very flat teeth, and no decay as they had never been exposed to sugar. This was a lucky break, and my report was sufficiently strong enough to warrant the return to three visits a year for Brunei and the resurrection of my trip to Nepal.

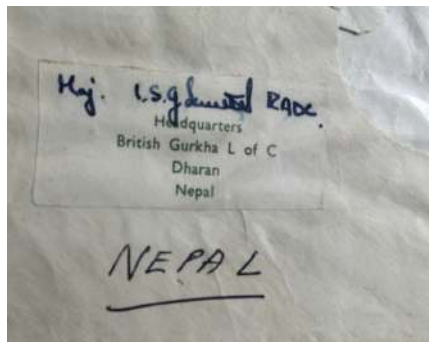
On arrival in Nepal with my two accompanying soldiers we were transferred to a small single engine Cessna and flown to Dharan, where we landed on what, at first sight, seemed like a grass runway. I

discovered quite quickly it was the third fairway of the garrison golf course.

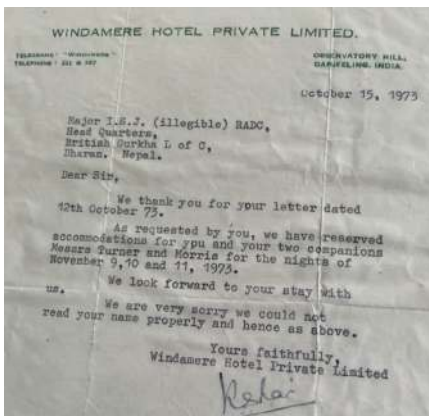
As a welcome visitor from the outside world, and it is worth remembering that there was no internet, no mobile phones, so apart from medical emergencies, the garrison plus wives, and small children were effectively cut off. As the bearer of up-to-date news and scandals from Hong Kong and the outside world, supper invitations happened a lot!!

The very first home I visited had the very same pictures as in Hong Kong, and when I asked where I could buy them, I was told it wasn't possible. The artist apparently lived in Darjeeling, which was only accessible by a Nuffield Trust Land Rover from Dharan, and it was only available to permanent residents in the Garrison, and not visitors like myself.

Anyway, as luck would have it, someone fell sick, so I wrote to the Windamere Hotel in Darjeeling asking for accommodation. There was no question of it being sent through the post, such a service didn't exist. It had to be taken by hand and returned the same way. It was around 9 hours by road, there were no motorways or even decent roads, remembering this was over 50 years ago. I had handwritten the letter on official notepaper, putting 'from Major ISG Smith RADC' at the top.



A couple of days later the response was handed to me, with the official part of the letter cut out and stuck to the envelope (as you can see from the photograph above). Inside was typed 'Dear Major Illegible, we are sorry but we could not read your writing!'.



The Windamere Hotel was like something out of Edwardian England. There was a



fireplace in every room, and when we went to bed at night the fire was burning away in the hearth. At around four in the morning an orderly appeared very quietly and put coal on the fire. It was definitely needed for Darjeeling is slightly under 7,000 feet up in the foothills of the Everest range. We had a visit to Tiger Hill one morning at 8,500 feet at 4am to see the sun come up over Kanchenjunga the world's third highest mountain. That was unbelievable and very cold!

Sunday lunch was roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, it's hard to believe, but of course Darjeeling was one of the hill stations that the British moved to in the summer from Calcutta when it became unbearably hot. I quite clearly remember passing a school which could have been an old-fashioned English Grammar School. The children all in blue dresses and short sleeved white shirts, except they were all Indian!

When I got back to Hong Kong and wrote to my parents to tell them about my trip, my mother wrote back, complaining I hadn't told her I was going to Darjeeling, because she said, 'My father had a house there!'.

Finally, I was able to buy the prints directly from the artist, plus an original charcoal drawing. His name was Goray Douglas, and the British Army had been keeping him alive with medicines, which I was able to hand directly to him.

A treat for film lovers

Sue Payne

Dersingham Village Cinema is screening Mrs Lowry & Son on August 20th at 7.30pm and the organisers have been fortunate to meet the film's producer, Debbie Gray.

She has arranged two video shorts from herself and Timothy Spall which they will show before the film starts.

Also, some of the paintings used in the film have been loaned to them to display on the night. They were painted by Frank Gray, fine artist.

Entry £6 and under 16s £3 that includes tea/coffee/squash. There is also a licensed bar.

Hunstanton Croquet Club

Caroline Harper

Finally, summer arrived - just in time for the solstice. From playing in the cold and wet we had a transition to cold drinks and factor 50!

Since the last edition of HCC news, we have welcomed even more new members - so many, in fact that we have decided not to hold another Come and Try day until next season. All 'newbies' have quickly settled in and are a welcome addition to our club.

The lawns continue to be in great condition thanks to Jonny's hard work; drawing admiration from our visitors - including one from Hong Kong who had been told he must check out Hunstanton lawns when on his travels in the UK!

Terrey Sparks and Gary Lewis have been expertly managing our tournaments - ably assisted by the volunteers who put out lawns, serve refreshments and clear up at the end of the day. Members, please continue to be involved in helping.

Chris Ward has been hard at work updating our website so you may find not all features are fully functional during this 'Work in Progress' stage, but do check it out for more information on our club. Hunstantoncroquetclub.co.uk

Below is selection of pics from our recent tournaments and events. There are too many individuals to name everyone, but a special mention for our local members: Colin (who has now won through to the finals of GC B level in Dorset), Roger, Lucy, David and Gary who have either won or been finalists in National competitions.



Marham Flyers Host a D Day 80 Commemorative 10K and Duathlon

Gary Walker



The annual Marham Flyers summer special 10K and duathlon was this year dedicated to commemorating the 80th anniversary of D Day, with a packed field of 200 competitors taking part in both events and a very special D Day 80 medal awarded to every finisher.

The races, which take place each year are within the airfield perimeter, which makes them unique in being able to use an almost traffic free well maintained road, the only vehicles being dedicated to supporting the event.

With no wind and a cloudless day, the conditions on the day would have been viewed as excellent but with temperatures at the highest for the year, the sweltering heat made it a real challenge for all taking part.

The duathlon started before the main run with the cyclists finding the newly resurfaced road excellent going, this being reflected in the excellent times achieved for the 20k ride although all found the subsequent 10k run a challenging.

The 10k race went off smoothly with the support team ensuring anyone who was struggling in the conditions had sufficient water, in addition to that provided at the water station by Air Cadets from our local 42F (King's Lynn) Squadron who did a brilliant job given the conditions.

Race Director, Gary Walker, said, "it was great to see a full turnout for this very special commemorative event with so many from the local clubs taking part. Although the heat on the day was concerning, we nevertheless saw some really good performances."

A special thank you goes to the Station Commander, Gp Capt Fred Wigglesworth for allowing the event to go ahead and to all the volunteers from the local running clubs and groups, who came to assist in the administration and marshalling.

The Sun Shines on Little Miracles

Phil Davies

After a day of near continuous heavy rain on 6th July, the skies cleared and the sun came out in time for Priory Rotary Satellite Club's garden party in aid of Little Miracles, a charity that helps children and their families with disabilities, additional needs and life limiting conditions.

Around 60 guests turned up just as England were taking penalties against the Swiss (miraculously scoring all five!), and they were treated to professional singing by Satellite member Rowena Senido and bangers, beans and baked potatoes cooked by Priory member Ann Pacini.

After a raffle and small auction, an impressive total of over £900 was raised on the night.

Mick Oliver, Head of Operations for Little Miracles, thanked David Mills, who hosted the party in his garden, and said "A truly amazing evening, full of fun and laughter working alongside our friends from the Priory Rotary Club and their supporters. Funds raised will support our Summer Holiday Activity Programme for the families in Kings Lynn. A big thankyou from all at Little Miracles Charity"

For more information about Priory's Satellite Club, contact Eddie West-Burnham on 07876 703258 or ewest_burnham@hotmail.com

GLEBE HOUSE SCHOOL & NURSERY UPDATE

Our final half term consists of just four and a half weeks, but we certainly crammed a lot in! From the swimming gala and sports day to our Leavers Programme and the Royal Norfolk Show, there were many opportunities for our children and families to engage, embrace and enjoy.

John Crofts IN LOVING MEMORY



It was with great sadness that we shared the news of the passing of our beloved former Headmaster, John Crofts. John played a pivotal role in the lives of many families at Glebe House School & Nursery, not only as Headmaster but also as a cherished volunteer and dedicated staff member following his retirement.

John's presence was felt in every corner of our school. Whether he was reading with our Pre-Prep children, supporting sports development, leading the RotaKids Club in the Prep School, or assisting staff, he always made everyone feel valued and loved.

John was truly the heart of Glebe, embodying the spirit of our community. His generosity, kindness, and unwavering commitment to others left an indelible mark on all who knew him. We are profoundly grateful to have had the privilege of experiencing his boundless compassion and loyalty.

John was more than just a Headmaster; he was a friend, a mentor, and a role model. Education was not just his profession, but his passion and life's mission. At Glebe, we were fortunate to benefit from his energy and dedication. He gave his all to our school, and his absence will be deeply felt every day.

John's legacy will continue to inspire us, and he will forever remain a part of who we are at Glebe. He will be missed dearly by everyone whose lives he touched.

Inter House Swimming Gala



One of the highlights of our Inter House competitions is the annual Prep Swimming Gala! What an amazing afternoon we had cheering the children on as they competed in over 30 races. There was a huge amount of excitement and some excellent swimming from the children, who all worked extremely hard for their House.

Congratulations to St Edmunds for winning a very closely fought title, retaining the title for the 18th year in a row! The children certainly all earned the BBQ they and their families enjoyed afterwards.

Inter House Sports Day



Three cheers for Sports Day! Under hot sunny skies, the parents organised vibrant House tents while our children showcased their athletic talents. Pre Prep thrilled with bean bag races, sprints and sack races, while Prep excelled in long jump, relays, long distance and ball throwing. Congratulations to L'etrange, this year's overall winners, and well done to all the participants!



Leavers' Programme

Following their end of school exams, our Division VIII children embarked on their action packed Leavers' Programme, something many of them have been looking forward to since joining in Reception! From an international residential trip to Amsterdam

to a visit to the Royal Norfolk Show, from an adventure day on the waters with the Coastal Exploration Company to a 20-mile circular walk together with school-based leadership commitments and the formal Leavers' Dinner at Titchwell Manor, our Leavers made incredible memories in their last three weeks as pupils at Glebe House School.

Rotary Animal Kingdom



Art Competition Exhibition

The Rotary Animal Kingdom Art Competition closed at the beginning of June and following two weeks of mounting the magnificent entries, we hosted the Art Exhibition and Results Evening. There were some incredible entries from local primary and secondary schools, together with entries from our own pupils. Lucy Bassett from the Fairfax Gallery in Burnham Market kindly judged the entries and Jean-Marie Vernon the Rotary President presented the prizes. Congratulations to all the children for their wonderful work! We very much look forward to this event becoming an annual feature in the local schools' calendar.



Out & About Division I – Library Trip

A warm welcome greeted Division I again as we headed to Hunstanton Library for our return visit this term. Our children so enjoy their visits to their local library and librarian Helen Janku was impressed by their enthusiasm for literature and reading. The Division I children confidently read their books, selected summer themed activities, listened to stories and learnt about the library summer reading challenge. A big thank you to all the Hunstanton Library staff for all our amazing visits this academic year.

Division I – Hunstanton RNLI

Division I were lucky enough to have two trips this month, as they also spent a morning having fun at Hunstanton Lifeboat station! They were taught about the lifeboat and the hovercraft as well as how to stay safe near and in water. It was a fabulous opportunity for the children to get up close to the vessels following a visit from Kate Craven earlier in the week, who spoke to all our Pre Prep children about water safety this summer. A huge thank you to everyone at Hunstanton RNLI for keeping us safe and for the take home goodies which spread these important messages.

Royal Norfolk Show

We were delighted to have the opportunity to take a stand at this year's Royal Norfolk Show. The weather was glorious and visitor numbers were in the region of 80,000. We had a fabulous location and were visited by many Old Aquilians from the 1970s, 1980s, 1990s

as well as more recently. The 'Kanoodle challenge' was a great draw, bringing many children as well as adults on to our stand. Our special thanks go to Learning Resources who partnered with us for the event and of course to all who stopped by. We look forward to being back again in 2025!

European Languages Day

What a fantastic time we had for our annual European Languages Day! It's always wonderful to see our pupils so engaged in this celebration of linguistic diversity. The children dressed up as characters from different countries or donned national colours.

They learned about the significance of studying foreign languages, fostering greater understanding and respect for various cultures—and had loads of fun while doing it! Pupils engaged with cross-curricular activities with a European flair including playing French card and board games, competing at Petanque, building famous Italian landmarks in Art class and solving Spanish and German puzzles. They also enjoyed delicious hot chocolate and croissants during break and explored multilingual menus at lunch, translated into French, German, Italian and Spanish. A special highlight was the performance by the Flying Theatre "Vive La France," which captivated everyone with its music, circus skills and interactive storytelling. The children loved participating, especially when Pierre, the main actor, engaged them with fun activities.

Come and see us!

Does your child start school in September 2025? 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. Contact Mrs Fraulo on 01485 532809 or email tjf@glebehouseschool.co.uk to book a visit.





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Brancaster School news

By the time you read this, school will have finished and we will be on holiday.

We have a very busy end of term, as always, so I think we will be ready for a rest!

SATs are over and KS1 results are confirmed. Well done to all of our children. We had some very high scores in the tests showing good progress. KS2 SATs results are yet to come.....but I am sure they will also have covered themselves in glory and done their absolute best.



Both classes have had 3 forest school days at Docking, which have been amazing and, as well as being very enjoyable, it is lovely to see the children in a different light and for them to experience new opportunities, activities and skills. Some children have exhibited abilities we never dreamed of -we will never see them in the same way again!



We have had our sports day and were so proud of the children and their sportsmanship – helping each other, encouraging all, being good winners and losers, as well as being proud of their sporting abilities. Today we also took part in the KS1 sports Festival for all local schools. I haven't yet heard how we did, but I was told that the children gave it their all!

We held a Federation Talent Show, which



also allowed children to show off skills that we never knew about – the show included singers, dancers, gymnasts and comedy acts. A huge well done to Xavi, who was the overall Federation winner with his card tricks. None of us could figure out how he did it – and he had the audience gasping in amazement. Thank you to Mr Speck who set up a camera for close-up views of the cards and Xavi's dexterity.



Mrs Parkinson, our specialist art teacher, has supported the children in producing some stunning works of art this year. Some of these were exhibited in the Rotary Art competition and we were delighted that Eddie was awarded second place in the younger age category, and Asya second place in the older age group. Xavi, Grace and Skye's entries were all Highly Commended. What a wonderful number of winners, especially considering the number of entries. Well done all!



Both classes went to the Norfolk Show (many thanks to the Parish Council for making this possible – and including an ice cream treat

for everyone). The children played their ukuleles in the Grand Ring, and explored all the show had to offer – my group particularly loved the sheep and the science villages. We all loved having time to engage with the children without work constraints and they were so good -no complaints, interested in everything, smiling the whole way through, being wonderfully kind to each other (and staff), dancing to any music we heard etc. We all agreed we are lucky to have such wonderful characters in our school!



Coming up, we have a KS2 trip to Ken Hill and also Norwich Cathedral; we are performing a school's version of the opera Carmen; we are continuing our transition days for children who are moving class/school; we are providing artwork for Burnham Deepdale's Sea Service– and we have our leavers' assembly on the last day of term (19th July). It will be sad to say our goodbyes but the children are ready to move on. Good luck to them all.

School starts again for the children on September 4th.

The day the teddy bears had their picnic

Although there were no woods in sight, teddy bears were out in force when a West Norfolk school held its annual picnic. In celebration of National Picnic Week, the children at Heacham Infant School invited furry friends from home and within school to a Teddy Bears' Picnic in the school grounds.

As well as food and drink, the youngsters and teddies enjoyed stories and activities based around all things bear.

"The school's PTA has been celebrating many national events throughout the year," said Claire Dack, Assistant Headteacher at Heacham Infant, which is part of the West Norfolk Academies Trust. "As a school, we used this opportunity to embrace the good weather and get outdoors."

"The children enjoyed a picnic provided by the school or from home, sharing bear-themed stories, and going on a bear treasure hunt to find the hidden names of bears."

"This was a fantastic experience for the wider school community and created great memories for all."



CAR BOOT SALES 2024

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

One of Norfolk's largest Car Boot Sales are on every Sunday Morning from Bank Holiday Sunday August 25th September 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, & finish on 29th.

Sellers from 6am to 1pm, Buyers from 7am to 1pm,

On the playing field at the Glebe House School, Hunstanton.
(weather permitting)

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!

Sellers pitch fees remain at £5 for any size van/car, and donations at the entrance are much appreciated which go towards School Charities and the Hunstanton and District Men's Shed.

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Old Hunstanton Village Hall news

Carol Greening

The Open Gardens Show at Old Hunstanton on Sunday 23rd June was a great day out. There were 14 gardens of different styles to visit. This included large landscaped gardens, cottage gardens, Japanese style gardens and the Le Strange secret garden. The Village Hall had an array of gardening related stalls, including specialist nurseries selling plants and iron work. Taking advantage of the sunshine, the catering was all outside this year with the BBQ and refreshments proving very popular. Visitors and helpers were entertained by the singing of Clare Scollay which lent a great vibe to the event. In the evening all the gardeners and helpers relaxed in the garden with paella, drinks and music. Thanks go to all the gardeners and helpers that made this event a success.

Next years Open Gardens Show will be on Sunday 22nd June 2025

Bingo returns to the Village Hall on Monday 5th August. We are starting a bit earlier with doors opening at 6.15pm and starting play at 7pm. Just turn up.

Rotary Skydive for Cancer Charities

Phil Davies



Two members of Priory Rotary King's Lynn, along with two university students, have now completed their tandem skydives for cancer. The event was organised by David Mills, who was unable to join the team as there isn't a suitable harness available in the UK which would protect his pacemaker. However, he is dedicated to the cause and is leading the fundraising activity on behalf of Priory Rotary Club.

Ken Johnson completed his skydive back in November last year at the North London Skydiving Centre at Wimbleton near Peterborough. Nigel Chettleburgh, accompanied by Sam Von Haartman and Jacob Wagstaffe, were finally able to do theirs on June 12th after waiting for favourable weather conditions.

So far, they have jointly raised over £4,000 for Children with Cancer UK and Norfolk's Big C, and hope to reach their target of £5,000 when all donations are in. Children with Cancer UK helps to fund significant research to improve the life chances of children who suffer from cancer, while the Big C helps and supports adults and the parents of children who are suffering from this devastating illness.

This is just one of many charitable activities organised by Priory Rotary. For example, earlier this year their Rotary Swimathon raised over £20,000 and their Easter Egg Trail at Sandringham generated over £4,000. In total, more than £40,000 has been raised in the last 12 months, benefitting over 40 charities, many of which operate in West Norfolk.

David Mills said "we love organising these activities, but more than that, we get great satisfaction from the fact that we can support so many worthwhile causes. If anyone feels the same, they would be more than welcome to meet me and discuss the possibility of joining our Rotary team."

To contact David, email him at davella02@gmail.com, or to donate to the cancer charities go to www.justgiving.com/page/prioryrotaryskydive. It's not too late!

Helping hand for Home-Start

Phil Davies

Priory Rotary King's Lynn have recently donated £600 to Home-Start, which will be used to help families in the West Norfolk area. Home-Start work with struggling families with young children to help them cope with whatever life throws at them. In West Norfolk they are currently supporting 19 families, but have another 11 on the waiting list, and need more volunteers to meet the growing demand.

They have diversified their offer to volunteers to encourage more to sign up that includes pieces of work with a family over a shorter period of time, telephone support, signposting and group support as well as our core home support. Full training is given along with additional training across the year to upskill our volunteers. All this naturally needs more resource, which is dependent on voluntary donations.

Liz Cross, Senior Lead for Home-Start Norfolk, said "we are taking every opportunity to raise awareness that Home-Start Norfolk were among the first to be awarded the Kings Award for Volunteering (KAVS) – the highest award for a voluntary organisation and the equivalent of an MBE) a testament to the dedication and commitment of our volunteers."



Photo shows Liz Cross and Sarah Rogers, an experienced Home-Start volunteer, receiving the cheque for £600 from members of Priory Rotary.

Paul Kunes - New Rotary President

Michael Walker

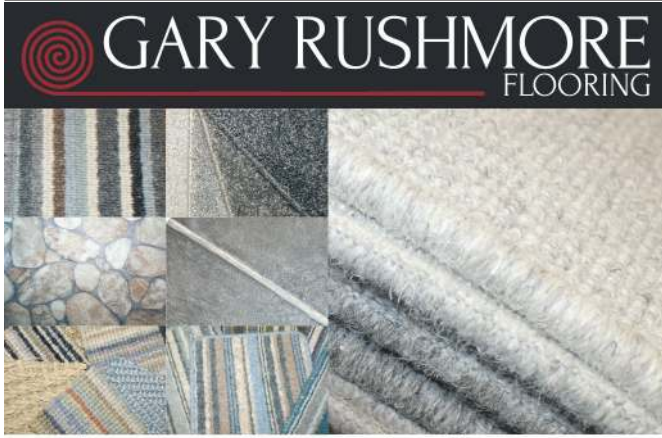
At a recent meeting of the Rotary Club of King's Lynn Paul Kunes was inducted as President for the second time. He was also President in 2008-09. Paul originally trained as a GPO (now BT) engineer and spent 21 years with the company. After taking voluntary redundancy, he took a change in direction and enrolled at UEA for a degree course in Economics. However whilst still at university he set up his own telecoms company and by the time he had successfully completed his degree course he was employing three engineers and had taken on a business partner. Paul ran the company for some 20 years before taking yet another change of direction – in 2015 he was elected a borough councillor for Spellowfields. Re-elected in 2019 for the re-named ward of Terrington, he became a cabinet member with responsibility for the environment, climate change and biodiversity.

Paul is a keen hill walker. In 2002 he walked the 268 mile Pennine Way to raise money for a local charity. Even more adventurous were his trips to the summit of Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak, in 2005 and in the company of fellow Rotarian, Derek Harvey, to Everest base camp to raise money for the Prince's Trust in 2008.

Paul has been married to Sharman for 48 years. They have lived in Terrington since 1976, in sight of Sutton Bridge where Paul was born.

Photograph: President Paul Kunes and Immediate Past President Mel Robson





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HUNSTANTON AND DISTRICT INNER WHEEL

Coral Campbell, President

An activity for members was organized for 9th July, expecting it to be a sunny and warm summer day, for them to enjoy Pitch & Putt on the clifftop at Hunstanton. Instead, it was a chilly and windy day with the balls flying everywhere! British summer weather!

However, the weather did not dampen the spirits of our members and guests attending and fun and friendship prevailed. A lunch at The Lodge was organized for afterwards, where some other members joined the intrepid players. Getting together and sharing friendship is the main focus of Inner Wheel. Friendship is at the heart of our organization.

Friendship is so important in our lives – it provides comfort and joy and it gives us the opportunity to celebrate good times together. It can boost our happiness and gives you confidence and reduces stress. On the other side of the coin, friendship gives support during difficult times and prevents loneliness and isolation.

In Inner Wheel, sharing friendship is so



important to us and it gives us a chance to offer needed companionship. Friendships are an essential ingredient in a happy life. So, if you are new to the area, have just retired or are on your own and would like to make some new friends, please come along to one of our Inner Wheel meetings, where you will be assured of a warm welcome. We are having a summer break in July and August, but our monthly meetings will resume in September and details will be given in next month's issue



of Town and Around. In the meantime, please consider perhaps joining one of the largest international organizations in the world.

August events diary - see also <https://townandaround.net/whats-on/august>

Friday 2nd

Fincham Memorial Hall PE33 9EJ Quiz night - £2 per person, max 6 persons per team. 50/50 cash raffle. Bring your own refreshments and nibbles. Starts at 7.30pm

Saturday 3rd

Snettisham Fete 11am-4pm Classic cars, dog show KL1 Radio, food stalls, Your Choir and much more. Snettisham Playing Field PE31 7LX

Battle of the Bands the Green Hunstanton 12.30-6pm

Music in the Burnhams at St Mary's Church Brancaster. James Smith (piano) 3pm
Tickets £20 under 18s free.
musicintheburnhams.com

Sat 3rd - Sun 4th

Lottie Eastwell's 3rd annual Landscapes exhibition at the Old Hunstanton Village Hall 11am-6pm



Norton Hill Light Railway, Hall Farm, Old Church Road, Snettisham in aid of King's Lynn Purfleet Trust. Entry Adults £2, children free. 1-5pm

Sunday 4th

Wereham Indoor Car Boot Sale 8.30am-1pm
PE33 9AP

Hunstanton Rocks Bands perform on the Green 12.30-5.30pm

Wednesday 7th

Hunstanton Lifeboat Sandcastle Competition (with prizes) on the beach at Old Hunstanton. Registration from 1.30pm. Entry fee £1.

Watercolour Art Workshop at Hunstanton Community Centre 2-4pm £10 Booking essential via: festival3bythesea.org/buy-tickets

Thursday 8th

Kids space themed creative workshop at Hunstanton Community Centre 1-4pm £20
Booking via: festival3bythesea.org/buy-tickets

King's Lynn Community Cinema Club, St George's Guildhall starting at 7.30pm screening the comedy-drama 'American Fiction'. £5 cash at the door

Friday 9th

Kings Lynn U3A Monthly Meeting at Gaywood Community Centre. An Interview with an Author by Julie Newman, and Memories of Taylor's Seed Shop by Jimmy Taylor. £3. Doors open 9.30am. Talks begin 10am. Tea/coffee/biscuits.

Saturday 10th

The Importance of being Earnest by the Outdoor Comedy Company at Sedgeford Village Hall 7.30pm Adults £16 Children £8 (under 15) tickets: 01485 570097 or 07968 596949

Sunday 11th

RAF Bircham Newton Open Day PE31 6RH 10am-4pm Free

Northfields Allotments Open Day 11am-3pm. Kieth May Lane, off Cromer Road, Hunstanton (by Glebe School Playing Field) Free Entry.

Hunstanton Bandstand, The Green, Breckland Brass Band 4-4pm

Open Air Theatre by The Old Lighthouse, Hunstanton PE36 6EL 2.30pm Free 'The Lost World' – a fun dinosaur adventure. Dressing up adventurers and picnics encouraged.

Wednesday 14th

Learn to Jive – Hunstanton Community Centre 2-3pm £10 Ages 16+ Booking via: festival3bythesea.org/buy-tickets

Thursday 15th

Watercolour Art Workshop at Hunstanton Community Centre 2-4pm £10 Booking essential via: festival3bythesea.org/buy-tickets

Write around the corner author event, Professor Nadine Akkerman and Pete Langman discuss Spycraft. 6pm. Call 01485 522349 or E: adrian@buyanotherbook.com

Contd on page 72

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Friday 16th

Fincham Memorial Hall PE33 9EJ Cash Bingo & Games Evening - £6 per book of 5 plus flyer, optional cash games of Sticky 13's and Stand Up Bingo £1 each. Doors open 7.30pm, Eyes Down 8pm. Bring your own refreshments and nibbles.

Saturday 17th

Free open-air cinema on Hunstanton Green showing Migration at 11.30am, Wonka at 3pm and Mamma Mia at 7pm

Fincham Memorial Hall PE33 9EJ Charity Fundraiser Event in aid of EAAA, events throughout the day, food & craft stalls, inflatables. Spaces available for stalls, contact Anne @ asaxelby@sky.com or 07931 534625.

Burnham Market Craft Fair 9am-5pm Artisan Vendors around the village including hand-crafted goods, jewellery, art, textiles glassware, sculpture and much more. Hot & cold food. Parking on the playing field £5 per car.



North Wootton Village Hall Market 9am-2pm

Wereham Summer Bash PE33 9AP 7.30-11.30pm Tickets £12.50 from the Village Hall Office, (open 9am - 3pm Mon-Fri) or call Doreen on 01366 500218.

Saturday 17th – Sun 18th

Norton Hill Light Railway, Hall Farm, Old Church Road, Snettisham in aid of King's Lynn Lions Club. Entry Adults £2, children free. 1-5pm

Sunday 18th

Hunstanton Fossil Hunting Trip 12-2pm £15 adults £10 children. Booking essential <https://www.fossilsgalore.com/booking-form/>

Hunstanton Bandstand, The Green - Rhiannon Rae

Sunday 18th

5 Hunstanton Churches with the Salvation Army Band Songs of Praise at the Bandstand on The Green Hunstanton at 4.30pm. All welcome.

Sun 18th – Sat 24th

Hunstanton Tennis Tournament at Hunstanton Recreation Ground.

Tuesday 20th

Snettisham Bingo Night at h Memorial Hall PE31 7LX 6.30pm

Dersingham Village Cinema at the Village Centre 7.30pm Mrs Lowry & S (PG) £6, under 16s £3

Wednesday 21st

Ceramic Tile Workshop at Hunstanton Town Hall PE36 6BQ Two sessions 11am-1pm and 2pm-4pm Free, but booking essential at festival3bythesea.org/buy-tickets

Thursday 22nd

Bollywood Dance Workshop 2-3pm at Hunstanton Community Centre £10. Booking at festival3bythesea.org/buy-tickets

A musical afternoon of 50s and 60s Country Music in aid of the East Anglian Air Ambulance at Hunstanton Town Hall PE36 6BQ 2-5pm Tickets £2.50 from Georgie's Cafe in the High Street PE36 5AF

Open Air Shakespeare – Merry Wives of Windsor 7pm-10pm

Dalegate Market PE31 8FB <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/thepanta-loons/1063771>

King's Lynn Community Cinema Club, St George's Guildhall starting at 7.30pm screening One Life starring Anthony Hopkins. £5 cash at the door

**Thurs 22nd – Mon 26th**

Pictures at an Exhibition with Music in Mind. Ringstead Village Hall PE36 5JU 10am-4pm daily. <http://www.barbaraking.co.uk>

Fri 23rd – Mon 26th

Snettisham Art Group 2024 Summer Art Exhibition 10-5.30pm daily at the British Legion Hall, Church Road, Snettisham.

Saturday 24th

Write around the corner author event, meet 10 year old local author Amaya Edwards who will be signing copies of her books. Call 01485 522349 or email adrian@buyanotherbook.com for more information.

Music in the Burnhams at St Mary's Church Brancaster. Estelle Furnell (violin) Helen Johnston (cello) and Gill Smith (piano) 7.30pm Tickets £20 under 18s free. musicintheburnhams.com

Sunday 25th

Bank Holiday Weekend Men's Shed Glebe House School Car Boot Sale

Hunstanton Bandstand, The Green – Hunstanton Concert Band 11.30am-1.30pm Folk on The Green, Hunstanton PE35 5AH 2-4pm.

Sun 25th – Mon 26th

RAF Bircham Newton Open Days PE31 6RH 10am-4pm Free

Wednesday 28th

Snettisham Gardening Club 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall. Speaker Johnny Walkers of Walkers Bulbs. Info: Gail on 01485 541279 or Addie on 01485 544754.

Thursday 29th

Write around the corner author event, local wildlife presenter, ranger and conservationist Ajay Tegale talks about his work on Blakeney Point and Wicken Fen in his new book Wetland Diaries 6pm. Call 01485 522349 or email adrian@buyanotherbook.com for more information.

Saturday 31st

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

Music in the Burnhams at Burnham Overy Staithe Village Hall PE31 8JD. Cabinet Shuffle 7.30pm Tickets £20 under 18s free. musicintheburnhams.com

Looking forward to September**Thursday 5th**

Stanhoe and Barwick WI Gill Southgate, "Life with my Guide Dog" Please contact Valerie (01485 576261) for further details.

Fri 6th- Sat 8th

Art Exhibition at Thornham Village Hall. Info: 07905 425807

Please send event details for the September issue to editor@townandaround.net by 12th August



Music from David Young - Solosaxclarinet

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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More information on www.solosaxclarinet.com



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- **Come and meet 10 year old local author and celebrity conservationist **Amaya Edwards** who will be signing copies of her books on *Saturday 24th August from 10.30am***
- **Local wildlife presenter, ranger and conservationist **Ajay Tegale** - talks about his work on Blakeney Point and Wicken Fen in his new book Wetland Diaries on *Thursday 29th August 6pm***

Contact us for more information

9a High Street Hunstanton, Tel : 01485522349 email adrian@buyanotherbook.com

Studio @ 55 at The Old Dairy

We are very excited about our plans to develop The Old Dairy. We realise its a huge undertaking but are motivated by the benefits an art and community hub will make to Heacham. We look forward to bringing our vision of a vibrant space instead of a derelict building to the center of the village. People who take courses at Studio @ 55 learn new skills and develop creativity. They also make new friends.

Acquiring The Old Dairy will enable us to expand our philosophy of accessible art and creativity for all. It will provide a venue for local artists to sell their work and a place for the community and visitors. We plan to provide a Community Art Café (in no way competing with local businesses) — a painting and printmaking room — a space that could also be used/rented by local groups. The Old Dairy will come alive — become a place for events — a springboard for cultural community projects.

Who are we? Esther Boehm, Michelle Louise Carter, Sarah Jane Featherstone, Sophia Heathcote, Maureen Laughton and Ann McCullaugh. We have submitted our application for charitable status which means we can go ahead with fundraising, grant applications and setting up crowd funding. More news on that coming soon.

We have viewed the site several times with the estate agent, a builder and an architect in order to solidify our vision. This has helped us enormously in our project planning.

Currently, we are assessing the costs involved to restore the buildings.

"The Old Dairy site has been a building destined for community use supported by the Parish Council and Heacham residents. The disappointment of the Community Project becoming unviable doesn't mean the site must be lost forever to a developer which is looking highly likely to happen. The S.O.S. trustees have a proposal that saves the historic site and provides a community service with no additional council tax increase for residents to cover the renovation." Michelle Louise Carter, NWN Labour Party Disability Welfare Officer

In conclusion, a big thank you to everyone who has signed the petition. The number of signatures are growing daily. Why not add yours. Come see our stall at the HEACHAM CARNIVAL!

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Photograph by Paul Kozlowski



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And now for something very local!



Music in the Burnhams is well known for supporting the local village school and local musicians. The July workshop with Burnham Market School produced the best. Seven school leavers were among the children who for the third year running produced a splendid performance. Mary Poppins was of course a favourite, and it was a great way to send off our leavers. Well done all of them.

It is a huge pleasure for us to support the local young musicians for without them where would be the future of music be.

In August we introduce a local pianist who is in his final year at The Royal Northern School of Music. James Smith plays Scarlatti, Mozart Chopin and Liszt at Brancaster Church of August 3rd at 3pm.

We are privileged to have three professional musicians who retired to Norfolk to give us a recital on August 24th. Piano trios by English composers are often forgotten but are some of the finest music ever written. Listen to the best on Saturday August 24th at Brancaster Church at 7.30pm

We end August with something very different. Julian Godlee is another fine local

Saturday August 3rd at 3.00pm
St Mary's Church Brancaster PE319AU



James Smith : piano

Scarlatti Chopin Liszt and Debussy

Saturday August 24th at 7.30pm
St Mary's Church Brancaster PE319AU



Estelle Furnell (violin) Helen Johnston ('cello)
and Gill Smith (piano)

Saturday August 31st at 7.30pm
Burnham Overy Staithe Village Hall PE31 8JD



Glorious music ranging from Tallis to Billy Joel,
and Purcell to Tom Jones.

musician, and his baritone voice will ring out with Cabinet Shuffle at Overy Village Hall on Saturday August 31st at 7.30pm. It will be a great relaxed way to end the month.

"Cabinet Shuffle have been delighting audiences across Britain for many years with their humour and close harmony. The six members sing a cappella music ranging from Tallis to Billy Joel, and Purcell to Tom Jones.

Their music has been heard on BBC Radio and BBC Television, as well as on Friday Night is Music Night. They have sung for Royalty and in venues as diverse as Claridges, Blenheim Palace, The Royal College of Surgeons and The Cannes Film Festival."

All tickets are £20 and under 18s are free. More details and how to book on musicintheburnhams.com

Top Ed Sheeran tribute act to play at Hunstanton this September

Coming to the Princess Theatre, Hunstanton, Friday 13 September 2024 is the world's leading tribute act to Ed Sheeran, featuring Jack Shepherd, the only tribute act to be endorsed by Ed Sheeran himself.

With shows played across the UK and internationally, Ed Sheeran Experience is the live show for any Ed fan. After starting the show as a solo act 10 years ago after Ed's debut album, Jack Shepherd has gone on to share his love for Ed's music with fans alike, recently adding a live band to follow suit with Ed's current Mathematics world tour.

Featured on BBC, ITV, Heart FM and Capital, Jack is no stranger to the media. One particular highlight was BBC music making a documentary around Jack and his tribute show to coincide with Ed's headline performance at Glastonbury.

In Hunstanton this is your local opportunity to experience the



ultimate Ed Sheeran tribute, endorsed by Ed himself. Featuring the ballads, the beats, the ginger hair, the loop pedal magic and now including a live band. Experience sing-alongs, slow songs and all the hits, the Ed Sheeran Experience is a show not to be missed. This September is your opportunity to experience the magic of Ed Sheeran in your local Princess Theatre, and the chance for fans to meet the faces

and talent behind the Ed Sheeran experience in the theatre foyer, after the show.

Jack Shepherd has been performing as Ed since 2014 and has even been credited by Ed Sheeran himself in which he was told "I think what you do is awesome, really, really great."

Jack Shepherd, the ginger haired, guitar playing, loop-peddalling expertise at the front of the Ed Sheeran Experience says: "We're excited to bring the Ed Sheeran Experience to Hunstanton this September at the Princess Theatre and to offer the chance for fans to meet us and chat about their own experiences, music playing and appreciation of Sheeran's music. One of the things fans often ask me is how I learn Ed's music and how I prepare for the new album release – it's a labour of love of the music and the guitar. Bringing the new album to fans quickly when the latest album is released is one of my greatest pleasures."

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King's Lynn Community Cinema Club (KLCCC) has been celebrating after winning a national award for their work in the local community.

The club, which screens a wide variety of films at the Guildhall usually on the second Thursday of each month, scooped the Community Club Award at the Cinema for All Conference in Sheffield on Saturday 22 June. Cinema for All is the umbrella body which represents over 1,600 community cinema clubs and film societies across the length and breadth of the UK.

Cinema for All stated that the cinema club, which has been running since 2010, "had a really strong engagement with their local community and had worked with a variety of different organisations to raise funds and give support to several local and national charities." These include the Night Shelter, Purfleet Trust, King's Lynn Foodbank and Fairstead Community Shop. The club has also screened films made by local filmmakers including one highlighting the plight of local chalk screens and has also held events in association with K.L. Pride, Groundwork Gallery and in aid of Refugee Week.

Ian Barton, Chair of KLCCC, said "We are so proud to have won this national award - being a part of the community is at the heart of what we are all about. We love to be able to support local causes, and we also enjoy working with a range of partners across the borough to support lots of different causes. If you are a local group in the King's Lynn area looking to screen a film or for particular support, please feel free to get in touch with us."

The club has two screenings this month firstly on Thursday 8 August, when they will be showing winner of the best screenplay Oscar, comedy-drama 'American Fiction'. An African American novelist chafing against an industry that limits Black storytelling to trauma and poverty narratives. Then later in the month on Thursday 22nd August they will be showing 'One Life' starring Anthony Hopkins. Based on the true story of Sir Nicholas 'Nicky' Winton, who as a young London broker in the months leading up to World War II, rescued over 600 children from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia.

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 to any film for £5 cash on the door. Anyone over 18 wishing to join KLCCC can do so by emailing the club at communitycinemaclub@googlegmail.com and membership is always open. Full details of all the club's films and social events can be found on the club website and Facebook page.



Photo shows KLCCC chair Ian Barton and Committee member Amanda Goldsmith receiving the award in Sheffield.

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Behind the scenes

Welcome back to the next edition of Behind the Scenes. Get ready for some summer season fun, as we head into the month of August. We have had some great acts so far this summer, alongside our Soul at Sunset with DJ Zola on our Sunset Wine Bar terrace, which has seen great music and a great atmosphere! In this edition we will speak about what you can expect to see across the month of August.

As previously mentioned, we are now well within the summer season, and hence we have some great family entertainment for all! Towards the start of August, get ready for Rollason Stage School Presents – On With The Show. Within this variety show you can expect many different performers, including Shani Cantor, a brilliant singer, direct from the West-End, the fantastic Tommy J, 'Magique of UV', a unique fun UV act, as well as the brilliant Rollason Stage School themselves as a full supporting ensemble. Many of you will know the talents of this wonderful local dance school, as they have performed on the Princess Theatre's stage many times, in acts including our Christmas Pantomime. So, come down for an afternoon of family fun on the 4th of August at 2.30pm!

The fun doesn't stop there, as also on both Wednesday the 7th and 21st of August at 3pm and 7pm showings, we have The Great British Seaside Summer Variety Show. This summer show celebrates a variety of brilliant acts, featuring hilarious comedy and exciting magic, plus speciality acts as seen on TV and London's West-End stage. A celebration of the classic seaside variety show, this is the perfect summer holiday event, one which will undoubtedly be fun for all the family!



'The Great British Seaside Summer Variety Show, banner at the Princess Theatre Hunstanton'

Also, throughout this summer on the 10th of August we have Ireland The Show. An all-star Irish cast accompanies the stage in a fantastic celebration of Ireland, featuring talented singers and performers, alongside world champion Irish dancers and the fabulous Keltic Storm band. Celebrating the music of artistes such as The Dubliners, Luke Kelly, Christy Moore, and many more! Expect an evening of energy, with incredible Irish dancing, singing, and musicianship, in this wonderful celebration. The show states that this performance is 'guaranteed to take you to Ireland and back in one night!'

Towards the end of August, we have two great tribute acts performing. Firstly, on the 18th of August, we welcome the return of A Vision of Elvis, featuring Rob Kingsley and his talented cast. An award-winning tribute show celebrating the music of Elvis Presley, including hits such as It's Now or Never, Return to Sender, Suspicious Minds, The Wonder of You, and many more. Take your seats for this

authentic recreation of the King of Rock 'n' Roll.

Continuing, on the 23rd of August we have Give Me The Night – George Benson Tribute. Brand-new from Entertainers, who have brought performances to our theatre recently such as The Magic of Motown and Lost in Music. This celebration pays tribute to the music legend that is George Benson, and stars leading man Nat Augustin. Get your tickets now!



Jemma



'Ireland The Show'

That concludes this edition, thank you for reading. A big thank you for your support as always from the Princess Theatre, we hope to see you soon. Please visit the back 'What's On' page to see a full list of shows this August. But until next time, break a leg!



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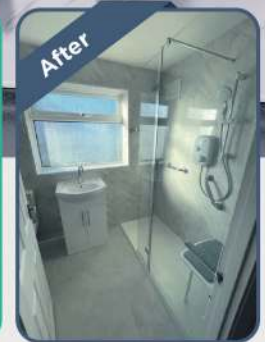
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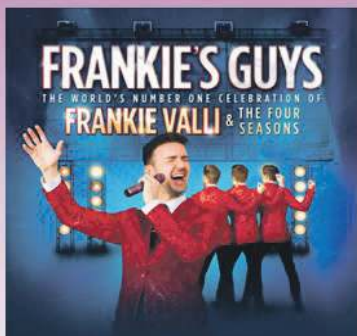
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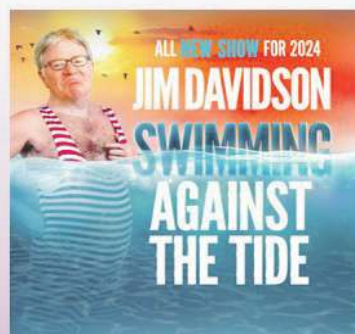
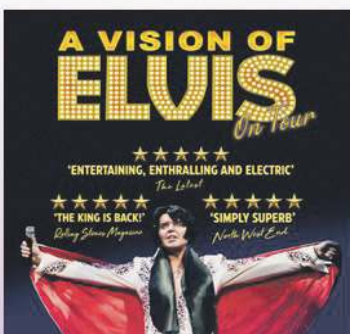
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