

TOWN and AROUND



NEWS FROM
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FREE

ISSUE 182 DECEMBER 2020
PRICELESS!

THE GREAT OUTDOORS: Sport, gardening, farming, nature and wildlife
LOCAL NEWS: Business, jobs, schools, clubs, council, civic and churches
FEATURES: A Page from the Sage, Lifeboats, Money Matters and more...

First word

Welcome to our December edition! There's lots to read and on page 40 you'll find a festive crossword to challenge the brain cells.

Andrew Jamieson's update on page 36 answers the questions of what's going to happen to the former Infant School on Valentine Road, Hunstanton (amongst many other issues) and on page 24 there are some remarkable pictures taken by Seamus Griffin. The Sage, Dick Melton can be found in his regular spot on page 17 and if you like to glance heavenward on a clear night then Terry Parish's article is on page 48.



The coming weeks will be difficult for us all with restrictions on many of the activities which make Christmas special. There is however, a Pantomime - oh yes there is - at the Princess Theatre. The team there have made it Covid-safe and they are looking forward to sharing a little Christmas magic with you. Our cover features everyone's favourite Dame, Mervyn Francis, in his 51st year in showbusiness.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the magazine through this very challenging year. Your stories, pictures news and views have I know been a lifeline for many who have been isolating for long periods.

Thanks also to our advertisers, it is the revenue from them that enables us to print the magazine.

Don't forget that T&A is now available to pick up in Lidl, the Co-op, Sainsbury's and Tesco (including the Hardwick King's Lynn stores) as well as all the existing pick up points. Alternatively you can have a copy posted to your home each month throughout the year for just £20 per year.

Richard and I hope you have a joyous Christmas and send our best wishes for a safe New Year.

Elaine

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Theo completes 77km challenge

Since the last article I have completed my sponsored walk and I want to say an enormous thank you to those people who have sponsored me so far. The Peddars Way was a real challenge but I feel a great sense of achievement. This is how I got on...

Day 1: Sunday 25th October



I set off at 8:00 a.m. from Knettishall Heath, just south east of Thetford. The weather was amazing with blue skies and bright sunshine. Within 4 k.m. of the start I came across a sign that warned the path may be flooded. Initially, large muddy puddles greeted me which left my feet soggy. Then as I turned onto a board walk, next to the River Thet, the water had risen to ankle and then knee deep! The generosity of people kept me going as several donations came in during these early hours of the walk.

After crossing the A11 – a scary moment – I headed always North to the village of Stonebridge. At around 17km, after having dried out, I stopped for lunch at Thompson Water – a beautiful spot. After a lunch of pasta, I set off for the second half of the day heading towards Little Cressingham, passing a large MOD area.

On the approach to North Pickenham the map indicated a ford had to be crossed. It seemed ok because there was a bridge but this led to a flooded field with no way around it. Day 1 ended like it started with wet feet to the knee! Still I knew that I was nearly half way on the outskirts of Swaffham.

Day 2: Monday 26th October

With shaky legs I started to head towards Castle Acre knowing I had around 40k.m. still to cover. The roads towards Castle Acre were not that interesting but the day was bright and sunny. As I approached the village a sign warned of deep water – I thought that for the second day I was going to have soggy feet, fortunately there was a bridge and wet feet was avoided. The Priory was a welcome and majestic sight in the morning sunshine.

Leaving Castle Acre I headed north



knowing that the next village would be many kilometres away at Ringstead. The rest of the way was dead straight but peppered with interesting things to see including the 3,500 year old burial grounds on Harpley Common and pig farms a plenty! A thunderstorm welcomed me near Fring and I sheltered in a wood with a welcome cup of tea.

As I skirted the village of Sedgeford I got my first site of the sea which was the most encouraging sight. I arrived at Ringstead more quickly than I thought I would as dusk approached.

The final 2k.m. were completed in the dark and I was delighted to see my sister and mum waiting for me. I had done it! 77k.m. in 2 days.

As I recovered the day after, I totalled up the amount that I had raised and was amazed to find that my total was in excess of £1200. I am mind-boggled by the generosity of everyone and can't quite believe that I have managed to now get within £820 of my total of £4000.

I want to thank not only those that donated but also the shops in Hunstanton that displayed my poster, particularly The Norfolk Deli that shared it on their social media pages. An extra special thank you to Kemps fruit and

veg shop that continue to support me. Plus thanks for Smithdon High School who have given me the opportunity and have supported my efforts. I want to also thank, Elliot Whiting (a teacher at Gaywood Primary), my Auntie Jude and Uncle Paul who met me and walked with me for different sections.

The Future

I have still got £880 to raise but this now seems very possible.

I have other sponsored event ideas for next year including a 5k.m. unicycle (something I learned to do during lockdown).

I will continue to clean the beach as I feel it is important to continue to put something back into my community ahead of helping communities abroad. If you have any community projects that you would like me to get involved in to help others let me know (012904@smithdonhigh.org.uk).

If you would like to donate then please check out my GoFundMe page and support me. This is my link...

[gf.me/u/xi4ad8](https://www.gofundme.com/u/xi4ad8)

Also if you see me on the beach then give me a wave!

Thanks in advance.

Theophilus Bazeley-Smith





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Iconic landmark lit up by Hunstanton Round Table

On the evening that should have been the 48th year of providing a cliff-top firework display, Hunstanton Round Table lit up Hunstanton Lighthouse as an alternative to the annual bonfire display.



Round Table Chairman Matt Hallard said: "Given that our bonfire and firework display just wasn't safe or possible we still had to acknowledge the occasion and keep the tradition going."

"At the same time we also got to provide details of our plan for the Christmas Swim this year."

"Instead of the swim we will be hosting a Fancy Dress Ice Bucket Challenge; more detail in regards to how to participate or donate will be released on our Facebook page soon. (See page 10 of this magazine)"

"Once the deadline of submission is passed we will find a way to make sure everyone gets their moment of 'cold shivering fame' via social media."

"On Christmas Day NO Round Table organised activities will be taking place and we strongly discourage anyone from taking to the water without medical supervision in attendance!"

By lighting the lighthouse we were able to bring attention to two wonderful causes.

"Firstly the NHS for all that they have done and will continue to do we 'light it blue'."

"Secondly, for the industry I work in: Entertainment."



"We #lightitred for #wemakeevents; these hashtags are trending across the UK as the campaign to raise awareness for the plight of many cultural venues and live entertainment suppliers whose doors still remain closed."

"More importantly, for the tens of thousands of freelancers who



support events across the UK who are in a very dark place."

"With minimal government support and no prospect of work on the horizon this is now a crisis of personal financial and psychological damage!"

"Our own Princess Theatre remains closed however was one of the lucky few to benefit from the cultural recovery fund to see it through the inter."

"Finally, we would like to remind our community that if they need help by way of a donation to support their own endeavours to better our town they should get in touch with us at contact@hunstantonroundtable.co.uk"



Round Table and Ladies Circle wreaths were laid at Hunstanton War Memorial



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Home comforts

It's time to get Christmas gift shopping wrapped up, writes Allez Chic's Cheryl Daubney



As I write, it feels like there is just a glimmer of brighter times ahead. It has been an unprecedented year for all of us and, like many small business owners, it was with a very heavy heart that we had to close our doors on 5 November to comply with the Government's second lockdown.

Lockdown has today been named the word of the year by the Collins Dictionary and it has certainly been one which has sadly marked this year, but, more

positively, the news today that a vaccine could be available in weeks is perhaps the most encouraging headline in recent times.

Our festive celebrations this year might be a bit different, but I know myself and many of my customers are drawing comfort from selecting something special to place under the tree for loved ones in the coming weeks. While it might be a shorter Christmas shopping period, kicking off in style on Small Business Saturday

on 5 December when we hope you will lend your support to your favourite local businesses, I think many of us are looking forward to choosing beautiful gifts for family and friends.

At Allez Chic we have a wonderful selection of ladies' fashions to share, from fabulous knitwear, bags, scarves, gloves and jewellery, to easy, low-cost stocking stuffers such as pretty necklaces and handy mask pouches – don't we all want to stop having to fish around in our handbag to find a face covering?

Now, many of us are often asked by friends and family, 'What do you want for Christmas?' This year, instead of responding with the usual, 'I don't really need anything', think about what you'd really like. Maybe it's a gorgeous Marble sweater or loungewear, a warming Dolcezza gilet or smart new coat from Micha to cheer up your wardrobe? Pop in for a visit, indulge yourself in a Christmas Wish List at Allez Chic and then tell your nearest and dearest what you'd really like to unwrap this year...

And, if you can't decide what to give or receive, don't forget we have Allez Chic Gift Vouchers available in £5, £10 and £20 denominations. What better gift to give than some relaxed retail therapy?

Finally, a quick note that we will be shutting our door at 4.30pm on Wednesday 23



December before a short break over the festive period, reopening on Monday 29 and 30 December and then closed until 10am on Tuesday 5 January 2021. We look forward to welcoming you in-store soon!

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

Kemps Fruit and Veg Christmas Appeal

Leanne Hepworth and her family who run Kemps Fruit and Veg at the Westgate end of Hunstanton's High Street have launched a Christmas gift and toy appeal in aid of Scotty's Little Soldiers.

Leanne said: "We are asking for your help as a community to help us achieve this for an amazing local charity that is dedicated to supporting children and young people who have lost a parent who served in the British Armed Forces.

"We are asking for gifts suitable for newborns up to young people of 18; the smallest gift can make a big difference and put a smile on a child's face this Christmas."

Kemps are asking for gifts to be dropped off at the shop preferably before 10th December, but they are happy to accept items up to 15th December. They also have a cash donation box in store.

Recently recognised as a High Street Hero for the way they helped the community during lockdown, Leanne is pictured in the shop with James Wild MP.

(Picture credit Chris Bishop)



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Hunstanton & District Round Table Fancy Dress Ice Bucket Challenge 2020

By Matt Hallard

This year, due to COVID we aren't able to put on the Christmas Day swim in the usual safe way. Instead so as to make sure all those hardy folk still get their moment of cold shivering fame whilst doing good for charity we are pleased to announce we are going to be running a Fancy Dress Ice Bucket challenge instead.

Here's what you need to do if you want to take part....

Firstly take a look at the Hunstanton Round Table facebook page for all the rules and for which charities you are able to donate to. Then follow these instructions...

- Put a link on your social media to one or more of the 4 charities that we have approved and ask your friends and family to donate. (Charities are not yet live on the site but will be by end of Nov at latest).

Then for your video.....

- Be covid safe!
- Wear fancy dress.
- Get a bucket / buckets / bath load of icy cold water on standby.
- Make sure your phone or camera is recording!
- Make sure your video is no longer than 30 seconds in length.
- !!No swearing!!
- Don't forget to challenge your friends to take part!
- Announce which of the 4 approved charities you would like your

sponsors to donate to.

- Get that bucket of icy water thrown at you!
- Post the video to our facebook page as soon as possible so we can make it live in the order in which they are received.

Round Table will be offering a prize of £100 for Best Fancy Dress and another £100 for best video.

We will be publishing the videos each day in December and then announce the winners of Christmas Day.

We will be announcing which charities you are able to donate to on our Facebook page and sharing the info as much as possible.

Please make sure to tell your friends and get them involved. This year we haven't been able to raise any money for good causes so need your help!

If you don't want to get wet but still want to donate then you could post a video challenging someone else. As long as you make a donation on their behalf what's the harm? Ultimately it's all about having fun and spreading awareness of some really worthwhile causes!

Remember - NO Round Table organised swim will be taking place on Christmas Day and we strongly discourage anyone from going in the sea, rivers or lakes this winter.

The Bridge for Heroes – 100-mile Cycling Challenge

On 22nd August 2020 Karl Perryman and Mark Howard, together with support riders from the South-East Hand-Cycle club completed a 100-mile cycling challenge around the roads of West-Norfolk, South Lincolnshire and North Cambridgeshire. Karl, an RAF Veteran of 24-years rode an up-right bike and Mark, a Veteran of the Household Cavalry, rode a 3-wheel recumbent hand-cycle. Together they raised £667.10 for The Bridge for Heroes Charity. The Bridge for Heroes is a military charity that has been supporting serving and veteran Armed Forces personnel in the local area for the last 10 years.

On 5th November 2020, Karl & Mark were awarded The Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund 100-miles for 100-years Challenge medal, which was presented by Mike Taylor, the CEO of The Bridge for Heroes.



Picture taken on day of the ride (from left to right): Simon McCoy, John Adams (Beneficiary), Karl Perryman, Mark Howard, Rob Womack & Philip Carter

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Thaxters plant of the month

By Wendy Warner
Scented Houseplants

At this time of the year spending more time indoors, and probably even more so this year, you can really appreciate your houseplants. Why not take it one step further and introduce some scented flowering houseplants that can create a natural room fragrance?

Two houseplants that are wonderfully scented are actually climbing plants. Initially they are usually sold on a small frame or hoop and will be about 12" (30cm) tall but can be encouraged to grow much larger if space allows and be repotted and transferred to a larger obelisk or frame. These are Stephanotis and Jasmine, both have white flowers and flower for a considerable time.

Jasmine has multiple clusters of star-shape flowers and although the flowers are pure white when open, the buds can appear slightly pink on the outside of the petals before opening. It forms long vine-like stems with the clusters of flowers and the leaves which are made up of five to seven leaflets growing directly off this main stem. For this reason it is usually available on a hoop where the stem has been wound round a few times to make the plant seem quite bushy. Jasmine need bright light with some direct sunlight to flower and prefer reasonably cool conditions. Their flowers will last longer in a cooler situation than if they are too hot. Whilst in active growth they need to be kept quite moist and fed every two weeks. As flowers go over they will become brown, so trim these off to keep the appearance of the plant as well as to encourage new buds to be produced. After flowering the plant can be transferred onto a larger support and if like mine, that eventually got too large for my conservatory, it can be moved outside. Although supposedly a tender plant, mine has now had two winters outside (admittedly in a very sheltered spot near the house) and is still thriving and over 5' tall!

Stephanotis has waxy, white long tubular very fragrant flowers on twining stems with dark green, leathery, shiny oval leaves. It requires



bright light, but avoid direct sunlight as this can scorch the foliage, and a constant temperature of 20°C or above. They dislike big fluctuations in temperature or draughts. Keep them moist throughout the growing season.

Some bulbs can also make great scented houseplants. You can buy specially prepared hyacinths to plant in September for flowering indoors at Christmas or alternatively they are available potted with just their shoots pushing through the surface of the soil in November and December. Hyacinths come in a range of colours including red, pink, blue, yellow and white with each bulb producing a single flower spike with a mass of tiny flowers. Keep moist and in a cool, bright place to prolong flowering. Their scent is so heady you may find you need move them out of the room for a while if they become a little overpowering. After flowering they can be planted into the garden and will flower at their normal time the following Spring. Paperwhites are a creamy, white multi-headed form of Narcissi (daffodil) that can also be forced for indoor flowering and have the same requirements as hyacinths.

Treat yourself and enjoy some natural scent in your home this winter!

OLD HUNSTANTON VILLAGE UPDATE

As you are probably aware, the work on the Village Hall has been continuing at a pace. Because the amount of funding that was available to other local Village Halls is no longer available, the Trustees decided to go ahead anyway and, with the help of volunteers, have been clearing the site, internally and externally since last month. We have a Facebook page, Old Hunstanton Village Hall, which is documenting the process with reports and photographs so please visit it for ongoing information. We will be continuing to publish articles on a monthly basis to enable residents who do not subscribe to social media to keep up to date.

Volunteers are very welcome, we need people for all kinds of jobs so please don't think you can't contribute, you can. We want this to be a project for the whole village to get behind and involved in. It will be a centre for the village which locals can use for all kinds of activities, coffee mornings, fitness clubs etc

Finances:

We are looking for between £100,000 and £150,000 to complete the initial work on the village hall.

We currently have £25,000 in the bank however, £7,000 has just been paid out to the Carpenter for the new windows. The 3 large windows will cost £3,000 each, the 4 smaller

windows will cost £2,000 each.

Roofer's have agreed to give their time free and we are awaiting a detailed assessment for roof work.

Costings:

For electrical and plumbing work costings are approximately £40,000, painting approximately £15,000.

Fitting of kitchen, bar, loos etc, and the purchase of tables, chairs, crockery cutlery, pots, pans, glasses etc. are all still to be costed, some items have already been donated.

Carpets, flooring, lighting sound systems will all need to be installed.

Ongoing work:

A group of volunteers have already made huge inroads into clearing the village hall for the rebuilding to commence and our thanks go to each and every one of them for their time. Once the village hall is safe, secure, warm and watertight! we will be able to hold functions, clubs, meetings, exercise classes, bridge and charity events for you all.

Donations:

Anybody wishing to donate, please contact either of the Trustees, listed below, for bank details, gift aid paperwork or any other matters you need to discuss. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



Trustees on site 6/11/2020
Photo: Old Hunstanton Village Hall
FB page

Julia West. Julia55@hotmail.co.uk
Tel: 01485 533755.

David McLeod. dmc008@me.com
Tel: 01485 532814. Mob: 07850950570.

Colin Bailey. colinbailey52@btinternet.com
Tel: 01485 535660 Mob: 0798 923931

Derrick Lloyd. lloyd9@btinternet.com
Tel: 01485 532323. Mob: 07767 268773.

Pretty Funny Yummy Teas

Jenny Beake

Pretty Funny Yummy Teas offer a beautifully presented personalised afternoon tea at a time that suits you! Why not treat yourself, a friend or loved ones to a wonderful afternoon tea experience delivered straight to your door?! Lockdowns can still be luxurious. Crockery is provided which means no washing up for you!



With a tailor made menu offering mini cupcakes, sandwiches, scones with jam and cream, how delicious! As featured in the local press this is a Tea-riffic Treat!

A donation is made per booking to the Purfleet Trust and we have already raised over £200 in aid of the charity.

Gift vouchers are available plus a special Christmas menu of delights. Please contact jennybeake@hotmail.com or 07834 393070 for further information.

I'm based in Dersingham and can deliver to surrounding areas including Hunstanton.

And during December (should the regulations allow) I can also play Christmas tunes on the piano while you enjoy your tea!



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A Page from the Sage

Well, here we are again with a page from the Sage for December 2020, the last month of the year; it has been a very bad year for everybody, let us all hope and pray that the year 2021 will be much better.

Islands in the Wash

As you walk along the beach at Snettisham or Heacham and look towards the Lincolnshire coast in a south westerly direction on a good clear day (or with binoculars) you are able to see two islands; one much larger than the other they can also be seen from Hunstanton cliffs with a pair of binoculars.

The crater like artificial island was built in the 1970s to test the feasibility of an engineering project, because of the concentric pond at its centre, the locals dubbed it 'The Donut'. In 1972 the British government commissioned an ambitious engineering project within one of England's largest bays, the shallow and treacherous Wash. The idea was to build a tidal barrage and power station, along with a freshwater reservoir to capture the outflow of freshwater from the rivers Witham, Welland, Nene and Great Ouse. The study also intended to establish potential improvements to the navigation of sea locks, and provide some recreational facilities and develop an area of land for the power station.

Construction began in 1975, the two test islands including the 820 foot diameter donut were to investigate the eventual water quality in the reservoir that was constructed on the former seabed, the island is composed of dredged sand and braced limestone gabions, or cages filled with rocks, and has a 2.5-acre central reservoir; the test cost £3 million and demonstrated that the project would prove both costly and impractical, as the central reservoir quickly became undesirably salty and silty.

The whole project was abandoned in 1976, but the island stubbornly still exists as a reminder of its failure, it is rarely included on maps even though it stands out as one of the highest points on the otherwise marshy coast of the Wash; the donut is clearly visible on satellite imagery in which it resembles a marshy meteor strike in a corner of the bay. The island is now part of the Wash National Nature Reserve and has a new lease of life, as up to 3000 sea birds have made it their home.

From the mainland the island is clearly visible from the sea defences of the settlement of Gedney Drove End. The wash is quiet and desolate with fast tides and dangerous mud and silt, so when in the area stick to the marked footpaths, there are no organised tours or trips to the island, but online videos reveal that it can be reached by experienced kayakers with knowledge of the tidal conditions in the Wash.

Many years back some of us would go bait digging out of Terrington and we could see this trial bank very clearly on a bright day. I was told that a chap took some wild rabbits



by
Dick Melton
01485 535658

out there and put them on the largest bank as there was plenty of grass there. On the 22nd October 2020 Hunstanton Coastguard requested the launch of the Hunstanton RNLI hovercraft in response to reports that four people, one adult male and three teenage girls, were stranded on the trial bank the hovercraft went out and rescued them and took them into Sutton Bridge; the whole operation took over five hours, so beware - do not walk to far out into the Wash as many people do.

Whilst I am writing about the Wash this is a little story that I read in an old book. In 1931 a Hunstanton man a Mr L L Gore and a friend walked out to what he called the prostrate forest that consisting of trees, trunks and branches that had been there for millions of years; this is two miles north of Hunstanton cliffs and a mile and a half out from the high water mark and can only be reached at certain times of the year. Until I read of this I had never heard of this, I had heard of an area in the wash called the 'Oyster Sea', but no doubt the Wash holds many mysteries.

At one time in the fifties, sixties and seventies especially at the weekends you would get up to fifty bait diggers on our beaches around the Wash all of them hoping one day that there fork would strike King John's jewels.

Game shooting

As I have said before I like eating any sort of game and this time of year it is the shooting season, but nowadays people do not eat them like they used to. Game makes a nice cheap meal - like roast pheasant or partridge, and what is better on a cold winter's day than a lovely hot rabbit stew with plenty of onions and tates?

The Elveden Estate which covers 22,000 acres on the Norfolk and Suffolk border near to Thetford was one of the best shooting estates along with Holkham and Sandringham in England. At a shoot at Elveden on November 5th 1912 the bag of pheasants shot on that one day was 3,248 with only five guns. This area of Norfolk was renowned for its number of rabbits; in 1899 77,021 rabbits were shot, snared or netted during the year. When King Edward VII and then King George

V owned Sandringham Estate shooting was the main sport. At the end of a shoot the game room at Sandringham would be filled with pheasants, partridges, hares, rabbits and wild-fowl, which were despatched to charitable institutions, workers on the estate, royal households, to the rich and the poor, and neighbours of the King. No one was forgotten, but not a single head of shot game from the estate was allowed to be sold.

Sea swimming and a new resort

This is a write up I found in an old book about the start of the seaside and swimming in the sea. Before 1750, give or take a year or two nobody in their right mind went bathing in the sea, indeed it was considered thoroughly unhealthy to do so. It was a Scarborough doctor who first suggested sea bathing as a cure for gout, not to be out done, other doctors put forward sea water as a remedy for corns, cancer, even leprosy.

The idea that sea water might rival the healing powers of spa mineral water caught on, the Prince of Wales went to Brighton in 1783, George III had a dip in the sea at Weymouth in 1789, and sea bathing became the height of fashion.

By the mid 19th century, the seaside had become popular with those who had the time and money to enjoy this new pastime, and by the end of the Victorian era even the working man and his family were heading for the seaside in ever increasing numbers. The early resorts expanded to meet the boom, small fishing ports changed to accommodate the holiday makers, new resorts were created on bare coast lines, one of these new resorts was Hunstanton.

Around 1840 there was nothing between Old Hunstanton and Heacham except for a lot of sheep, Henry Styleman Le Strange, Lord of the Manor and Lord High Admiral of the Wash changed all of that; it was his decision to develop the area south of the old village as a sea bathing resort, Henry's choice of the resort was influenced by his concern that the new cult of seaside holidays might attract visitors to Old Hunstanton and therefore spoil the character of the village.

The Squire planned the resort himself; the focal point was to be a triangular green sloping down towards the sea, with buildings on two sides of the triangle and the sea on the other. For a time things went rather slowly, but when the Great Eastern Railway decided to build a line from King's Lynn to Hunstanton, the future of the resort seemed assured, and so it proved, the railway line was opened in 1862, that year the same man that created this Norfolk resort, Henry Styleman Le Strange died of heart disease.

That's all for this year, and I hope you all make the best of Christmas and have a good one.

**The Boy Dick, The Sage
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Minnie marks a century with the help of Extra Hands

There have been celebrations going on in Snettisham village this week despite the arrival of another lockdown thanks to Coronavirus.

Minnie Baxter celebrated her 100th birthday on Saturday, November 7, and she received gifts galore in the run-up to her special day.

West Norfolk home care company Extra Hands has been helping Minnie for the last five years and presented her with a bouquet to help celebrate her century.

"I have had loads of things for my birthday - a cardigan, sweets, chocolates, cake and a lovely bunch of flowers from Extra Hands - and a balloon with 100 on it," she said.

Born and raised in Norfolk, Minnie trained to be a nurse at St Andrews hospital in Northampton before returning to her home county with her husband Tony and later moving to Snettisham 30 years ago.

Widowed for five years, Minnie had a variety of hobbies and was very keen on knitting, but her failing eyesight means she has had to give it up in recent times. Up until her retirement, she looked after a nursing home.

Coming from a big family, with five brothers and sisters, Minnie said she has a collection of nephews and nieces along with their families and still enjoys being part of a big family.

The Heacham office of Extra Hands, which has been rated Outstanding by the Care Quality Commission, helps Minnie retain her independence.

"We were glad to be able to help celebrate Minnie's 100th birthday with her. It has been a really difficult year and it was lovely to be able to mark such a special event for Minnie and her family," said Director of Care Services Jo Tier.

Photo: Ian Burt




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Changing your email address, it doesn't have to be a daunting prospect

Daniel Sharman, DNS Computer Services

The majority of us use emails for a large proportion of our communications, and many of us have used the same email address for many years, some free email providers run good modern security systems, but there are many which don't, these systems are becoming increasingly vulnerable to security breaches, and tend not to work as well.

The answer to these problems is to change over to a free email platform which has better security, such as Gmail, but with a free email account, it would mean having to change your email address.

This month we are going to give you a couple of tips for making the transition from one email address to another as painless a process as possible.

When we talk about changing email addresses, we often hear questions like....

'But what will happen to the emails sent to my old address?'

'How will I tell everyone what my new address is?'

There are a couple of things you can do to make things go smoothly, once you have your new email address setup with your chosen provider, you can set your old email server to forward all incoming mail which gets sent to it over to your new address. This can usually be done from within the webmail settings of your old email system, and will usually be labelled as 'Forwarding'

So now that you are not missing out on any new messages, you will need to tell people your new address.

The method by which you do this will depend on how many contacts you need to tell, and whether you have them organised in a contacts list.

If there are only a small number of people, you can simply send an email out to them notifying them of the change.

If there are lots of them, you may need to use a bulk mailing system such as Mailchimp to send the message out.

Another tip is to set up an automatic reply on your old email server, so that when somebody sends an email to the old address, they get one straight back saying something like.....

'Thank you for your E-Mail, please note that my email address has now changed to@..... please resend your message to the new address'

This feature is usually found in the webmail settings of the old email server under 'Auto reply' or 'Vacation Response'

With these two measures in place, you will find the transition much easier.

Another good reason for changing to a new email address is that your old address may receive lots of spam emails, in which case if you set up the forwarding tip discussed above, you will still get the rubbish through, but once it's been up and running for a few weeks and you are happy that everybody knows the new address, you can simply stop the forwarding, and the spam will stop

If you would like help with moving your emails to a new provider whether they be a free business email as discussed above, or a hosted email system running on a domain, contact Dan & Carrie at DNS Computer Services on 07554 018307 or dan@dnscomputerservices.co.uk



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Nature Notes with Roger

Autumn arrivals and winter wanderings

Over the last couple of months as temperatures drop on the continent many birds move west to milder areas, with mass movements of certain species taking place. At certain locations it is possible to observe many thousands of Starlings, winter thrushes and finches passing overhead along with smaller numbers of other birds such as Skylarks and Pipits. This year I have seen good numbers of Redwings, a bird very similar to our own Song Thrush but with a striking head pattern and a bright patch of red under its wings. These birds, along with Fieldfares, come from Scandinavia and northern Russia arriving all along the coast to feed hungrily on autumn berries. Working in the garden on 11th October I heard the characteristic thin tseep call and looking up witnessed several hundred Redwing passing over. Accounts have come in of record numbers this year, and at Flamborough Head in Yorkshire there was a count of an estimated 32,000 passing through on 13th October.

Along with all this regular activity, rarer birds from Eastern Europe or even Siberia can get blown off course and end up thousands of miles west of their intended destination. Every year small numbers of tiny warblers appear along our coast - Yellow-browed and Pallas' Warblers being two such birds, green and yellow jewels which are a delight to come across. There is always the possibility of something really rare turning up and catching everyone off guard. In the middle of October exactly this happened when a Rufous Bush Chat put in an appearance at Stiffkey. A bird of semi-arid scrub regions of southern Spain, Greece and Turkey, it migrates in winter to southern Africa; and this one had gone in completely the wrong direction. The last time one was seen in the UK was some 40 years ago, and this was the first one recorded in Norfolk.

My trips out during this time have been to the woods and paths near to Houghton Hall and the fields near Bircham. The ash trees bordering one wide grassland track had all lost their leaves, but the beech trees were clothing themselves in their autumn coats of burnished bronze, and the light filtering through the fine filigree of branches gave the whole scene a truly spectacular atmosphere. In the field opposite, a small group of Yellowhammers were moving along the hedgerow,

while a dozen Skylarks passed overhead giving their dry, rolling flight calls, pririt, pririt. Buzzard numbers have certainly increased in Norfolk in recent years and I saw several on my ambles around. Finally, as the light began to fade I spotted a Barn Owl quartering the rough margin of a field, and as I stood still, well camouflaged against the dark line of hedging, it came straight towards me giving excellent views of its dark eyes and disc-shaped face which filters the slightest sound to its ears.

On another of my outings I walked along the north coast where the dunes are backed by areas of low-lying marsh. Here the landscape is particularly flat and the views far-reaching, and as I ventured further the rippling, haunting call of a Curlew and the strident alarm call of a Redshank both added to the wild nature of the scene. Several groups

of Starlings were passing south, sometimes 20 or 30, sometimes as many as 150. In one of the watery channels that drained the saltmarsh two Little Egrets were feeding and after a while 80 Lapwing flew in to roost. On a post at the far end of the channel, near the outlet to the sea, sat a Kingfisher. These birds often move from their usual summer haunts along inland rivers and streams to take up residence along the coast for the winter. On the whole it can be slightly warmer, and any water is less likely to freeze over. This bird eventually flew up the channel, a fast direct flight, before disappearing behind some low vegetation, but not before I had good views of its orange underparts and electric blue back.

In the past the Kingfisher was known as the Halcyon, and to the ancient Greeks it seemed entirely appropriate that for a bird spending so much time on and in the water, it should build its nest to float on the sea. This, it was thought, brought calm and blissful times, from which was derived the term 'Halycon Days' - periods of peace and tranquility. How appropriate then to see one of these birds at the particularly difficult times we are currently going through, to remind me of the hope we must have for better times to come - the 'Halycon Days' we all need. In the meantime I do hope you are able to enjoy your own winter wanderings.



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“Water is the basis of all life on Earth – it is everything - it is the life-blood of our planet.”

By Robin Limb, agricultural consultant

Water covers three-quarters of the surface of the world. Its salinity makes it undrinkable, but when it evaporates into the atmosphere and falls back to Earth as rainwater, it is potable and life-sustaining.

Water resources are not infinite however, and many conflicts around the globe have been based on disputes about water rights. The newly-constructed Ethiopian Renaissance Dam is threatening downstream water supplies in nations such as Egypt, whose agriculture relies heavily on Nile water irrigation for its food supply.

Historically, wars have been fought over access to water. There were even reports in the media that Egypt might try to bomb the Ethiopian dam. Come back Guy Gibson, all is forgiven.

Despite there being no agreement on the division of the River Nile water resources, Ethiopia has begun filling the dam. Neighbouring Sudan and other states have widely condemned this as a violation of international treaties. The World Health Organisation has expressed deep concerns, but seems powerless and impotent to intervene.

The thermodynamics of water makes it a unique molecule – H₂O – two atoms of hydrogen and one atom of oxygen. This makes it a very stable compound. But water can exist in other forms. Deuterium (D₂O) and Tritium (T₂O) – were both used as concentrated ‘heavy water’ in the manufacture of nuclear bombs by the Germans in WW2.

The German heavy water plant at Peenemunde was targeted by the RAF in World War Two, because of fears of nuclear attacks on Britain. The installation was completely destroyed by heavy bombing as a result.

Water is the basis of our Celsius temperature range, because it freezes at 0degC and boils at 100degC. This makes perfect sense, so why do we still cling on to the antiquated Fahrenheit Scale?

Adequately rain-fed regions of the world – such as the UK – have little need for artificial water supplies such as irrigation. Potato and vegetable growers do however rely on irrigation to ensure reliable crop supplies and quality for the supermarket buyers.

But access to irrigation water supplies are strictly controlled by licences issued by the Environment Agency. There are two main sources of irrigation water – surface river or borehole abstraction. There are also two types of licences: those that effectively enjoy an

historic ‘licence of right’, and those more recently granted, which can be withdrawn during periods of drought – just when farmers need water access the most.

This brings into sharp focus the needs of farmers to access water for irrigation, versus the requirements of the general public. Never did this hit home more poignantly than in the long hot dry summer of 1976 – one which most farmers old enough to remember it will choose to forget.

In that year there was no substantial rainfall from early June until late August. Yields of most crops were slashed by half, and the countryside resembled a scorched wasteland. Mains water supplies were turned off, and standpipes were erected in the streets to ensure people only consumed as much water as they could carry in a bucket. And then in September 1976 we had seven inches of rain in just a few days – how the weather corrects itself.

My enduring memories of the summer of 1976 were having to shift 35-foot long sprinkler pipes over sodden potato ridges and getting tangled up in the foliage. By definition, when you need to be irrigating it is going to be boiling hot. At times I just felt like jumping fully-clothed into the river.

Later on, hose-reel irrigators arrived on the scene, which obviated the need for manual labour – just a tractor to pull out the pipe which then wound its way back in using water pressure.

We used to refer to irrigation as ‘Irritation’, because if anything could go wrong it did go wrong. River weed blocking the induction basket; over-heating pumping engines; burst pipe seals, which then flooded the field, making access by tractor impossible for up to 24 hours.

Water resources are more crucial to mankind’s survival and well-being than ever before in history. A bit like our food supply, we must “Waste Not, Want Not.” In the UK we generally complain about having too much rain, but many more arid countries envy our ‘Green and Pleasant Land’.

I worked out in the Egyptian desert on several occasions, and if you don’t have access to irrigation you don’t have a crop – without borehole irrigation there is no crop – it’s as simple as that. AUCR (Alexandria United Company for land Reclamation) has almost 100 pivot irrigators, each covering 100 acres of desert. This allows the production of over 100 thousand tonnes of sugar beet each year, along with maize, wheat, and soya beans.

Australia now relies heavily on sea-water desalination for up to 15% of its potable water supplies. This used to be a highly costly environmental process, but investment in recycling and solar energy have now made it almost carbon-neutral.

“Water, water, everywhere – and not a drop to drink.” – as the Ancient Mariner said woefully in Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s famous novel, when he was becalmed in the ocean. Please don’t leave your tap running overnight.



“Water resources are more crucial to mankind’s survival and well-being than ever before in history”



Centre-pivot irrigation in the Egyptian desert

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Principals of Evergreen Equity Release Solutions have been advising in this area for many years and to many, are well known figures in the local community. The Principals have always lived and worked in the Kings Lynn area.

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Principal of Evergreen Equity
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A Christmas message

Nigel, James and Paul would like to wish all our existing clients, and those we are yet to meet, a very happy Christmas. We are still here to help during the Festive season, on 01553 692800. Enjoy the time you spend with your Family and Friends, and please stay safe.



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"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow" Audrey Hepburn

We are all busy planning for Christmas and the new year, our garden gets a little neglected as a result. Enjoy the peace and on a bright, crisp December day, here are a few ideas to make your garden come to life.

- Plant some winter evergreen shrubs for structure. Skimmia Japonica is particularly good at providing colour, try Rubella for pretty pink flowers or Nymans for bright red berries.
- Try Mahonia for bright yellow flowers, 'Soft Caress' was recently introduced which has soft leaves so can be planted in pots on a patio.
- Cornus (dogwood) is fabulous at the back of a border at this time of year, with it's colourful stems of reds, yellows or oranges. I love midwinter fire.
- Hellebore are great for a flush of colour within a perennials border.
- Clematis are often forgotten at this time of year. There are a number of Cirrhosa varieties that flower from November until March. There is even one called 'Jingle Bells'. Perfect for filling the gap between late perennials and Spring bulbs.

• Baskets and pots can provide a very welcome splash of colour if you have a small balcony or patio. Try trailing violas which are extremely hardy as are bellis daisies.

If you can spare five minutes between the general juggle of a busy December work/life balance:

- Trim roses by up to half in order to prevent breakage from wind and potential snowy conditions.
- Spike the lawn to improve drainage
- Remove any yellowing leaves from shrubs and perennials, great for keeping warm outside!.
- Sweep up and clear leaves, bagging up if possible to store as leaf mould for future use. Or simply blow the leaves to the back of the borders and leave to rot down. They will provide a fabulous home for so many creatures until the warmth of the spring arrives.
- Harvest Holly with berries for a vase or to make a wreath.
- Check climbers and tie in if necessary.
- Prune Acers where necessary.
- If you still haven't planted Tulip bulbs, there is still time, unless the ground is frozen.

From the warmth of your armchair

2020 has been a super tough year for us all, in so many ways. Growing crops and general gardening has boomed. Definitely a way of remaining busy, providing focus and enjoying our outdoor space, however large or small. Keep up the good work and feed your soul as well as your family.

- Plan your vegetable garden for the coming season, or invest in a raised bed if space is tight.
- Think about ordering seeds for next year - reflect on what worked well this year and what didn't.
- Take an inventory of tools and equipment that you need for next year.
- Order your apple trees now for planting in early spring. If space is limited in your garden try growing dwarf varieties or espalier trees for training on a spare wall. There are also lots of patio varieties that are completely at home in a pot.

All that is left for me to do, is wish you a very merry Christmas spent and a healthy, positive and happy new year.

Allotment holder grows whopper of a pumpkin

Dave Nice is rightly proud of the pumpkin he grew this year.

The keen Northfields allotment holder's pumpkin weighed in at 56lbs, and Dave said: "It will be soup forever!"

Asked if there was a secret growing method his reply was casual: "No not really, I grew it from a saved seed from last year, started it off in the polytunnel and gave it no TLC whatsoever other than a little water in dry spells."

Dave is pictured here with his wife Poppy and the pumpkin.

Photo credit: Chris Bishop



Have you got a story for
Town and Around?
Something to share with the
local community?
Call 01485 540620 or e mail
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Thank you.

Seamus captures the elusive otter on camera

It was a case of local man Seamus Griffin being in the right place at the right time on 10th November when he captured on camera one of Britain's shy and mainly nocturnal creatures at Hunstanton South Beach. The otter's elusive nature makes them difficult to spot which makes the pictures Seamus sent Town and Around even more incredible.

Seamus said: "The otter was hunting the shoreline and resting on the groynes for about an hour. It was just North of the Searles Ski ramp and moved South towards Heacham where it was lost to view.

"This one we think is a male (dog) otter and is about 4 1/2 to 5 feet long nose to tail. They can weigh in the range of 15 to 25 pounds. Quite a big animal!"

Photos: Seamus Griffin



Anna Pugh talks about the job of a Hearing Therapist Audiologist

When I tell people I'm a Hearing Therapist Audiologist, they often look puzzled and ask "what do you do?" the answer is easy: all things ears! From safe, professional wax removal, support coping with tinnitus and balance problems to hearing

assessments, hearing aids and help with hearing conservation and memory.

Hearing and listening are two very different things. We hear automatically: our ears are working even when we are asleep, but listening takes effort and practice, and we can quickly



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lose those skills. We start to lose our hearing very gradually from around 47.. It starts with not hearing clearly in the car or when the kettle's on, in the supermarket or when you're with a group of people, and gradually you get used to it and try turning up the tv (which makes it louder, not clearer) or complaining that people mumble... or worse, you begin to avoid times when you have to listen and join in.

Here, at The Drift Complementary Health Centre in

Heacham, our clinic offers support, advice and the newest technology : from microsuction for wax removal, online tinnitus counselling, to Bluetooth connected rechargeable custom made in the ear hearing aids which can be remotely adjusted when you're in your own home and I'm in clinic!

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Foreman & Son offer round the clock service

Directors Stephen and Cameron Foreman write about how they restructured to offer a top quality service.

During the first lockdown we operated an emergency service only and found that many of our customers were unable to arrange appointments with national companies some of whom they even had breakdown and service cover with. Wanting to ensure our customers were not left with leaks or without heating and hot water we decided to restructure our business offering a round the clock 24 hour service as well as three boilercare packages.

We expanded our team of local engineers ensuring each underwent a COVID-19 health and safety assessment which is regularly reviewed and updated. We've received lots of feedback from clients delighted that they can always reach us on the phone and are now able to pop in to see us.

It's been an uncertain year for everyone. We'd like to thank all of our loyal and new customers, we wish you all to stay safe and look forward to another busy winter assisting where we can.



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Dates & Deadlines! Have you filed your 2020 Tax Return yet?

Supplied by Kathryn Gigg, Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton

30 DECEMBER 2020

INCOME TAX: deadline for online submission of self assessment tax returns for tax year ended 5 April 2020 for HMRC to collect tax through PAYE codes where taxpayer owes less than £3,000.

31 DECEMBER 2020

ANNUAL INVESTMENT ALLOWANCE: last day that the AIA remains at £1m before reverting to £200,000. Businesses with accounting periods spanning the reduction need to be aware of the transitional rules.

1 JANUARY 2021

VAT AND CUSTOMS DUTY: new regimes come into force following the end of the EU exit transition period, such as:

- The ability to use postponed accounting instead of paying import VAT;
- The regime for imports under £135;
- Imports and exports between the UK and EU (instead of acquisitions and dispatches)
- Change of VAT liability and place of supply for some supplies of services to EU consumers.

VAT: Zero rating of women's sanitary products comes into force.

31 JANUARY 2021

INCOME TAX: SELF ASSESSMENT FILING AND PAYMENT DEADLINE:

Filing deadline for 2019/20 personal, partnership and trust returns filed online, or for paper returns which cannot be filed online (e.g. if you work for the Royal Estate).

Those who did not file their paper return by 31 October 2020 will incur £10 daily penalties if they do not file electronically by today. File electronically to avoid a penalty.

N.B. At present the Government have not announced any extension to these filing deadlines as a result of the pandemic.

Please telephone us if you require any assistance with filing your 2020 Tax Return. At this late stage, we cannot guarantee that it will be filed ahead of the submission deadline, but our advice may be invaluable in ensuring that you make constructive progress in bringing your tax affairs up to date. Please contact us on 01485 534800 or email kate@kathryngigg.co.uk.

ITSA: Deadline for online submission of self assessment tax returns for tax year ended 5 April 2020.

ITSA: Deadline for paying self assessment deferred second payments on account and 'balancing payments' for tax year ended 5 April 2020, and the first self assessment payment on account for tax year ended 5 April 2021. Self assessment taxpayers unable to pay these amounts can agree a payment plan over an additional 12 months with HMRC.

Deadline to pay Class 2 NIC for 2019/20.

Deadline to amend a 2018/19 tax return.

Deadline to file an outstanding 2018/19 tax return to avoid a tax geared penalty.

Deadline to file an outstanding 2017/18 return to displace a determination.

Deadline to notify liability to Class 2 NICs where your self employment began in 2019/20 tax year, to avoid a penalty.

CLAIMS & ELECTIONS: 31 January 2021 is the deadline for numerous self assessment claims and elections for 2014/15 to 2019/20. Please contact us to discuss if you require advice in this regard e.g. Loss Relief Claim.

CORPORATION TAX: returns for accounting periods ended 31 January 2020 should be filed with HMRC by today.

GIFT AID: individuals should make a claim to backdate gift aid donations, by today, in certain circumstances to benefit from a higher rate of tax relief.

TAX CREDITS: last day to renew tax credits for 2020/21 (if the 31 July 2020 deadline was missed and the claimant can show good cause) or to provide final income figures for 2019/20 (if renewal was done by 31 July 2020 using an estimate).

TRUSTS: deadline for registering on HMRC's Trust Registration Service if:

- A trust has been liable for income tax or capital gains tax (CGT) before, and it was liable for these taxes again in 2019/20; or
- If a trust was liable to inheritance tax (IHT), stamp duty land tax

(SDLT), stamp duty reserve tax (SDRT) in 2019/20.

TRUSTS: deadline for updating the trust register where there was a notifiable change before 6 April 2020 and a tax consequence in any of the three years 2017/18 to 2019/20. Tax consequence includes income tax, CGT, IHT, SDLT & SDRT.

N.B. All information set out above current as at the date of drafting the article, 6 November 2020.

Mrs K H Gigg FCA

Caution: The information listed above is for general guidance only. You should neither act, nor refrain from action, on the basis of any such information. You should take appropriate professional advice on your particular circumstances because the application of laws and regulations will vary depending on particular circumstances and because laws and regulations undergo frequent change. Whilst I endeavour to ensure that the information contained herein is correct, neither I nor my firm shall be liable in damages (including, without limitation, damages for loss of business or loss of profits) arising in contract, tort or otherwise from any information contained in it, or from any action or decision taken as a result of using any such information.

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CAPITAL GAINS TAX – TIME TO ACT?

By Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton

When the national debt exceeded annual gross domestic product by far this autumn, it became abundantly clear that eventually taxes will have to rise to restore some element of normality. This would probably not happen until there is at least an end to the pandemic in sight, and the tax strategy would probably involve clearing the deficit over a generation.

On 12 November two reports hit the headlines and the front page in many newspapers. The first from the Office for Tax Simplification (OTS) had been requested by the Chancellor. The other, from the Resolution Foundation (RF) had probably not.

The RF's proposal is for an additional levy of 4% on incomes over £12,500, offset by a 3% reduction in employees NIC to raise £40bn. There are also other elements to the package which did not hit the headlines, including increases to council tax and Corporation Tax, an extension of VAT and freezing or removing Income Tax reliefs. Whilst adding a 4% levy to Income Tax might just keep within the manifesto promise not to raise the rates of Income Tax, National Insurance and VAT, it would still represent a huge increase in taxation, particularly for pensioners who would not benefit from the NIC reduction. Given that the Chancellor will be keen to avoid anything which smacks of austerity; this is probably not a package he wants to adopt.

The OTS report concludes that there are several areas in which the regime is "counter-intuitive, creates odd incentives, or creates opportunities for tax avoidance".

It goes on to outline 11 recommendations for the government to consider across four key areas: rates and boundaries with income tax; the annual exempt amount (AEA); capital transfers and business reliefs.

Specific suggestions include:

- Aligning capital gains tax rates with income tax rates or perhaps re-considering the boundary between the two regimes, such as when taxing retained earnings on the liquidation of a small owner-managed company;
- Reducing the level of the AEA;
- Removing the capital gains uplift on death in some circumstances;
- Scrapping investors relief; and
- Replacing business asset disposal relief with an alternative more focused on retirement.

There is also more to the report than the headline announcements, for example, its recommendations include the suggestion that if the government wanted to more closely align CGT and Income Tax then it

would need to consider introducing a form of relief for inflationary gains and consider the interactions with the tax position of companies.

Neither report, however, really addresses the issue of how far CGT is a voluntary tax. As accountants, we know that many CGT questions raised by clients relate to the potential tax payable on a sale, and even at current tax rates, a large proportion of them go no further than that first question. Unlike Income Tax and Inheritance Tax, CGT becomes assessable at a time of the vendors choosing, and if the tax burden is felt to be too high the transaction is simply deferred or abandoned. It is by no means inconceivable that a policy designed to increase the revenue from CGT might have precisely the opposite effect, resulting in a tax paid only by the uninformed or those desperate to raise money at any cost.

Whilst neither of these reports is in any way binding on the Chancellor, he will no doubt consider them, and undoubtedly there remains a huge hole in the public finances which normal taxation will not fill. Long term changes to CGT have the advantage of being relatively painless at the outset but capable of gathering momentum over the years, and opinion in the professional press is that the tax free CGT uplift on death is particularly vulnerable.

What we can say with some certainty is that the CGT regime is unlikely to become more lenient in the foreseeable future, and if transactions in this field are planned, it would make sense to proceed with them sooner rather than later, but, as always, ensure you take professional advice before doing so. This is particularly important now, since transactions involving residential property may, since April 2020, require a Tax Return and payment of CGT within 30 days of completion.

If, having read through the information provided above, you require advice, **please contact either myself or my assistant Nicola Tarry FCA on 01485 534800 or email kate@kathryngigg.co.uk if we can assist in any way.**

Mrs K H Gigg FCA

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Our very sociable weekly rehearsals ground to a halt in March, as lockdown started. Never a good thing for a choir which was looking forward to rehearsing and performing at our 10th anniversary concert and ultimately our Christmas Carol sing-a-long. It is

regrettable that these lovely events have been cancelled.

However, all is not lost. We are continuing to work behind the scenes and there is a very strong desire to return to singing and performing as soon as we can.

Rest assured we will be back, stronger than ever next year, when we can once again contribute to the community while continuing to support local charities with the funds we raise.

We anticipate being in the hands of a new Musical Director and will welcome new members. Singing with us is great fun, sociable and you do not have to be able to read music to join us. Please keep an eye on Town and Around, both the newsletter and the web page, <https://townandaround.net/> and on our website <https://hunstantonchoir.co.uk> We are also listed on <http://asklily.org.uk/westnorfolk> Information will also appear on the Facebook pages for Hunstanton Area and Heacham Area, so do look out for these.

Lesley Trebbick, Chairman

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Q&A Esther Cecilia Boehm, artist and sculptor, @ Studio 55 Heacham

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You now live and work in Heacham but tell us something about your background and how you came to be here

I'm a German Canadian artist and I hail from Edmonton, Canada, but being a bit of a nomad I've lived in several countries so it was no surprise to me that I ended up here. I guess I could have ended up anywhere in the UK but about five years ago I first visited Heacham to stay with a friend and fell in love with the area and with Norfolk.

Can you tell us a little about what you do and what inspires you

I have always worked in and with whatever materials the environment I lived in allowed, ranging from clay, papier mâché and concrete to carving in soapstone, marble and wood. Growing up in Canada gave me a deep affinity for nature and the First Nations peoples, especially the Inuit, who capture the spirit hidden inside each piece of serpentine, soapstone, wood or antler, releasing the form within. Regardless of the materials I use, it is the visualisation of something inside and outside of myself that has always been the key motivation in my work.

Apart from my own work, I also run a series of courses from my studio – although with the challenges 2020 has brought us – numbers have been limited this year.

So what sort of courses do you offer?

I offer courses in clay modelling, plaster and wire sculpture, soapstone carving and for the first time this year in the run up to Christmas, I'm

offering a course in lino cut. People can make their own cards using any image they like.

I just thought it's been a tough year for everyone but weirdly it's been a time where lots of people have rediscovered a love of making things and working with your hands, a practice that can be grounding, mindful and reassuring. Something I think we all need right now.

And what could people expect should they join one?

Well the essence of my approach is the creative process itself. My aim is to ignite the spirit and nurture the vision of each student and provide the technical help to carry an idea through to a finished work of art. And also have some fun and companionship! I had a student say something really lovely recently – she said I was a "calm and patient teacher who helped me, a complete beginner, create some amazing work I wouldn't have thought possible. She also makes a great cup of coffee!" I'd like to think I give that help and inspiration to everyone – including the coffee of course!

Well thank you Esther. But can you now just tell us one thing – where and how do people get in touch with you?

You can give me a call on 07538986235, email eb@estherboehm.com, or visit the website www.studioat55.com.

By SJ Stone



Ciment fondue applied to an armature. Esther is using it as a mould for an installation piece she is working on.



HUNSTANTON
Learn, Laugh, Live

As we remain unable to hold meetings in the Community Centre our meetings will now be available via Zoom.

Our Christmas Party will be held on Monday December 14th (details to be confirmed) and our AGM is on Monday 18th January 2021 followed by our Speaker at 2.15pm.

Full details will be available on our Website u3aHunstanton, we look forward to your virtual company.

Lynn's lace tribute

When I heard that this year there would not be a Remembrance service for our brave men and women due to the Covid-19 pandemic, I decided to make a poppy in lace to hang in the front window of my house lit up with candles.

I was with my family on Remembrance Sunday standing at 11am for two minutes as it is so very important to remember them.

The picture badge beneath my poppy is of RAF Bomber Command, the force my husband was in when he served and this too is made in lace.

Lynn Hallifax



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Here we hoe again

Old Muck, Northfields Allotments

Tallest of the Peters might normally be the first one to know when it's raining, by dint of his height.

Angie's got an app on her phone which tells her when it's going to tip it down. But as we keep a-troshin' and a-sloshin' through the winter, I tip my hat to Medium Peter's outlook on the weather.

Bang, oof, bang, oof, grunt, oof and grunt some more some. Chicken Mick's chickens stare bemused through the fence as the ground shakes beneath their feet. Angie's app did not forecast an earthquake.

"Building a hammock," Medium Peter explains between bangs, oofs and grunts. "Just putting the posts in."

Covid, lockdown, the corner shop running out of hot lime pickle - you could not foretell darker days. Yet on a bright, chilly, winter's day, MP toils to bring next summer closer.

Just imagine a cold beer, crashed out in a hammock. We're all pulling

up our britches on the allotments and looking forward to sunnier times.

"Lovely h'entut Muck," say the 4x4 Couple as they mark out their beds for next year and plan their crop rotation. "No dar'lun," says Mr 4x4. "Yew can't have taters there next year, cuz that's where they wuz last year."

We are people who look ahead with optimism shared around the odd bonfire. Our allotments probably helped stop half of us going daft during lockdown, while the ones who were already half-daft didn't go any dafter thanks to like-minded socially-distanced companionship with people who weren't quite as daft as them.

Bang, oof, bang, oof. Medium Peter's still hammock building as I head for home. The 4x4s wave. Other plot holders are hammering and banging as the geese squeal overhead.

Maybe they're all building hammocks. Or maybe they're all just looking forward to better times to come.

THE BARKING BUGLE ANNUAL REVIEW

I am sure most of you will be really pleased to finally see the end of this year - it certainly has been a strange and very unsettling time for all of us, hasn't it? This virus has caused serious distress throughout the world and it has been really weird seeing so many humans walking about wearing face masks!

At the Barking Bugle we always aim to bring some cheer to humans and our fellow furry friends and despite the current problems we were absolutely delighted to still be able to publish our annual magazine, the 'Dogs' Holiday Guide to Norfolk'. We were very busy even during lockdown at the end of March putting the finishing touches to our guide which tells everyone how woofingly wonderful our county is. We would like to bark out loud a huge THANK YOU to all our advertisers and in particular our friends at Town and Around, without whom this wouldn't have been possible. We would also like to express our extreme gratitude to our printers who still managed to deliver all 15,000 copies of the magazine to us on time during the lockdown period.

We are pleased to tell you that we were able to distribute copies to most of our usual outlets and many more, although a little later in the year than planned. However, we are sad there were some businesses that were unable to receive our guide due to the restrictions imposed by the coronavirus disease. We really hope things will pick up for you next year and it will be a much happier time.

One absolutely wonderful thing happened in the summer which many of our readers will have heard about. We have recruited a new repawter to the team, a 6 year old ruby Cavalier King Charles (surprise, surprise!!) called Miss Zsa Zsa Gapaw. She is an ex puppy farm breeding doggy who didn't have the best start in life. When we rescued her she only weighed 4.3 kilos and had to have most of her teeth extracted due to serious neglect and a complete lack of care. We were thrilled to hear that Lucy's Law, a campaign to ban

puppy farms in England which we have supported since its inception, came into effect in April, but it is sad to hear that there are still many of these vile places operating illegally throughout the UK. You can read all about Zsa Zsa's story on our website. She absolutely loves her new home and adores running about madly on our wide sandy beaches. We would thoroughly recommend any of you humans out there to rescue an ex puppy farm doggy. It is immensely rewarding and you will feel so proud of yourself for giving a vulnerable being a happy life!

I am pleased to tell you that Zsa Zsa has settled in incredibly well, and even though she has growled at me on a couple of occasions (particularly when I get too close to her food) I love her to bits and am thrilled to have another repawter by my side. I have had to train her up and teach her the basics such as the alphabet, reading and writing, barking on the ibone and woofing on social media. She is a really fast learner and is even starting to boss me around now!

Lily's Pet Supplies in Hunstanton have been absolutely marvellous in agreeing to be a pet food bank where people can drop off goodies of all kinds for those less fortunate animals who are struggling. Throughout the year we have been out and about distributing these items and have worked closely with various organisations with this aim in mind. We would like to woof a huge THANK YOU to all the humans out there who have so generously donated food, blankets, doggy duvets and toys etc. so that those out there who are going through difficult times can lead a happier life.

We are pleased to say that we have also been able to visit PACT Animal Sanctuary this year, a rescue home dear to our hearts, and distribute many goodies which were not required locally. Needless to say these items were very gratefully received. PACT rescues many domestic and wild animals so please keep on donating. I must woof another huge thank you to all those businesses in



Hunstanton who have allowed us to leave collection tins with them - every little bit helps and together you have all made a huge difference! We haven't been able to do our two annual collections for PACT at Tesco this year, but if you'd like to donate some money or any items please visit Lily's Pet Supplies where we have left one of our collection tins.

Recently we have also been involved with 'Help for Homeless Hounds Norwich' which gives assistance to the pets of humans without a home. They distribute donations of food, coats, collars, etc. for the dogs of homeless people and anyone who is struggling. What an amazing thing to do!

All in all it has been a very depressing year for most of us as I am sure you will agree, but here at the Barking Bugle we are determined to keep spreading the woof and putting on a brave face! Next year, if all goes to plan, we will go ahead and produce our 2021 'Dogs' Holiday Guide to Norfolk', organise and attend many fun dog shows and continue to help out animals as much as we possibly can. In the meantime keep safe everyone and have a woofingly wonderful Christmas!

Lots of woofs, hugs and licks,

Pupstar

Editor of the Barking Bugle

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Borough Council News - Heacham, Sedgeford and Fring

Terry Parish, Leader of the Group of Independent Councillors (15)

Hello and, lest I forget, Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for a mask free New Year.

At the time of writing Covid News is not good but, perhaps, at the time of reading it is much better.

Borough Council officers have been thrown into the thick of Covid response again but some good work has been done locally by Planning Enforcement. I can't comment too much on individual cases but the native hedgerow which has appeared on Hunstanton Road, next to the woods, is a long-awaited result. Five other planning issues in Heacham and 2 in Sedgeford have either been resolved satisfactorily or are pending.

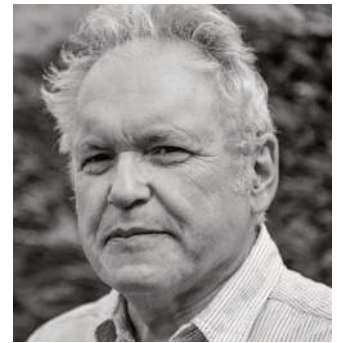
Extension to caravan site seasons did not happen in November due to the lockdown and, for legal reasons, they are now full planning applications which should come before the planning committee in early January.

New toilets at South Beach next year are on the cards, I am told. Current ones are now recognised by officers as not fit for purpose. Its only taken me about 5 years.

Some fireworks at the Corporate Performance Panel on 11th Nov. This is the panel tasked to ask searching questions about activities often in the control of the Cabinet

and Leader of the Council. It has been doing a very good job under the acting Independent chair in the last few months. Suffice it to say, he will be losing his position soon. The meeting is on U tube as all panel, Council and task group meetings are. Dip into some for something different to amuse or shock you.

Support your local shops in Heacham. The



Tesco refurbishment provides a wider range of goods. Two new food shops have opened in the High St and Station Road; between them they offer fresh fruit and veg, general groceries and excellent local pies and cheeses. And don't forget Jennings's shop doing sterling service throughout lockdowns. There are plenty of other shops and services, use them or lose them, you now know you need them.

Anyway, enjoy yourselves in whatever way you can, Covid permitting, over Christmas and remember the New Year only happens once.



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Wild in Westminster & West Norfolk

As the calendar turns to December and we head towards Christmas it is strange to think it was only a year ago that the General Election took place.

Sadly, it has not been a year that anyone predicted or would want to experience again. The Covid-19 pandemic has led to tens of thousands of deaths, huge damage to young people's education, mental health issues, as well as hitting businesses and jobs hard.

But West Norfolk has responded to these immense challenges by coming together. Love West Norfolk has recognised some of the many the heroes in our midst who went above and beyond to support vulnerable people and our local community. We need to continue that wonderful togetherness in the days and months ahead.

There's also been unprecedented economic support to help businesses during this very difficult time. I campaigned for stronger support for our tourism, hospitality, and leisure businesses including a cut in VAT from 20% to 5%. The Prime Minister even endorsed my call for people to Staycation in Sunny Hunny over the summer! While there were the normal traffic issues which need to be addressed, it is important that people visit safely and support our local businesses, suppliers, and jobs so that we have a vibrant economy across West Norfolk.

Despite the challenges of Covid, I've continued the campaigns I focused on during the general election.

My priority is a stronger NHS and more investment for QEH. In my first Prime Minister's Question I called for QEH to be included as part of our new hospital buildings programme.

While it was very disappointing that QEH

was not added to the list of 40 new hospitals, the government has committed to a competition for a further 8 hospitals. QEH has developed a strong proposal for investment and I am working with other MPs across Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, and Lincolnshire to back their bid to be one of those hospitals.

Improving skills locally is important and through the Towns Fund I was delighted to champion a successful bid – again asking the Prime Minister to back it – for a School of Nursing at the College of West Anglia which will open in September. This will create opportunities for young people in West Norfolk to enjoy skilled jobs at the QEH and around our NHS.

Better connectivity – digital and physical – is crucial to help support local firms, attract new ones, and make West Norfolk an even better place to live. The pandemic has underlined the importance of mobile and broadband coverage and I am pressing for West Norfolk to benefit from the government's commitment to rollout gigabit capable broadband by 2025. This is a challenging target but I'm pleased Hunstanton will be one of the areas that Openreach is going to deliver fibre to. Other places in Town and Around's footprint will also benefit from the Local Full Fibre Network.

There has been good progress on improving transport infrastructure. Six A47 schemes were approved as part of the Road Investment Strategy and now I am keeping the pressure on Highways England to get on with them.

On rail, eight car trains will be introduced to King's Lynn by the end of the year and £13 million of funding for the next stage of the Ely Capacity Enhancements has been approved. The bid for a scoping study for the Lynn to



James Wild MP

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

james.wild.mp@parliament.uk

www.jameswild.org.uk

[@jamesowild](https://twitter.com/jamesowild)

Hunstanton line from the Beeching Reversal Fund has been submitted and a reply is expected soon. I've also been working with Cllr Jamieson on funding bids for more walking and cycling schemes in our area.

With the government's focus on a green recovery there is the potential for more schemes to protect and enhance our countryside and coastline. I've been talking to the RSPB and other green groups about their proposals for a National Nature Service.

So it is an understatement to say that this has been eventful year. Let's head into 2021 with realism, but also optimism that we will come through this crisis and come back stronger.

I wish everyone a peaceful and festive Christmas.

OLD HUNSTANTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Children's Playground is still under review but we are aiming to re-open for Spring. The maintenance has been completed but the cost of providing sanitiser stations, two-metre ground markings, signage on all the equipment and policing all of it, is beyond the financial capacity of our small Parish Council. We have a duty of care and, I am sure the majority of residents will understand, we need to keep it closed especially on the evidence of what happened after the last lockdown was lifted. The increased number of visitors since then, coupled with the complete disregard for continuing social distancing, the wearing of masks etc., of a large majority of those visitors, was a grave concern to us.

There has been little movement on the traffic measures that we have been pursuing since earlier this year, except for the progress already reported in previous articles.

The Neighbourhood Plan is continuing its journey through the acceptance process, but that has slowed because of the pandemic and will be further affected by the new Lockdown.

We are continuing to meet via Zoom every month and will continue to do so until it is safe to meet face to face.

Please contact the PC through the Clerk, email below, to give us your views on the above, or anything else you think we should know about, or do something about. Thank you all for helping the village through this pandemic and, hopefully in the same vein, continue until

the virus is under control. You can contact me or any other councillor through the Clerk at clerk.oh@gmail.com

Regards

David McLeod, Chairman OHPC

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So, you want to be a town councillor!

Adrian Winnington, Hunstanton Deputy Mayor

Would you be willing to spend some of your time to help improve Hunstanton for its residents? If so, have you thought about becoming a town councillor?

Maybe you are interested in planning. Our Planning Panel (chaired by Paul Kidd) looks at all planning applications for the town and recommendations of support or detailed objections are sent to the Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk which makes the decisions. Our Neighbourhood Plan for Hunstanton is in its final stages; it has required a lot of time and effort by those councillors involved (especially Andrew Murray and Robert Corby).

Perhaps you see needs for community engagement, or are already involved in community activities. Our Community Engagement Panel (chaired by Maureen Howard) is working to identify needs and provide facilities and help for groups which need it. The Town Council is currently in the process of taking on the freehold of the Community Centre and Field which will enable it to provide a wider range of facilities for all ages. Our historic Town Hall, built for the then new Hunstanton Urban District Council in 1896, also has a number of different spaces within it which are available for community use. The Community Engagement Panel also organises events such as Field Day in the town and is assisting the Mayor (Tony Bishopp) with his appeals. Our Youth Panel (chaired by Robert Corby) focuses on the young people in our community and has recently carried out a survey to find out what they would like to see happen in Hunstanton. It is hoped that some of their requests will be able to be fulfilled once the acquisition of the community centre is completed.

Or are you concerned for our environment? This is a major global problem but locally our Environment Panel (chaired by Amanda Knight) has made significant steps in a short time. Like many councils across the country, Hunstanton Town Council has declared a climate emergency. It is working towards becoming a Plastic-free Council and is soon to launch a litter and plastic pollution campaign in co-operation with other local councils. The importance of green spaces and trees to our well-being is also being given priority and suitable areas to plant new trees are being looked at.

What about our roads and pavements? Matters relating to these are dealt with by the Highways and Byways Panel (chaired by Adrian Winnington). Although most roads, footpaths and other hard surfaces

are the responsibility of Norfolk County Council and the Borough Council, most concerns are nearly always raised with the Town Council in the first instance. We use our good relationship with the county and borough officers to get any issues dealt with as quickly as possible. Also in partnership with the County Council we have been able to provide Speed Awareness Monitoring Signs, School 20mph Warning Sign and a bus shelter. Recently four councillors have carried out a Streets' Survey around the centre of the town, especially identifying hazards for those with impaired vision or on mobility scooters. Most of these working panels report to the General Purposes and Community Committee (chaired by Wendy Croucher).

If numbers are your thing then you can get involved with the Finance Committee (chaired by Michael Ruston) and the Internal Audit Group, although all councillors are responsible for setting the budget and making sure council funds are spent correctly.

The Town Council works closely with its higher tier partner authorities of the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, and Norfolk County Council. The Mayor and Town Clerk meet regularly with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Borough Council. We are fortunate to have our local county councillor, Andrew Jamieson, as a member of the Town Council. We also have a good working relationship with our local police officers.

Apart from being involved with current council business councillors also develop their own individual interests within other groups and organisations in the town including:- amateur dramatics, Northfield Allotments, Chamber of Trade, Lions Club, Civic Society, local churches, Guidedogs, U3A, Hunstanton and District Festival of Arts, Hunstanton in Bloom, Community Orchard, The Barking Bugle, cycling, RSPCA, Coastal Stroke Group, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Red Hat Ladies, Heacham and District Community Car Scheme.

We do not do Politics with a capital P on Hunstanton Town Council. Each councillor brings their own life experiences, thoughts and skills to the council. We work together to try to do our best for the town.

So, do you want to be a town councillor? We currently have three vacancies, so if you think you might like to join us, please have a chat with a town councillor or with the Town Clerk, Mrs Jan Roomes, Tel: 01485 532402 Email: clerk@hunstantontowncouncil.gov.uk

Hunstanton & District Civic Society

AGM, 9 December 2020

All of our existing - and prospective - members are invited to join the Annual General Meeting that will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, 9 December 2020 at 7.30pm.

We have a number of projects under consideration for 2021 and are particularly keen to attract new members of all ages with skills in the following areas: photography, film, communications, online and print media.

We would also welcome anyone interested in the heritage and history of Hunstanton to come forward and join the happy band of volunteers at the Heritage Centre that will reopen in 2021.

In the meantime, Committee members would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

For more information on membership, please contact Sheila Kent, Secretary. Tel. 01485 534200; email: kent@hollowcrest.com

Hunstanton Tourist Information Centre - update

Following their meeting with Elizabeth Nockolds, Deputy Leader of the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk (BCKLWN) - and pending the promised review of tourist information provision in Hunstanton - the TIC Action Group (TAG) agreed that the next step was to engage with a wider group of locally elected representatives to share ideas.

The group met with Hunstanton Ward Borough Councillors Carol Bower and Paul Beal on Thursday October 29th, after which the two Councillors joined the TAG team for a meeting with Andrew Jamieson, our local County Councillor and Portfolio Holder for Finance in Norfolk County Council Cabinet, on Wednesday November 4th. Both meetings were extremely co-operative in spirit, forward-looking for the town, positive and

supportive.

We are acutely aware that the 2021 tourist season will be upon us before we know it. Subject to provisions in place for Covid-19, schools are likely to close for the Easter break at the end of March; Easter Sunday will fall on April 4th. We are still pressing for a manned tourist information facility to be in place by then for the benefit of businesses, residents and visitors and we hope to bring you further news and developments in the New Year.

Thank you for your feedback and support throughout this year. We will continue to work hard on your behalf.

**Best wishes from the TAG team
Amanda Bosworth, John Bridger,
Yvonne Bridger, Sheila Kent,
Stephen Kent**



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Linking up

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

As you know, there has been a great deal of upset over the closure of Hunstanton's Tourist Information Centre (TIC) at the start of the initial lockdown. The TIC was reopened as an unmanned station and this was felt by many to be far from satisfactory, as was eloquently expressed in these pages last month.

As you know, the Borough have plans to redevelop the bus station and library site in St Edmunds terrace. I have always been wholeheartedly in support of this providing i) the new library premises would be larger than the existing one, with better internal facilities; ii) toilet facilities were maintained; iii) the Borough worked with bus companies to create a safe and convenient alternative to the bus station and iv) that the residential properties were aimed, as far as possible, to full time residents.

Furthermore, it had always been my intention to ensure that space was given over in the new library for a manned TIC. It was depressing to learn, therefore, that the Borough's planning department had advised the Borough that the designs they had been working on for the last two years, that had been brought before Hunstanton Town Council and the public at large, were likely not to be approved and therefore the scheme went back to the drawing board. This delay should have been resolved by the time you read this, but it has allowed uncertainty to exist just when concern for the future of TIC was at its height.

Luckily, I work well with the two relevant Borough Cabinet members, Cllrs Nockolds and Middleton and both your two Borough Councillors, Cllrs Bower and Beal. So, assuming the library development goes ahead as planned, a temporary home will be made for the Library in Valentine Road. This will include space for a TIC. Once a permanent home for TIC is found in the new Library, I hope that the Borough will replace the funding withdrawn earlier in the year to enable the Library to maintain a manned facility.

The Infant School in Valentine Road has a



strong pull on the heartstrings of many Hunstanton residents. I have always wanted to make sure that if NCC were to sell the site, it would do so to a group that would have an understanding both of the need for local housing as well as to retain the character of the building. Therefore, I am very pleased to say that it will be Repton Properties, NCC's own property company, that will be the developer and that I will therefore be able to retain input and keep residents informed along the way.

As I write, the Government have announced £170m COVID winter grant scheme to support children, families and the most vulnerable over the winter. A range of plans are outlined to support food programmes, holiday activities and an increase in Healthy Start payments from next April.

This will be distributed via local councils and is in addition to the money we set aside specifically to help vulnerable people in Norfolk. NCC's Norfolk Assistance Scheme, which has been in place since 2013, provides emergency cash or food and essential household items. This year, recognising the pressure people of all ages would be under, we set aside £500,000 from government Covid-19 funds to add to the existing £1.15m annual Norfolk Assistance Scheme budget to provide exceptional advice and support to people. In the period from April to September we spent £625,000 from this fund helping people with food, fuel, exceptional household items and

other welfare support. Despite the extension of the furlough Scheme, the remainder is forecast to be spent by the end of March.

We also increased staffing to provide more people with advice and support, including advice on benefits claims. Covid-19 has meant many people have had to tackle the complexities of the benefits system for the first time, and of the £500,000, £120,000 is being used to pay for this.

In addition we made a £100,000 grant from Covid-19 funds to the Norfolk Community Foundation to support their work and help take their fund over £1m.

The Emergency Assistance Grant was made available until early August. Totalling £1.016m, it isn't ringfenced, and this gave the Council the opportunity to use this valuable resource to support our residents and communities in the best way we could. However, as it was never intended to be used for free school meals, the new Winter Package is very welcome.

We have also decided to make a further grant of £200,000 to the Norfolk Community Foundation to support vulnerable families this winter. I'm delighted that by doing this we can help the Foundation to maximise the help it can make available: in turn, the Foundation will be assisting Hunstanton Town Council to give support locally.

Meanwhile, applications for help can be made to the Norfolk Assistance Scheme on the county council website - <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/care-support-and-health/support-for-living-independently/money-and-benefits/norfolk-assistance-scheme> - or for those who don't have internet access by calling 01603 223392 option 5.

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Seal Pup Sir Tom released at SEA LIFE Hunstanton

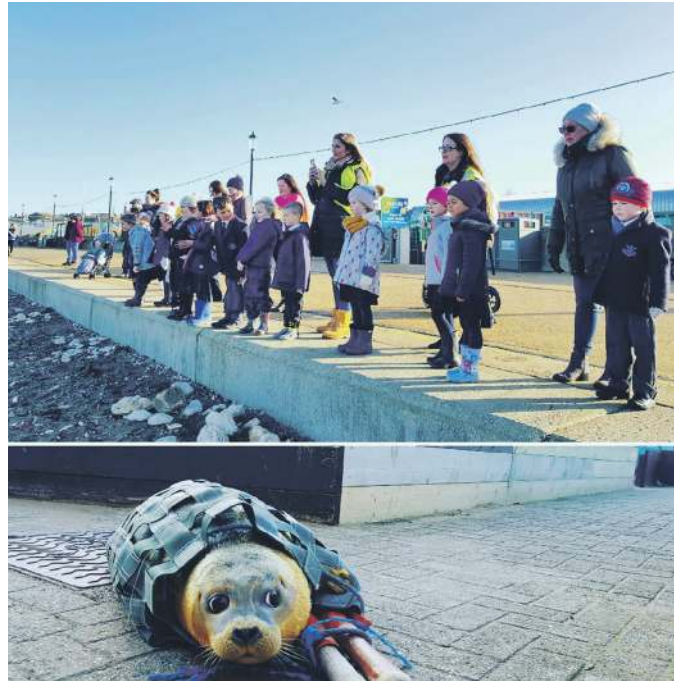
A rescued seal pup named after the fundraising superstar Sir Tom Moore was released into the North Sea on 4th November having completed his rehabilitation at SEA LIFE Hunstanton.

Sir Tom was rescued from Holkham beach on 14th May after being found alone on the sand; it will never be known how the premature pup weighing just 9 kilos became separated from his mother, and had he not been rescued he would have had no chance of survival on his own.



Entrusted to the Animal Care Team, Sir Tom was rehydrated and fed a special nourishing fish soup to build him up. As he became stronger the team taught him how to catch his own fish.

Division 1 children from Hunstanton's Glebe House School had a socially distanced walk to the beach to see the release of the rescued seal.



Helen Barden posted on the school's Facebook page: "Such an amazing start to the day! We all felt absolute joy seeing him (Sir Tom) discover the waves and the children were amazing on the walk. I kept telling them how proud I was for the rest of the day! We are so grateful to Hollie, Hunstanton Sea Life Centre and our parent helpers."

Photo credits: Sea Life Hunstanton and Glebe House School



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News from Brancaster School

By Harry Parkes and Oliver Racher

We are glad to report that Samphire Class (KS2) have completed our sewing project. We have been making pouches to store our headphones, and are really proud of our work. Some of us had done a little sewing before but many of us were learning a brand new skill. We did enjoy it - but are also glad we won't have any more holes in our fingers!

This half term our topic is North America, so we have been starting to learn about the Grand Canyon. Did you know that around 6 million tourists visit there each year? The Grand Canyon is an amazing natural landmark which was formed by erosion. Mr Johnson performed some experiments to demonstrate how wind, waves, rain and rivers gradually move or wear away soil and rock over time. We also did some experiments of our own, comparing the hardness of different types of rocks by scratching them with each other.

We have a Times Tables Rockstars tournament coming up next week. From 7:30am to 7:30pm from Monday to Friday, we are able to battle against other schools from across the world to see which school gets the greatest number of correct answers by the end of the week. The school that wins will get a £100 Amazon gift card. There are also smaller prizes for schools that have made the top ten. Wish us luck!

Thrift Class have been busy writing stories showing off their new skills, learning about why we have Bonfire Night and Poppy Day, planting bulbs by the bus stop and starting multiplication.



Next week is Children in Need and we are doing "act your age" where we have to do challenges based on our age. So the Year 2s who are 7 have to learn 14 spellings, and have to do 7 maths challenges and 7 PE challenges to raise money for Children in Need.



Hunstanton Primary School

The Admission round for entry to our Reception Class for September 2021 is now open. The closing date for applications is 15th January 2021. Parents need to make an application with online via <https://admissionsonline.norfolk.gov.uk/enrol/>

Our Headteacher Mrs Di Mapplebeck is able to show you around our lovely school if you wish to have a tour please do call 01485 533373 or email the school office: office@hunstanton.norfolk.sch.uk to arrange a visit prior to making an application. Tours will be arranged for when pupils are not in school to ensure a safe visit in the current circumstances.

There is also a wealth of information available on our school website: www.hunstantonprimaryschool.co.uk
Stay safe everyone!

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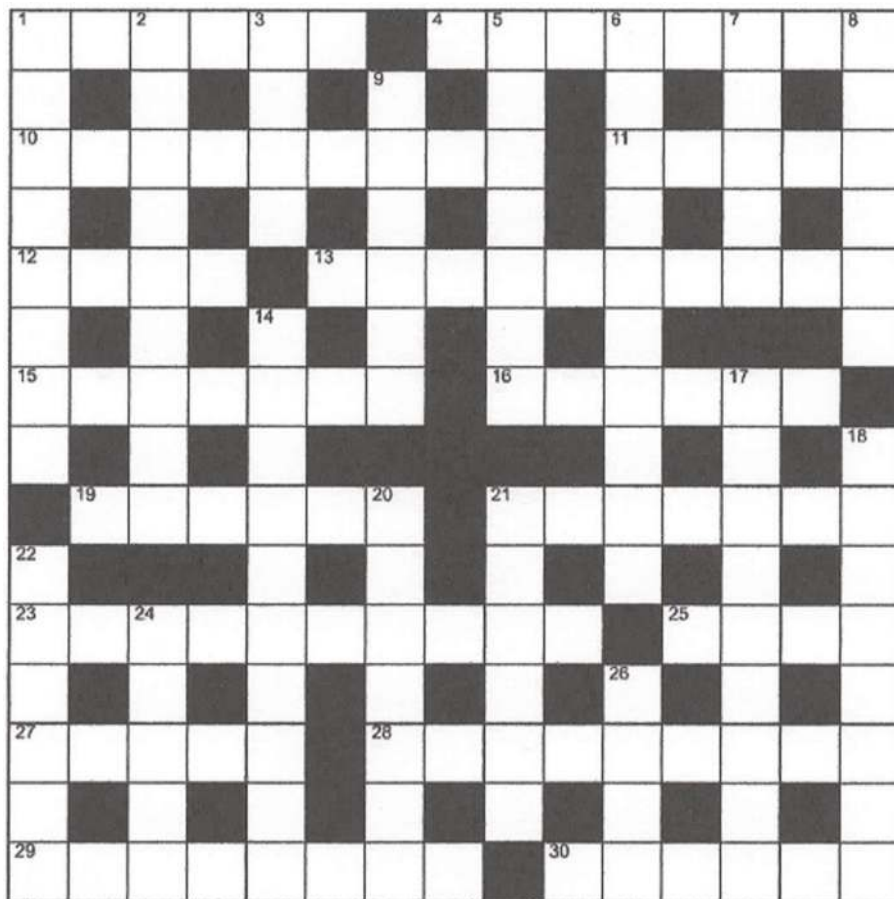
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David Elsey's Cryptic Crossword



Crossword solution on page 47

Crossword Clues Across

1. Way to create really enjoyable Christmas starts with mince pie (6)
4. Pleat and hem dress by hand (8)
10. Complaint by consumer who doesn't like turkey? (9)
11. Make corrections to letter on purpose (5)
12. Heard Pearl and Kelvin fell out last Christmas, silly people (4)
13. Wet delays Victor taking part in do over Christmas period (6,4)
15. Rejoiced, having time to visit high-class retreat (7)
16. One of many likely to attend seasonal fair, we hear (6)
19. A busy elf kind of exhibits sparkle (6)
21. Small roaster is just the thing for nuts (7)
23. Arrives in middle of food handout, finding time at last with little on (10)
25. Sage makes roll of stuffing great (4)
27. Each leg is carved from bird (5)
28. Watching over Albert's third helping (9)
29. Wearing rose, cooked bird outside (8)
30. Daydreaming, I miss out on worship (6)

Crossword Clues Down

1. Help oneself to claret in keeping with festive tone (5-3)
2. Box crackers with old jokes (9)
3. Open present that is received by registered post (4)
5. Leap far to become warmer (3,4)
6. Is it now or on the 25th? (7,3)
7. Region welcomes new theatre (5)
8. Noel destined to provide shelter for firstborn (6)
9. Packed away last crackers to be pulled (6)
14. Sun readers describe the three wise men ... (10)
17. ... nervously entering with a stocking filler? (9)
18. Relating to work it could be eternal (8)
20. Go for vocal medley, primarily made up of three parts (7)
21. Pals swim at quiet spot (6)
22. Time before Christmas to take a first dekkko at chimney (6)
24. It's added to pie for sweetheart (5)
26. One may be seen in street, but is usually found indoors at this time of year (4)

Ray Butchers Su Doku

Easy first...

...then the more challenging

You in Mind

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

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

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

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

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

Let me explain how I work: You will walk through my doors without having to touch anything, then will be seated on a clean throw

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(every one has a clean throw just for them) and then I will close doors and sit over 2 metres away from you. At the end of the session the same safe sequence will be repeated when you walk out of the premises.

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

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Round the bend with Dean Baker

Watch out for the turkey fat or make good memories

Mrs B vividly remembers a Christmas dinner in her mid-teens when clearing away the dinner plates she spotted a cup of what she hoped was unguarded white wine. Ever the opportunist, she grabbed the cup and glugged down its contents ..realising just a second too late that it was, in fact, lukewarm turkey fat drained from the roast!

One of my outstanding memories, is my Nan's December 21st present of Slade's seasonal classic tune, the 1973 original. She understood that a present a few days early meant the world to me and that there was Christmas magic in the record stands of Woolworths on George Lane, South Woodford.

This year, we FaceTime Lizzie and Phil. Cousin Lizzie is a hardcore crafter and this year she has probably woven more than an Amazonian spider. Phil peers at us from what appears to be a huge woollen snowflake. Lizzie shows us an impressive array of mince pies and Mrs B sweeps a box of shop bought pies out of sight. Aunty Marie, who is 6 months older than the Queen, waves enthusiastically. I notice she has bagged the chair by the fire, after a few minutes she turns away from the camera and looks for memories in the flames.

I hope that in these strange times we can all find a memory of Christmas magic.



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THE FESTIVE LETTER

Jenny Beake

It seems fitting that in fine Christmas tradition here in West Norfolk we may all be soon suffering from syngenesophobia - a fear of relatives.

The time of year is approaching when I receive a Festive Letter from a long lost distant cousin thrice removed who emigrated from Norfolk in the 60's (I wasn't even born yet) who now sends an annual missive, lengthy in nature and photocopied at a wonky angle with a strange font and sent from a remote cabin in Canada.

Unlikely to ever see said third cousin twice removed I now have his PO Box address should a replacement kidney ever be needed.

The letter usually goes something like this (exaggerated for the purpose of this article and with some side notes):

Dear *INSERT FAMILY MEMBER NAME HERE INCORRECTLY SPELT* Jennie,

What a year it's been! Even though I haven't seen you since you were three years old I wanted to tell you what I have been up to in the last 12 months - well 6 if not including the lockdown. *(surely there's not much else to do in the back of beyond).*

Having never seen you in 42 years it's important to me that you know that I have been learning to do watercolour drawings *(small photocopied picture attached that looks like The Joy Of Painting with Bob Ross).*

Ramona *(his wife I have never met)* continues to enjoy cross stitching.

We took the Winnebago Cruiser out for a Stay - Cay. I love driving that big old thing in the middle lane on the highway at 55 miles per hour. Just like I used to drive it on the A14 en route to Hunstanton all those years ago. *(aaaargh)*

Fanny has had to have her legs replaced with a set of wheels after chasing a tennis ball and getting stuck in the neighbour's lawn mower *(no photo attached, so I am assuming Fanny is their pet dog).*

I took the liberty of sending you a Christmas Present this year, I love the "Ballads of Celine Dion played on the Pan Pipes" - really hope you like it too and that you still use cassette tapes.

Ava (second third cousin 4th removed) received a bravery award for saving Fanny from the lawn mower. Luckily all are now intact and the No Win No Fee claim is all sorted out now.

Logan *(cousin?)* is enjoying life on the country rock circuit playing guitar. He now has Grade 9 so is keen.

We really hoped you'd visit one day but worry not as we have booked the Golden Lion in Sunny Hunny and will be visiting Norfolk in the New Year - can't wait to get my socks and sandals on and go for a paddle!

See you soon Jennie! *JENNY my name is spelt JENNY.*

Yours, Jerry, Ramona, Ava, Logan and Fanny

(Please pass on Festive Wishes to the family - their cards have probably got lost in the post over the years?)

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Another day to remember for Shelley

By John Maiden

It was kind of Shelley Woodworth to invite me to Zoom in on her retirement ceremony in late November, but it served as another reminder of how time seems to fly by at an ever increasing pace with each year that passes. Longstanding Town & Around readers might remember a double-page spread in the December 2012 edition under the headline: "A day to remember".

The day in question was November 10th, which came close to being the sixtieth anniversary of the activation of the USAF 67th Air Rescue Squadron at RAF Sculthorpe on November 14th 1952. This fact had been brought to my attention more than a year earlier by RAF Flight Sergeant Mark Service, the official historian of the 67th. He informed me that the squadron was still active, but was now known as the 67th Special Operations Squadron, and it was based at RAF Mildenhall in Suffolk.

His research had revealed the fact that the newly formed squadron had played a vital role in rescue operations when the South Beach area of the town was devastated by tidal flooding on the night of January 31st 1953.

Many people received recognition for individual acts of heroism that night, but only three people in the whole of Norfolk were awarded the George Medal. Two of these were members of the USAF based at Sculthorpe. Sergeant Freeman A Kilpatrick was actually living next door to Floods survivor Neil Quincey in South Beach Road, with his wife a young daughter, but risked his own life in saving the lives of 18 neighbours by warning them of the unfolding disaster.

The courage of the other GM recipient is better known, because Reis Leming, a member of the 67th Air Rescue Squadron, was married by the Bishop of Northampton at Hunstanton's Catholic Church in June 1953. The wedding reception was held at the Kit Kat. Reis also made several visits to the town over the years. In fact, Mark Service had persuaded BA to fly Reis and his wife Kathy from the State of Oregon for the sixtieth anniversary of the 67th.

Sadly, Reis died on November 4th 2012, which is why the Commander of the 67th SOS, Lt Col Shelley Rodriguez - as she was then - unveiled the 'Reis Leming Way' sign in the Esplanade Gardens six days later. It was fitting that Shelley should be the one to do this, because it was her enthusiastic support that was vital in rekindling the 'special relationship', between the USAF and the town widely known in the 1950's as 'Little America'.

A memory that comes to mind was when Shelley casually mentioned a long distance run she had completed.

It meant starting from Hunstanton and running along the coast, on her own, for some 30 miles or so.

I asked Shelley how she got back to her car, thinking of the coast hopper bus service.



Lieut. Col Shelley Rodriguez and John Maiden



"Oh no," she replied, "I hitch-hiked!"

From what I know of her, this is typical of Shelley's attitude to life. In 2013, shortly before she relinquished Command of the 'Night Owls', I told her that the 67th SOS badge had been 'floralised'. The flowerbed was on The Green, so I thought she might drive up and take a look. Not Shelley, she flew over, then told me how good it looked from 1,000 feet up, in the cockpit of a C130 Combat Shadow.

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Technology and Innovation

Pass the Keys is growing quickly across the UK and is building a strong reputation as the most exciting tech start-up in the property industry. Following its recent nomination for the national Tourism and Hospitality Awards 2020 for the 'Technology and Innovation' category, Managing Director of Pass the Keys Norfolk Coast, Graham, answers 3 quick questions about how and why their technology is delivering an outstanding service for its customers.

Q: How does the technology work?

We have a unique online portal (PTK Connect), which everyone involved can access. This enables us to manage the property; allows the owners to see what is happening; gives the guests information and notifies cleaners when they are required. There is no need for phone calls, emails or text messages – it is one cloud-based system and everything is at our fingertips. We also use a dynamic algorithm, which calculates and optimises the pricing of the property according to demand.

Q: How does the technology benefit property owners?

As well as helping to maximise income, the technology takes away the pressure of hosts having to look after the property themselves. They can see reviews as well as the service log for cleaning and maintenance jobs. Our cleaners take pictures after each clean and upload them to our platform. In the event a guest breaks something, we have photographic evidence of how the property was left before they entered it and can thus charge them accordingly.

Q: What advantages are there to guests?

Our guest services team helps guests identify which property is right for them, and once the booking is made, they receive the property details and manual. A day before the stay, they receive a keysafe code - all our properties provide flexible check-in and check-out using key safes. Once they arrive, they find the accommodation sparkling clean (we currently have an extended Covid-19 cleaning protocol and leave

24 hours between stays), together with hotel quality linen, towels and toiletries, which we provide. They have our contact number in case there is anything they need.

To get in touch with Graham and his team you can call them on 01553 600925 email him on graham.middleton@passthekeys.co.uk or obtain a quotation on your property at www.passthekeys.co.uk/north-west-norfolk-coast



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Selling a property - Title Problems and how to fix them

By Nic Sheldrake, Director, Hayes + Storr

The easing of lockdown restrictions, a buoyant property market and the temporary savings on stamp duty mean that now could be a great time to make a move. In this article, I will look at some common title problems, which left unaddressed, could delay your sale.

Land Registry

As your solicitors, will we obtain an Official Copy of your property title from the Land Registry. Initially, we will check to see whether it reveals anything which could become a problem and if so, help deal with it.

Unregistered land

Your deeds would need to be located and checked for any potential matters which may delay a transaction. Instead of checking the Official Copy, we will need to examine the title deeds at the start of the transaction and advise on any potential issues.

Lost deeds

If the deeds are lost and all efforts to find them have failed, we will try to reconstruct your title by gathering as much evidence of ownership as possible, by way of statements from the owner and/or the party who last held the deeds and apply to the Land Registry for registration.

Restrictive covenants

A restrictive covenant is a type of restriction, which could affect your land, for the benefit of neighbouring land.

Little can be done to alter or remove a restrictive covenant but for your buyer, it is best to know if any exist at an early stage.

Rights of way and other easements

Your buyer will want to know about any rights your property is subject to and make sure it has sufficient rights for its intended use. Sometimes problems arise with shared driveways and services where one property may include the drive, pipes, or wires etc, but the other property has no legal right to use them. Identifying and resolving these issues at an early stage will avoid delays later in the transaction when everybody is keen to complete.

Hopefully, your property will have no title defects but if it does, very few problems are insurmountable, and we will help find solutions to keep your sale on track.

For further information about buying or selling your home, please, contact Nic Sheldrake in the property team on 01328 863231 or email nic.sheldrake@hayes-storr.com.

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Down: 1. Robin-red, 2. Chestnuts, 3. Pier, 5. Ear flap, 6. Present day, 7. Arena, 8. Eldest, 9. Stowed, 14. Stargazers, 17. Tangerine, 18. Triangle, 20. Triform, 21. Splash, 22. Advent, 24. Sugar, 26. Tree

Heacham and Hunstanton at night

Terry Parish

Did you see all the planets last month? I managed, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. At the time of writing I haven't managed Venus, in the morning, again as I either haven't been up or it has been cloudy. You can see them all again this month.

Never mind a chimney, Father Christmas will likely need good Broadband this year. Whilst looking for Rudolph flitting across the sky the red nose you see will likely be Mars, visible from when it gets dark in the South. Fading now from its glory last month. On the 23rd Mars will lie just above the Moon.



Internet

Just prior to Christmas there may be many sparkles in the sky as the Geminids meteor shower peaks just after midnight on the 13th and the Ursids shower on the 22nd /early hours 23rd. The Geminids is a major shower and viewing is favourable providing, of course, that the sky is clear. Wrap up, lie down if you can, and look straight up. Like many showers, most meteors will appear late and into the early hours BUT there will be some to see earlier and in the nights either side of the peaks.

The event to look out for this year is a new 'Star of Bethlehem'. Saturn and Jupiter have been moving closer and closer together – apparently of course. The Earth is moving around the Sun rather faster than either and, as we look outwards, towards the giant gas planets, it appears that 'nearer' Jupiter is closing on distant Saturn. There is some real movement too as Jupiter is moving faster than Saturn.

Over the last several months, Jupiter has been to the right of Saturn. At the beginning of the month from 5pm look SW at the two planets. They are getting lower in the sky now so you can't leave it much later. They will fit into the view from a 15x70 pair of binoculars. If it is especially clear and you can steady your binoculars / birding 'scope / small telescope, look for the 4 Galilean Moons of Jupiter. You may see just a blurred short line which bisects the planet. Within that line will be Callisto, Europa, Io (smallest) and Ganymede (largest). Large binoculars, small 'scopes and clarity will reveal nice sharp points of light. On the 16th and 17th, a thin Crescent Moon will join in and make a nice sight.

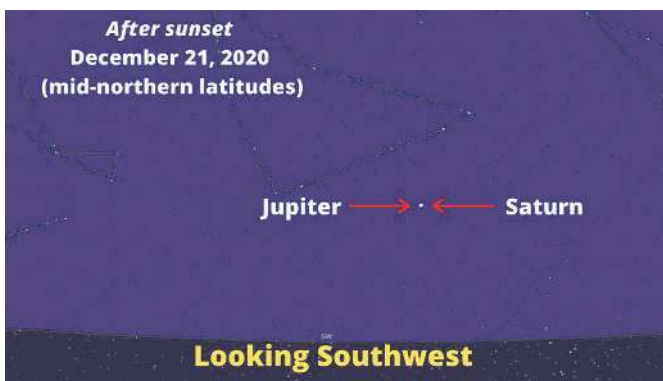
Following on from my discussion about possible life in Venus's atmosphere last month, it has recently been suggested as less likely. Europa's oceans are still in the running for life, but not as we know it.

Look at Saturn and a decent telescope will reveal the rings. Binoculars might see a blur either side of the disc but also pick up a spark to one side. This will be Saturn's giant satellite, appropriately named Titan. With a significant atmosphere, much water ice and a methane weather cycle, Titan has become a satellite of interest to astrobiologists. You won't see Enceladus which is another hot favourite in the search and desire to find extra-terrestrial life.



Hubble. M75 67,500 light years away, 67 light years across. Part of the Gaia Sausage and possibly the remnant of a dwarf Galaxy which merged with the Milky Way long, long ago.

Back to the sky. Whilst peering at Jupiter and Saturn through your binoculars look to the left of Saturn and go down to a point level with Jupiter. You should find the globular cluster of stars, M75.



Internet



Internet

On the 21st, to the naked eye, Jupiter and Saturn will appear to merge - star of wonder, star of light etc, except they are planets. Ordinary binoculars will show that there is a separation albeit of around 1/2000 of a degree – very, very small. A telescope will open up this gap to your eyes and the satellites I have mentioned above will be in sight. Titan to the right of Saturn. Enceladus to the right and

below Jupiter. Io, Ganymede and Callisto strung in a line at about the 10 O'clock position from Jupiter. Io closest, Callisto furthest away. The 21st is the Winter Solstice of course, shortest day, longest night – spooky (Halloween rather than Christmas but never mind). NOTE: all this happens quite close to the horizon. You need a good view to the SW.



Internet

If you miss this super conjunction of the Solar System's giants then catch it again on November the 5th in 2040!

After the 21st, Jupiter will move past Saturn and be to the left of it. Both planets are also dipping towards the horizon and will be lost to view well before teatime.

If you want a morning Star of Wonder continue to look out for Venus shining brightly in the SE from 6.30am until 7am when the sky will lighten. Venus is falling towards the horizon so will be harder to catch as the month progresses and will be too low by Christmas Day. On the 12th a nice Crescent Moon will be just to the upper right of Venus.

Plenty of stars in the dark skies of December and January. Old favourites to look for with naked eyes or binoculars: The Pleiades due South from about 10pm a fuzz for most of us but excellent in binoculars. Similarly, the Hyades to the East. Orion the Hunter is well up so find Betelgeuse (it probably hasn't blown up yet) and Rigel at shoulder and knee. Look through binoculars at his central belt. Just below it will be another fuzz which opens up to a grand sight in a modest telescope. This is the Orion Nebula, a birthplace of new stars.



Internet

2021 Happy New Year. Just a few things to mention. Between the 1st and 5th look out for the Quadrantid meteor shower which peaks in the early morning of the 3rd. Not a showy one and remember to social distance when looking up. There is a New Moon on the 13th and a Full Moon on the 28th. This, apparently is called a Wolf Moon in North America. Or, more prosaically, the Moon after Yule.

Planet watchers continue to observe Mars. It is getting much fainter but is high in the sky in the South and easy to spot. Between the 14th

and the 22nd Uranus is very close to it and on the 20th, there is a conjunction, blue Uranus appears just below the red planet. Good binoculars or a small 'scope should reveal the ice giant.

On the 17th, with a telescope, there is a chance to find very distant Neptune as it will appear just to the right of the Moon.

And look out for Mercury. It's an evening object again, low in the West after sunset. Avoid looking at the Sun and use binoculars only after it has set. You are looking for a small spark. Its easy once you have found it. On the 24th this strange, small, messenger of the gods is at its greatest eastern elongation being 18.6 degrees away from the Sun. A spread hand held at arm's length spans just over 20 degrees of the sky, so place the tip of your right little finger where the Sun is or was, part your fingers and Mercury should be between your thumb and index finger. It climbs a tad higher in the sky until the 27th and then gets closer to the horizon again.

Happy Christmas and, remember, no one can see you in the dark.

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We want to clap our hands in thanks.....

This year has been exceptional as we all know and everyone has had to struggle for various reasons with the trials and tribulations of Covid 19 knocking us all for six. In a town that has many businesses who rely on their income from holiday makers throughout the year, they have had to strive to survive this season which started off later than usual due to the first lockdown in March. So until 4 July, there were no visitors (or should not have been?) to the area and we were set for a huge worry about our future holiday season in Hunstanton. But as soon as lockdown was over, everyone in the country could not wait to escape their four walls and book holidays to the Norfolk coast. Even Boris Johnson suggested holidaying in Norfolk.

Most people have been more than helpful over the last months sticking to all the Covid rules and for those involved in our own business I would like to do a big 'shout out' 'thank you' to all our ever useful teams and individuals involved in keeping our holiday homes going on behalf of the owners. There are maintenance and repair men consisting of electricians, plumbers, heating engineers, handymen, etc, all which we could not do without each year. We are very appreciative of the service they give us, sometimes at the drop of a hat and always very obliging, helpful and friendly. Plus if one of our many merry men cannot attend when we ring, they usually know someone who can. What more can we ask for when something goes wrong?

A huge 'thank you' also, to our teams of housekeepers and cleaners who have cleaned and sanitised their little socks off in each holiday home after lockdown was lifted and between guests' visits each week. Government cleaning protocols had to be kept (we had to revise these as Boris and his advisors do not write in lay-man English) and we had an army of ladies and gents donned in hazmat suits (well almost!) visiting properties each changeover. Cleaning charges went up as all PPE materials are not cheap. But worth every penny. Many owners moaned about this, but hey, your property needs sanitising properly with the correct equipment. Regardless of cost, it had to be done. No one wants the virus. Plus arrival times were extended to allow for the extra sanitisation. We lost some properties because cleaners and owners were not prepared to adhere to the protocols. Shame. But we gained some lovely new properties which reaped the benefits of being added to our register later in the irregular season we had.

I know I always write a similar report for December every year, but as I said at the start this year has been exceptional. So to all our many teams of very important helpers we have, you have been amazing! Thank you!

Let's do it all again next year.....

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

Letters to the Editor

Recent letters relating to general practice

At the time of writing we are 2 days away from the latest 'lockdown' as we head towards what will undoubtedly be a difficult winter for the NHS, social and community care. We must support each other during this time.

Winter is normally a challenge for the NHS but this year we will be joined by the entire economy trying to survive the constraints that the government and coronavirus has placed upon us.

In general practice we have had to fundamentally change the way in which we work with virtual and telephone consultations increasing. Despite some press reports, General Practice is open for business and my practice is busier than ever. The cancellation of a large number of hospital outpatient appointments and postponement of routine operations to focus on Covid-19 has placed an extra pressure on general practice.

I note some comment in this publication about being unable to get a face to face appointment with a GP but able to get an appointment for a blood test with the nurse. The letter went on to suggest that we, as GPs, are protecting ourselves out of 'selfishness' (D Cook, Nov p.42).

The nature of an appointment with a nurse in General Practice has traditionally necessitated a face to face 'treatment room' encounter – blood tests, dressings, baby vaccinations, injections/implants, ECG, blood pressure checks and the like. These cannot be dealt with virtually so we have remained open and largely maintained this vital service for our patients with our nurses face to face using stringent precautions and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

The nature of a GP appointment (or advanced nurse practitioner) is different and lends itself more naturally (compared with the traditional nursing appointment) to a virtual or telephone approach. Medical triage, medication issues, diabetic problems, dermatology, musculoskeletal problems, cardiovascular risk management, mental health issues (and this has been a huge problem over recent months) to name just a few are all areas that can be managed effectively virtually.

I admit, I started as a sceptic six months ago but the feedback we have had locally has been positive and our skills and IT consulting infrastructure have improved rapidly and effectively. We triage our calls by telephone or video and try to avoid patients having to sit waiting for their appointment for hours in a waiting room that is a potential reservoir of infectious disease. The new model offers a safe and convenient way of consulting for patients. Our availability has improved and if I do speak to a patient who I need to see, I can then rapidly arrange for them to attend face to face; I collect them from their car and see them in full PPE in a safe environment within the surgery or I will visit them at home. I would estimate that currently roughly 80% of my consulting is virtually/telephone and 20% face to face – it actually allows greater access (as phone calls are often shorter) and, most importantly, safer access. Surgeries have spent huge amounts of money, time and effort adapting their practices to ensure our patients remain safe. This has been done according to guidance from NHS England and the local Clinical Commissioning Group.

We must protect our elderly, vulnerable population – to simply open our doors, return to the previous model and herd everyone together allowing the virus to spread rapidly amongst those most susceptible would be unforgivable.

The NHS, social and community care should be cherished and supported. We are all working as hard as we can in difficult situations and I would ask that any comment should be constructive as we risk reducing already low morale which would lead to an inability to recruit and, ultimately, the closure of rural medical services which we are already seeing in neighbouring areas.

We are dynamic but our services are not perfect and we are more than willing to adapt and try and offer an effective, safe service. As such, I would encourage readers to get involved with their Patient

Participation Groups (which are virtual) to open a dialogue with your practice on how services can be improved and receptive to your needs.

A note also on the 'research' undertaken by your readers relating to Vida Healthcare. Vida Healthcare GP Partnership based in King's Lynn is owned and run wholly by local GPs. Vida Healthcare Ltd is an unrelated company that runs Dementia Homes in Harrogate and has no connection whatsoever with Vida Healthcare in Kings Lynn. They share a name but nothing else.

Labelling us as 'selfish' is not the support your local GPs and their dedicated teams deserve this winter. As winter progresses we must all respect, value and safeguard our primary medical services just as much as your practices respect, value and safeguard your wellbeing.

I wish you all good health and a happy, safe Christmas.

Dr David Ince.

GP, The Burnhams Surgery, Burnham Market.

Deputy Clinical Director, Coastal Primary Care Network.

Reply to D Cook regarding surgeries

My comments are not regarding Vida or Hunstanton's surgeries.

I totally agree that you can see a nurse but not a doctor. I became ill in March. My doctor has at no time seen me face to face. I attended for blood test and a form to go for a chest X-ray. Apparently they confirmed an infection. I was prescribed with 5 courses of antibiotics and steroids. But no improvement, eventually in July referred to Respiratory clinic. My condition is although an asthmatic, obviously it wasn't or the antibiotics and steroids would have dealt with it. My question is how a doctor can diagnose over the phone as when sitting talking to them I'm fine, however if I go to get dressed, have a shower or make a cup of tea I can barely breathe and end up having to rest and get my breath back.

So yes I too wonder how seeing a nurse is ok but not to see a doctor.

Name and address supplied.

A149 speed controls

Mr. Reg Eaton's letter, (Nov. T&A) requires clarification. He refers to Mr. Richard Bird's comments, (Oct. T&A) stating that speed controls should be operating but, for whatever reason, have not been implemented.

I assume that Mr. Bird was referring to the 50 mph limit that was proposed for the lengths of road where cameras had been installed.

No 50 mph signs are evident; therefore the limit must still be the national limit of 60 mph.

Mr. Eaton must have been aware that there were no 50 mph signs, therefore, in the absence of any other speed limit signage, he should also have realised that the speed limit is 60. This begs the question, at what speed was Mr. Eaton travelling? If he received a speeding ticket he must have been driving in excess of 60 mph and the £100 fine was deserved.

If the intention is to lower the limit to 50 mph, this needs to be done without further delay and pressure should be applied in the necessary quarters to achieve this.

Yours faithfully.

Roger W. Jackson.

I had to read Reg Eaton's letter in November's Town and Around twice to make sure I had not mis-read it. What sort of person deliberately speeds past speed cameras to see if they are working? Speed cameras are there for safety so such behaviour is nothing short of reckless. Perhaps Mr Eaton is the sort of person who thinks Dominic Cummings was right to go for a drive to test his eyesight. I am delighted he was fined. It is just a shame it was only £100.

Julie Crabtree

Editors note regarding A149

Richard Bird wrote to the Leader, Cllr Andrew Proctor at Norfolk County Council asking for clarification. On 16th November he was promised a full update in time for the January 2021 edition of Town and Around.

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Hunstanton Eyecare blog

Many of you know that my specialist subject is Low Vision, assisting those whose vision is seriously poor due to age or ocular disease. Spectacles only have a limited benefit, but we make the most of remaining vision by enhancing it with low vision aids such as magnifiers and telescopes. The results are usually very encouraging, allowing folks to cope more easily with everyday visual tasks. There comes a point where vision is so poor that resorting to an audio gadget is the answer.



Technology in my world is advancing at a great rate of knots and the latest gadget is OrCam. OrCam can be worn on the side of spectacles or as a hand-held gadget, and it reads to you! It photographs printed text and then with optical character recognition technology, reads it back to you. I am pleased to say that Hunstanton Eyecare is now a partner of OrCam, so we can demonstrate and supply this amazing technology.

After a very traumatic year for many of us, we would like to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy Christmas and look forward to 2021 with optimism!

Our very best wishes to you all.

Annette

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A recipe from the Prudent Pensioner

Cf you need to disguise Brussel Sprouts or you have some left that you don't want to waste then you may find this recipe useful.

Brussel Sprout & Celery Soup.



Makes 2 very generous portions.

This is an ideal way to use up the small and any damaged sprouts. If you purchased Brussel Sprouts on a stalk and there are leaves at the top these can be added too and will produce a stronger flavour.

Approx. 230g/8oz. Brussel Sprouts

2 or more sticks of Celery

1 med. Shallot or small Onion

1 medium size Potato

Chicken stock cube dissolved in 500ml hot water

A knob of butter

Salt and pepper

Remove and discard base and any discoloured leaves from sprouts, cut each one in half and place in a bowl of lightly salted cold water. If using leaves from stalk, remove and discard base of each stalk together with any discolouration in leaves. Slice thinly and leave to soak with sprouts.

Peel potato and cut into small pieces. Peel and thinly slice shallot/onion.

Clean celery, trim off and discard base and top of stalk and slice fairly thinly.

Put butter into a saucepan and soften over a low to medium heat, add shallot or onion, stir well and cook for 1 minute stirring constantly.

Add potato pieces and stock and stir well.

Strain off and discard water from sprouts, rinse in cold water then add with celery to saucepan. Bring to the boil then reduce heat, cover and leave simmering for 10-15 minutes, or until vegetables are fairly soft.

Strain off liquid into a jug. Put vegetables into a suitable jug or bowl and whizz with blender until pureed.

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

Season to taste. Reheat stirring gently. Serve and enjoy.

My updated book of 45 easy, budget friendly recipes for nourishing soup is now available from Amazon. A search for Doreen Reed will find it (together with my books of light hearted poems and tales) Copies are also available from Ridouts Bakery, High street, Heacham. price £3.50p of which 50p will be donated to MacMillan Nurses.

See more recipes on The Prudent Pensioner Facebook page

Email: pru.pensioner@btinternet.com

The Art Society

Thoughts on our November 2020 Lecture. - Art of colour in English garden design.

Gertrude Jekyll once said "The love of gardening is a seed once sown that never dies."

How very true. One's garden is an intensely personal demonstration of, not only one's abilities to create a beautiful backdrop, but one's conception of art and colour in three dimensions.

Things to consider when designing a garden are the colours chosen for the borders, which should be complimentary to the building, sympathetic to the daily path of the sun and be a living palette of enhancing shades.

All of the above were mentioned in great detail by Timothy Walker. He stressed how paintings by well known artists influence how we see and interpret colour. How we make our own personal choices when choosing plants and shrubs. Colour is beguiling, and has been since the first cave paintings appeared over 34,000 years ago! Although the colours used then were very limited and tended to be quite monochrome, which is a choice some of us might make when choosing a design for our herbaceous beds. Perhaps, others of us might prefer a riot of sunset colours. It's all down to personal choice, but the intent is always to create a comforting space. A place to relax, enjoy and share with friends. A backdrop to one's way of living and an interpretation of one's personality.

Mr Walker expanded, at great length, on the colour spectrum, and how we should be aware of the transition of blues, greens, oranges, etc. However, what colours we choose for plants in our gardens is intensely personal and makes a living statement about us. We can look and admire a painting by Turner, Monet, Rothko, and maybe Hockney, or any of the renowned landscape artists, and appreciate their colour combinations and pictorial content, but finally, we make decisions based on personal choice, even if that has been subliminally suggested by our interpretation of their artistic achievements.

It was a fascinating lecture and gave much food for thought for all us keen gardeners.

Gillie Macewan

Responses from 4 of our members:

Excellent and great technology..all in the comfort of our own homes. Thank you Sue & Chris

Fab talk. Did whip through slides a little speedily but the content was great. Outstanding from me! Joanna

What a brilliant lecture! So lovely for these times and delivered with such enthusiasm! Thank you for getting me started with Zoom.

Thank you for the colourful gallop, I am exhausted, our speaker Timothy is likely to be in need of a drink. Did find I got more out of it than I thought I might. Roger



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Monday 14th December 2020 at 2pm.

The Journey of the Magi: Origins, Myths and Reality - The True Story of the Three Kings. Leslie Primo

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Monday 11th January 2021 at 2pm.

Photographic Odyssey: Shackleton's Endurance Exhibition Captured on Camera. Mark Cottle

Many know the dramatic story of Ernest Shackleton's third expedition in 1914 to Antarctica. How the ship Endurance was trapped and eventually crushed by pack of ice. How the men were forced to camp on the ice on Elephant Island for over 5 months and how Shackleton sailed over 800 miles to get help.



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Hunstanton & Saxon Shore Benefice announcement

It is with great delight that we are able to announce that we have made a Team Vicar appointment this week.

We rejoiced in receiving five applicants for our post and following interviews this week, conducted on Zoom, it was unanimously decided that we had found the person that God is calling to join us in The Hunstanton and Saxon Shore Benefice.

Subject to DBS clearance we will be welcoming The Reverend Kirsty Allan to our benefice.

Kirsty is from Wilmslow in Cheshire where she has been servicing her curacy.

Her big smile, enthusiasm for our area and her love of The Lord made her stand out as God's choice to be the first Team Vicar for our benefice.

Timings for her move to Brancaster will be worked out in the coming weeks.

For now we ask that you would hold Kirsty and her family in your prayers as they leave their present Church family and prepare to join ours.

Hunstanton and District Inner Wheel

Sue Trewin, Club Correspondent

This month's article is made up of little snippets which I hope you will enjoy.



A number of you will have been watching the BBC coverage of the Remembrance service and Rotary and Inner Wheel were represented by Val Garner who laid wreaths on behalf of the two groups.

Inner Wheel meetings have been put on ice for now, but like items in our freezers, they can be defrosted and enjoyed when appropriate. However we are busy assembling a Christmas hamper for Baby Basics or should I say a baby bath full of items for new born babies which will be delivered in time for Christmas.

An update on takings for the Macmillan coffee morning- we raised £395, an increase on the figure quoted last month.

One of our members, Debbie Peel has been very busy pickling onions! I would like to share with you a poem I discovered which I feel goes well with the picture.

Why don't they make pickled onions square
Why are they always round?
When I put my fork in the jar All I get out is the vinegar, Grab 'em, stab 'em
They're nowhere to be found,
Oh why don't they make pickled onions square
Why are they always round?



This time of year shops begin to stock up on advent calendars, some better than others. I would like to share with you a picture of what I consider to be one of the best, made by June Sexton, an Inner wheel member, for her daughter who lives in France. It is truly a masterpiece. Lucky daughter I should say!

I do hope Christmas will enable us to regroup with family and friends but in the meantime, keep calm and carry on.



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Hunstanton Lifeboat Station

Geoff Needham

As the summer drew to an end and weather conditions changed, although there were a lot of visitors to the area, the number of incidents that required our crew to launch dropped, we had a few calls that were resolved before we launched or before the crews reached the area. Due to the present crisis, along with everyone, the RNLI has closed all Stations and shops. We are still operating as the Charity that saves lives at sea, our crews will still respond to calls for help. We ask that people stay at home, and help save our NHS. Unfortunately the Armistice parade did not take place this year, Monday 11th at 11 O'clock the station was represented at the Cenotaph by Brian Penty who laid a Wreath along with others who gathered to pay their respects.

Tuesday 20th October at 5.30 p.m. UK Coastguard requested launch of Hunstanton RNLI Hovercraft to assist local coastguard to retrieve a dog that had run away from its owner on Heacham beach towards Snettisham, dog was caught by local coastguard team, Hovercraft transported team and dog back to the beach at Heacham, and was reunited with its owner. H. W. 9.45. p.m. Wind. S.W. 1. Weather cloudy. Vis. Mod. Sea state calm

On Thursday 22nd October at 2.45pm UK Coastguard requested the launch of the Hunstanton RNLI Hovercraft in response to reports of four people stranded on the Trial Bank off the River Nene.

Hunstanton RNLI Hovercraft volunteer crew launched on service and proceeded to the area. The four persons, one adult male and three teenage girls, had gone for a walk out on the marshes and had found themselves in difficulty due to the muddy terrain and had made it to the Trial Bank for refuge. They informed UK Coastguard of their predicament and requested assistance. The Hovercraft, with some difficulty, managed to navigate the network of gullies and muddy terrain, and the four were taken onboard the hovercraft and landed at the Lighthouse at Sutton Bridge into the care of the local coastguard response team. The Hovercraft returned to station arriving back a very muddy craft, after a very long service, at 8pm.

Whilst this was going on a man and his daughter came to the boathouse and informed a member of the crew that his wife had fallen and suspected she had broken her ankle. The daughter was left in the care of the boathouse, while a crew member accompanied the gentleman back to his wife. She was located nearer to Holme. The local



coastguard response team were alerted and the lady was transported by the coastguard to an ambulance waiting at Holme and taken to the QE Hospital in Kings Lynn. HW 11.13pm Wind. SW 3. Weather Sunshine/cloud. Vis. Mod. Sea state slight.

Margaret Bullen MBE President of Hunstanton Lifeboat Guild a very strong supporter of the station has sadly passed away, aged 96. Margaret and her husband Geoff started the annual sandcastle competition held on the beach in front of the station, sadly it had to be cancelled this year due to the present crisis. Looking through some photos of the sandcastle event, I've enclosed a picture of Margaret awarding a prize to a young girl a winner in her age group, taken 10 years ago, Salty Sam our mascot looking on. Hopefully the sandcastle competition will be held next year a fitting tribute to a wonderful lady. Margaret was awarded the MBE for her services to the RNLI, she worked tirelessly to support and organise fund raising, when she visited the station on a Sunday morning, she would hand out kit-kats to members of the crew. A lovely lady and it was a real honour to have met her. A former Bletchley Park wartime code breaker. It was only in recent years that we were made aware of her work. Our condolences to Andy and Jane; Hunstanton RNLI is indebted to your Mum and Dad for all the support they gave since the station reopened in 1979. Thank you.

New Life

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

As Christmas approaches our thoughts turn to a variety of things. This year especially may be different for many people, with Covid still with us. Some people will probably be on their own for the first time. There are those people on their own for whom a visit from a family member living many miles away would be very special. For some there will be the conflict between the need to prevent infection spreading and the social gatherings that happen for many of us at this time of year.

But there is one constant that remains. Christmas celebrates Jesus being born. It is not his birthday – nobody knows the month he was born never mind the exact day. But it is a time when that one birth, celebrated at the end of the old year, brings hope for the new one coming. Soon after we will see the spring flowers start to show and the promise of a whole new cycle of life on earth about to begin.

Many Christmas cards celebrate the birth of Jesus with scenes from the biblical account. Pictures that attempt to portray the birth scene in a stable – probably no more than a cave in a field behind the inn – or the angels appearing to the shepherds, or the three kings following a new star to the place of Jesus birth.

But the baby born in the stable, greeted by the angels, the shepherds and the kings, did not stay a baby. He grew to become an adult. But because he was also Son of God he lived such an exemplary life, and taught such radical teaching that the religious leaders opposed him and eventually sought to have him murdered. He had come with a purpose – to live the life we could not live and to die the death that would pay the price for our sin, that is for every time we fail to show love to one another. He told one of the leaders – Nicodemus – 'You must be born again' and explained that in the same way we have physical birth, so we must also have a spiritual birth. When a baby is born it takes its first breath – that is its physical birth, but there is also a moment at which we need to take a spiritual breath - that is being born of the spirit.

And we leave behind the certainty of death and we take on the promise of eternal life with the Lord. Yes, unless we are here at the prophesied end of the world when he returns, we have to go through the dying process; but our ultimate destination is not eternity without him, but eternity with him.

I pray that as we celebrate the joy of Jesus' birth this Christmas, you will also know the hope that springs from being born again into new life.

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Christmas – a ray of hope

The true message of Christmas with peace and joy to the world is especially welcome, a ray of hope now, and expectancy of good for all mankind.

"It's time to look forward" the travel advert on the TV said. How true – to look forward to certainty, positivity and joy in this present time. In short, heaven; - away from the daily doses of news that can seem negative and despondent. How can we find this heaven? Is it a holiday abroad, material gifts or more than this, - as a sense of security, hope and peace? This heaven, this Kingdom of Heaven, we already have, as "It is within" Jesus assures us. It doesn't come from observation; therefore each of us already has this concept of good. We can obtain this heaven by holding onto what is good and positive in our thinking, since God is good and more powerful than anything else. Our Christmas, no matter how we have to spend it, can be an event of joy, peace and above all, hope.

Further information on the worldwide Christian Science church can be found at www.christianscience.com. Due to the current situation, Hunstanton Church has temporarily suspended church services. Please check our Facebook page for information on the resumption of services. Christian Science services are currently available online. Please go to www.spirituality4.me to find live-streamed services around the UK, along with other online events, talks and webinars. An online shop is also available where you will find books, CDs and many other resources. Follow us on Facebook to find out more about our church.

We can't cancel Christmas

There has been much talk about Christmas being cancelled this year and whilst the ways we celebrate Christmas may be cancelled or curtailed due to coronavirus restrictions Christmas can't be cancelled as these restrictions weren't in place 2000 years ago when Jesus Christ 'became flesh and lived amongst us'

1. Judea was not in lockdown and therefore there were no travel restrictions and so Joseph and Mary were able to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem.
2. There were no restrictions on inns and hospitality venues. People were able to mix freely with people from other households from different areas - so much so that the inn was full and Joseph and Mary had to be put up in a stable.
3. The innkeeper was able to do this as he had sufficient staff on the premises to check that they were ok - he did not have to furlough them.
4. Joseph was able to be present during the whole process of Mary's labour and Jesus' birth. He did not have to stand worrying outside.
5. There were no restrictions on choral singing - and therefore the angels were able to sing God's praises and inform the shepherds of the good news of the birth of the King of Kings.
6. There was no 'rule of six' - therefore the group of shepherds could all go together to visit the Holy Family in the stable.
7. There were no quarantine regulations for international travellers - therefore the three Wise Men were able to visit and bring their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

The good news of Jesus' birth was the dawn of a new beginning - and God's love for us is the same - yesterday, today and forever - especially at this difficult time.

This Christmas is going to be hard for all of us as we can't celebrate in the way we normally do. But please do not talk about Christmas being cancelled. The heart of Christmas is very much alive in our lives and in our faith.

At the time of writing we are still in lockdown with no idea of what restrictions will be in place at Christmas. Things will be very different for us all this year especially at The Salvation Army where it is unlikely our band will be carolling and there is unlikely to be any carol singing. However, we are still available to anyone who is in need so if you or anyone you know is in need of a Christmas food parcel or if a family is in need of toys for children please get in touch.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year. God Bless

Alison Kirby, Corps Leader, Snettisham Salvation Army

Alison.Kirby@salvationarmy.org.uk 01485 579079

UNION CHURCH

IS CHRISTMAS CANCELLED?

In a recent article in a newspaper, bemoaning all the things that probably won't happen this Christmas, it spared a thought for the Nativity story – the wise men would face a travel ban, the shepherds would be furloughed (it didn't mention what would happen to the sheep), and the innkeeper would have to shut up after a slump in bookings.

Fortunately there was not a pandemic raging through the country when Jesus was born, but as we read the Nativity story, we can see how chaotic a world it was, what with the Romans ordering everyone to return to their home town to be counted in a census. God's Son, Jesus, was born into a world of rules and regulations, but God did not cancel His plan just because it was a difficult time in history. We can still celebrate the Christ in Christmas this year, even though rules may prevent some of our usual activities. Maybe by taking away some of the busyness of Christmas, we will have time to appreciate the Nativity story more, when Jesus came into our world to the fanfare of angels (no working at home for them)!

With Every Good Wish for a Peaceful and Blessed Christmas,

Janet Brown

Hunstanton & the Saxon Shore

Dear Friends,

I have been pondering on what I could write for this last article of 2020 and there is much that could be said. However I want to concentrate on looking forward with hope to not only the last month of this year but the one in which we celebrate a most precious event for Christians.

Christmas is precious because it is when we remember with joyful thanks the birth of the one who will ultimately give us true peace and real joy. In his life Jesus was given many names and one of them was 'Light of the World'. On Christmas Day morning we hear the Bible Reading from John 1 and verse 5 is particularly powerful 'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.' We might think that there is darkness all around but Jesus was born so that the darkness will not overwhelm us. Jesus was born to bring us light and hope.

In the account of Jesus birth we hear of an amazing guiding star that led men from distant places to come and worship Jesus. They didn't go all that way for a holiday they came because they knew that this child was someone special, they came to give not just precious gifts but also their worship. The star that guided them was so unique and it's sight so compelling that these strange looking characters from different countries were drawn by the light. They followed and were given a glimpse of the Light of the World!

This Advent and Christmas will be very different and I suspect many of us will feel the need for guidance at this time. May I encourage you to do your own searching for Jesus, The Light of the World this year.

I am also going to challenge you to put a star in your window this Advent, take a photo and you, or a family member, can post it to social media and use #GuidingStar to join with others celebrating Jesus' birth. May you all know the light of hope in your lives this Christmas and always. Let's fill our windows with light and hope!

With my prayers for a blessed Christmas whatever it may look like this year.

Rachael

Please see the Hunstanton and Saxon Shore Benefice website for December and Christmas services. Notices will also be posted at all Churches. <http://www.saxonshorebenefice.co.uk/>



Stanhoe & Barwick WI

We began the year in good stead, as usual, with 29 members, a programme of varied speakers and a plan of visits, lunches and teas for the year. We held meetings in January, February and March, learning about acupuncture, Norfolk village signs and life in Bangladesh, the latter being an Open Meeting, to which we welcomed 29 visitors

In March the global Coronavirus pandemic reached us and restrictions placed upon movement and gatherings meant that all our meetings from April for the rest of the year were cancelled, as were all outings.

Members kept in touch to check on one another's welfare, offering support wherever possible or, simply, a chat. In the main, we were forced to turn the technology to keep information flowing, using email and Facebook, whilst also posting information to those members not online.

During March 2020, we learned of the death of member Chloe Dinwiddy. Formerly of Docking WI, Chloe was with us for several years, serving as Programme Secretary for some of this time.

In April 2020, member Frances Ulyatt commemorated 30 years with the WI; unfortunately, she has yet to be presented with her certificate.

To celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE Day in May, we invited members to enjoy an afternoon tea, in their own garden, and to send us photographs.

When restrictions began to ease from June onwards, the committee started meeting again, as a group of six and outside. The foremost consideration was how we could meet again as a whole WI, bearing in mind the guidelines issued by National WI and the government.

To help gauge the opinions and feelings, a questionnaire was composed and, in August, committee members began to telephone members. The results showed that a large majority of the membership was happy to meet outside; a smaller majority was prepared to meet at a local venue for tea and half would consider meeting in the Reading Room.

As a result, on 1st September, we held our first get-together since March. Members were invited to a 'bring your own' coffee and cake (and chair) on the playing field in Stanhoe. Thirteen members came and two prospective new members. We sat in a circle, socially dis-



tanced, and enjoyed chatting to those we had not seen for months. It was a little chilly, but everyone relished the opportunity to meet after so long.

The committee then decided to restart meetings indoors from 1st October, having undertaken a risk assessment to ensure we could adhere to all guidelines. However, our plans were scuppered the very next day, when government rules for meetings tightened, resulting in confirmation from the National WI that WIs would no longer be allowed to meet in groups of more than six, either indoors or outdoors.

With no other choice, the committee decided to plan regular get-togethers in groups of six. Tea was held in the garden of our secretary and afternoon tea was taken at a local tearoom. Further such meetings and walks were planned, but the beginning of November brought a second national lockdown, meaning we can not meet before December, at the earliest.

We have made efforts to record this tumultuous year for our archive. Members have provided photos and comments of life during lockdown; amongst other things, we have recorded what we missed, what we didn't miss at all, things we had never done before and how we coped without family on special days.

After our successful centenary year in 2019, this year has been all the more disappointing. However, we end 2020 with plans to meet whenever we can and keeping in touch with one another when we can't. We even have one new member and more in the wings, awaiting better days, as do we all.

Search for missing windsurfer called off

The search for Chris Bamfield who went missing off the coast at Hunstanton on Saturday afternoon (14th November) was called off on Monday 16th following witnesses indicating he had entered the water and the discovery of a red and white sail and a windsurfing board, which have been identified as Chris's.

CCTV footage shows Chris parking his car near the Sailing Club and carrying his windsurfing equipment to the beach. The car was found where Chris had left it, still locked with personal belongings inside.

Temporary Superintendent for King's Lynn and Breckland, Lou Provart, said: "Unfortunately, despite extensive local searches, Mr Bamfield hasn't been located.

"Dedicated search teams including dog units, HM Coastguard rescue teams, the RNLI and Norfolk Lowland Search and Rescue have been working over the weekend and into yesterday to try to find Chris, as we've grown increasingly concerned.

"We are all aware of the unpredictable nature of the sea, and it's likely that Mr Bamfield would have been exposed to the poor weather on Saturday while windsurfing.

"Despite the best efforts of all involved in the search to find him, it is tragically most likely that Mr Bamfield has at some point got into difficulty in the water.

"This is obviously a very distressing time for Chris's family, who we have been in regular contact with throughout the investigation, and we thank them for their cooperation and patience during the investigations of the emergency and search and rescue services."



Welcome guests

As the winter season sets in, it's time to focus on making your home warm and comfortable, writes West Norfolk Glass' managing director Geoff Parker

Happy Christmas! Let me be among the first to wish you season's greetings in a year that has been anything but predictable. As I write, there is still a rule of six in place and, for some of us, our plans may still be fluid for the Big Day.

One thing we have had in recent months is plenty of time to reflect on our home space. As you prepare for the festivities, you may be putting up a tree, lights and a wreath, but as you hang the decorations take the opportunity to have a good look at your windows and doors. Do they still look the part and do a good job of keeping the cold out? Could they do with a New Year makeover?

Hopefully we will be able to welcome our nearest and dearest to our homes over the holi-days, but ensure that all of your house guests are only the ones you invite, with good security in place. At West Norfolk Glass, all of our front doors are fitted with Police-approved Ultion locks which go into lockdown if tampered with by an intruder, and come with a £1,000 guarantee.

If you are considering home improvements in 2021, I would strongly urge you to choose products carefully and to work with a local, well-established double glazing company such as ourselves. Two national companies were rebuked by the industry watchdog this autumn for misleading and mis-selling practices.

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From our family to yours, I wish you an enjoyable festive period and a positive start to 2021. If we are able to help you with your plans,

please do get in touch and we look forward to making your home a warm, safe place to enjoy.

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The Sunday obligation remains suspended for the foreseeable future and people are advised not to go to Mass if they have any symptoms, however mild, or anyone who is shielding or vulnerable. The Sunday Masses are at 9am at Mountbatten Road, Dersingham and 11am at Sandringham Road, Hunstanton and there is a limit on the amount of people allowed in.

Daily Masses are at 10am at Hunstanton Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and 10.15am at Dersingham Wednesday. There are quite a few changes to the way Mass will be celebrated and people should be guided by the stewards.

Our Christmas Masses will hopefully be as follows; Christmas Eve at Dersingham 6pm, Christmas Day at Hunstanton 10am. The Christmas Masses will be ticket only to comply with Government guidelines regarding social distancing. Please see our parish website for further information and updates and how to get your tickets. Website: www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org Email: parish@hunstantoncatholicparish.org The Parish telephone number is 01485 534675.

If you require a Priest urgently please telephone V. Rev Canon Peter Rollings on 01553 772220 or email; parishpriest763@gmail.com

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A photograph of a restaurant interior. In the foreground, a long wooden bar with a dark metal railing runs across the frame. Behind the bar, several high-top stools are visible. The background features a large mirror reflecting the interior, a fireplace, and a window with a view of the outdoors. The lighting is warm and the atmosphere is cozy.



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Planners being political?

Town and Around's Special Investigator reports



South Wootton campaigners

Was the decision of West Norfolk Council's Planning Committee a political decision when the Knights Hill planning application was turned down in March 2019?

Cllr Simon Nash hinted that possibly this was the case at the meeting of council's Corporate Performance Panel on Armistice Day. Cllr Nash, asked the rhetorical question "How do we avoid this happening in the future." His own reply was. "The answer is very simple. Not 6 weeks after we had an election in the area". The councillor for West Winch where there are proposals for even more housing suggested that the solution to stop a repeat of the Knights Hill decision was to not have such contentious planning applications so close to an election. Unfortunately, there are time limits imposed on West Norfolk Council to determine planning applications. This makes Cllr Nash's proposal very difficult to implement.

The item was placed on the agenda of the Corporate Performance Panel by the acting Chairman, Cllr Jim Moriarty. He said his intention was to scrutinise what happened and learn how a repeat could be avoided.

Members of a Planning Committee are supposed to act in a similar role to magistrates in a court room. Magistrates are advised by the Clerk on matters of law, while Planning Committee members are advised by the Planning Department on matters of planning policy. Planning Committee members do not make policy. They may not like a policy, but they cannot change it. A Planning Committee's role is to interpret policy and base their decision on that interpretation.

The Corporate Performance Panel meeting heard one solution which came from Labour's Cllr Jo Rust, who proposed the Council should have its own town planner. This brought a not unexpected dismayed response from Assistant Director, Stuart Ashworth, who explained to the meeting that he was a qualified town planner and a member of the professional body of town planners.

Town and Around has reported previously on the Knights Hill planning proposals, and, how the former West Norfolk Council leader, refused to support reducing the number of properties for the site to a more reasonable number than 600. However, Cllr Elizabeth Nockolds revealed to the Corporate Performance Panel meeting that the site "had been discussed many, many times" with the parish council. The present Deputy Leader who had been a member of the Cabinet, and his then fellow South Wootton councillor, said she had worked alongside the parish council to try and reduce the numbers to something nearer 300 properties including making representations to the Government Inspector at the Public Inquiry. The Council Minutes for 27 November 2014 are silent on how Cllr Nockolds voted to the Amendment to reduce the number of properties for Knights Hill.

At the council meeting in November 2014, Councillor Mrs Spikings, who had been Chairman of the Local Plan Task Group which proposed the 600 properties for the Knights Hill site. Along with the former

council leader, she had rejected a proposal to reduce the number of properties allocated for the Knights Hill site to a reasonable number less than 600. In doing so she drew attention to the fact that the Plan had to positively allocate houses in the Borough was a necessary in order to find 660 per annum, the Core Strategy for which had previously been found to be sound.

Heacham councillor, Terry Parish, told the Corporate Performance Panel meeting that at the Planning Committee meeting of March 2019, his question to the Assistant Director was blocked by the Chairman of the Planning Committee, Cllr Spikings. Cllr Parish alleged that the Assistant Director was not allowed to answer his question of, "were there any planning reasons, any planning reasons at all for refusal", of the Knights Hill application. Cllr Parish went on to say "Stuart (Assistant Director Stuart Ashworth) would have answered that, but he was cut off by the Chairman." "So he didn't get a chance to say that, there were no planning reasons for refusal."

Cllr Richard Blunt, who now holds the portfolio for development at the Borough Council, told the Panel that he was a parish councillor and not a borough councillor when the Local Plan was going through the site allocation process in 2014. As with many other parish councils he opposed elements of the Local Plan. He acknowledged he was a member of the Planning Committee that unanimously voted against the Knights Hill application. A decision he found difficult, because the site was an allocated site in the Local Plan. He went on to further say that he was lobbied by many people including MPs. Going forward Cllr Blunt intimated that he would welcome a greater involvement from Norfolk Highways Authority when considering planning applications. The highways situation was one of the reasons the Planning Committee voted to refuse the Knights Hill application, but this reason for refusal was subsequently withdrawn following advice from the Council's highly experienced barrister who specialises in planning matters. Assistant Director, Stuart Ashworth, explained that while West Norfolk Council had withdrawn its highways objection others had pursued the objection using the experts the Borough Council may have engaged, but the objection could not be sustained against the developer's experts counter arguments. While external consultants cost West Norfolk Council in excess of £50,000, armed with hindsight the decision not to pursue the highways objection probably saved local taxpayers ten times as much. It was explained that the Task Group had visited every site, and had allocated a specific number of properties per site. While Knights Hill had been reduced from an original 750 to 600, other sites did not have round figures.

Cllr Blunt explained he felt it was Norfolk County Council's highways department who have the responsibility to ensure the Local Plan "is sound" as regards highways. He said he "was not sure another infrastructure study would actually help." He continued to say that there was a King's Lynn infrastructure study, and he would love to see it widened. In his report the Planning Inspector commented in paragraph 40. "I am satisfied that policies will be in place to ensure that issues relating to the implications of growth on the highway network will be satisfactorily addressed." That seems to indicate there were gaps in the evidence put forward as regards the growth of traffic on the highway network.

Government guidance on why it is important to establish a transport evidence base for Local Plans cannot be much clearer when it states. "It is important for local planning authorities to undertake an assessment of the transport implications in developing or reviewing their Local Plan so that a robust transport evidence base may be developed to support the preparation and/or review of that Plan."

Those of us who drive along the A149 from Knights Hill roundabout to the QEH roundabout might question how comprehensive was the original transport study. We know from painful experience almost any day of the year we will be sitting in a queue maybe a mile or more long. If we then have to travel to the Hardwick Roundabout, we face another queue along the bypass.

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Friday 18 December 2020	13 The Green
Saturday 19 December 2020	13 The Green
Sunday 20 December 2020	13 The Green
Monday 21 December 2020	13 The Green
Tuesday 22 December 2020	13 The Green
Wednesday 23 December 2020	13 The Green
Thursday 24 December 2020	13 The Green
Friday 25 December 2020	13 The Green
Saturday 26 December 2020	13 The Green
Sunday 27 December 2020	13 The Green
Monday 28 December 2020	13 The Green
Tuesday 29 December 2020	13 The Green
Wednesday 30 December 2020	13 The Green
Thursday 31 December 2020	13 The Green
Friday 1 January 2021	13 The Green

PLEASE BOOK IN YOUR FAMILY / SOCIAL BUBBLES WITH NO MORE THAN 6 PER BOOKING.

EARLY BOOKING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED AS A RESULT OF LIMITED AUDITORIUM CAPACITY DUE TO SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES

All seating will be socially distanced
The show will last approx 80 mins without an interval in order to reduce toilet queues
Face masks will be compulsory (unless exempt) and for children under 11 years of age
Socially distanced queuing system to enter and move around the auditorium at toilets, bars and kiosks etc
Hand sanitizer will be readily available throughout the venue

princesshunstanton.co.uk
 phone: 01485 532252

TICKETS - £15 ADULTS, £12.50 CHILDREN/CONCS, £40 FAMILY 3, £50 FAMILY 4



THE BOX OFFICE IS NOW OPEN ON MON AND THURS 10AM - 4PM, & WEDS 10AM - 1PM FOR PHONE AND OVER THE COUNTER ENQUIRIES AND SHOW BOOKINGS.

Email: boxoffice@princesshunstanton.co.uk 01485 532252

Website & Online Bookings: www.princesshunstanton.co.uk



BOOK NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT