

TOWN and AROUND



ISSUE 184 FEBRUARY 2021

PRICELESS!

NEWS FROM
NW NORFOLK
FREE
LOCKDOWN EDITION

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

First word

Hello and welcome to the February issue. For the past fifteen years we've promoted local venues that have devised special menus for St Valentine's Day. This year, things must be different, the 'Stay at Home' message is clear, but that need not stop the true romantics - so can I suggest an evening in the back garden under the stars, wrapped up warm and looking heavenwards with your loved one? Turn to page 44 for Terry Parish's article on all things astronomical for inspiration. Alternatively, on page 26 the Barking Bugle shares some ideas on how to spend Valentine's Day with your four legged friend.

We are initiating a column for youngsters and you will find the first contribution on page 39 about learning in lockdown. If you know a youngster who would like to see themselves in print, please get them to send a short article and photo to me by e mail (address on the top of every page).

2021 is census year, and it is to be conducted primarily on-line. If this puts you in a panic please turn to page 8 for reassurance and guidance about how to complete your form the 'old fashioned' way.

Thank you to the writers, photographers and advertisers who have contributed to this issue, you are much appreciated.

With best wishes

Elaine

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Town and Around is published by Elaine Bird and printed by
Mortons of Horncastle

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Health update with Dr David Ince

GP, The Burnhams Surgery, Burnham Market. Deputy Clinical Director, Coastal Primary Care Network.

Covid-19 vaccination is underway

By the time you read this, I sincerely hope it will be in full swing. Rarely in my career have I seen a process within the NHS move so quickly but, paradoxically at the same time, it can be frustrating at how slow it feels. All my GP colleagues, their staff and many volunteers are ready and willing to work 24/7 to vaccinate our local population as quickly as possible. We are all seeing first hand, every day, the devastating effect this virus is having on our community from a medical, social, financial and psychological point of view.



Snettisham Surgery: T&A

Snettisham Surgery will start vaccinating patients registered within the Coastal Primary Care Network from the week beginning 11th January. Clinical vaccination teams from the individual local surgeries (Burnham Market, Great Massingham/Docking, Grimston, Heacham and Vida (Hunstanton & Dersingham)) will share clinical duties to vaccinate their own patients according to the advised NHS cohorts. Alongside this, roving teams will vaccinate care home residents and housebound patients. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital vaccination centre has also been performing some vaccinations for our patients. Our rurality means that our vaccination program is likely to be mainly GP team led and each individual surgery will be contacting their patients to attend for a vaccine. As I wrote last month we are at an advantage as we have robust call and recall systems from our patient lists. Your turn will not be missed and there is no need to contact your individual surgery to request a vaccination – the offer will be automatic and is likely to come via telephone.

Please also be aware that your appointment may be at very short notice – we have been advised by NHS England that we may have as little as 24 hours notice prior to vaccine delivery. We may also need to contact patients to come the same day if we receive more vaccine than advised or if other patients cannot attend. Although we are in lockdown, leaving home for a medical reason including vaccination is permitted. The site has been approved for infection control with social distancing, staff will be regularly tested for COVID and there is a one way flow through the building. You are advised not to attend more than 5 minutes prior to your appointment, wear a face mask and although the weather is inclement it would be helpful to wear clothes that allow easy access to your upper arm. Please do not attend if you are unwell. All patients will need to be monitored for 15 minutes (in a socially distanced waiting area) after the vaccination.

Currently all vaccinations must be administered at an approved site and cannot be given at individual GP surgeries in the manner that the flu vaccination campaign is. We do not know whether this may change over time as the newer vaccinations are released; there are, however, no plans to allow us to vaccinate at our own surgeries currently. A number of my patients have said to me that they would rather wait

until it is available for administration at my surgery. Of course this is personal choice but we can see the infection and death rates rising and vaccination offers a solution to this – waiting for the vaccine may jeopardise this and early vaccination amongst vulnerable groups is the key. The way in which we are running Snettisham means that individual patients will be vaccinated by their own known GP teams – familiar nurses, admin staff and GPs – just remotely at Snettisham in an approved, safe environment. We also have the advantage of having two of our PCN pharmacists who will be present throughout to ensure safe dilution and drawing up of the vaccines.

Equally by vaccinating at a local branch surgery on a sessional basis it will allow us to maintain our normal service at our practices so that there is no interruption to your care.

Most practices will be booking appointments over the telephone by directly contacting you. We are aware of some text messages that link to a website that also requests personal, financial information. This is a criminal scam. Please be reminded that the NHS or local practices would never ask for financial information/payment card details.

Dr Anoop Dhese, a Norfolk GP and the chair of Norfolk and Waveney Clinical Commissioning Group this week thanked all involved but reminded the press and public that this is a 'marathon not a sprint'. He is correct but we all have different approaches to marathon running and I am keen that we should not be saving all our energy for a sprint finish but moving as quickly as our medical muscles will allow us through those early, important miles – I'd like a sprint start.

I wish you good vaccinated health.

Scam Alert – Fake COVID-19 vaccine text messages

Text messages circulating claiming to be from the NHS offering the COVID-19 vaccine are fake and misleading say Norfolk Trading Standards.

Anyone following the links supplied in the messages will be taken to a fake NHS website which will attempt to gather personal and financial details.

The NHS is currently offering the COVID-19 vaccine to people most at risk from coronavirus. These people will

be contacted by the NHS. You will never be asked to supply financial details for the vaccination.

If you receive this or a similar text message you can report it by forwarding it to 7726.

If you have received a text message which you believe to be a scam you can also report it to Trading Standards via the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on freephone 0808 223 1133.



**EACH TIME YOU LEAVE HOME,
YOU GIVE COVID MORE
CHANCES TO SPREAD**



**ARE YOU ONLY GOING OUT
WHEN YOU REALLY HAVE TO?**

STAY HOME
DON'T GIVE COVID MORE CHANCES

Mart unable to go ahead this year

There will be no Mart in King's Lynn this year as it is not allowed to take place under the current Covid-19 regulations set out by Government on 4 January. Under the National Lockdown Stay at Home guidance, circuses, fairgrounds and funfairs are stated as businesses that must close.

Charles Barwick, Chairman of the Norwich and Eastern Counties Section of the Showmen's Guild, said: "This is a terrible blow for all our operators, not only because of the impact on their livelihood, but also because the Mart represents the start of our season before operators head off to different parts of the country. It has always been a significant and colourful occasion, supported by the local community, with the great and good going on the rides for the opening, and then our children's days, and special day for children with additional needs.

"We are gutted that we won't be their to provide some colour and entertainment to the people of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, but hopefully, when things return to some sort of normality, we will return next year."

Borough Cllr Nockolds said: "For over 800 years the Mart has been a key event in the west Norfolk calendar, something that many residents look forward to each year. It is part of the tradition of King's Lynn, which marks the end of winter and the move into spring. It brings with it a riot of colours and sounds, and brings the Tuesday Market Place to life. I am saddened that it cannot take place this year, and I know it will be missed by many. I do however thank the showmen for taking the health and well being of their operators and the people of west Norfolk into consideration. It is the right thing to do during this lockdown to ensure that everyone does their bit to protect themselves, protect others and protect west Norfolk.

"We look forward to discussing with them, their plans for next year's Mart and hope to be able to welcome them back to the Tuesday Market Place in February 2022."

Photos: Ian Burt



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HUNSTANTON TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

Hunstanton TIC Action Group - Amanda Bosworth, John and Yvonne Bridger, Stephen and Sheila Kent

Further to our update on Page 6 of January 2021 Town and Around Edition, the Hunstanton TIC Action Group held a Zoom meeting on Tuesday January 5th 2021 in order to maintain their plan of action going forward until the end of March 2021.

This plan has resulted in further contact with James Wild, MP, who has spoken once again with Elizabeth Nockolds, BCKLWN Portfolio holder for Culture, Heritage and Health, highlighting the issues of concern raised by businesses, residents, visitors and all those who engaged with the petition last year.

Elizabeth Nockolds has agreed to a review of TIC provision in Hunstanton by the end of March 2021. This review will look at different ideas for a suitable TIC location, aiming to have a site ready by Easter 2021.

Obviously, what remains at stake is the issue of this TIC provision being staffed, and thereby funded.

On another, yet equally important note, we have written to Parish Councils of local villages and communities asking for their support of our campaign. To date, we have received indications of support from Dersingham, Heacham, Old Hunstanton, Sedgeford and Snettisham. We hope to receive further statements of support when other Parish Councils have held their meetings.

We will continue to work hard on your behalf and hope that you will log on to the You Tube meeting mentioned in this update.

Thank you and very best wishes from the Hunstanton TIC Action Group - Amanda Bosworth, John and Yvonne Bridger, Stephen and Sheila Kent.

Census 2021

When the Borough Council sent me a press release about the upcoming census telling us that it is to predominantly be conducted on-line, alarm bells rang because whilst many readers of T&A have access to the internet there are a significant number who don't, or are not confident with online forms.

I contacted Tim in the press office who sent my series of questions to Paul Walmsley, Census Engagement Officer at the Office for National Statistics (ONS). At this point I must thank Tim for forwarding my mail, and Paul for telephoning me within a couple of hours with all the answers. And those answers are included in this article.

The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941. It is unique. There's simply nothing else that gives so much detail about us and the society we live in. It tells us what our needs are now, and what they're likely to be in the future, so things like doctors' surgeries, schools and new transport routes.

It also gives a snapshot of how we live, for future generations to look back on.

Census Day this year will be on March 21, but households across the country will receive letters with online codes allowing them to take

part from early March. That same letter will also include details of how to ask to complete the census by the 'old fashioned' paper method.

Paul told me that at the last census in 2011 25% were completed online in Norfolk while the remainder were paper returns. Incidentally Norfolk had an excellent returns rate of almost 96% in 2011. This year the ONS anticipate that 75% are likely to be online with just 25% paper returns. The ONS will automatically issue paper returns to those households that have never accessed any government services online – for example passports, tax, pensions etc.

Plans are being put in place for a range of support services to make sure everyone can complete the census. Paul said: "Plans for local centres, such as libraries, to have census sessions where trained staff and online access are being made and just like everyone else we will be working within Covid 19 guidelines."

"There's also a helpline to give help over the phone and local field staff contacting households that have not yet filled in their form."

Overall, the message is don't worry. If you are OK to fill in the form digitally that's great, but you don't have to. Paper copies will be supplied and there's help available.

The census will include questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there

will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations.

Editor

census
2021

Be a part of Census 2021

Census day is 21 March 2021.

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Recycling poster competition results

Hunstanton Town Council set a challenge to all children living or attending school within the town to take part in the Council Christmas Poster Recycling Competition.

Children were asked to design a Christmas themed recycling poster that encourages families within the town to recycle more over the festive season. Ideas included drawing a Christmas scene or Santa Claus in his grotto, with the poster illustrating any items that should be recycled at this time of year.

Cllr Amanda Knight, Chair of the Council's Environment Panel said: "We had an amazing response from the children and the Council would like to thank everyone who took the time to enter the competition! You are all recycling superheroes!"

The winning entries, who will each receive a £25 book token, were:

Harper Ottaway (age 4)

Crystal Somerton (age 13)

Mercedes Ottaway (age 10)

The competition encouraged children and their parents to think about waste, the environment and what items can be recycled at a time of year when the amount of landfilled waste usually increases. "Recycling



Harper Ottaway (age 4)



Crystal Somerton (age 13)



Mercedes Ottaway (age 10)

is so important, it turns old things into new things", says Mayor Tony Bishopp.

All entries can be seen on the Hunstanton Town Council notice boards.

Norfolk Coast AONB and Broads Dark Skies Festival 2021

By Catherine Leigh, Assistant Project Adviser, Norfolk Coast Partnership

We are very lucky to enjoy splendid night skies and dark landscapes where we live on the Norfolk Coast. These contribute to the rural character and that feeling of remoteness and tranquility – some of the reasons why people like to come here. The lack of light pollution and resulting dark skies contribute to our health and well-being by allowing us to philosophise about our place in the universe, enjoy astronomy activities and gain a sense of nostalgia, peace and romance. In addition, scientific studies show that we need the dark to help us sleep properly which in turn boosts our immune system and lowers stress levels. Darkness not only brings us numerous benefits, but is necessary for wildlife to navigate during migration, hunt prey or avoid predators, pollinate night flowering plants, or simply to sleep as part of the 24 hour day/night cycle which humans also need.

The Norfolk Coast Partnership are therefore working with various organisations and businesses, including the Norfolk Broads National Park, to celebrate our night skies, and preserve them by reducing the impact of light pollution on our rural landscapes. We will be holding our 3rd Dark Skies Festival this year between Saturday 25th September – Sunday 10th October 2021 and we hope you will enjoy taking part. Events will consist of a mix of online and face-to-face activities throughout the festival fortnight. Put the dates in your diary and find out more on our Norfolk Coast Dark Skies Facebook page



@norfolkcoastaonb or follow us via Twitter @NorfolkAONB

Is your community interested in preserving the night skies where you live? We are interested to work with town and parish councils and local businesses in and close to the Norfolk Coast AONB. For further information contact Kate in the Norfolk Coast Partnership staff team on kate.dougan@norfolk.gov.uk

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A NEW WEALTH TAX – SHOULD I BE WORRIED?

By Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton

At the beginning of December last year, the Wealth Tax Commission issued its final report on the need for and design of a wealth tax for the UK. Unsurprisingly the launch attracted a considerable amount of press publicity. The report identified, quite correctly, that the impact of the pandemic on the level of public borrowing has been unprecedented in peacetime, and that sooner or later there will need to be a reckoning. Since the “triple lock” promise of no increases in Income Tax, VAT or National Insurance is a sacrosanct manifesto pledge, the report concludes that a one-off wealth tax should be imposed, payable over a five year period. This would follow precedents for one off taxes in the past, and would mean “sharing the burden of paying for the crisis across those with the broadest shoulders”

This is indeed headline making stuff, but now that the dust has settled, and before taking any drastic action, there are a few factors which need to be considered:

- In July 2020, after the first wave of the pandemic, Rishi Sunak said, quite unequivocally “I do not believe that now is the time, or ever would be the time, for a wealth tax”. This is not quite a manifesto pledge, but it is a fairly clear indication of Treasury thinking.
- The Wealth Tax Commission has no statutory authority and is a think tank set up and largely funded by university economics departments, with a self-appointed board of academics and tax professionals. It has no more statutory authority than “the bloke down the pub”, although its members are likely to be rather better informed.
- It is questionable whether the burden of a wealth tax really would fall wholly on those with “the broadest shoulders”. In order to raise £250Bn (about half the cost of the pandemic to date) it would look at charging tax on all individuals with wealth above £500,000. The report suggests that this would be spread across some 8.2 million individuals. There are about 32m Income Tax payers, of whom about 4.6 million pay tax at higher rates, so

in very approximate terms, a wealth tax would catch about one in four taxpayers, about half of which would be paying basic rate.

- The report identifies “a clear desire for wealth to be taxed more”. That is an unsurprising answer to a question which must be phrased as “If more tax is needed, should it be paid by people wealthier than you?”

- Potentially a wealth tax is profoundly unfair. For example, taxing individuals rather than households might mean that two neighbours, whose circumstances were otherwise identical, might pay different amounts of tax because in one case the house is owned purely by one spouse, whereas the neighbours own their house jointly. Pension rights are also problematic, since one need to ensure fairness between private and occupational pensions, and those whose pensions are being drawn compared to those who have an undrawn “pot”. If pension rights are removed from the calculation, the amount of tax raised would be probably about half that anticipated

- Internationally, wealth taxes are generally difficult and expensive to collect. Only 4 European countries have a wealth tax, all at lower rates than that suggested for the UK, with 8 countries having abolished the tax in recent years.

Politically, it seems fairly unlikely that even a government with a healthy majority would look to alienate 8m voters, particularly since such a tax would take a few years to organise and the first liabilities would fall due at about the time of the next General Election. However, that does not mean that the wealthy have nothing to worry about. The “triple lock” does not cover Inheritance Tax or Capital Gains Tax, and these taxes have recently been reviewed by bodies which DO have government accreditation. Whilst it is anticipated that the repayment of Covid debts will be a long-term process, perhaps even over more than one generation, it would not be surprising if long term measures to raise more tax from capital sources were announced at the Spring Budget. Those considering capital tax planning would do well to imple-



ment any planned measures before then – the likelihood of the regime becoming more relaxed is not high.

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

Mrs K H Gigg FCA

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

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Graham Middleton

With lockdown 3 now in place over the whole of England, staycations are an aspiration for all and hopefully we will be in a good place again in the spring to travel and also welcome guests to Norfolk. Now is a good time for property owners to start preparing their properties for spring and summer, and ultimately who and how they will be managed going forward.

Holiday letting your second home or investment property is by far the most lucrative way of maximising income and keeping flexibility. However, until now, this option has always posed a great deal of work for a property owner. Whether you choose to manage the property yourself or use a company, stresses and frustrations include finding cleaners, purchasing and laundering linen, organising maintenance and being on hand for guests. These hassles have always been there, especially if you don't want to lose big chunks of income to management companies. This is at least, until now!

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A Page from the Sage

Well here we go again with a write up in the Town and Around from the Sage for the month of February 2021.

A radio story

In 2006 BBC Radio Norfolk asked their listeners if they would like to send in a short story about one of the things they love most about Norfolk, apart from their family. So I did, and it was read out on Radio Norfolk, and here it is again for all the readers of Town and Around.

I was riding on the bus with my mother and I was very excited; my mother was on her way to work in an ice cream kiosk on the promenade at the seaside resort of Hunstanton.

We lived in the village of Dersingham just seven miles from Hunstanton and it was the start of the school summer holidays in 1947. We had just got over a very rough winter with lots of snow and ice but now in July the summer was dry and warm.

My father had just come out of the army after 25 years and he had just started work as a caretaker at St George's School Dersingham.

My mother said she would take me to work with her and I could play on the beach. I was only eight years old and that summer I spent most of the days, weather permitting, playing on the beach. I made a lot of friends with other local boys and girls, by the time I went back to school in September I had fallen in love with Hunstanton beach.

When the next summer arrived I was a lot older and a lot more adventurous so my mother let me go in the Blue Lagoon swimming pool where I soon learnt to swim, but once again I spent a lot of my time on the beach, there was so much to see and do, with the rock pools full of shells, mussels, crabs of all sizes, cockles and small fish.

After the great flood of 1953 my mother changed her job, and I left school and went out to work. I would still go to Hunstanton every weekend, and the first thing I would do was to have a walk along the beach, my beach.

The years went by but then in 1962, after two years in the army, I got a part time job in a public house right beside the beach at Hunstanton. I would stand in the door way of the pub and watch the sun set over the sea and if it was a still evening you could hear the sun sizzle when it hit the sea, it was truly wonderful. You can go all around the world and not see a sight like that.

Then in 1961 got married to Joy and we went to live right next to the beach, at the same time I began to dig bait on the beach in my spare time, so here I was not only living beside the beach, but also working on it nearly

by
Dick Melton
01485 535658
every day.



I dug bait on Hunstanton beach for the next 30 years and I got to know every nook and cranny, from the wonderful red, white and brown cliffs to the north, along the golden sands to the south as far as the rich black mud that would squelch between your toes when you walked across it in your bare feet.

And even now in my 66th year I still go down to that beach every day, my beach, the beach that I fell in love with way back in that summer of 1947.

Alleyways

I am always having people get in touch with me wanting to know things about Hunstanton well today I had a friend of mine who was born in Hunstanton. For some time he was on the Town Council, but he now lives away. When he was on the council he was always asking about the alleyways and pathways that ran behind some of the rows of houses like Victoria Avenue, Glebe Avenue, York Avenue, Hill Street, Crescent Road and Southend Road, as they were never cleaned of weeds and rubbish. When these houses were built, before 1890, these alleyways were made for the coalman, the dustman and the honeycart man; if these alleys where not there they would have had to go through the house.

There was in those days many alleys and pathways around the town, the longest pathway went from Seagate Road near the fair up to Southend Road then heading east it went up the Grove past Gas Works Cottages across Alexandra Road straight up over Waveney Road as far as the allotments that covered about two acres of land behind the Catholic Church. There was another long alleyway behind the houses in Victoria Avenue; this went right down to the bottom of the avenue all the way from the Cromer Road. After the honey cart was no longer wanted as the houses were put on the sewage and people stopped having coal fires, these ally ways were not used any more. But I notice a lot of people keep their rubbish bin in the front garden if not they would have to bring the

bins through the house. I was told once that the Le Strange estate was supposed to keep these alleyways clear and tidy. The Borough Council clean and cut the grass on the path between Crescent Road and Southend Road. When Tesco first came here they looked after the path beside the Sheep Field then they stopped doing it so some volunteers from Hill Street kept it tidy but I do not know if they still do.

Coastal Batteries

The same person asked me what I knew about the World War II coastal batteries that were constructed near to the lighthouse; these coastal defences were constructed around about May/June 1940 when the threat of invasion was imminent in this area due to the shallow waters of the Wash. In this area there was eight Nissen huts, lots of earthworks and trenches, three pill boxes, two substantial coastal battery gun emplacements and also a firing range and many bunkers. I read a story once that said the Royal Family were staying at Appleton House and the King and Queen and the two Princesses went to this firing range to watch a new gun being tried out. There were minefields along this area of beach; a lady told me that when she was young during the war she worked at the Le Strange Hotel, one morning she was cleaning the stairs when she saw a family of four walking across Old Hunstanton beach to get to a beach hut she shouted to them from a window but they did not hear her and all four of them were blown up and killed. After the threat of invasion had gone away in 1943 most of these defences had been taken down but I was told there were some tunnels and a Nissen hut there after the war but by 1947 the whole area was clear.

Bill Daniel

This is a story about an old friend of mine, the late Bill Daniel. Bill was born in London around about 1895. When he left school he worked at one of the big London railway stations, and in 1915 he joined the army and he went in the London Rifle Brigade. He got gassed and was sent back to England and was brought to Hunstanton to get better; he was in the old convalescence home in Valentine Road and whilst he was recovering from the gas, like many others who were in the home, he met a nurse who came from East Dereham. After he was discharged from the home and the and the army they got married and settled down in a cottage in Crescent Road. Bill got a job with the London North Eastern Railway (L.N.E.R.) he worked as a waiter in the restaurant car on a train called the Fenman; this train left Hunstanton about 7 am each morning getting to London Liverpool Street Station about 10am then it left again for

Hunstanton at 4pm and got into Hunstanton about 7pm.

Bill worked in the dining car of the Fenman for over 50 years and for many years he was the head waiter every morning when he got to Liverpool Street Station he would go to the nearest market and buy the produce for the next two trips. He always bought the cheapest then he and the chef would tart it up to make it look good. after 50 years the railway company gave him a gold pocket watch. About a year or two later whilst Bill was working in the dining car it was hit by an

engine that was on the same track, the dining car was badly smashed up. The railway company asked Bill to make a list of what he had lost, he put down pocket watch so he finished up with two watches! Bill was always on the Royal Train so he got on well with them, especially Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

The Fenman never ran on a Saturday or Sunday so bill would work at the Klt-Kat pub on those days as a waiter or a barman, Bill also worked there after he retired for many years and was very well known by many

people all over the eastern counties. Bill was one of the old characters of Hunstanton and will be remembered by many of the old folk still living in the town. He was in his nineties when he passed away and I never knew him to take a day of work even though he smoked and drank like a trooper.

Well now that's the lot for this month let's hope that by the time you read this things will be a lot better, do you all keep on a troshin'. All the very best,
The Sage
Sunny Hunny.



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Wild in Westminster & West Norfolk

To continue my running analogy from last month's edition, we are now in a sprint to have offered a first vaccine to all the people in the first four priority groups by 15 February.

This group of 15 million people includes all care home residents and their carers, all those 80 years of age and over, frontline health and social care workers, all those 75 years of age, and all those 70 years of age and over and clinically extremely vulnerable people. Then the second sprint will be to vaccinate the other five high priority groups, before the programme of wider vaccinations.

First out of the blocks was St James Medical Practice in Lynn, followed by QEH, and Snettisham surgery. Aside from QEH, the others represent groups of GP practices and the Snettisham local vaccination centre includes patients from Heacham, Hunstanton, Dersingham, Docking, Great Messingham, Grimston, and the Burnhams.

This is the biggest vaccination programme in NHS history. In addition to GPs sites, there will be larger vaccination sites in North West Norfolk. I know there is great eagerness to get the jab but please be patient and wait to be contacted – which may be at short notice – rather than contacting your surgery.

In less than a year, three vaccines have been developed and approved with the Pfizer and Oxford ones being put into people's arms. This is a huge achievement.

Vaccinations are our best way out of this pandemic and towards a more normal way of life. Once the priority groups have been protected then the restrictions on our economy and way of life will hopefully begin to be eased.

That will mean that our hospitality sector

can once again plan to reopen.

Pubs, restaurants, hotels, B&Bs, campsites, attractions, and other businesses that make up the hospitality sector are a vital part of North West Norfolk's economy.

2019 was a record year for the sector, last year of course it was a record in the opposite direction. That collapse in demand and redundancies have disproportionately affected young people.

Despite the very challenging times, the Crown Inn in East Rudham, Eric's Fish & Chips and Pizza, the Rose and Crown in Harpley, and many other premises have adapted by selling takeaway meals. I've called for a change to the bar on them being able to sell alcohol with those meals as it is unfair and having a damaging impact.

Given its importance, I know the hospitality sector welcomes the support the government put in place - that has provided a lifeline.

But I have been contacted by many businesses who say that new lockdown threatens their future after months when they have been unable to trade properly and where turnover has dropped dramatically. The new one-off grants of up to £9,000 are welcome. However, many employers have taken on considerable debt and they are having to cover NI costs for furloughed staff.

Having invested so much in supporting these businesses and their staff, it would be tragic if the benefit of the support to date is lost as firms are unable to hang on until the vaccination programme has the impact we are all hoping for.

People are craving getting back to normality and hospitality businesses will be pivotal to that. Meeting for a meal, going to the theatre, having a pint in a pub, going to



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

funfair – whatever it may be.

So in Parliament I've called for a roadmap of how restrictions will be eased is important so firms can plan. I pressed the Chancellor to extend the cut in VAT to 5 per cent for the sector until the end of the year. In addition, the business rates holiday should also continue beyond March to help firm to survive and when reopening is possible to invest and stimulate consumer confidence and demand.

Finally, we need to further action to help the sector and one of the opportunities is through the new Tourism Zones. Norfolk and Suffolk have a strong case with a proposal based on being the most sustainable tourism sector, with a strong skills offer for young people.

The hospitality sector is crucial to our economy and to our wellbeing. We need to continue the unprecedented support to ensure it is well-placed to help drive the economic recovery.

Borough Council News - Heacham, Sedgeford and Fring

Leader of Independent Group (now 16) Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk

I didn't have much to say in December and there is little of note this month. The Borough Council, except for essential services, effectively closed down over Christmas, woke up just after and then the impact of national lockdown bit. At the time of writing decisions are being made to close down most panels and committees until, likely, sometime in March. This is largely due to officers being allocated to Covid related work.

This is continuing already significant delays on work on the Environment, Biodiversity and Climate Change. All problems which will remain after Covid. The Community Infrastructure Levy Fund pot, around £1.5 million, should have been available in the autumn but is still currently

gathering dust.

Final investigations of the KLIC debacle have been hampered, by legal interpretations this time, not Covid. Independent Group members continue to dig at this.

A Borough bid for HMG funding for Lynn failed and the reasons for this failure should be made plain soon.

Locally, I cleared a backlog of planning matters but new ones have emerged and though planning is continuing essentially as normal, due to legal requirements, some things can slip. If you see unexpected work going on anywhere please tell me. Heavy rainfall has led to some localised flooding but I am pleased to say that NCC were quite prompt in dealing with the problem at Fring.

Rain and frosts seem to have made some



road surfaces worse. Report problems to your County Councillor and Parish Council first.

Keep safe, stay local, and support local shops and trades people.

Linking up

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

The Flywheel. That is what I call those mind-racing moments in the small hours when a hundred worries race through my brain in a succession of unconnected concerns. You probably have a different name for it, but I bet you have them.

Writing this on Day 4 of the new lockdown, I am reading about the ravaging new Covid variant, the new relationship with Europe and new eruptions in the fault lines dividing the nation that has, for the last 100 years, held the torch for freedom and democracy. It is not difficult to subscribe to 'doom-scrolling', the daylight equivalent of the flywheel, and look to a depressing future for 2021.

So, in the words of the late, great Ian Drury: "Reasons to be Cheerful; One, Two, Three".

First, Brexit. Before Christmas the 'chatterati' were piling concern upon concern: we would not get a deal; if we did it would be a humiliating defeat; there would be queues on the M20 backed up as far as Norwich; supermarket shelves would be empty.....None of this has happened. In fact we have quite a good deal, much stronger than expected. And if you were looking for an immediate, tangible benefit of Brexit, the rollout of Covid vaccines is an obvious candidate.

The UK's programme may not have been perfect, but nor has it been as conspicuously cack-handed as the EU's attempts so far. 'Sovereignty' might seem abstract at times, but what clearer an example of its importance than the European Commission's absurd decision to cap the number of vaccine shots available to each member state? Also, by Christmas, the Secretary of State for International Trade (and MP for South West Norfolk) had signed trade deals with 61 countries, plus the EU. Supporters of free trade and free markets must remain vigilant to ensure that interpretation and implementation of the new agreement is not taken over by anti-competitive forces and vested interests, but, with the private sector's inbuilt ability to respond to any eventuality, we are on our way.

Regarding the USA, in the end there seemed to be no more than a few hundred rioters in the Capitol. I would merely say that if you are consenting to be a US (or UK) citizen, you are consenting to election results. More important for the long term, the power of a handful of individuals to control the views of anyone they do not agree with has been dramatically exposed, leading to calls from both left and right to curb the power of social media barons. So it would seem likely (and here the gap between my writing this and you reading it might get me into hot water!) that with much background noise the new US Administration will be able to get on with its job which, in the immediate term, is to vaccinate as quickly as possible while ensuring that the huge planned infrastructure programmes are in place to enable their



economy to recover.

Covid? As I flagged last month, Norfolk is ahead of the game in the initial stages of national vaccination. We are fortunate that our local CCG, the Norfolk and Waveney, is an effective operator and is working well with us at Norfolk County Council. In fact, we are doubly fortunate: as I write there is justifiable concern at the speed of the roll-out. A big part of this is down, once again, to an excessively command-and-control approach by the NHS. It is limiting vaccinations to hospitals and GPs, rebuffing help from outsiders and refusing to move immediately to remove bottlenecks. It risks turning the campaign into just another embarrassing bureaucratic catastrophe. Here in Norfolk, however, we are vaccinating at pace. We already know where some of the vaccination centres are (Kings Lynn, Snettisham, Fakenham, for example) and by the time you read this, others will be announced, including at least one locally in our Division. This is doing much to counter the grim headlines that a lockdown causes. We at NCC are focussed first on responding to the immediate challenges posed by while being ready to pivot to support an economic recovery. Service decisions were taken early: in light of the increased rate of transmission and pressure on the NHS, we felt, for example that the risk of libraries remaining open for click and collect and digital exceeded the benefits; we implemented a more risk-based approach to children's social work visits; HWRC sites remained open, as it is outdoor and social distancing can be easily maintained; we put in place support for remote learning and reinstated shielding.

So we are responding at pace. Meanwhile, economic costs are best measured by the impacts on jobs and businesses. Unemployment has risen by far less than many had feared, and relatively few jobs have been lost. For example, employment was only 0.9% lower in the third quarter of 2020, much less than forecast.

That is partly a reflection of the UK's relatively flexible economy and labour

markets. Admittedly, UK unemployment would also be much higher if the Government were not shielding millions of jobs via the furlough scheme. But it is clearly better to have a 5% unemployment rate with furlough, than 10% without.

The government announcement of £4.6 billion in new lockdown grants 'to support businesses and protect jobs', targeting the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors is welcome, but I don't think many people or businesses see this as enough. As a result, we are calling on government to extend the furlough scheme. We are also lobbying for temporary tax cuts and confirmation of a continued suspension of business rates, together with clear compensation to the Council for its income loss. However, we will no doubt have to wait for the Budget on 3rd March to see what new packages are forthcoming. Staying cheerful, by that time the economic outlook should be a lot brighter. Household savings are higher, no Brexit uncertainty, there is massive and continuing support in place. Also, for Norfolk, economically this third lockdown would appear to be much less damaging than the first, leading me to hope that the Norfolk economy will weather this one relatively well.

Overall, it's obvious that no-one wants to be where we are today. But I'm still confident that the Government will deliver on its commitment to 2 million injections a week and that UK economy will recover much more quickly over the course of 2021 than most expect; and that is something positive to focus on.

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OLD HUNSTANTON PARISH COUNCIL

I begin with the sad news that Julia Mackinder has resigned as a Parish Councillor as and from 20th December 2020. Julia has been a mainstay of the OHPC since its first inception in 2007 and has never missed a meeting, a truly exceptional statistic. She has served the community well over the intervening years as a member of the Parish Plan Working Party, completed in 2009. As a committee member for Anglia in Bloom (known as OHIB), winning silver medals three years running. She also organised a Diamond Jubilee Tea Party on behalf of the OHIB and organised an Open Gardens fund raiser. Julia was the OHPC liaison with Police Connect and SNAP, previously known as Neighbourhood Watch. Her crowning achievement though was as Chair of the Playground Refurbishment Working Party, including serious fund raising and organising the delivery and installation of the new equipment. She was also Vice Chairman of the OHPC for the last 3+ years and her experience, local knowledge and insight will be sorely missed.

We are in the process of addressing the various traffic problems Old Hunstanton experiences especially during the summer months. In the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire Speeding and Parking were the main issues brought up by the residents. This was particularly noticeable during the easing of the lockdown in August and September

last year. We also have other traffic issues that I outlined in previous reports and we hope to include them all in the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) that we are hoping to raise this year. We have also spoken to the other PC's within the Saxon Shore area with the intention of combining all our TRO's but that has not been fruitful because of various legal constraints this may cause. TRO's cost £6,000.00 to raise and we must budget up to £10,000.00 in case there is any legal opposition to any of the proposals. Unfortunately, this is a one off payment and is non-returnable win or lose, hence our approach to other PC's in the area with similar traffic problems.

Let's hope 2021 is a better year than the last one and we all come out of it in one piece. As a reminder, our meetings are still being held online via Zoom. Please contact the PC through the Clerk, email below, if you wish to attend and/or speak at the meeting, to give us your views on the above, or anything else you think we should know or do something about. Thank you all for helping the village through this pandemic and, hopefully in the same vein, continue until the virus is under control. Email address, clerk.oh@gmail.com

David McLeod
Chairman OHPC

Pride in our Neighbourhood - 53

Cllr Andrew Murray

The planning system helps decide who can build what, where and how. It makes sure that buildings and structures that the country needs (including homes, offices, schools, hospitals, roads, train lines, power stations, water pipes, reservoirs and more) get built in the right place and to the right standards. A good planning system is essential for the economy, environment and society.

Ten years ago, the Localism Act of 2011 introduced the concept of Neighbourhood Plans.

The Act set out a series of measures with the potential to achieve a substantial and lasting shift in power away from central government and towards local people. The measures include: new freedoms and flexibilities for local government; new rights and powers for communities and individuals; reform to make the planning system more democratic and more effective, and reform to ensure that decisions about housing are taken locally.

By the autumn of 2019, over 2600 neighbourhood plan areas had been designated and 865 plans had been completed, gone through referendums and come into force. An independent analysis of the impact of neighbourhood plans has been done under the chairmanship of Professor Gavin Parker at Reading University. The study showed that the contribution that they make to housing supply can be significant with an average of 39 units per plan. Some 18,000 units were identified over and above those in the local plan in 135 neighbourhoods. Neighbourhood plans were found to improve design policy; to improve the provision for specific societal groups and be effective at integrating place making as well as improving engagement with local planning authorities.

Within the Borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk six neighbourhood plans have passed through all the stages and have become part of the official development plan for their areas. These 6 are South Wootton, Brancaster, Walpole Cross Keys, West Winch jointly with North Runcton, Snettisham and Sedgeford. Several more including Holme-next the-Sea and Castle Acre are at an advanced stage. The details of these plans can be found on the Borough Council's web site.

Brancaster's neighbourhood plan adopted in 2015 was one of the early ones. Experience has shown that the original intentions of the plan have been ignored or craftily circumvented by those wishing to develop sites through replacement buildings or enlarging existing buildings. Therefore a review of the plan is currently under way in order to improve its precision and clarity. The objectives of the review



Andrew Murray

are: - • to promote the sustainability of the local rural community and its future development by promoting opportunities for permanent residents as well as visitors and tourists. • to mitigate some of the current problems arising in future from increased housing numbers and to prevent current problems, e.g. inadequate parking facilities, from deteriorating further. • While recognising that the market cannot be overcome, to attempt to promote smaller to moderate size dwellings. • To strengthen the AONB and conservation designations with respect to the nature of new buildings. • To strengthen the opportunities for affordable social housing in future, ensuring they are an integral part of any development. • To influence the retention of smaller dwellings. • To encourage business opportunities.

As mentioned in last month's article, Hunstanton Town Council was given permission to produce a Neighbourhood Plan covering the whole of the parish in March 2014. Evidence of what the Hunstanton plan might require was collected from questionnaires circulated in April 2016 and two public presentation days and this led to the formulation of the policies. The draft plan was put out to consultation with a wide variety of stakeholders in November 2018 and given an independent health check. The feedback has been carefully noted and has led to progressive modifications of the plan.

The latest version 8.7.0 of the HNBP can be found on the web-sites

of the Town Council and the Civic Society.
www.hunstantontowncouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan.html
 Or
www.hunstantoncivic.org.uk/latest%20news/neighbourhood%20plan%20v8-7-0.pdf

In addition to the plan itself, a number of supporting documents have been prepared in order to demonstrate how the plan meets the legislative requirements; how it is in conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework and the Borough Council's Local Plan; who was consulted, how this was done and a log of changes made in response to various representations.

The plan is now in its pre-application stage and is being sent to the Borough Council and it is for them to arrange for an external examination. The examiner may well suggest some further modifications and will recommend whether the plan can go forward to a referendum.

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Round the bend with Dean Baker

I know you know this, or there's a poem about that....

The deadline for this article is the 12th of the month. With all my heart I hope by the time you read this our corner of North West Norfolk and the world beyond will be moving to better days. For now, let's buckle up and talk about pins! Not any old pins, mind you, the pins in thermostatic radiator valves. This may seem of little concern in these difficult days, however, many of us have pins in our radiator valves and they might just have chosen this time to seize up. This will reduce the radiators capacity to heat. If the valve is stuck on open the radiator could well be belting out enough heat to warm your house and next door. Or its acting as though its mid-June, occasionally making itself lukewarm on a whim. So if you can't control the temperature on your thermostatic radiators it could be because your valves are stuck.

If this predicament sounds familiar, here is what you do...

Set the radiator valve to the highest setting, that is fully open. Remove the top of the radiator valve by undoing the large thumbwheel just above the radiator tall pipe (this should be hand tight and not require a wrench). You will then see a metal piston or pin which can seize up. You should be able to push this pin down and it should easily pop back up again. If the pin feels stuck or stiff, try a squirt of WD40 and work the pin up and down several times to loosen it. If the pin is moving but the radiator isn't working then the valve head may need replacing. If the pin is frozen and you can't move it, then the radiator probably needs a new valve. At this point its



probably time to call a plumber. If your room is cold or much too hot, this constitutes a call out under Covid rules.

I usually enlist the help of a random person at this point so I can gauge if my explanation is clear.

Unfortunately, that's not possible at the moment so I have to ask Mrs B. I find her doing laundry in the utility room. I show her my article and ask, politely, if she understands it.

"How did you find me?"

"Ummmm"

"Have you ever been in this room before?"

"Eeeeeerrrrr"

"Do you recognise this white box with clothes and water inside it?"

"I only came to ask you if this explanation of thermostatic radiator valves makes sense, the pin seizes up"

"And I know the answer, do you know how I know.. because you wrote an article on this subject 3 years and 2 months ago. You said we all had to wiggle the valves to stop the pin sticking and the

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radiator jamming on very hot or almost cold."

"I did!"

"Who do you think's been wiggling the thermostatic radiator valves for the last 48 months?"

"I'll be reading Holly McNish by the fire instead of making tea. Don't disturb me"

If you're a fan of contemporary poetry. Or have realised that there are only so many subjects I can write about, you'll know that you

need to 'wiggle' your radiator valves every month or so to prevent them from seizing up.

The next morning, Mrs B has left a copy of 'Mushrooms' by Sylvia Plath next to the kettle Until next month, you know what to do.

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P.S. - do not pull the pin out - just give it a gentle tap with a hammer!

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OUR HERITAGE

What is Heritage? It is generally acknowledged that Heritage is a broad concept, not easily defined but, simplistically and for our purposes, let's say it is an inheritance from previous generations passed on to future ones. However, most of us think of heritage as simply the preservation of our ancient buildings and monuments.

But over the last decade, the term 'Intangible Cultural Heritage' (ICH) has taken on a prominence of its own because intangible heritage is embodied in people rather than in inanimate objects. Language, customs, storytelling, music, dance, natural landscapes, religious beliefs as well as crafts and folklore are some of the qualities that have made the very long list of intangible cultural values.

With this in mind, should we ask ourselves "Is OUR intangible inheritance being protected and how do we safeguard what we have?" Do people value artefacts for reasons beyond mere utility or is our historic environment not only the preservation of stones, bricks and mortar but evidence of human activity which connects people with place to include an emotional association that should be seen, heard, felt and understood.

There is a belief that British customs, particularly in England, are dwindling, that they are under continual threat (not least from Americanisation) and indeed many promise to disappear altogether, if they haven't already done so. Successive Conservative and Labour Governments have chosen not to ratify the 2003 UNESCO General Assembly's new Convention for safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) even though there have been calls by various societies and associations representing various aspects of our culture throughout Britain, to do just that. Equally, English Heritage has shown little enthusiasm to embrace the new convention either. Both institutions argue that they would be committed to an never-ending task of list-making.

As we know, a museum is a non-profit institution which collects, conserves and make accessible to the general public artefacts for exploration, learning and enjoyment. They hold in trust collections not just for society but, indeed, for all humanity. But do they go far enough?

It could be said that museums hold the key. That they are probably the best institutions to promote and rework a local community's relationship with their cultural heritage. If museums positioned themselves as a platform for showcasing local song, dance and events for local craftspeople alongside their standing artefacts, as well as embracing new technical innovations to present a variety of cultural expressions, a fuller, richer world would be open to people, both local to the area and to visitors and even to those who do not usually enjoy a culture of visiting museums.

Funding is of course a huge issue. Museums, possibly, would be committed to fund raising to cover expenditure which in itself is a cost.

Heritage Lottery Funding is a mainstay and, although some years ago now, Lottery funding enabled Norfolk children, working alongside experts, to investigate their own local stories which were then dramatised. Some 9,000 people from local communities and 24 schools staged 30 performances and exhibitions as well as performing the Molly Dance alongside the Ouse Washes Molly Dancers! Three quarters of the schools included the dance into their curriculum and St Peter's School built the stories and customs into their history curriculum.

Nearer to home and certainly more current, The Maltings at Wells has also enjoyed Heritage Lottery Funding which has enabled them to present to us Well's sea-faring history amongst other traditions local to our area. Their Creative Learning Programme targets children at local schools and as the team at The Maltings say themselves "Culture and Art are integral parts of local development".

Should we all be 'heritage workers' for all heritage? After all, monuments and artefacts are like beads on a heritage rosary which lead us to a larger framework which is our past, to a knowledge and understanding of who we really are and where and what we belong to. If we do not look into the past we will never understand who we really are and certainly cannot predict the future.

Cultural Heritage, and in particular Intangible Cultural Heritage, once lost is gone forever.

Dina Macdonald

-o0o-

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Mrs Wells kept a revelatory diary for the 14 years she toiled below stairs at Uppark. She was an elderly, anxious woman working in a notoriously old-fashioned household. But what grated most was that her mistress was born a mere dairy farmer's daughter...

As well as the Arts Society, Tessa lectures to organisations such as the V&A, English Heritage and the National Trust. She's the author of two books on social history, including 'The Housekeeper's Tale'. She has enjoyed a long career in journalism for national newspapers and magazines.

To arrange your view please visit the Society's website and click the link to request your free online access code.

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AN ITEM OF INTEREST FROM THE HERITAGE CENTRE

Capt. CHARLES ALGERNON FRYATT - b 2 December 1871 – d 27 July 1916

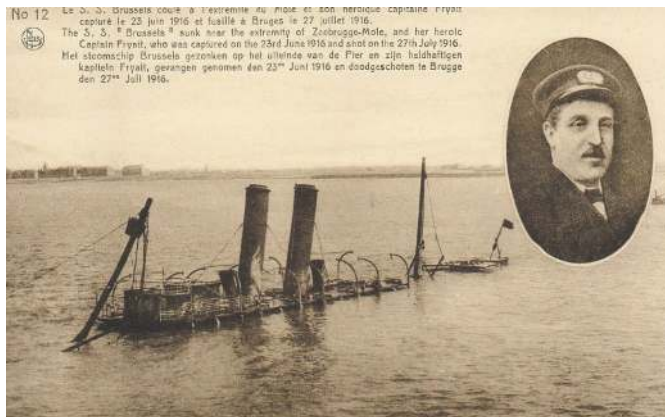
This month's 'OBJECT' is a Bench that normally sits in the Chapel of Rest garden at St Edmund's Chapel and has 'In Memory of Captain Fryatt' carved into the backrest.



CAPTAIN CHARLES A. FRYATT approaching he was a most competent Master of these ships and had completed 140 passages across to Europe from England. But circumstances changed when war started. Already, in March 1915 a Mail ship had been sunk by U-boats, with much loss of life.

Capt. Fryatt had 2 encounters with German U-boats as they targeted Mail Ships. When Captain of the S.S. Wrexham, in March 1915 they were chased for the 40 miles to Rotterdam, by a U-boat. Fryatt had ordered his crew to exert themselves to reach a speed of 16 knots (the maximum limit was 14 knots). The S.S. Wrexham arrived safely but the Funnels were burnt and blistered, for this brave act Capt. Fryatt was awarded a Gold Watch by the Company and the crew were all commended for outstanding duty.

The second encounter at the end of March, Capt. Fryatt was in command of S.S. Brussels, a Passenger Ship. They were off the Dutch coast when they saw a surfaced German submarine, U-33 which ordered them to stop. Fearing it was preparing to fire a Torpedo and with the safety of the ship, crew and passengers in mind, Fryatt decided to attempt ramming the U-boat head on, forcing it to crash dive.



This succeeded and the S.S. Brussels was able to escape and made it safely to Port.

For this action of bravery, Fryatt was awarded another Gold watch but this time from the Admiralty together with a Certificate in Vellum from the Lord Commissioners of the Admiralty and furthermore, was praised in the House of Commons.

Then sailing from the Hook of Holland the following year (23rd June 1916), some German Destroyers surrounded the S.S. Brussels and took possession of the ship, Fryatt and his crew and Passengers were taken prisoner and the ship was sailed to Zeebrugge and scuttled.

Capt Fryatt was intensely interrogated and was taken to the Town Hall at Bruges where he faced a Court Martial on charges of being a 'franc-tireur' - a civilian engaged in hostile Military activity and hence operating as an irregular soldier.

His Gold Watch from the Admiralty was used as evidence against him, and he was accused of sinking the German submarine U33, although it appears it was still seen in service at the time.

The Hearing, the sentencing to death and his execution by firing squad all took place on the same day – the 27th July 1916.

The Admiralty had issued an instruction that crews should try to ram U-boats in an attempt to get them to submerge, for a submerged U-boat could not use its Deck guns, was slower underwater and would be unable to get alongside a merchant ship to board it.

Furthermore, Torpedoes were neither very reliable nor accurate and so would be more likely to miss a beam view of a ship than a broadside view. Thus, attempted ramming of submarines by Merchant Ships was not uncommon.

It is not known exactly why this bench was placed here in Norfolk, except that Capt. Charles Fryatt was regarded as a national Hero and is Remembered with Honour in so many places of the United Kingdom.

When writing these articles there is always something new that even I learn, for instance: After the war ended, Capt. Fryatt's remains were exhumed and brought back to England where he was given a state funeral with all due honours. He was reburied in the All Saints Church in Dovercourt. On his headstone is the following inscription: "In memory of Captain Charles Algernon Fryatt, Master of the Great Eastern Steamship "Brussels", illegally executed by the Germans at Bruges on the 27th July 1916".



Memorial at Liverpool Street Station

That is all expected, but the next paragraph was certainly unknown to me.

When his remains arrived at Dover, a Railway Luggage Van (No 132) was waiting to transport the Coffin to its place of rest.

"This Luggage Van is the same one that first transported in May 1919 Nurse Edith Cavell's exhumed remains after she too was executed by the Germans. Also, later, in November 1920 the Unknown Warrior's remains were taken to Westminster Abbey for reburial."

We included a report on Nurse Edith Cavell in our September Newsletter.

More information is available in our filing cabinet at the Heritage Centre should you wish to see it.

Researched and written up by Tony Armstrong, volunteer at the Heritage Centre.

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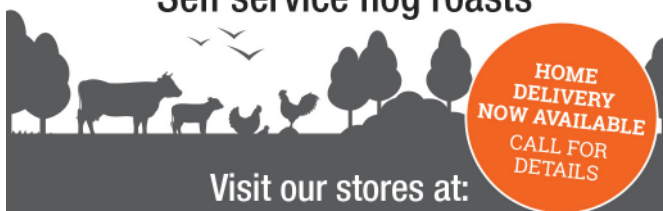


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Nine ways to have a pawsome Valentine's Day!

The other day I was woofing to my brother, Pupstar, and he mentioned that the next big date in the human calendar was fast approaching, Valentine's Day on the 14th February. I had never heard of this before and Pupstar proceeded to explain to me that this is the time of year for showing affection to those you love.

"Does this include dogs?" I asked Pupstar. "I know mum and dad love us, they tell us all the time."

"It certainly does, Miss Zsa Zsa," replied Pupstar. "I was only reading the other day that one in five humans would prefer to spend Valentine's day with their furry companions over their humans ones."

"Will we get presents, like we did at Christmas?" I barked excitedly, with memories of a stocking filled with goodies.

"No Miss Zsa Zsa. We don't need expensive fancy meals, exotic flowers, big boxes of treats or sparkly jewellery. We are far easier to please; as long as our humans dote on us and make a tremendous fuss we don't care!" woofed Pupstar.

"We don't.....are you sure?" I woofed back whilst googling diamanté collars for dogs.

"Yes, I'm sure." Pupstar rolled his eyes. "We usually celebrate by going out for a nice walk and then visit a dog friendly pub where we can snooze in front of the fire and enjoy some treats."

"Oh my Dog, Pupstar!" We can't do that this year - the humans are locked up because of this terrible illness," I woofed back.

"I think you mean lockdown but yes, you're right, we will have to think about how we can celebrate this year whilst making sure the humans stay safe," Pupstar continued.

"OK Pupstar, I think we need to do some research, fire up the I-paw."

After much pawing through the internet Pupstar and I have come up with this list of nine things you and your human can do to ensure a pawsome Valentine's Day.

Walkies

Get out and enjoy the great outdoors and breathe in that fresh air! Head off for a walk on the beach, go on a (nearby) hiking trail or visit the local park for a game of fetch.

Get creative and make a Love Jar

Every time your human thinks of a reason why they love you, get them to write it down and put it in a jar. This might sound a bit cheesy but the cheesier the better! Next Valentine's day they can take them out and read them. I bet that will bring a tear to their eye!

Make a donation to your local rescue centre

There are many less fortunate pups out there who are still waiting for the big day when their forever family gets to celebrate Valentine's Day with them, so give a little back to those who need it the most. Alternatively you can make a donation of food for needy pets to the Barking Bugle/Lily's Pet Food Bank at Lily's Pet Supplies in Hunstanton.

Playtime

Quick, fun training sessions are so much fun and they help strengthen the bond between dogs and humans even more. Train in easy 10 minute intervals to keep it stress-free. This can be so beneficial mentally as well as physically. I can really vouch for this. I particularly love chasing toys my pawrents throw to each other with me in the middle! This game should be called 'Doggy and not Piggy in the Middle'! I bark a lot during these games as I get very excited and then I have to lie down for a snooze afterwards.

Relax

The great thing about not going out is that there is no need to look good! Your humans don't need to wear lipstick, have a trendy hairstyle or impress us with the latest fashion - they can wear their oldest clothes or keep their pyjamas on all day! So just chill out, keep each other company and relax.

Dinner

Even if mum/dad is not the next Gino D'Abarno get them to cook up a nice dog friendly meal! As long as it's food we don't mind what it is - we even like the burnt crunchy bits! Dinner is a classic Valentine date.

Treats

Nothing says I love you better than a box of doggy treats. (Make sure these are for dogs and not human treats like chocolates as they are a no-go and poisonous to dogs).

Movie Date

I bet your family have been bingeing on Netflix for months now but we've never complained or fought over who had the TV remote control. We don't really mind what we watch on telly although a good doggy film would be our preferred choice. So be a four-legged coach potato and snuggle up on the sofa and pick a flick that celebrates the love between human and hound. Some of our favourite choices include Turner and Hooch, Beethoven, Benji, and Because of Winn-Dixie.

Make the date extra sweet and have a few blankets handy for enhanced snuggling.

Selfies together

Pictures will help remember the fun day you had together and the crazier the better! We dogs never get embarrassed by public displays of affection so your pawrents can post all the pics on social media. You can even enter our pawsome special photo competition, details of which can be found below this article.

We hope you have found our ideas useful. So go on, show your love for each other on this special day!

We wish you lots of love and plenty of snuggles.

Woofs Pupstar and Miss Zsa Zsa xxx

Visit www.thebarkingbugle.co.uk

PAW-LENTINE'S DAY PHOTO COMPETITION! WIN Yummy Treats!



Send in your photos of you and your human(s) sharing the love on Valentine's Day! You may submit as many photos as you like. Photos must be owned by you and there must be at least one human and at least one dog in the photo. Please send in your photos by February 20th 2021. All entrants automatically give consent for their photos to appear in Town and Around and on the Barking Bugle website and social media pages. Good luck! Send in your Valentine's Day selfie(s) to newsdesk@thebarkingbugle.co.uk

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Mudpies & Butterflies

with Louise Barby, Balanis Garden Design

"It's snowing still," said Eeyore gloomily. "So it is." "And freezing." "Is it?" "Yes," said Eeyore. "However," he said, brightening up a little, "we haven't had an earthquake lately". A.A.Milne

It can be hard in February to find opportunities or motivation to get out in the garden. Maybe try just one task for a few minutes, if that goes well, keep going. It is guaranteed to pay dividends both lifting your mood and getting the garden in order.

Flowers:

- Divide congested herbaceous perennials.
- Don't be afraid to prune roses if you haven't already, there is still time. Simply ensure the secateurs are sharp, take out thin or dead branches first, then reduce the height by one third to a half in order to maintain a nice bushy shape.
- Prune winter jasmine, cut back to flowered shoots.
- Transplant shrubs growing in the wrong place while they're dormant.
- Plant lily of the valley for both scent and delicate flowers.
- Deadhead winter-flowering pansies and bedding plants
- Remove old or large hellebore leaves to the base, it is well worth the effort as the flowers are able to be seen so much for clearly.

Fruit/Veg/shrubs:

- If you have a green house, get sowing, beetroot, spinach and winter lettuce are good to start with.
- Continue to plant hedging, shrubs, trees and climbers.
- Plant raspberry canes, in the ground, large pot or raised bed.
- Many summer flowering deciduous shrubs can be pruned from February to March. Pruning now will maintain shape and form. Deciduous hedges can also be shaped now.

Lawns:

- Re-cut lawn edges to crisp up the appearance of the garden and save work later in the season. Aerate using a fork if the lawn is becoming water logged or full of moss.
- Mole activity increases in February, as this is the mating and nest building season. Remove the largest hills and re-firm the ground before over seeding with grass seed in spring.

Wildlife:

Even if conditions are mild, do not turn the compost heap until April. Frogs, small mammals and insects may be hibernating within and any disturbance may threaten their survival.
Happy gardening!

Copy date for the March issue is
12th February. Please send letters/articles to
editor@townandaround.net
or by post to our address on page 2

Domestic abuse during the time of coronavirus

By Zuzanna Pogorzelska, Family Solicitor, Hayes + Storr

Domestic abuse has surged during the pandemic. The UN has described the worldwide increase in domestic abuse as the “shadow pandemic”. Train companies in the UK are offering free travel to refuges for men, women and children fleeing domestic abuse. According to Victim Support, over 11,500 more people than usual accessed their services between the 23rd March and 1st November 2020.

Additionally, law firms such as ours are experiencing the inevitable post-Christmas rise in divorce cases that sadly we have come to expect at this time of year.

What is domestic abuse?

Anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, socio-economic status, sexuality, or background.

In 2015, the government’s definition of domestic violence was changed to ‘domestic abuse’ to include controlling and coercive behaviour; a more subtle form of abuse that doesn’t always involve physical violence.

Domestic abuse is currently defined by the government as:

“Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality.”

This can encompass, but is not limited to the following types of abuse:

- psychological
- physical
- sexual
- financial, and
- emotional

What is controlling and coercive behaviour?

According to Professor Evan Stark, a leading expert on coercive control: “the victim becomes captive in an unreal world created by the abuser, entrapped in a world of confusion, contradiction and fear.”

Domestic abuse isn’t always physical. Coercive control is when someone uses manipulative behaviour to isolate their partner. The perpetrator will monitor their partners behaviour, exploit them, break down their support network, create a sense of fear, and deprive them of their autonomy so they believe they have no alternative other than to stay with their abuser.

I’m in an abusive relationship. What can I do?

During the pandemic, it has been harder for people to escape their abusers but there is never an excuse to put up with domestic abuse.

The government has made it clear that coronavirus restrictions do not apply if you need to leave your home to escape domestic abuse. If you are faced with immediate danger, call 999. Many kinds of domestic abuse are criminal offences, and the police can arrest, caution or charge the perpetrator.

If you want to leave the family home, you

(& your children if you have any) could:

- stay with relatives or friends
- stay in a refuge
- get emergency accommodation from your local authority under homeless persons’ law – this will usually mean a bed and breakfast hostel
- get privately rented accommodation

If you are in an abusive relationship, you can get legal protection by applying for the following orders:

- non-molestation order: to stop your partner harming or threatening you
- occupation order: where you stay at home and your partner has to leave

Further down the line, a solicitor who is experienced in family law can advise you on:

- getting your property back or making you the legal owner of your home
- deciding who your children can live with and who can see them



• ending your marriage or civil partnership

Whatever you decide to do, there are many local and national organisations that can help. For advice on family law and other legal matters, call Hayes + Storr on 01553 778900. The National Domestic Violence Helpline: 0808 2000 247 The Men’s Advice Line: 0808 801 0327

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Plant of the month - Summer Flowering Bulbs

Wendy Warner

It may seem odd to be thinking about mid to late summer colour in the garden now, but whilst we're having to spend more time at home, you can plan a colourful display for the months ahead, even though you won't be planting them for a month or two. These flowers that grow from bulbs, corms, rhizomes and tubers are now for sale in the Garden Centre.

Dahlias are very showy flowers with many different types varying in height and flower shape, size and colour. Dahlias aren't subtle, imagine every bright colour and there will be a dahlia to match! Perhaps the most spectacular are the "dinner plate" varieties which have heads up to 10". The Bishop dahlias have the addition of dark bronze foliage which makes the bright flowers appear to stand out even more. All these Dahlias can be grown in beds and borders or in pots. They can be started off earlier in pots if kept frost-free and then planted out at the end of May, once there is less likelihood of frosts. With the milder winters we have been getting recently, most people tend to leave their Dahlias in the ground. If you do decide to lift them, they will need to be thoroughly dried off and kept frost-free throughout the winter.

Garden Gladioli are sword-like, upright flowers ideal for the middle or back of the border, or if you have space grow some in a corner of the garden specifically to use as cut flowers. Gladioli too come in a wide range of flower colours from white, through yellow, green and pink to deep purple and red.

Large-flowered Begonias can be grown from corms and can be started off in a shed or heated greenhouse. Most Begonias are available in red, white, pink, yellow or orange. Doubles have large upright flower heads, pendula or cascading begonias trail down and exotics have interesting two-tone or frilly flowers. These Begonias are best grown in pot or containers and the pendula varieties are ideal for hanging baskets, window boxes or tall planters where they can be allowed to trail.

Most Lilies are scented and flower in June, July or August. They can be grown in the ground or in pots. Skyscraper or tree lilies will grow up to 8ft tall eventually whereas most normal lilies will be up to 3ft tall with patio pot lilies only growing to about 18".

Cannas will give a very exotic, tropical look to the late summer

*Almost 6 foot tall tree lilies in Snettisham
June 2020. T&A*



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garden and are ideally grown in pots so that they can be moved into a greenhouse after flowering as they can be tender. As well as the bright flowers, many have equally attractive foliage.

One of the plants always asked for at the wrong time of the year, is Nerines with their stunning pink flowers that make a wonderful show in September and October. They grow particularly well in this area as the sandy soil gives excellent drainage, and plant them in a sheltered, sunny spot where they aren't competing with other plants. As well as the most common bright pink, they are also available in white, pale pink and red.

Although it's best to buy your bulbs now, remember to store them in a frost-free place before planting in the spring. Enjoy a spectacular display this summer!

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Nature Notes with Roger

Observations from my window

I am writing this just as the restrictions for the latest lockdown for the whole country have been announced. This will mean far fewer and much shorter journeys out and about, and far more relating to wildlife within my garden and immediate surroundings. Last year many people discovered that connecting with nature had great benefits for general health and mental well-being, and it has been reported that sales of bird feeders and food increased significantly during the various periods of lockdown and associated restrictions. Periods of extreme cold or when the ground is hard or covered in snow make it very difficult for birds to find the food they need, and feeding them at these times is the easiest way to see them in our gardens.

On the whole birds are not too fussy about the different types of food available, and all sorts of kitchen scraps will make a welcome meal: suet, raisins, fruit, cheese, cooked potato or those leftover mince pies and Christmas cake. However it is important to never put out desiccated coconut, uncooked rice or bread as this can swell up inside the bird's stomach. There is also a variety of specially prepared bird food available for sale in the form of seed mixes, peanuts, fat balls and niger seeds, and different bird species can be attracted more to certain foods. A general seed mix is ideal for most birds, but fat balls will attract tits, and niger seed seems to be the goldfinches favourite.

For just over 40 years the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

(RSPB) have been running a Big Garden Birdwatch, asking members of the public to send in details of the birds they see in their gardens over a specific weekend. This year it is taking place on 29 - 31 January and all the RSPB ask is that for one hour during that weekend we count the birds that visit our gardens. The maximum number of each species seen at any one time can be recorded and details sent to the RSPB. It is a great way of identifying different bird species, learning about their habits and also adding to research into how well garden birds are faring across the country.

Of course, by feeding birds in our gardens there is always the chance of attracting a Sparrowhawk. These bold birds of prey quickly learn where feeding stations are and tend to make daily or weekly circuits of gardens to see if they can pick off some unsuspecting prey. I don't think we should feel too guilty or sentimental about feeding birds on this score, as there is no evidence to suggest that small song bird numbers are declining because of this activity, and it could be argued that we are feeding the Sparrowhawk in a similar way to all the other birds! Only the other day one visited our garden – a female juvenile which sat on the fence for a few minutes before flying low along the house boundaries.

I have been fortunate enough to have had really good views of other birds of prey from my garden. Buzzards seem to be flying over more frequently and



the other day one actually landed on a neighbouring roof and surveyed the scene for about twenty minutes. Red Kites too are a familiar sight over the village. Unfortunately our local Tawny Owls have left, probably due to the development of a couple of new dwellings very near their favourite roosting trees. Up until last year, at this time, the male owl could be heard calling quite regularly with his deep wavering notes

“whooooo, whoooooowhoowooo”. The female makes a quite different call, a sharp strident “keewik” and it is this that has given rise to the call of the bird being described as “tu-whit, tu-whoo”, whereas in fact it is actually two different birds. I have not heard either call for almost a year now.

The Jackdaws that live in the colony situated in the small areas of woodland at the end of our road are very active at this time of year. The recent high winds (and the

Sparrowhawk) have made them quite jittery and they make frequent flights around the area. They also need to reinforce their pair bond before the breeding season. There are about 40 pairs in all and a few seem to feed locally, but most go further afield and can be seen returning in the evening. Many gulls too drift across the sky in the evening on their way to roost on The Wash, while small gatherings of Starlings wheel and turn over the nearby houses. Already, at this early time of the year, some birds are starting to pair up; the Collared Doves have been chasing one another around, and calling with their characteristic three syllable notes as they sit on the TV aerials.

While we may have to adjust our activities and severely restrict our movements, the birds and other wildlife continue as normal and can be enjoyed even from within our homes and gardens.

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Letters to the Editor

Wheelbarrows

Madam,

Could I please clarify the pedigree of the wheelbarrow pictured on P38 of your January edition.

It is definitely being pushed by Dave Nice, with his arms tucked in to aid any manoeuvring required.

However it is not a Chillington Camden 85L. While it has front bracing struts which are one of the things wheelbarrow-spotters use to identify this particular brand, it is blue.

Anyone who knows their wheelbarrows will know the Chillington Camden 85L sports a black livery.

I'm happy to clear this up for your readers.

Old Muck



Town and Around pictures used in a music video

Hello, we have produced a music video and used your images from Pixabay. We would like to thank you for providing such great photos. If you are interested in how your footage was used, you are welcome to watch our video "Poll-Evil-ution" on YouTube via the following link. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L2GGatXQaO4>

Briefly about us; we are a music duo from Mainz (Germany) and would like to make a contribution to environmental protection with this non-profit project. We would like to thank you very much, because without your picture the final product would not have been so great.

Kind regards

Darijo & Isabelle from "That's Chic Music"

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Footnote to Hunstanton's Polish connections

By John Maiden

There is something I am able to add to a fascinating story in December's Town & Around, largely due to the fact that I can actually remember sharing the Roman Catholic Church on Sandringham Road with the Polish military during WWII. After the war, when I became an altar server, it was wonderful to have mass in the church garden, surrounded by nature, thanks to the shrine and altar lovingly erected by our Polish allies. However, It is should be noted that the real reason the shrine became a pile of rubble was not because it had deteriorated and fallen into decay. During the 1950's the number attending Sunday mass was boosted by the presence of American families living off the base at RAF Sculthorpe.

Due in no small part to their generosity, sufficient money was raised to build an extension to the church, which I managed to attend, although in 1958 I was stationed near Birmingham as part of my National Service in the RAF. Sadly, the Polish shrine and its altar had to be moved to make way for the extension and it has always troubled me that they were not rebuilt elsewhere in the grounds, until Asia Hutchinson arrived on the scene many years later. This just goes to show that there are times when things happen simply because just one person takes the initiative and the cause snowballs as a direct consequence of their infectious enthusiasm.

Hunstanton is still waiting for such a person to bring back its open air swimming pool, opened with quite a splash in 1928 by Miss Mercedes Gleitze, but unceremoniously demolished in 1967, to make way for an outlandish £4.5m seafront redevelopment scheme, which never materialised!



Demolition of the Blue Lagoon in 1967

On a more positive note, Ian Brown is to be congratulated for his success in establishing a Heritage Centre at RAF Sculthorpe. Among his many achievements he has managed to obtain the original George Medal awarded to USAF Staff Sergeant Freeman A Kilpatrick for his outstanding courage in saving the lives of 18 of his neighbours from the Floods that devastated the South Beach area of Hunstanton on January 31st 1953.



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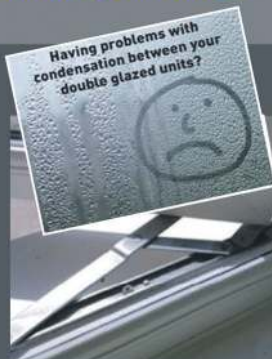
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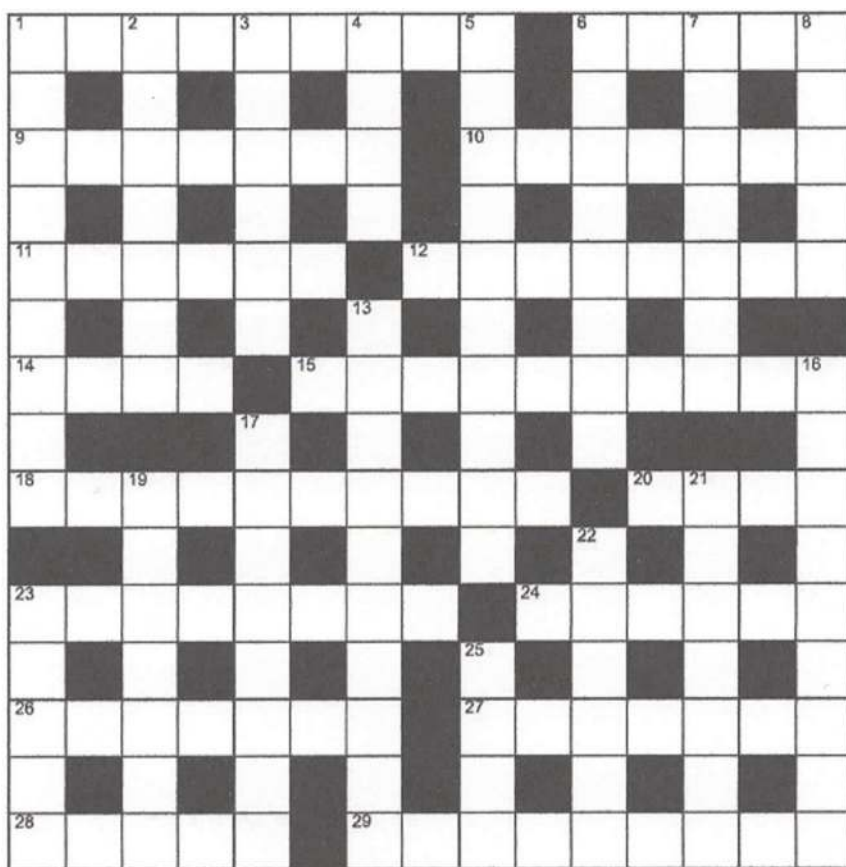
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David Elsey's Cryptic Crossword



Crossword solution on page 39

Crossword Clues Across

1. Late operators are due to commence work on the outskirts of Leeds (5,4)
6. Railing against king isn't so bright (5)
9. It sounds rather big to wind up (7)
10. In conclusion admit fashion is wild (7)
11. Where drivers are generally found to make some progress (6)
12. The Last Post rings around field – it's used during in-depth listener survey (8)
14. Relations with Korean leader create a small problem (4)
15. Climbers enduring a period of abstinence are romantically involved (10)
18. Those not sold on Brexit retain initial doubts (10)
20. Criminal charges around bar (4)
23. Colour a solution for medicinal use (8)
24. On horseback take home bird (6)
26. Cold part of Italy or somewhere in this country (7)
27. Put up with most abuse and most pain (7)
28. Disloyal talks held in Black Sea resort (5)
29. Commoner negotiates a way through top area of London (9)

Crossword Clues Down

1. A perfectionist can upset the best worker without effort (9)
2. Leading astronaut shut up with a top Russian isn't ignoring the good fellow (7)
3. Either way it's part of beat for copper (6)
4. Gained time to practice (4)
5. Soft centre, one of 15 (10)
6. Normal place to collect a passenger? (8)
7. Layer of support applied to cape (7)
8. Murder case wanting good work from Barnaby (5)
13. More plain-spoken, with a bit of the blarney (10)
16. Scored and was withdrawn (9)
17. Start to write first song, making bloomer (8)
19. Note (one line) is of little consequence (7)
21. Race where contestants all throw up? (7)
22. Language used to attract attention when pet's outside (6)
23. Mostly dry and tasteless (5)
25. Small pause in speech follows answer to problem (1,3)

Ray Butchers Su Doku

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...then the more challenging

Hunstanton Lifeboat Station

Geoff Needham, LPO Hunstanton

Due to the present crisis, along with everyone, the RNLI has closed all Stations and shops. We are still operating as the Charity that saves lives at sea, our crews will still respond to calls for help. The RNLI is urging everyone to follow Government instructions, which are clear: stay home, protect the NHS and save lives. While you are allowed out for daily exercise, we do not recommend that this exercise is on or in the sea. Our charity's lifeboat service is still available but every time a lifeboat crew is called to an incident, it puts additional pressure on RNLI volunteers and other front-line emergency services as well as potentially exposing them to COVID-19

With no shouts to report, I came across this report of a court case, and I share it with you. Although its not about our station, its an interesting incident that happened off our coast, and involved our flank station Brancaster Lifeboat. On Wednesday 30th November 1881. At Lynn County Court Thursday (Before E. P. Price Esq. Q.C. Judge, and Messrs. R. Wise and F.J. Swatman, (Nautical assessors)

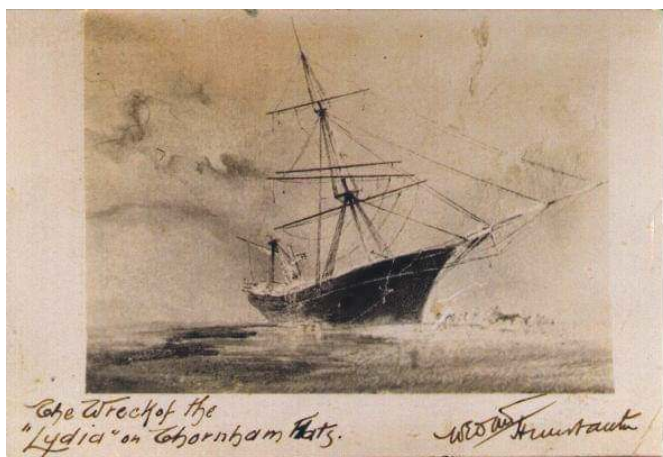
IMPORTANT SALVAGE CASE. Ambrose Everett and Robert Loose, Brancaster fishermen brought a action against the owners of the Norwegian barque S.S. Lydia, claiming £300 for salvage services rendered to that vessel. Mr Simms Reeve (instructed by Mr F.B. Archer) for the salvors, and Mr. Bucknell, of the London Admiralty Court (instructed by Mr. J.S.B. Glasier) for the ship. The facts of the case were stated by Mr Reeve.

Plaintiffs were members of the Brancaster lifeboat crew. On the 23rd October the barque Lydia which was a perfectly new vessel, was on a voyage from Arendal (Norway) to Cardiff. She was 750 tons register, with a carrying power of 1,000 tons. She was insured against total loss for £6,000. The value of the cargo was unknown, but consisted of 3041/2 standards of props which made 609 loads. She was caught in a gale on 23rd October, and the master thought the ship was off the Dutch coast. On the date mentioned the vessel was off Wells, being just outside Blakeney Knock. She progressed on her course towards the west, the water in some places being very shallow. She went on until 10.30 on the Sunday morning, then grounded on the upon the Burnham flats, which are situated about five miles from Brancaster bank. She was seen in this position by a man who was the lookout for the Brancaster lifeboat.

That boat was eventually launched with a crew with a crew of 13, and the barque was reached about 12.30. The mate of the Lydia requested the lifeboat men to board the barque, and six of them did so. They loosed the sails, the object which was to endeavour to move the vessel when the tide flowed. They also sounded the pumps and found twelve feet of water in the hold of the barque. They further discovered that the rudder was unshipped. About 4.30 of the same day, the tide then being in flood, strong effort was made to get the vessel afloat, but the attempt failed. The crew of the barque, seeing her dangerous position, then got into the pinnace, the ship's small boat, and from that managed to board the lifeboat, there would thus be 27 men in the lifeboat, which would be her full complement. The lifeboat with the Lydia's crew, excepting the captain, who remained in the pinnace, proceeded towards Brancaster beach, the small boat was left riding leeward of the barque.

The lifeboat crew observed the steam tug Vivid coming from the direction of Lynn, and hailed her, three of the lifeboat crew, the two salvors Henry Loose and four of the barques crew, got on board the tug, whilst the remainder proceeded in the lifeboat to the beach. The tug went to the barque, and the pinnace, containing the captain, was found to be half full of water. The salvors volunteered to go in the tugs small boat to the barque, an act involving considerable danger, and nobody had the courage to do it. They got on board the barque, and then went to look after the captain, they got him out of the boat, which must inevitably have gone to the bottom. The salvors then set to work to trim the sails of the barque, and by that means, when the tide rose, they got her off and steered her to a spot known as the Old Haven hole which was the most safest place to make for about that part.

The Court would remember that there were only two salvors to handle the ship, which was without a rudder. They then let go her port anchor to prevent her drifting towards the shore, and the starboard anchor was made ready to drop, but it was not necessary as one was



sufficient to hold her. As the tide rose the vessel floated and as it fell she grounded. On the Monday afternoon the steam tug Vivid made its appearance again. The captain then ordered the tug to take the barque in tow, the salvors protested against such a course, as they foresaw what must occur. Notwithstanding the captain persisted in his orders, and as expected, it was found the tug was unable to hold the Lydia and she drifted on to Thornham beach. This statement having been borne out by the evidence, Mr Bucknell replied for the owners of the ship, remarking that the salvors had entirely mistaken the nature of the services. The real point at issue was whether the two salvors did something which lead to the result of saving all the property. It must be established that through the exertions of the salvors, property or life had been saved. Success was the essence of salvage services, and mere working labour, which was not attended with successful result, could not mean salvage service. Because the salvors got the vessel from point 1 to point 2 and she got ashore at point 3, it did not follow that they saved the cargo. Evidence had been given that if the ship had been taken by the salvors she would have gone on the middle Bank. They could not say that if the barque had not been taken hold of by the tug she would have been left in a better place. In "Pritchard's Digest" was the following definition: "Success is the main ground on which salvage reward is given. A salvage reward is for benefit actually conferred in the preservation of property, and not for meritorious exertions alone. Men might act as meritoriously as they please, but their services ended there, it did not bring them within the meaning of the law as salvors. The learned Judge and Assessors having consulted, His Honour said that the Court did not think it was salvage service within the meaning of the word salvage. His own view the meaning of salvage services was that the property must be saved in re*, and in that condition before the peril of the sea was incurred. The Court believed the salvors acted zealously and to the best of their judgement. He thought the crew of the barque acted most scandalously in deserting their captain. The Court awarded the salvors £60 each. Each party to pay their own costs.

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

The RNLI charity saves lives at sea. Its volunteers provide a 24-hour search and rescue service around the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland coasts. The RNLI operates over 238 lifeboat stations in the RNLI UK and Ireland and, in a normal year, more than 240 lifeguard units on beaches around the UK and Channel Islands. The RNLI is independent of Coastguard and government and depends on voluntary donations and legacies to maintain its rescue service. Since the RNLI was founded in 1824, its lifeboat crews and lifeguards have saved over 142,700 lives.

Brancaster School news

We all had a lovely end of term, with Covid safe parties, a virtual filmed Nativity and a trip to the panto (a big thank you to our PFA for paying for this).

We were all ready to come back then we heard the news that schools were being shut again.

So we are back to like the first lockdown. In Thrift Class (YR/1/2) we have 3 children already in school and one starting back soon. In Samphire class we should have about the same on Monday.

The teachers are working hard to make packs for the children at home so they can do the same as us in school. In Thrift we are doing "Our Wonderful World" all about plants and animals and different countries. We tried out a video lesson so Mrs Bocking could see if it would be good for learning at home but it wasn't good in school so we don't think we will do that.

We will have more news and photos next time to show you what we are doing. Half Term is 12th February.

From the children in Thrift Class

Hunstanton and District Inner Wheel

Sue Trewin, Club Correspondent

In the last Inner Wheel article, I mentioned we would be presenting Baby Basics with donations in time for Christmas. Well we did, and our President Hilary Farrell and Vice District 8 Chairman Coral Campbell did the honours.



We have just celebrated Inner Wheel day on 10th January. This special day was created by President Helena Foster in 1969. The 10th was chosen as it was on that date in 1924 that the Mother Club, the Manchester Inner Wheel Club first adopted the name INNER WHEEL. Since then it has been the day for all clubs nationally and internationally to celebrate and reflect on the aims of IW- friendship, service and international understanding. You may have spotted one or two lighted candles in windows to mark IW day. There are clubs in many countries around the world, with over 100,000 members in 102 countries and is one of the largest women's organisations with consultative status at the United Nations.

On the international front, one of our members, Rosemary Bowett is seen (right) with items collected for an international development charity called Tools for Self Reliance, which recycles and refurbishes tools and sewing machines and supplies them to partners in Africa in conjunction with training programmes. As a group we are delighted to continue to support this very important international charity.

So we have made it through 2020 and here we are in 2021. Ok, it's going to be tough but we do now have the vaccine which is being rolled out fast, and spring will definitely come regardless of covid.

Learning in lockdown

My name is Eden and I go to Glebe House School in Hunstanton. At the start of lockdown learning was tough because at the beginning we didn't do lessons on zoom and I learn best with a teacher I can see and talk to, but then we started doing lessons online and that was much better.

I also had to do dance lessons online, and that has been quite the challenge as the internet cuts out and freezes and makes it more difficult. I can't wait to get back to the studio with Rollason Stage School!

Thankfully, throughout these hard times my kittens Angus and Gordon have helped me with my school work by being cuddly and always purring.



Another thing I have been doing in lockdown is online piano lessons which like everything else hasn't been too easy and this time the kittens can't help me, and yet again it's the same difficulties with cutting out, freezing and not being able to hear.

Something I'm really glad I am able to do is to keep in touch with my friends to video chat, text and voice call; I'm really happy that I can talk to them.

I just can't wait to get out of lockdown and do everything that I now have to do online in person, and get to see my wider family and friends again.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION
Across: 1. Night owls, 6. Paler, 9. Tighthen, 10. Enraged, 11. Inroad, 12. Otoscope, 14. Kink, 15. Valentines, 18. Remainers, 20. Spar, 23. Tincture, 24. Gannet, 26. Cumbria, 27. Stomach, 28. Yalta, 29. Hampstead
Down: 1. Nitpickier, 2. Gagarin, 3. Titian, 4. Wont, 5. Sweetheart, 6. Parasite, 7. Leghorn, 8. Rudge, 13. Balderdash, 16. Scratched, 17. Wistaria, 19. Minimal, 21. Pancake, 22. Patois, 23. Tacky, 25. A sum



Hunstanton & The Saxon Shore

As I write, we'll have been living in the vicarage at Brancaster for just over two weeks. We've got to know some of the villagers and are enjoying all the beautiful walks from the doorstep and the pinks, blues, reds and oranges of the amazing sunsets.

It's been an interesting time moving to a new house during the busiest week of the year work wise, the week before Christmas, and during a global pandemic! Slowly boxes are getting unpacked and we are finding a home for things. It's also been a good opportunity to have a good clear out!

This is an area we know well as we've camped many times in our campervan at Burnham Deepdale or Sandringham. My campervan is easily recognisable as my husband and 3 daughters got me a special number plate when I got ordained:

X (I'm generation 'X', or it could be the cross on its side or a kiss, the kiss of peace)

70 (the year of my birth) and

Rev (for becoming Reverend, something I never imagined would happen, but that's another story)

The other thing I like whizzing around on is my electric bike. You'll see me coming in my fluorescent yellow helmet!

For many years I've felt the call to rural ministry and have a passion for farming and all that farmers do for us. They are very much key workers at the moment, another group of unsung heroes that are working tirelessly to support the country in these challenging times. As we've driven along the A17 from our previous home in Wilmslow, Cheshire, I've watched the farm workers in all weathers, but really feel for them when it's wet, frosty or snowy. It's made me appreciate even more every mouthful of food I put in my mouth. I think one good thing that's come out of this difficult year is that folk have developed an attitude of gratitude for the many good things we are privileged to enjoy.

I'm hoping to get to know people more once I begin work after my licensing on 25th



January. It's looking like that will be on Zoom now rather than in a church building. I didn't even know what Zoom was back in March 2020! But 'church' isn't a building, it's the people, and whilst things have looked different, 'church' for me has still been happening, just in a different way. Indeed, 2020 gave me opportunity to exercise my creative side. I've always said that you can't put God in a box, so being able to minister differently and creatively has allowed people to engage with 'church' who perhaps might not have otherwise.

If you see me out and about, do stop and say a 'socially instanced hello'. It'll be another challenge starting a new job in these strange times we find ourselves adjusting to, but I have had a real sense of peace about such a big move to minister in this place. That tells me that God has me where He wants and needs me, so 'all will be well' as St Julian of Norwich put it so well all those many years ago.

Remember to stay safe with "hands, face, space" and most importantly, grace!

God Bless

Kirsty

UNION CHURCH

Although we have moved into a new year, it may feel as if the old year has carried on with us experiencing another Covid lockdown.

Over Christmas I read in a book of a church with a bench outside it with the words 'Look Beyond' on its back. Maybe that's a good reminder for us to 'look beyond' our present times.

We all have had a very hard year of restrictions and maybe lost loved ones to Covid or other illnesses. A passage from Isaiah 43.18 speaks to us of 'Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past' – life goes through many 'seasons' for all of us and often we have to re-build again after a time of adversity; we have to look beyond our present suffering. In fact that was just what Jesus did when He suffered that terrible death on the cross:

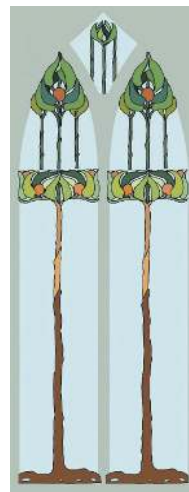
'Let us fix our eyes on Jesus ... who for the joy set before him endured the cross' (Heb.12.2).

He was prepared to suffer death to anticipate the joy of being the means of saving us from our sins. So let us look beyond the present situation and pray that

God will lead us out of it with blessings of vaccines and the hard work of the NHS workers and that we will be changed and challenged to trust Him in these uncertain times.

With Every Blessing,

Janet Brown



Secretary

Tel. 01485 532309

Email: ubjaney@hotmail.co.uk

Snettisham Salvation Army

This is time of year when we would normally be planning our holidays. Are you dreaming of a future holiday? Not just dreaming but planning one in the hope that you will be able to travel. All holidays take a great deal of planning. Firstly, the type of holiday we want – sun seeking, sightseeing or just a rest somewhere quiet. But it doesn't matter the type of holiday they all need planning.

The last holiday I went on was to Scotland, touring in a caravan. I don't know about you but when going on a journey I always like to know exactly where I am going and the route I am going to take. On this holiday we had to go on the Glasgow by pass. If you have never been round it, it is quite an experience. I wasn't driving but I had looked at the map and thought I knew the way around but we decided to put our destination in the satnav to be on the safe side. It was a good job that we did because we seemed to be constantly changing motorways and sometimes we seemed to be going the wrong way. But I was told not to worry we would just following the directions from

the sat nav. Yes, we did arrive safely at our destination but I would never have navigated us round the maze of roads.

Jesus came to earth to show us the way in our lives, In John chapter 14 Jesus said 'I am the way'. He said that there is no other way to God but through him. He came to earth, was crucified, sacrificed himself for each one of us. The disciples found it difficult to grasp what Jesus was telling them we can understand fully 'The way' for us. It is to trust in Jesus to show us that way. This is one journey we take where we can never get lost.

God bless

Mavis Jones

Secretary

Snettisham Salvation Army

Contact details

Alison.kirby@salvationarmy.org.uk

01485 579079





Mass times have now returned to normal in both our churches. Please remember to wear a mask when coming to church, keep your distance and use the hand sanitiser provided.

For Parish news including Mass times and prayer requests, please see the Parish News page on our website.

For information about live streamed Masses in the Diocese and related matters, please check the Coronavirus section on our Links page

Vaccinations against Covid-19 start in our parish very soon, and you are encouraged to attend when you are offered an appointment. Please read the statement from the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales by clicking on the link on the Parish News page on our website.

People are advised not to go to Mass if they have any symptoms, however mild, or anyone who is still shielding or vulnerable.

The Sunday Masses are at 9am at Mountbatten Road, Dersingham and 11am at Sandringham Road, Hunstanton but there is a limit on the amount of people allowed in. Daily Masses are at 10am at Hunstanton Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and 10.15am at Dersingham Wednesday. There are quite a few changes to the way Mass will be celebrated and people should be guided by the stewards. Website: www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org

Email: parish@hunstantoncatholicparish.org

The Parish telephone number is 01485 534675.

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

A Shaking Time

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

We are now nearly a year in from the start of the pandemic. So much has changed in our lives. Normal patterns and securities have shifted. Many people have lost loved ones, some their jobs or their businesses. For those living alone human contact has become a memory, no hug, no kiss, no arm around the shoulder. The nation's economy has been severely shaken and our debt is now in the trillions of pounds.

We are all grateful to the NHS, the long hours, the risking of personal safety to help the sick. Working in hot and heavy PPE and experiencing the sharp end of human suffering and death.

We are all grateful to our surgeries, our GPs and their staff for the way they serve our community, and all those who put themselves at risk for the sake of others.

The scientists have done an amazing job with the drug companies in producing vaccines to combat this deadly virus. There has been a huge effort to fight for the preservation of life and the healing of the body.

But we are more than a body, we have a soul – our mind, our will, and our emotions. The mental health services were stretched before Covid-19. The isolation and fear that comes with this virus is affecting many who are not sick in their bodies.

As followers of Jesus Christ we know that God cares for every part of us. He carried our rejections, our pain and shame, and isolation on the cross. He knows our fears and hopes. He can give us peace and comfort when there is uncertainty and shaking all around us. He knows our need to be loved because he designed us.

If it would help to have someone to talk to, or to pray with you on the phone, we would be happy to hear from you. The numbers below are those of some of our church leaders who will be pleased to help you.

We pray you will know God's comfort and blessing as we go into this year together.

Gordon and Gill – 01485 534226

Dennis and Cathy – 01485 535928

A NEW BEGINNING!

The name February comes from the Latin word Februarius – new beginnings, and was known during Roman times as the “Month of Purification.”

How apt that February 2021, with hope for the advancing year, should be “a new beginning” and of purification! We can begin to see we are not isolated but all connected in our wish for an environment of freedom, security and peace.

God's love for mankind, and our love for each other keeps us connected so we'll all evidence a purity, a new beginning.

Further information on the worldwide Christian Science church can be found at www.christianscience.com.

Due to the current situation our church building is shut, but Christian Science Sunday and Wednesday services are now available online. Please go to www.spirituality4.me to find live-streamed services around the UK, along with other online events, talks and webinars. An online shop is also available where you will find books, CDs and many other resources.

Follow us on Facebook to find out when our regular services in Hunstanton will resume. For daily inspiration look at <https://www.christianscience.com/christian-healing-today/daily-lift>.

Make a difference with a career in fostering

There is a rising need for children and young people across Norfolk who need foster care, where a safe home and nurturing family environment is offered. Nexus Fostering, a local, friendly and professional fostering agency are recruiting local Foster Carers to support vulnerable children and young people.

Being a Foster Carer means that you'll be able to have a fulfilling career as a highly trained carer whilst making a real difference to the lives of children and young people. Almost anyone from all walks of life can foster, whether you practice a religion, have or haven't got children, are married, single or in a same-sex relationship. It doesn't even matter if you have pets at home or think you're too old... You're needed! All that is asked, is that you have a spare bedroom.

Nexus Fostering offer full and ongoing training and you'll be supported right from the start. You'll receive a competitive fostering allowance which covers the professional fee to you as a Foster Carer as well as covering the cost for caring for the child.

Foster Carer Frankie says: “As a foster parent the biggest benefit and reward I have ever gained is in the positive difference I can and have made to the life of the child or young person... while fostering may initially be one of the biggest leaps of faith you could ever possibly make in your life, you'll soon realise how privileged you are to be in a position where you can make lasting bonds with foster children that not only improve their life, but better your life as well. Seeing a once timid, shy and unconfident foster child begin to blossom into a positive, hopeful, and self-assured young person gives you a feeling that cannot be compared to.”

If you are interested in becoming a Nexus Foster Carer then call our fostering team on 01603 951 405 or enquire through our website at www.nexusfostering.co.uk

SEE OUR ADVERTISEMENT ON PAGE 43



On the turf with Charles Joyce

The biggest issue facing punters on the horizon is the Government's announcement of a review of gambling, which is said by some to be the greatest existential threat to many recreational punters in decades.

While some do, most politicians and campaigners have little knowledge of the gaming and betting industry yet are adopting a hard line approach to the review. The fixed odds betting terminals were more or a less a licence to print money for the operators, and full marks to Tracey Crouch MP for getting to grips with them and not flinching in the wake of a bookmaker onslaught. Unfortunately it was only the FOBTs in betting shops that were reduced to £2 stakes. Yet someone can lose thousands of pounds without restrictions in the online casinos using their laptop or mobile phone. Included in the proposals is an affordability check which has been proposed by the Gambling Commission. It has been suggested that loss limits spanning from £100 to £2000. I can honestly say I've lost more than £100 in a day and in several months, but I am not restricted or effectively banned by the majority of the high street bookmakers which operate online without good reason. Well at least it's a good reason for the bookmakers even though I don't agree. Every punter knows there are more days you lose than you win, and the wise punter never with no exceptions risks losing the rent and other important money.

Another proposal is that bank statements and wages slips need to be produced as part of an affordability check. The basis for these proposals are down to the bookmakers collectively and individually failing to address the very real problems some people have with gambling. Not everyone will gamble the kids dinner money, but it is estimated that in the UK there could be over 400,000 people with a gambling problem of some degree. There is no hiding from the fact a problem does exist. Yet it sometimes appears that bookmakers are deliberately confusing their online casino games with the type of punting that involves some form of skill for example football, horse racing, golf, tennis etc. None of us should be fooled it is easy beyond description to fall into reckless gambling using the online games.

There is a view that using the online games means a bookmaker will keep your account open. I have played blackjack and pontoon since before I could read. It was for real money albeit pennies and old pennies at that. I tried the theory, and placed a single one pound bet on a bookmaker's blackjack game, increasing stakes when my bet lost. My rules were simple when I had a winning bet I would return to a single pound stake, and I had decided I would quit win or lose after 20 minutes. I did this a few times sometimes winning a small amount and sometimes losing. Then one day I had a losing run not broken by a winning bet. I was putting money of several hundred pounds in a single bet. As luck would have it the bet came in. I had played the game since childhood, but it was time to throw the theory in the bin.

It is important that the targeting of gambling disorder is tackled, but it needs to be separated from the vast majority of people who have a bet on a Saturday or only in the Grand National. As I say many bookmakers do not want my custom, and that's okay they are running a business after all, but there are millions of people who like a flutter which causes no harm. A blanket limit and affordability checks is going to do harm not just to the bookmakers and many punters who act within their own self-imposed limits, but could drive many punters into the off shore betting and unregulated markets and even see the return of the unauthorised bookmakers.

There is no doubt that bookmakers have failed to tackle the issue of problem gambling. Any new measures introduced need to be very targeted and in a specific manner to avoid ruining punting for the many who bet sensibly and within our means.

There is much happening in the racing scene with the news that the fibres and all weather track at Southwell is going to be replaced with a tapeta all weather surface. This means the track closest to the dirt tracks in the USA and Dubai will be removed. The Breeder's Cup in November and the Meydan festival throughout the first three months of the year will have even less meaning to UK residents.

The Cheltenham festival last year drew criticism due to the mixing of over 250,000 people. It does seem ironic that Cheltenham went ahead, but the celebrations for the biggest day in Ireland was cancelled. The Irish giving up St Patrick's Day is similar to Americans giving up Thanksgiving or the average six year old wanting to cancel Christmas. But while Willie Mullins was winning the Gold Cup with Al Boum Photo back in Ireland St Patrick's Day celebrations were cancelled.

This year is a real conundrum as both jockeys and horses could be banned from travelling to and from the UK and Ireland. If this happens then the ante-post odds presently with the bookmakers for the UK based horses will look very generous come race day. Of course the problem is in the word "if".

What is proposed to go ahead is the Australian Open on the Melbourne Plexicushion. In mid-January already one player has tested positive for Covid-19. All the competitors will be required to go into isolation, but can practice while doing so. Last year, Sofia Kenin was the lowest ranking female winner in the open era history. If we are going to find this year's winner the top eight seeds are usually the best place to start. It is very possible some of the top ranking players will not show and that will affect the seeding. Anyhow, Naomi Osaka has won 3 of the last 5 grand slams played on hard courts. She looks the first one in the list, but maybe only as a saver bet to keep our interest alive deep into the tournament. The next would be Aryna Sabalenka who won in Abu Dhabi in early January. At a working man's price Elena Rybakina a twenty one year old Russian born player from Kazakhstan. She is presently 33/1 in places and a general 25/1. She lost to Sabalenka in Abu Dhabi, but in a very much curtailed season managed to make five WTA finals winning in Hobart. A young women who will be under a lot of radars is Nadia Podoroska from Argentina. She went 45 wins with only 8 losses last year with her best performance being making the semi-final at Roland Garros losing to the sensation of the tournament Iga Swiatek the Polish player who is still only nineteen. Nadia won three events on the lower ITF circuit early in the year before her run in the French Open. I don't expect her to win in Melbourne, but elsewhere away from the grand slams she could surprise a few.

As many of you will know I have been made the Labour leader at the Borough Council. It came about after John Collop stood down in order to concentrate on beating his illness. The hammer blow of Jo Rust leaving meant we had lost her vigour and commitment to campaigning. So I guess I was third choice. Well at least it's a place on the podium.

As always. Remember the golden rule of punting. 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.

Authorities silent over A149 progress

Richard Bird

Since the Duke of Edinburgh had his traffic accident in January 2019, we on behalf of the local residents in the area have been chasing our County Council for answers about the A149 safety changes.

Letters to the leader of the NCC sent on the 9th and subsequently the 16th of November last were met by a senior officer phoning to explain that a local NCC councillor had been appointed to head up a response. Weeks later after much chasing, that councillor did phone, stating that he was incredibly busy and was currently working on the project, he promised detail by the 12th of December. When it didn't

arrive I chased again receiving no response.

I wrote again on the 11th January to the Cabinet member for highways asking if he could help. He responded immediately stating that my original contact at NCC a senior councillor would be in contact shortly. I sent another mail, days later stating this had not happened, the Cabinet member asked another local NCC councillor what the enquiry was about, and he responded immediately outlining the challenges of the A149 from Knights Hill roundabout to Lamsey Lane, Heacham. The original NCC councillor came back on the phone and promised a report in time for this magazine's deadline. I have to report that no such communication has been received, begging the question, who really cares about the highways of North West Norfolk?

could you make a difference to a local vulnerable child in norfolk?



become a foster carer in 2021



we'd love to hear from you!

01603 951 405

www.nexusfostering.co.uk

Heacham and Hunstanton at Night

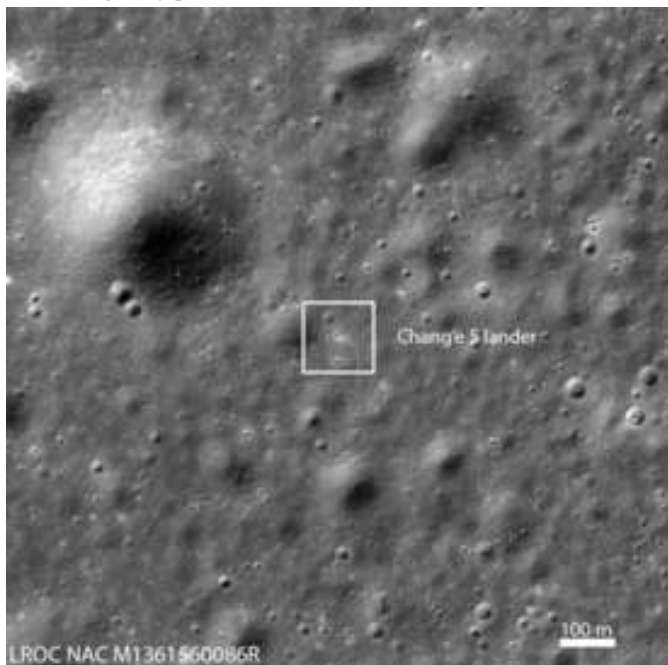
Terry Parish

2021 sounds a more futuristic year than 2020 did, to someone of my age that is. I suppose 2101 will appear the same to young children and those about to be born.

Why this reflection on dates you might ask? It is to do with space or space exploration. This month will see more substantial exploration of Mars, that planet I hope you have seen glowing bright, high in the sky, over the last few months.

Three missions took off in July 2020: The Hope Orbiter from the UEA; Tianwen-1 from China, and Perseverance from NASA - USA. This continuing and expanding exploration of Mars is prelude to a manned landing sometime, I hope, within 15 years. Elon Musk is also steaming ahead with intentions to privately fund such a mission.

What will accelerate the process is an unspoken race between China and the USA. China has been building on success after success with missions to the Moon. The latest, Chang'e 5 returned to Earth with 2kg of moonrock on Dec 16th. I predict that they will have men landing on the Moon within the next 2 years. A manned landing on Mars is harder, if returning is an issue, but one will happen likely sooner rather than later – like the USA v USSR competition that enabled Neil Armstrong's footprint to be created on the Moon rather earlier than NASA originally planned.



Lunar Lander.

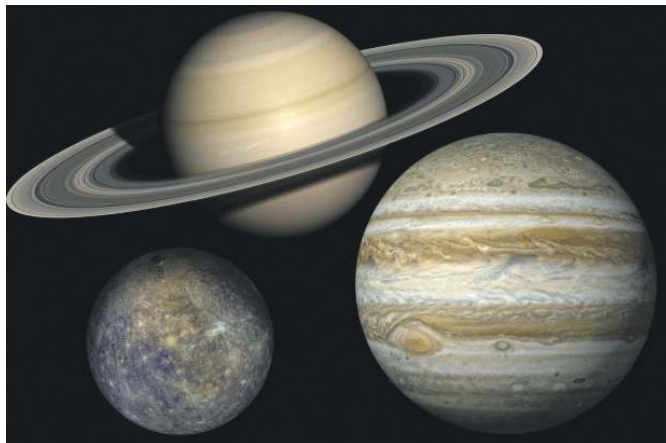
Back to the sky. I managed to nearly see the super conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn. The planets were closest on the 21st Dec but clouds intervened. I saw it a week later just before clouds came in again and after my line of sight was not blocked by a tree. I found a 40mm eyepiece just enabled both of the gas giants to be seen together and the magnification was sufficient to reveal Saturn's Rings and the Galilean Moons of Jupiter.

And that was about it, poor skies hid meteors and anything fuzzy. At the time of writing though, there is still almost 3 weeks of January to run. Perhaps the freezing mist will disperse.

So, what to look for in February:

I finished with Mercury last month where I left it low in the SW. it will still be there in the first week of February but harder to spot. Jupiter and Saturn were also sinking lower and lower in the evening twilight, vanishing around the 10th January. Well, all three planets pop up around 6.30am at the end of the month. However, you will have to find a very good ESE to SE horizon. (I have investigated this further

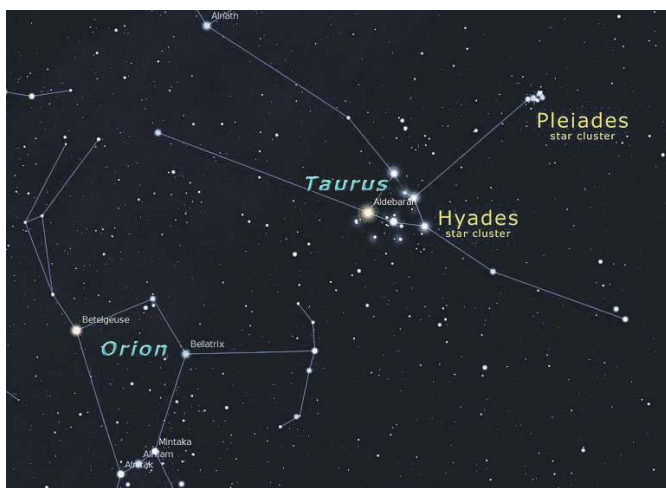
and you will need a flat horizon, start looking at 6am and they will be lost by 6.35am). Seeing this multiple conjunction earns lots of Brownie points. However, be AWARE that the Sun is rising, DO NOT catch it in any optical instruments. It was possible to see the trio around 3.30pm on the 10th January, looking SW after sunset, but I forgot to say. I will have a go and, perhaps, tell you what you missed. (Stop Press, clouds again)



Mercury, Saturn and Jupiter won't look quite like this. Spark, dim and bit brighter is a better description. Internet.

Mars is still visible but getting fainter and Uranus is still relatively close to the Red Planet at its lower right. Both are visible until midnight. – remember Uranus is very faint and good binoculars or a small telescope are necessary. Neptune is in the same area of sky but a large telescope is needed and it sets, goes below the horizon, about 7.30pm.

When the Moon is not too bright it can act as a fingerpost to help locate other celestial objects. On the 17th the Moon is just below Uranus; on the 18th, Mars is just above the Moon, and, on the 19th, the Moon (quarter phase) is between two fuzzy patches. These are the Hyades cluster of stars to the right and the Pleiades cluster to the left. If you are young or have good eyes then the fuzziness will be highlighted by some stars. Binoculars will reveal far more and the Pleiades (Messier 45 or Seven Sisters) and comprised mostly of hot, blue, stars are a stunning sight. On average, they are just 444 light years away and condensed from a gaseous nebula a mere 100 million years ago. They will survive, as a cluster, for about another 250 million years.



Orion will point the way to the Hyades and Pleiades. Internet

The Hyades (Caldwell 41) is the closest open cluster to Earth and is just 153 light years away. It is 650 million years old. Its hundreds of stars are arranged in a rough sphere which extends to 33 light years across though the core is around 9 light years in diameter. Stars in this cluster have a high abundance of heavy elements and share the same place of origin and motion through space – they have known each other a long time.

For those of you who have forgotten about light years, the light entering your eyes from the Pleiades left them 444 years ago. On Earth, in 1576, astronomer Tycho Brahe was building his observatory and English navigator Martin Frobisher was searching for the NW passage between the Atlantic and the Pacific. Look at the Hyades and the light left them 153 years ago. In 1867, the word 'science' was first used as we understand it today, and Alfred Nobel patented dynamite.

Nights will get noticeably shorter from February but, perversely, they might get clearer. It seems years since I have enjoyed crystal clear sparkling nights in the winter. Rain and mist seem the new norm. Unnecessary artificial lighting is still rife and I thoroughly dislike the public and promotional lighting which is increasingly being used, particularly when it is within or close to darker sky areas. E.g., Lighting up woodland; a 'beacon of light' at a church; floodlit cliffs. It's all pollution to me and has the potential to adversely affect wildlife as well as mar the night sky. (PS I do like normal Christmas lights),

Look after yourselves. If you have a bit of nature to look at then you aren't isolated.

A recipe from the Prudent Pensioner

Another of my easy recipes, for a tasty and nutritious soup. There are numerous recipes available from the professionals using fresh herbs, garlic and much more. The recipes I share are for folk who, like me, prefer just a few wholesome ingredients.

Carrot & Red Pepper Soup

1 med. Shallot or small Onion
A knob of Butter
Potato approx. 115g/4oz
Carrots approx. 230g/8oz
1 large or 2 medium sticks of Celery
1 red Pepper (capsicum)
Chicken stock cube dissolved in 500ml hot water.
Salt and Pepper to taste.



Trim and peel carrots and cut them into small pieces.
Peel potato and cut into small pieces.
Peel shallot or onion and slice thinly.
Clean celery, trim off and discard base and top of stalk and slice fairly thinly.
Clean pepper, discard seeds and stalk. Cut into chunky pieces.
Place butter in a saucepan over a low to medium heat, add shallot/onion slices stir and cook for 1 minute stirring continuously.
Carefully add potato, carrots, celery and pepper, stir and mix well.
Carefully add stock, increase heat and bring to boiling point. Reduce heat and leave, covered, simmering gently, stirring occasionally, until vegetables are fairly soft (approximately 15 minutes). Strain off most of the liquid into a jug, put aside while you either put vegetables into a liquidiser or use a hand blender and whizz until pureed.
Carefully return liquid to pureed vegetables in a saucepan, stirring gently to mix well. Season to taste. Reheat stirring gently. Serve and enjoy.

My updated book "Less Waste more Soup" 45 easy, budget friendly recipes for nourishing soup is now available from Amazon. A search for Doreen Reed will find it (together with my books of light hearted poems and tales).

See more recipes on The Prudent Pensioner Facebook page
Email: pru.pensioner@btinternet.com

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Best Wishes to all our members for 2021

**We sadly remain unable to hold our
meetings at present.**

**We are however pleased to advise that all who hold
2020 Membership Cards are
able to use them in 2021**

**at Wards Nurseries and Moulem & Horne
who have very kindly agreed to accept
2020 membership cards.**

**Any further information can be obtained from
Gail on 01485 541279 or Addie on 01485 544754.**

The cost of death: lifting the lid on funeral costs

Richard Bird

While fewer than 10% of us make provision for our own funerals, we are advised that costs have escalated, depending on what report we read. Apparently, we should budget for a sum of between £3.5 and £5.5 thousands.

Unfortunately, at my age I go to a lot of funerals (before Covid 19), and I see the varying types together with their costs. What I would like to do is give you a heads-up as to what your options are. Nearly all funerals today are cremations there are a few burials but for the sake of simplicity I will avoid the burial option.

When I was a youngster, my family would gather at my grandmother's house and parade down to the family grave to lay flowers. It was a ritual that has long since finished. My family's burial plot, or at least the one I know, has been in place for about 100 years. Now it is lonely, unloved and after my demise will probably be forgotten, begging the question do we need physical memorials at all?

Even memorial benches, very popular with my generation need to be maintained, cleaned and generally looked after. When purchasing a headstone, bench or other memorial how many of us ask who will look after this and financially support it. For years we paid for, had cleaned and maintained our family plot, as more ashes were buried, and more memorial stones added it became quite congested. There will be nobody left to financially maintain it. So, what arrangements will you instruct for these items?

Now if you're considering memorials, you may also be considering funeral arrangements. How far do you want to go? Fairly recently I attended an old friend's funeral, his daughters asked if I would attend and drive family members in my old silver Bentley, the deceased had stated: "its not an unhappy event but a celebration of my life", no black cars. Furthermore, he wouldn't have a black hearse for the same reasons, "I would rather go in a white van", eventually a silver hearse was found.

His whole family were regular church attendees, so it was right that there was a church service. However, some may not be regular church goers and may decide to have a celebrant rather than a holy man or woman.

In these recent Covid days funerals have been much controlled and reduced in size with restricted numbers attending, after nearly a year we are becoming used to this level of attendance, one option now adopted seems to be to see the deceased off in the hearse, at the roadside, with only close family or friends, at the crematorium.

The question then is, is there a need for a service at all at the crematorium? Who's it for, what's it for? Is there a need for a service at all, religious or not? These decisions are to be made either by the deceased beforehand or by their executors hopefully having consulted with the deceased.

Funeral teas or receptions are a large consideration and can be extremely expensive, so it is important that these arrangements are qualified and understood. Normally based on how many people would attend and the price per head of catering. An open bar can also prove to be quite eye watering expensive, if not controlled properly. Venues can be as elaborate or basic as the family wants. This component is very important.

If you are a regular attendee of a church there may be a service or a mass, generally speaking this is probably the least expensive component of a funeral and is very much at the discretion of the vicar, private discussions and negotiations are essential.

You may choose to use a local funeral director and their professionalism at this delicate time could be really valuable. If you or the deceased have made no arrangements at all their advice and knowledge may be helpful. Normally sitting down quietly in your grief and assessing the various offerings will help you complete the task with the least amount of stress. Most appear to offer a menu of what's on and you can select those services you feel are most appropriate. However, to avoid making decisions that can run away with you and avoid an expensive outcome, research and decide beforehand, rather than be put on the spot at this emotional time.

I asked for quotes from several local funeral directors, all charming, who sent their price list options - they were wide and various. Most seemed quite surprised that I was even asking for quotes for their services. One sent me an e-mail stating that for 'a direct unattended cremation', prices would start at below £1500 with a list of what that price included. However, that soon escalated to about £2,500 with add-ons that would be needed for having attendees or guests, still much below the national average.

Extras could include the material and model of coffin, notices in local press, service sheets, extra limousines, flowers, minister or celebrant and a doctor's fee.

There are now new companies on the scene that sell on price, normally called something like 'Cremations Unlimited'*, not everybody's choice but certainly an alternative. Prices start from under £1000 but are basic and have stringent restrictions. Basically, as long as the deceased dies in a hospital with its own morgue and can be collected during working hours, that there are NO attendees at the crematorium. This price can be maintained. But as soon as the services are upped there is a price increase, so, circumstances like a home death begets the need for a doctor's certificate, body collection and storage together with other peripheral costs increase the costs.

Locally the Borough Council's Mintlyn Crematorium facilities are reported in the 'Guide to arranging a funeral without a funeral director'. Some questions I asked got the following responses. Coffins can be purchased on the internet, however they must comply to the Funeral Furnishing Manufacturers' Association (FFMA). Mintlyn will not accept a body without a rigid coffin. Should the deceased die at home a medical certificate (if the coroner is not involved) must be purchased, current cost £82. This is subject to change once emergency Covid legislation is withdrawn. Mintlyn will accept bookings directly from the general public, they offer a direct cremation for just £500.

I am hoping to do a follow up to this editorial so if you have any questions perhaps you will contact me, my research has been extensive, and I am waiting on answers from other organisations.

*An internet search revealed no companies called Cremations Unlimited.

Paying our respects

Clydes' Funeral Directors, Garvagh, Northern Ireland posted the following on Facebook:

Paying our respects. During this very difficult time, could we ask everyone for some help. If you see a hearse, could you stop and stand for a moment as it passes, perhaps bow your head?



In these times where funerals are restricted, our chance to support people during bereavement is limited. So, we wondered if we could revive an old tradition that would show people that their loss is noticed and shared by us all?

It would mean the world to families in a time of sadness. This message comes from all funeral directors in UK.

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Dear Friends of the Princess Theatre

We hope you are well and coping with life at the moment.

The events of 2020 have affected every part of all our lives. For theatres throughout the world, the impact of Covid 19 cannot be understated. Closing our doors has left a big gap in our lives.

We are missing being able to bring you live performances and now, for the third, and hopefully the final time, we are in the process of moving all our spring shows into the summer and autumn, and also into 2022. We will contact all customers regarding the relevant shows when we have further information for you.

On behalf of the management, all our staff, backstage crew, front of house, and volunteers, we thank you for your continued support as we work together to ensure the future success of the Princess Theatre. With your on-going support, we believe we can come back stronger than ever.

On a positive note, we are busy working on our brand new, all singing and dancing show, 'The Great British Seaside Special', featuring seaside fun throughout the decades which will be on stage every Wednesday and Thursday throughout August.

Other major shows to look out for are: The Manfreds, Jim Davidson, If It's Laughter You're After with Oliy Day and Nigel 'Boy' Syer, Merrill Osmond, Albert Lee, The Drifters, The Stylistics and many more.

In December, we will be bringing 2021 to a close with one of our most popular pantomimes, 'Aladdin'. Tickets are available NOW!

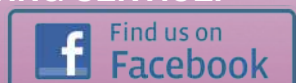
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