

# TOWN and AROUND

ISSUE 206 DECEMBER 2022

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# First word



I think most people would agree that it has been a bit of a rollercoaster year for us all and as 2022 draws to a close Richard and I would like to wish you a very happy Christmas and thank you for reading Town and Around.

Naturally the magazine has a Christmas flavour but our regular features are all here too thanks to the brilliant team of contributors.

December is a busy month as you will see from the diary of events which is on the centre pages. So busy in fact that you may want to step outside in the peace of a starry evening and take in the wonder of the night sky. Turn to page 62 for some stargazing advice from Terry Parish.

David Elsey has come up trumps with a Christmas crossword that you'll find on page 61, and there's a competition to win a meal for two on page 51.

This issue has been a joy to put together and I hope that you will enjoy reading it.

With all best wishes,

## Elaine

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# The best vehicle technologies of 2022

Abigail Brown

As the year is coming to a close (I know, we're wondering where the time's gone as well!), we thought it fitting to discuss the best tech of the automotive industry so far. If you read our column in the October issue, you'll know we've also covered the introduction of self-driving vehicles and how that may impact safety - can you see the theme here?

Tech features are hugely important in today's vehicles; they affect how you interact with your vehicle, and how it reacts to what's happening around it. Here we look at some of the key automotive technologies of this year and how the driving experience has changed because of them.

## Driver assistance systems

This is an umbrella term for features like adaptive cruise control, collision warnings, reverse brake assist and cross-traffic alerts. All of these tech benefits are focused around safety and ensure you are aware of cars and obstructions around your vehicle. One of the first examples of this was anti-lock brakes, which are now standard on every new car.

## Automatic emergency braking

An essential part of safety tech, automatic emergency braking activates your car's brakes when it senses a collision is imminent, which could minimise the potential damage during an accident or even help you avoid one altogether.

## Connected apps/digital keys

Almost every car company now has an app you can download for your car, with the smartest ones letting you remotely lock and unlock the doors, check the fuel level and tyre pressure, and even remotely start the car. These apps will also display key maintenance features and you can use them to find your nearest garage, petrol station, or charge station.

Similar to contactless for card payments, to use the digital key on a phone, it would have to be held near the car door to lock and unlock it - and only your phone would have this capability.

## Teen driver tech

Something that's particularly cool is that you can now get vehicles with features aimed solely at parents with younger drivers in the house. The tech is a safeguard for new drivers, allowing parents to put certain settings in place and their mind at ease! For example, it can notify you if the car is driven over a specified speed, disable the audio if seatbelts aren't in use and can set a volume limit on the sound system. There's even a report card which will tell parents if safety systems like forward collision warnings have been triggered while your child was behind the wheel.

Of course, this is just a drop in the ocean of the technological advancements we are seeing in cars today, but it certainly gives you an idea of how much the industry has progressed in recent years.

For more automotive insights, visit [www.kbrownautoskingslynn.co.uk](http://www.kbrownautoskingslynn.co.uk)

# New play equipment installed in Ringstead

A new and exciting item of play equipment has been installed at Ringstead Playing Field.



Following the removal of the old roundabout, local resident Jay Mond-Wedd and his family at Courtyard Farm Trust initiated and have financially supported the project. Looking for something more challenging for older children and working with the Parish Council, it was decided to install Wicksteed Leisure 'Pick Up Sticks' climber.

Based on the classic game of the same name they are great fun, their non-uniform style means a different adventure every time! The Pick Up Sticks represents a great playground challenge for all older children.

Dr William Jacob, Chair of Ringstead Parish Council said: "We are very grateful to Jay and his family for their generous donation, which together with funds from the Community Infrastructure Levy made available from the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West

Norfolk has enabled the Parish Council to introduce this new and exciting item of play equipment. It complements the existing range of play equipment which includes a toddlers climbing frame, swings, slide and a series of outdoor gym equipment for youths and adults."



Dave Martin Smith cut the ribbon



Top (from left) Sue Little, Simon Lee and Debbie Rice.  
Below are Bill Jacob and Valerie Everitt. Photos: Ian Burt



# K. Brown

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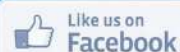
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## QEH Breast Cancer Unit benefits from 90 year-old Valerie's birthday

For her 90th birthday, Val Jubb declined cards and presents in favour of donations towards the Breast Cancer unit at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, King's Lynn. A Hunstanton resident, Val has twice had breast cancer and she received wonderful care at the Unit in the QEH. The donations from friends and family totalled £700.00.

The energetic nonagenarian attends at least two or three fitness classes each day and she has inspired many older women in Hunstanton and the surrounding area to 'get out', make new friends and keep fit, recognising that women who find themselves on their own through loss, also lose their confidence.

"She has encouraged and befriended so many ladies with her cheerful cajoling and example," said her friend Marie Jarvis.

To celebrate Val's 90th birthday forty six ladies, her family and friends from all the exercise classes she attends enjoyed a wonderful afternoon



tea at Briarfields, Titchwell. This was an opportunity for her friends and classmates to thank her, and for her to thank the many teachers who run the classes they attend.

Before the presentation on 7th November Val wrote to the Breast Unit saying: "I am writing to say a big thank you from my family, my partner Salvador, daughter Mandy and Granddaughter Nicola. Also, all the teachers and ladies from the Oasis fitness classes, including water Zumba,



dance studio Zumba, NIA, yoga and many other classes; Suzie Povey's fitness classes; Fiona Fretwell's Silver Swans Ballet; the U3A Yoga classes; Elliot's Balance and strength class at the Conservative Club; and friends from bowling and social clubs. We are all so grateful to you.

I celebrated my 90th birthday on 29th October and myself and two other ladies in the group have been treated by you. We have stayed fit and healthy coping well

with our treatment and having a very active and fulfilled life. I thought we would donate to the Breast Cancer Fund rather than having birthday gifts and have been completely overwhelmed by the response. My dear friends Marie Jarvis and Joy Kelly arranged a wonderful afternoon tea-party at Briarfields Hotel and as you can see from our very generous friends it was a great success raising a total of £700.00 for your Fund."

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## Local radio station launched on DAB as BBC cuts programmes

Committed to local news and broadcasting KL1 Radio based in Heacham is now available on DAB, online, app and smart speaker and presenter Jay Harrison is keen to let people know that he will be championing local music at 7 pm on Thursdays in The Cut. He said: "With the sad news that the BBC Introducing will come to an end, we celebrate the music scene in our corner of the world; let's turn 'The Cut' into the new home for local music!!!"

King's Lynn-based band, Perdon's Plan, posted: "Jay Harrison was kind enough to play 'Static Speech' last night on The Cut at KL1 Radio among so many other amazingly talented local bands!"

"We are beyond chuffed and this man isn't letting BBC Introducing let anyone down so THANK YOU!"

Founder of KL1 Richard Dix said: "We've been online for the past two years and now we are on DAB across West Norfolk with the whole team representing the best of West Norfolk."

"If you use the MyTunerRadio app you can: 1, listen to KL1 Live by searching KL1 and clicking on the cloud icon under stations, 2, listen to any missed shows on KL1 by searching KL1 under podcasts and clicking the purple icon. That will give a choice of the available shows."

A second Norfolk-based station, Radio West Norfolk, was launched on DAB at Fawkes in the Walks on 4th November.



Standing from left: Richard Dix, and Paul Baker, and seated Jay Harrison, Presenter of The Cut



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# Remembrance Sunday and the USAF 67th

John Maiden

This year's Remembrance Sunday fell on the eve of the 70th Anniversary of the USAF 67th Special Operations Squadron, because on November 14th 1952 the 67th was activated, as an Air Rescue Squadron, at RAF Sculthorpe. It is hard to believe that more than ten years have passed since RAF Flight Sergeant Mark Service contacted me, as Chairman of Hunstanton Civic Society, to ask if Hunstanton would be interested in celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the 67th. I was an elected Town Councillor at the time, and it was very pleasing to find my fellow Town Councillors working in harmony with the Civic Society in order to renew and strengthen the bond of friendship between our town - widely known as "little America" in the 1950's - and the USAF in general and the 67th in particular, for its major role in rescue operations on January 31st 1953.



The Hunstanton Civic Society's Heritage Centre has been very successful in collating information about the Floods, and on November 13th collaboration with RAF Sculthorpe Heritage Centre succeeded in shedding more light on one episode from that dreadful night. RAF Sculthorpe Heritage Centre's Curator, Ian Brown, introduced me to Jackie Hartley, the daughter of Joyce Stubbins, a Floods survivor thanks to Freeman A Kilpatrick, awarded the George Medal for saving the lives of 18 of his neighbours on



Jackie with the current Commander of the 67th, Lt Col Michael Bien



Southbeach Road.

Thanks to our archives in Hunstanton, I was able to show Jackie a picture of a children's outing to London (left) on which she was able to identify her mother, Joyce, together with Joyce's younger brother Derick, who was one of my friends at primary school. Later in the day Jackie and her husband were introduced to the current Commander of the 67th, Lt Col Michael Bien at the Sculthorpe Heritage Centre. They will meet again on the last Sunday in January 2023 when we commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Floods. Much more on that story next month.



Lt Col Michael Bien receives a framed print from Ian Brown - Nov 13 2022

More about Remembrance Sunday in Hunstanton on page 12



The procession leaves the United Services Club for the Hunstanton War Memorial



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# Hunstanton Promenade's Gem

Consistently great Tripadvisor reviews about a cafe by the sea that concentrates on home made traditional favourites, daily specials and Sunday roasts place it in the top 10% of restaurants worldwide.

Proprietor of the Hunstanton Ski Cafe and Bar, Peter Byrne, said: "We were delighted to make it to the Tripadvisor Travellers' Choice 2022 with a rating of 4.5, but we are not resting on our laurels - we are aiming for 5!"



Taking over the cafe in 2019, the opening day was the day before lockdown so the business concentrated on takeaways until they were able to serve customers in the seafront premises in early July 2020.



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Employing fourteen staff, the bright and spacious cafe is open every day. On the morning T&A visited, Allison, Alina, Thelma, Lorriane and Peter were on duty and they appear in the advert (above). Not pictured are Wendy, Ian, Sophie, Christine, Lisa, Lana, Lynda, Isla, Helen and Zara.

Live music is a popular feature in the cafe and during the winter months this is scheduled for weekends. If you fancy a traditional roast on Sunday booking is recommended as it's very popular.

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# Round the bend with Dean Baker

## Christmas by the Sea or Simple Works

Here it comes again ... there's something about Christmas by the sea, extra magic and extra cold.

It's going to be different this year for lots of reasons. We moved house at the end of October. Mrs B has already said her Christmas wish is to have all the boxes unpacked by the big day!

My advice is - keep up saving energy, don't be tempted to sit in your Christmas T shirt and shorts unless they're on over your clothes! Keep draughts at bay by

tucking curtains in behind radiators. Close the doors and use draught excluders. Ask Father Christmas for an electric blanket. It's perfectly acceptable to watch the TV wearing your coat and a hat! Every little bit helps.

If you are struggling with your bills - contact your energy supplier TODAY. Don't leave it till after the holiday, you'll enjoy it far more if you've tackled your problems!

Last but definitely not least - the great Boxing Day battery change. Sometime after lunch and

before the film, change the batteries in your smoke detector and check your carbon monoxide detectors.

You never know with Christmas, this simple wearing your coat indoors, wearing your vest in bed, making bubble and squeak from everything. This really thinking, about what you buy and eat and do...

This Christmas might, just, be the best yet

I truly hope it is.

[plombierdean@yahoo.com](mailto:plombierdean@yahoo.com)

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## Hunstanton Remembrance



Two students and their headteacher represented their school when they laid a wreath at Hunstanton War Memorial as part of the coastal town's Remembrance Service.

Year 11 Olivia Raines and Tommy Lee, who are both head students at Smithdon High School, attended the event with headteacher Amanda Gibbins, who wore medals belonging to her grandfather Horace Haynes from Ten Mile Bank who fought at the Battle of the Somme in the First World War.

Mrs Gibbins commented: "The school lays a wreath at the War Memorial every year, commemorating those who died in the two World Wars, as well as representing our thoughts being with all those who died in conflicts since then, including those from the school community."



## Round the Bend



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"It's hugely important to be involved with the local community acts of remembrance, and to remember that we stand, and have stood, alongside the community of Hunstanton for many years."

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## Appliances from seven fire stations called to Dersingham blaze

Norfolk fire crews were called to the boarded up Community Centre in Dersingham that in earlier years was a school (opposite the Feathers) on Wednesday 9th November at about 9pm. Many people will know the building as the venue for the youth club that was closed some years ago.

The Live Incident Feed from Norfolk Fire Service read: "Appliances from Sandringham, Kings Lynn North, Kings Lynn South, Heacham, Hunstanton, Massingham, Fakenham and the Aerial Ladder Platform from Kings Lynn North attended a commercial building fire on Manor Road.

"Crews wore breathing apparatus and used main jets and hose reel jets supplemented by a hydrant to extinguish the fire.

"A thermal imaging camera was used to check for hot spots.

"The stop message was received at 01:20."

On Thursday 10th the King's Lynn crew were back at the scene with the Aerial Ladder Platform damping down and photographer Ian Burt was there to record them at work.

Formerly owned by the Sandringham Estate plans for housing on the site have recently been withdrawn. Local residents have complained that the practically derelict building keeps getting broken into and the windows are broken.



## Trussell Trust fundraiser

A group of yoga students are organising an event to raise funds and awareness of The Trussell Trust Charity who provide emergency food, advice and support throughout the UK. The fund raiser will take place on Sunday 18th December 2022 at Brancaster Village Hall at 9am or alternatively you can join us online.

We will be zooming from the Village Hall, joined by yogis throughout the UK and a group in the Canary islands. We will be attempting to complete 108 Sun Salutations in one hour or as many as you possibly can. 108 Sun Salutations are traditionally practised at the Winter Solstice.

Join us on the day or sponsor and donate in our attempt to raise at least £1000.

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## Record Breaking Season for King's Lynn Town Guides

Following two poor years, due to pandemic restrictions, for town's team of Guides, King's Lynn Town Guides recorded a record number of tours and tour income for the year to the end of October, when the official tour season closed.

The aim of the Town Guides, who are all volunteers, is not only to provide informative tours of the town with its rich history and many graded buildings but also to boost tourism by encouraging more visitors to the town

The increase in tours was, in part, due to the completion in the summer of the Town Guides training course, with 15 prospective Guides receiving their badges, having completed and passed the arduous 10 month course.

With the newly qualified Town Guides adding to the team of existing Guides, it was possible to add more Historic Tours to the tour calendar, this resulting in an overall increase in both visitors and members of the local population attending the tours the total number set to exceed 1700.

The funds raised from the tours all goes towards donations to local historical groups responsible for preserving the town's proud heritage.

Although the formal Historic Tour season has closed it is still possible to book Party Tours and anyone interested in doing so should email [guides@kingslynntownguides.co.uk](mailto:guides@kingslynntownguides.co.uk)



King's Lynn Town Guide Gary Walker (far right) conducting a busy historic tour during King's Lynn's Heritage Open Day.

## What she would really like to unwrap this Christmas

Ladies, leave this page open so your other half can get it right this Christmas says Allez Chic's Cheryl Daubney.

There's a lot of pressure at this time of year to come up with the perfect gift, and ladies yearn to receive something that they'll actually like, so we thought we'd make life a little bit easier for those of you who remain confused about what to buy the lady in your life.



New this year are some fabulous kimonos by From My Mother's Garden.



Let me first assure you that we have gifts to suit every budget that are sure to bring a smile to your loved one's face. From super soft scarves made from bamboo in a wonderful range of colours paired with magnetic scarf clips that won't ruin the fabric to natural fibre sweaters and gorgeous blouses from Marble and Micha. For the office or a special occasion we have some stunning dresses that are perfect teamed with tights and boots.



Inspired by nature the designs reflect the colours of an English country garden and one of these is perfect paired with jeans and a plain top. The fabric is machine washable at 30 degrees and is quick to dry on a hanger. Also by the same brand are some pretty make-up bags that come in two sizes.

Hats, scarves, bags, trainers, boots and slippers together with jewellery and jeans are all in store too and if you are really stuck, don't forget that we have gift vouchers in £5, £10 and £20 denominations.

Lastly, don't be embarrassed. We can help you choose the perfect gift – and you really will get it right this Christmas!

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# Remembrance in Snettisham

Richard Bird

The roads were closed around the square and the parade emerged marching through the traffic-free War Memorial area in the village centre.



Led by the Reverend Dan Tansey accompanied by The Borough Council leader Stuart Dark the procession was comprised of local dignitaries and groups.

The names of those that had fallen in both World Wars were read aloud by Cllr. Garwood for the Great War and Mr Eric Langford for WW2.

The service was led by the Reverend Dan Tansey, the Salvation Army Band supported the event musically, including the sounding of the last post, they were led by lieutenant Emily Hague.

The introduction of a Shetland Pony, uniformed in a cover-all complete with a purple poppy was a novel way of highlighting the sacrifices made by animals in the First and Second World Wars. A poem dedicated to the great losses of animals was read by the animal's owner.

Young Harrison Taylor read, with a little help, the Kohima Epitaph; very moving from such a young person.

Amongst the dignitaries attending was a representative of the USAF from Lakenheath base an E8 technical Sgt from the 48th Sarah Mrac.



Hundreds attended the service of Remembrance with most taking part in the hymns, The most rousing effort was made for two verses of God Save The King by the attending masses.

All in all, a great day for the village of Snettisham.

## Borough Mayor Joins Deputy Lord Lieutenant General the Lord Dannatt in planting a tree for the Queens Green Canopy

Borough Mayor Cllr Lesley Bambridge joined with Deputy Lieutenant General The Lord Dannatt in The Walks on Sunday for the ceremonial planting of an oak tree as part of The Queens Green Canopy initiative and to also celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the formation of the King's Lynn Branch of the Royal British Legion, who organised the event.

The party were accompanied Major Bill Kerr, President of the King's Lynn Branch Royal British Legion, the Mayor's Cadets and flanked by the RBL Standard Bearers with The King's Lynn Army Cadet Force performing the Guard of Honour.

The Mayor gave the welcoming speech in which she commented on how The Queens Green Canopy initiative had proved to be such a wonderful opportunity to plant more trees and in doing so, help to improve the environment. She went on to congratulate the Royal British Legion on their Branch centenary before thanking the Parks staff for their work in maintaining the Walks in such good condition.



Those present then retired to the Trinity Guildhall, where General Dannatt presented Sgt Pamela Chapman of the King's Lynn Army Cadets with a certificate of Affiliation by the King's Lynn Branch of the Royal British Legion, which was followed by a further Certificate of Appreciation for the support provided by the Cadets during the year and in particular with this year's Poppy Appeal.

*Left: The Deputy Lieutenant General The Lord Dannatt and Borough Mayor Cllr Lesley Bambridge plant an oak tree in the Walks to mark The Queens Green Canopy. Below: Deputy Lieutenant General The Lord Dannatt and Borough Mayor Cllr Lesley Bambridge with members of the Royal British Legion, Mayors Cadets and King's Lynn Army Cadet following the presentation of Certificates to the Army Cadet Force.*

Photos supplied by Borough Civics Officer Graham Spark



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## Breast of Friends Charity Ball raises £9,000 for cancer charities

The QEH Breast Care Unit & Prostate Cancer UK each received £4,500, and amongst the attendees were people who had either been through the Breast Cancer and Prostate Cancer journeys themselves.

The fundraising event at Knights Hill Hotel in September was organised by the Breast of Friends who are a team of volunteer fund raisers some of whom have been through Breast Cancer treatment at the QEH and who wanted to show their appreciation for the treatment and care they have received from the breast care unit at the hospital.

Once again, the Breast of Friends team worked hard to organise the event, secure sponsorships and gather in some great Raffle/Auction prizes from some very generous people and organisations from the local community and some nationally recognised businesses. The Ball was attended by 172 people this year, all of whom were treated to a night of dining and entertainment, the attendees also showed their appreciation by supporting by the raffle and auction on the night which helped towards the total raised at the event. Amongst the attendees were people who had either been through the Breast Cancer and Prostate Cancer journeys themselves or indeed have had both family and friends who have, the entertainment on the night was supplied by local band Jessie's Ghost and DJ Jack Neville.



L-R Jeanette Kidd, Paul Kidd, Marie Robins, Lisa Curson, Deborah Wright, Claire Ling, Elaine Rudd & Denise Williamson. Not present Anne Merchant, Gary Merchant & David Bowman (Photo Vespa Photography)

The monies raised for both charitable organisations will go towards the purchase of equipment, help in the research and support of the ongoing treatment of patients accessing the QEH Breast Care Unit and Prostate Cancer UK, the event also tied in with another fund raising team from Pippa's Pantry at Sutton Bridge who had themselves had done a calendar girls style calendar for Prostate Cancer and some of the attendees were themselves appearing in the calendar, a number of the calendars were sold on the night benefitting Prostate Cancer UK.

A speech thanking everyone for their support was given by Jeanette Kidd on the

night, she was able to thank the team, without whom the evening would not have been a success, Deborah Wright, Claire Ling, Anne Merchant, Gary Merchant, David Bowman, Denise Williamson, Nick Williamson and Paul Kidd.

The Breast of Friends team are holding a third ball this time at Briarfield's Titchwell 2023 in an effort to raise more funds for the unit and additionally the Chemotherapy Unit at the QEH to assist in ongoing support for the fabulous work undertaken at both the units in providing care and support the local community.

## The Barking Bugle

MERRY MERRY WOOFMAS!

I have to admit I am supaw supaw excited about Woofmas this year! I have only experienced one in my short life so far but I loved it soooo much that I have been barking all about it for ages ever since.

I have been doing some research about Woofmas recently and I'd like to share my findings with you all. Did you know that gifts for furry friends, not just doggies, are at the top of many humans' shopping lists? Indeed, lots of humans spend more of their hard earned money on their pets than they do for their family members or friends. Many humans say they give their doggy more pressies than anyone else. And so they should because we totally deserve to be fussed over!

Humans' generosity towards their pet pooches has been going on for a very long time. Doggy pawrents receive so much love and supawt from their pets and this was particularly evident during the early days of the horrible pandemic in 2020. A lot of humans have said that their doggies helped them more than they could possibly have imagined which means we continue to be spoilt rotten! We are often treated like a member of the family, and some humans even state that they would rather be with their

doggies at Woofmas than with their own family!

There are lots of things that we doggies would love to receive from Santa Paws; for example yummy treats, soft toys, balls, a new collar, bones and chews, a special walk or even a festive dinner. Why not give us a signed Woofmas card? It would also be a great idea to give us each a stocking in which to keep all our goodies. I hope my stocking is as big and bulgy as Miss Zsa Zsa's was last year! Whatever your gift though, please please make sure that it is 'doggy safe'! I have to admit we particularly love the wrapping paper that comes with these gifts, as we adore ripping it to pieces and making a thorough mess for our pawrents to clear up. Ho ho ho!!!

We really hope all our furry friends have a truly wonderful Woofmas and get some quality goodies from Santa Paws. Whatever you are doing this Woofmas, be safe and have lots and lots of fun. Don't forget to bark your news to us along with a few piccies.

The Barking Bugle team and friends will be collecting for PACT Animal Rescue Centre outside Hunstanton Tesco on Friday, 23rd December. This is an extremely worthwhile cause and very dear to our hearts. Our pawrents always enjoy chatting about doggies



to fellow humans who have just done their shopping, and Zsa Zsa tells me she loves being stroked and made a fuss of by all the customers. Clara and I will be going for the very first time. Maybe we'll see you there?

**Big woofs Ziggy Bear,  
The Barking Bugle**

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# NEWS FROM BRANCASTER VILLAGE HALL (BVH)

Geoff Wingrove

## Pétanque

The Brancaster Community Sports Club has inaugurated the village's first pétanque court. It is interesting to note that this game had its origins in Ancient Greece; now France's 10th favourite sport, and although strongly associated with this country, pétanque is even more popular in Asia. This sporting initiative is creating a lot of excitement in the village, and the Club has received a number of generous offers to help with classes and competitions. Watch this space!

## Christmas Draw

The Christmas Draw will be held on 16th December, with funds raised to be divided between BVH and the church: tickets on sale at the shop and Bar 71.

## Other dates for your diary

- 10th December: Santa's Grotto
- 15th December: "Thumbelina" performed by the Norwich Puppet Theatre for Brancaster School
- 16th December: Live music with Sidewalk
- 17th December: Christmas Bingo

For all details, along with further information on the regular groups at BVH, please visit our website: [www.brancastervillagehall.co.uk](http://www.brancastervillagehall.co.uk) and for enquiries: [brancastervillagehallcommunitybookings.co.uk](http://brancastervillagehallcommunitybookings.co.uk)

## FROM THE BRANCASTER VILLAGE HALL ARCHIVE: THE HISTORY OF BRANCASTER SCHOOL – PART TWO: 1939 TO THE PRESENT DAY

Strangely, very little is recorded about the school during either of the Great Wars. However, it is known that, during the Second World War, soldiers manning the local defences were billeted at the Dormy House Hotel and airmen looking after the high level radar station based on Barrow common were billeted at Cross Farm. The pupils would have come into contact with the military in the village and also practised air raid precautions at the school. Rationing was introduced and clothing became scarcer; Brancaster also began to receive evacuees' children. In the village women were called upon to work the land and keep the village services going. The village had its first road and taxi, the first council houses were built and the beach was closed for the duration of the war.

Brancaster School became very different; there were over 100 children attending, the number enhanced by the closure of the boys' school in 1938. The curriculum included sewing, knitting and woodwork, along with gardening – growing vegetables – in the new school garden. There was also painting, singing, drill and nature walks. Discipline was still strict, with noise allowed only in the playground. Football was played on a field in Broad Lane, often cheered on by soldiers billeted in Dormy House.

In the 1950s electricity came to the village and running water also became available. The new council houses had indoor toilets and bathrooms, and there were more cars on the streets. In Brancaster School there were 60-70 children in three classes. The open fires became stoves and food was cooked on site. Older girls went to Hunstanton for domestic science and younger girls learned sewing and darning – practising on the Headteacher's socks.

In the 1970s and 1980s the village began to change, with lots of summer visitors. The school also saw substantial differences as Deepdale School closed and pupils moved to Brancaster; student numbers dropped with the changes to work practices in the area. The curriculum remained very broad – many pupils reported that they enjoyed their time at the school. The school house was sold and the school acquired a playing field.

The 1990s and 2000s saw enormous changes in the village, with many more holidaymakers and holiday and second homes, many more cars and only one village shop. The fortunes of the school fluctuated,

with numbers meaning two or three classes. The school fought off a bid to close it, and a school uniform was established. Swimming lessons were brought in, along with school trips and activity weeks: the National Curriculum was introduced. The classrooms were reconfigured to be more equal in size, and school dinners were delivered by taxi.

So, finally, we come up to date. The village remains a tourist hotspot and the number of holiday and second homes has increased. The village hall has been renovated and extended, and the shop and Post Office reintroduced. The school remains a central focus of the village and, with the closure of Sedgeford School, has acquired more pupils. It has become an Academy, joining the family of church schools across the Diocese.

The school continues to provide a caring environment in which the children are valued, and staff continue to strive to give them the best learning experience. The first picture shows senior pupils of the school in 1948 and the second the whole school in 1974.



Across: 1. Aladdin, 5. Allowed, 9. Robin, 10. Paper hats, 11. Coming year, 12. Opa, 14. Frankincense, 18. Pillow-fights, 21. Rack, 22. Dyspeptics, 25. Barcarole, 26. Infra, 27. Due date, 28. Suspended  
Down: 1. Arrack, 2. Albums, 3. Dining room, 4. Nippy, 5. Appearing, 6. Lord, 7. Wrapping, 8. Desalted, 13. Acute pains, 15. No-fly zone, 16. Spare bed, 17. A la carte, 19. Rifle, 20. Island, 23. Peeps, 24. Saga

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# Pride in our Neighbourhoods 66

Andrew Murray

Most changes to the use of land require planning permission. Applications for development or change of use need to be submitted to the Local Planning Authority which for this area is BCKLWN. Under delegated authority, a decision may be made by the planning officers to permit the development or to refuse it. For the larger scale proposals or where the views of the planning officers differ from those of the parish council, the application will be considered by the planning committee and that consists of 18 elected members assisted by officers.

When the officers or committee are considering an application they are guided by the rules of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the Local Plan (LP) as well as any Neighbourhood Plan that is in force. The current local plan consists of both the Core Strategy (CS) which was adopted in 2011 and the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies (SADMP) adopted in 2016. The Borough has been working on a new version of the LP since 2016, they held a consultation period in 2019 during which landowners, developers and other interested parties were able to put in submissions. The draft plan together with the submissions were sent to the planning inspectorate in March 2022. Two planning inspectors have been appointed to examine whether the plan is 'sound'. They have sent the Borough an initial set of questions in order to try to clarify some of the policies and the supporting evidence.

The inspectors are to hold 8 days of public hearings at the South Lynn Community Centre, 10 St. Michael's Road, King's Lynn PE30 5HE commencing at 10.00 am on Tuesday 6 December. In the first week, the hearings are on the 6, 7 and 8 December covering the legal requirements, the borough wide spatial strategy, the economy and transport before moving on to the allocations in and around King's Lynn. During the 10 to 12 January 2023, the policies relating to Hunstanton, Downham Market and the Wisbech Fringe will be considered followed by those of the Key Growth Service Centres and then those applicable to the rural areas. In the third week 25 to 27 January, housing land supply, community, cultural and environmental policies will be examined. Plans will be judged to be 'sound' if it can be shown that they have been positively prepared (ie promote sustainable growth), justified, effective and consistent with national policy. Members of the general public are able to attend and watch the proceedings but only those people who have submitted representations will be allowed to participate in the discussions.

I made observations or representations on 28 matters on behalf of the Hunstanton & District Civic Society and the Hunstanton Town Council in 2019. Because things have moved on in the past 3 years, I am checking with the two organisations whether they still support the representations and whether they would wish to elaborate on any of them. Now is the time to try to put right any anomalies such as the



variety of occupancy restrictions in the area of South Beach Road. There seems to be a clear need in the North West Norfolk area for local people to be able to find housing that is suitable and affordable. None of the policies in the NPPF or draft Local Plan enable the planning committee to find valid reasons to refuse applications for homes that are too large and expensive for the needs of local people and inappropriate for the area. The mere number of homes that are built does not necessarily equate with meeting the need. For a local community to retain its viability and not be swamped by second homes, a restriction that new homes should only be occupied by people who will use them as their principal residence could apply once the proportion of second homes in that parish reaches a threshold of perhaps 20%. This could be a Borough wide policy and not dependent on individual neighbourhood plans coming into force. In Hunstanton the Hopkins Homes and the Bennett Homes opposite Old Town Way were in the SADMP allocations but developments on the Southend Road car park, the Kit Kat, the bus station, the Isherwoods site at the bottom of Oasis Way, the former Infant School and the Witley Press site were not included in the SADMP and are regarded as windfall sites. This means that the allocations are a very poor reflection of how much development is likely to take place and that the LP fails to present an overall picture.

Readers may like to explore the library of 113 documents on the Borough Council's web-site. It can be found here: [https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20079/planning\\_policy\\_and\\_local\\_plan/951/local\\_plan\\_review\\_2016-2036\\_examination](https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20079/planning_policy_and_local_plan/951/local_plan_review_2016-2036_examination)



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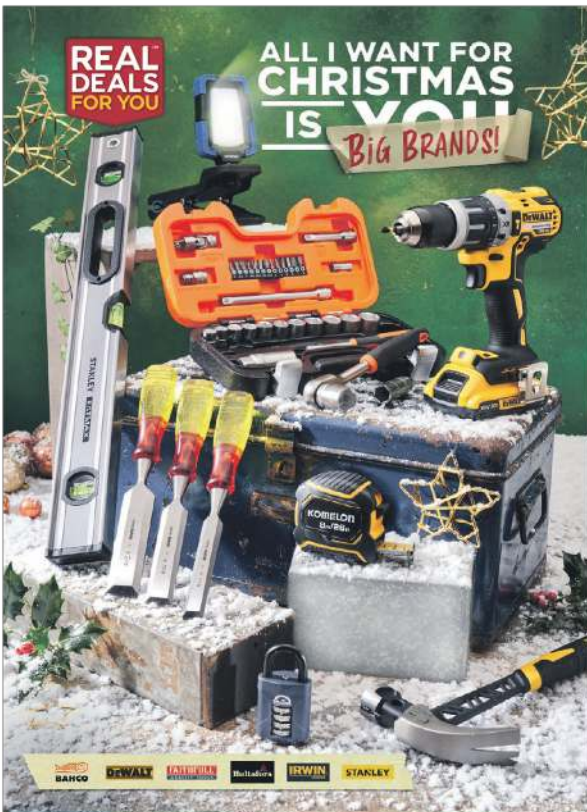
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Food: 12 Noon-9pm / Bar: 11am-11pm
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## Borough Council News - Heacham, Sedgeford and Fring

### Terry Parish

First, Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year, may it be more settled than the last.

The last month has been a mixed bag. Many planning applications have apparently stalled awaiting more information or an officer free to make a recommendation. Recruitment of planners remains a problem.

The theme of the most significant plans is tourism. There are applications to convert agricultural buildings to holiday accommodation in Heacham and in Fring. There is an appeal against refusal of an extended caravan site in Heacham. And, applications for a touring caravan site, glamping pods and a campsite either side of Lamsey Lane near the junction with the A149. The latter two are associated with Wild Ken Hill.

Such applications can cause a dilemma. The residents of Heacham said, quite clearly, that there was quite enough tourist accommodation and they wanted no more. The Neighbourhood Plan thus places restrictions on where and how development can take place. Around half of the residents of Fring don't want any more either – 'It is becoming something like Centre Parcs'.

The Borough Council likes tourism – it brings in money. However, there is a little concern and a working party is being set up though this will likely investigate ways of encouraging

tourists to visit throughout the year (correct me if I am wrong but I think most residents like a rest). This group of councillors and officers will also consider a Tourist Tax, a sum of money for each night spent in accommodation.

It should be noted that many busy tourism areas in the country are considering ways to restrict visitors rather than encourage more. The impact of numbers on local services, infrastructure and assets such as buildings and footpaths is, apparently, becoming detrimental to residents. (Discuss).

Nothing more has emerged about the poor sea water quality in the Wash, specifically off Heacham beaches. Promised meetings were cancelled and I await confirmation of new dates.

A meeting dedicated to things along the East Coast and The Wash talked a lot about groynes, those things that stick out into the sea to hinder sand being moved along the coast by waves and tides. Apparently, some of those in Hunstanton and Heacham are of unusual construction. The conclusion, by technical officers, was that the groynes did very little as evidenced by the lack of sand piling up on one side of them. Consequently, replacement would, overall, be a waste of resources.

There was another meeting about the Wash called by an organisation called Portevo. They

have resurrected the idea of creating a barrier across the Wash from West Norfolk to Lincolnshire and putting a road on it. The material would come from dredging the Wash at the location for a new port. I don't mind saying that I think it daft. Pollution, storm surges, and ecology could be listed as a few of the reasons against it.

The solar farm application at Sedgeford got refused principally due to the loss of agricultural land. Such applications are being met with resistance across the country as people have realised vast swathes of farmland and countryside could be covered with panels. Food supply for our expanding population will be a worry in a few years. And solar panels are most effective in the summer when we export electricity, they do little for winter shortages. France has a different idea, all carparks there have got to have roofs with solar panels on top from next year. They have more farmland than us but they don't want to lose any.

Standards in public life are, too frequently, parliamentary news items. Such matters also occur at Borough, Town and Parish level too. The Borough has a monitoring officer whose job includes investigation of complaints and has a standards committee to consider those councillors referred to it. There is a list of sanctions which can be applied or recommended. The



whole process can be very slow. I made a complaint in March 2021 which is still active. However, things will improve with the appointment of additional legal support to the Borough rather than relying on sub-contracting the work out. A very significant standards complaint about a town councillor was resolved and made public in November and you may have read about it by now.

I use local suppliers and shops whenever I can and have never been let down by the goods or the service provided. Prices are competitive and there are no travel costs. As we enter yet another 'crisis' remember the old adage, 'use it or lose it'. Have a break from Internet shopping and delivery vans and see what is available close to home.

And Last. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year again. May all developers be beneficent and not pursue matters which distress neighbours.

### PLEASE NOTE:

The copy date for the January 2023 edition of T&A is 6th December 2022 to accommodate for Christmas holidays

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"While we were living in St Neots and

working throughout Cambridgeshire we were holidaying here on a regular basis and it was always our aim to live and work in West Norfolk."

Now based in Docking, A T Plumbing and Heating is ideally located to service west Norfolk and the north Norfolk coast and they have built up a loyal customer base gaining five-star reviews for their work.

Customers started asking Adrian to recommend a other trades and the couple realised they could create a team of trusted trades who could work together.

Michaela says: "Lockdown presented opportunities for us to widen the scope of the business and add on our maintenance services.

"Adrian had already established a network of reliable tradespeople that he could call on to work with him on projects so we've established Norfolk Coast & Country Property Maintenance so our

customers can depend on our team to complete the whole project."

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## Hunstanton Eyecare blog

This month you are having a rest from me! Francis Donaghy is our Principle Optometrist and has kindly volunteered to write the article, he is telling us all about cataracts, very common for most of us. And as my Smart Meters have been fixed, I don't have any sagas to tell you about!



### Cataracts- What are they, when do we refer and how they are dealt with.

As an eye care practitioner, one of the questions I get asked routinely is- Are cataracts genetic? The simple answer is No. Cataracts are developmental changes which happens due to a variety of factors, including Age (Everyone over 65 will have cataracts), over exposure to UV light (hence why we suggest good UV protection for sunglasses and spectacle lenses), diet and general health aspects. Cataracts don't "grow" but develop, producing less light hitting the macula and retina.

Referral criteria include reduction in general vision, ie when they impair vision for Driving and Safety, imbalance between the eyes from a refractive point of view, and when they are an encumbrance upon the patient's lifestyle. The most notable of these is glare produced by the internal lens. We, as eye care practitioners, use the driving standard of 6/12, and our clinical commissioning group (CCG) suggest this as the basis for referral.

When we refer, we send your form electronically, and securely, from an NHS email address, so we don't compromise your personal details. The electronic form is sent to a central office. Prior to this, we discuss what options are available to you. There is the traditional NHS pathway, using the local Hospital Eye Service Department. We are lucky to have private companies offering community ophthalmology services, such as cataract surgery. We, at Eye Care Norfolk, pride ourselves on independence, and therefore we do not have a retainer, or get any fee, from these private companies.

You will be contacted to go to one of your local centres, for a Pre-Op assessment, where they assess your eyes for suitability for surgery. The one big thing that the specialists look at is how healthy your maculae is. If your macula is healthy, prognosis of a good visual outcome is highly expected. How do we know how healthy your macula is- OCT scans of course! This is partly why we encourage each and every person to have an OCT scan performed.

Day of surgery- the pupil is dilated, and possibly some anaesthetics are applied. A surgeon requires a large "hole" for them to conduct surgery, hence dilating drops. To gain access to the anterior chamber, they use a small 5mm blade to cut into the eye. This is why anti-bacterial drops are given, to protect your eye from infection. Use them! The lens is removed and a clear lens inserted. An hour after you get up from the table, your vision should be a lot clearer.

4 to 6 weeks after surgery, it is suggested to have your visions checked, your eyes examined and new glasses prescribed. Trust me, unless multifocal implants are used (Never in the NHS), then you will need spectacles for reading at least. You may benefit from a distance correction too. But speak to your friendly eye care practitioner for further advice.

I hope that this article goes some way to debunk some of the myths regarding what a cataract is, what happens to the referral, and post surgery process.

Fun Fact, Cataract is the Greek word for Water Fall.

Thank you Francis.

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

**Annette and All the team at Hunstanton Eyecare.**

## From the Mayor of Hunstanton

Cllr Maureen Howard

Another year will shortly be at an end. A year that has been less dominated by the pandemic as previously, as we hope that the coronavirus has at long last been contained if not defeated.

Life has not returned to normal though and this year has seen several changes. In June the country celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee the first British monarch to ever celebrate one, but at the forefront of 2022 was the death of Her Majesty the Queen on September 8th. Her son, King Charles III has now succeeded her to the throne, and we move into a changing future, one which holds many uncertainties.

The resignation of Boris Johnson as Prime Minister, was replaced by Liz Truss, who herself resigned just 50 days after taking office making her the shortest reigning Prime Minister in UK history. She was then replaced by Rishi Sunak and shows just how turbulent and uncertain 2022 has been.

On the home front, The Helping Hands Café opened by HTC in Oct in the Community Hub at the Town Hall, has been a resounding success, thanks to the dedicated work of a team of Councillors, Council staff and Volunteers. The Café is open on Mondays between the hours of 10.00 am to 1.00 pm, and is supported by The Citizens Advice Bureau, Adult Services, The Food Bank, Local Churches, and The Wells hospital trust supermarket, all of whom are there to support and advise those who need assistance, and offers free snacks and drinks.

The Community Fridge previously situated at the Community Centre, has moved alongside the café and is open on Wednesdays between 10.00 am-12.00 pm in the Community Hub and offers not just free food which has been donated, thereby saving food wastage and landfill but also free hot drinks. Both these initiatives offer a warm space where people are encouraged to socialise with others to alleviate loneliness and isolation, in a safe environment and to enjoy a hot drink or snack all free of charge, although donations for the Mayors Charity are welcome.

The Friday Friendship Group meets on Fridays at the Hunstanton Community Centre between 10.30 am to 12.00 pm and continues to be very active. It is a great place to meet others and join in activities. Everyone is welcome to drop in and see what it offers.

Over the last few years HTC has had a Christmas Gift Appeal and collected gifts for care homes, and Children, the gifts, to be shared out at for those who need them most. This year the collection is for tinned and non-perishable foods, which will be distributed from the Helping Hands café at Christmas, for those who are in most need of help due to the current economic situation. Collection points for the food are at the Town Hall, The Community Centre and Hughes electrical store, in the High Street

In 2023 local elections will take place in May, just a few days prior to King Charles III coronation, a celebration that has not been seen in the UK since 1953, another milestone in my current term as Mayor. May will also bring more uncertainty to the members of Hunstanton Town Council with the elections, which are open to everyone and is a good opportunity for those who are interested in becoming a local Councillor to apply. It is a time-consuming commitment, but one that is also very rewarding.

As we close 2022 and move into 2023 with hope that it will be less turbulent than 2022 and that peace will be restored to those areas that are currently suffering through wars, famine and poverty, I, along with all my fellow Councillors and staff at Hunstanton Town Council would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.



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## AN OBJECT OF INTEREST FROM HUNSTANTON HERITAGE CENTRE

### JOHN MAIDEN, DO DIFFERENT - PART THREE



We now join John at a turning point in his working life when he was researching why school doesn't necessarily fulfil a child's needs. That not all education takes place in school was John's belief and it was firmly reinforced when he read R.F. Mackenzie's book 'Escape from the Classroom'.

Mindful of the University of East Anglia's motto – Do Different – and thinking outside the box, he persuaded the BBC to make a documentary on home schooling. This was part of his UEA Masters degree. The BBC actually made a half hour programme on this subject as a result of John's actions.

After his return to the classroom at St Martha's in King's Lynn, he developed another idea. Whilst escorting coach loads of pupils and parents to football games at Carrow Road in Norwich he realised how he could help to improve the experience of families attending football matches. He helped to start 'Junior Canaries' and he thought that if parents and children from a young age went together to football matches this might stop the children from becoming football hooligans later. He called this project:

Soccer As Family Entertainment – S.A.F.E.

His idea blossomed with funding which he gained from the National Dairy Council (he was not yet a vegan). It sponsored the Milk Cup. Freight Rover provided him with a Sherpa minibus. This idea worked well; for six years John promoted the scheme through schools, football

clubs and the media throughout England and Wales.

The very first Family Enclosure was opened at Wembley Stadium for the Freight Rover Trophy Final in 1985 - the very same year that Norwich won the Milk Cup!

Other family enclosures were installed at Norwich and Millwall amongst other places.

In 1989 he stepped down.

He was ready to quieten the pace of his life a bit and happily took on the job of night watchman at Docking Seal Hospital. This led to him becoming a branch co-ordinator for the RSPCA and then Education Officer for the East of England section of the RSPCA.

By now he was a fully-fledged vegan which did not sit well with the RSPCA's endorsement of 'Freedom Foods' which included meat and eggs. With a heavy heart he retired only to become a part time lecturer in Animal Care at the College of West Anglia in King's Lynn until his retirement in 2000.

Any hope of a peaceful retirement ended in 2002 when on 18th May after a huge fire all that remained of Hunstanton Pier was demolished. The damage from the blaze was estimated to be £1.5 million.

Thousands of residents petitioned against a major new development on The Green and John was convinced public opinion would win the day just as it had in the early 1970's. This was when the people of Hunstanton rebelled against plans to make the town into an all-weather resort by building a big bubble over new facilities on the sea front, following the untimely demolition of the swimming pool, the Sandringham Hotel and the railway.



On the 14th June 2002 a

planning application was submitted to build a new pier-less building right where the pier had been.

Despite public protest (the uncluttered view of the Wash from the Green was delightful), the 'Hangar' was built. However, out of the decision to forge ahead with the new proposal the Hunstanton Civic Society was formed, brought into existence by a steering committee of which John was joint chairman.

Thereafter he served on the committee for several years. He gave his time and effort networking to draw people in. He was never short of ideas and a few years ago suggested to the committee the idea of creating a Heritage Centre. The support for this project and its culmination, has added immensely to the cultural offerings of our area, providing a central place in the town for people to see all kinds of artefacts relating to history of this special corner of North West Norfolk.

All these events have had a direct effect on John's life. The fire in 2002 paradoxically enabled him to fulfil one of his ambitions – to be a journalist.

He established himself as a contributor to the Lynn News and has written the column Turnstone for the past 12 years. His regular contributions have also appeared in Hunstanton Town and Around since its launch in 2005.

"I love writing" he said. "I like to present things in a way to challenge conventional thinking."

He also believes it valuable to set events in a context. You will find in his articles references dating back to the birth of Hunstanton allowing readers to understand current events from a bird's eye perspective.

The long arm of history has a way of reaching forward as well as backwards. John's article in the Lynn News on 15 June 2022 explains how his primary school teacher Mr Lowery organised American pen pals for his class in order to help foster good relations between the two countries.

The 'Cold War' resulted in a vast number of American servicemen bringing their

families to live in our seaside town and John writes about how Hunstanton became known as 'Little America' in the 1950's

The relationship between local residents and the Americans was strengthened in January 1953 by a shared loss of life and by joint rescue efforts, which saw two American airmen awarded George Medals for their outstanding bravery.

Nearly sixty years on from this tragedy, John was contacted by the official historian of the USAF squadron which had played a major role on that fateful night and RAF Flight Sgt Mark Service wondered whether Hunstanton would be interested in hosting events to mark the 60th anniversaries of both the USAF Special Operations and the Floods. John was very much involved in all that followed in terms of maintaining and strengthening ties with the USAF 67th Special Operations Squadron (SOS).

In 2016 the 67th SOS and Hunstanton were twinned. John's idea to acknowledge the help given to Hunstanton in time of need was now made concrete and this is proclaimed on the road signs welcoming visitors to the town.

If you ask John about his approach to life he will tell you :

"Do different"

His conviction and courage to follow his own instincts whilst responding to human need has steered his life on a very particular course. The consequences have taken him down some unusual pathways. Not for him 'the road less travelled'; his travelled roads were taken with certainty. The words of the singer songwriter, Phil Lynott of Thin Lizzy

"Do anything you want to"

have been embedded in John's bold and individual thinking.

Concerned to act for the benefit of society, his actions have impacted not only those in the world of education but also the people of our town, encouraging us to reach beyond the boundaries of small thinking.

**Margi Blunden – 1st  
November 2022**

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# Hunstanton Fire Station

It's been a few months since the last update from the station and although things have thankfully quietened down from the busy summer we experienced this year, the station has still been busy and has responded to numerous call outs including making entry to properties for the Ambulance service, attending RTC's, multi-agency incidents on the cliff tops and a multi pump building fire in Dersingham during early in November.

With the arrival of winter and the inevitable colder weather we normally start to receive call outs to chimney fires. The expectation is this could be more frequent this year with the cost of gas and electricity so high, many people will be using their open fires and log burners to keep warm or opening up old unused fireplaces. To remain safe please



ensure that chimneys are swept regularly, logs and other combustible materials are not stored directly beside log burners or fires, and you regularly test fire alarms and carbon monoxide alarms.

We are actively recruiting for new crew members especially those that can provide day cover and will be holding a recruitment open morning on the 26th November, followed by hopefully further mornings in the new year. If you are interested in becoming an On Call Firefighter and are over 18 years of age and have a reasonable level of fitness and work or live within 5 minutes of the station, come along and find out more details of what's involved and what you will receive in return. More details can also be found at [www.Norfolkfirejobs.co.uk](http://www.Norfolkfirejobs.co.uk) or by contacting the Watch Manager Rigil Kent on 07452940635.

As this is the last Town & Around before Christmas, we would like to wish you all a Happy and Safe Christmas from all at Hunstanton Fire Station.

## Hunstanton Lifeboat Station news

Geoff Needham, LPO

There's only one shout to report. On 17th October at 11am the lifeboat was launched to aid a kite surfer off Hunstanton, reported to be in trouble, on arrival he had managed to get his kite airborne and made his own way ashore, crew returned to station.

Crew training and maintenance is a vital part of life at the station, and our new recruits are doing fine.

On Sunday 16th October Mick Harpley, Mike Trbbick and Bob East, members of Heacham Social Carpet Bowls, presented to the station £200. money raised by the Club. Each year they raise money for a charity, and this year they chose Hunstanton RNLI. Paul Stewart thanked them on behalf of the station.



90th birthday hamper

A big thanks to Ian and the crew for the lovely Hamper presented to me on Sunday 6th November, to celebrate my big day on the 7th Nov. Ran out of eighties started the nineties, a lovely surprise.

Sunday 11th Nov. the crew joined with others at a remembrance service, weather was nice, and a large number attended, Lee Torrice laid the wreath from Hunstanton RNLI. Its always good to see the younger generation turn out, and it was nice service conducted by Rev Rachael Dines.

Respect the water campaign and advice to Holiday makers, Tidal waters have strong tidal currents, especially the approaches to the harbours. General coastal safety instructions. 1. Check the Weather



and tide times. 2. Read signs. Be aware of local hazards, ie; sandbanks. Channels Strong tidal currents 3. Carry means of calling for help. 4. If you see someone in danger dial 999 or 112 and ask for the Coastguard who will page us.



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# NCI Brancaster

Richard Burrows

## Change to our Watch Hours

Due to the falling temperatures and the dark evenings, we have reduced our watches to 3 hours per day during the week. We are still trying to crew two watches per day on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, but this isn't always possible.

## Accredited Watchkeepers

We are pleased to have assessed and passed two trainee watchkeepers in recent weeks. Congratulations to Richard W and Bob who become our latest Accredited Watchkeepers Both were awarded their epaulettes by Station Manager, John.

Our numbers continue to grow with 20 volunteers now registered. It is a delight to welcome 4 new members who have recently joined: Anthony, Katt, Paul and Tess. We really need to get to 30 volunteers by the Easter Bank Holiday next year. With this number, we should be in a position to increase our coverage over Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays to two watches per day of 4 hours (8 hours per day). On these days it can get very busy on the beach and along the coastline, so we are aiming to have all of those watches double-crewed.

## Fundraising

We have found this to be quite challenging – for obvious reasons in

the current economic climate. We receive no financial support from Government and each station is responsible for raising its own funds from grants, sponsorship and donations. We would particularly like to thank the fundraising efforts of Sarah, Lizzie and Trish for taking responsibility for our collection tins. We are a registered charity (Number 1159975).

## How you can help!

If you know of anyone who may be interested in joining our team of fantastic volunteers, please contact Richard Burrows (Deputy Station Manager) by email – richard.burrows@nci.org.uk We only ask for 4 hours of your time per week. No maritime experience is required and all training will be provided at your own pace by one of our accredited watchkeepers.

We are also in need of local sponsors to support our efforts to improve our station and equipment – these are in dire need of an upgrade! If any individual or business would be interested in sponsoring us in any way (ranging from a new piece of equipment or being a partner in helping us to secure a new station), please contact Richard Burrows by email richard.burrows@nci.org.uk

## Finally...

We are very grateful to our brilliant volunteers for all that they do and to The Royal West Norfolk Golf Club for their continued support.

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## Wendy Warner's plant of the month - Ivy

The Christmas carol declares "the Holly bears the crown" but I would say that Ivy is far more versatile and a great addition to any garden or even indoors as a houseplant. English Ivy, *Hedera* comes in many forms and can be grown as a climber, a trailer or even in some cases, a shrub.

They are evergreen, vigorous, climbers and come in all shades of green, and variegations of white, cream or yellow – often referred to in the name as silver or gold. Leaf shape can also differ. Most have three to five-lobed, palmate leaves although some are more heart shaped and unlobed, others can be quite pointed. Older plants produce bushy, non-clinging branches and small, greenish-yellow flowers in clusters of rounded heads in autumn, as do tree ivies, *Hedera arborescens*. These are a great late source of nectar and pollen for insects and pollinators and are followed by black berries in winter, loved by the birds. Most varieties are hardy, although



those purchased as houseplants would need to be hardened off before they are used outdoors.

Ivy can be used to cover shady walls or fences and trained to spread out along, or trail over, a low wall. It can be grown on its own or create an evergreen backdrop for other more colourful climbers. Be careful when growing ivy directly onto the walls of houses as aerial roots can adhere and cause damage to mortar and brickwork when it's removed. Smaller plants can be used to spill around the outsides of containers, winter hanging baskets or window boxes. *Hedera* can be trimmed into shape at any

time of year and can even be grown over wire topiary frames to create interesting living sculptures. It can also be used for groundcover and works especially well under trees where other plants may find it hard to thrive.

It is so versatile it can be grown in any aspect in full sun, full shade or partial shade, in sheltered or exposed positions. They will grow in most soils except waterlogged and once established are relatively drought resistant. If grown in the sun, leaves tend to take on a paler, slightly bleached appearance. They can also be easily

propagated from cuttings.

Best for climbing, *Hedera colchica* "Dentata Variegata" has large, leathery, ornate green leaves with broad creamy-white margins and *Hedera colchica* "Sulphur Heart" has dark green leaves with a central splash of yellow. *Hedera helix* varieties of particular interest are "Goldheart" a rich green with a central splash of golden yellow, "Green Ripple" dark green which takes on a pale green in winter, "Kolibri" speckled with cream, mint and grey, "White Wonder" dark green with cream margins and "Goldchild" light green, broadly margined bright yellow.

If grown as houseplants, ivy can be grown in most positions, although best to avoid direct sunlight. Also, if possible, in hot environments create extra humidity by misting with water or standing pots on a saucer of gravel with water in the bottom.

This Christmas, why not introduce some ivy into your indoor or outdoor planted arrangements.

## Mudpies & Butterflies

with Louise Barby

*"From December to March, there are for many of us, three gardens - the garden outdoors, the gar-den of pots and bowls in the house, and the garden of the mind's eye".*

Katherine S.White

Plant for some winter scent, scent on the breeze when you pop outside, is really appreciated throughout the winter months. Try sarcococca and daphne odora.

Cornus (dogwood) is fabulous at the back of a border at this time of year, with its 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' or 'freckles'. 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:

- 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.
- Add them to your Christmas list!.

### December project:

Make your own bird cake by pouring melted fat (suet or lard) onto a mixture of in-gredients such as seeds, nuts, dried fruit, oats, cheese and cake. Use about one-third fat to two-thirds mixture. Stir well in a bowl and allow it to set in a container of your choice. An empty coconut shell or yoghurt pot makes an ideal bird cake 'feeder'.

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



## SNETTISHAM GARDENING CLUB

We send all our Members Seasons Greetings and wish you all a Happy and Healthy 2023. Our next meeting will be our AGM on Wednesday 26th January when our 2023 Programme will be available. We look forward to seeing you then. Any further information can be obtained from Gail on 01485 541279 or Addie on 01485 544754.

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# Nature notes with Carrie Carey

A rather large wasp is circling over my head; he's looking particularly ornery and appears to have an eye on my digestives. While it's not unheard of to see wasps in mid-November, they usually disappear along with the BBQs and sun loungers when temperatures drop and food supplies dwindle. Under wasp hierarchy, worker males are subservient to the queen. She will find a sheltered niche to cosy up in over winter leaving her drones to slowly run out of food or fall foul of spiders and other predators. No wonder our homes and offices become the destination for a 'supermarket sweep' as hungry males sneak in looking for edibles and somewhere warm to stay.

The mated queen is usually the only member of the colony to survive the winter. She'll emerge, drowsy from months of sleep ready to refuel on nectar rich flora. But she is at the mercy of climate change. An unseasonal spell of good weather in early spring may result in queens coming out of hibernation before flowers are in bloom making starvation a potential risk. Without sufficient survivors to establish new colonies, wasp populations will decline. While we might see this as a big hurrah for summer picnics and garden parties, wasps play an important role in pest control. The erratic peaks and troughs of wasp communities in turn affects the numbers of aphids, flies and spiders that invade our homes in summer. Now there's food for thought.

I'm all for saving nature, but this wasp is becoming more irritable by the minute and has proceeded to bomb-dive my elevenses. His need for sugary carbohydrates is obviously greater than mine so I give up protecting my meagre feast and head outside to sit by the pond. I'm surprised to spot a lone dragonfly skimming across the water, he turns suddenly and hovers for a while before climbing upwards and out of sight. Like so many other insects, once mating is over and eggs are safely laid, the dragonfly's work is done.



*Four Spotted Chaser Jim Scott*

Their short tenure of adult hood usually concludes before the first hint of frost appears, so it's a little unorthodox to see him so active in mid-November. What is going on?

It seems that in climate change roulette there are some winners and some losers. In response to warming winters, selected dragonfly populace such as migrant hawkers and ruddy darters have shifted their territories from southern Europe to the UK and seem to be thriving under this umbrella of change. In contrast, other species are in decline, perhaps due to our more frequent hot summers, droughts and loss of peatbog habitats. Worryingly, it's not only regional preference that is being influenced. Other studies show physiological changes are occurring in certain species and the males are losing their 'bling'. As diurnal temperatures increase, males respond by producing less wing pigmentation. These dark patches serve to attract potential mates and ward off rivals but can also cause the insect's body temperature to rise by as much as two degrees Celsius. Given that dragonfly mating is quite a rough and tumble affair involving energy zapping acrobatics, the extra body heat only

serves to slow the guys down. These nimble aerial athletes are swapping glamour for survival and who can blame them.

Watching a pair of dragonflies whizzing around the pond is undeniably one of my favourite summer sights. However, mosquitoes are not so welcome in my garden and I'm grateful for the icy nip of winter that brings relief from these pests. Outside of the tropics, dropping temperatures cause mosquitoes to go into a type of hibernation called diapause. However, it seems that mozzies have become very adaptive to the range of temperatures they can tolerate and are increasingly able to remain active during the colder months. Some scientists believe that these insects could soon be a problem for us all year round. That prospect is unlikely to bring out my inner cheerleader.

Walking around my garden this week, it's been warm enough for a T-shirt on some days. As someone who heartily objects to being cold, you might think I'd embrace these summer-like temperatures. But there's a big disconnect between how it is and how it should be. We know that mild winters, drive catastrophic global events just as much as hot summers. And it doesn't take much to rock the boat, even a variation of one degree Celsius, can make the difference between rainfall and snow. That might mean a slight adjustment in clothing for us, but it's a threat to survival for invertebrate communities. Although the jury is out on the impact of climate change on insect populations, it clearly leads to disruption one way or another. Patterns of warming temperatures may remove barriers that limit geographical range, but they also allow invasive species to take hold. Reproductive growth may be held back for some species, but this results in poorer control of natural prey. Until more detailed research is available, these outcomes are difficult to predict. So, expect to see the unexpected this winter.



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# No-fault divorce explained

By Rob Colwell, Director and Head of Family Services, Hayes + Storr

It is now over seven months since the long-awaited new law for “no fault” divorce came into force on 6th April 2022. The ‘blame game’ has finally ended and lengthy separation periods cut completely.

## Blame is no longer required

Under the new legislation, couples now divorce without having to cite blame. Previous grounds for divorce including unreasonable behaviour, adultery or separation periods have all gone. In the past, adultery could be used as a reason for divorce, however, under the new law, even if adultery has been committed, it no longer has a place in divorce proceedings.

This does not change how hurtful adultery can be and some clients are still finding this new approach difficult to accept. If one spouse has caused the breakdown of the marriage due to their adultery, why should they ‘get away with it?’ However, there is now only one ground for divorce and that is: the irretrievable breakdown of the marriage, hence the new term ‘no-fault’.

If one, or both parties believe the marriage has come to an end, they are now simply asked to provide either a sole or joint statement to apply for a divorce order. However, joint divorce applications remain relatively rare.

## You can no longer defend a divorce

It is now no longer possible to contest the decision of a spouse to divorce. Parties are encouraged to look to the future.

## New terminology

The old term Decree Nisi had been used by the court to mark the first stage of divorce after the acknowledgement of papers by the spouse and after the application had been granted by the court. Under the new process, this stage of the process is known as a Conditional Order. Similarly Decree Absolute, which marks the final stage of divorce, confirming that the marriage has officially come to an end, is now known as a Final Order. This follows the current terms used for ending civil partnerships.

## There is a minimum wait period for the Final Order

A minimum period of 20 weeks between the initial application and the Conditional Order is now in place, with a further six weeks between the Conditional and the Final Order. Frustrating to many clients, that means that even a straightforward divorce is taking at least six months to complete. All divorces are now applied for online.

## Is there a change to the court fee?

The court fee remains £593.00 It should be noted that a fee remission may be relevant to some couples, and this may help them decide who makes the application. A code can be obtained online, if in receipt of for example Universal Credit.

## How will the new law affect the division of finances?

The financial side of divorce has not changed. Divorce and finances are separate but run parallel through the court system.

Clients are strongly advised to seek expert legal advice to resolve any financial disputes, and to document any agreement reached into a legally recognised Consent Order, which once sealed by a Judge, is then full and final and cannot be changed.

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

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## Hayes & Storr - Good divorce week

### NO-FAULT DIVORCE EXPLAINED: Good divorce week 28th November – 2nd December 2022

As part of Good Divorce Week 2022, Hayes + Storr are offering free, 30-minute, confidential appointments to individuals who want to start divorce proceedings, on how the new divorce process will work for them; given their own personal circumstances. Appointments are available between the 28th of November and 2nd December 2022.

If you would like to arrange an appointment, please call 01328 863231.

#### Erratum Notice

On page 17 of the November issue we mistakenly published a photograph of Diane Raven to accompany an article written by Melanie Robson. To avoid any confusion, Diane Raven is pictured below left and Melanie Robson below right.



# Kathryn Gigg

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# A page from the Sage



**I**t will soon be Christmas it is about time we had a white one!

Well now, I do not get mixed up with politics but our country, Great Britain, is in a right old mess isn't it? A pint of beer costs you at least £5 a pint and I heard of one place where it is £8 a pint. When I started work at the Kit-Kat in 1957 a pint of mild was 11d a pint and a pint of Tow's was a penny more and you could get a tot of whisky for half a crown (two and sixpence), so you could get 8 whiskies for a pound. If you can get fish and chips for under eight pounds now then you are lucky; when I was a lad you could get fish and chips at Fishers in Dersingham for one shilling and six pence with a handful of scraps thrown in, but it's no good talking about the good old days as they will never come back.

## How we coped in WWII

We got over the Second World War so I reckon we will get over this crisis, though you find when prices go up they seldom come down again. We had a rough old time during the Second World War, you were a lot better off if you lived in the country in the towns you got bombed a lot. One day your grocery shop would be there and by the next morning it would be bombed flat. Even towns like King's Lynn got bombed. The war started in September 1939 and went on till 1945, most things were put on ration from 1940 and some things were on ration till 1954.

During the Second World War I lived with my mother, my granny and my aunt and two uncles in a two up and two down with a small scullery and a toilet down

the garden in a small village about five miles east of King's Lynn. We more or less lived off the land one of my uncles worked on a farm so he would keep us in rabbits and a pheasant or two in the winter.

We also had a very long garden with a path down the middle so we would grow potatoes one side and a mixture of other veg the other side. When we dug the potatoes up we would store them for use through the winter. We had no running water we had to use buckets as the water well was about 50 yards up the lane, Station Road, in the front garden of another house. We had a black leaded stove in the living with an open fire and we also had a wall oven in the scullery to do the baking in. With no electricity we used oil lamps and candles for lighting. The heating came from a Calor heating stove, there was no lighting upstairs either so candles had to be used and blown out as soon as you got in bed. There was no milkman; granny would walk up the road to a small dairy farm with a two pint jug every morning. She would also go on the train every Saturday morning and sometimes she would stand in the butchers shop queue and finish up with half a pound of sausages. On some Saturdays she went to Swaffham as they had a big market as they still have today. About every two months I would get a parcel from the Red Cross as my father was a prisoner of war in Germany, it would contain a tooth brush, tooth paste, bar of soap, talcum powder and a face flannel, also some American chocolate that was horrible. Coal was on ration at one bag a week. In 1947 when we had a very bad winter with lots of snow and ice so the ships with the coal on could not get to King's Lynn from Newcastle my granny, my mother and my uncles would go over the common and get wood. My granny kept a dozen laying chickens in a run down the garden so we always had plenty of eggs and when the chickens stopped laying granny would ring their necks pluck them and boil them to put in a stew; they were too old to roast, then she would buy another dozen laying hens. After harvest

before the fields had been ploughed my granny would go out in the fields gleaning - most of you old boys who read this knows what it means, it means you go out in the stubble fields and pick up the ears of corn that had fallen through the binder then feed them to the hens along with cabbage and sprout leaves also granny used to save all of her potato peelings, boil them up in the copper then mash them all up then feed them to the hens, this way she never had to buy any chicken grub.

Britain got through the Second World War, so we should get through this terrible crisis. At least no one is dropping bombs on us.

## Some good news

Now I will mention a little bit of good news. As many of you might already know work has started at last on the building of flats on the old derelict Kit-Kat site in Seagate twenty-six years after the fire that destroyed it. I think the plans are to build six or seven flats on the site and two or three retail units. Of course, after working there for nearly thirty years I think it would have been much better to build a new family public house on the site just like the good old Kit-Kat.

## Leisure Centre

My wife Joy read out to me from the paper that the King's Lynn and West Norfolk Council are about raising money to build a new leisure centre at Hunstanton. It is expected to cost about 28 million pounds but before it can be built a site is to be found in or around the town. All this will take time and the cost of this project will just go up and up. A new leisure centre has just been opened and is operating in Great Yarmouth; this leisure centre was built on the site of the old one which had been demolished, so unlike the Hunstanton project they did not have to find a site. Some of the sites that have been mentioned - the old Oasis could be knocked down and the new project built there but I do not think the Oasis site would be big enough. Another site that has been mentioned was the recreation ground on the Cromer Road. Also, the land that

surrounds the Community Centre would be a good place as it is in the middle of the town.

## What Hunstanton needs

Hunstanton Town Council have got a group of five councillors together to find out what the town needs next for the future. The first thing that needs doing is to stop any new building of houses, flats, bungalows in the town or on the boundary of the town. Next, a new and much larger doctors surgery in the town or to near the town boundary. There are many things that want doing in Hunstanton like a new slipway at the end of Seagate to act as a groyne and for people to get on the beach with their push chairs and prams, and of course one big thing that is needed and that is a brand new promenade, bus shelters and many other things so I think this will be a long job for the group of five!

## Christmas

Well now it is nearly Christmas; I am not so keen on Christmas as I was good as it was when I was a lad. Christmas starts in the end of September now with shops starting to sell stuff. In the good old days just after the Second World War, just before Christmas my father and my uncle would go over the Dersingham Fen and dig up two Christmas trees. On Christmas Eve I would go to bed then I would wake up about six am and there would be a stocking on the bottom of the bed. For many years the stocking would hold an orange, colouring book, some colouring pencils and sometimes a small wooden toy. Father would put the trimmings up and decorate the tree on Christmas Eve so it was a surprise for me when I got up on Christmas day morning and then I would open my presents that mother and father and other relatives had brought me. At eleven am my father used to go around the Albert Victor public house as the landlord would treat all of his regulars to a drink and a mince pie.

Christmas dinner would be at twelve o'clock; we would start with Yorkshire pudding in gravy, the main course would be either a joint of beef, if you were lucky enough to get one, or a cockerel

which father would buy off the local farmer. He would buy this alive and kill and pluck it himself, we would have vegetables with that, whatever was available in the garden like potatoes, sprouts, parsnips, carrots and onions that had been in the shed and then for sweet we would have apple pie and custard. Then we would sit around the fire and listen to the King's speech on the wireless as we never had a television until the late nineteen fifties. After that we would have a walk around the common then home for tea which would consist of sandwiches made from what was left of the cockerel or the beef.

Mother would keep the tree and the trimmings up till New Year's Day then she would take them down and that would be the end of Christmas in the Melton household. One thing I forgot about the Melton family at Christmas was this: at the end of September my father and I would go up to the woods and go through the small gate opposite the Sand Pit cottages; we were after chestnuts we would take them home put them in an earthenware jar which would be buried in the ground. They would

be dug up at Christmas and we would eat them after being roasting them in front of the fire. Sometimes us lads would go on to the Sandringham Estate and get some walnuts, we had to be careful as we were trespassing. They were lovely nuts!

Well now, what did you all think of our summer? Sunny Hunny stood up to its name and I reckon most of the sea front traders and shop keepers had a decent summer. The hovercraft and the lifeboat were kept busy going to people stranded on the sand banks and Scolt Head Island. We must remember that these RNLI crews are all volunteers, they don't get a penny for risking their lives every time they go out and they cover nearly all of the Wash and they have to go up the Lynn River at times and they are the only lifeboat station in the Wash with a hovercraft. Maybe some time the King's Lynn Borough Council will wake up and put RNLI lifeguards on West Norfolk beaches during the summer months.

Well now, it has been a rough old year for us all, I wish you all a happy Christmas.

The Boy Dick, Sunny Hunny

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# Diary of Events

## Thursday 1st

Stanhoe and Barwick WI Joan Hocking, classical singer with "Something Wonderful". Songs from film, musical, popular opera and classical crossover. The Reading Room, Stanhoe. 2pm.  
Visitors are most welcome; there is a charge of £3. Please contact Valerie (01485 576261) for further details. Our 2023 Programme is still under wraps, but has our usual eclectic mix of talks – from beekeeping to Oxburgh Hall to "Life with Nanny".

## Thursday 1st – Sunday 18th

Luminate Sandringham 4.45-8pm PE35 6EN

## Thursday 1st – Saturday 24th

Deepdale Christmas Shopping Free Parking  
PE31 8FB

## Friday 2nd

Coffee Concert at King's Lynn Town Hall. The London-based Marsyas Trio formed in 2009 by graduates of the Royal Academy of Music, is the UK's leading flute, cello and piano ensemble. Showcasing a hugely diverse repertoire from the Classical and Romantic eras to the present day, the Marsyas Trio presents forgotten masterpieces, Haydn Piano Trio in F, No.29, Czerny Fantasia Concertante Op.256 and Mendelssohn Trio in D minor, Op.49. Prior to the concert, from 10.30am, enjoy a cup of coffee and slice of cake with fellow audience members (included in the ticket price). Tickets  
<https://www.kingslynnfestival.org.uk/whats-on?vieweventdetails&eventid=958&event=Coffee-Concert-Marsyas-Trio>

Anmer Social Club. An evening of musical entertainment with Mike Terry. Sing-a-long to your favourite songs. 7.30pm. Fully Licensed bar. Raffle. For further information email [events@anmerclub.co.uk](mailto:events@anmerclub.co.uk)

## Friday 2nd – Sunday 4th

Hunstanton Christmas Tree Festival Free entry, music, mulled wine and mince pies. Hunstanton Town Hall

## Friday 2nd – Sunday 18th

Christmas Tree Festival at St Nicholas Church Dersingham PE31 6LN  
[www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk](http://www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk)

## Saturday 3rd

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

Flitcham's Victorian Christmas Fair starts 10am Flitcham Community Centre PE31 6BP

Docking Christmas Craft Fair at Docking Village Hall 10am-2pm PE31 8NG

Thornham Winter Gift Fair. Thornham Village Hall 10am-4pm PE36 6LX

North Wootton Village Hall Christmas Fair 10am-5pm North Wootton Village Hall. Crafts, gifts, fresh Christmas trees and live Ukulele Elves and singer Claire Scollay.

Snettisham Christmas Fair 5-8pm The Market Square. Carols, stalls, food, lights, drinks and Father Christmas.

United Services Club Hunstanton Alex & Leon Mallet. X- Factor House Finalists All Eras 8.30pm

## Sunday 4th

Antiques and Collectors Fair Old Hunstanton Village Hall PE36 6HS 9am-3pm

Lavender Lounge Christmas Fair, Norfolk Lavender 10am-3pm PE31 7JE

Dersingham Day Club Christmas Craft Fayre at Dersingham Village Centre 11am-2.30pm

## Monday 5th

Christmas Wreath workshop at Old Hunstanton Village Hall PE36 6HS 9.30am and 1.30pm Info: Nell on 07918 911716

Anmer Social Club. Bingo Night – Club opens at 7.00pm. Eyes Down at 7.30pm £6.60 for a book of 10 cards & £1.75 for a Flyer Card.

Fully licensed bar and Raffle For further information email [events@anmerclub.co.uk](mailto:events@anmerclub.co.uk)

## Tuesday 6th

United Services Club Hunstanton Hunstanton Concert Band. Come and sing along to your favourite carols & Christmas songs. Light refreshments will be served. 7.30pm

## Friday 9th

Christmas Market 2-5pm at Snettisham Primary School PE31 7LT Meet Santa!

Hunstanton & District Community voices present Carols for Christmas at The Way Christian Fellowship. 4pm Free. Refreshments provided. Collection for overseas mission.

Winter Warmers at Thornham Village Hall. Speaker Tony Lyons Managing Director, Xceco 'Offshore Wind – A Peek Inside'. Your opportunity to find out more about the wind farm we can see from the beach! £25, including a 2 course supper and welcome drink. Advance Booking is essential.

To book, email [winterwarmers@thornhamvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:winterwarmers@thornhamvillagehall.co.uk)  
Doors open at 6.30pm. Talks start promptly

at 7 pm, followed by supper. Full bar facilities available.

Anmer Social Club. Film Night - The Railway Children Return PG The club opens 7pm Film starts 7.30pm. Admission £4 at the door. For further information email [films@anmerclub.co.uk](mailto:films@anmerclub.co.uk)

United Services Club Hunstanton Christmas Quiz £4pp with supper 8pm

## Saturday 10th

Winter Comedy Theatre at Sedgeford Village Hall. Sherlock Holmes and the Music Hall Mystery by the Rain or Shine Theatre Company. Doors 7pm for 7.30 performance. Adults £14, Under 15s £8 Tickets: [bit.ly/sherlock\\_sedgeford](http://bit.ly/sherlock_sedgeford) Enquiries: 101485 570097/07968 596949

Dersingham Choir Christmas Concert 7pm St Cecilia's Church, Mountbatten Road, Dersingham, PE31 6YE. What a way to start the festivities! Come along and support your village choir in our very first Christmas concert and have some fun! Tickets are £5 each on the door. The first half of the concert will be songs that we have been learning during this term and after the interval, everyone is invited to join us, singing carols. The venue is fully accessible with free car parking. Seasonal refreshments will be provided. The choir is grateful to be supported by the following - Norfolk Community Foundation, The People's Postcode Lottery, Norfolk Borough Council, Dersingham Parish Council, Dersingham Post Office, and Rossiters, Dersingham.

United Services Club Hunstanton (Simon Lee & Graham James ) Harmony Closer To Home Duo All Eras, 8.30pm

## Saturday 10th- Sunday 11th

Christmas Food and Drink Market, Holkhams Hall NR23 1AB 10am-4pm Free entry. Car parking £5.

## Monday 12th

The Arts Society North West Norfolk's next - light-hearted - lecture, presented by Graham Jones at Sedgeford Village Hall at 2pm, is entitled A Very Ceremonial Christmas. Find out about the various events that take place around Christmas – carol services, concerts, the Changing of the Guard, Chelsea Pensioners' preparations! Join us and feel wrapped in a blanket of Christmas. For information about the lecture and how to join the Society, visit [www.theartsocietynwnorfolk.org.uk](http://www.theartsocietynwnorfolk.org.uk) or call Lesley Nadel on 01485 517127.

# December 2022

## Tuesday 13th

Brancaster Camera Club 1 pm in Brancaster Staithe Village Hall. Lunchtime snacks followed by our AGM. We will then have a presentation of our work in the theme of 'Winter'. No meeting in January. February date TBA. If anyone feels they would like to come along to our club in the new year & see what we do, or just be part of the evening please contact Sue till on 01485 210013 or Wendy Calow on 01553 674725

United Services Club Hunstanton Christmas Prize Bingo. Eyes Down 8pm

## Thursday 15th

New Hunstanton Women's Institute, musical quiz with David and Christmas hat competition at Methodist Church hall 2.15pm. Enquiries 01485 532174.

## Friday 16th

Thornham Cinema presents The Duke. A true story of a 60 year old taxi driver who in 1961 stole Goya's portrait of the Duke of Wellington from the National Gallery in London. It was the first (and remains the only) theft in the Gallery's history. A man determined to change the world. Doors and Bar open at 6.30 pm. Film starts at 7 pm. 07469 044 554 for tickets. £5 each.

Anmer Social Club. Christmas Quiz & Raffle 7.30pm Club opens 7.00 p.m. Entry to Quiz £2 per person.

United Services Club Hunstanton Christmas Prize Draw. Followed By Dancing To Steve Moyse 8pm

## Saturday 17th

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

Hannah's Roses supporting Children with Cancer Christmas Fair. Hunstanton Town Hall 10am-4pm

King's Lynn Festival Chorus present Handel's Messiah 7pm St Nicholas Chapel, King's Lynn £15, under 16s free. Box Office 01553 764864

Village Screen Cinema Amy Robsart Hall, Syderstone 7.30pm. The Railway Children Return (PG) It's 1944 and World War 2 is raging. Bobbie, one of the original Railway Children but by now a grandmother, welcomes a group of evacuees from Salford to her home in Yorkshire. One day they encounter a young African American GI who, like them, is far away from home, and who is hiding from the authorities.

United Services Club Hunstanton The Caveners. Beatles & 60s Tribute Duo 8.30pm

## Sunday 18th

North Wootton Flea Market North Wootton Village Hall PE30 3PT 9am-1pm

## Wednesday 21st

St. Mary The Virgin Church Anmer – Annual Carol Service 4.30 p.m. followed by Mulled Wine, Mince Pies and Christmas Cake at the Social club. Advanced booking only – please contact Nick Coleman on 01485 601217 or email: njcolema@aol.com

## Friday 23rd

United Services Club Hunstanton Christmas Celebration With Songs & Dancing To Jammin' Joe

## Saturday 24th

United Services Club Hunstanton See In Christmas With Travis. All Eras 8.30pm

## Sunday 25th

Hunstanton & District Round Table Christmas Day Swim. Hunstanton Promenade. Registration at Oasis from 9.30am. Procession starts 11am followed by the swim.

## Wednesday 28th

Pink-Footed Geese Sunrise Walk RSPB Snettisham Nature Reserve PE31 7RA Watch the dawn spectacle of mighty flocks of pink-footed geese as they fly in unison across the mudflats of The Wash. This is a spellbinding opportunity to witness the sights and sounds of mighty flocks of pink-footed geese flying overhead at the first light of day in the company of an experienced guide who will know exactly where you need to be to enjoy this incredible wildlife spectacle.

Conclude your morning with a full English breakfast at the award-winning Rose and Crown, Snettisham. You will also benefit from privileged parking access close to all the action.

Book at:

<https://events.rspb.org.uk/snettisham>

## Friday 30th

United Services Club Hunstanton Cecil Farayi Soul & Motown 8pm

Pink-Footed Geese Sunrise Walk RSPB Snettisham Nature Reserve PE31 7RA Info as listed under Wednesday 28th

## Saturday 31st

United Services Club Hunstanton New Year's Eve Celebrations with Simon Lee in the Lounge Bar. All Eras. 8.30pm. Bring Your Own Party Food. Mark Royal Disco in the Public Bar. Tickets Only, Available From The Bar. On Sale 1st December

## Saturday 3rd -Sunday 1st January

Cinderella

This Christmas, you're invited to the biggest ball of all at The Princess Theatre, Hunstanton.

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# On the turf with Charles Joyce

**B**en Stokes hits the winning run in Melbourne to make England the undisputed kings of white ball cricket and the first to hold both the 20 over and 50 over world title.

The lionesses in an impressive display beat Japan 4-0. The Nadeshiko beat the USA in the 2011 World Cup final and were runners up in the 2012 Olympics and 2015 World Cup final. They are far from an easy team to play.

Most of us think there is a cost-of-living crisis. The auction results at the October Tattersalls sales placed some doubt on that as far as the horse racing world is concerned. It was confirmed in early November at the Lexington Kentucky sales when two potential brood mares were sold for twelve million dollars. Five times winning Grade 1 mare Gamine was sold for seven million dollars and Campanelle, who won the Commonwealth Cup at Royal Ascot last year on the disqualification of Dragon Symbol, was sold for five million dollars. Both were bought by the "lads" of the Coolmore Syndicate. Although even with these strong prices 71 of the 240 horses for sale failed to meet their reserves.

While the rest of us are worrying about putting on the heating money does not seem to be in short supply everywhere. The stud fee for Dubawi is set to rise to £350,000 and a 2.5% that's one fortieth share in Breeder's Cup Classic winner was sold for \$4.6 million making Flightline worth over \$180 million.

First published in 1709 Tatler magazine pointed out that King Charles was due to sell 14 horses in the Autumn sales. This is double what his mother would normally have sold. Among those sold was a colt that was bought by Nick Bradley who frequently buys fillies that are then syndicated and is renowned for buying the animal and not the book. Often, he will buy young horses from first season sires that have not had time to build a reputation for siring champion racehorses.

On the first day in November a sheep grazing warning was broadcast such was the poor weather in Australia. The warnings usually come from the Bureau of Meteorology. Although not common it is not unknown for warnings to be issued in July or August, but November is very rare. The warnings are for heavy rain combined with strong winds. These are among the worst conditions for sheep that are late in pregnancy as they can lead to pregnancy toxemia which can lead to the death of the ewe. Another danger is hyperthermia especially in either shorn adult sheep or young lambs. The answer is to get the animals to shelter, but that is not always easy when the numbers are high and large fields offer little if any protection. The Anna Creek station in South Australia is nearly four million acres. Given the weather conditions it was necessary to look for a horse that could handle soft and heavy going in the Melbourne Cup. So, it was Gold Trip won at 20/1. Trained in Australia since July last year the five-year-old had strong credentials on his previous form in France when conditions were far from quick placing in a number of Group 1s and finishing fourth in the Arc D'Triomphe on heavy. In October he had also finished close up in the Caulfield Cup which has returned to being a good guide to the Melbourne Cup, especially now raiders direct from major European stables have fallen away.

The following weekend the national hunt women showed they were back and meant business as Bryony Frost rode Frodon to win the big handicap chase at Wincanton, while Rachel Blackmore won the Grade 1 chase in Ireland when Envoi Allen returned to his old form. Holly Doyle just failed to make it a treble when Nashua didn't manage to beg back our very good friend Tuesday at Keeneland in the Breeder's Cup. The turf races became a feast for Godolphin who won four races run on turf and Coolmore who won three on turf. Not unexpectedly the home team won the Group 1s on dirt. Most impressive of the dirt winners was Flightline who has now retired unbeaten after winning six races.

Moving on to December the World Cup in Qatar probably the best bet is to back the draw in the knock out stages from the quarter finals

on. At this stage it is all about finding value in the market. You will not always win, but if you get the value in the long run you should come out on top, and this is as simple as it gets. The teams will be reasonably equal and will not want to lose. With the draw likely to be 5/2 or better we only have to be right twice out of the seven competitive games to break even. Three times or more correct with the ninety minute draw we win.

On the racing front we should not overlook Nicky Henderson in the Ascot handicap hurdle with a horse that won last time out. Onto Boxing Day with Allaho being an absentee Bravemansgame is as short as Evens to be another winner for trainer Paul Nicholls in the King George VI Chase. He may well win, but he's not for me at that price. Envoi Allen may turn as may L'Homme Presse and Galopin Des Champ who his race won but for slipping on landing at Cheltenham in March. He later went on to win impressively in a Grade 1 at Fairyhouse. If Willie Mullins sends him I'd take a chance on him. But we will not know who shows for the gig until the day.

The big Christmas handicap is the Welsh Grand National. The last winner to be bigger than 20/1 was Earth Summit back in 1997 who won at 25/1. He went on to win the Aintree Grand National the following spring as 7/1 favourite.

All of the last 25 winners finished in the front 6 the last time they ran in England or Ireland with 17 finishing either first or second. The race requires young legs with only 2 winners older than nine years old. 21 of the 25 winners had run once or twice in the season they won. 3 others had run 3 times. One unusual statistic is that 11 of the 25 winners had their last race at Chepstow. Irrespective of any other criteria 68 horse that last ran at Chepstow have tried over the years. Had we backed every runner that last ran at Chepstow we would be £77 to a £1 stake in profit. Hard in the years we lose but very rewarding when we win. 17 of the last 31 winners had already had a run around Chepstow previously although not necessarily in their last race. 21 of the 25 winners carried between 10 stone and 11 stone including any jockey allowance. The 4 horses in the last 25 years to carry more weight than 11 stone later ran well in the Cheltenham Gold Cup with Native River and Synchronised both winning the national hunt blue riband. Notre Pere won in 2008 at 16/1 he was already a Grade 1 winner in Ireland when he carried 11 stone to victory. In the last 25 years father and son team Martin and David Pipe have saddled 45 losers. Although they narrowly missed out in 1997 and 2018 when their representative finished second.

I wish you all a very merry and peaceful Christmas.

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



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# New shop in former bank

By Suzanne Cameron

The former Barclays Bank building in Heacham was purchased by Robin and Tamar Lloyd after they had the idea of setting up a mid-20th century shop as retro is very in vogue now.

The building has been lovingly renovated and even the vault downstairs is an Aladdin's Cave full of treasures and a real must-see.



There is Ercol furniture, Emma Bridgewater China, Denby and much more, with some lovely, unusual gifts.

Robin and Tamar live in Bangkok and have a home in Dersingham and they travel between the two. Consequently, the shop has many pieces of handmade items made in the markets of Bangkok.

The shop is open Saturdays and Sundays now, but we hope to open longer during December and the summer of 2023.



## Ladies Luncheon Club's donation to Stroke Group

Bob Wyllie

A cheque for £250 was presented by Mrs Carol Commer (Chair) and Mrs Val Atterbury (Treasurer) of the Hunstanton and District Ladies Luncheon Club to the Stroke Association Coastal Group.

The group meets every Tuesday morning at the Hunstanton Methodist Church in Austin Street where Stroke survivors and carers enjoy various activities as part of their recovery process.

The Hunstanton and District Ladies Luncheon Club donation will help fund ongoing activities.

Photo credit: Chris Bryant



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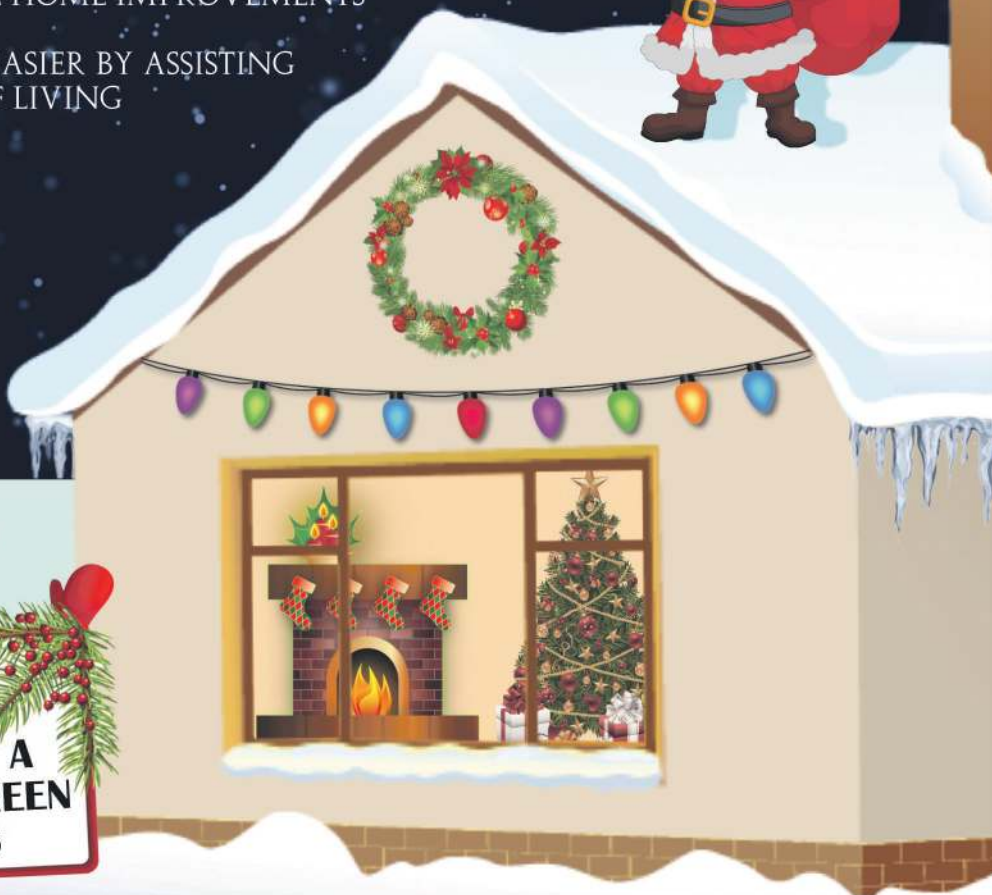
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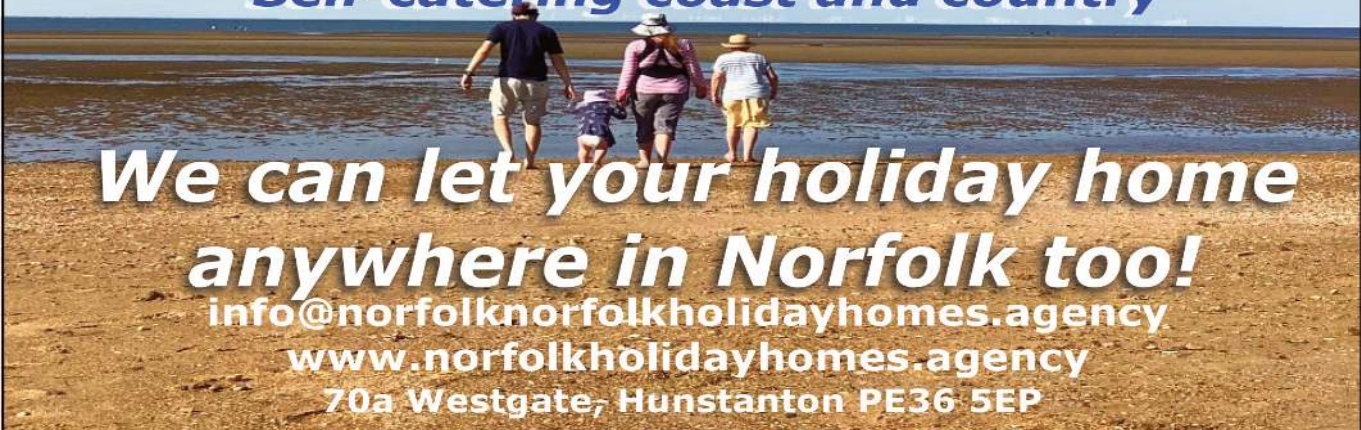
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## Norfolk Holiday Homes

Sandra Hohol

Almost another year over and we still don't know how the holiday trends fare after the Pandemic, world problems and our own in the UK. I have seen the changes during my 43 years in holiday letting but one thing I do know is that people will always afford a holiday. Being an independent agency for all this time certainly proves this. They will max their credit cards, borrow, pay in interim payments and scrimp and save to get their holidays. We are finding more and more people are taking short breaks and long weekends to fit in with work, school and families so there is another trend on the horizon now perhaps. One thing is for certain, the Norfolk Coast will always remain popular.

We are coming up to that time when families and friends are at the

last minute stages of Christmas planning. So as usual for December I am saying that if you have an 'overflow' of visitors and don't know where to put them or you each prefer your own space, give us a call and we may be able to help. You get to spend precious time with friends and family but at the end of the day, you can all be in your own place for peace and quiet. Think about it.....everyone is happy!

Again for December it is the time of year when I give a huge 'shout out' thank you to all those housekeepers, maintenance engineers of all descriptions ie; gas, electric, DIY, plumbers and more, who we would be lost without each time they are needed to attend issues in our holiday homes. They do a fantastic job. They are so obliging, helpful and friendly and will try to help within a few hours as they know how the holiday guest gets anxious! So thank you all and enjoy your few days Christmas break!

With the festive season on the horizon and holidaymakers few and far between at this time of year, we're enjoying a bit of a lull in the office. Not saying we are not working, but just waiting for the New Year when we start all over again.....

Have a lovely Christmas and Happy New Year!

Norfolk Holiday Homes. 01485534267.

[info@norfolkholidayhomes.agency](mailto:info@norfolkholidayhomes.agency).

[www.norfolkholidayhomes.agency](http://www.norfolkholidayhomes.agency)

## New Hunstanton Women's Institute

At our last meeting Kate Dunbar gave us the insights of the Benefits of a Plant Based Diet together with a power point display. Penny McNaughton gave an amusing vote of thanks. Details were given for the Christmas Lunch at the Lavender Lounge and preparations for the Christmas tree Festival.

A musical quiz with David and Christmas hat competition is planned for December 15th.

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## SLIM'S TECHIE

### SAVING ELECTRICITY

There's been a lot in the press lately about ways to save energy and money. One of the obvious ways is when you go to bed turn off all those flashing gadgets around your home. The one I recommend to turn off fully when you are not using it is the television which generally aren't very efficient in the standby mode. So each time you turn it off do so by switching it off at the socket or unplug it rather than putting it into standby with the remote control. One of the biggest power drains in standby mode of any appliance is the screen. So if you leave the television on in the background when you're not actually watching is a big waste. If you have to have some sound in the background during the day turn on the radio it uses a lot less power.

Computers have power saving sleep modes that you can put them in, or they go into power saving sleep automatically. Putting a computer to sleep is better than leaving it fully on – it turns off screen for one thing which makes a big difference, but it will still use some power.

With phone chargers it's important to leave your phone or tablet plugged in and turned on for several hours once a week, so it can do updates and sort out any problems, you shouldn't do it every day for two reasons; when you leave a device with a battery turned on and plugged into a charger, it'll draw more power every time the battery level starts to drop slightly, and that's wasteful, but it's also bad for your battery. If possible you should unplug your phone or tablet before the battery charge gets to 100%.

Washing machines and microwave ovens those indicator panels use very little power when the machine is not in use. So it is not worth bothering to switch them off as the plug sockets for these are often hard to reach.

One device I would not recommend turning off is your internet router. Routers are designed to stay on all the time, by turning yours off each night could cause a few problems. If you have a traditional broad connection rather than full-fibre from some company like Virgin, turning off your router each night is likely to slow down your internet connection. An automatic system on copper broadband lines will kick in to slow it right down, because it thinks your connection is a bit wobbly.

Routers also get important updates early in the morning usually in the early hours, and if yours isn't on then, it might not receive the update. Or you might have to wait around 30 minutes while it does the update after you turn it on in the morning. The power drain from routers is pretty low.

Mentioning routers reminded me that last year at about this time BT announced that they were scrapping their old analogue phone lines and replacing them all with fully digital lines by 2025. What does this mean in practice? At the moment if you have home broadband your phone line is used for both internet and calls. If you think of your phone line as having two separate lanes- one for carrying information, and one set aside for voice calls – then under the new system both lanes will be internet lanes. Your calls will go over the internet as well; just like you were making a video call through Skype, Facebook, Messenger, or something similar.

It will mean if you want to keep making calls using a traditional handset phone instead of a computer or tablet you will have to replace your analogue handset with a new internet one. The technical term for this system is VoIP, which stands for Voice over internet Protocol. A lot of people don't use their landline to make calls these days. They either use a mobile phone or make calls using video calling services.

If you are a vulnerable person and have a system that uses BT lines to make calls in an emergency like a button you press if you have a fall or hear an intruder. These at the moment work even during a power failure so they are ideal, but they will stop working when the change over takes place.

There are several devices that can be bought that connect to your internet or use a mobile phone signal. A friend of mine has a button on a cord around his neck which when pressed makes an alarm call to two phones at the same time. My mobile phone has a built-in emergency system so if I press a button at the back it will make a call to a preset number even if it is switched off.

Ofcom have told BT they must make sure that these changes don't make life more difficult for vulnerable people so anyone over a certain age can expect to hear from BT nearer to the change-over time.

It is worth you knowing what's happening in advance though as you might want to buy a new phone, and there is only two years to change over.

**Slim Wilkinson**

## Budget recipes from the Prudent Pensioner

I have been asked for ideas for budget friendly ways of using up leftover cooked chicken. As there are some nice leeks to be had at present, I thought a Leek and Celery soup would be ideal; it could be made in advance and frozen.

### Leek and Celery Soup. Makes approx. 900ml

Approx. 230g/8oz Leek  
A rounded tablespoon Rolled Oats  
2 sticks of celery  
1 medium size Onion or Shallot  
Chicken or vegetable stock cube.  
A knob of butter  
Salt and Pepper

Dissolve stock cube in 500ml hot water.  
Trim and clean celery and slice fairly thinly.  
Trim and wash leek, slice thinly and chop a little to break it up.  
Peel shallot/onion and slice thinly.  
In a medium size saucepan and over a low heat, soften butter then add onion/shallot stir well and cook for a minute stirring constantly. Carefully add leek, celery, oats and stock to saucepan, bring to the boil, reduce heat, cover and leave simmering gently, stirring occasionally, for 15-20 minutes or until leek

and celery are soft.

Strain off most of the liquid into a jug; leave this to one side while you either put vegetables into a liquidiser or use a hand blender and whizz until pureed.

Return pureed vegetables to saucepan, gently stir in stock, mix well, reheat, serve and enjoy.

Pieces of cooked chicken could be added to make a sort of Cock a Leekie soup.  
You might like to make a few croutons and sprinkle them on just before serving.  
Some of this soup together with cooked chicken pieces could be made into:

### Chicken and Pasta in Leek & Celery Sauce

(Using cooked Chicken) Makes 2 generous portions  
Approx. 150g Cooked Chicken cut into small pieces  
100g/4oz Dried Pasta (I used Penne)  
1 or 2 rasher of rindless bacon (Or cooked 'Pigs in Blankets') cut into small pieces  
Approx. 300ml Leek and Celery soup  
Cook Pasta as per instructions on packet.  
Meanwhile fry bacon pieces until nicely cooked, keep warm.

Pour soup into saucepan, stir in chicken pieces and bacon and gently heat until starting to bubble, stirring occasionally.

When pasta is cooked strain off most of the water and stir into soup, Mix well, serve and enjoy. You might like to make a few croutons and sprinkle them on just before serving

My updated book "Less Waste more Soup" 45 easy, budget friendly recipes for nourishing soup is available from Amazon. A search for Doreen Reed will find it (together with my books of light hearted poems & tales) It is also available from Ridouts Bakery in Heacham, Docking Farmers Market, By The Book in HUNSTANTON and Folgate Farm shop Waddington, Lincolnshire.  
Copies are available to borrow from Heacham Library & Hinckley Library  
See more recipes on The Prudent Pensioner Facebook page  
Email: pru.pensioner@btinternet.com

I used a chicken breast weighing 225g costing £3.20p I cut it into small pieces and stir fried it and it was ample for both soup and pasta for 2 adult portions.

**Doreen Reed**

# Sporting corner with Tim Keogh

An ex-international rugby player's view on rugby today

Ian Smith, who owns The Range Dental Practice in Snettisham, is an ex Scottish international rugby player. As patron of West Norfolk Rugby Football Club and, as a previous rugby correspondent, Ian's voice on rugby is highly respected. Town & Around gained some insight into his thoughts on rugby union today.

I have been involved in one way or another in rugby football for almost seventy years, and I was lucky enough to be a player for thirty years, followed by some coaching, some newspaper reporting, and a lot of spectating.

For some reason, quite beyond me, my rugby career, which included international caps for Scotland, Hong Kong and playing, altogether, for around thirty-five other teams was considered enough to justify an autobiography entitled 'A Full Back Slower Than Your Average Prop' which was published some three years ago.

Obviously, after all this time and involvement, rugby is a game I love very much and hope any opinions I have might be accepted. I use the word accepted advisedly, because many will disagree and, perhaps, some might agree, but I hope I might be starting a groundswell of opinion that the International Rugby Board [IRB] will be forced to pay attention to.



It seems to me that the only thing that matters to the IRB is the international game, and not what is happening at junior club level.

What I see today is junior rugby clubs that used to field three or, even, more teams now struggle to raise two teams, and very often the second team fixture must be cancelled because their opponents cannot raise a side. This of course is the base of a very large pyramid and, if this is failing, then eventually the quality of players available for England selection at the top of the pyramid will decline.

As a Scotsman this prospect is appealing, but as a rugby follower

it is extremely concerning. On Sunday mornings, all over England, rugby clubs are full of youngsters playing mini rugby, and then they seem to gradually fade away as the years pass.

The conundrum is retaining them or, at least, finding the reasons why they give up.

It comes as no surprise, having been a parent of a rugby playing child, to realise that mothers, especially, are naturally very concerned when they read in the newspapers, and see television programmes about brain damaged, early dementia in ex-rugby players and, quite naturally, do not want there to be any risk for their child. Inevitably, many

parents then withdraw their child from their local rugby club.

This publicity is very damaging to the future of rugby and, of course, the health issues for those ex-players is catastrophic for themselves and their families.

If there is a solution, and I believe there is, which will not destroy the fundamentals of the game of rugby, then they need bringing out.

First things first. Why do so few ex-players who played at the top levels in the sixties and seventies have dementia despite their age? Why did almost no-one develop early onset dementia?

Could it be something to do with the fact that the game was amateur then?

I hope you will feel able to write to the editor with your own opinion because if our voice isn't heard, then rugby as we have all known it could well be in terminal decline.

Ian's book, *A Full Back Slower Than Your Average Prop*, is a light hearted yet serious take on his rugby career and the sport as a whole (it is available at Amazon). Ian is releasing a second book in 2023, a humorous and professional read looking at his career in dentistry. Town & Around will be printing monthly excerpts from the book in January.

## Armchair Sports trivia

sponsored by Berni Beans of Hunstanton

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

Question: What do Sir Isaac Newton, ex-footballer Chris Kamara, singer Dido and cricketer Marcus Trescothick all have in common?

Closing date 15th December 2022

Answers to: editor @townandaround .net

or post to : 18 Tapping Close Snettisham PE31 7FF

The correct answer to November's question: "How many host nations of the FIFA World Cup have gone on to win the Jules Rimet Trophy in their own country?" was six - Italy, England, Germany, France, Uruguay, Argentina.

Clare Harper in North Wootton was the first correct entry out of the hat.

## In other competitions:

Chrissie Ford won Ken Ward's book while Michael Benefer and Mrs Stephanie Steward won tickets for the Mediaeval Baebes concert.

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# Sporting corner with Tim Keogh

## West Norfolk Rugby Club opens its doors to new and old players

It has been a busy Autumn in the world of rugby. England Rugby Union Ladies reached the final of the World Cup before agonisingly losing out to New Zealand. Their Rugby League cohorts reached the semi-finals of their equivalent World Cup, again, losing out to New Zealand. There was also despair for the England men's Rugby League team who were beaten by Samoa in the semi-finals of the World Cup with a golden point drop goal. The eagerly anticipated Men's Rugby Union World Cup is in France next year.

Locally, the season is well under way for all the teams down at West Norfolk RFC. The men's 1st XV presently sit 10th in the London & South East League, whilst the 2nd XV are 7th in their respective division. The West Norfolk Warriors Ladies XV have only played once, notching a 15-12 victory away to Woodbridge Ladies. The club also have a number of junior and mini rugby girls and boys teams across all age groups.

The club was founded in 1925 offering rugby to people in North and West Norfolk. They have been at their North Wootton base since 1969. The club's ethos is to welcome current, past and new members alike - whether you want to learn, play, watch or just talk rugby, West Norfolk Rugby Club is the one for you. The club's success has been



recognised, receiving the Rugby Football Unions Accreditation for a third time.

For more information or to get involved with West Norfolk Rugby Club you can visit their website at [www.westnorfolkrugby.com](http://www.westnorfolkrugby.com) or contact the following:

Adult Men: Darren Clarke – Director of Rugby and Head Coach  
[darren.clarke20@talktalk.net](mailto:darren.clarke20@talktalk.net)

Ladies Rugby: Amber Wadlow – Ladies Manager and Club Communications Officer  
[amberwadlow@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:amberwadlow@hotmail.co.uk)

Mini and Youth Rugby: Ben Jones – Chair of Youth & Mini Rugby  
[bcjones74@gmail.com](mailto:bcjones74@gmail.com)

Many people will know the legendary story where a one William Webb Ellis (which the Rugby Union World Cup is named after),

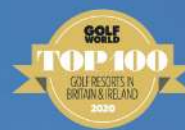
picked up the ball in a football match in 1823 which is believed to have, ultimately, led to the division between Rugby and Football. The division between Rugby Union and Rugby League is due to the different class of people who played the sports in the early days, the former by, predominately, Southern 'gentleman' amateurs, the latter by, predominantly, Northern 'working class men' for money.

Town & Around will be reporting on the next Ladies home match against Colchester on Sunday, 4th December (2pm kick off). The club invites everyone down to watch the action live and flavour the excellent facilities on offer at their North Wootton headquarters.



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# Sporting corner with Tim Keogh

## Local Table Tennis star Alphie steps up to the plate

Young Hunstanton Table Tennis player, Alphie Yarrow, has continued his rise on the national table tennis circuit. The Smithdon School pupil came through county qualifying as recently as August and is now a regular in the Norfolk Juniors TT team, on one occasion representing the county at number one.

Playing at a higher level in any sport can make or break a person's sporting career but, in Alphie's case, it is certainly proving to be the former. A lot has happened since his county trials last year, being selected for Wensum TT Club and, now, representing Norfolk Juniors.

Now a firmly established member of Wensum TT Club, he recently attended the Junior British Regional League in Stowmarket. Whilst the team won all five of their matches and presently top their division, Alphie led the way winning six of his eight games, with a player of the match award to boot.

Alphie, 15, presently has a ranking in the top 200 at u17 level, although this is slightly misleading due to the short space of time in which he has progressed as well as being at the younger end of the age scale. Proof of this



is his invitation into Band 2 category tournaments. He continues to play in the Heacham and Wisbech Leagues which have both, undoubtedly, helped his development.

Playing recently in an open tournament in St. Neots, Alphie played in front of a very raucous, and vociferous support for his opponent. Keeping his cool, he managed to win a tense decider against the higher ranked player. This was not only a good experience but proof he possesses an old head on young shoulders and can retain a calmness when under pressure, prerequisites for top performing athletes in any sport.

Proud father, Rob Yarrow, who runs the Laundry Basket in Hunstanton, said, "he is at that point now where he needs to gain as much experience as possible at u19 level. So far, it looks very promising and he is rising to the challenge. 2023 is going to be a huge year for him, although we need to ensure we carefully balance his GCSE studying with his table tennis".

Other local table tennis star from Brancaster Staithe, Molly Patterson, 19, continues a steady progress. Presently studying at Nottingham Trent University she is ranked Number 2 in the country at u21 level and Number 6 for senior women.

## In the spotlight



**Name:** Fran Hartshorne

**Age:** 37

**Star Sign:** Pisces

**Where Born:** Stamford, Lincolnshire

**Occupation:** Chef

**Family:** Mum and dad who have retired to Tattersall, one sister and one brother both still in Stamford, husband Phil.

**A cats or dogs person:** Dogs definitely.

**Team Support:** I have happy memories where my father used to take me to watch Leicester City, so The Foxes!

**Biggest achievement:** Becoming Head Chef

**Hardest part of the job:** Trying to please everyone. Hospitality is about making people happy, that's what our work motto is and, sometimes, it can be challenging (at peak times, there can be as many as 400 covers to manage).

**Funniest kitchen memory:** When someone used garlic cream to make lemon tarts. Fortunately, we spotted it before the customer did!

**Chef Idol:** I idolise anyone in the hospitality trade, there is so much



talent all around the world, to pinpoint one individual would be impossible.

**Favourite international cuisine:** British.

**Favourite meal:** Steak and chips.

**Trademark recipe:** Lemon Tart.

**Favourite drink:** On a quiet night out Disaronno and Coke, on a girls night out Jaeger Bombs!

**Favourite holiday destination:** Cornwall and Yorkshire, but definitely on the coast.

**Three items for a dessert island:** Fishing rod, knife, phone.

**Favourite band:** Green Day and Miley Cyrus.

**Worst habit:** Not being able to switch off.

**Pet hate:** Giving into people too easily.

**Best advice ever given:** Believe in yourself and you can achieve anything.

**What would you change in the world:** The hospitality industry crisis. Like to live forever: Yes !

## Fran Hartshorne at the White Horse

Win a meal for two in January 2023

Fran Hartshorne is Head Chef at The White Horse Inn, Brancaster Staithe. Born in Stamford, Lincolnshire, Fran puts her initial love of cuisine down to cooking with her mother. Having studied catering at college, Fran's first big break came with placements in exclusive members' clubs in New York's Long Island and Florida's West Palm Beach. This allowed her to look at cooking from a different and international perspective, trying out different recipes, ingredients and combinations.

Fran's move to Norfolk happened in 2004 when she had work experience at Morston Hall near Holt. Said Fran, "this is where I really learnt about the importance of using local ingredients and not over complicating recipes, particularly seafood dishes".

However, it was a chance invitation to become Sous Chef at The White Horse in Brancaster Staithe that proved the real turning point in Fran's career. "I loved the venue and was offered a free reign to explore different recipes". Fran never looked back and is now Head Chef. She also met husband Phil, who now owns the Staithe Smokehouse ([www.Staithesmokehouse.co.uk](http://www.Staithesmokehouse.co.uk)) which operates in the grounds of The White Horse. Fran is also well known to showcase different menus on social media and is a regular at food fairs in the region.

What does become clear is Fran's obvious passion and love for cooking, which is immediately evident from the mouth-watering dishes on offer. Passionate about the seasonality and provenance of the ingredients, Fran uses every available local produce in her menus. Fran said, "I feel the luckiest Chef on the Norfolk coast, creating in a kitchen that faces out across the stunning tidal marsh, it can't get much better".

The White Horse is owned by Hertfordshire based Anglian Country Inns, one of eight hospitality establishments with restaurants that they have renovated and developed, including the Jolly Sailors, also at Brancaster Staithe, and the King's Head in Letheringsett near Holt. The White Horse is managed by the charismatic Rob Williamson, who has kindly offered Town & Around readers a chance to win a meal for two in January 2023 by answering the following question:

**What island can be seen from The White Horse restaurant?**

Please email your answer to [Tim@townandaround.net](mailto:Tim@townandaround.net) by Friday, 23rd December. The winner will be drawn and notified on Christmas Eve. Please be sure to include your telephone number.

Whilst fully booked for Christmas Day, The White Horse are serving Christmas fares throughout December culminating in a party on New Year's Eve. To see the menus and events on offer please visit [www.whitehorsebrancaster.co.uk](http://www.whitehorsebrancaster.co.uk) or you can contact them direct on 01485 210262.



Daniel Sharman

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## A message from the Hunstanton Town Clerk Jan Roomes Re: 1953 Floods Commemoration

Hunstanton Town Council are in the process of making plans to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the 1953 floods. A Remembrance Service will take place on Sunday 29th January 2023.

Initial plans include a short service at the site of the floods and tide permitting, a possible parade along the prom to the flood memorial where a wreath will be laid.

The 67th Squadron currently based at Mildenhall, who played an important part in the rescue efforts, along with other local people and services, are hoping to attend the service and join in the parade.

Hunstanton Mayor Cllr. Maureen Howard said: "It is important to remember all those who lost their lives in the floods and the families that were affected by it. The floods are a large part of the history of Hunstanton and should not be forgotten".

It is hoped that other local groups and organisations, including the Sculthorpe Heritage centre, will be in attendance and will be able to display the George Cross Medals that were handed out in honour of the rescue by two American servicemen based at Sculthorpe.

Members of the public who have their own memories, stories and photos of the floods will be asked to take part in the hopes of arranging a possible display in the Town Hall.

Further information can be obtained by calling Hunstanton Town Council on 01485 532402 or by email to; clerk@hunstantontowncouncil.gov.uk

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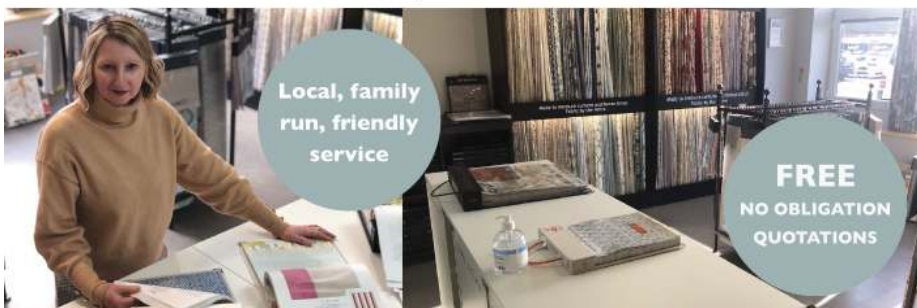
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## Angela asks for your help

A Ukrainian family based locally are struggling and we want to help them and their families at home... we had an impromptu coffee morning at the Catholic Church last weekend and raised over £200 - but it would have been more with increased footfall.

I have only just met the family and they're doing their best to integrate but having some tough times.

If you can make a donation before Christmas please contact me at: ablenkinsop@hotmail.com or 01485 532207.

Thank you.

## Hunstanton Croquet Club

Well, that's it for 2022

After 2020 and 2021 were disrupted by Covid, it has been lovely to have had a season of normal play - club afternoons, external and internal tournaments and many visitors enjoying our facilities. It has come to an end all too soon.

We finished the playing season with the final of the summer-long Veterans' Tournament, the postponed Club Doubles and our finale, The Kendal Cup. Congratulations to all the participants and especially to the winners - Gary Lewis won the Veterans'; Terrey Sparks and Marion Pile just beat David Thirtle-Watts and Wendy Davis with the golden hoop in an incredibly close, hard fought match, and David Boxell won the Kendal Cup.



David Boxell receiving the Kendal Cup from Janet Kendal



Terrey Sparks and Marion Pile receiving the Club Doubles trophy

Johnny has been hard at work on lawns one and two, scarifying, feeding and seeding so that they will be in tip top condition for the beginning of next season. The pigeons have been enjoying the free food, but thanks to the rain and autumn sun, the grass is already showing through.

Over 30 of us enjoyed a delicious lunch at the Pavilion Restaurant, Heacham Manor, where President Simon Carter presented trophies to



Gary Lewis receiving the Veterans' trophy

this season's winners. Thank you to the staff for looking after us so well and to Pat Dawson for organising this and our other social events.

At the AGM, a majority voted to agree a rise in subscriptions for 2023. No organisation wants to make fees more expensive for its members but in the light of rising costs it was deemed necessary. Full membership will be £95 - an increase of 50p per week; still great value.

Thank you to Derek Cole for running the extra sessions for the 'Indefatigables' on Wednesday mornings - they have been thoroughly enjoyed.

The clubhouse and lawns have been put to bed for winter. A huge thank you to the small band of volunteers who work so hard to keep our facilities in good condition - in particular David Thirtle-Watts, Pete Brown, David Boxell and Chris Ward - cleaning, repairing and painting, and for setting hoops so that we can run tournaments. Your input and expertise has been invaluable and we cannot thank you enough.

If you are thinking of trying a new activity in 2023, why not consider croquet? All you need to start is a pair of flat shoes - the club will lend you a mallet for your first season. At just £95 for 30 weeks, that is

cheaper than a coffee a week at Costa! And once you have demonstrated competence, you can book a lawn from dawn to dusk anytime at no extra cost. (Except when tournaments are being held).

Thank you, too, to the local publications who have allowed us space to publish our news.

Go to our website for more information.

Hunstantoncroquetclub.co.uk and watch this space next year for information on our 'Come and Try' day.

In the meantime, Merry Christmas everyone.





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# West Norfolk runner completes Route 66 quest

A West Norfolk runner has completed a 2,280-mile virtual challenge to run the length of the USA's famous Route 66.

It took David Blackmore 363 days to cover the distance from Chicago on the east coast to Santa Monica in California along the west coast. The 36-year-old also clocked up millions of views of his videos on social media documenting his progress during the virtual challenge.

The Route 66 challenge came after the Gaywood resident completed a similar challenge last year to run the equivalent distance of Land's End to John O'Groats which ended when he crossed the finish line of the Grand East Anglia Run in King's Lynn in August 2021.

The thirty-six year old TV journalist clocked up 822 miles during 147 runs and 1,438 miles with 68 bike rides. The other 22 miles



were accumulated by rowing and walking.

A PB of 3:45 in the Vienna Marathon

During his challenge, David crossed the finish line of the Brighton and Vienna marathons in April this year but he also



*At the London Marathon*

suffered the heartbreak of collapsing with heat stroke at the 25-mile marker of the London Marathon in October 2021.

He also completed the 435-mile Lap of Anglia in August this year to raise money for the East Anglia Air Ambulance and celebrated a half marathon personal best at the Great North Run in September.

"From collapsing so close to the end of the London Marathon to dusting myself off and completing not one but two marathons, and from finishing the physically and mentally tough Lap of Anglia to getting a new personal best at the Great North Run, It's been quite a rollercoaster completing this challenge," David said.

"But I'm delighted to have completed this challenge, which at times felt like it was never ending. During the course of the challenge, I learnt so much about myself, my body and my mind, and just how much I can push myself, and what I can achieve."



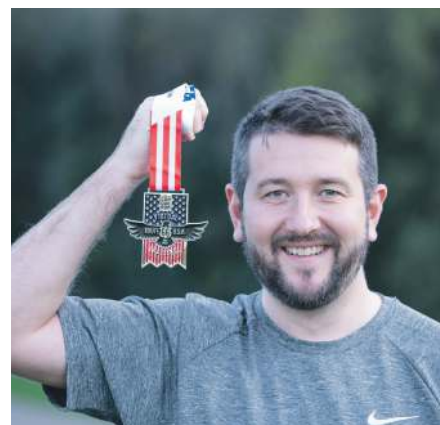
*Lap of Anglia*

He added: "There are a few other virtual challenges that I would like to attempt but for now I'm enjoying a rest before going again next month to train for April's London Marathon where I will hopefully put my demons to rest."

David will be running the London Marathon for St John Ambulance, the charity whose volunteers treated David during last year's event.

You can follow David's London Marathon training journey by searching for @DavidBlackmore on Twitter, TikTok and Instagram.

You can support David's fundraising drive for St John Ambulance by sponsoring him via [justgiving.com/davidblackmore86](https://justgiving.com/davidblackmore86)



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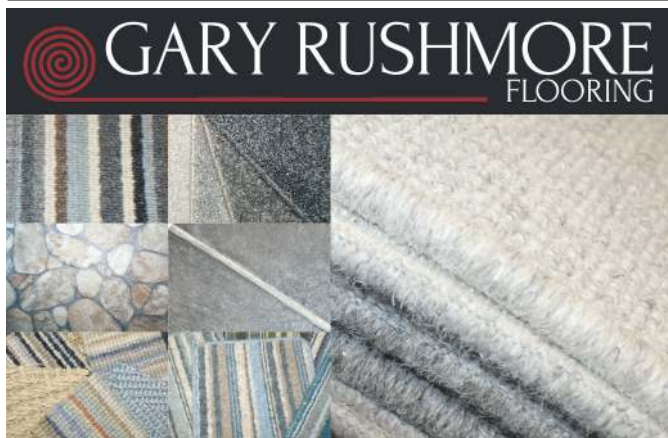
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**THE SUNDAY TIMES**

The 10 best fish and chip shops in the UK



6. Fishers, Hunstanton, Norfolk

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



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# A WARM WELCOME AT HUNSTANTON PARKRUN

Parkrun is such a simple concept: turn up any Saturday at 9am and walk, jog or run 5k. You can also volunteer, taking on the role of a marshal, a timekeeper or even a bar code scanner! It doesn't matter how fast you go. It doesn't matter what you're wearing. What matters is taking part.

There are now parkrun events each Saturday at more than 2000 locations in 23 countries all around the world. There is currently eight million registered park runners across six continents. All events are organised by a group of wonderful, dedicated, local volunteers – our hi-vis heroes!

Parkrun is all about inclusiveness and wellbeing. We want as many people as possible to feel part of a real local community brought together by our events, as well as our global parkrun family.

The format of parkrun is simple: register once, print your barcode, then turn up and take part wherever you want, whenever you want.

The parkrun at Hunstanton is not one of the biggest, but certainly has some of the best



coastal views of any in the country. And as anyone who lives in the area can testify, you can expect the occasional gust of wind! This all adds to the fun of running and walking' in Hunstanton, particularly when it is high tide on the prom!

The Hunstanton event takes place on the North Promenade, meeting by the Sailing Club, between November and March. Between April and October the event takes

places on the cliff tops, starting by the Salad Bowl Café, and the route heads off to the lighthouse.

Whether you are a serious runner, an occasional jogger, or someone who wants to walk 5K to help maintain or improve your fitness, then come along and join us. Find out more at home | Hunstanton Promenade parkrun | Hunstanton Promenade parkrun

## News From The Woottons

Richard Coates

As another year draws to a close, the Woottons, like many communities, will be celebrating Christmas and then the new year with the usual reminiscing about the past and saying how quickly the year has gone by. That's always the case when you're busy and there's plenty to keep anybody busy in the Woottons, young or old, although sometimes you have to search for the activities that are available. I publish a free weekly email of what's on in The Woottons and there's far too much for Town and Around to list so if any Wootton resident wants to see a copy of what's on, they need to email me: richard-coates@inbox.com but I only list the non-profit making activities, not the commercial events.

With my weekly email I also list local news items, planned road closures and planning applications. Recently, there was one planning application that had been a little controversial and the official final planning document filed by the planning official says "Finally Disposed Of". I'm not sure that description came out of some planning law!

A little news for anyone who, like me, has arthritic hands and has difficulty squeezing petrol pump handles that seem to get stiffer as the years go by! Surprisingly, The Woottons still has an attended service garage just like yesteryear where a petrol pump attendant fills your car up with petrol. If you lack mobility, you don't even need to get out of your car to pay as the credit card machine can be brought to your car window! What's more, I've found the price is not only no more than supermarket petrol but, sometimes, it's actually been up to 5p a litre less than the supermarkets! Where is this paragon of virtue? Well, it is somewhat tucked away on what I might call the old part of Nursery Lane, North Wootton. As you drive up Nursery Lane from South Wootton, where the new North Wootton housing estate starts, the new road straight ahead is called All Saints Drive and Nursery Lane turns left through 90 degrees. It then turns another 90 degrees right and you'll find the garage a few yards further on. So far as I can discover, there's not another petrol filling station like it in Town and Around's circulation area but, if you know of one, send a letter (or email) to the Editor!

Work has started on a new housing estate for 125 new houses off Nursery Lane, South Wootton which heralds the start of several new housing estates for The Woottons. It's adjacent to another site for up to 450 houses where the developer has asked the Borough Council to alter

one of the planning conditions and allow a cheaper, temporary access road during the construction phase. Three parish councils and a number of people (including your columnist) have objected and the Planning Committee should have made a decision by the time you read this.

At the other end of the planning scale, a householder sought permission to lop two or three tree branches from a protected tree because they had grown so much they were rubbing against his house, roof and guttering. Permission was granted with the proviso "Prior to any tree work being carried out, it is recommended that the tree(s) are inspected to ascertain the presence of any legally protected species (in particular birds, bats and badgers) ...". So just be careful if you trim your trees and watch out for any badgers lurking in the branches!

South Wootton Parish Council have bought a SAM! No, not a Surface to Air Missile, but a Speed Awareness Monitor. It's one of these things that flashes up your speed as you drive past and so encourages speeders to slow down. What's more, it's mobile, so after a month in one location when speeding motorists have got used to it, it can be moved to another location. Contact your local parish or town council if you have a speed problem and would like your council to take aim at speeding motorists with a SAM!

-ooo-

North Wootton Village Hall's annual Christmas Fair will take place on Saturday 3rd December and organisers are hoping it will be the biggest they have ever held. There will be a craft market featuring an array of stalls selling Christmas decorations, gifts, and locally sourced and produced food and drink. Freshly cut, locally grown Christmas trees will be on sale, and thanks to funding from the National Lottery, this year there will be free live entertainment from The Ukulele Elves and local singer, Claire Scollay.

The Christmas Fair takes place 10am - 5pm and more information can be found on the village hall's website: <https://northwoottonvillagehall.org.uk/christmas-fair> as well as on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.



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## Retiree's second career with West Norfolk company is a gem of a success



retiree who found an unexpected second career as a carer has won an award for his outstanding work in the industry.



Peter Bailey joined family-run home care company Extra Hands after taking early retirement from his job in human resources, and has won a 'going the extra mile' GEM Award after a glowing nomination from a grateful service user.

"The assistant manager called me to let me know I'd won, and my reaction was: 'What have I done now?'" said the 65-year-old, who works from the company's Heacham office.

"She said, 'Congratulations!' and told me that I'd won the award. I was absolutely astounded, as I didn't feel I'd done anything to deserve it – I'm only doing my job. I'm just one carer in a team, and any one of them would have done the same as I did."

His glowing GEM Award nomination described Mr Bailey as a 'rock'.

"I cannot praise Peter enough," it says. "He is so helpful with my husband and now takes care of me and takes a lot of worry off my shoulders."

"He says he is only doing his job, but he has been our rock, and I thank God for such a great carer. I don't know how we would have managed without him."

Mr Bailey was in his previous role for 35 years before discovering his new vocation.

"I retired, as I thought I was ready to retire, then, after about three months, I realised I wasn't!" he said.

"When I was a student, I studied social sciences and wanted to be a social worker, but I ended up in HR instead. Roughly 35 years later, I was pensioned off, then realised I needed another career. I saw the role at Extra Hands advertised, and thought I'd maybe stay for three or four years, and then retire – but here I am, 12 years later!"

"I really enjoy the job, the company, my colleagues," he continued.

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"In the past, you went into a retirement bungalow and then into an old people's home, but the majority of people now remain in their homes and part of the community. We enable them to stay independent and remain in the homes they love, and that's so rewarding."

Unsurprisingly, his retirement plans have been put on hold.

"If I had my time over again, I would be with Extra Hands, without a doubt," he added.

"I'd say that if you want satisfaction and a job that rewards you emotionally and mentally, and you have consideration for others, care work is for you."

Extra Hands provides home care visit packages across Norfolk and has another office at Horsham St Faith.

Photo: Ian Burt

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## Parkrunners turn out for litterpick in The Walks following Fawkes in the Walks

Following the brilliant 'Fawkes in the Walks' firework display and the huge number of residents who turned out to enjoy it, it was always expected that there would be plenty of litter to clear from the park afterwards, this year being no exception.

However, a large contingent of over 30 parkrunners made themselves available early on Saturday to litter pick the park, enabling the parks staff to concentrate on getting all the fence barriers in and to the sweeping of mud from the paths, in time for the 9 am parkrun start.

Borough Operations Manager, Claire Thompsett said "we always appreciate having the parkrun volunteers here assisting the Borough parks team in ensuring The Walks is back to its normal self as quickly as possible. The extra pairs of hands made a big difference and their help being a benefit to all the users of the park."

King's Lynn parkrun Event Director, Gary Walker, said "the parkrun team wanted to do their bit in helping the parks staff, who maintain The Walks and who do such a good job in looking after the park, in getting it cleared as quickly as possible.

This has become a normal routine for us now and it was great this year to see a record number of parkrunners turn up so early to help.

We really do recognise how lucky we are to have such a great place here in the centre of town, not just for our parkrun event but for all recreational use and we cannot thank the Borough parks staff enough for maintaining it so well for the benefit of all"

The photo shows a group of the volunteers from King's Lynn parkrun at the finish of the litter pick.



# u3a

## Hunstanton

Season's Greetings to all our Members and a Happy and Healthy 2023.

We will meet at the Community Centre, Avenue Road Hunstanton for our first meeting of 2023 at 2.00 pm on Monday 16th January when the speaker will be Samantha Doughty, Development Officer Adult Services to tell us how to Stop a Crisis. You will be most welcome to join us and for further information see our website [hunstantonu3a.org](http://hunstantonu3a.org)

## Hunstanton Parkrun

Hunstanton Promenade parkrun 5km run, jog or walk. Meet outside Salad Bowl Cafe, Cliff Parade, every Saturday at 8:55am for 9am start. [hunstantonpromenade@parkrun.com](mailto:hunstantonpromenade@parkrun.com)

## Copy date

The copy date for the January 2023 edition of T&A is 6th December 2022 to accommodate for Christmas holidays

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## The Witches Cauldron

The Witches Cauldron has now been open for just over two months and we are settling in nicely.

We are now preparing for Christmas and have lots of new products in and more arriving each week. We are also offering a lay by service to help with the cost of planning for the big day.

Our monthly Aromatherapy Workshop is on the 10th of December 2022, 10am – 4pm, but places are limited. You can either book online, give us a call, or pop in for an itinerary. The next one is 14th January 2023.

We are also organising regular coffee mornings where you can come along and have tea, coffee or hot chocolate and view our product. We will explain about our Aromatherapy product and how they can help with pain, anxiety and the dreaded coughs and colds. Why certain products are eco-friendly and what treats are best for your dogs and cats.

We have constant clean water outside the shop for your furry friends and Charlie, the young seagull, has been coming for his morning drink from the first day we opened.

We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mandy & Melanie



# Incinerator Update

County Councillor Alexandra Kemp  
Mobile: 07920 286636

I addressed the King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council Planning Committee on 7 November, when the Committee debated the detail of the Council's Relevant Representation Response to HM Planning Inspectorate about MVV Medworth's incinerator. Cllrs Michael de Whalley and Stuart Dark also spoke against the facility.

I held up a map in the Committee, showing how the West Norfolk population, that would be downwind of the incinerator, is among in the 30% most deprived in England. Incinerator companies often choose deprived areas, where health outcomes mask the effect of pollution from the incinerator.

It is clear from the technical reports it provided, that Medworth is much too willing to underestimate the air quality impacts from its facility and the cumulative impacts, and has not even considered the Health Damage costs. There are 40,000 early deaths a year from Air Pollution, and the All Parliamentary Group on Air Pollution, has called for a Moratorium on all new incinerators because of Public Health.

The Borough Council officers' technical report to the Planning Committee identified significant flaws in Medworth's methodology for the air dispersion modelling for the incinerator:

1. The modelling of the routine diesel back-up generator testing was missing from the modelling and underestimated the potential Nitrogen Dioxide result.
2. The air quality impact could be a significant underestimate, as Medworth have used negative impact traffic values.
3. Medworth did not consider the Health Damage costs from nitrogen dioxide emissions.
4. Medworth do not take account of local weather conditions and have not used the right meteorological data comparisons. (The prevailing south-westerlies are directional across West Norfolk.)
5. There is potential bias in MVV's air quality modelling.

It is also important to realise that the study area for emissions from the plume, extends 15km from the chimney in accordance with EA guidance to take account of ecological receptors, and this extends across West Norfolk to Lynn's doorstep. But Medworth are certain there will be no health impacts on West Norfolk people and communities. This sets alarm bells ringing and reminds us of where we were 10 years ago, when another incinerator company tried to build its facility in South Lynn and was oblivious to the impacts.

Whatever the sales hype from energy-to-waste firms, we must remember:

1. There are no emissions limits for incinerators for harmful PCB's and PAH's. Incinerators emit PCB's and PAH's are harmful to human health, but these do not have prescribed emission limits. Medworth could emit PCB's and PAH's unchecked to its heart's content.
2. PAH's Polycyclic aromatic carbons are a class of widespread environmental carcinogens.
3. PCB's Polychlorinated Biophenols are highly toxic industrial compounds. Exposure to small amounts can cause developmental and neurological problems in children. PCB's build up in sediment in coastal areas and rivers and build up in the fatty tissue of fish. They are then transmitted through the food chain.
4. Emissions that reach the environment cannot be broken down, and remain forever.
5. Incinerators also emit dioxins, furans, cadmium, arsenic and lead. Dioxins from incinerators 10km away have been found in eggs on local farms. Dioxins cause cancer.
6. In addition, dispersion modelling for air pollution is inherently uncertain.

Thank you to everyone who has registered as interested parties with the Planning Inspectorate.

Both the Borough Council and County Council have In Principle Objections to the Incinerator, following the Motions passed near-unanimously at the Borough Council last year, and unanimously at the County Council this year. But the decision is made by the Government Minister for Business and this is Grant Shapps. There will be a public examination of Medworth's application by the Planning Inspectorate in May.



# A Christmas crossword from David Elsey

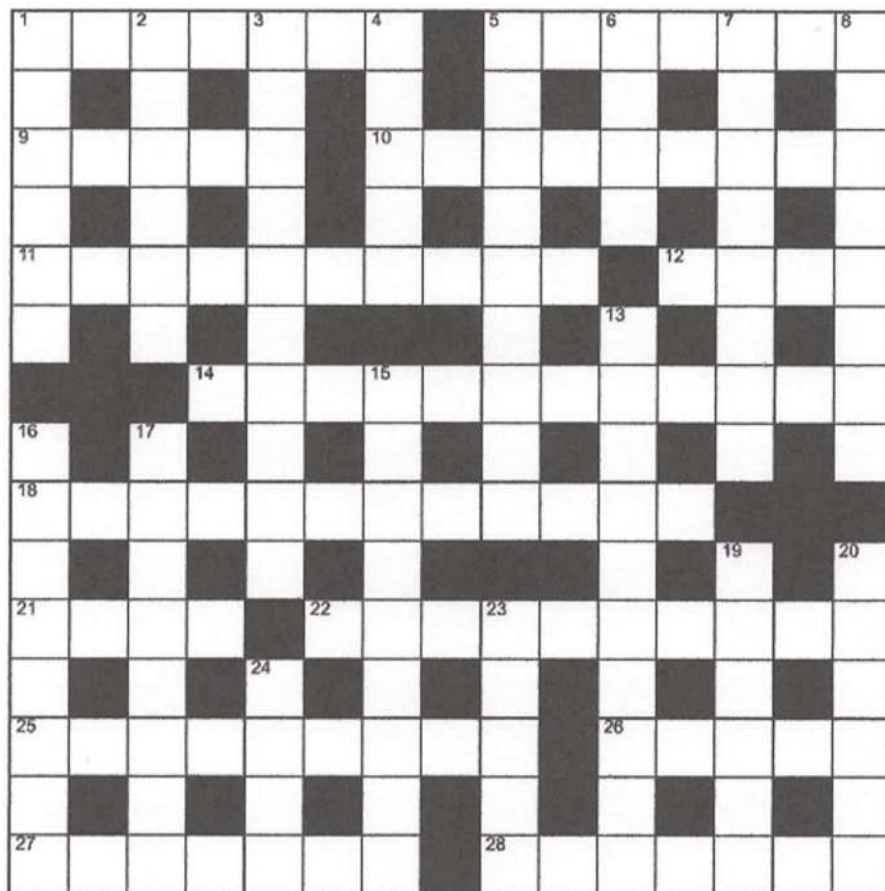
## Crossword clues

### Across

1. Youngster making a noise about seeing pantomime (7)
5. One can be most sacred (7)
9. Do over pub is broadcast in festive flyer (5)
10. After crackers have been pulled they often go on to nuts (5,4)
11. Period after advent, leading to 2023 (6,4)
12. Carol isn't given credit – with power to arouse, it's a gem! (4)
14. Free to excite with Christmas gift (12)
18. Place for sleepyhead to rest boxes for games (6-6)
21. Stand to get what is in cracker (4)
22. Might they suffer from too much stuffing? (10)
25. Italian number worn while enjoying festive air (9)
26. Cool Father Christmas article is below (5)
27. Right time for delivery of seasonal issue? (3,4)
28. Blow balloons around we hang up (7)

### Down

1. Support is needed after a right strong drink (6)
2. Their tracks might lead one to dance (6)
3. Best place to have Christmas fair, it's said (6,4)
4. Be quick, it's cold! (5)
5. Clowning around Christmas tree in song and getting present (9)
6. See way to connect with God (4)
7. Foil, by hiding gifts (8)
8. Removed seasoning from a sled transported to Edward (8)
13. I tuck into nuts apace, which could result in these (5,5)
15. It's pants not having an access to area, as it might prevent Santa delivering presents ... (2-3,4)
16. ... an extra sack could be made up for visitor (5,3)
17. Choice way to present meal ... (1,2,5)
19. ... mix up cards and annoy circling females (6)
20. One is cut off, but could make an appearance after Christmas (6)
23. Makes a small noise, as child does if awake when Santa arrives? (5)
24. Pantomime is flipping exciting! (4)



Solution on page 20

## The Norfolk Hospice launches their new festive fundraiser

The Norfolk Hospice Tapping House has officially launched their brand new festive fundraiser, the Rudolph Run, geared toward schoolchildren in West Norfolk. The independent charity, which is based in the village of Hillington, are asking primary schools and nurseries to sign up and take part in the fundraiser.

The schools and nurseries are free to choose any venue and any date between November and January for their challenge.

Whether they choose a brisk walk or gentle jog, all children will be asked to collect sponsorship and to wear their antlers when they take part, which will be supplied free of charge for each participant.

Rudolph will be stopping by each school to deliver the antlers and a certificate for each child that takes part.

All sponsorship raised will go directly to The Norfolk Hospice, who provide end of life care at their inpatient unit and through their hospice at home service. They also provide day therapy classes and family and bereavement support services. All of their services are delivered completely free of charge.

Victoria Rush, Community Fundraiser at The Norfolk Hospice, said:

"This is our very first Rudolph Run fundraiser and we are hoping to engage with a whole new audience.

"It is very important to us that the challenge is as accessible as possible, which is why the schools and nurseries have full control over what their Rudolph Run will look like.

"We are excited to work with the wonderful schools and nurseries in our area and this is a great opportunity for them to support a local charity and to learn about hospice care – all whilst having some festive fun!"

To register your school or nursery and to find out more about the Rudolph Run please visit: [www.norfolkhospice.org.uk/rudolph-run](http://www.norfolkhospice.org.uk/rudolph-run).

# Heacham and Hunstanton at Night

Terry Parish

Time marches on never ending and a New Year beckons but before that we have Christmas. May it be a happy one.

## December

The planets continue their aeons long path around the Sun. In recent years I have asked you to look out for the Christmas 'star' and it will appear again. It is the planet Venus which becomes the Evening Star once again from the beginning of December. By Christmas Day it will be blazing low in the SW sky with a magnitude of  $-3.9$ .

You need to look out for it before tea time as it sets, sinks below the horizon, by 5.30pm.

Venus will be unmistakeable and your eyes are all you need. However, use binoculars to scan just above and to the left of the love goddess to find her messenger, the planet Mercury. It will look like a very bright spark with a magnitude of  $-0.5$ . On the 21st Dec its separation from the Sun will be maximum. Remember that the Sun will be in a similar direction so don't use binoculars until it has gone down.



*Go somewhere like Heacham Beaches to catch Mercury. Parish*

On the 25th, at 4.45pm and before you put the crackers out again, find the Crescent Moon in the SSW. Look to the right, the SW, and close to the horizon. Venus will be shining bright and above and to the left will be Mercury. On the 29th Mercury is just above and to the right of Venus.

I hope you have noticed Mars growing brighter from the SE through last month. It has been the second brightest object in the sky, Jupiter still outshining it.

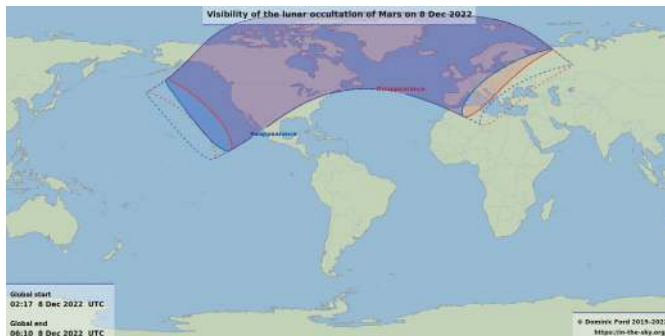
Mars has also been very red because it is relatively close and is closest on the 1st Dec when it will be 81 million km distant. The point when Mars, Earth and Sun fall on a single straight line, opposition, is on the 8th. This is when Mars presents a full face to the Earth and reflects the most light. So, between the 1st and 8th, Mars will be the red nose of Rudolph soaring past the Earth. On the 7th, Rudolph will be close to the Moon which provides good grazing for ethereal Cervidae.



*The traffic light which was Mars in 2018. Parish*

The Mars opposition occurs at 4.24am. At almost the same time the Moon is full, presenting a full face to the Earth and the Sun. The Moon is on the straight line mentioned above. The Moon moves across the

field of view comparatively quickly and at 4.55am it passes in front of Mars; the planet is occulted. About an hour later, Mars will emerge again from behind the Moon. This event was last seen, from Britain, in 1952. If you miss it then your next chance is in 2052.



*Where the Mars occultation can be seen. Compare it to the Uranus occultation on Jan 1st shown on the next page. Internet*

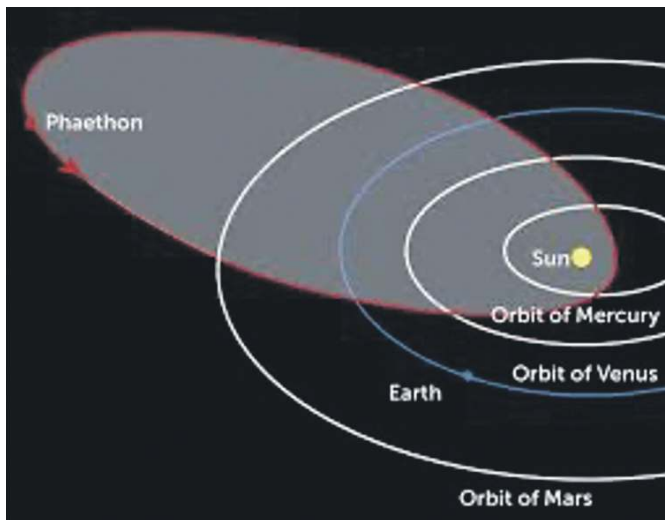
Jupiter has dominated the sky for several months. It is dimming a little now but still has a magnitude of about  $-2.5$  and will be visible all evening, setting just after midnight. Just look SE to SW from sunset onwards. On the 1st the Moon is just below the gas giant; on the 28/29th it is close to the quarter Moon.

Saturn is still visible from when the sky darkens until it sets at 8.30pm. Look for the rings this month. On the 25th Dec it will be due SSW and, on Boxing Day, just above the crescent Moon.

Uranus remains relatively 'bright' after its opposition last month though, at a magnitude of  $+5.7$ , all but the keenest sighted will need steady binoculars. It lies between Mars and Jupiter. On the 5th Dec at around 4.50 pm, Uranus is occulted by the Moon, reappearing around 5.20pm. This is the second occultation of Uranus this year. Clouds stopped me seeing the first in September.

Neptune is well within view of a small telescope with a magnitude of  $+7.9$ . It sets by 11.30pm.

Meteors! Before midnight on the 14th and into the early hours of the 15th Phaethon makes his seasonal visit showering meteors down. They are debris from his asteroid so not bits of a comet's tail. They create the shower known as the Geminids which can be bold and bright. The Moon rises about 9pm to spoil his fun but hope for a clear night and look anywhere but at the face of Artemis.



*Phaethon's journey around the Sun. he was the son Of Helios, the Sun, in Greek mythology. Internet*

The Ursid meteor shower occurs between the 17th and 26th peaking on the 22/23rd.

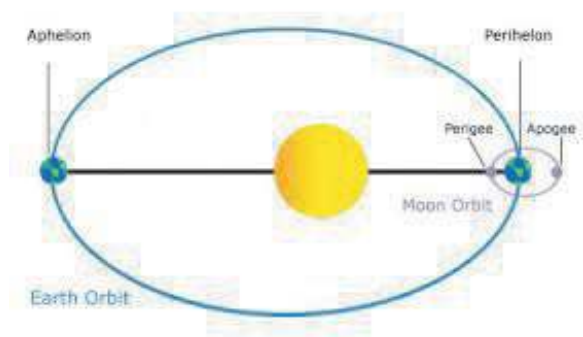


*Father Christmas starts work on the Solstice. Internet*

The Winter Solstice. At 9.48pm on the 21st December, the Sun is as low as it gets, the day length is shortest and the night longest. The start of Yuletide, fires, food and festivity.

## January. Happy New Year to you all.

On the 4th at 4.17pm, the Earth is at its closest point to the Sun in its orbit, or perihelion. A tad more warmth is received than at aphelion, the furthest point, which the Earth reaches on the 6th July. The difference is just 3.1 million miles.



*The ellipse, egg shape, of the Earth's orbit is greatly exaggerated. It is almost circular otherwise the climate would be far less stable. Internet*

Venus is prominent in the dusk, very bright in the WSW and setting by 6.30pm. On the 22nd, the Evening Star is very close to Saturn, the ringed planet being 1/75th as bright. This demonstrates how the scale of brightness, magnitude, is not linear. The magnitude of Venus is -3.9, that of Saturn +0.8.

On the 23rd, Venus and Saturn have separated a tad but are joined by the Crescent Moon. A celestial masterpiece.

Mercury is a morning object in the second half of the month. It will be low in the SE which is a difficult horizon to achieve here. It is relatively bright at magnitude -0.1 and is well separated from the Sun in the last days of January.

Mars is well up in the sky but fades through the month from magnitude -1.2 to -0.3. As it dims so the red is lost. Mars is comparatively close so the motion of the Earth quickly leaves it behind whilst planets much further off, the gas and ice giants, take much longer to change.

You still have all night to view Mars. On the 3rd, at about 10pm, the Moon is just below the red planet. It is close again on the 30th.

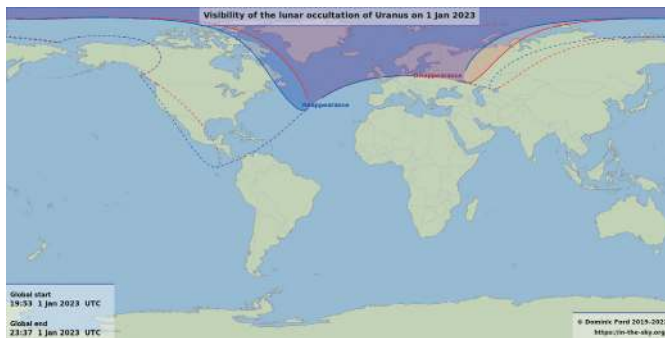
Whilst looking up at Mars use binoculars to scan the two-star clusters discussed last month. The Pleiades to the right and the Hyades below it. Amongst this open cluster you will see another, fainter 'Mars'. This is Aldebaran a red giant star. It forms part of the constellation Taurus and Aldebaran is the eye of the bull.

Left of Taurus is Gemini and below and between The Twins and The Bull, is the Hunter, Orion.

Back to the planets. Jupiter is prominent until it sets at 10.30pm so early evening is a good time to turn a telescope on it to see its Galilean

Moons and the bands of colour on its gaseous surface.

Saturn, I have mentioned. Catch it in a telescope whilst you can.



*Observation of the Uranus's third occultation is restricted. Heacham is just about on the lower limit. Hunstanton, further North, may see it and Heacham not. Internet*

Uranus is up to tricks as, on the 1st, it is playing hide and seek with the Moon again. Look from around 9.15pm with binoculars. Uranus should get occulted, for the third time, sometime after that and re-appear several hours later. I am a little vague as much further north than here Uranus just 'skims' the Moon. I have looked at Stellarium, set at Heacham's latitude, and it seems we will see an occultation but the times are difficult to establish precisely.

Meteors. On the night of the 3rd/4th, look out for the Quadrantids which are remnants of Comet 2003EH. The Moon will spoil things but patchy cloud might help.



*Internet*

Take a good look at Orion in the dark of January. The names of the principal stars are magical, Betelgeuse and Bellatrix, Rigel and Saiph, with the belt stars Alnitak, Alnilam and Mintaka. All are very much brighter than our Sun which means they are prominent despite being far away. Alnitak is a triple star system with a blue supergiant as the principal star. Rigel, Alnilam and Saiph are blue supergiants, Bellatrix a blue giant and Betelgeuse a red supergiant. Mintaka is a multiple star system.



*The Orion Nebula. This image is brighter than mine. Internet*

Use binoculars or a small telescope to look at the misty patch below the belt. This is the Orion Nebulae, a cloud of gas and dust 24 light years across where new stars are still forming due to gravity coalescing and heating matter. It glows a nice pink from the light of the stars within it.

May the New Year be dark and clear at night, not too much heat in the day, have sufficient but not excess rain, and can the wind not blow too hard too often.

The next article will be in February.

## CIL applications open soon – what projects would YOU like to see funded?

The next round of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) applications will open on 1 January and community groups will have until 1 February to apply.

CIL funding is drawn from a levy on development in the borough and can be used for a variety of projects that improve community assets.

Cllr Richard Blunt, cabinet member for development and regeneration, said: “Applications open in January but with a busy time of year coming up we want to make sure community groups have plenty of time to think about what schemes they might like to put forward for CIL funding.

“The borough council is committed to helping local groups to put in place the facilities and services that support communities. This feels especially important now when so many people are affected by rises in the cost of living.

“So please get your thinking caps on to consider whether there is a scheme that would benefit your community, which could be funded by CIL.”

For community projects, sums of £2,000-£30,000 may be applied for. They should be in one of the following areas:

- education – local initiatives
- health
- economic development
- community facilities
- green infrastructure
- open space and leisure
- community transport

Larger, infrastructure projects can also be funded for more than in the areas of 18+ adult education, green infrastructure and leisure time activities.

For more information please visit this link: <https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/cil-applications>. Please note that you cannot apply until 1 January.

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## December & Christmas

**T**he Christ was the greatest gift to the world of God-given hope and joy.

However we celebrate, or don't, we can be so grateful for the gift that the Christ teaches – love, forgiveness, gentleness and to love everyone as ourselves. The season of goodwill looks out for others, appreciates all those whose jobs help to make people cared for, safe and secure.

Wishing everyone a very happy and joyous Christmas.

Our church services are held every Sunday at 11am at 10 Queens Drive, Hunstanton PE36 6EZ. We also a service on the first Wednesday of each month at 12 noon. You are most welcome to join us.

If you want more information please email [Paterson.g@aol.com](mailto:Paterson.g@aol.com)

Free magazines are in a rack outside the church building. We can be found on Facebook and information on Christian Science and our worldwide church can be found at [www.christianscience.com](http://www.christianscience.com). Services are also available online at [www.spirituality4.me](http://www.spirituality4.me) along with talks and further information on Christian Science in the UK.

## 25th December - Holiday or Holy Day?

**H**olidays are great, aren't they? A break in routine....a chance to recharge your batteries. Quality time with loved ones and making happy memories.

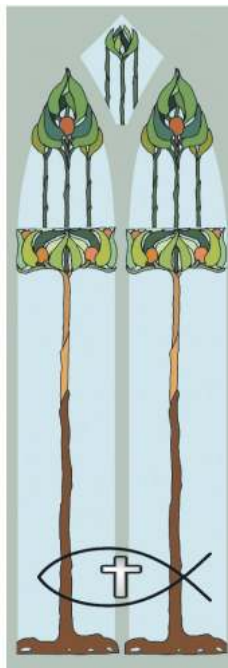
And then there's Christmas - it's a holiday because everyone says it is. So why do a lot of people struggle with Christmas? Could one reason be the "P" word? And I'm not talking about presents. It's pressure: pressure to be, do, act that is so far removed from the 'real' you that eventually Christmas becomes unbearable.

So let's scrap the idea of it being a holiday and examine how Christmas as a holy day measures up.

Christians everywhere will be organising the day around God - not themselves. They will be celebrating the birth of Jesus, our Saviour - not hoping to get through the day. A day of joy rather than a day of excess. We remember that God gave the ultimate gift: His only Son so that our lives could be transformed.

So if you would like to make Christmas a holy day rather than just a holiday then why not come to our Christmas Day service at Union Church. You might discover Christmas has a whole new meaning.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16



**UNION CHURCH**  
Sandringham Rd  
Hunstanton

## The Light Has Come

By Gill Tanner

a member of The Way C F Leadership team

**T**he world is shaking. Many things that seemed stable are looking fragile. The news is full of violence and troubles. It's November as I write this, the days are getting colder and the hours of daylight are diminishing. I don't know anyone who enjoys the long dark evenings. We naturally enjoy the light.

In the last week I walked with my husband in the woods at Sandringham. The sky was blue and the sun was filtering through the autumn leaves onto the bracken beneath. It was so beautiful it filled up that place in my soul that seeks light and beauty.

God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. We celebrate Christmas and the lights cheer the gloom. The light of the world is love. The opposite of love may not be hate but selfishness. Into the Roman occupation of Israel came the Light of God.

Jesus came to make a way out, a way through to our Father, our Creator. He came to show us that love is stronger than death. 'This is how we know what love is; Jesus Christ laid down his life for us and we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers' 1 John 3.16. We are made for light and love, we are made for Him. He opened a door of hope for all of us to know Him. To know Him and love Him is life now, and through death into eternity. If you don't know His love, this Christmas is a good time to seek Him. There are many Christians who would love to help you find Him.

### Warm Space

We are opening The Way Christian Centre in Downs Close (behind the Police Station) on Tuesdays from 12noon til 4.00pm as a Warm Space. We will be serving soup and rolls and hot drinks. Anyone is welcome to come.

### Christmas Concert

The Hunstanton Town Voice Choir are giving a Christmas Concert at the Way on Friday 9th December from 4pm to 6pm. Everyone is welcome and there will be hot drinks and mince pies in the break. We hope to see you there. There is no charge but a collection will be taken to defray the choir costs and support some foreign missionary work.

**"Hannahs Roses"**  
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**"Children with Cancer"**

Promoter: Monice Burton, 38 Park Road, Hunstanton, PE36 5BY (01485 535095)

**Christmas Fair**




Saturday 17th December 2022  
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10:00am - 4:00pm

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Toys, Wine Racks, Books  
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## Christmas Magic at St. Mary's, Titchwell

Dear Friends,

I have many fond memories of childhood Christmases with my grandmother on the farm at North Creak. She certainly knew how to make it magical, though I now suspect it was my uncle who drank the sherry and left the crumbs from the mince pies that I had put out for Father Christmas.

And we are going to do our best to make Christmas magical this year by telling again the old, old story that can never become old because the Christmas baby whose birth we celebrate grew up to become the Man who now lives for evermore.

Christmas has always begun for me as daylight fades on the 24th, so what better way start your celebration this year than by coming to our Christingle service with its candle-lit magic of childhood.

We will have sherry, soft drinks, chocolates and some seriously good mince pies at all our Christmas services, but do grab something before Father Christmas scoffs the lot! Beware because our little church still has bits of a chimney.

Services for December and Christmas at Titchwell  
 Sunday 4th 10.30am Holy Communion (CW) for Families  
 Sunday 11th 8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)  
 Sunday 18th 10.30am Holy Communion (CW) for Families  
 4pm Service of Seven Lesson and Carols

Saturday 24th Christmas Eve  
 3.30pm Christingle Service with Carols

Sunday 25th Christmas Day  
 8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)  
 10.30am Christmas Family Communion (CW)

Stillness on the Saxon Shore on Fridays at 4pm in December  
 2nd A quieter session with an Advent theme

And using the book by Barbara Mosse: Treasures of Darkness, A Spiritual Companion for Life's Watching and Waiting Times  
 9th Scene 2, Darkness: The Place of Revelation  
 16th Scene 3, Darkness: The Womb of Life  
 23rd Scene 4, Darkness and Dreaming

Wishing you all every blessing for Christmas and the New Year,  
 James Monro, Assistant Priest, Hunstanton and Saxon Shore Benefice.

## Hunstanton & the Saxon shore

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this at the start of December you may be one of those massively organised people who is all sorted for Christmas. You've planned the special day, invited family and friends for various festive events and got all your presents bought, wrapped and waiting under the tree. OR, you might not be anywhere near sorting all of this stuff and the thought of it makes you rather anxious.

This year I think that, for many people, Christmas will be very different from previous years. Things are very tight financially and the thought of doing the same as in the past may well be a huge worry. Christmas is the celebration of the birth of a baby over 2,000 years ago. Jesus was born without any of the modern day 'birth plans', there was no 'Baby Shower' for this child who would change the world. His parents had to beg for a simple shelter. They were away from friends and family who would have supported them.

It seems to me that there are many people who are away from friends and family at the moment. Some are escaping violence, others needing to be away from home because of work and there are those who believe that no one really cares for them. Christmas is the visible celebration of the child born to bring us never ending love and the opportunity for hope for our future. Jesus' birth was planned and foretold hundreds of years before the actual event. Now that's planning... on an enormous scale. That's how much God loves you and me! Whatever your present situation, your past life or your worries for the future, remember who and what we are celebrating. We celebrate God With Us in the birth of

Jesus. We celebrate strength for today, forgiveness for the past and hope for the future.

This Christmas we, in the Hunstanton and Saxon Shore Benefice churches and the churches in our town and area, want to welcome YOU. There are so many different services, Christingles, Carol services and a 'Blue Christmas' for those who find this time of year difficult, for whatever reason. You will be warmly welcomed to any of these events. There is no cost because Jesus came with nothing, in order to offer us everything we need, with great love and to give everyone hope.

With Jesus we have God With Us however simple or elaborate our Christmas celebrations may be. Why not make this year the year you come to find out a little more about the real meaning of Christmas?

Wishing you all a very blessed Christmas and a great start to 2023.

God bless you all.

Rachael

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**OPENING WEEKEND**

|                     |          |                     |
|---------------------|----------|---------------------|
| 2 <sup>ND</sup> DEC | 10AM-4PM | TREES, STALLS       |
| 3 <sup>RD</sup> DEC | 10AM-4PM | & REFRESHMENTS      |
|                     | 6.30PM   | BILTON SILVER BAND  |
| 4 <sup>TH</sup> DEC | 2-4PM    | VIEW THE TREES      |
|                     | 4PM      | CHRISTINGLE SERVICE |

**MIDDLE WEEKEND**

|                      |       |                                |
|----------------------|-------|--------------------------------|
| 9 <sup>TH</sup> DEC  | 6-9PM | TREES BY CANDLELIGHT (FRIDAY!) |
| 11 <sup>TH</sup> DEC | 2-4PM | VIEW THE TREES                 |
|                      | 4PM   | TEA & CAROLS                   |

**FINAL WEEKEND**

|                      |          |                                                                     |
|----------------------|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 17 <sup>TH</sup> DEC | 10AM-4PM | 'SANTA STOP HERE' - TREES, STALLS, REFRESHMENTS & FATHER CHRISTMAS! |
| 18 <sup>TH</sup> DEC | 2-4PM    | VIEW THE TREES                                                      |
|                      | 6.30PM   | DERINGHAM LESSONS & CAROLS                                          |

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 \*EXCEPT BILTON SILVER BAND CONCERT

**Dersingham Day Club**

**Christmas Craft Fayre**

**Dersingham Village Centre**

**4th December 2022**

**11.00am-2.30pm**

# Hunstanton and District Inner Wheel

Sue Trewin, Club Correspondent

I cannot believe that here I am again sitting down to write my piece for Town and Around as it seems only yesterday that I was sitting looking at a blank page and wondering what on earth I would have to say.

As Inner Wheel members we regularly make donations to charities. This can be in the form of a financial donation volunteering or donating items. This year Baby Basics will be receiving a Christmas bundle and we plan to collect tins and toys for the Salvation Army, along with a donation for Macmillan. It is not usual or possibly politically correct to take up space here mentioning myself but it kind of links in with what I referred to in the introductory paragraph.

In October I received a certificate from QE to mark 10 years of volunteering. I felt proud to receive this and to be a member of Inner Wheel who have contributed over the years in so many ways. Long may it continue.



On October 11 our Chairman Hilary Farrell organised her District rally at Knights Hill preceded by a pre rally supper the previous evening. A rally is an excellent opportunity to socialise with members of other clubs. 'the show must go on' came to mind when two members of our club developed a non covid throat problem with voices that came and went.



We were delighted to welcome the President of the Association of Inner Wheel Clubs in Great Britain and Ireland, Karen

Davies seen here with our founder member Myfanwy Dunford. Vice Chairman Deidre Rothwell is pictured with our membership officer Sue Sullivan.



June Sexton kindly organised an evening with Lynn Shannon and her grandson Sidney, a whizz on setting up the IT, from Norfolk Lavender. Apart from on-site gift shops and restaurant there are about 100 acres of lavender fields and an oil distillery. This may be preaching to the converted, but when I lived in London I was ashamed that I had visited so few of the many attractions on offer. So maybe there are some of you who will now be visiting the lavender fields. A selection of items on sale in the shop bought to our event can be seen in the photos below, and a lot of sniffing went on before making a purchase.



We recently held our Macmillan coffee morning, a little later than we would normally have had it. It's a tried and tested formula - lots of baking, lots of people, a raffle, lots of chatter and supporting an organisation that we are all aware of either through publicity or personal involvement. If you are a baker then having your cake on show and eaten is a good feeling. If you are not, like me, then you run the risk of someone telling you they don't like the look of the cake without knowing you made it! A short discussion took place between two guests - the one who had tasted it and the one who hadn't. I said nothing and felt as if I was a participant in The Great British Bake off. I think I won the round as the one who enjoyed it took another slice and the one who didn't like the look of it ate a piece and enjoyed it. We raised just over £300 which was an excellent result. Thank you Coral Campbell for hosting this event.

On my bucket list has always been a trip to Blackpool and I am glad to say that in March our Inner Wheel conference will be held there. Based on past conferences I have attended, it should be an excellent few days during which I hope to visit the Blackpool Tower, the Tower ballroom, the pleasure Beach etc and of course participate in the conference.

I find it difficult to believe that Christmas will be upon us soon. Personally it is not a festival that I get excited about. The positive part about it is that it helps the mind to focus on the less fortunate and to try to do something to improve things. The food bank has recently been the recipient of donations. As I walked round the supermarket, gathering recommended items I did wonder whether the chocolate father Christmas was a good idea as it wasn't on the list. I bought it anyway and hope it will be enjoyed.

I hope that preparations for Christmas go smoothly for you all.

We continue to welcome enquiries about Hunstanton and District Inner Wheel and can be contacted on hunstantoniw56@gmail.com



Thank you to everyone who came to support our Hall of Stalls on November 5. We had a very successful morning, and each of our units was able to raise money to continue supporting the Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers in our Girlguiding District.

If you would like to volunteer with a unit in this area go to: [www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested) and you will be contacted by a local member of Girlguiding. You can also register your daughter this way at [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)  
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## Hunstanton Rotary Club

**Adrian Evans**

In October the club held two events to raise funds to support Rotary in their efforts to eradicate Polio in the world.

### Walk a Mile to End Polio Now

Polio is the world's forgotten disease and something that should have been made history a long time ago. It is a crippling and potentially fatal infectious disease. There is no cure, but there are safe and effective vaccines. The strategy to eradicate polio is therefore based on preventing infection by immunizing every child until transmission stops and the world is polio-free.

This October Rotary were asking Rotarians and non-Rotarians to Walk With Us for those who can't, to raise vital funds that will help eradicate and prepare us for a Polio free world so that no child ever again suffers paralytic poliomyelitis.

Some of our members raised £40 by walking a Mile on Monday 24th October from Hunstanton Pier Amusements to the Ski Cafe and back.



### Poetry Night

This is an annual event held in St Edmund's Church Hall, to raise money towards Rotary's Polio efforts.

As always it was a very enjoyable evening where those attending were invited to read out a poem, or two, that they had chosen or written. Honorary Member John Nudds, also the club's Poet Laureate, was our compare. There were 22 attending who enjoyed a lovely 2 course meal prepared by Jane Woods. The final sum of money raised, after costs, was £362.



### What next?

In November we will be back to more varied fundraising and community support activities such as:

Collection on Saturday 26th November at the Ski Cafe for Breast Cancer in association with our Bra Day on August Bank Holiday Monday in Hunstanton which raised £800.

Sunday 27th November Christmas Lights - Stall at Mr Bun the Baker in the High Street selling seasonal treats including mulled wine.

Presentation of two awards at Smithdon High School at their Awards evening on 22nd November

Rotary Young Chef competition at Smithdon HS on 30th November.

## Donate your old car or other vehicle

With/without MOT | Running or not | The older the better | Monies raised go to local good causes | All correct paperwork completed | No charge for vehicle collection

**Contact: Richard Bird 07860 476 198**

# Hunstanton Primary School

After a busy first half term this year we are looking forward to an exciting build up to our Christmas celebrations including: The EYFS and KS1 Nativity Play, our whole school Christmas Concert, The PTA Christmas Fair, Christmas Lunch, Christmas Jumper day, our school Christmas Disco's and a Pantomime being held at school by The Purple Dreams Production Company.

On Wednesday 14th December we are holding a very special Christmas Concert at our school. Mike Tandy, Musical Director for Your Choir, has been coaching our staff and children and we are very excited about this upcoming event. The concert will be held under gazebos on the school grounds and parents and carers will be able to come along have a mince pie and a glass of mulled wine whilst listening to the concert. This is going to be a very magical occasion combining the traditions of the Christingle ceremony and a modern Christmas concert where all of our students have the opportunity to take part.

Before our half term break the whole school celebrated Harvest Festival with individual performances from Key Stage 1 and 2. Friends and family were invited to watch and the school hall came alive. We were overwhelmed by the amount of food donations to the Hunstanton Food Bank and we thank everyone for their kind and thoughtful generosity.

At Halloween the PTA hosted our annual Pumpkin Carving



hello  
AUTUMN



[www.hunstantonprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.hunstantonprimaryschool.co.uk)



competition and I think you will agree the entrants designs were fantastic and we congratulate all of the class winners.

This Autumn the children in Year 2 have been learning about the Great Fire of London. Over the half term break their home work was to create and build their own Tudor houses from 1666. I think you will agree there are some outstanding homemade houses there. There will be a special event happening regarding this project so make sure you look out for an update in a later edition.

Our Uniform swap shop was held on Friday 4th November in the hall after school. The aim of these is to help our families in the cost of living crisis in any way we can and we thank all the volunteers who helped on the day and in particular Steph for organising and doing all the washing and main preparation.

Also on Friday 4th November we had 13 pupils from Years 2 to 6 compete in the WNSSP Cluster Cross Country race in Snettisham. Congratulations to Hadley, Morgan, Brogan, Sam and Udaesh who have all

qualified for the next round and a special mention to our medalists Sam, Lauren and Rowan. Well done!

We also celebrated Children In Need day on Friday 18th Nov, with a spotty and colourful non uniform day. The day was organised by the School Council and a fun filled day of events was had by all whilst raising some money for a great cause.

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

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# News from Brancaster School

Congratulations to all those who took part in the cross country tournament at Snettisham on 4th November. Our runners had to build up a lot of stamina and performed really well, including taking first place. This was particularly great as it was the birthday of our winner, Eliza, on that day - double the reason for us to celebrate!

A big thank you to Mrs Robinson and the members of our newly re-formed PFA, who kindly put on a firework themed party for us after school on 4th November. Hot dogs, face painting, pin the spark on the fireworks, dancing and pass the parcel... we had a great time! Thank you very much to all those who helped out.



Y3/4 have been investigating tooth decay. We put hard boiled eggs in different liquids and left them there for several days, checking on them and making observations. We used eggs as the shell is like the enamel on the outside of our teeth. Most of us expected the egg in the coca cola to show most damage by going black and having holes, because we knew coca cola is full of sugar and sugar is bad for our teeth. But we got a surprise! The egg in coca cola got badly stained and did have a lot of damage to it, but the one in vinegar lost all its shell and was really disgusting. We decided that as well as cutting back on sugary drinks, we should put less vinegar on our fish and chips and make sure we clean and floss our teeth carefully to protect them from tooth decay.



Y5/6s have been learning about inheritance and evolution, with the help of the Mr Men and Little Misses. We have also been making some "fossils." Coming soon, KS2 will be kickstarting a unit on space, with an exciting workshop to look forward to. We will be exploring the solar system, learning about stars and constellations, finding out the

history of the Space Race and how space exploration has developed up to the modern day, and even handling real meteorites!

Thrift Class have been very busy recently as always and photos can be found on the blog. We have had lots of fun with teeth cleaning and handwashing experiments, hyacinth growing, firework painting etc

We have just started practising the songs for our Christmas carol concert and nativity performance, which this year will be Wiggly Nativity. This will be on 8th December at 2pm in Brancaster village church followed by our Christmas Fair, also in the church. Everyone welcome.



## Dates for the Diary:

Brancaster Winter Fair - we are doing the tombola, Sat 26th November 10 - 3pm. (donations of prizes welcome beforehand!)

Thrift Christmas workshop, St Nicholas Chapel, King's Lynn - 2nd December

Pantomime at King's Lynn - 13th December (thank you PFA for funding)

Christmas jumper day, Christmas lunch and Christmas parties - 14th December

Norwich Puppet Theatre show at the village hall (Thumbelina) - 15th December (thank you to the village hall for organising and funding)

Christingle at Titchwell Church and last day of term - 16th December. First day back - 4th January

# Snettisham Primary School is Good

Snettisham Primary School has been praised by Ofsted inspectors for providing its pupils with a "supportive and ambitious curriculum" and a "well planned learning environment".

A recent Ofsted inspection found the school retained its Good rating, and said that pupils enjoyed a "challenging curriculum that is well planned and sequenced", helping them to "build knowledge and remember topics that they learned earlier in the year".

"Pupils experience an ambitious curriculum which includes well planned enrichment opportunities and trips," the report continued. "In the early years, children experience a supportive and ambitious curriculum."

"They follow routines well and benefit from a well planned learning environment that includes a range of indoor and outdoor activity levels. This supports their development and means they are well prepared for Year 1."

The inspectors also singled out the pupils at Snettisham, which is a member of the West Norfolk Academies Trust, describing them as "friendly and polite".

"Pupils enjoy coming to Snettisham Primary School," the inspectors wrote. "They like seeing their friends and their teachers."

"During play time, pupils enjoy playing in the large, well equipped outdoor space. Pupils interact well with each other and with staff."

"They appreciate the praise and encouragement that staff regularly give them."

Positive mention was also made of the school's "effective" safeguarding policies", with the report stating: "Safeguarding is prioritised by leaders and governors. Leaders have ensured that effective training is in place so that pupils who are at risk of harm are accurately identified by staff."

It continued: "Pupils learn how to stay safe both on- and off-line."

Snettisham's inclusivity was also noted in the report. "Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) access the same curriculum as other pupils in the school. Special adaptations mean that they get the support they need to succeed."

"Pupils with SEND are fully included in school life. Staff are supported in making appropriate adaptations where necessary to support all pupils to access the curriculum."

In addition, the school's measures to promote pupils' 'social and cultural development' were highlighted.

"Pupils can participate in a range of clubs and have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument and take part in sports," the report said. "A variety of trips and visits, as well as assemblies and lesson topics, help pupils to learn about other communities."

During their visit, the inspectors particularly focused on early reading, mathematics and history, carrying out "deep dives" into each subject by speaking to subject



leaders, visiting a range of lessons, viewing pupils' work, and speaking to pupils about their learning experiences.

"Leaders prioritise reading in the school," they concluded. "A well planned reading curriculum builds on pupils' knowledge and enables them to make strong progress in their reading as soon as they join the school."

"Leaders have set up robust systems that identify all pupils' reading levels. Support is in place to ensure pupils catch up quickly if they fall behind."

"The school library offers a variety of suitable books for pupils to enjoy. Pupils read daily in school or at home, and this helps them to quickly develop fluency in their reading."

Head teacher Louise Jackson was delighted with the report and the school's Ofsted rating.

"The Ofsted report and Good rating reflect all the hard work of the governors, staff, pupils and parents at Snettisham as well as our colleagues at the West Norfolk Academies Trust that has gone into making the school the positive and inclusive learning environment that it is today," she said.

"We appreciate the many favourable comments of the Ofsted inspectors, and will build on those going forwards to make our school an even more enjoyable and rewarding place to be."

*Photos: Ian Burt*

# Ensemble offer for young musicians

**B**udding musicians are invited to hone their talents at a series of free musical ensembles taking place across West Norfolk.

Open to all primary school aged students in the area, the only requirement is that attendees have been playing an instrument for at least a term and can play a minimum of four notes.

The scheme is being run by the West Norfolk Academies Trust, with the after-school sessions taking place during term time at the Trust's four secondary schools: Springwood in Gaywood; St Clement's in Terrington; Smithdon in Hunstanton; and Marshland in West Walton.

"The West Norfolk Academies Trust values music greatly and, indeed, is revolutionising instrumental learning in local primaries through our MITI Musical Instrument Teaching Initiative, with close to 200 primary students now learning across West Norfolk," said Robin Norman, Director of Music at Springwood.

"However, we believe in the value of ensemble playing for all musicians, so we are now offering free musical ensembles to any primary-aged musicians in the West Norfolk area.

"Each one of the WNAT secondary schools will run the groups during term time, and these will offer the opportunity for the children to come together and play together, creating music and friendships, as well as memories that will last a lifetime."

The ensembles are expected to have 15 to 20 members and will include brass, woodwind, string, and percussion instruments.

"Each group will be assembled from the students that arrive," continued Mr Norman. "At Springwood there are separate groups for strings and wind/brass/percussion instruments, whereas in the other schools, it will be a large ensemble with all orchestral instruments together."



The Springwood ensemble takes place on Mondays 4-5pm, while Smithdon's is on Wednesdays 4-5pm, and St Clement's on Thursdays 4-5pm.

"Each group is run by an experienced and qualified instrumental teacher with assistance from class teachers at the school," added Mr Norman. "We are also grateful for assistance from the Norfolk Music Hub, who are also helping with some staff."

"Playing in ensembles like this really takes their musical experience to a new level – and they get to make lots of new friends!"

Contact [music@westnorfolkacademiestrust.co.uk](mailto:music@westnorfolkacademiestrust.co.uk) for more details or to register an interest.

## Public Consultation begins for West Winch Housing Access Road

The road's route connects the A10 to the A47

**P**eople can have their say on proposals for the West Winch Housing Access Road in a consultation that will run until Sunday 8 January, with the proposals available to view online. In addition, three local events will be held during the consultation period, with information on display and members of the project team on hand to answer questions.

The new road will serve the South East King's Lynn Growth Area (known locally as the West Winch Growth area) which will see up to 4,000 new homes built over the next 20 years.

The road's route connects the A10 to the A47 via new 1.5-mile road, starting to the south of Gravelhill Lane in West Winch and joining the A47 before it reaches the Hardwick Junction.

The road joins the A47 via a new signalised roundabout and dedicated free-flow slip road. The scheme would see the dualling of the A47 between Hardwick and the new road. Changes will be made to the Hardwick Interchange to account for the extra housing traffic and the rerouted A10.

The West Winch Housing Access Road will provide an alternative route around village of West Winch. The traffic flows through West Winch are expected to fall significantly once the new road opens. In the new road's opening year, it is forecast that the daily traffic through West Winch will be 55-62% lower than 2018 levels.

The new road would intersect two existing local roads in Rectory Lane and Chequers Lane. The proposals would see a new bridge built to carry Rectory Lane over the access road to maintain connectivity between West Winch and North Runcton. Chequers Lane would be severed to prevent traffic travelling through North Runcton to the A47. The opportunity for a pedestrian and cycle crossing at Chequers Lane will be explored as part of the consultation.

People can view the proposals online and give their feedback by filling in an online questionnaire via the Norfolk County Council website at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/WestWinchA10](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/WestWinchA10).

Three exhibition events will be held across the consultation period which will provide the opportunity to see the proposals in person and ask questions. The events are:

- West Winch Primary School, PE33 0LA - Wednesday 23 November, 4pm to 9pm
- The Village Meeting Place, North Runcton, PE33 0RB - Saturday 10th December, 10am-4pm
- West Winch Primary School, PE33 0LA - Wednesday 4 January, 4pm to 9pm

Hard copies of the consultation brochure and questionnaire can also be requested by emailing [westwincha10@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:westwincha10@norfolk.gov.uk) or phoning 0344 800 8020.

People can return their paper questionnaire to the council, or write a letter in response to the consultation. Comments can also be emailed to [westwincha10@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:westwincha10@norfolk.gov.uk).





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A Very Ceremonial Christmas  
Lecturer: Graham Jones

Find out about the various ceremonial events that take place around Christmas time in this light-hearted lecture. Carol services, concerts and even Changing the Guard at Buckingham Palace and Windsor all play their part. How do the Chelsea Pensioners prepare and celebrate the festive season? All will be revealed. So, come along and feel wrapped in a blanket of Christmas loveliness.

Graham started his professional life as a musician in the British Army and over a glittering career spanning nearly forty years he retired as the Senior Director of Music, Household Division, and Director of Music, Coldstream Guards.



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[info@theartsocietynwnorfolk.org.uk](mailto:info@theartsocietynwnorfolk.org.uk)

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## Go Nautical! ... at North Creake

By Philip Yorke

Everyone's talking about it! The local award-winning drama company's production; Jason and the Argonauts. It's by CDG - the Creakes Drama Group.



The troupe are staging their first production since 2019 and it promises to be a huge success. It is a truly "feel-good" play about the famous nautical adventures of Jason and his Argonauts.

The many trials faced by Jason and his crew... the crashing of waves on rocks, a fiery sea serpent and an army of cawing 'man-birds' are all cleverly created to great effect by the use of humour, imagination and simple puppetry.

## The Art of Christmas

Lesley Nadel

Christmas is an ancient custom, started probably around the 1st century BC, during the European Iron Age. Midwinter festivities by the Germanic Pagans to mark the winter solstice became known as 'Yuletide'. Celebrations in December have continued for centuries in many countries and religions, and somewhere amongst all the modern celebrations with friends and family, of presents, extravagant food and drink, some take the time to remember the birth of Jesus.

The Christmas tradition depicting the birth of Jesus Christ has been frequently painted throughout the history of art. The predominance of the Roman Catholic faith in the 14th century, particularly in southern Europe, resulted in many paintings of the Nativity scene. Church murals and altarpieces were favoured places. The altarpiece in the Sassetti Chapel in Florence, painted in 1485 by Domenico Ghirlandaio, depicting



"It is pure escapism" said Evette Price, CGD's Creative Director... "it will make you cry with laughter. The audience should certainly leave with a big smile on their faces and perhaps singing some of the memorable songs of the play", she added.

This latest production follows on from the very successful Robin Hood Panto staged by the players in 2019. This latest play is a delight to watch and is perfect fun for all age groups. It definitely does credit to the 30 year record of the drama group's productions at North Creake.

A leading part is played by young Bethany Wisken, who takes on one of the major roles in the play as Medea. Bethany has been with the players for several years now and is currently doing her GCSE Drama. She is really blossoming as an actress and plays her key role alongside her mum, Sally, who plays Jason himself.



Congratulations to the QE Clinical Team of the year Winners.  
West Norfolk Breast Care Unit.

"The unit has worked tirelessly to ensure that waiting times have been met and that patients have been treated with care and dignity at all times. All the staff in the unit go above and beyond to achieve a high level of care."

The Nativity and Adoration of the Shepherds, is a famous example and recognised as one of the artist's masterpieces. The donors of the portrait are also depicted in the altarpiece, kneeling to one side.

The painting of Nativity scenes developed with speed during the Renaissance period, from earlier depictions of the subject showing choirs of angels and an array of richly dressed characters, to a much darker theme. Much of the change can be attributed to artists such as Caravaggio and the use of light and dark in his compositions. His Adoration of the Shepherds, 1609, portrays a more realistic scene of a very tired looking Mary, cradling her baby child, with haggard looking men transfixed by the ecstasy of the scene before them. The lighting is dim and whilst the manger is a simple, lowly setting, somehow the painting has a feeling of love and humility.

By the 17th century artists throughout Europe continued generally to paint realistic Nativity scenes in classical settings with humanlike characters. However, social and cultural changes were emerging that would see a move towards separating religious or spiritual concerns from the traditional Christmas themes. During the 19th century celebrating Christmas with family became important and paintings were more likely to depict domestic scenes. People no longer just wanted to look at Old Masters' paintings. Paintings depicting snow-filled landscapes (Caspar David Friedrich, Winter Landscape with Church, 1811) and families dancing merrily around a candlelit Christmas tree (Viggo Johansen, Glade Jul, 1819) were favoured. Charles Dickens' famous literary work, A Christmas Carol, resulted in the joyous family-oriented scene by John Leech's Mr Fezziwig's Ball, 1843. On the other hand, some artists have depicted the sadness and loneliness of Christmas. Edvard Munch's Christmas in the Brothel, 1903-1904, is thought to convey the sadness of those with no one to turn to who seek paid company.

Christmas is a time to celebrate traditions and ceremonies. The Arts Society Northwest Norfolk December lecture is light-hearted and explores some well-known ones such as carol services, concerts, and changing the guard at Buckingham Palace and Windsor. How do the Chelsea Pensioners prepare and celebrate their festive season? All will be revealed, so come along and feel wrapped in a blanket of Christmas loveliness, and share a mince pie with us. Monday 12th December 2022 at 2pm. If you are not yet a member and would like to come, contact our Membership Secretary on 07825 216009.

## FESTIVE FUN WITH YOUR CHOIR



'Tis the season to be jolly', and that is exactly what Your Choir are doing, bringing fun to everyone with three concerts in December. In keeping with the festive spirit of giving, we are raising money for various local charities at the same time. The charities concerned are The Bridge for Heroes, Purfleet, East Anglian Air Ambulance and the Annabelle Davis Centre.

Our concerts are open to everyone. There is no fixed price but a price of £5.00 per ticket is suggested.

We will be singing both our contemporary repertoire and of course, Christmas carols. We have just recorded our first single, 'Somewhere in my Memory', so we will be

performing that too! The money raised for this will be donated to Tapping House. Copies of it will be available to buy on the evening. They are great stocking fillers for Christmas and cost a mere £3.00. You will also be able to download it from the Your Choir website: [www.yourchoir.co.uk](http://www.yourchoir.co.uk)

You will find us at:

The Town Hall in Hunstanton on the 10 December at 3.00pm

Queen Mary Centre in Wisbech on the 13 December at 7.30pm

Springwood School in King's Lynn on the 16 December at 7.30pm.

Tickets are available on 07485 706345.

## Handel's Messiah

at St Nicholas' Chapel, King's Lynn  
Saturday 17 December 2022, 7pm

King's Lynn Festival Chorus teams up with period performance ensemble Noxwode Baroque for George Friderich Handel's most celebrated oratorio in the awe-inspiring setting of St Nicholas' Chapel.

The Chorus will also be joined by a wonderful line-up of soloists: Bethany Seymour, Luthien Brackett, Jonathan Hanley, and Geoff Clapham. Ben Horden will be the Conductor.

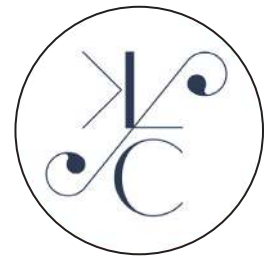
The dramatic oratorio portrays Jesus Christ as 'Messiah', from the prophecies of Isaiah through Incarnation, Passion, Resurrection, and to His ultimate glory-seat in Heaven.

A fond favourite of audiences and musicians alike, no Christmas season is complete without it.

Tickets £15 Under 16s free.

Available from the Box Office 01553 764864.

[kingslynncornexchange.co.uk](http://kingslynncornexchange.co.uk)



## Singing Sensation Sweeps East Anglia

Margie Gregory

Singing sensation, Your Choir, has just recorded their first single which will be released this Christmas! The choir was founded by Mike Tandy and was launched in January this year. It covers the Norfolk and Cambridgeshire areas to include Hunstanton, King's Lynn, Wisbech and Fakenham. Commenting on the recording of the single Mike says, "It has been hugely successful bringing all our voices together and of course a lot of fun too!"

Mike, who has an extensive career in the music industry adds, "A lot of us enjoy singing – in the shower, the car, or anywhere for that matter. The benefits are widely recognised and acknowledged! Anyone who would like to join the choir can come and sing without the necessity of an audition. It's all about enjoying singing".

The music is predominantly contemporary in nature and its purpose is to raise money for various local charities and, of course, entertain our audience. This year we are raising money for Tapping House.

When we started the choir, we were surprised and thrilled to have such an



incredible response. We have been building a catalogue of songs throughout the year and have already performed in several venues.

The final feather in our cap is that we have been nominated for a Norfolk Arts Award which we are very excited about.

New members are always welcome so come and join us!"

For further information please contact:

Mike Tandy  
Your Choir  
Tel: 07485 706345  
Website: [yourchoir.co.uk](http://yourchoir.co.uk)



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# Behind the Scenes...

Hello everyone, Christmas is calling! Welcome back to your festive edition of Behind The Scenes! In this month's edition we have some words from our wonderful Cinderella, as we get ready for December's celebrations. It's officially Panto time! (Oh yes it is).

Georgina Newton will be playing Cinderella during this year's pantomime, and I recently got to ask her a few questions about herself and her role. Firstly, let's find out a little more about this year's leading lady! Georgina notes that she 'grew up in a small seaside town, a lot like Hunstanton'. After this, Georgina decided to move 'to the big bright lights of London', and here she pursued her career as an actress. She states that she studied at Italia Conti, and she has 'been performing (her) socks off ever since'. Georgina finalises by saying she is currently 'waiting in the wings for (her) next adventure and (she) cannot wait to get started with Cinderella this Christmas'!



*Georgina Newton – Cinderella*

When I met Georgina during this year's carnival, I remember her saying that she'd always wanted to play Cinderella, so I wanted to speak with her about this. She expresses, "I love that Cinderella has a lot of layers to her as a character." Because of this, Georgina notes that she's 'excited to take the audience on a journey emotionally', as well as of course, have lots of fun, 'singing and dancing away' which is what Georgina loves.

I then continued to ask Georgina what she is most excited about this pantomime season here in Hunstanton. She is looking forward to meeting her 'wonderful cast properly' and she can't wait to meet the 'lovely people of Hunstanton'. Furthermore, she's excited to hear 'the children shout back at all (their) silliness'. Personally, Georgina is counting down the days until she can feel the bright lights on her face and is looking forward to 'waking up every day excited to go to work'. She ends with the lovely statement saying, "I am so incredibly lucky to call pantomime my job."

Finally, I spoke to Georgina about what our audience can expect from this year's pantomime. So, without further ado, get ready for 'beautiful costumes, a dazzling set, lots of fun, music and laughter with a touch of magic, lights, amazing choreography, and a whole lot of happily ever after'!

Joining the Pantomime team, we also have the amazing local group, 'Rollason Stage School', whose dancers will be performing alongside Cinderella and the cast. The pantomime will commence on the 3rd of

December, and run right up until New Year's Day, so make sure you book your tickets!

The theatre will also have its Christmas makeover shortly. From our twinkly light switch on happening the 27th of November, to the box office being decorated ready for Cinderella, with staff in Christmas Jumpers, and festive cheer throughout. Remember, we have gift vouchers available, which make the perfect Christmas gift for all theatre lovers.



**Jemma - Author**



*The Princess lit up for Christmas – last year*



*Princess Gift Vouchers*

The next time our paths cross will be in the year 2023 (how fast has that gone!?). So, get ready for another full year of exciting shows, some of which include, Francis Rossi, Marti Pellow, Peter Andre, brilliant theatre productions such as The Haunting of Blaine Manor, family fun with Easter entertainment featuring Alice's Adventures In Easterland, and a huge variety of musical acts, all of which can be found on our website.

So, all that's left for me to say is a big thank you for all your support throughout this year, we hope you've enjoyed the wonderful shows we have had during 2022, and we look forward to greeting you again soon. From all of us at the Princess, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! But until next time, break a leg!

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