

TOWN and AROUND

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PRICELESS!



Local News • Events • Great Outdoors • Features

First word



A quintessentially English village cricket match between Thornham 1st XIs and Mattishall 2nds, blending sport with social tradition, was captured by Ian Burt on a lovely summer's day and is the subject of this month's cover. The match details are in Tim's cricket round-up on page 34.

Younger cricketers are in the news too, turn to page 8 to read about what's happening at Snettisham Juniors, and Ingoldsthope Church of England Primary School's tremendous

achievement of being crowned the East of England Champions!

This issue is my 250th; I didn't think I'd be producing a magazine for over twenty years. Thank you to everyone who has supplied information, articles, photos and advertising this month. The pages are full and make for really good reading.

The events listing is on the centre pages, lots to do in August as you'll see.

I'd like to remind you to keep up to date with local news by looking at our website between print magazines. There are stories enhanced by super videos, a recent one is about the Oliver production at Hunstanton Primary, well worth looking at - as is the story on page 60.

On a personal note, thank you for all the good wishes following Richard's emergency surgery, it is truly appreciated. This has been a difficult time, and it made both of us think long and hard about the future. We have come to the conclusion that we both need to retire, and as we'd like Town and Around to continue we are looking for someone to take over. There's more information on pages 31 and 37.

Until next month,

Elaine

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Hats off to Wild West Norfolk Festival!

Dani Crawshaw



Images Ian Burt

They live for line dancing," says Ash, whose two children are up on the tent stage at the Wild West Festival. As they do various moves - some kick-ball changes, a few grapevines (so I'm told) - the pair are full of smiles.



Erin & Tyler

After 8 year old Erin tells me, "What I love about line dancing is how everyone is so nice and friendly, it's fun." Her brother Tyler who's 11, adds, "You get to make great friends and it feels good when you're doing it."

The advice the pair have for me is, 'just enjoy it', and I do.

The family have lessons with Amy, from Buckin' Boots Line Dancing, who's here leading dances throughout the day, "The atmosphere is amazing, everyone seems happy," she smiles.

"Anyone can line dance you don't have to be this trained dancer to do it, as long as you can pick up some steps, you're fine - and if you enjoy the music, that's half of it."

As she takes the stage again, I go for a wander around the festival.

I walk by a Wild West Show by Lawdogs and Ladies, where families watch as there's a gun fight - a few kids have been put in jail.

There're food stalls with their enticing smells, the UK's largest mobile pub, face painting, a few fair rides and lots of people admiring some classic cars.

There're people having a go at the buckin' bull (I didn't) and axe throwing.



By the popcorn and lemonade stand, you can't miss co-owner Bill Dent, who's wearing American flag dungarees. I stop to chat.

"My wife bought them for me, a lot of people have been admiring them and want them," he says, "I'm originally from Washington State, but now live in Swaffham. The festival's great - it's a lot of fun."

On the way to the main stage, where more than 8 acts will perform, I spot Bella - a dog, who's got a cowboy hat on - I can't resist but



take a quick video (go to our website @townandaround.net to see).

Her owner says, "To be honest I can't believe she's keeping it on." Obviously enjoying the vibe.

About to go on stage is singer Adam Brucass and his band, from King's Lynn, "For me there's not really any greater feeling in the world. I think the first time I got up on a stage I knew that this was exactly where I needed to be, and for me it's the bigger the better."

"This festival is definitely something to be



Adam Brucass

admired" he continues, "They've got a great turn out, there're a lot of great stalls around and the crew have been fantastic. And I can see an impressive number of cowboy hats, a staple of country festivals!"

It's Hunstanton's second Wild West Norfolk Festival in the grounds of Glebe House School. Organisers say the number of people who came along has doubled - we can't wait for next year!

When perhaps I will have a go at the buckin' bull.

The video's also on our instagram page @townandaroundmagazine



Ash, Amy & Erin





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Full house for this year's Festival at Hunstanton's Town Hall!

The 2026 Hunstanton One-Act Drama Festival proved to be a busy weekend for actors and audiences alike, with 12 groups from around the region performing to a packed audience at Hunstanton's prestigious Town Hall.



Friday night saw presentations from St Nicolas Players, King's Lynn Players and a showcase performance of the 2024 award-winning play 'Wise Men, Nor Fools' and groups from Sheringham, Wilburton, Boston, Holbeach and Sleaford took part over the weekend in the run-up to the Gala Awards on Sunday evening.



The bar team from left: Rita, Trina and Ann

The Drama Festival which aims to encourage and promote live amateur theatre, was made possible this year thanks to the support from Hunstanton Town Council, Hunstanton Rotary, KL1 Radio and local businesses as well as the volunteers who run the event.

Festival Director Verity Mitchell said: "We are enormously grateful to Hunstanton Town Council for allowing us to use their beautiful theatre stage and facilities and we've had such

a good experience, we're hoping to come back next year.



Festival Director Verity Mitchell (red shoes) with author of the showcase play (far right) Kei Bailey, Heckington Players Mandi Wood, Sleaford Little Theatre's Laura Davies and members of the audience on the opening night of the festival.

Verity added: "The standard of the plays was excellent as always, with seven of the 11 competing groups presenting original scripts and our adjudicators had a challenging time deciding who should win each category on Sunday night. I certainly didn't envy their task and feel hugely honoured to be part of this wonderful festival."

Following the Awards Ceremony, the Sunday night audience and groups were treated to a celebratory glass of fizz and a delicious buffet provided by The Terrace Restaurant, Hunstanton.

Next year's date has yet to be set, but you can be sure of a fabulous weekend of exciting and new plays, so keep an eye out for announcements on the website www.oneactdramafestival.com



George is Leaving, performed by the Heckington Players, was awarded Best Original Script and Best Production, as well as receiving a nomination for Best Technical Achievement.





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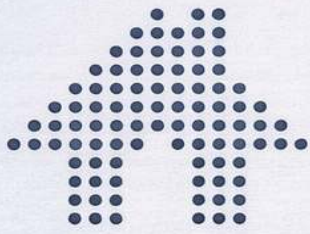
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Snettisham Cricket Club Juniors bowled over by donation

Elaine Bird

Formed in 1874 Snettisham Cricket Club has over a hundred members, with NCA 1st team, NCL 2nd team, 1 team in the MNSCL, Ladies softball and hardball team, plus Junior teams.

"Snettisham Cricket Club is an important part of village life," says Andrew Grange as he arrives at the ground bearing his cheque for the Juniors.



The juniors at the club were presented with a cheque from Andrew Grange (pictured right in tan shorts) at the practice session on 8th July

Coach of the Ladies softball team, Michelle Knott, pictured far right above, expressed the club's thanks for his fundraising efforts and said the money may be used to take the juniors to a match somewhere.

Sponsors the Junior team Mike Rivers, who is the proprietor of Dersingham News and Post Office is there too, and Mike's 12-year-old grandson Tommy plays for the Junior team. "It's a great club for the youngsters," he says.

Wednesday evening is the practice night and as the field fills with parents, coaches and cricketers from 4 to - well I'm too polite to say, kit is assembled on various parts of the ground under a blue sky, bright sunshine while the beautiful St Mary's parish church dominates the skyline.

I talk to Claire Cousins, one of the All Stars' coaches, who tells me

Bat-titude of champions!

Ingoldisthorpe Church of England Primary School is celebrating an historic sporting achievement after its cricket team was crowned the best in the East of England on Wednesday, July 8th.

Competing at the prestigious Essex County Cricket Ground in Chelmsford, the team comprising seven boys and one girl delivered a flawless performance to win the regional final, overcoming champions from five other counties.

The road to regional glory began with a spectacular victory at the county cricket competition in Horsford. Having secured their spot as the pride of Norfolk, the young cricketers advanced to the finals in Chelmsford to face the absolute best teams from across six eastern counties.

Playing in tough, intensely hot conditions, the Ingoldisthorpe team showed incredible resilience and skill. They remained undefeated all day, winning every single match they played.

What truly set the team apart, however, was their exceptional sportsmanship and team dynamic. Every member of the squad took turns to bat, bowl, and field, proving that their success was a total team effort. Throughout the blistering heat, they constantly supported and encouraged one another on the pitch.

The school and local community have been left beaming with pride following the historic win. The triumphs on the pitch were matched by the incredible atmosphere in the stands. A dedicated group of parents made the journey to Chelmsford, providing passionate and unwavering support from the first boundary to the final wicket. It turned the tournament into a wonderful, memorable family event, with the sidelines filled with cheers, community spirit, and shared pride.



Some of the All Stars

that: "I've been coming to Snettisham Cricket Club as a parent for many, many years, my youngest daughter is now 15 and she started here when she was 5.

"As the children got a little bit older I decided to join in and become a coach, so now I'm a fully-qualified coach for All Stars, which is ages 4-8.

"We can have up to 20 very young children all at one time which is fun but slightly chaotic; we all get a lot out of being part of the cricket club, it has been great for our children, especially as they get older - my eldest daughter is now nearly 22 and she's a qualified coach helping out with the older children; we have really enjoyed our time here."

Fourteen-year-old Harry says he came to the club as a youngster, then had a break but has been back for a couple of months now - it's really, really good.

"It is a nice way to be out of doors, be active, stay active and everyone here is really welcoming, it's a nice environment to be in."

Charlie has been coming to the club for about four years he said: "I like meeting new people and learning new things."

The Juniors other sponsors are: Ed Kelly Electricals, Lynx Buses and Germaine Seeds. Anyone interested in joining or supporting the Club should contact Michelleknott1973@gmail.com



"We are incredibly proud of their achievement and so proud of how well they represented our school at such a high level," said Mrs Norman Headteacher of Ingoldisthorpe Church of England Primary School. "They played brilliantly all day, but more importantly, they looked out for each other and showed true team spirit."

Congratulations to the Ingoldisthorpe Primary champions on an unforgettable summer victory!

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Getting divorced? Don't overlook the pension

By Daniel Sims, Solicitor, Hayes + Storr

When looking at the assets in a divorce, most couples' immediate concern will be about the family home, and whether it is affordable to keep it, or whether it will be necessary to sell it and divide the proceeds; many are still failing to think long-term, forgetting about the pension pots, which can be just as valuable as the property, or even more so.

Back in 2022, the University of Manchester and Office for National Statistics' research found that on average, a husband's pension could be almost x10 higher than his wife's pension, but that few couples were discussing this disparity, and more recent research has found the average middle-aged man will hold £108,100 in pension wealth, compared to same-age women with an average of £57,900.

The Pensions Commission published an interim report in May 2026 highlighting that there are still a huge proportion of people without sufficient pension provision to see them through old age, particularly women, notwithstanding developments such as automatic enrolment for employees.

Typically, a wife will have been out of the workforce, looking after the children, and may have then returned to work on a part-time basis, or at a lower rate of salary, so on retirement, she is likely to have less pension income to meet her living costs. This family decision, made on the expectation that, in retirement, the money would be pooled between them, will put the wife at a disadvantage if the marriage then breaks down and she has little to no independent provision.

The Divorce Courts recognise this issue and have made it clear that the wife's (career) pension sacrifice should be remedied by sharing the husband's pension pot, transferring a percentage of the value from his pot to her pot. The husband's pot will be reduced, but he can then rebuild moving forward if he is still working, whilst the wife's pot will correspondingly increase, so it should pay her greater income directly in later years.

It is vital to take professional advice. Solicitors can help to gather



information and get an actuary or Pension on Divorce Expert involved, who will calculate what percentage of the husband's pension would need to be transferred to achieve either an equalisation of capital values, or, in cases with public sector funds, a long marriage or proximity to retirement age, equalisation of future income. Once the transfer amount has been agreed, and approved by the Court, the wife may then need a financial advisor to help her invest the pension share in a new pot.

Agreeing to leave a pension alone, in exchange for property or cash, or disregarding them entirely, may well cause real hardship in old age and legal and financial advice should be taken before agreeing any final divorce settlement.

For expert advice on divorce and pensions, contact Daniel Sims on 01328 863231 or email daniel.sims@hayes-storr.com.



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THE SMALL COMPANY TAX SHAKE-UP: WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?

By Mapus-Smith & Lemmon LLP incorporating Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton

As Government spending rises and HMRC constantly try to find more tax revenues, closing the perceived “tax gap” is a perennial concern. One area which has particularly attracted attention is the small company sector. According to a report published on 19 March “The predominant risks contributing to the tax gap in the small company population are:

- under-reported income and over-claimed expenses
- error and evasion in transactions that occur between a company and its owners”.

HMRC expects to make progress in both these areas but are initially looking to implement procedures to focus on the level of shortfall in order to be able to crack down on the amounts of tax apparently lost.

The consultation, which ran from 19 March to 10 June, covers both private companies and their shareholders/ directors (in HMRC terms “close companies and their participants”) looking at:

- mandatory reporting to HMRC of transactions between close companies and their participants
- the scope of the transactions to be included.
- the specific requirements as to what will need to be reported, including the format and timing.

The intention appears to be a requirement for to require close companies to provide detailed information of internal transactions including:

- sales and purchases of assets to or from the company
- dividends or other distributions
- any other transfer of value from the company to the participant.

The consultation does not make it clear how frequently such reports will be required, the options presumably being a single report as part of the annual corporation tax return or more regular reports along the lines of the quarterly “making tax digital” legislation.

One aspect which is likely to come under scrutiny is the tendency for some company directors is to withdraw funds as required over of the financial year with the accountants sorting the tax aspects after the year end. This normally involves the payment of a dividend between the year end and the filing of the accounts to cover both the amounts withdrawn and the notional interest on the balance – more regular reporting would presumably accelerate the payment of the dividends and possibly move the personal tax liability into an earlier year.

There is also a danger that if such dividends have not been properly evidenced there is an argument that the payments which have been charged to the loan account are not loans at all and that PAYE and NIC should have been charged at the time the payments are made.

However, irrespective of what the consultation might conclude, it is clear that HMRC are already pressing ahead with the factfinding. The 2025/26 tax return pages for SA102 directors and employees now include a requirement to disclose:

- Whether they are a director of a close company
- The identity of the company
- The amount of dividends received
- The proportion of shares held.

Clearly the intention is for to HMRC to link dividend income to specific companies and to identify discrepancies between personal tax returns and company results

The consultation concludes that “The government expects to explore other ways in which to address the small business CT gap in future”

Aside from the point that HMRC have begun the collection of data before even publishing the “consultation” (which might lead the cynical to question the value of even making a response) it is worth considering which genuine business activities might be fall within the terms of the proposed rules:

- Limited companies within an existing partnership (quite common in agriculture)
- Rental arrangements (which will not always be at arm’s length terms) with participants
- Parallel businesses in corporate and non-corporate structures which trade together on a regular or even daily basis.

It is clear that in addition to the requirements of the 2025/26 tax returns there will be future reporting requirements in the near future, and clients will need to ensure both that accounting systems are able to extract the necessary reports and that dividend processes are fully compliant in future.

If you require any advice with regard to the above, please do contact Nicola Tarry FCA at Mapus-Smith & Lemmon LLP, Hunstanton office on 01485 534800 or ntarry@mapus.co.uk

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Taking the spotlight! Film award for local teacher

Burnham Market Primary's Ash Williams wins prestigious film award at a red-carpet ceremony in London

"It was a pretty amazing feeling," Ash says, who's been awarded Filmmaking Champion, at the annual Into Film Awards in London.

"I've been making films on my own since I was a kid myself, and have been working with young people to produce their own short films for 16 years."

The accolade recognises 'individuals or groups that facilitate and support young filmmakers to find an outlet through filmmaking', and was presented by Bafta-winning director Akinola Davies.



Ash Williams adds, "I've been lucky enough to attend the Into Film Awards on many occasions – first as a student, then a mentor, before as a teacher, supporting my own students."

"So to finally stand on the stage as a 'Filmmaking Champion' was a pretty momentous experience."



Ash Williams at Burnham Market Primary School. Photo: Ian Burt

"Since joining Burnham Market Primary, I've developed a rich film-making ethos in the school, with every child now having access to film making and animation as part of the learning journeys," Ash continues.

"Over the past four years, I've supported Burnham Market students to produce multiple films, which have gained multiple national awards, and even been screened at both

national and international film festivals.

"Outside of school, I'm also Fakenham Film Festival Director, where I also support the local community in coming together to celebrate and make films."

"I love film and film making – there's no better tool that brings everyone together to work on a project that truly bridges every subject and every skill."

New leadership for Hunstanton school

The new Headteacher and Deputy Head for Smithdon High have over 45 years of teaching experience between them. Sarah Robinson, who's worked at the school for 20 years, has taken over the reins as Acting Headteacher. And Jamie Warner-Lynn, with 25 years experience, is now Deputy Head.

The two take on the leadership at a time when Smithdon is undergoing extensive refurbishment and restructuring, to 'provide cutting-edge new facilities for the staff and students'.



"It is a refurbishment of the existing main building and gym, to maintain the heritage of the listed, brutalist building," Mrs Robinson explains.

"It will include brand new science labs, state-of-the-art music suite

and performance area, and a modernised gym."

Mr Warner-Lynn says, "Whilst it has certainly been a busy start to my time at Smithdon, I am without a doubt really enjoying it. The staff here are incredibly hard working, and the community is so supportive and friendly."

"I have enjoyed doing some extra revision sessions with the Year 11s, and seeing the talent that Smithdon students have."

Mrs Robinson adds, "Smithdon's greatest strengths are a strong and supportive community, and a strong enrichment programme with lots of opportunities for all students."

"We want to continue to develop the culture of the school to provide a warm and welcoming environment, where students can thrive academically, and develop into compassionate and confident young adults."





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Thornham Village Hall Wash Art Group Summer Exhibition



It's that time of year again when the Wash Art Group invite you to their Summer Exhibition at Thornham Village Hall (on the coast road A149 next to the Deli.) from Friday 28th August to Monday 31st August. The first hour' parking is free of charge, and of course admission is also free.

The Artists will be on hand every day from 10.00 till 5.00 to welcome visitors and answer any questions they may have.

As in previous years, there will be a very wide variety of artwork on show, including Oils, Watercolours, Pastels, Acrylics, Photography and sculpture. Also textile work and prints. The talents of these enthusiastic artists know no bounds! What is more, they really enjoy sharing their work each year.

There will also be greetings cards and prints available to purchase, and who knows if you could find the perfect gift for that special occasion!

For further details please contact Julian Bull at washartgroup@yahoo.com

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Snettisham Gardening Club

RHS affiliated club

We will have a stall at our upcoming Village Fayre on Saturday 8th August so hopefully our members will have contributed the excellent plants they usually do for sale. The Fayre opens at 11.30 am.

Our August meeting in the Memorial Hall will be "Tales of the Imp of Clenchwarton Allotments" with contributions from local actors on Wednesday 26th August. The visitor charge for this event will be £5.00 and Members may be asked to show their Membership cards/

Our September meeting will be on Wednesday 30th when Barbara Williams will be talking about the Norfolk Plant Heritage Group.

Monthly meetings in the Memorial Hall, Old Church Road begin at 7.30 pm.

As always visitors and guests are welcome to join us at our meetings at a cost of £2.00 for the first visit and £10.00 for full membership which also gives discount at Ward's Nurseries and Moulam & Horn.

For further information please call Gail on 07899933840 or Addie on 01485 544754

Burnham Market Craft Fair

The Burnham Market Craft Fair will return for its 50th year at The Green on Saturday, August 15th, where a wide range of hand-crafted goods will be on sale. The first event was in 1976 and has been held annually ever since (Covid excepting!).

The fair was the brainchild of village residents the late Princess Diana's aunt, Lady Margaret Douglas-Home and Anne Cringle. From those early days it now attracts thousands of visitors and has quickly established itself as one of the most popular craft fairs not only in Norfolk but the surrounding counties.

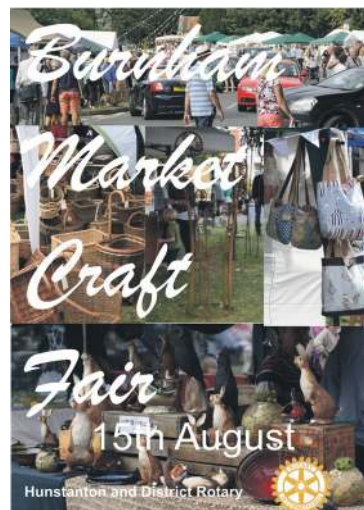
This year being the 50th year you can expect to see lots of gold bunting and golden decorated stalls to celebrate this special year. Profits from the fair are donated to local charities and groups. The organisers of this exciting event are Hunstanton and District Rotary, who are themselves celebrating their golden anniversary of 50 years of giving service in the community.

Visitors to Burnham Market will be able to choose from over 100 stalls holders coming together from all over the region, selling a wide range of goods. There are stalls new to the market and stalls that have been coming for over 15 years. Many of the traders are displaying jewellery, artwork, ceramics and gifts made by themselves. These are accompanied by crafted leather work and textiles, soaps and fragrances, and other natural skin products; other stalls offer various types of woodwork products, some with demonstrations. Garden sculptures are among some of the unique products with ceramic sculptures and upcycled kitchen and furniture.

Parking will be available at the playing field in Station Road (£5) or at the pay and display car park in North Street.

The village restaurants, cafes and pubs will also be open throughout the day and there will be food and drink stalls offering ice cream, a hog roast, artisan foods and more.

Market traders will be promoted via an App tagged onto the Burnham Market App providing trader contact details and products both before and after the market day.



Snettisham Art Group



2026 LATE SUMMER HOLIDAY ART EXHIBITION
with associated crafts will
be held at the British Legion Hall,
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Bank Holiday Friday to Monday
28th to 31st August 2026
OPEN

from 10.00am until 5.30pm each day
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Wendy Warner's plant of the month - Crocosmia

If you are looking for some striking colour in the garden for mid to late summer, Crocosmia are the perfect plants. Also known as montbretia, these hardy, perennial plants that are grown from corms, have fiery red, orange or yellow flowers. From sword-shaped leaves, upright, arching stems emerge carrying small, funnel-shaped flowers that open in succession. Most have green foliage, but in some varieties, it is bronze tinted.

Crocosmia are easy to grow and prefer a position in full sun, although they will grow in dappled or light shade. They won't flower well in deep shade. They require moist, well drained soil, and if growing on heavier soil such as clay, grit should be added to improve drainage. In very dry soil, their growth may be stunted. They prefer to grow in the ground rather than in pots but work well in both traditional or contemporary planting schemes. Crocosmia lend themselves to prairie or drift planting displays alongside ornamental grasses where they will sway in the wind and contrast in structure to the daisy-like flowers of helenium, rudbeckias and echinaceas. In more traditional gardens they combine well with salvias, dahlias and cannas for a vibrant late summer display. They will also attract bees and other pollinating insects.

Dry corms should be planted in spring, or potted plants can be planted at any time so long as they are watered well until established. As they grow, they will produce dense clumps which should be lifted and divided every 3 to 5 years. Leave the foliage to die back naturally after flowering to replenish the corms for the following year. They are deciduous so all dead leaves and stems can be removed in the early winter, and new shoots will emerge in spring.

One of the most popular and spectacular varieties is Crocosmia 'Lucifer' which can grow up to 1.5 metres tall and has deep red stems and large scarlet flowers. Crocosmia 'George Davison' is a medium height (70-90cm) variety with amber-yellow flowers. One of my favourites is medium height Crocosmia 'Emily McKenzie' with its large, vivid orange flowers marked with a mahogany ring in the centre.



One of Wendy's favourites Crocosmia 'Emily McKenzie'

For a vibrant yellow, choose Crocosmia 'Columbus' with bright golden-yellow flowers with contrasting dark reddish-brown buds, growing to approximately 90cm. Crocosmia 'Babylon' has large orange-red flowers with dark rings and golden throats.

Whether you are looking to brighten a sunny border, attract pollinators or enjoy vibrant cut flowers throughout late summer, crocosmia is a rewarding addition to the garden.



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Downham Market & District Horticultural Society

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Carolyn Hayes

Our annual Summer Show took place on Saturday 4 July. We would like to thank everyone who either exhibited or visited, and to congratulate our very worthy winners. The judges were extremely impressed with the high standard of all the exhibits and found it difficult to select just three winners in each class. Many thanks to all the judges for giving up their Saturday morning – the Show couldn't go ahead without them.



We were pleased that several children entered again this year, in a number of different classes – and not only entered but won, which proves that a young age is no barrier to winning!

Instead of using the stage for some of the exhibits, we used the Clock Room for the first time. This proved a very good move, as there was more room to lay everything out and, as can be seen from the photograph, it is a lovely light, fully-accessible room so the artwork, photography and floral art exhibits could be displayed to their best advantage, and there was more room to move around to view everything properly.

We would also like to pass on our sincere thanks to the many local businesses who donated raffle prizes. Thanks to their generosity, our raffle raised more than ever before. This income is vital to help keep our Society going. Thank you also to our members who grew and donated plants for our plant stall – this proved as popular as ever, and also raised an impressive amount of money.

We were delighted that several people signed up during the day as new Horticultural Society members – a big welcome to you all!

DIARY DATE: Next year's Show is on Saturday 3 July, in Downham Market Town Hall again.

If you'd like further details about our Society or the Summer Show, or if you'd like to come along to see what we're all about (with no obligation to join), please contact our membership secretary, Judith, on 01366 501466 or email: jt.mazur@tiscali.co.uk. At only £10 per year, it is a real bargain!

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Old Hunstanton Open Gardens

Carol Greening

Thank you to everyone who supported our Open Gardens on 14th June. It was a lovely day with more people joining us than ever to visit the gardens, browse the stalls and enjoy lunch.

Lots of visitors left carrying plants and iron work for their gardens from the gardening stalls at the village hall.

The lunch of ham, frittas and thai chicken kebabs with salads went down well with our visitors along with the cakes, scones and sausage rolls.

We all enjoyed Claire Bloodworth's singing in the hall garden. The proceeds raised will be split between the church and the village hall.



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St Nicholas Dersingham Flower Festival

17th - 20th September

This year we're kicking off our Flower Festival with a Comedy Night on Thursday 17th September at 7pm.

We will be welcoming Paul Kerensa - a writer, comedian and broadcaster, working in TV, radio, print and the stage for an evening of fun and laughter for all the family!

There will be a bar, plus non-alcoholic and soft drinks available along with snacks and sweet treats.

Tickets - £10.00 adults, £5.00 under 18s are available from our website: stnicholasdersingham.org.uk

You may not recognise his name but you will recognise his work. Paul has been on the writing team for over 100 episodes of BBC1 sitcom Not Going Out, the British Comedy Award-winning Miranda, as well as Top Gear, Buble at the BBC, TFI Friday, CBBCs Andy and the Band and The Royal Variety Performance.

Check out Paul's website for more: paulkerensa.com



A B C

The title of this year's festival is A B C - a journey along the Alphabet!

Our dedicated team of flower arrangers will once again be bringing their flair and imagination into church to create floral displays that explore the world of letters - how many Alphabets can you name?

Church will be open 10am - 4pm Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 12 noon - 4pm Sunday.

What's on

There are plenty of things happening in the church during the festival:

- Local musicians will be playing in church each day
- Refreshments available all day
- There will be a "Pause for Prayer" at 12 noon
- Friday morning our younger children will be enjoying a "Carpet Picnic" with songs and story time
- Saturday afternoon there will be children's activities
- Sunday 10am we celebrate Harvest Festival
- Sunday evening we'll celebrate with "Hymns and Pimms"

Join in - it's fun

We would love you to join in by trying your hand at making an arrangement to include a "Letter"

The "Letter" can be - either- a letter from the alphabet - A, B, C etc. or a letter received, or sent, by you.

Forms can be found at the back of church; complete a Form and post it in the Flower Festival Post Box at the back of church.

Everyone is welcome to join in - the more the merrier!

If you would like more information please contact:

Yvonne Fuller 07971 896653 or Anne Hynde 07885 956321

**The copy date for September's edition is
12th August**

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Saturday 1st Quiz Night 7.30 pm

Wednesday 5th Cream Tea 3 - 5 pm

Saturday 22nd Haley Brother Duo

Saturday 29th Steve's Disco - Music for all genres

For more information - see our Facebook page

Regular Events

Mondays: 10th & 24th U3A Spanish

Mondays: Strength and Balance Class 4.30pm.

Tuesdays: Seated Yoga 12.45pm -1.30pm. Cash Bingo 7.30pm.

Wednesdays: Scrabble 10am, U3A Chess 10am, Whist Drive 7pm

Thursdays: Strength and Balance Class 1.00pm.

Fridays: Prize Raffle 1pm. Cash Bingo at 7.30pm.

Saturdays: 'Open the Box' draw at 1pm.

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Borough Council news

Cllr Terry Parish, Heacham Ward which includes Sedgeford and Fring

POSSIBLY URGENT

I made a mistake about the intentions of McDonalds. I was convinced that their proposed site, at the lavender lights' junction, was marketing hype so that their real intentions, to build further along the A149, beyond Lidl's, would seem a good idea. However, after meeting with a handful of their representatives it is clear that their daft idea is real. They likely intend to submit a planning application for the lavender junction site before the end of July so it could be live now. If you have comments to make, get them on the planning portal asap. And look out for a public meeting. It's all a bit chicken and egg as any necessary arrangements can't be made until an application is put in and once it is done the time for response is limited. Though, having said that, it is normal for public comments to be accepted up until a few days before the application appears at planning committee. That might be several months down the line.

Most of the presentation was telling us how wonderful they are. Facts gleaned: The public consultation that McDonald's underwent had 1478 responses. 46% supported the proposal, including those with unspecified reservations (I guess location), which means 54% opposed the proposal outright. It is their intention to employ 'local' staff but they do have a travel plan for employees to reduce car journeys for those from further afield. Their traffic survey around the potential site was done in March before the tourist season began. Litter is only picked up within 150m of the site.

Borough Council by elections in Heacham and Snettisham have been thrust upon us due to the resignations of the incumbents. It may surprise Heacham residents that you had two Borough Cllrs but two were elected three years ago. I am one of them and will remain as a Borough Cllr after this election.

Next May 2027, my four-year term is up and there may be elections for the two Borough Councillor posts or they will likely be extended for one year because, in May 2028, the plan is for the new West Norfolk Unitary authority to take over. To that end, next May 2027, there should be elections for the shadow unitary councillors. These have to shadow existing Borough and County Cllrs for one year. My

intention is to stand so, if elected, I can shadow myself.

There is a fly in the ointment called the Reform group at County who are challenging the move to unitary. The expectation is that the challenge will fail. I maintain that the best opportunity for local representation on all matters dealt with both by Borough and County is the three unitary model that has been accepted by government. Our unitary will be called West Norfolk and will include Breckland and a portion of South Norfolk.

The Borough Council's proposed sale of the land the beach huts sit on at North Beach caused some furore last year. In the end, it wasn't sold and new financial arrangements saved the hut owners some money. At a recent meeting with the portfolio holder, I was surprised to be offered the land as a gift to Heacham Parish Council if they were prepared to take it on. This is in the very early stages of negotiation as all the paperwork has yet to be seen. It would guarantee that the land would not be sold whatever council rules in the future and should provide an income, not a large one, to the Parish.

Another piece of Borough Council land has rattled cages recently. This is the piece of greenery just off the High St accessed from a track close to its junction with Lynn Road. A former bowling green and, before that, the garden to a pub long gone. Property services put it up for sale with prior approval for two houses. An interested party enquired and was told they could build 4 houses. I took umbrage at this and enquired of someone with sense how it jumped from 2 to 4. I also asked the Borough expert on Neighbourhood plans what the status of a designated green space, in a plan, was should it be sold. The upshot is, that green space cannot be developed and any owner can only do work to enhance its green features. In consequence, the Borough now appears willing to give it to the Parish Council together with a pointer to grants which will enable appropriate work to be done. Again, this is in very early stages and discussions have to be held.

The government has caused a new, Borough wide, Local Plan to be developed. A notice of intention was published on the 30th June and it will have to be adopted in May 2029. During

September there will be what is called a Scoping Consultation which is meant to inform planners what people think should be included within the Plan and how they would like to be engaged and kept up to date with its progress.

Details will be on line and in the press. Local meetings for the public will also be arranged. Our nearest is likely to be in Hunstanton. Parish Councils will be provided with all details. At the same time, details of the call for sites will be released. This is all of the 750 sites that land owners, across the Borough, have, so far, offered for development. There will be an opportunity to comment on them. I have not seen the list yet but there will be sites in Heacham and in Sedgeford. There will be an interactive map showing all sites.

It is very important that everyone takes an interest in the development of this Local Plan and the sites that could come forward for development as, together, they will influence your lives, and those of your children and grandchildren. Look out for details, come September ask the Parish Council and I will give further information as soon as it becomes available to me.

The fields off Cheney Hill, have been and may still be, Heacham's wild flower meadow. Soil disturbance and the sun have brought out a wealth of species of many colours either flowering within the tall grasses or as separate blocks. Many species of butterflies are feeding there while swifts have soared overhead and barn owls hunt in the early evening. Skylarks added their song to that of their lower flying brethren, the finches and tits. The odd rabbit and deer are seen moving between the swaying grasses and along hedgerows. 134 houses are due to be built on two thirds of the land. Progress.

The public consultation on the principal of King's Lynn having a Town Council resulted in 86% in favour. The Electoral Arrangements Committee recommended that the second consultation, which will contain more detail, is now prepared. Full Council will have the final decision. I have always been in favour of a Town Council for Lynn and put it into the Corporate Plan 3 years ago. Local Government Reorganisation has given the process impetus.



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, SHOULDHAM FLOWER FESTIVAL

Saturday 29th – Monday 31st August

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of All Saints' Church, Shouldham is delighted to announce it will be hosting their annual Flower Festival over the August Bank Holiday weekend again in 2026. Curated by local floral queen Jenny Malby, the Flower Festival has once again become a highlight of the village's annual roster of events.

The theme this year will be 'A Grand Day Out', a broad theme for the talented band of arrangers to use their imaginations. Any number of popular events could be featured in the displays, from a day at the races to a village fete. The 15th century nave with its unique hammerbeam angel roof is transformed for this weekend of floral

delights, bringing hundreds of visitors through the doors of 'The Church on The Hill'.

As part of the ongoing needs of this historic building, this year's Festival is an opportunity to share with visitors the developments in our major fundraising campaign for the church, which is in urgent need of repairs to various aspects of the building. The 'Friends of All Saints' has been launched to support this aim, and we look forward to building our membership at the Flower Festival. Shouldham is renowned for its strong community spirit, and the village is rallying round to support the church. All proceeds from the Flower Festival will go towards supporting All Saints, ensuring its viability for future generations.

There will, as ever, be a wonderful spread of delicious home-made cakes, biscuits and savouries, a bric-a-brac stall and a tombola. Visitors can enjoy a lovely afternoon in splendid surroundings, and enjoy a stroll down the hill to the village green where the Award-winning community pub, The King's Arms, will be open all weekend for a refreshing pint.

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Wild in Westminster and West Norfolk

Throughout the summer there is no better place to be than the North Norfolk coast. Many memories will be made as families enjoy the beach. However, there are inevitably accidents and incidents and when things go wrong we rely on the emergency services.

Last year the Hunstanton Coastguard Rescue team responded to 156 emergency shouts. Its officers have protected people along the coast since 1876. But changes planned by the government risk undermining this vital service.

As it stands, Coastguard Rescue Officers (CROs) receive a payment of £11 an hour when on a shout or on training. This modest payment is in recognition of them dropping everything, leaving work or family events at all hours to help locals and visitors alike. As one officer from Hunstanton told me, "no one does it for the money, but it allows us to do it." But from September that is due to stop, with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) deciding they will then only receive expenses.

It is important to recognise that the coastguard is an emergency service like the police, fire, or ambulance services. Everyone will be familiar with the advice that if you find yourself in an emergency situation or spot someone in trouble when on the coast, call 999 and ask for the coastguard.

The changes in payment follow a court case regarding the status of CROs. The MCA is imposing a model despite its internal survey showing that 53 per cent of CROs in East Anglia would quit or reduce their availability if the expenses only model comes into effect.

This could severely undermine the resilience of this emergency service. There are 11 CROs at Hunstanton with two more in training. When responding, the team needs a critical mass to be able to do so safely.

Since the announcement of the changes, I have been contacted by many volunteers across the North West Norfolk coast. That's why I have been campaigning for the government to think again and recently



welcomed members of the Hunstanton team to Parliament as they travelled to Westminster to make their case. I have pressed the MCA's Chief Executive to reconsider the proposals given the impact on recruitment and retention of these emergency responders.

Ultimately ministers must take responsibility for the risk to public safety. So I have urged the Transport Minister to call for a halt to the plans due to take effect in September to allow time to develop a long term solution. Moving to a volunteer-with-expenses model risks reducing volunteer availability and undermining the resilience of coastal rescue teams.

Rather than press ahead, the government needs to think again, pause these plans, and work with coastguards on a better model. Otherwise, we risk losing highly trained emergency responders who help keep our coast safe.

Editor's note: I received an email from James Wild's office on 16.7.26 with the news that the government has abandoned its plans to change Coastguard Rescue Officer payments.

Marking Two Years Since the General Election

Terry Jermy MP

It is the honour of my life to serve as the Member of Parliament for South West Norfolk, the place I have always called home. South West Norfolk is where I was born, went to school and became a local town councillor at 22.

When I stood for election, I made clear my commitment to being a constituency-focused MP. For too long, South West Norfolk had been overlooked and undervalued, and the consequences of that were stark. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital was rated as the worst hospital in the country, held up by thousands of metal and wooden props. We had an appalling lack of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision that meant children were being transported out of their communities to schools hours away – or worse, not in school at all. We had banks shutting up shop on our high streets, and vital infrastructure, from our flood defences to our roads were left to crumble.

4th July 2026 marked two years since my somewhat surprise General Election victory, and I have loved getting to work across the constituency since that day. Whilst I am aware there is so much more to do, this two-year milestone provides an opportunity to note progress.

Following the election, I recruited a dedicated constituency team – including a SEND Specialist Caseworker. My team has been busy working alongside me to support

South West Norfolk residents and we have been delighted to assist so many people, with 16,153 individual cases opened since September 2024. Much of this work isn't shareable but can be life changing for the people involved.

We've also been hard at work lobbying for the funding needed to address our local challenges. Within months of winning the election, the Government confirmed £1.4 billion in funding to build a new Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The build is already underway with much progress made – there's a new helipad, a new bus stop and as I type this, work is happening on the new multi-storey car park. All of which are necessary before the main hospital build can begin.

To help with local SEND provision, I secured £20 million in Government funding for a new SEND school in Downham Market, and led the campaign, collecting 800 signatures from residents calling on Norfolk County Council to commit to this proposal.

We've seen record levels of investment for Norfolk County Council, which includes more than £26 million to improve our rural bus services, £3 million to help residents with heating oil support, and funding increases to fix our broken roads. We've also received more than £4 million for South West Norfolk's flood defences and internal drainage board networks.

Engagement with constituents has been a



key focus with more than 100 surgeries delivered. Over the coming months, I will be undertaking my annual summer listening tour, where I am running advice surgeries in 31 of South West Norfolk's 72 villages. Should you or someone you know wish to attend, please email me:

terry.jermy.mp@parliament.uk

In your email, please include your full name, address, and an overview of the matter you would like to discuss.

Campaigns

County Councillor Alexandra Kemp

County Division: Clenchwarton and King's Lynn South, Norfolk County Council, including South Lynn, West Lynn, Clenchwarton, West Winch, Setchey

Landline: 01553 630329 Mobile: 07920 286636

Hardings Way

I signed up to Norfolk Wildlife Trust's United for Nature Candidate Pledge in the recent County Council Elections, to encourage positive council decisions for nature, stand up for our locally valued nature and wildlife, and support the community to enhance their local natural environment and green spaces.

South Lynn residents and I braved the 4 July heat to sign the petition with a message for West Norfolk Council - No Traffic, No Car Park, No development on Hardings Way, or on Hardings Pits, in South Lynn. Parents at St Michael's Primary also signed up.

The tenth community event.



Pictured Cllr Alexandra Kemp with South Lynn residents on Hardings Pits on 4 July

Hardings Pits is a 10-acre nature reserve, wildlife haven, community family-friendly open space, and Safe Walk to School.

But the peace and quiet, diversity and traffic-free status of Hardings Pits Doorstep Green, is under threat from the Borough Council's draft Town Masterplan. This Masterplan could put an 89-space Car Park next to Hardings Way and Overtons, and 55 houses behind it. As a South Lynn Councillor, I completely oppose such Climate Change illiteracy. Hardings Pits is in the rapid inundation zone, totally unfit for development and acts as flood mitigation for the town.

As a Borough Councillor, I voted to

reaffirm our Climate Change Emergency at Thursday's Council meeting. Pledging to keep all of Hardings Pits traffic-free, for the sake of Nature and Climate Change is the only right way forward for the Borough Council.

West Norfolk Green Infrastructure Plan back in 2010, showed King's Lynn was short of 26 hectares of open space. So, the Borough needs to urgently increase open space for residents in the town's most urban areas for residents' wellbeing.

I am calling on the Borough Council to rewild the Borough's two pieces of public land, south-west of Hardings Way, next to Overtons, not put a car park or development there.

Plant up a mini forest, add in open-air sports equipment, to help residents in the town who cannot easily get to Lynn Sport. Install a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) and outdoor exercise machines. An Accessible Play Area.

More opportunities for exercise closer to home. Improve health and wellbeing, enhance the neighbourhood. Save a Space for Nature.

West Lynn Ferry

It is time for the Council to put its money where its mouth is after four engineers' reports on the state of the 80-year-old West Lynn Ferry Landing Stage and last year's catastrophe of the 7-month interruption to the Ferry for emergency repairs.

Followed by West Lynn residents' protests at the Town Hall to reinstate the Ferry: the Borough Community Infrastructure Levy Panel has recommended £800,000 towards the new metal landing stage for this important public Transport Facility. The ask from the County Council, as Transport Authority, is for £500,000.

But the new Reform Administration at County Hall is looking after Norwich, at the expense of King's Lynn.

Reform is bankrolling the £6.5 million overspend on Norwich Castle Museum, while cutting £2.3 million from Highways, cutting £3.3 million from the Fire Service Capital

Budget. Reform has stopped the County Councillors' Local Highways and Community Grants, small amounts of money, which really helped the local community. School sports equipment, family cooking classes, Food in the School Holidays, a new Bus Shelter, were just some of the projects I funded.

The Norwich Museum renovation project has overrun to £34 million. Instead of trimming this glitzy project, Reform is reviewing smaller projects instead. But Reform has not yet allocated any funding to renovate Norfolk's Care Homes. Or for West Lynn Ferry

Did West Norfolk residents who supported Reform in May's County Elections, know they were voting for more spending on Museums in Norwich, at the expense of cuts to Highways and the Fire Service?

Did they vote for less spending in local communities in West Norfolk, but for more on large showpieces on the other side of the County?



With West Lynn Residents in Lynn's Town Hall in 2025

The County Reform Administration is Norwich-based and doesn't understand the importance of community investment in Lynn. Fix the broken Council, Reform said. But if Reform goes on like this, it will break the Council and fix nothing. Except Norwich.

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WALK BY THE SEA TO D'FEET MND

Jane Lewis, Volunteer, Norfolk, Norwich & Waveney Group, Motor Neurone Disease Association.

The local Group of the Motor Neurone Disease Association has raised over £1,100 to help support people living with MND in Norfolk.

Setting off along the Prom from Hunstanton to Heacham on Saturday 13th June, the walkers encountered strong winds, but still raised funds and awareness of the disease as they went.

The group collected very generous donations of £459.75 from walkers and visitors. Online donations through Just Giving raised £590, plus sponsorship, t shirt sales and a collection tin held at the Alive Oasis Café during the year increased the grand total to £1,155.34.



Most of the group walking had been directly affected by MND, sadly losing a partner, son, daughter, mother, father or friend to the disease.

Motor Neurone Disease is a fatal, rapidly progressing disease which affects the brain and spinal cord. It attacks the nerves that control movement, so that muscles no longer work and affects people from all backgrounds. There is no cure and no effective treatment.

The group were raising funds for the Norfolk, Norwich & Waveney Group of the Motor Neurone Disease Association, who support local people with financial grants towards care equipment and expenses, to help improve quality of life for people living with MND and family carers. The branch also arranges coffee mornings in Norwich, Fritton



and Kings Lynn for people affected and their families to get together.

Nationally, the Association focusses on research to seek treatments and ultimately a cure for Motor Neurone Disease, as well as campaigning to improve access to care for people living with MND.

For more information about Motor Neurone Disease and the Association visit:

<https://www.mndassociation.org>

For local information about the MND Association in Norfolk, support & events :www.mndnorwichandwaveney.org.uk

Facebook @MNDANorwichWaveney

X Twitter @MNDANorWave

Langham Street Fayre

The small rural village of Langham in North Norfolk would like to extend a warm invitation to all to come along to its biennial Street Fayre event for 2026, with all proceeds going to support our village amenities. This year the Fayre will be held on Saturday the 15th of August between 10am and 4pm.

The centre of the village is at Postcode NR25 7BX, and there is ample off-street parking available on the edges of the village itself, which will be clearly marked.

All are welcome, especially families with children, to come and enjoy a fun-filled day of craft and gift stalls, a fun dog show, music and entertainment for adults, plus children's entertainment and activities, and refreshments for all.

The event will continue in the evening with wood-fired pizzas from 6pm, followed by live music from the Castaway Crew (singing sea shanties) and from 8pm our headline music act is the electrifying Hot Squash!

For further information, please feel free to contact us at: langhamstreetfayre@gmail.com



Hunstanton Methodist Church celebrates 130 years

On Sunday, 14 June Hunstanton Methodist Church celebrated the 130th anniversary of the opening of the current building. The church was packed and guests included Town Mayor Councillor Mark Williamson and the Mayoress. The Minister, Rev Dr Richman Ncube, welcomed everyone and the service was conducted by the Rev Helen Hollands, chair of the East Anglia Methodist District.

Church archivist David Elvidge had produced a new history of the church, and the book described the growth of Methodism in the area. Whilst the celebration was for the present 1896 building, there had been an earlier corrugated iron church from 1889. Member Janet Marston had arranged a scale model in a floral setting.

A celebration tea followed, for which member Mark Fisher made a cake as a scale model of the church. The cake was cut jointly by the Rev Helen Hollands and long-serving member Beryl Kirkland.




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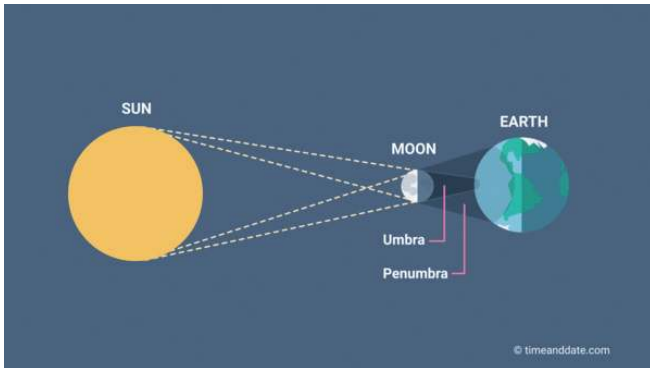
SEE YOU THERE!

Dark skies of West Norfolk

Terry Parish

Two eclipses for the price of one this month. Both are partial but welcome phenomenon that are easy to observe given clear skies or, at least, some breaks in the clouds.

The first, a partial solar eclipse is on the 12th August. It occurs low in the WNW just before Sunset. Start time is 6.15pm; maximum (91%) coverage of the Sun by the Moon is 7.11pm, and it ends at 8.04pm.



Solar eclipse. We will just enter the edge of the umbra so will have a partial eclipse.

A website, Time and Date, provides full information of times, what to expect and why it happens and it has pages for different locations including King's Lynn and West Norfolk District. Just Google and use AI to find it.

Like many of you, my view is likely to be at least partially blocked by trees or buildings. Look out a better position before the 12th. I think I will go up to the Heacham Chalk Pit.

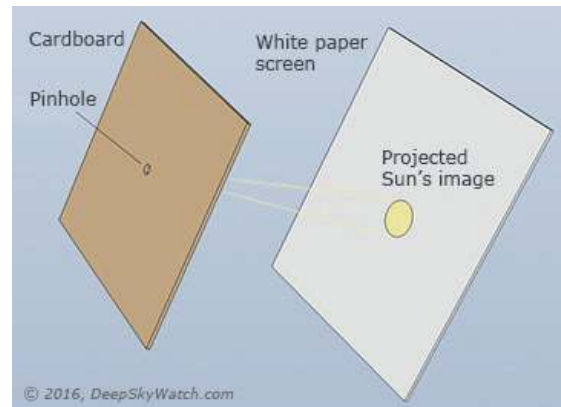


Heacham March 20th 2015. Solar partial eclipse underway. At maximum, it too had around 90% of the Sun eclipsed by the Moon. Parish

It is advised that you do not try and look directly at the Sun and you certainly must not use standard optical instruments. Last month I recommended getting eclipse glasses and you should still be able to order some on line up to a few days before the event. In the old days, welders' glasses or several layers of black and white film negatives were recommended. Best of luck getting hold of them.

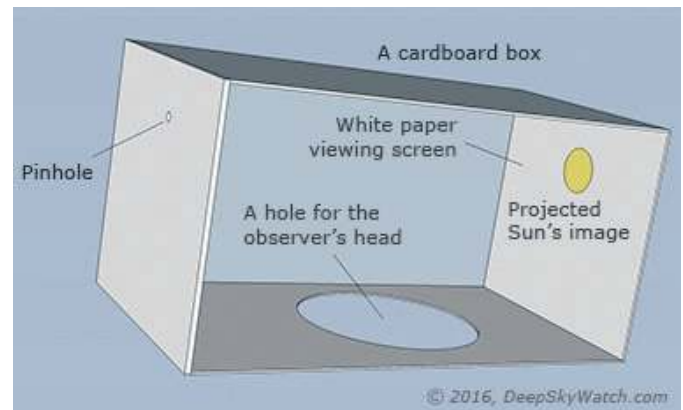
I have eclipse glasses, eclipse binoculars, and devices to fit on either end of a telescope but you don't need any of them if you are prepared to watch the eclipse by projection.

The simplest way is to use two pieces of white card. Cut a rectangular hole, say 3cm square, in the centre of one. Tape a piece of aluminium cooking foil over the hole but don't let the tape go over the centre. Use a pin to make a small hole in the centre of the foil. Use by putting your back to the Sun. Hold the cards apart, the one with the pinhole towards the Sun. Adjust the distance to see an image of the Sun on the plain white card.



Using foil where the pinhole is made creates a sharper image.

You can be more sophisticated and make your two cards opposite ends of a box (shoe box sized or so). Cut out a third to half of the bottom of the box. With your back to the Sun, hold the box just above your head, pinhole towards the Sun, look at the 'screen' through the hole in the bottom of the box.

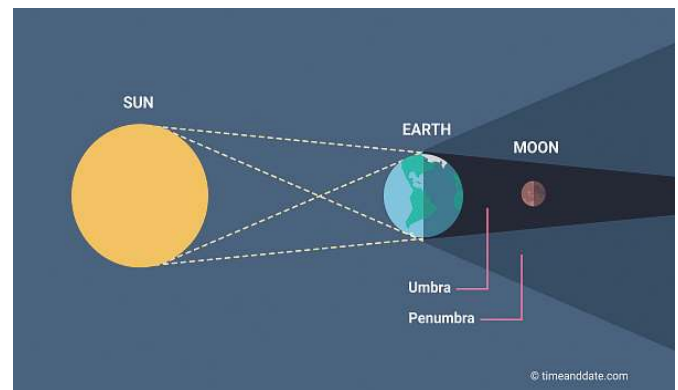


You don't have to make it big enough for your head but it might be fun.

Or you can just use a colander. Hold it in front of a white card and move it about. You will see multiple images of the eclipse.

More ideas on line.

If you want to be scientific, note the time, to the second, when the eclipse starts and ends. Estimate when maximum coverage occurs and time that too. Take note of anything strange that happens in the natural world. I don't think there will be much as it is not a total eclipse which fools birds and insects, but you never know until you look.



Total lunar eclipse blood moon

On the 28th there is a partial eclipse of the Moon, 93% covered by the Earth's shadow. You will have to be a little keen to observe this as it happens in the early hours.

The Moon enters the Earth's penumbra, half shadow, at 2.23am and the umbra, full shadow, at 3.33am. the maximum eclipse is at 5.12am and the Moon should appear reddish orange. The Moon sets at 6.15am before the eclipse has finished.

The Moon will be very low on the horizon and you will need to get down to Heacham beaches to see the eclipse. I might meet you there. Those of you in Hunstanton, head for the cliffs or promenade.



Heacham 28th September 2015. We saw a total lunar eclipse and the Blood Moon. This image is just before totality and similar to what you might see this month. Parish

The red colour is due to Earth's atmosphere which scatters blue light but allows red light, of longer wavelength, to pass through whilst bending, refracting it, and illuminating the Moon. If we didn't have an atmosphere then the Moon, where eclipsed, would become completely black but we wouldn't be here to see it.

Not content with two eclipses, the month has the Perseid meteor shower, the best chance you have of seeing many meteors. The shower occurs over several weeks but the peak is on the night of the 12/13th. Look from darkness on the 12th, say 9pm, and stay up as late as you can. Accustom your eyes to the dark for 15mins and don't spoil that acquired sensitivity by popping into a lit-up house. Red goggles are useful but I may have the only set in Heacham. Look vaguely north but meteor trails can appear in any direction. The Moon is well out of the way busy eclipsing the Sun. If there are patchy clouds look between the gaps.

There are 3 planets worth looking out for. Venus is still shining bright and gets brighter as the month progresses when it will have a magnitude of minus 4.6. Its phase is a little more than half. However it is low in the western sky and competes with the post sunset afterglow. The planet sets by 9.30pm and you will need a clear western horizon. On the 15th, Venus is at its greatest eastern elongation, easterly distance, from the Sun which will aid observation; It is also close to the Moon but, as this lies below Venus, it may have set before you can see both bodies together.

Saturn, the ringed planet, is a night object again and emerges in the east, at the beginning of the month, at about 11pm. However, it won't be high enough to observe easily until around 1am. With a magnitude of +0.6, a reasonable eye will see it once you know where you are looking. Steady binoculars will be useful but, if you want to see the rings, some kind of telescope will be needed. As the month progresses, Saturn moves higher and inches towards the south; it will be high enough for observations by 10.30pm by the 30th. The Moon is just above it on the 4th and 30th.

Mars appears in the ENE from 3am early in the month, dimmer than Saturn with a magnitude of +1.2. The Moon is above it on the 9th. By the end of the month, it will have moved a tad further towards the east and be high enough for observation by 2.30am. If you stay up for the eclipse of the Moon and/or Perseid watching take the opportunity to find Mars.

I hope you at least see the partial eclipse of the Sun. If you want see it in totality then go to northern Spain or western Iceland but it will not be overhead. And catch, not literally, a few Perseids.

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We're 'digging it'!

Dani Crawshaw



Most visitors that come are astounded by how much we've found in this small village," Director of Excavation Dr Ellie Blakelock tells me. Sedgeford Historical and Archaeological Research Project (SHARP) is now open for the season, with a new visitor centre for people to enjoy.



Dr Ellie Blakelock

The old building, dating from 2021, is no more as Ellie cuts the ribbon. And inside it's impressive - lit up display cabinets showcase relics and remains unearthed during previous digs. There are drawers full of interesting finds, from the Bronze Age to modern day.

"Last summer we started to think we really need to do something with it, revamp it - and

with the 30th anniversary coming along, it just seemed the perfect opportunity," continues Ellie.

"It has taken us pretty much the full year to get the funding in place, and then to strip it all out and start again. What this has allowed us to do it not only organise the space, so we can have more storage, but also allows us to put so much more of our objects out of the archives and on display."

One of the volunteers, Richard Northcott, is (luckily) a retired cabinet maker by trade.

"Ellie asked me last year if I could do it, so we drew up the plans. It's been an amazing thing to be involved in.

"I had to learn new skills, I've never built display cabinets before. I started making the first cabinet door in January, so basically this has been my full time job for the last 6 months!"

"I've had lots of sleepless nights trying to work out how to do specific things, it's all made out of oak - so I couldn't afford to get too many things wrong. You only get one shot at it.

I asked if he's pleased with the end result, "I was down here doing the final fit 2 or 3 weeks ago with another volunteer, and we turned all the display lights on - and I was speechless, you get a dream about how you want something to look - and when it comes together, it's great."

Finds co-ordinator Ann



Ann Smith (left)



Richard Northcott (left)

Smith, is taking a look through the artefacts.

"For me it's a dream come true," she tells me, "I believe everything that we've found should be on display for people to enjoy, if we keep them in boxes, in the dark, in the archives - nobody sees them.

"A huge amount can now be enjoyed as it should be. I can't wait to see people's reaction, I hope it will be the wow factor, I hope they will be impressed with how much has been found around Sedgeford."

The 30th anniversary excavation season runs until August the 7th, with more than a hundred volunteers arriving this weekend - from as far afield as Japan.

It's set to be an exciting month ahead, with the prospect of any new finds being proudly put on display in the new visitor centre.

A video of the new centre is on our instagram page @townandaroundmagazine

Hunstanton Society

The eagle eyed amongst you may have noticed that the SHARP exhibit in the Heritage Centre has been updated. Established in 1996, SHARP (Sedgeford Historical and Archaeological Research Project) is one of the largest independent archaeological projects in Britain and is firmly rooted in the local community. Ann Smith (pictured) from the Finds and Education Team visited the Heritage Centre to refresh the display with a selection of new finds from the dig and update the information board and it is well worth a look.

The SHARP 2026 season runs until August 7th. To coincide with the 30th anniversary of the project, they have a newly refurbished visitors centre which is open to visitors on Sunday to Friday between 1100 and 1600 with display boards on site and an activity trail for kids. On Thursday afternoons at 1530 they run a weekly tour. They also continue to



offer day and week courses for aspiring archaeologists.

EVENTS TEAM UPDATE

Next Coffee Morning will be on Wednesday 26th August, 1030 to 1200 in the Heritage Centre. Please come along for a chat and some quizzing, enjoyed with coffee or tea and a biscuit. Hope to see you there.

Over the summer there will be a seasonal quiz for visitors with the answers hidden around the museum. The Lucky Dip also

remains in place with plenty of child friendly prizes to win for a £1 donation.

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

We would like to mention about needing some help with the Heritage Open Days on the 11th and 18th of September, when the lighthouse is open. The Heritage Centre will be offering coffee to people who have visited, so we need additional volunteers at the centre from 11am til 4pm - and also to help with the tours (greet people, point them in the direction for coffee).

If you're interested in booking a tour, tickets are available online from 26th August: <https://norfolkxhods.ticketsolve.com>. Numbers are limited.

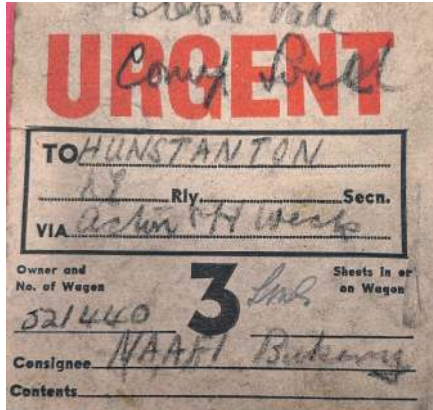
We are also conducting tours of Hunstanton Hall on Thursday, 17th September at 10am and 12pm.

HUNSTANTON GUIDE BOOK

We are nearing completion of an update to our Guide Book that we organised originally about 8 years ago. With a different colour scheme and some improvements to the

OBJECTS OF INTEREST RAILWAY LABELS

Railways have always held a special place in the history of Hunstanton, the town basically is a Railway New Town, with nothing much here until the railway arrived in 1862, prompting a mid-Victorian building boom along LeStrange Terrace, Southend Road, Westgate and Greevegate.



Now and then we come across railway memorabilia with a fascinating backstory. Among a recent (anonymous) donation of railway wagon labels, there was a particularly

interesting one – how did a Great Western Railway label end up in Hunstanton?

It looks like the Hunstanton NAAFI (Armed forces facilities) bakery needed an urgent delivery of coal in 1946. This was sourced from Ebbw Vale in Wales and was routed through the Acton railway works. It must have been a special coal.

David Elvidge recently published a book on 130yrs of Hunstanton Methodist Church. His research uncovered that the former 'Tin Hut' which predated the main church and was located in what is now the car park, was used as a NAAFI during WWII.



A while back I was visiting the North Norfolk Railway and noticed these luggage labels in their museum, a couple showing stations on the Hunstanton "Royal Line"

Recently I asked Ben Colson how

Wolferton ended up as the Royal Station for Sandringham instead of Hillington. It turns out you could get a train from St Pancras to Wolferton, much grander than the alternative – for Hillington you would have to use Liverpool Street.



Another sort of label in use on the railways came on rubber strips. These were used to label the "pigeon holes" on the Travelling Post Offices. The "TPO" trains usually had the collection and delivery apparatus on the left, so they could not be run in reverse. So, at the end of a journey, the labels would be detached and attached again in a new order.

This is from the Nene Valley Railway museum in Wansford showing labels from the East Anglian TPO service.

Our museum is the Hunstanton Heritage Centre. Everyone is welcome, inside you will find the "Brian Holmes Railway Room" with many displays related to the Railways.

Philip Thomas, Hunstanton Society

Wootton Crafters!

We meet twice a month on a Monday. 10.30-12.30 at the North Wootton Village Hall PE30 3PT

Coffee and cakes available £4.00 per session. August dates are 10th and 24th, September 7th and 21st.

All welcome come and see us and to find out more contact myself, Kim Charter, or Lesley on woottoncrafters@gmail.com

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SCAN TO
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East Anglian Air Ambulance

King's Lynn Fundraising Group (KLFG)
By Trevor Dane, Volunteer

On 20 and 21 June, we were pleased to attend The Hanseatic Festival of Watersports 2026 on the River Great Ouse in King's Lynn for fundraising and awareness. A total of £108 was raised over the weekend, and it was great to meet and talk with so many people.

On 25 June, we held a bucket collection at Tesco, Gaywood, which raised £208.02. Thank you to Tesco and everyone who kindly supported East Anglian Air Ambulance charity. We'll be holding another collection here on 14 August from 9am – 4pm.

On 8 August East Anglian Air Ambulance supporters Caz and Neil of Music & Motors will be holding their annual fundraising event at The Old Garage, Magdalen, PE34 3BT. KLFG are pleased to be supporting this wonderful event again. Thank you to Caz, Neil and the team for all the time and effort they put into this event each year. The event is open to the public from 3pm. For more information email theoldgaragemagdalen@gmail.com

The busy summer continues and on 22 Aug,

KLFG will be attending the second Frontline Festival at The Walks Park in King's Lynn. The event showcases the region's emergency and frontline services such as the Police, Fire and Rescue Service, Ambulance Service and Coastguard. It was a great success last year. Thank you to everyone who supported East Anglian Air Ambulance at the 2025 event helping to raise fantastic £318.91. We hope to see you again this year!

On September 27 KLFG will be supporting The West Norfolk Morris Minors Owners Club with their fundraising car display on The Green at Hunstanton, PE36 6BL from 10am to 4pm. The group have been fundraising for East Anglian Air Ambulance for several years and we're grateful for their continued support.

King's Lynn Fundraising Group can be contacted by emailing myself or my colleague Terri trevordane104@gmail.com tfaye.100@gmail.com

East Anglian Air Ambulance general enquiries: 03450 669 999

Also coming up! East Anglian Air



Ambulance are holding Only The Brave on Sunday 20 September. If you'd like to take on the exciting 3-, 6-or 10-mile mud obstacle course, held at Euston Estate in Suffolk, visit eaaa.org.uk/support-us to book your place!

10 new full-time firefighters for Norfolk

The new recruits are the first group of wholtime firefighters to start in Norfolk for three years, and they completed an intensive 13-week induction course, designed to equip them with the essential skills required to respond to emergencies across the county. The role demands high levels of fitness, stamina and resilience, and includes training such as using specialist breathing apparatus and providing trauma care at road traffic collisions.

Following their final assessments, the recruits officially passed out on Friday (10 July) and will now be deployed to crews in Norfolk's five wholtime fire stations in Norwich, King's Lynn and Great Yarmouth

The cohort includes Daniel Payne who has previously worked in a range of roles across health, fitness and wellbeing, and was also part of the Fire Service's Youth Development team. He is now joining King's Lynn Fire Station.

Firefighter Payne said: "Becoming a firefighter is something I've always wanted to do, and the fire service has always been an inspiration to me. It took me several attempts before I was successful, so receiving that phone call is something I'll always remember.

"I've absolutely loved the course. Most days I went home exhausted,

but it was worth it for the range of skills I learned, the areas I was able to improve, and the challenge of overcoming them. The instructors were fantastic, and the rest of the group were brilliant and I have made friends for life."



Firefighter Daniel Payne. Credit NFRS

Chief Fire Officer Ceri Sumner said: "Passing out is a significant milestone and reflects the hard work, determination and teamwork each of these individuals has demonstrated over the past 13 weeks. We are delighted to formally welcome them into the Service and look forward to supporting them as they continue their development in protecting the communities of Norfolk."

There are opportunities to join NFRS as an on-call firefighter. For more information about becoming an on-call firefighter with Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service, visit: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/oncall>



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A future for Town and Around?

Elaine Bird

Having produced my 250th edition of the magazine this month I have decided that it is time to hand over the reins of this community magazine to someone else.

I'm 70, and my husband Richard who is 80 recently had a near-death medical issue that has made us both think about retirement and our remaining years.

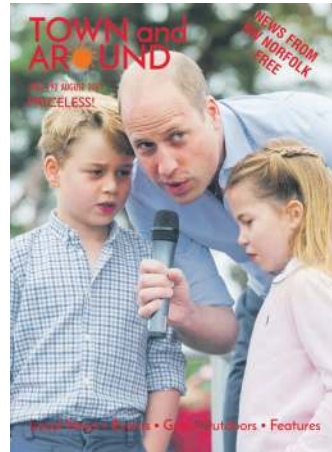
Although we want to retire, we don't want the magazine to disappear. We have a wonderful band of regular advertisers, a healthy order book for future issue and always lots of content.

The magazine turns 21 in October and is part of the fabric of West Norfolk. Could you be the person to take over?

I must stress we are not offering a job. It means taking over the whole operation which will require capital and business skills including credit control, VAT etc.

The business can be run from a home office; this is what I've been doing since 2005.

If you are interested, in the first instance please email richard@townandaround.net



News from The Barking Bugle Beach Days with a Sting in the Tail

Woofs everyone! Well, what a scorcher it's been! We don't know about you, but these recent heatwaves have completely changed our routine. Mum has been dragging us out of our cosy beds at what can only be described as silly o'clock – sometimes as early as 5am! We did wonder if she'd finally lost the plot, but we have to admit there is something rather magical about having the beach almost entirely to ourselves. Just us, the waves, the sound of the seabirds and the occasional equally sleepy dog walker.

Once the sun starts doing its thing though, it's definitely time to retreat home. You'll usually find us stretched out in front of the fan, conserving energy with some expert-level snoozing. It's a tough life, but someone has to do it!

One thing we've noticed recently is that the high tides have brought lots of jellyfish onto the beach. They may look a bit strange and squishy, but Mum had a chat with the vets, who warned us that jellyfish can be really dangerous for dummies. Even the ones washed up on the sand can still sting! Yikes!

A sting can make our faces swell up, make us feel very poorly and, in some cases, even cause breathing problems. That's definitely not our idea of a fun day at the seaside.

So, if you're heading to the beach, keep your eyes peeled for those wibbly, wobbly blobs and give them a very wide berth. No sniffing, no licking and definitely no trying to play with them!

We hope you're all keeping cool, staying safe and finding shady spots for plenty of naps. Here's hoping for slightly cooler weather next month... although we'll happily keep those peaceful early morning beach walks all to ourselves!

Until next month ... Woofs & Waggy Tails from

Miss Zsa Zsa & Ziggy Bear

Canine Repawters – thebarkingbugle.co.uk



Alan Gillings Memorial Cup by John Lee



This was the 5th Annual charity match for The Alan Gillings Memorial Cup, organised by Matt Sturgeon & John Lee. Alan was a much-loved member of the Tuesday Night Football Team.

For the last 5 years, we have organised a charity match to raise money for Tapping House, who supported Alan. We had a fantastic



game & managed to raise £410 on the day. Special thank yous to Jayar Car Parts King's Lynn for sponsoring the match ball, South Wootton Asda for supplying water for hydration breaks, and Lynnsport for allowing us to use their 3G pitch for free.

Images by Ian Burt



Captains, John Lee & Matt Sturgeon

August events - see also <https://townandaround.net>

Saturday 1st

Table Top Event at Hanover Court Dersingham PE31 6YD in the main hall 10am-4pm. All proceeds to Tiggywinkles Wildlife Hospital. Jigsaws, jewellery, glass, china, leather goods, handbags, clothes, and Art Work by Ian Cotterell for sale. Tombola with many beautiful prizes. Refreshments.

Regency Manor, Manor Road
Hunstanton PE36 5AY Summer
Fete 1-4pm

BreastFest summer festival with live music food and dancing in support of Breast of Friends at The Pastures, Manor Road, Dersingham. 1-11pm
Ticket only event.
<https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/festival-event>

Sat 1st – Sun 2nd

Hunstanton Music Festival on the Green PE36 6GB. Two days of free live music.

Sunday 2nd

King's Lynn Amateur Radio Rally Gaywood Community Centre PE30 4EL 9am-4pm. £2.50. Info 07709 074951

Music in the Marketplace – Tuesday Marketplace, King's Lynn PE30 1AX. Live bands performing 11am-4pm

St Mary's Snettisham Summer Classics – Orpheus Flute Quartet 3pm. Performing Mozart's 'The Magic Flute'. The Orpheus Flute Quartet promises to fill St Mary's Church with beautiful music. Formed in Norfolk in 2024 the group is enjoying a run of success in the region. £12 at the door or <https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/orpheus-flute-quartet>

Tuesday 4th

Anmer Club PE31 6RN
NORFOLK and WAVENEY
MIND GROUP MEETINGS
EVERY TUESDAY – 11:00am-6:30pm. Information and to book www.norfolkandwaveneymind.org.uk or email: ruralmentalhealth@norfolkandwaveneymind.org.uk or telephone: 0300 330 5488

Dersingham Village Social Club
Quiz Night 'Back to School'
£3pp, teams max of 6 people
Cash prizes. Info: 01485 543380

Thursday 6th

Hunstanton Family Fun Day.
Every Thursday in the summer holidays on The Green PE36 6GB. Includes Strange Fascination Theatre, events by Hunstanton Library, RNLI, Punch and Judy and Quack House Rescue.

Friday 7th

Open Air Film Night and Street Food. Tuesday Market Place PE30 1AX. Mean Girls 5-9pm

Saturday 8th

Snettisham Village Fayre 11am-4pm. Playing Field, Old Church Road PE31 7LX

Music at the Bandstand, the Green, Hunstanton with Rock Choir 2-4pm

Music and Motors Sundowner Event. The Old Garage, Magdalen PE34 3BT

Sunday 9th

Sedgeford Summer Fayre 10am-3pm at the Village Hall PE36 5NG

Norfolk's Weekend Walkers 10am-12.30. Great and Little Massingham circular walk. Meet outside the Dabbling Duck pub, Norfolk There is on Road parking and also the village hall car park. New Walkers welcome. See full details on Meetup.com / or the Meetup App in Norfolk's Weekend Walkers section.

RAF Bircham Newton Open Day Heritage Centre, Bircham Newton PE31 6RH 10am-4pm. Free entry. Info 07807 098348

Soulful Sunday in the Tuesday Market Place PE30 1AX 11am-4pm

Music in the Bandstand, The Green Hunstanton 2-4pm
Rhiannon Roe

Trust Talks: The Architecture of Quiet Camaraderie at Marriott's Warehouse, South Quay, King's Lynn PE30 5DT
Info: 01553 818500

Monday 10th

Anmer Club PE31 6RN Coffee morning 10-midday. Coffee; tea; cakes & biscuits available to purchase. For information email: farmboy24@sky.com or 07899 872351

Monday 10th

Old Hunstanton Village Hall
Bingo Doors Open at 6.15pm.
Eyes down at 7pm.

Echoes of Buenos Aires - Martin Alvarado and Gerardo Villar y Los Aguirre. A breathtaking evening of tango, folk music, and unforgettable song. Thornham Village Hall £18 7pm
<https://bookings.thornhamvillagehall.co.uk/events/40/details>

Tuesday 11th

Anmer Club PE31 6RN
NORFOLK and WAVENEY
MIND GROUP see Tues 4th

Thursday 13th

Hunstanton Family Fun Day. See 6th for details.

Hunstanton Lifeboat Sandcastle Competition Start 2pm
Registration 1.30pm Entry £1. On the beach at Old Hunstanton in front of the RNLI Boathouse.

Hunstanton's Mad Tea Party. Whimsical tea party on the Green. Strange Fascination Theatre will perform 'Alice Through in Wonderland' Info: 01553 616326

King's Lynn Community Cinema Club Screen 2 Majestic Cinema 50th Anniversary of All the President's Men will be shown. Non-members £6 on the door

Saturday 15th

Burnham Market Craft Fair.

North Wootton Village Market 9am-2pm North Wootton Village Hall PE30 3PT 01553 886140

Langham Street Fair NR25 7BX 10am-4pm Stalls, Fun Dog show, music and entertainment.



King's Lynn Pride. Parade through the town, activities and live music in The Walks.

Beats by the Beach. Line-up of bands TBA. The Green, Hunstanton. 01553 616326

Saturday 15th

Erin Elizaa & Friends performing a selection of musical favourites at St Mary's Snettisham 7pm £12 at the door or online at <https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/erin-elizaa-and-friends>

Sat 15th-Sun 16th



Bees by the Sea. Annual Bee Exhibition and honey show at Hunstanton Town Hall 10am-4pm. Free. Info: 07873 222640

Sunday 16th

RAF Bircham Newton Open Day Heritage Centre, Bircham Newton PE31 6RH 10am-4pm. Free entry. Info 07807 098348

Where the Four Winds Meet traditional and classic music at St May's church, Old Hunstanton 3pm. Sylvia Kewish Baroque Flutes and Alistair Kewish Keyboard. Free admission. Donations for the upkeep of the church welcomed.

Battle of the Bands on The Green Hunstanton PE36 6GB. Local bands compete for a performance slot in Festival Too 2027. Info 01553 616326

Sun 16th-Sat 22nd

Hunstanton Lawn Tennis Tournament Hunstanton Recreation Ground PE36 5JA. Details page 40

Tuesday 18th

Anmer Club PE31 6RN
NORFOLK and WAVENEY
MIND GROUP see Tues 4th

Knit and Natter at Old Hunstanton Village Hall 10am-noon. No need to book, just turn up with your knitting £3 includes coffee and cake.

Globe Bowls Club, The Walks, King's Lynn. PE30 1NT. Prize Bingo and raffle. Doors open 6pm, eyes down 7pm. Proceeds to King's Lynn Samaritans.

Thursday 20th

Hunstanton Family Fun Day. See 6th for details.

around.net/whats-on/august

Thursday 20th

Music in the Bandstand, The Green, Hunstanton with Bomber County Pipes and Drums. 2-4pm

Friday 21st

Twelfth Night – Open Air Shakespeare from the Pantloons at Dalegate Market, Burnham Deepdale PE31 8FB 7pm Tickets: <https://deepdalecamping.co.uk/events/1853190742/> info 01485 210256

Saturday 22nd

The Burnhams Market 9.30-2.20 at St Mary's Westgate Church PE31 8DH.

Arts and Crafts De-Stash Sale at Werham Village Hall PE33 9AP 10am-2pm. Info: 01366 502214

Frontline Festival in The Walks, Tennyson Road PE30 1PE. Family-friendly event organized by Norfolk Fire & Rescue and Norfolk Police. 10am-4pm Info 0300 123 1669

Flix In The Stix Cinema screens 'The Marching Band' (15) Tittleshall Village Hall High Street. PE32 2PJ 7pm For 7.30pm start Tickets £6 & include refreshments. Reservations 01328 700952. This film has subtitles

Sunday 23rd

Norfolk's Weekend Walkers 10am-1pm Little Walsingham circular 7 mile walk Meeting at the Mill car park, off Cokers Hill (£4 for 4 hours.) New Walkers welcome. See full details on Meetup.com / or the Meetup App in Norfolk's Weekend Walkers section.



40s and 50s Weekend. 11am-4pm daily Tuesday Market Place, King's Lynn PE30 1AX

Music in the Bandstand, The Green Hunstanton. John Barker Trumpet Soloist 2-4pm

Churches Together Songs of Praise on the Green, Hunstanton accompanied by the Salvation Army Band. Bring a picnic! 4.30pm

Monday 24th

Anmer Club PE31 6RN Coffee morning 10-midday. Coffee; tea; cakes & biscuits available to purchase. For information please email: farmboy24@sky.com or 07899 872351

Tuesday 25th

Anmer Club PE31 6RN NORFOLK and WAVENEY MIND GROUP see Tues 4th

Snettisham Bingo night at the Memorial Hall, Old Church Road PE31 7LX Doors 6.30pm Eyes Down 7.30pm

Wednesday 26th

Wootton Crafters McMillan Coffee morning North Wootton Village Hall PE30 3PT 10.30-2.30

Raffle and display of what the crafters have done over the last year.

Snettisham Gardening Club at the Memorial Hall presents "Tales of the Imp of Clenchwarton Allotments" with contributions from local actors! 7.30pm Visitors £5. Info: Gail on 07899933840 or Addie on 01485 544754

Thursday 27th

Hunstanton Family Fun Day. See 6th for details.

King's Lynn Community Cinema Club Screen 2 Majestic Cinema showing 'Sentimental Values' Non-members £6 on the door.

Friday 28th

Anmer Club PE31 6RN Quiz night Club opens 7.00 p.m. Quiz starts 7.30 p.m. Entry £3 per person. Fully Licensed Bar Raffle. For information email: enquiries@anmerclub.co.uk or telephone; text or WhatsApp 07899872351

Fri 28th-Mon 31st

Wash Art Group Summer Exhibition. Thornham Village Hall 10am-5pm daily.

Snettisham Art Group Late Summer Holiday Art Exhibition. British Legion Hall, Church Road. 10am-5.30 each day. Free entry. Donations to RBL.

Saturday 29th

Merchants Market 9am-3pm Tuesday Market Place King's Lynn

Saturday 29th

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

Sat 29th-Sun 30th

Heacham's photo exhibition at Old Friends Hall, Sunnyside, PE31 7DU. 10-4pm Free entry. Info: 07850 371942



Sat 29th-Mon 31st

All Saints Shouldham Flower Festival at All Saints church, Norwich Road Shouldham PE33 0DA Free entry.

Sunday 30th

Music in the Marketplace 11am-4pm Tuesday Market Place King's Lynn PE30 1AX

Sun 30th-Mon 31st

RAF Bircham Newton Open Day Heritage Centre, Bircham Newton PE31 6RH 10am-4pm. Free entry. Info 07807 098348

Monday 31st

Anmer Club PE31 6RN NORFOLK and WAVENEY MIND GROUP see Tues 4th

parkruns

Hunstanton Promenade parkrun start at 9am every Saturday from The Salad Bowl. T: 07804 927764

Sandringham parkrun Sandringham Royal Park Every Saturday at 8:40 for a 9:00 am start First Timers Briefing 8:45 am

Start and finish on the vista near children's play area. Car parking for parkrun is free until 11:00 am.



Scan here for more events and up to date information



HUNSTANTON CHURCHES TOGETHER

Sunday August 23rd

Join us to sing Songs of Praise on The Green at 4.30 pm. Accompanied by the Salvation Army Band

Bring a picnic

West Norfolk Afternoon Events

Live performances and cinema screenings for people aged 50+

Classically UNTAMED

Bowjangles fun classical music upside down

★★★★★ Broadway Baby

Tickets are "Pay What You Can" Advanced booking advised

Book online by visiting: sickstraw.co.uk/creativearts/

Find out more... Call us on 01953 713390 Email info@creativearts-east.co.uk Visit www.creativearts-east.co.uk

SCAN QR CODE TO BOOK

To volunteer or for further information contact: sandringham@parkrun.com 07913 439222

Saturday 29th 5K Your Wy – Move Charity Last Saturday of every month Sandringham Royal Park 8:40 for a 9:00 am start. For anyone affected by cancer, friends and healthcare professionals. To come and walk, talk, run or simply be part of the lovely parkrun community: sandringhamgroup@5kyourway.org 07913 439222

Copy date for September issue is 12th August

Sporting corner with Tim Keogh

Cricket round-up with images by Ian Burt



Thornham 1st XI v Mattishall 2nds match

The cricket season is in full flow, with all local teams now nearing the business end of the season with most still having key promotion or relegation battles to fight.

In Division Two of the Norfolk Cricket Alliance League, Bircham and Sandringham & Dersingham 1st XIs, who both had high aspirations to contend for promotion at the start of the campaign, now find themselves both trying to stave off relegation. Bircham are 9th and Sandringham & Dersingham 7th in the ten team division. Sandringham & Dersingham did help their cause to avoid the drop with a tense two wicket win at high flying Norwich 2nds (Chris Smith 4-19). The two meet in an eagerly anticipated local derby battle at Sandringham at the end of July.

In Division Four, Snettisham 1st XI are proving to be the top performers locally. At one point they looked like they were running

away with the title. However, a recent tight one wicket home loss to Great Melton 2nds seemed to have given the chasing pack hope, but a convincing 158 run win at Hingham (Jamie Wing 3-15) has cemented Snettisham's place at the top after just missing out on promotion last season.

In Division Five, Thornham 1st XI seem to have overcome a mid season slump and reignited a promotion challenge. Unbeaten in four, the sequence of wins started with a key 82 run win at home to old foes Mattishall 2nds (Barney Gilder 100, Adam Rose 4-21) which appears to have reg galvanised their season. Thornham are presently 4th, with a top two finish now firmly within their sights.



In Division One of the Norfolk Cricket League, Snettisham 2nd XI found themselves bottom and struggling to make runs in May, but have since turned their season around with some high scoring wins. Unbeaten in four, Snettisham are impressively up to 2nd, just seven points behind leaders Castle Rising 1sts.

In Division Two Sandringham & Dersingham 2nd XI's recent 61 run home victory over leaders Sheringham 2nds (Anthony Sadler 151 not out) allayed any relegation concerns, as they moved up into mid-table security with the crucial win.

In Division Four, Thornham 2nds are 4th, Snettisham 3rds 7th, Bircham 2nds 8th and Sandringham & Dersingham 3rds bottom.



Thornham 1st XI team photo

Back row from left: Barney Gilder (WK), Ed Barratt, Jake Parish, Tom Chudley, Adam Rose, Nat Linsell, Chris (Alf) Burgess
Front row from left: Tom Wallace, Jacob Hewson (C), Finlay Hewson, Alex Fry

Annual Cliff Parade Bowls Open Another Huge Success

Images by Ian Burt



Over 150 players travelled from far and wide to participate in what proved to be searing heat between Saturday, 4th July and Friday, 10th July.

The event, with one of the most scenic views in the country, has been taking place since the 1980's and was as well attended by players and spectators alike as ever.

Local bowler, Graham Keeley, who plays for County League Side Wootton Park, was looking to make it four wins on the trot in the flagship Open Singles event, but he was surprisingly beaten in the first round. Eventually it came down to tournament debutants Kye Donaldson from Cambridge and Tony Reed from March, to battle it out to be crowned the new champion. It was the

elder statesman Reed who started the stronger marching into a lead, however, the younger Donaldson (27) with his unique bowling style, managed to reign his opponent in and prevail in an exciting but tense affair to win the coveted Open Singles title. Reed can console himself as he managed to win the Mixed Triples with Eddie Robinson and Sue Holliday.

In the Open Juniors event, it was a repeat of last year's final with Spalding based Aidan Bricks coming up against old foe George Almey from Holbeach, with the former once again prevailing. There is no doubting that we had a future Singles Open winner on display here.

Whilst conditions made for quick and entertaining bowling, the hot weather proved a challenge to many of the players, some who had entered all categories from the Open Singles, Pairs,

Mixed Pairs right through to the Triples. However, there was only one major incident of concern when a maternal (or possibly a paternal) Herring Gull dive bombed local player David Ilsley.

Organiser, Sue Clare, was pleased with this year's proceedings, saying, "The heat certainly played a factor but the turnout was excellent and the standard as high as ever. As well as the players and spectators, I would like to thank all our sponsors of the individual events."





Special mention must go to Sue and her team for putting on yet another fantastic event, without whose support the tournament would simply not happen.

Roll of Honour:

Open Singles - Kye Donaldson (Sponsored by Stories of Lynn)

Junior Singles - Aidan Brickels (Stories of Lynn)

Men's Pairs - Richard Frowhawk & Mervyn Chapman (Eric's Fish & Chips)

Ladies Pairs - Louise Hines & Christine Chapman (Alive Oasis)

Mixed Pairs - Kevin & Glenda Beavis (Searles)

Men's Triples - Kelvin Crane, Kieran Crane

& Matt Allen (Thornalley Funeral Services)
Ladies Triples - Lyn Humphreys, Ann Shepherd & Helen Young (The Salad Bowl)
Mixed Triples - Tony Reed, Eddie Robinson & Sue Holliday (Hunstanton Town Council)

Elsewhere, all local Summer leagues are now in full flow. In the Bridges 3 Wood League, Bircham Railway lead the way, looking to make it four titles on the trot, although there is still all to play for with just ten points separating the top six places. The Pete Waddison Memorial Trophy has reached the semi-final stage, where Shouldham Greens will play debutants Sandringham and Shouldham Yellows will face Bircham Railway.

In the NWNBL, Burnham Coronation are 9 points ahead as the league nears its split into two. They are followed by Docking, Ingoldisthorpe, South Creake and Anmer, any of whom could go on a run to the top. The Ridley Cup has also reached the semi-final stage, where Docking will play

Bircham and Snettisham Excelsior meet South Creake.

In the Countryside League, it is tight at the top with just ten points separating the top four of Ingoldisthorpe, Searles, Docking and Snettisham Excelsior. The Eddie Hipkin Trophy final will be played out between Snettisham Excelsior and Ingoldisthorpe in August.

After debuting in the top division of the Albert Victor League last season and winning the League Cup, Searles continue to compete well at this level and presently lie 4th in the table. A full round up of all the local bowls winners will be in the October edition of T&A.



Armchair Sports Trivia

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

QUESTION: Which team's stadium has the lowest altitude in professional English football?

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.

CLOSING DATE 15.07.2026.

Last month's question was What was the nickname of the first boxer to win world titles at five different weights? The answer was The Hitman. Gill Chilton from Gloucestershire the lucky winner.

King's Lynn Runners take on Somme Poppy Run in France

Gary Walker, KL park run Event Director



A dedicated group of runners from King's Lynn parkrun has returned from a demanding commemorative run along the historic front line of the Battle of the Somme in France.

ineffective British bombardment, local 'Pals Battalions' advanced expecting little resistance. Instead, they faced heavily fortified German positions dug 30 feet deep.

Organised in aid of the RAF Benevolent Fund, the 'Somme Poppy Run' traces the very strip of 'no man's land' that separated British and German forces in July 1916.

The history of the landscape is sobering. Following an intense but ultimately

The devastating first day resulted in more than 60,000 British casualties, including 19,000 deaths—the darkest day in British military history.

The local runners—regulars at the weekly Saturday parkrun in The Walks and the Sunday morning Globe Trotters group—proudly took on the challenge. However, the battlefield terrain proved deceptively brutal. Expecting flat French plains, they instead faced steep, undulating hills in a grueling 34°C heatwave.

The journey ended with a deeply moving tribute: laying a wreath at the towering Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, which honors over 72,000 British and Commonwealth soldiers with no known grave.

It was fitting that we should commemorate those who fought and died during the battle, in particular those from West Norfolk who answered the call to arms never to return.

A sensational summer at Westacre - and why we need bums on seats!

Liz Brewer

West Norfolk - August 2026

There's a hidden gem tucked away near Castle Acre where summer evenings are best spent lakeside, picnic in hand, watching the sky turn gold over the water - and this July, Westacre Theatre threw open its doors for another unforgettable season. This August, the magic returns with two glorious in-house productions: Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* and Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors*. And this year, thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our local community, it returns bigger and better than ever - because we've fundraised hard to bring back our summer tent, giving audiences shelter and comfort whatever the Norfolk weather has in store (handy, given this summer's heatwave).

But this isn't just a story about two brilliant shows. It's a story about why Westacre exists at all - and why we need you, our incredibly local community, more than ever this summer.

New talent, real opportunity

Arriving alongside our summer season are our Bursary Award Winners, a group of exceptional young performers coming straight from some of the UK's most prestigious drama schools. The theatre provides these talented performers a bridge into professional productions, artistic development, workshops and residencies, with a strong focus on nurturing creative talent. Every one of them is proof of what this small rural charity makes possible.

Why bums on seats matter



Westacre Theatre is a registered charity, not a commercial venue - and every single ticket sold helps keep our lights on. It funds our mission to make theatre accessible and affordable across Norfolk, and it directly supports the bursary and youth programmes that give the next generation of local talent somewhere to grow. Without our audiences, none of it happens: not the shows, not the training, not the futures we're helping to build for young people right here on our doorstep.

So, this summer, we're asking Norfolk to do what it does best - show up for its own. Come and support your local theatre. Bring a picnic, bring the family, bring the dog (to our Music Picnics - more on that below). Because a night by the lake at Westacre isn't just a lovely evening out. It's a night that gives so much back.

We want a sell-out summer. Please help us get there.

On stage this summer

From the creative minds (Sadie and Matt Grist) who were behind last year's unforgettable *A Midsummer Night's Dream* - comes adaptations of these two much loved classics that will be anything but ordinary.

Sense and Sensibility 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 27, 29 August - 7.30pm
Matinees: 8 & 15 August - 2.30pm

The Comedy of Errors 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 28, 29 August - 7.30pm
Matinees: 22 & 29 August - 2.30pm

Box Office | 01760 755 007
Inspiring audiences since 1999
What's On
westacretheatre.com

NORFOLK'S BEST OUTDOOR THEATRE

Sense and Sensibility
Jane Austen's
Directed by Matt & Sadie Grist

6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 27, 29 August, 7.30pm
Matinees: 8 & 15 August, 2.30pm

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S
DIRECTED BY MATT & SADIE GRIST

18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 28, 29 August, 7.30pm
Matinees: 22 & 29 August, 2.30pm

"A super professional Theatre! A rare gem set in such a gorgeous setting."
Get In Touch: admin@westacretheatre.com Find Us: River Road, West Acre, Norfolk PE32 1UA
Registered Charity 1067258

Summer music picnics

As is tradition here at Westacre, join us as our summer season closes with the much-loved Sheringham Shantymen for a rousing afternoon of sea shanties, rich harmonies and maritime charm. Last chance to catch our unmissable open-lawn, dog-friendly music evenings on Sunday 30th August.

Please note: dogs are welcome at Music Picnic events only, and not at seated theatre productions in the Theatre Tent.



Why Westacre?

Ask anyone who's been and they'll tell you: nowhere does an outdoor evening out quite like Westacre. Doors open a full hour before every performance, so audiences can spread out a rug by the lake, unpack a picnic, and let the evening unfold at its own pace before the show begins. It's the setting as much as the show that keeps people coming back - and this year, our new, bigger summer tent means the good times don't stop for a spot of rain.

Book Now

Tickets and full listings are available at www.westacretheatre.com or by calling the box office 01760 755 007. With a sell-out summer in our sights, early booking is strongly recommended.

TOWN and AROUND

A PRICELESS! magazine serving North and West Norfolk

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If you have business skills, capital and seek a new challenge in the first instance contact: richard@townandaround.net

Local Independent **eyecare** and **hearing care** in King's Lynn



We are proud to welcome Audiologist, **Lee Mason** (left) as our **hearing care partner** at Wigram and Ware Optometrists and Opticians.

Lee is a familiar face in King's Lynn, having been providing hearing care services in the area for the past eight years. Lee welcomes patients old and new to visit him for their hearing care needs.

From initial **hearing screening** to **full hearing assessments**, **hearing aid fittings** with supportive **aftercare**, as well as **ear wax removal** services, Lee will be offering appointments at both our King's Lynn & Dersingham practices.



You can make an appointment with Lee by contacting the practice on the details below or by scanning the QR code.



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Dersingham • 4 Jubilee Court | Hunstanton Road | Dersingham
Norfolk PE31 6HH | T: 01485 544850 | E: reception@wigware.co.uk

Young film makers enjoy premiere at Fakenham Cinema

Pupils celebrated the end of term in red-carpet style, when they attended the premiere of their school's latest film at Fakenham Cinema.



The talented group from Burnham Market Primary and Nursery School previously won Best Film for S.I. Superficial Intelligence, and are hoping that their new release, SpaceBop, will prove equally successful.



While S.I. Superficial Intelligence explored the dangers of Artificial Intelligence, SpaceBop is a sci-fi comedy that Senior Teacher Ash Williams, who led the project, likened to cult television show Red Dwarf.

"Supported by professional filmmakers, the children created this fantastic sci-fi action adventure, taking on every aspect of the production themselves," he said.

"From scriptwriting and set construction, to camera work, acting, lighting, special effects, and even composing the musical score, the pupils were at the heart of the project, working together as a professional film crew to bring SpaceBop to the big screen."

Mr Williams has already seen recognition for

his part in supporting pupils' creativity at the school, which is a member of the Wensum Trust, as he was recently named Filmmaking Champion at this year's Into Film Awards (see page 12).



He continued: "After seven months of work, the children celebrated their success at a future-star-studded red-carpet premiere, thanks to the kind support of Active Fakenham and the Fakenham Central Cinema.



"With photography, popcorn, Q&A sessions, and even an early private screening for cast and

crew, it was an evening like no other.

"It's hard to express just how much work the children put into the production of SpaceBop. So many important roles took place behind the scenes – but seeing the smiles and sheer joy on their faces as they watched the finished film on the big screen at Fakenham Cinema was truly inspiring."



He added: "The project's aim was to inspire children, and introduce them to the media industry as a potential career path at an early age. Since completing the film, many of the pupils have gone on to use their new skills to already create their own independent films, with one even winning a national award in the Childnet Film Competition.

"Knowing that many are now making their own films, and aspiring to careers in media, shows that SpaceBop has already achieved its primary goal; however, SpaceBop's journey has only just begun.

"Now that the young film makers have enjoyed their intergalactic premiere at Fakenham Cinema, the film can now be submitted to festivals and competitions around the world, in the hope of reaching an even wider audience.

"Who knows where SpaceBop will take us next?"



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August sees King's Lynn Community Cinema Club having the two Thursday 7.30pm showings in the accessible screen 2 at the Majestic cinema. The first is on the 13th when to celebrate its 50th Anniversary All the President's Men will be shown. Nominated for eight Academy awards and the winner of 4 the film follows the two Washington Post reporters, Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein played by Robet Redford and Dustin Hoffman, as they break the Watergate scandal which resulted in the resignation of President Nixon. The film made USA Today's list of the greatest American movies ever made.



On the 27th the film Sentimental values, that was originally going to be shown in July, will be screened. Nordic psychological drama about two sisters reconnecting with a once well-known film director father. Family memories resurface when he offers one of them a role in his comeback project.

KLCCC is open to anyone over 18 and costs £20 a season. There are 2 seasons a year each with 8 scheduled films that are free for members. Membership can be arranged by emailing communitycinemaclub@googlemail.com. Alternatively, you can just come along to any film as a day member for £6 cash on the door. Full details of all the club's films and events can be found on the club website www.klccc.uk and Facebook page.

The Sensational 60's Experience

Kings Lynn Corn Exchange on Saturday 17th October

Whether you're reliving the soundtrack of your youth or discovering what your parents have been raving about, this is the must-see show of 2026!

Starring five of the biggest names to come out of the 60's and still touring today.

Get ready to be transported to a time when pop music was at its very best. The Sensational 60's Experience is a show you'll never forget!

Hits include Legend of Xanadu, Silence is Golden, Hippy Hippy Shake, You've Got Your Troubles, Hitchin A Ride plus many more!

The concert commences at 7.30pm and tickets are available from the box office on 01553 764864



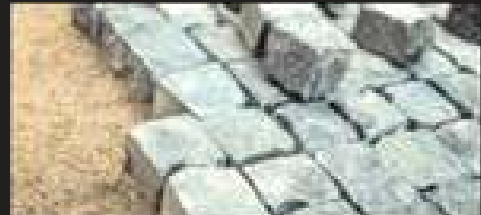
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Hunstanton Bowls Club (Cromer Road)

As the sun continued to shine and the temperatures once again soared the hardy bowlers of Hunstanton continued to brave the elements! There aren't many bowlers who remember playing during the summer of '76 but those who did were grateful for the improvements in green keeping, watering systems and safety measures now in place that protect them and the greens.

Matches were re-scheduled to the cooler hours and in some cases to different days but, thankfully, none had to be abandoned completely.

County competitions reached the final stages and, once again, Hunstanton bowlers were well represented in County finals. Mark Charnley and Mike Grammer along with father & son team of Mick & Paul Hallifax staged valiant campaigns in the Men's Pairs before coming up against strong pairings who halted their winning streaks. There were also notable wins for the ladies who made the County quarter finals in the Top Club, Webb Trophy and several individual competitions. Semi finals are still to be played but we wish all those still involved the best of luck.

On the social side the ever popular Midsummer Barbecue was a roaring success. Fifty plus members enjoyed a fun roll-up followed by barbecue and entertainment. Braving the hot coals were Andrew Heil & Mark Charnley who did a sterling job in keeping the bowlers fed! And, not forgetting John Leyton who was kept extremely busy serving drinks to quench the thirsts of so many. What would we do without you, John!

Hunstanton (Cromer Road) welcome bowlers of any age or ability and anyone who would like to give bowling a try. Just come along on any Friday evening 5.30pm for 6.00pm start....you will be warmly welcomed.

For more details contact Dave (07508 134099) or Debra (07521 871689)



Hunstanton Croquet Club news Zena Penty, Publicity Officer

The croquet season is in full flow and has already hosted well over a dozen tournaments, both national and internal competitions giving everyone the opportunity to compete at their level and improve. The beautiful sunny weather is mostly welcome to the croquet lawns but the extreme heat this summer has been a challenge occasionally both for players and maintaining the pristine condition of the lawns.

A regular weekly evening club session (Tuesdays) has proved popular and hopefully this could expand and may attract new members who work in the daytime. Thank you to Mary Core for hosting those.

Thank you to all the members who helped at the working party at the end of June ahead of the national tournaments, which helps keep the whole club looking great and provides opportunities for new members to learn lawn setting skills etc and enjoy a fun morning.



The annual 'Bright Shirts Day' was well supported and the prize awarded to worthy winner Ian Metcalfe. This event was used to host a fundraising raffle in aid of this year's chosen charity 'Breast of Friends'. Thank you to June Critcher for selling tickets and presenting the prizes.

The number of entrants into internal competitions has increased this year – well done to everyone who has entered with particular congratulations to some of last month's winners Bev Ruchman for the Green Shutters Singles tournament and Grenville Parry for the Veterans competition.

It's great to see some new members volunteering to help those supporting the tournaments and events but as always we need particular thanks to go to the tournament managers Terrey Sparks, Gary Lewis and David Boxell without whom they would not be able to proceed.



Tennis week!

**THE PATRICIO TRAVEL
HUNSTANTON LAWN TENNIS TOURNAMENT
SUNDAY 16TH TO SATURDAY 22ND AUGUST
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The tournament takes place in August on 38 grass courts at the Recreation Ground in Hunstanton. (PE36 5JA).

There are approximately 250 parking spaces and the charge to enter is £3. If you leave and return on the same day, then you will be required to pay the fee again.

Car parking spaces are on a first come first served basis. Disabled spaces will be available to those displaying a valid Blue Badge.

It is an open tournament catering for experienced players down to enthusiastic beginners. It covers all ages from masters' veterans (75+) to 12&U and if time permits there is Round Robin event for 12&U and 10&U.

A committee of passionate tennis players/fans run the event each year and it is supported by a range of sponsors and trade stalls. There will be a selection of refreshments available including a licenced bar.

The trade stalls offer a wide variety of products and services including food, drink, artisan jewellery, health and massage, handicrafts and a wide range of clothing.

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Dreamy Hollow

by Nigel Day founder

It's been 14yrs since the WW1 Lovat Scout Trenches were discovered in 7.5 acres of wild woodland, now known as Dreamy Hollow. Today Dreamy Hollow remains dedicated to the conservation of nature and the historic trenches.

A great deal has happened over the years, charity fundraising with "War at the Hollow", a memorial music video "Bury me close to home", the dedication of the War Memorial, coverage by many national newspapers, BBC and ITV News, "Rich Holiday Poor Holiday" and "George Clarke Amazing Spaces" and the fantastic listing of the site by Historic England as one of "National Importance". (Yet we still come across local people who have never heard of us!)



Featured in George Clarke's Amazing Spaces

Dreamy Hollow has been blessed with many friends. Visitors will find pitches named after friends and volunteers who have helped make it all possible. The late John Smith and Tony Armstrong are fondly remembered for their historical research, without which much of this would not have happened. Local author Mary Mackie drew on their research for her book, "Hunstanton's Heroes".

Sgt Taylor's WW1 Bunker is named after the Lovat Scout character of Mark Taylor from Timetrippers. Mark has helped us over the years with reclaiming the trenches, building the bunker, filming "Bury me close to home", posing as one of the models for the memorial sculpture



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07471120827 for more info and to book

LOCATION: Dreamy Hollow Campsite off the B1454,
Fakenham Rd, Stanhoe, King's Lynn.

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and organising our charity fund raising events "War at the Hollow". A very busy in demand re enactor, we are pleased to welcome Mark back again this summer to offer WW1 trench tours whilst our regular volunteer guide is temporarily unavailable. Mark is offering a reasonably priced Living History activities with a WW2 Boot Camp on our Archery Range. An ideal school holiday activity.

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NEWS FROM BRANCASTER VILLAGE HALL (BVH)

Geoff Wingrove

It is very pleasing to report that BVH has appointed a very experienced General Manager, Paul, to oversee the next stage in the BVH chapter. We thank Ed, who is returning to his college studies, for his hard work and commitment, and wish him every success in the future.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 22nd August: Disco Bingo 7.00pm to late. This is a first endeavour for BVH, working with the charity Cultivating Change. Numbers are limited, so please be sure to book in advance at bvhsetup@gmail.com
 Saturday 29th August: August Bank Holiday Party with BBQ and Pimm's Tent.
 Saturday 19th September: Music by Porky's Hot Rockin' Saturday
 24th October: Brancaster Festival of the Sea.

Further information about our activities can be found on our website at brancastervillagehall.communitybookings.co.uk or on Facebook and Instagram.

Contact us at bvhsetup@gmail.com

FROM THE BRANCASTER PARISH ARCHIVE: THE WINDMILLS OF THE NORTHWESTERN COASTAL REGION OF NORFOLK

Given the profusion of wind turbines in Norfolk to generate electricity, it is pertinent to write an article about a more ancient use of wind power in the county. Windmills have been used for centuries to grind corn to make flour for bread, and this area of Norfolk is fortunate in having four surviving windmills. Windmills continued in use up to the early 20th century and were an important part of the economy.

The earliest practical windmills were those that revolved on a horizontal plane around a vertical axis. They were prevalent in the Middle East but became common in Europe and eventually in Britain. The vertical mill was developed in Northern Europe in the 12th century and was also found in Britain late in that century. These mills were called post mills, as they enabled the vertical sails to rotate around a central axis using horse or manpower to move the mill to face the wind. There is an excellent model of a post mill in Thornham church, which gives a clear idea of how they operated.

In the 13th century tower mills built of masonry began to be constructed. These allowed the mill to remain static but by use of a revolving cap and fantail that reacted to the direction of wind, allowed the vertical sails to move in the wind's direction. The most common tower mills had eight sails on four arms which could be controlled by the miller to stop when the mill was not working to save wear and tear.

Gears inside the mill took the power of the wind generated by the sails to drive the millstones that ground the cereal crops. Additional gears also drove the hoists which raised the grain bags up several floors to the hopper that fed the grind stones. From being

essential parts of the community, windmills were gradually replaced by other methods of grinding corn driven by steam and then electricity. Windmills ceased to operate commercially in the early 20th century.

Near Brancaster along the coast of Northwest Norfolk there are a number of windmills from the early 19th century still standing. Much effort has been expended in keeping these buildings in reasonable condition at immense cost over the years. Three of the mills have retained their sails and one the internal milling equipment. The four mills are situated at Ringstead, Great Bircham, Burnham Overy and Cley.

The Ringstead mill has been converted for domestic living and has lost its sails and machinery. It was built between 1837 and 1842 by Henry Le Strange, head of the powerful Le Strange family of Hunstanton; the mill occupies a prominent position on a slight rise north of Ringstead village. It is a six-storey building which had six sails originally and three pairs of millstones. The mill operated for about fifty years and ceased operation in 1892, when it passed into private ownership and was converted for domestic use.

In the 1930s the mill passed into the ownership of Professor Cornford of Cambridge University, and it became the headquarters and meeting place of the Theoretical Biology Centre, which included amongst its members such notable academics such as Karl Popper.

Great Bircham windmill is unique in the area as the only mill restored to working condition; it is situated on the site of an earlier building which was probably a post mill. This was demolished about 1846 and a new tower mill built by G Humphrey. He sold the mill in 1846, and a succession of millers owned and worked the mill until the last owner W Howard in 1922.

Although the milling business had changed hands over the years, the site was on the estate of the Marquis of Cholmondeley of Houghton Hall. When it ceased working the mill was sold to the Queen's Sandringham Estate in 1939; in turn the Queen sold the mill to a private owner in 1976 who had undertaken to restore it. The restoration began in 1977 and continued over a long period with machinery being salvaged from other mills. A new cap was fitted along with floor and two pairs of sails; the mill occupies five floors and has a three-storey stage. The mill is currently open to the public in the spring and summer.

The Burnham Overy Staithe windmill is located in a prominent coastal position to the West of Burnham Overy Staithe harbour and is part of what was an extensive property including farmland and a watermill. The mill was built in 1816 for E. Savory, a miller who was also working the watermill which is situated on the River Burn. It remained in his family until 1900 and was sold eventually in 1910 to S. Davey, and then again to a maltster in Wells who worked it until 1919.

In 1926 the mill was sold to an architect

who converted it for use as holiday accommodation. Further restoration work was carried out over the next thirty years until it was given to the National Trust in 1958. The mill continued to be used for holiday accommodation but in recent times the Trust wanted to bring the building back into working condition. Unfortunately planning permission was not given, as there were concerns over traffic issues that could be generated. The mill is a six-storey building which has new sails and retains its cap and gallery; the sails drove three pairs of mill stones.

The Cley windmill is situated on the coast in the small village of Cley. It was built in the early 19th century and is first mentioned in 1819, when it was put up for sale. It is a five-storey building with a dome shaped cap and eight bladed fantail. It was powered by four double sails with a span of 70 feet on 56-foot stocks.

From 1819 to 1875 the mill was owned and worked by the Farthing family. The family sold the mill to S. Burroughs, who worked it until 1912. In 1921 the mill was again sold and converted for use as holiday accommodation. In 1934 the mill came into the ownership of Colonel H. Blount and following the floods of 1953, when the building was damaged, grants were received from Norfolk County Council to help with restoration. The mill passed to Colonel C. Blount and in 1983 was opened as a guesthouse. Further grants were given by Norfolk County Council and English Heritage, and the sails, gallery and fantail were replaced in 1986/87. Further refurbishment was carried out between 2007 and 2014 in order that the building might be used as a guesthouse, restaurant and function centre.

The picture shows the mill at Burnham Overy Staithe as a representative example.



NATIONAL COASTWATCH BRANCASTER

During the summer season the issues for the volunteer Watchkeepers at the Brancaster station increase, with a crowded beach and lots of coastal activity.

There has been a number of incidents involving members of the public caught out by rising tides on the sandbars; action has had to be taken to warn the people - often with children and dogs - and, where necessary, call the emergency services. There have also been strong offshore winds which can catch kite surfers and paddle boarders; again, action has been needed to alert the emergency services, as surfers and boarders can be carried far out to sea when they become exhausted.

Welcome to new joiner Chris and congratulations to Sue, who has passed her assessment to become a certified Watchkeeper.

The station has two beach days planned for 8th and 22nd August to bring the issue of water safety to the attention of the beach and coastal waters users.

If you would like more information on National Coastwatch Brancaster please contact Richard Burrows, Deputy Station Manager, on 07535 612777. You can also find us on Facebook at [#nationalcoastwatchbrancaster](#) or on our website, www.nci.org.uk/Brancaster for our webcam and up-to-date information on weather and tides.

King's Lynn Heritage Open Day

Sunday 13 September 10 am - 4 pm

Visit over 50 historic buildings and private spaces not usually open to the public. Heritage Open Day in King's Lynn is a huge, free annual event making the town's fantastic history, architecture and culture accessible to all.

Everyday Histories is the theme of the day, exploring the varied and often overlooked stories of ordinary working people and their daily lives.

Two properties opening for the first time in 2026 help bring this to life.

The former Tudor Rose Hotel pub rang its final 'last orders' in 2017. Now known as Woolmarket House, visitors can visit the former bar with its fine moulded beams and wood mullioned windows in this now private home, B&B and gallery space.

St Joseph's House on London Road offers a rare opportunity to see the interior of a beautiful brown brick Grade II listed house dating from 1825. People may remember it as a doctor's surgery, but it's a home again and you can step back in time with plenty of restored original features including a Georgian staircase and secret garden.

Experience the highs and lows of working people in Lynn with access to the World War II air raid shelters beneath the Tuesday Market Place, climb the observation towers at the Pilots' Office and Clifton House for views of vessels on the river, or visit the Borough Archives to learn about the Fire Brigade in the late 1800s.

Dr Paul Richards will give a talk on Lynn's working classes 1500-1900: People & Places and the Town Guides will be running free walks sharing rich insights into Lynn past and present.

Hop aboard vintage buses for free rides between sites and there will be over 200 classic vehicles parked in the Tuesday Market Place for Classic Car Day.



Look out for pop-up performances throughout the day including traditional folk music, battle re-enactors, Morris dancers and singers and younger visitors are encouraged to pick up a limited-edition colouring book of iconic King's Lynn buildings.

Programmes will be available soon from the Tourist Information

Centre - open every day 10am-4.30pm - or visit the Civic Society webpage for all the listings and activities plus the bus timetable: <https://www.kingslynnccivicsociety.co.uk/heritage-open-day/>



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Eugene Aram – Schoolmaster and Murderer in Kings Lynn

Russell Lyon



The name of the Kings Lynn school master now long forgotten was notorious in his time. Why did a learned man, a man of keen intellect and an expert in languages and respected school teacher throw it all away and be accused of murder? Not only accused but convicted and hanged for his crime. He was born in Ramsgill, Yorkshire in 1704. He came from a very poor background – his father was a labourer but he had the good fortune to have had a good education for the time as his father had started working for Sir Edward Newby and Eugene was allowed to make use of the library. He took full advantage of the privilege and discovered he had a good ear for languages and taught himself Greek and Latin. He moved to London and worked as a bookkeeper in a counting house for a friend of Sir Edward. While there he became very ill with smallpox and on recovery moved back to Yorkshire and became a schoolteacher. He also found time to learn Hebrew and apparently several other European languages and made the discovery that Latin was not derived from Greece and that Celtic tongues in Europe often had a common derivation. If he

had finished his career on that note, he could have justifiably been famous – poor but famous. He would have been well known as a self -taught pioneer of comparative etymology which is the study of the history and origin of words. As it was however, he became very well known for quite a different horrible reason.

Not long after his return to Netherdale from London, he managed to get a job as a teacher. He got a girl pregnant but he married her and they then moved on to Knaresborough where he remained until 1744 as the schoolmaster. It was a busy time for him not least with his work and studies but he also became the father of seven children so money must have been very tight. While he was still in Knaresborough he became very friendly with Daniel Clark a shoemaker who had come into a small fortune from his wife. He remained as a close friend to Clark until 1744 when Clark mysteriously vanished. There was a suspicion about his disappearance but nothing was proved. Aram then left his wife and seven children and moved back to London. The scandal associated with Clark's disappearance never left Aram completely as it was thought he knew more than he was saying. He kept moving around from job to job hoping no doubt to leave his past behind until he finally reached Kings Lynn and was welcomed as the new schoolteacher at the Grammer School. Certainly he was well qualified. The Grammer school then was a room above the Charnel Chapel which was on the

north side of St Margaret's Church which was ironic considering the eventual destination of his skull.

In 1758 at Knaresborough a workman digging for stone uncovered a skeleton which was thought to be the remains of Daniel Clark. The authorities questioned Aram's estranged wife who long thought that her husband was complicit in the disappearance. She named a friend Richard Houseman who she thought might also been involved and the whole story came out at last. Houseman admitted with plea bargaining (Kings Evidence) where the shoemaker had really been buried and that Aram had been his killer. He knew because he had been present when Clark was killed although Houseman said he had no part in the murder. A horse trader in Knaresborough knew where Aram was living in Kings Lynn and two constables were sent to make the arrest. The school master was apprehended in front of a classroom of pupils in Kings Lynn and promptly clapped into the local jail. It is not difficult to imagine the shock and horror of the pupils witnessing the arrest.

All the while protesting his innocence Aram was conveyed north to stand trial. His trial lasted 3 days and he chose to defend himself. The essence of his defence was that a man of his standing and education could not be involved in murder and besides he said the skeleton may not be Clark's as he might appear at any moment.

The jury was not convinced and he was found guilty in very short time and he was condemned to be hung for his crime. The sentence was carried out at Tyburn prison in York and his body was hung in chains (gibbeted) in Knaresborough Forest near the scene of his crime for many years. His skull was eventually acquired by a local doctor and after passing through multiple hands it was gifted by the Royal College of Surgeons in 1993 to Kings Lynn Borough Council. It is now exhibited in the Old Gaol Museum where the macabre relic is on display and can be viewed.

Despite the lack of clear

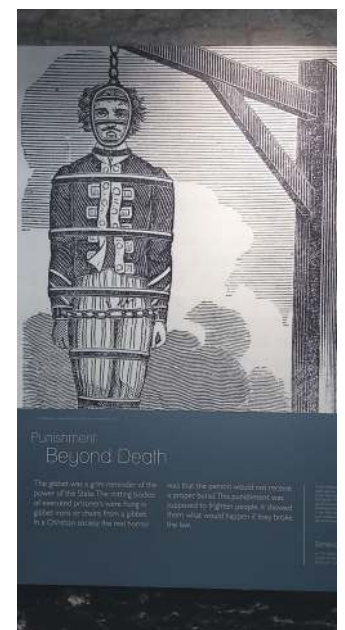


Skull of Eugene Aram

evidence – it was mostly circumstantial but there is little doubt that Aram was guilty as the night before his death he had tried to commit suicide and then he confessed to the crime. He had indeed killed Clark as he thought that Clark was having an affair with his wife. It had been a crime of passion he said and not for nefarious gain that led to his downfall and ultimate fate.



Site of Charnel Chapel at St



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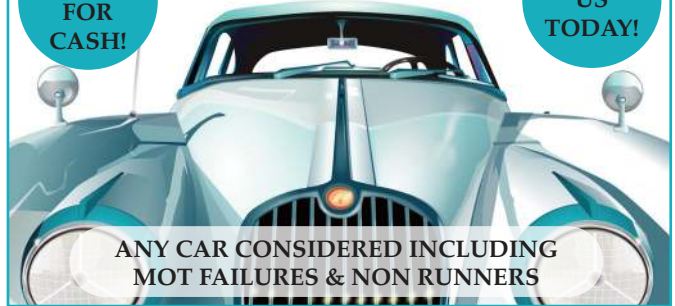
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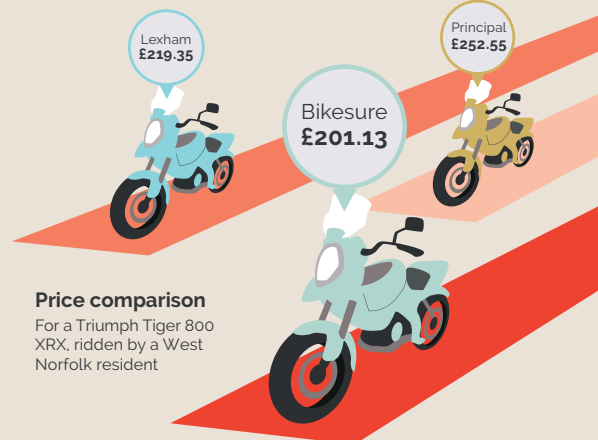
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Lucy Lavers popular Heritage Tours You can join skipper Isaac on a 1.5hr tour or book the whole boat - a locally serving lifeboat and Dunkirk Little Ship - to celebrate your own special occasion (maximum 12 people) for 1.5 or 3.0 hrs. So far this year we've had birthdays, hen parties, special interest groups and more aboard. As well as the exhilarating experience of being aboard a unique historic wooden boat, the tours focus on 'heritage' (Lucy Lavers, lifeboats, Dunkirk, local wooden fishing boats, Wells Harbour) with Isaac as an "excellent skipper and narrator".

You can see the dates and times and book on our website www.rescuewoodenboats.com.

The Maritime Heritage Centre in Stiffkey tells the stories of our local historic fishing boats and lifeboats and their communities. It is open on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays 11.00 - 4.00 with new displays and merchandise. Lots to see and do; history of local fishing, boatbuilding and lifeboats, films, displays and artefacts, quiz, knots and more for children. And a special 50th anniversary display of David Hewitt, boatbuilder. And you can take a break, sit down with a cuppa and watch a film, and perhaps see some boatbuilding in action. Weekday group visits welcome by appointment.

Let us know if your group or society would like to plan a talk from our speaker team.

We always are keen to recruit volunteers and fit with their skills, interests and time availability to join our friendly team to:

- help with visitors at the Maritime Heritage Centre and boatyard



- help plan and run the annual Maritime Heritage Festival weekend
- help with sanding and painting boats each year

If you are interested or know anyone who might be, and would like to talk it through do get in touch with Wendy on wwp@wendypritchard.co.uk 07796 95961414

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Margery Kempe goes to sea!

Margery Kempe, the mystic born in what was then Bishop's Lynn around 1373, became known as a mystic because of her 'visions'. Her book, which was dictated, is thought by some to be the very first autobiography in the English language.



A film – visit the websites lukeewalker.com and mirabelledominewalley.com – is currently being made about her life and some of it has just been shot aboard Baden Powell on a voyage to the Wash which would have been familiar to her, albeit that the Great Ouse flowed on a different course across the marshes starting where the modern docks are.



Margery is not the only one coming out on trips with us. Baden Powell is now well and truly getting into its stride with this year's sailings and bookings can be made at www.floatourboat.co.uk or call 01553 772735 to leave a message which will be picked up by one of our skippers.

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Start of a new Rotary Year for Hunstanton & District Rotary

Hunstanton and District Rotary Club began its Golden Jubilee celebration year with a new President. At their changeover event, attended by approximately 40 people, Marie Jarvis received the chain of office from outgoing President, Hilary Farrell; to warm applause from Rotarians including those who came specially from the clubs of King's Lynn Trinity and Holt. Attendees enjoyed a garden party atmosphere with a varied buffet and musical entertainment provided by Iryna Oliynyk on the piano.

Marie's chosen charity for 2026/27 is to be the First Responders group, who co-ordinated by the ambulance service provide fast and local emergency support. We encourage you to give this amazing group your support as we never know when we might be grateful for their help.

The Club is enjoying an upsurge in membership so far this year, and is always keen to include newcomers who wish to follow its motto of "Service before Self". As well as enjoying its regular fellowship meetings at Heacham Manor Hotel, we have social meetings, where we invite a speaker to tell us about how Rotary has helped their organisation, either through funding or service.

Currently we have a busy summer schedule of community events, the next one being Burnham Market's flagship event, The Craft Fair.



Please contact me on hunstantonrotary.info@gmail.com or mobile 07866 889967 if you would like to know more.

Marie Jarvis - President Hunstanton & District Rotary

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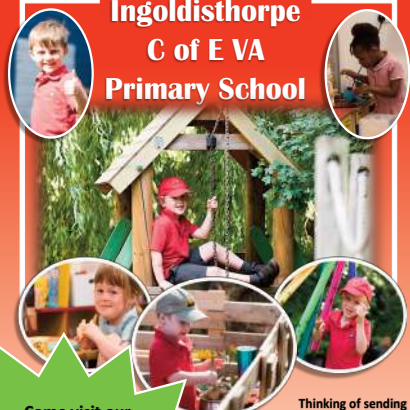



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Tapping House Invites Community to Wear Purple for Walk With Us

Tapping House is calling on walkers of all ages and abilities to lace up their boots and turn out in purple this autumn for Walk With Us, a sponsored walk taking place on Sunday 6th September along one of Norfolk's most scenic stretches of coastline.

Whether walking in memory of a loved one or simply supporting your local Hospice, every step taken on the day will create memories that matter.

Tapping House is placing special emphasis on wearing purple for the walk – the same colour worn by some of Tapping House's nursing team who care for patients and families every day.

All registered participants will receive a purple branded Walk With Us T-shirt and everyone taking part is warmly encouraged to wear as much additional purple as they would like.

Walkers can go all out in purple, add a simple purple accessory or stick to their everyday walking gear if that is most comfortable. Fancy dress is also welcome.

The walk follows the Norfolk Coastal Path from Burnham Overby Staithe to Wells-next-the-Sea, taking in marshes, moorland, beaches and woodland along the way. The event starts and finishes at Burnham Overby Staithe Village Hall, with three distances on offer to suit different fitness levels and walking abilities:

- 3.5 miles – turning back at the sand dunes
- 8 miles – turning back at The Lookout, Holkham
- 14 miles – turning back at Wells-next-the-Sea

All distances are approximate. Please note the route includes uneven ground and may not be suitable for wheelchairs, mobility scooters, or buggies. We politely ask anyone with accessibility questions to get in touch before registering.

Registration and Sponsorship

- Adults - £20 registration, minimum sponsorship £100
- Children (6-17 years) - £15 registration, minimum sponsorship £50
- Under 5s – free (contact the team directly for a child's T-shirt)

Registration fees help cover the cost of running the event, but it's the sponsorship that makes the difference and helps Tapping House reach more patients and families at the moment they need support most. Participants are encouraged to set up a Just Giving page to collect sponsorship, with all funds paid directly to the Hospice.

Walkers can register their preferred distance via the official booking form. Full event information, including terrain guidance, kit recommendations and safety details, is available at the Walk With Us



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webpage: <https://tappinghouse.org.uk/support-us/walk-with-us-2026/>

Registrations close on Sunday 23rd August 2026. Registration on the day begins at 9am, with individual times allocated and communicated to walkers ahead of the event.

For further information, please contact: The Fundraising Team, Tapping House
Email: fundraisingteam@tappinghouse.org.uk

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Calling parents, babies and toddlers

We have a weekly parent, baby and toddler session on Wednesday mornings in term time, 0930am -11am at our Methodist church hall on Austin Street. The new term will start on Wednesday 9th September, and new members are needed to keep the group going throughout the autumn and winter. It is £2.50 per session, including a hot drink for parents and fruit for the toddlers. We have a large range of toys and activities, including an indoor slide, soft play blocks, a blackboard/whiteboard, a doll's house, play dough, inset puzzles, megablocks, a tea set, plus baby toys and push along walkers.

We hope that parents and children will make new friends and enjoy the large indoor space, while the leaders facilitate activities such as reading together, dressing up, group singing, dancing and bubbles.

New members can try us out free for two sessions, and the leaders will communicate with parents by text message. There are also regular posts on the Hunstanton Methodist Church Facebook page.

Rosemary Rayner 07963 181573



**Toddler Group
Wednesday 9.30-11.00**

Keep Magpie Going appeal

The Magpie Centre West Norfolk RDA is appealing to the local community to help secure its future during a temporary closure by supporting its new Keep Magpie Going fundraising campaign.

Following 1 positive case of strangles on site, the Centre has been forced to close for approximately six weeks while following strict veterinary guidance and enhanced biosecurity measures. Although participants and volunteers are unable to attend during this period, the Centre's work behind the scenes continues every single day.

The charity must meet around £4,200 each week in essential running costs while its usual income has significantly reduced.

These costs include caring for the Centre's horses and ponies, providing feed, hay and bedding, veterinary and farrier care, maintaining the facilities, and ensuring everything is ready for participants to return as soon as it is safe.

For many years, the Magpie Centre has provided life-changing equine-assisted activities and therapeutic opportunities for children and adults across Norfolk.

The Keep Magpie Going campaign aims to raise vital funds to bridge the gap created by the temporary closure and ensure the Centre is ready to welcome participants back once veterinary restrictions are lifted.

The charity is encouraging individuals, schools, businesses, community groups and local organisations to get involved by:

- Making a donation to the Keep Magpie Going appeal.
- Sponsoring the care of one of the Centre's horses or ponies.
- Organising a bake sale, coffee morning or fundraising event.
- Taking part in a sponsored walk, run, cycle or challenge.
- Holding a dress-down day or fundraising collection at work or school.
- Sharing the appeal with friends, family and colleagues.

Every donation, regardless of size, will help provide essential care for the horses and ponies that are at the heart of the Centre's work and help ensure the charity can reopen as soon as it is safe to do so.

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SIXTY GOLFERS TURN UP TO SUPPORT TAPPING HOUSE!

Sixty golfers arrived at Ryston Park Golf Club, Downham Market to play in Downham Market Rotary Club's Charity Golf Day in May with all profits on the day going to Tapping House Hospice.

Following hearty breakfast of bacon rolls, fifteen teams of four players, teed off in a shotgun start on the Ryston Park's new, improved and recently opened tees (for the uninitiated a "shotgun start" in golf is a way of starting a tournament where all groups begin playing at the same time, but from different holes around the course).

After hours of intense competition all golfers and support staff sat down to a sumptuous buffet and the chance to regret the missed putts, the wayward drives and other dodgy shots. The Winning Team with 89 stableford points was Stow Cricket Club represented by Mark Skipper, George, Dan, and Jamie Cook (again for the uninitiated In golf, Stableford points are a scoring system where players earn points based on their score on each hole relative to par, instead of simply counting total strokes).

Everyone agreed a wonderful day of fun and golf made this Rotary Club Charity outing an occasion to remember. Our thanks goes to Ryston Park Golf Club for donating their course for the event, The good news? We'll do it all again next year!



The winning team from Stow Cricket Club with on the left George Morton, incoming Rotary Club President. Credit Pamela J Taylor

Derek Stringer hands over the Presidency of Priory Rotary to Peter Oddey

Phil Davies

At the recent handover ceremony at King's Lynn Golf Club, Peter Oddey has taken up the role of President of King's Lynn Priory Rotary from outgoing President Derek Stringer.

Peter inherits a strong and vibrant club, and will continue to oversee a full programme of events, including the Rotary Swimathon, monthly Senior Citizens Film Club, another spectacular Firewalk and the annual Easter Egg Trail at Sandringham.

These and other activities enabled Priory to donate a total of over £70,000 to a wide range of local and International charitable causes in the 2025/26 Rotary year.

Peter has pledged to maintain a welcoming and friendly atmosphere for all members, and will seek to encourage new members to join and add to the strength and vitality of the Club.



Letters to the Editor

High Quality

Is it too late to plead for common sense regarding the proposals for Hunstanton centre and the promenade area?

The Borough Council seems hell bent on making the high street into a pedestrian zone – and this despite the very reasonable objections of almost all the shopkeepers. Residents will not be prepared to lug fruit and vegetables for miles; carry bags of compost or trays of plants, for example. Businesses offering heavy/bulky goods could well fall by the wayside – and for what? Yet more hairdressers/barbers/nail bars/cafes? The idea of having part time pedestrianisation seems nothing short of crazy. Are all the residents supposed to rush to the high street, fingers crossed, that they can all get in and out of limited parking slots in the very limited time? Far more sensible would be to increase the street parking by 15 minutes, allowing visitors and residents a chance to enjoy the shops/cafes. This is a measure that would show support for our local shopkeepers.

The masterplan is liberally sprinkled with the words 'high quality'. One would hope that any work undertaken would be of high quality, rendering such a phrase totally superfluous (although 'tacky' would better describe the idea of structures at the entrances to the promenade). However, the ideas included seem largely very short-sighted and unimaginative, serving only to increase weekend traffic along the already very busy A149; create extra noise for locals to endure and rubbish to be cleared. Some 'Andy Burnham' rather than schoolboy project thinking wouldn't go amiss. The jobs created under the current scheme would still be low level and predominantly part time, e.g. parking enforcement, stall holders, bar keepers and rubbish collectors.

Is that all our young people can aspire to? Yes, by all means improve the Oasis area but if money is to be spent on Hunstanton, let's start by creating opportunities for 'high quality' jobs, and 'high quality' permanent spaces that can encourage our young people fresh out of higher education to stay in the area.

Roger Davey

Carnival success

Hunstanton Carnival Committee would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make this year's carnival such a wonderful success.

A huge thank you goes to all of our generous sponsors, whose support made it possible for us to put on another fantastic event for the community. We are also incredibly grateful to our stall holders for bringing so much variety, colour, and entertainment to the day, helping to create a vibrant atmosphere that was enjoyed by all.

Most importantly, thank you to everyone who came along to support the carnival. Whether you attended the parade, visited the stalls, enjoyed the entertainment, or simply joined in the celebrations, your enthusiasm and generosity made the event truly special.

We are delighted to announce that our donation buckets raised an amazing £980.04, while the Tombola raised an incredible £596.00. Every penny raised will go towards funding next year's Hunstanton Carnival, helping us to continue providing a fantastic community event for everyone to enjoy.

On behalf of the entire Hunstanton Carnival Committee, thank you once again for your continued support. We look forward to welcoming you back next year for another unforgettable carnival!

Mark Williamson

Mayor of Hunstanton



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Rotary Club of King's Lynn Centenary

At the Club's recent changeover meeting, held at the Carpenters Arms in East Winch, outgoing President, James Lee, passed on the Chain of Office to Mike Douglass who has been a Rotarian since February 2021. He becomes the Club's President in our Centenary year.



Photo: James Lee and Mike Douglass.

Mike was born and raised in the North East, achieving a degree in Economics and Geography from Newcastle University. He stayed on at Newcastle and trained as a teacher before taking up his first teaching position in Ramsey in Cambridgeshire where he met his wife, Julie, also a teacher. Mike also taught in schools in Essex before moving to Norfolk in 1996 to be a deputy headteacher at King Edward VII School. He became Head of the school in 2002, taking over from Michael Walker. Mike retired from the headship in 2014, but it wasn't long before he returned to the classroom and the teaching of Economics on a part-time basis. He fully retired in August 2024.

Mike and Julie have 2 children, Christopher and Andrew, and 5 grandchildren. He is a keen cyclist and a Norwich City season ticket holder. Mike is keen to continue with the club's support of local charities and its extensive program of events and aims to work closely with schools and the local community.

A major milestone for the club this year will be the celebration of its Centenary in September. A black-tie dinner is to be held at the Town Hall on Friday 25 September and anyone who would like details can contact the Club through its website:

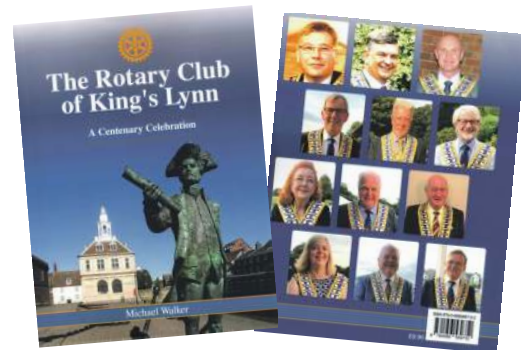
<https://rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=482>

The Rotary Club of King's Lynn has been in existence for over 100 years, and will officially celebrate this landmark at a black-tie event in the Lynn Town Hall on Friday 25 September. The Club was officially chartered on 24 September 1926, the third club to be formed in Norfolk after Norwich in 1922 and Great Yarmouth in 1925. A meeting was held at the Globe Hotel in Lynn on 12 November 1925 'with the object of forming a Rotary Club' and from December of that year regular lunchtime meetings were held. The first President was A G Hawkins who was District Chairman in 1936-37 and another founding member, F E Hares, was District Chairman from 1938-43.

Michael Walker has spent a huge amount of time over the past two years researching the history of the Club and has produced a book to mark the centenary. A large number of sources have been used, first and foremost, the Club's own records including minutes of Council Meetings and AGMs from 1925 onwards. Earlier summaries of the Club's history produced in 1970, 1983 and 1987, as well as monthly bulletins and newsletters, provided additional material.

Important work on the history of the Club was compiled by the late Past President, Ron Jackson, a member from 1972 until his death in January 2021. In 2001 for the 75th Anniversary he compiled a complete set of photographs of Past Presidents and he also kept files of newspaper cuttings, programmes of social events and group photographs. Michael Walker has kept up-to-date both the book of photographs of Past Presidents and scrapbooks of press cuttings etc. since Ron died.

This book makes no attempt to record all Club activities over the past 100 years. The aim has been to present examples of the life of the Club in different decades. The chapters cover the origins and development of the Club and the work of the existing four main committees, namely Community, Foundation, International and Vocational. Any important points from the work of other committees, especially that of the House and Social Committee up to the mid-1980s, are described in the section on growth and development.



Complimentary copies of the book will be presented to those attending the Centenary Dinner on 25 September. However, copies are also available to anyone interested at £10 including P & P. For further details of the Dinner and the book please contact Michael Walker through the Club website:

<https://rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=482>

Argentina's 'Voice of Buenos Aires' returns to the UK

Experience the passion of Buenos Aires in a breathtaking evening of tango, folk music, and unforgettable song.

Internationally acclaimed vocalist Martín Alvarado joins forces with the exceptional guitar quartet, fellow porteños from the city of the Rio de Plata, Gerardo Villar y Los Aguirre to deliver an authentic musical journey from the heart of Argentina.

From the revolutionary works of Astor Piazzolla to haunting zambas and original ballads, every performance is rich with emotion, artistry, and atmosphere.

Celebrated worldwide for his mesmerising voice and charismatic stage presence, Alvarado brings tango alive with intensity, elegance, and sensitivity

in a concert that promises to captivate audiences from beginning to end.

His colourful and nuanced interpretations, whether singing with a full symphony orchestra, a jazz big band or with just his tenor voice and a guitar in front of a handful of people, have transcended language barriers and driven an illustrious two-decade globe-trotting career, awards and 11 album releases.

In recognition of his significance as a cultural ambassador for Argentina, the National Academy of Tango officially declared him as a Maestro in 2019. Thornham Village Hall 10/9/2026 at 7pm..

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Prestigious award for green spaces



Image Borough Council

Five green spaces in King's Lynn and Hunstanton are to fly the prestigious Green Flag Award - recognising them among the very best in the country.

Boston Square Sensory Garden and Heritage Gardens in Hunstanton, along with Mintlyn Crematorium, The Walks and Tower Gardens in King's Lynn, are among sites across the UK to achieve Green Flag status this year.

Councillor Sandra Squire, Cabinet Member for Environment and Coastal, says she's delighted, adding, "This national recognition reflects the hard work, dedication and pride shown by our council's public open space teams throughout the year."

"These spaces play an important role in supporting the wellbeing of residents and visitors alike, providing attractive, welcoming places to relax, exercise, enjoy nature and spend time with family and friends."

Paul Todd MBE, Green Flag Award Manager at Keep Britain Tidy, says, "The Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk have shown what can be achieved when parks are properly supported and managed. Congratulations to everyone involved."

Hunstanton Lifeboat Sandcastle Competition Thursday 13th August 2026

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.

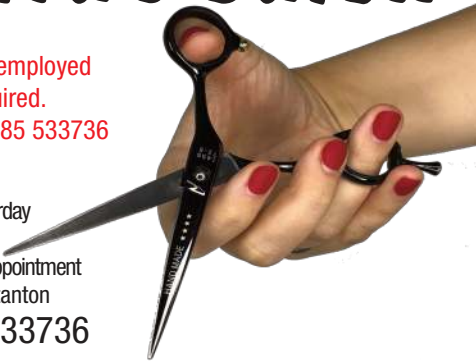


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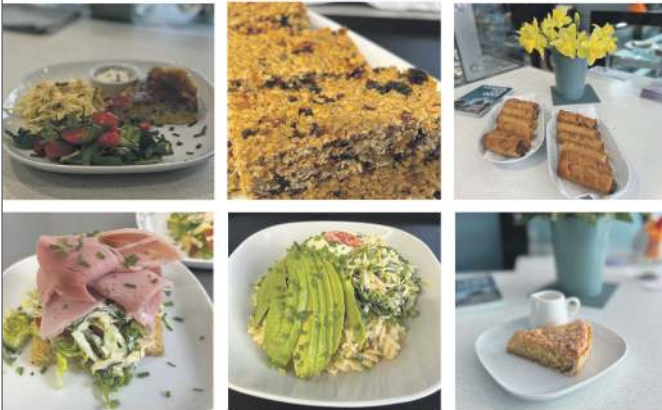


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Please, Hunstanton Primary, can I have some more?!

Dani Crawshaw



Everyone has said it's quite amazing," 10 year old Lacey tells me, who plays Nancy. As year 6 pupils prepare for life beyond primary school, they have been performing their end of year play - Oliver.

I ask if she gets nervous, "You have lots of people staring at you, and it feels overwhelming - but when you get through it you feel so happy you've done it."

Along with the rest of the year, Lacey takes to the stage for a final rehearsal. Oliver does the line we all know; "Please Sir, can I have

some more?"

For the next 20 minutes I'm treated to a few key scenes, with lots of singing and dancing. I can honestly say all the children are brilliant. When I catch a few of their eyes - they smile - clearly enjoying being on stage.

After I get to chat to Oliver, played by Rhoman, "It's quite fun to be on stage, I do like the song Consider

Yourself."

So do I. And when the class sing it, I can't help but hum along.



11 year olds Leo (pickpocket & Constable) and Rhoman

Lucy (plays Fagin) talks about how she deals with any nerves, "Once you get the first line down it's fine, we've rehearsed it so many times, we know what we're doing."

Alfie (Artful Dodger) says he's excited to be performing, I ask what it feels like when they get a big applause at the end, "Really proud," he replies. How wonderful.

As the 26 children leave the hall for lessons before tonight's performance, year 6 teacher



Lacey as Nancy



Megan Ashton gives them some words of encouragement.

And when the pupils have gone she says she's immensely proud of them, "Half way through the performance I tend to get a bit teary and emotional, then at the end I'm just beaming with pride for them. Buzzing to see them so happy and proud of themselves.

"There's so much for them to take on and remember," she continues, "And it looks very much like a professional performance that they've pulled off."

I couldn't agree more. What a lovely bunch of children, each I chatted to so engaging and full of confidence and excitement. Wishing them all the best in their move to secondary school.

Oh and for the rest of the day I catch myself singing a few of the Oliver songs (not as well as the pupils) - the sign of a great show!



S-nailed it!

Dani Crawshaw, images Ian Burt



Ready, steady, SLOW!" Shouts snail master Nick Dickinson - and the snails are off, cheered along by their 'trainers'.

More than 200 snails are participating in this year's World Championship, some people have brought their own, whilst others hire them from event organisers.

The shelled invertebrates are placed on a table, each fitted with a numbered sticker and race from the inner red circle to the outer black ring. A whopping 13.5 inches.



I'm told the cloth on the table is damp, because snails thrive and move faster in moist environments. But they still take their time.

"It really is an international event," says snail master Nick Dickinson, "Last year we had competitors from around a dozen countries from around the world."

There are some brilliant names, 'Snail-ifer Lopez' being one of my favourites.

Snail racing began here in the 1960's, after then resident Tom Elwes saw the spectacle in France, and brought the idea back to Congham.

And it's grown in popularity ever

since.

Once all the heats are done, it's the grand final. The excitement builds.

3 minutes and 13 seconds later a winner is announced, "Snail Swift is going to get it, less than half and inch to go. Snail Swift is the World Champion!"

Another brilliant name. The winning snail gets a bunch of romaine lettuce, whilst trainer Sam Pemberton, is awarded an engraved silver pewter tankard.

The Guinness World Record still remains unbeaten though - 2 minutes, by a snail named Archie, in 1995.





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In The Limelight

"I Do Like to Be Beside the Seaside" the Seaside classic tune resonates as we see all our visitors enjoy their Sunny Hunny Summer hols by the sea! If you are reading this as a local or here visiting the coast, read on and find out about the summer fun here at the Princess Theatre. We have a cracking view of the sea, sunsets are absolute stunners, live music, cheerful staff and a classic seaside summer show for you to enjoy, as well as a huge array of shows to choose from this month!

The Big Highlight This Summer – The Great British Seaside Summer Show!

A thrilling mix of magic, music and circus fun for all the family, every Wednesday at 3pm.

Returning for another super summer season, the Princess Theatre is delighted to be working once again with leading family producers That's Entertainment Productions to present a brand-new sparkling summer show.

What makes the show truly special is its sense of tradition and community. It's not just entertainment for visitors; it's for us locals too. It's about celebrating everything that makes our seaside town unique, supporting local theatre and keeping a cherished British tradition alive for future generations.

Featuring hilarious comedy, spectacular magic and exciting speciality acts from television, The Magic Circle and London's West End, this year's show has all the ingredients of a classic variety spectacular.

We're delighted to welcome back the ever-popular Andy Eastwood, whose musical talent, infectious energy and warm humour always delights audiences. Joining him are Domino, with his wonderfully inventive blend of silent comedy and magic, Raymond & Cannon with their fast-paced mix of magic, comedy and mind-reading, and the talented performers from Rollason Stage School, showcasing the next generation of local stars.

Why not make a full day of it? Plan ahead, book your tickets and explore everything Sunny Hunny has to offer. Booking as a family? Under 5s go FREE!

With thanks to our 2026 Summer Show sponsors: Lovell Homes, Lavender Chase and KL1 Radio

Live Music continues at the Sunset Wine Bar & Terrace. Every Tuesday from 1pm–4pm, Jamm'in Joe brings lively piano favourites to the terrace. On Wednesday evenings from 6pm, the ever-popular Soul at Sunset with DJ Zola.

Shows this month. Saturday 1st August with the slick harmonies of **Frankie's Guys**, followed by rock 'n' roll favourites **Showaddywaddy** on Saturday 8th August. Northern Soul fans can enjoy **Northern Live – Do I Love You** on Friday 14th August, while families won't want to miss **The Dinosaur That Pooped Kids' Show** on Sunday 16th August at 2.30pm.



Tribute lovers are in for a real treat with **Hounds of Love – A Kate Bush Celebration** on Friday 21st August and the beautiful candlelit **Hometown Glory – A Tribute to Adele** on Saturday 22nd August. Bank Holiday weekend brings even more great entertainment with **The Jersey Beats** on Friday 28th August, comedy favourite **Jim Davidson – Last Man Standing** on Saturday 29th August, and The Marquee Club All Star Band on Sunday 30th August. We round off the month

on Monday 31st August with **Celebrating Celine – A New Day**.

Strictly Come Dancing fans and those who love a meet and greet experience have ballroom favourites **Brendan Cole and James Jordan** reunite for their first-ever double act tour, Dance Rebels – Strictly Unleashed to look forward too! Expect behind-the-scenes stories, plenty of laughs and some of the signature routines that made them household names. Tickets for **Brendan Cole & James Jordan – Dance Rebels** on Sunday 18th April 2027 are on sale now.



Last month I looked back at the history of the Princess Theatre. This month, I'm turning my attention to the traditions and etiquette of a good old-fashioned night at the theatre.

Most of us know the routine. We check we have the correct tickets, and believe me, we have had people turn up on the wrong day and even at the wrong theatre! Yes, it really does happen. Some people like to dress up for the occasion, while others enjoy wearing themed outfits to match the show. Whatever your style, there is nothing quite like settling into your seat, relaxing and enjoying the performance or, when the music allows, having a little boogie from your seat.

At the Princess Theatre, our intervals last 20 minutes, giving you plenty of time to enjoy an ice cream or your favourite refreshment. If you're visiting us, don't forget that you can pre-order your interval drinks at the bar and we'll have them ready and waiting for you.

Theatre etiquette has evolved considerably over the centuries. In the 16th century, audiences were often boisterous, loud and highly opinionated. If they disliked a performance, they wouldn't hesitate to boo, hiss or even throw food at the stage.

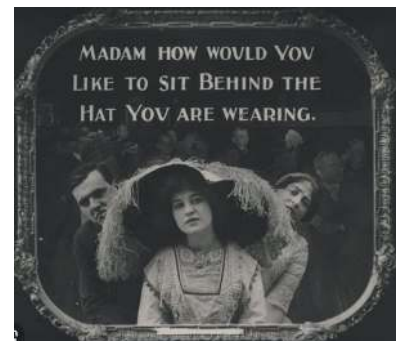
By the 18th century, manners had begun to change, but audiences were still very interactive. Georgian theatres were places to see and be seen, with theatre-goers often using the evening to socialise, gossip and stroll around between acts.

The Victorian era introduced many of the traditions we still associate with theatre today. Strict social codes emerged, with audiences expected to dress impeccably in evening wear. Silence during performances became the norm, and even the famous "hat ban" appeared, as large hats and elaborate hairstyles obstructed views. To solve this, early theatre and cinema owners used polite but firm screen slides to ask patrons: "Madam, how would you like to sit behind the hat you are wearing?"

Thankfully, these days the only thing we ask is that you sit back, relax and enjoy the show!

Have a super summer by the sea! Come say hello, plan your autumn & winter viewing at the little theatre with big shows.

Anna H





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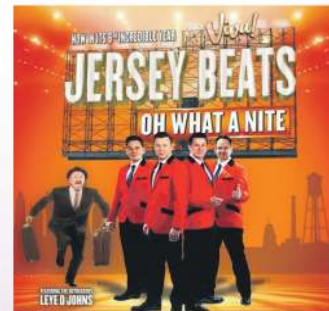
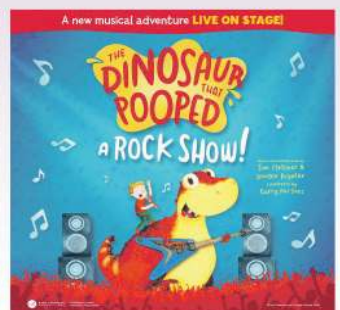
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WEDNESDAY 12TH	SEASIDE SUMMER SPECIAL
FRIDAY 14TH	NORTHERN LIVE - DO I LOVE YOU
SUNDAY 16TH	THE DINOSAUR THAT POOPED KIDS SHOW 2.30pm
WEDNESDAY 19TH	SEASIDE SUMMER SPECIAL
FRIDAY 21ST	HOUNDS OF LOVE - KATE BUSH CELEBRATION
SATURDAY 22ND	HOMETOWN GLORY - TRIBUTE TO ADELE - CANDLELIT CONCERT
WEDNESDAY 26TH	SEASIDE SUMMER SPECIAL
FRIDAY 28TH	THE JERSEY BEATS
SATURDAY 29TH	JIM DAVIDSON - LAST MAN STANDING
SUNDAY 30TH	THE MARQUEE CLUB ALL STAR BAND
MONDAY 31ST	CELEBRATING CELINE - A NEW DAY



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