

# TOWN and AROUND



ISSUE 196 FEBRUARY 2022

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# First word



Hello and welcome to the February edition where you can find pages crammed full of articles and news along with information about what's happening in our corner of Norfolk.

Eric Rhodes is pictured on our cover this month and you can read his story on page 42. The striking image is by Ian Burt.

It's important that we all obey the rules of the road and on page 4 Tim Keogh explains the changes to the Highway Code that will be enforced from 29th January.

John Maiden puts forward the case for a 'People's Park' in

Hunstanton on page 18, while in his article on page 20 Dick Melton makes the same wish he's made since 2002 - for lifeguards on the beaches.

Something I've enjoyed for many years is the One Act Drama Festival staged at the Princess Theatre so imagine my delight when I learned it is to return this year. The details are on page 50.

On the facing page is the second installment of the fascinating life story of Ivy Scales, including stories of sailing around the world four times a year, experiencing a 5.3 earthquake and living in Australia!

My thanks as always to all our writers, photographers and advertisers who together make this an interesting read.

On a personal note, 2022 has not started well for the Bird family. Richard hit a patch of black ice in Harpley on 9th January while out riding his bicycle and broke his femur at the hip end. Fortunately, some very kind people who lived nearby covered him in blankets and called the ambulance. He had surgery at the QEH the next day and I'm hoping that by the time this magazine is delivered he will be home.

I'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped him at the scene, the ambulance crew and the staff and volunteers at the QEH and Sandringham Hospital who have cared for him. Thanks also to everyone who has kept Richard's spirits up with phone calls.

As luck would have it, our 13 year old was sent home from school following a positive test for Covid on 10th January so she's had to self-isolate in her bedroom. What's that song? 'Things can only get better...'

Lastly, and this is important, it is Valentine's Day on 14th, the day to tell the special person in your life just how much they mean to you.

With all best wishes for a fabulous February,

## Elaine

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# E10 petrol explained: how will the new fuel affect your car, and is it even eco-friendly?

Abigail Brown

In Summer 2021, the UK made the switch to E10 as the standard petrol grade - as opposed to E5 - in a bid to cut carbon dioxide emissions. Formula 1 is now also committing to this change; as of next season all race cars will run on E10 fuel. Ferrari has complained of having to redesign the internal combustion engine of its vehicles to ensure the new fuel doesn't negatively impact their performance on the track. But, what does the introduction of E10 really mean for us and our 'ordinary' vehicles?

If you're not already clued up, E10 is a motor fuel that contains less carbon and more ethanol (a kind of alcohol manufactured from plants) than other fuels. The idea is that E10 will help reduce the overall quantity of fossil fuel's needed to power cars in the UK. Previously, the petrol grades in the UK were all known as E5, as they contained up to 5% ethanol, with the other 95% being regular unleaded petrol. Which means — you've guessed it — E10 contains 10% ethanol instead.

There is much debate as to whether E10 is damaging vehicles or not; many complain of a reduction in power, meaning the car has to work harder, increasing overall fuel consumption. However, the government claims that this new, more eco-friendly fuel should be safe for every petrol vehicle built after 2011. Those with older vehicles should avoid it and use the old E5, which is still on sale in the super

grade at most petrol stations. If you're unsure, visit <https://check-vehicle-compatibility-e10-petrol.service.gov.uk/>, a site set up by the government where you can check whether your car will run on E10 fuel. Be careful though, as the government will not be liable for any damage to your vehicle as a result of using its checker, especially if you have had replacement parts fitted. If you accidentally put E10 fuel in a vehicle that isn't compatible, don't panic as it will still run, according to the RAC. Overtime though, it could cause damage to rubber seals, plastics and metals.

So, the big question; how environmentally friendly is E10 really? Of course, there is no straight answer. Despite the fact that ethanol is seen as carbon-neutral (the plants absorb carbon dioxide from the air while they are growing, offsetting the CO2 emitted when the fuel is burnt), sceptics are debating whether this is really the case. Some are even questioning using food crops to produce fuels from a moral standpoint, worrying it may cause food shortages or an increase in food prices. It is yet to be determined whether this change is for the better or not — if it is genuinely good for the planet, drivers may just have to 'suck it up' and deal with the blow to their car's performance.

K Brown Auto Repairs has garages in Hunstanton and King's Lynn. Visit [www.kbrownautoskingslynn.co.uk](http://www.kbrownautoskingslynn.co.uk) to learn more.

## Changes to the Highway code effective from 29th January 2022

By Tim Keogh

The first edition of the Highway Code was published in 1931 as a result of the Road Traffic Act of 1930. The driving test was first introduced in 1935. There were only around 2 million vehicles on the UK roads in those days (substantially less than the 32 million registered vehicles today). However, over 7,000 people were killed on the roads in 1931, significantly more than today where it is less than 1,500. Whilst the roads are plainly safer, in part down to the Highway Code, it is still a large figure and the impact of a fatality is devastating to everyone involved.

The Highway Code is a set of information, advice, guides and mandatory rules for road users in the UK. As well as vehicle drivers, the Code applies to pedestrians, horse riders and cyclists. It has been regularly updated since 1931 to reflect changing practices, such as accommodating the introduction of Motorways in the 1960's and recognising the Green Cross Code in the 1970's. The 30mph speed limit in built up areas has been in existence since the 1930's, as were the first pedestrian crossings with their distinctive flashing yellow globes (named 'Belisha' beacons after the then Minister for Transport).

### The new rules

In 2022, the Highway Code is undergoing a major shake up and on January 29th these changes will be enforced. So what are these changes exactly?

1. The introduction of a new hierarchy of road users, to protect the more vulnerable such as cyclists, horse riders and pedestrians:

- ensuring that road users who can do the greatest harm have the greatest responsibility to reduce the danger or threat they may pose to others,
- making rules on pedestrians clearer,
- providing guidance on cyclist priority at junctions when travelling straight ahead, and
- creating guidance on safe passing distances and speeds when overtaking cyclists and horse riders.

In simple terms, drivers of vehicles that can cause the greatest harm in the event of a collision bear the greatest responsibility to take care and reduce the dangers to others. This principle applies most strongly to HGVs, LGVs, cars/taxis and motorcycles. Cyclists and horse riders, likewise, have a responsibility to reduce danger to pedestrians.

2. New Priority for pedestrians at junctions. At a junction, drivers, motorcyclists, horse riders and cyclists should give way to pedestrians crossing or waiting to cross a road into which or, from which, you are turning. You should give way to pedestrians waiting to cross zebra crossings (currently you only have to give way if they're already on the crossing!).

3. New priority for cyclists when cars are turning. You should not cut across cyclists, horse riders or horse drawn vehicles going on ahead when you are turning into or out of a junction, or if changing direction or lane. In simple terms do not manoeuvre if it causes a cyclist, horse rider or horse drawn vehicle to stop or swerve. This also applies if they are using a cycle lane (nearly three quarters of crashes involving cyclists take place at junctions). E scooters remain illegal to use on public roads, so none of the amendments apply to them.

The longer term impact is that the design of junctions in future will take cycle and pedestrian use more into account but, ultimately, it is a reminder that all road users have a responsibility to look after one another.

For more information about the changes please visit [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) and search The Highway Code.

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Leave it too long and your car can run into all sorts of problems. Over time coolant/antifreeze tends to become more acidic and loses its rust-inhibiting properties - causing unnecessary corrosion and damaging everything from your radiator and water pump to your thermostat and cooling system.

"All cars have different coolant changing intervals which depend on the manufacturer's

recommendations, although some manufacturers don't actually specify this," says Keith Brown, who started K Brown Auto Repairs with his wife Tamsin over 25 years ago. "That's why we always check the history of the coolant every time we service your car and advise you accordingly."

It's also important to use the right coolant/antifreeze for the make and model of your car, since the wrong type can also cause your car to overheat or freeze. It's a relatively inexpensive procedure (certainly against the cost of a damaged engine) and can be carried out fairly quickly. If your car doesn't need a service for some time or you're unsure of the correct coolant change interval, please call the friendly reception team at K Brown Auto Repairs and they'll give you all the help and advice you need. And please note that if you tow a caravan you'll need to change your coolant more regularly.

As we do move into winter, don't forget that K Brown Auto Repairs also

offers comprehensive winter motoring checks - which typically involve a fully-trained and qualified mechanic looking at everything from your tyres and brakes, to your battery, windscreen wipers, lights and oil.

With lower temperatures, poor visibility, snow, ice, and hazardous driving conditions it's vital that your car is in top working order so it's ready to tackle the worst the winter can throw at it. It's better for your car, and it's safer for you and other road users.

"We've always been open and honest with our customers, and we've never carried out any work without letting them know first," says Keith's wife Tamsin. "That's why we've got customers who've been with us from day one and why we're now looking after their children's cars."

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## MPs meet Health Secretary over propped-up hospital

Three MPs who support the campaign for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital met the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, on 11th January in Westminster set out the case for the QEH to be one of the eight new hospitals to be selected as part of the new hospital programme.

James Wild MP, Jerome Mayhew MP, and Duncan Baker MP highlighted that QEH is now in its 42nd year but was built to last only 30 and that 80 per cent of the estate is covered in deficient Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) planks. QEH is the most propped hospital in the country with over 200 props holding up the cracking roof and the MPs set out the ongoing risk to patient and staff safety that is being managed by the Trust.

The MPs said a new build would be an opportunity to transform local health care, integrating primary, community, mental health, acute, social care and third sectors in a health and wellbeing village.

James highlighted the strong backing for the campaign for a new hospital from patients, staff, the local community with than 15,500 people having signed a petition in as well Norfolk County Council and King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough councils and other organisations. James also presented the Health Secretary with petitions signed by local residents that he was given when he met campaigners in December.

Speaking after the meeting James Wild MP said: "This was an important opportunity to make the strong case for QEH to be one of the new hospitals the government has committed to building by 2030. We impressed on the Health Secretary the urgent need to replace the ageing buildings which have over 200 props supporting the decaying roof with a modern hospital fit for the future. This was a positive meeting with the Health Secretary ahead of decisions on the next phase



Photo credit: Office of James Wild MP

of the process and he recognised the level of support for a new hospital."

There is a two-stage selection process for the new hospitals building programme which began with the expressions of interest phase. Decisions on whether QEH has been selected to proceed to the next stage of the assessment process are expected early this year ahead of a final decision.

## Second home tax loophole to be closed

North West Norfolk MP James Wild has welcomed the government's new measures to close a tax loophole for second home owners.

Owners of second homes who abuse a tax loophole by claiming their often-empty properties are holiday lets will be forced to pay under the measures announced by the government today.

The changes will target people who take advantage of the system to avoid paying their fair share towards local services in Norfolk and other parts of the country.

This is a welcome change as currently, second homeowners in England can avoid paying council tax and access to small business rates relief by declaring an interest to let the property out as a holiday let. However, concerns have been raised that many are often empty and therefore unfairly benefiting from the tax break.

Following consultation, the government will now bring changes to the tax system, which will protect genuine holiday lets but mean second homeowners must pay council tax if they are not genuine holiday lets.

From April 2023, second homeowners will have to prove holiday lets are being rented out for a minimum of 70 days a year to access small business rates relief, where they meet the criteria. Holiday let owners will have to provide evidence such as the website or brochure used to advertise the property, letting details and receipts. Properties

will also have to be available to be rented out for 140 days a year to qualify for this relief.

Around 65,000-holiday lets in England are liable for business rates of which around 97% have rateable values of up to £12,000. Currently, there is no requirement for evidence to be produced that a property has actually been commercially let out.

Commenting James Wild MP said: "Having campaigned for this tax loophole to be closed, it is very welcome news that the government will ensure that second homeowners pay their fair share towards local services. While holiday lets that are genuine business should benefit from business rates relief, this will end an unfairness and mean that councils don't lose out on income to provide local services and support village activities."

James has been campaigning for changes in the rules since being elected and he has worked with parish councils as well as local councillors in the Burnham, Thornham and other parts of North West Norfolk to highlight concerns at the unfairness of the burden falling on permanent residents, depriving parish councils of precept income to support village activities, as well as other loss of council tax income.

As a member of the Public Accounts Committee, at the end of November James pressed the government to bring forward measures to close the loophole so that second homeowners are paying their fair share towards the local area.

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## You can help reduce pressure on local health services

**K**nowing what resources and support are available will help you feel prepared to deal with any winter illnesses that affect you and your family.

If you do get ill and you're worried about your health, don't put off getting help. Get the right health service in the right place before any health concerns become bigger problems.

If you're worried about your health, don't delay, your NHS wants to see you.

It can be confusing to know where to go for help when you or a loved one is feeling unwell. Don't spend time waiting in A&E for treatment you might be able to receive elsewhere. Use the list below to help you find the right health service depending on your health needs:

### Think 111 First

If you have an urgent but not life-threatening medical need, contact NHS 111 first rather than going straight to A&E. If you're not sure whether to go to your GP, your pharmacy, or a walk-in centre – call 111 or go online at 111.nhs.uk as your first port of call.

### Community Pharmacies

Pharmacists are experts in medicines who can help you with many minor health concerns too. As qualified healthcare professionals, they can offer clinical advice and over-the-counter medicines for a range

of minor illnesses, such as coughs, colds, sore throats, tummy trouble and aches and pains. Some pharmacies are open late, too. Call 111 if you need help finding a late night pharmacy nearest to you.

### GP Practices

GP practices are working differently but they are here to help. Arrange an appointment with your GP if you're worried about your health. Phone, video, and face to face appointments are available, but contact them online or by phone rather than going straight to the practice as you might have done previously.

### Do you have COVID-19 symptoms?

You should stay at home and self-isolate immediately if you have COVID-19 symptoms: a new continuous cough, high temperature, or loss of smell or taste, or if you have a positive test result. Do not go to any healthcare setting.

If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you should arrange to have a PCR test as soon as possible. You can order a PCR test online from <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or call 119 for advice. This still applies even if you have received one or more doses of COVID-19 vaccine.

For more information and tips on how to keep well this winter, visit [www.winterwellnorfolkweney.co.uk](http://www.winterwellnorfolkweney.co.uk)

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# Piles and Tribulations – Notes from a rural GP

Dr David Ince

Winter has set in. The morning frost is biting or at least frosting the windscreen of the trusty Toyota Aygo (other GP transport is available). It does appear that Omicron is taking its toll – I had about 20 covid swab results in my inbox yesterday and I would estimate that 2/3 were positive – this anecdotally feels higher than it was when compared with the results I was getting last year but it does appear that the current disease is milder and causing fewer hospital admissions. We are slightly 'behind the curve' with Omicron in the East of England, especially in our rural idyl, and I hope not to have to eat these words next month but it does feel like the current strain on a background of the vaccination program is reducing the severity of disease and the need for hospital admission. Probably the best protection is to have had covid and to have been vaccinated (including the booster). Critics of the vaccination program would suggest that it is all the disease burning through but the science clearly points to the success of the vaccination program. The current booster (a third injection for most of us, three months after the second) offers significantly greater protection than just the two primary course injections. Only time will tell how long the immunity lasts and how the infection will react but I am hopeful that the disease will become "endemic rather than pandemic". I think that this phrase is going to become a talking point. This week the education secretary, amongst others, said that he hoped that the UK will be one of the first major economies to demonstrate to the world how you transform from pandemic to endemic. I think this shift is significant as it suggests an acknowledgment that rather like flu we will have to live with Coronavirus.

So what is the difference between pandemic and endemic. What is an epidemic and what is an outbreak? They are terms that are often interchanged and, at times, used incorrectly even by scientists (and almost certainly by me) – their edges are blurred. Broadly speaking an epidemic is a disease that affects lots of people within a population or region; a pandemic is when it spreads over multiple countries or continents. Endemic is something that belongs to a particular country or region at an accepted level and an outbreak is a greater than anticipated increase in the number of endemic cases. If an outbreak is not controlled (and this can be a single case or an increase in agreed cases in a endemic area) then it can become an epidemic or pandemic. Remember please, at all times, I am a simple rural GP so these definitions are me probably oversimplifying and an insight into my simple brain and not an invitation for the Professor of Infectious Disease who is enjoying Town and Around in her holiday cottage in Dersingham to reach for the pen to write to the letters editor! I think the emerging common usage of 'pandemic to endemic' is used to suggest a level of control over covid where we live with it in a similar way to the flu virus – it is endemic when there are persistent but low levels of a disease in a geographical location; it becomes epidemic when the occurrence of infection exceeds the expected level in a given time.

The medical community have been swift to point out that a virus 'isn't endemic just because a government minister says it is'! Perhaps a little unfair as the minister was talking about a hope rather than a fact. Equally with a booster vaccination program progressing it is difficult for the government to know how to 'tone' advice. On one hand you want to reassure if things are changing and improving but on the other you don't want to reassure to an extent that it stops people doing the very things that will shift us to endemic both in terms of vaccination but also social distancing and isolation measures.

We are, however, still part of the worldwide pandemic – there are small green buds suggesting a future endemic in our country but we are not there yet. One of the characteristics of an endemic is that the disease rate is predictable. The disease will almost certainly mutate again – the Omicron appears to be a useful mutation as the disease is milder and is giving more people immunity which alongside the vaccination will protect patients from serious disease and also gives our own immune systems more information to adapt to any further mutations. One of the greatest swords we have, which is often forgotten, is our own immune systems. I remember sitting in a seminar room 30 years ago in

Hammersmith listening to a small, grey haired woman who had spent her career researching the immune system. Erudite, passionate, motivating but mainly hugely scary she opened my world into an internal system that most of us have no idea about and take for granted. Our bodies are consistently bombarded with microorganism and toxins and our immune system bats them off without (literally) a blink of an eyelid. What is most amazing is the body's immune systems memory. Elephant-like it can respond rapidly and effectively to pathogens that have been encountered previously (either from infection or vaccination). So very well done to everyone for having such an amazing system that they walk around with all the time. Look after it.

Most diseases are endemic and the phrase 'learning to live with' is used appropriately but this does not mean that an endemic disease is not dangerous. Endemic means accepting the risk but doing everything we can to minimise the risk in a safe environment. I suspect and hope we will be moving into an endemic planning stage. I suspect we will only be able to say we are endemic when we are as safe inside as we are outside and that testing/isolation are a past event and the case numbers are monitored by the scientists rather than the headlines on the news.

You can try and influence the movement from pandemic to endemic to eradication but ultimately, in the words of a London Professor, 'That's the virus' timescale. It's not ours'.

I wish you good immune health.



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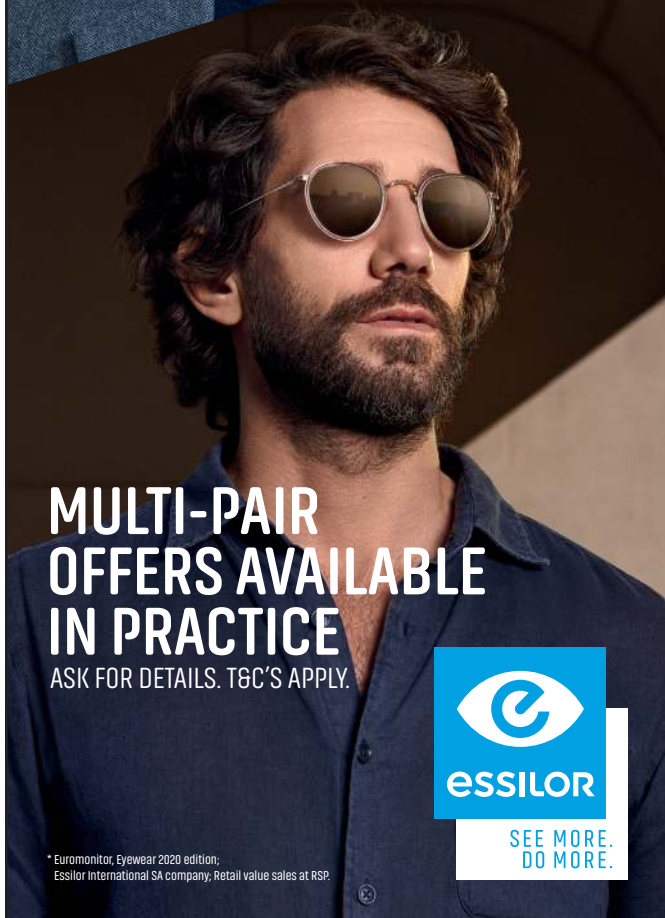
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## Hunstanton Eyecare blog

### Retirement? Well sort of!



All businesses evolve as time marches on and staff changes often present the greatest challenges. We enjoy welcoming new colleagues but are also sad to say farewell to those we have worked with, often for several years. When the boss says he wants to step back, well that is monumental!

Mr Leach has decided it is time to retire from face to face contact lens practice, but

we are both delighted and somewhat relieved that he will continue to be the owner and director of the business he has steered so successfully for nearly five decades.

I'll let Ian tell his own story: "After qualifying as a Dispensing Optician at the City and East London College, I came to Norfolk in 1974 to become a partner of McCaghrey & Associates Opticians. Six years later I took over the practice and was joined by Mr Parker, we remained in partnership for 20 years until his retirement. My wife and I opened Cromer Eyecare in 1998 and we joined the two practices together under the name of Eyecare Norfolk Ltd. Beverley retired in 2002 and I continued to run both practices. Work was responsible for meeting my wife, Beverley. I was at a practice in Downham Market and she was working in Boots just opposite. I went over to buy something so I could meet her on the till, she made a hash of giving me my change and said she would bring it over later, I knew there was a spark between us."

Funny things often happen in practice and Ian recounts a story: "A patient phoned first thing in the morning saying her vision was suddenly much worse and could she have an urgent appointment. I saw her later the same day and on examination discovered that she was double glazed! She had forgotten to remove the previous days lenses and then inserted another pair over the top of them in the morning!"

As well as the many complex contact lens fittings Mr Leach has taken on, he has also fitted contact lenses to his dog, Ross, when he had corneal ulcers. He discussed the option of fitting a "bandage" contact lens to Ross with the vet and they decided to go ahead with it, which turned out to be a success. The ulcers healed and everyone was happy!

Ian says: "On my 70th birthday I started to think it was about time to retire from contact lens fitting, so from January 2022 I am concentrating on the financial and IT issues of the business. Perhaps I will have time for my hobbies of golf, coarse fishing and photography!"

To all those who have benefited from Mr Leach's practice, we can assure you that you will be in the very capable hands of our regular optometrists. As Practice Manager I am always available to answer your queries if any arise. In these days of many practices being swallowed up by the multiple organisations, it is wonderful to be able to work for a small independent company, run by an ethical professional with years of experience and knowledge.

We wish Mr Leach a happy, more relaxed semi-retirement but don't turn the phone off as we will no doubt call when the computer goes wrong!

Annette





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## Mayor praises Community Fridge volunteers

Hunstanton's volunteer-led Community Fridge has saved three and a half tonnes of perfectly edible food from landfill since it was launched six months ago.

"This a tribute to the immense amount of hard work that goes on behind the scenes. The loyal volunteer team have really made this project a success," said Mayor of Hunstanton Adrian Winnington.

He added: "The Community Fridge idea now is gathering momentum all over the country, and I look forward to hearing some ideas about how we can expand ours and take it to a new level."

The staggering statistics about how much food is rescued is revealed in the latest report from the volunteers, who offer the food for free to visitors to Hunstanton's Community Centre every Wednesday and Thursday morning.

Any excess is then taken to local groups or schools and nothing ever goes to waste.

There are absolutely no restrictions on who can call by and take away items donated to the Community Fridge. Supermarkets and retailers are only too pleased to see food items – such as bread, fruit and vegetables – go onto people's dinner plates instead of being consigned to the bin.

The volunteers are also delighted with the appreciative comments they get from regular users, knowing that they are doing the environment a power of good. The waste management agency at Norfolk County Council has also paid tribute to the hard-working team.

A spokesperson from the Town Council said: "The Community Fridge is yet another sign of Hunstanton Town Council taking positive action to improve the lives of the community it represents."

## Leisure Club



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# Just sing, sing together – Your Choir hits the right note

"The response has been quite overwhelming" said Musical Director Mike Tandy



Throughout the second week of January the highly anticipated Your Choir was launched. Five sessions across the region each attracted 35-70 singers to the taster nights that began with a few vocal warm ups including the chorus from 'Just Sing', a song written for The Trolls movie which has a few key changes within it that enables not only singers to warm their voices, but also to see how much range people have within their voices and what harmony part would suit them best within the choir.

After the warm up they moved on to the first of many songs they will learn over the 12 week term - Walking On Sunshine by Katrina and The Waves.

Mike said "It's been really fantastic to see so many different types of people give Your Choir a try. We've had some lovely comments from people who'd never been to a Choir before saying how much they'd enjoyed it and that they'd be back again."



Ho-Yun Simpson attended the Hunstanton Town Hall session. She said: "Choir taster on Thursday evening in Hunstanton; casting my mind back, oh yes, the night I got out of the house – that doesn't happen often!"

"I've been to a choir before but not for nearly a decade, walking into the Town Hall I felt a little nervous - no need.

"I sat in the section where I thought I could manage best; and Mike soon got us going with a bit of a natter and gentle warm ups, then two hours passed by quickly and pretty enjoyably, singing and listening to 'I'm Walking On Sunshine' (the tunes are suggested by choir members) being guided by Mike on the keys and a good sense of humour (along with 'mummy' Gemma and his actual mum, Lynne) - it's a family affair!"

"We may have sounded OK, but can he make us sound great? I think he can actually."



Mike and Gemma Tandy



"The Town Hall might have been a bit cold and draughty on the night but I found the welcome and company to be very warm and informal, and, for me that's what it's about. "I'll be back next week and I am looking forward to meeting everyone else and singing together. Maybe even getting better at singing myself."

Your Choir meets at: Hunstanton Town Hall, Springwood High School, the Scout Hut on Beulah Street in King's Lynn and The Queen Mary Centre in Wisbech. Go to <https://www.yourchoir.co.uk/> Call 07485 706345 or email: [info@yourchoir.co.uk](mailto:info@yourchoir.co.uk)



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## TAX ADMINISTRATION AND MAINTENANCE “TAM” DAY. NO NEWS IS PROBABLY GOOD NEWS, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING

Supplied by Kathryn Gigg, Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton

Historically, the government’s annual tax and spending plans were announced in a spring Budget, with any of the changes taking almost immediate effect. More recently the position has become rather more protracted, with spring announcements which may take effect years into the future and a further mini Budget in the autumn. In 2021 the position was made even less transparent with a “Tax Day” shortly after the Budget to announce various plans and consultations, then on 3rd November a further “tax administration and maintenance (TAM) day” to report back on those consultations.

Unsurprisingly, the TAM Day announcements barely earned a mention in the press, since they were simultaneously underwhelming and technically complex. Some issues such as the penalty regime for ISA breaches, technical changes to Research and Development relief, and technical changes in the taxation of insurance contracts were dealt with by way of announcing “calls for evidence” to take place over the next few months. A similar call for evidence, to cover the process of first registration for new landlord and the newly self employed will have slightly wider relevance.

The outcome of a previous consultation on Making Tax Digital for companies was also published, together with some outline views on how the new tax regime will be implemented in the future but no concrete detail. A similar consultation on the VAT land exemption has resulted in confirmation that no changes to the existing system will be proposed, and a consultation on “timely payment” (i.e. accelerating the pay date for the self-employed) appears to have received little public support – it was confirmed that although more timely payment remains an aim for the Treasury, no changes will take place in the current Parliament but steps will be taken to make existing budget plans more accessible and attractive.

Perhaps the most significant announcements centred on the reports made to government by the Office for Tax Simplification (OTS) on reform of the Inheritance Tax (IHT) and Capital Gains Tax (CGT) systems. These reports included suggestions for changing many of the IHT exemptions and reliefs and removing a number of CGT anomalies. Some of the points were addressed in the March Budget (including the extension of the CGT reporting of residential property transactions from 30 days to 60 days) but the more extensive OTS suggestions found little favour and, mostly, have been quietly dropped.

There are two alternative interpretations of these two TAM Day announcements. Some might see them as confirming that the capital tax system is a complex area which has evolved over the years into a rats’ nest of overlapping legislation, but that it produces a reasonable amount of revenue without creating too much administration or public opposition so, even if it is imperfect, it produces about the right result and, in the words of Colbert, plucks “the goose as to procure the largest quantity of feathers with the least possible amount of squealing.” Others of a more paranoid disposition might feel that a decision to increase capital taxes has already been taken, and that there is therefore no need to remove anomalies at this stage. What one can still probably conclude is that it remains unlikely that the current system of capital taxes is going to become more benevolent at any point in the near future.

Please contact either myself or my assistant Nicola Tarry FCA on 01485 534800 or email kate@kathryngigg.co.uk if you would like to discuss your business or personal affairs in the context of any point mentioned above.

**Mrs K H Gigg FCA**

**N.B. Article drafted 8.12.2021**



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Copy date for the March 2022 issue is  
**12th February**

It's a quick turnaround so please don't be late!

# Local people supplying a service to other local people

A conversation with James Batchelor

One of our regular advertisers, James Batchelor, popped in to see us recently so I thought I would take the opportunity to ask him a few questions about his business and his thoughts on working in a Covid world.

**Elaine:** James, you've advertised with us for a number of years now. Would you like to tell our readers a little bit about yourself and your Company?

**James:** Thank you Elaine. My name is James Batchelor. I have lived in Dersingham all my life, apart from when I was at University and for a couple of years I spent in Heacham. I've been married to Mel for 16 years, and we have two rescued Greyhounds that keep us busy when we are not at work.

I'm the Principal of Barrett Batchelor Mortgage Services LLP and Evergreen Equity Release Solutions. It's the latter that we usually use Town and Around for.

**Elaine:** Local people supplying a service to other local people is always nice to see. When did you form your Company?

**James:** My business partner, Nigel Barrett, and I formed the business in 2007, so we are now approaching 15 years. Nigel first worked in this line of business in 1975, whereas I started straight from leaving University in 2002. Both of us have always worked locally.

**Elaine:** There's a lot of years of experience between the both of you there. Have you seen things change over the years?

**James:** Very much so. We have had to adapt both to changes in the Financial Services industry itself, and of course the way we conduct business during the current Pandemic. Although we prefer to operate on a "face to face" basis, we have put in new technology to enable us to conduct our business remotely, via Video Conferencing, if the clients prefer to deal with things this way.

**Elaine:** You mention the Pandemic, which of course is on everyone's mind these days. What difference have you seen with regards to your business over the past couple of years?

**James:** It's been very interesting, as there have been some big changes in the type of business we have been doing. It's hard to judge if this is wholly or even partly due to the Pandemic, or how things are naturally occurring due to an aging population now assessing their financial needs.

Our regular mortgage business hasn't really seen much of a change during Covid, but Evergreen Equity Release Solutions has seen a big increase in business. You'll be pleased to know that much of this increase is in the area Town and Around cover, so it's probably down to the people seeing who we are in Town and Around, and of course the demographics in this area.

**Elaine:** Thank you for that. What are the biggest hurdles you encounter when advising on Equity Release?



**James:** That's a very good question. People can obviously be very wary of the word Equity Release. This is probably a throw back to the days when all Equity Release meant was selling your house to the Bank in exchange for money. It's fair to say that this caused problems, but this was a long time ago and before we ever entered the market, and Equity Release has changed dramatically over recent years.

You no longer have to sell your house to the Bank, and you still retain full ownership. All Equity Release Providers are members of SHIP, which means that any Equity Release arrangements put in place will never result in the customer being in a "negative equity" situation. The Lender carries the risk.

**Elaine:** So, if your Clients want to raise money, who's money is it and what can they raise the money for any purpose?

**James:** The money is the client's money that they have tied up in their property. What they are doing is using the equity they have in their property, without having to sell the property and move home. Many older people look to downside so they can release money from their homes. They probably don't want to move, but need to so they can raise funds. Equity release can offer a solution to people in this situation.

**Elaine:** By the very nature of Equity Release, you are dealing with the older generation. Do you have safeguards in place to ensure that they are fully aware of the commitment they taking on?

**James:** This is a very important point. There's lots that we do to not only put our client's minds at ease, but also to fulfil our Compliance requirements. As an example, we always suggest that clients have a "trusted friend" or a relative at our meetings. It's entirely up to the clients if they wish to do so but lots take advantage of this.

A Solicitor is also involved rather than a Conveyancer, which is all you need when buying and selling a house. The Solicitor is

fully informed of what is being proposed, and they are also tasked by the Lender with ensuring that the clients are fully aware and understand everything, and that the Equity Release plan we have advised suits the clients requirements.

**Elaine:** What would you suggest to people who have heard about equity release, who want look into it further, or don't really understand what it is?

**James:** Obviously we would like them to contact us. One of our fears is that people dismiss the idea of equity release after having spoken to a well meaning, but ill-informed friend, and are therefore put off of the idea without being in possession of the full facts. They could be missing out on a fantastic opportunity due to this. As mentioned before, friends are always welcome to come along to any meetings.

**Elaine:** So James, why you and not one of the National Companies?

**James:** Another good question and brings up what I consider very important points. Firstly there's the "local" aspect. As you said before, local people serving local people. We are happy to put our personal names to the business so people know who they are dealing with. We also personally deal with each case from start to finish, unlike most of the National Companies who pass the case over to an administration team once the case has been submitted. We really do offer a personal service.

Fees are another important point. Lots of the National Companies work on a % basis, meaning the higher the value of the property or amount being borrowed, the higher their fee (just like many Estate Agents). I've never understood this as the amount of work involved is the same for a £50,000 case or a £250,000 case. We therefore charge a flat fee, meaning that in most cases the clients can save £100's if not £1,000's. Any money being paid out means less for the client, so this is such an important point. The actual equity release schemes are the same, irrespective of people using us or one of the big Nationals that advertise on TV. Needless to say, the high cost of TV advertising has to be paid from somewhere, which is probably why the bigger Companies fees can be so much higher than ours.

**Elaine:** James, it's been a pleasure talking to you and giving our readers an insight into your business.

**James:** Thank you Elaine, you are more than welcome.

James Batchelor can be contacted at his office at:

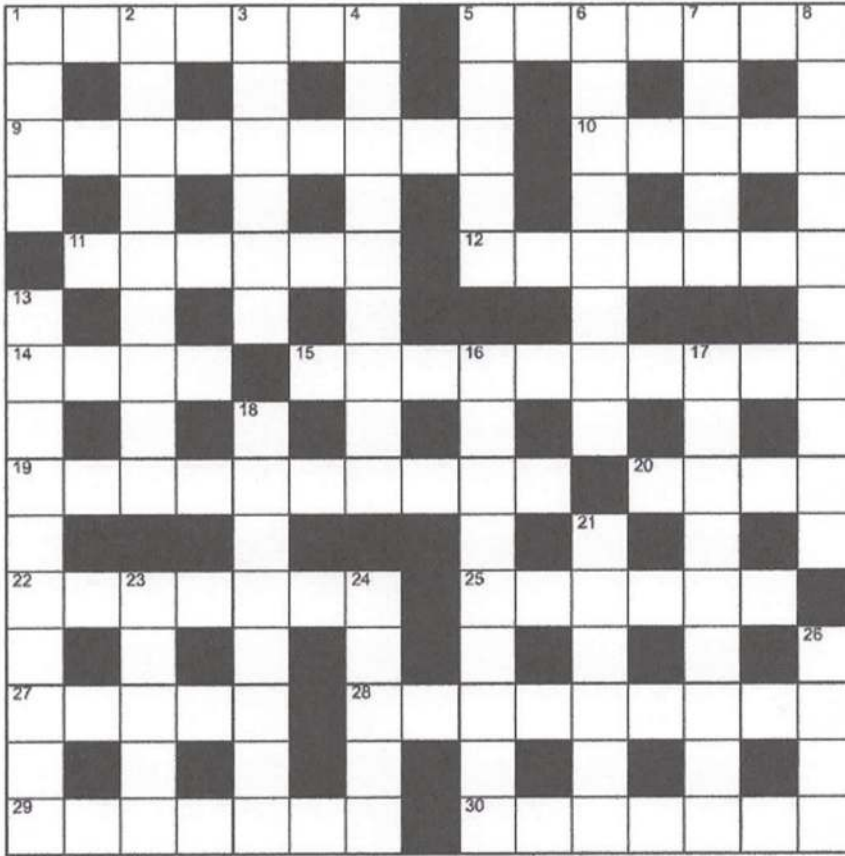
27-28 Tuesday Market Place, Kings Lynn PE32 1SA,

or by telephone: 01553 629800,

or email: info@barrettbatchelor.co.uk

# David Elsey's Cryptic Crossword

## Crossword Clues Across



1. Native to get medicine I passed on to doctor (7)
5. Dance isn't all there is happening (7)
9. Without delay allocate a task set in a Canadian city (9)
10. Light unit, plumbers say ... (5)
11. ... remains outside Bristol, locked up (6)
12. Mechanic has vehicle part to remove – it's broken and has terminal missing (7)
14. Group of shining lights welcome queen to America (4)
15. Motorist up front recommends taking number after accident (10)
19. Jumper has fiddle and drum pattern (10)
20. Blunt, in American Senate, starts to show influence (4)
22. Distract plumber in middle of boiler repair (7)
25. Leave around noon, as before, without a peep (6)
27. The King's second calling? (5)
28. Experts take time to assess flat (9)
29. Make final attempt at opening pass (2,2,3)
30. Clubber and freewheeler in London visits top Soho restaurants (7)

## Crossword Clues Down

1. Language needs to be less brusque (4)
2. Spender is desperate to get to ATM (9)
3. It's not enough that I go along with majority (6)
4. Twist to cushion disagreeable blow (9)
5. Guy cheers on great swimmer (5)
6. Send up a top politician who's filibustering (8)
7. Regularly stay with maiden on very large Greek island ... (5)
8. ... forget the goings-on, it's practical (2-8)
13. Served with a writ on a bus, deep in shock (10)
16. Satisfied with finishes that secure the points (4,5)
17. Connecting part of lift, as standard (5,4)
18. After a drawn opener United bounded on (8)
21. Club has little power by the sound of it (6)
23. Have a mounting problem with right old donkey (5)
24. Slip, fall down and pass out (5)
26. Dam is unusual, having no tail (4)

Crossword solution on page 19

## Ray Butchers Su Doku

Easy first...

...then the more challenging

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 |   |   |   | 1 | 3 |   |   |   |
| 7 |   |   |   |   | 8 |   |   |   |
| 8 |   |   |   | 5 | 2 | 4 |   |   |
|   | 6 |   |   |   | 7 |   | 1 |   |
|   | 3 | 8 |   |   |   | 9 | 7 |   |
|   | 2 |   | 3 | 9 |   |   | 6 |   |
|   |   | 5 | 2 | 4 |   |   |   | 3 |
|   |   | 4 | 8 |   |   |   |   | 7 |
|   |   |   | 6 | 7 |   |   |   | 9 |

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 |   | 5 | 9 |   | 7 | 4 |   |   |
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|   | 8 |   |   | 3 |   |   |   |   |
| 3 |   | 9 |   | 4 |   |   |   |   |
|   | 2 |   | 7 |   |   | 3 | 6 |   |
|   |   | 6 | 1 |   |   |   | 9 |   |
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| 5 |   |   |   |   |   |   | 2 |   |
|   |   |   |   |   | 5 |   |   |   |

# Incinerator Update - the fight is taken back to County Hall

By Cllr Alexandra Kemp

The West Norfolk border's Incinerator Saga continues. What is clear, more than ever, is the County Conservatives' difficulty putting themselves in West Norfolk's shoes. While West Norfolk is starved of the infrastructure it needs – new hospital, new bypass for West Winch, more buses – we continue to be the place to which the Norwich and Great Yarmouth Councillors who run County Hall, think they can send all Norfolk's waste.

There was a very heated exchange today, 12 January, at the County Council Cabinet, when I asked Cabinet to follow the Parliamentary Group on Air Pollution's call for a halt to new incinerators, and make a statement against the new incinerator in Wisbech on West Norfolk's border.

The All Parliamentary Group on Air Pollution's December report highlighted the health risks to children and the food chain. Recent research found that cancer-causing dioxins from incinerators have been found in eggs 10 km away. Matter from nearby incinerators has been found in children's toenails, associated with childhood leukaemia.

But on this frosty January day, County Hall showed itself as remote as ever from West Norfolk. I could not believe the Leader's written reply. That County hasn't had enough "information as yet" (it has in fact had hundreds of pages in MVV's pre-consultation report) it would be "premature" or "fetter the planning process" to object now.

So I read out the advice of County Hall's own Head of Planning, Nick Johnson, to the Leader on 2 July "To date, Cambridgeshire, Fenland and King's Lynn [Councils] have all made public statements objecting to the proposal. There is nothing preventing Norfolk from doing likewise making representations objecting".

The Leader still wouldn't accept this and said County can't object. He later said the Parliamentary group was "wrong".

I said King's Lynn Borough Council has objected to the incinerator

in a motion and in a special Planning Meeting, and so can County. This is about children's health and the risk to the food chain.

I said Andrew Proctor couldn't have read the All Parliamentary Group on Air Pollution's recent report I sent him and I asked him to read it.

## OUT OF ORDER?

Then I asked if the Cabinet is putting profits from its waste company Norse Environment, above the health of children in West Norfolk. The Leader did not like this at all and said it was "out of order".

What is out of order is Norwich and Great Yarmouth Conservative Councillors trying to dictate to West Norfolk again.

The County Cabinet should put in an objection to the proposal now and also improve Norfolk's recycling.

## CAMPAIGN

I wrote to Joel Hull the Head of County Waste yesterday asking for Norfolk to be part of the new trials for recycling of larger plastics. As Norfolk recycles, reduces single use plastics, and reuses paper, metals and other materials, the feedstock for this incinerator could be waste shipped in from far away. This is the wrong technology, the wrong size and the wrong place.

Keep up your letters and emails to Andrew Proctor the County Leader and to Andy Grant, the Waste Cabinet Member.

Andrew.Proctor.Cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

Andy.Grant.Cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

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# Round the bend with Dean Baker

## Where Does Your Boiler Live?

Very sadly over the last few weeks one of my longstanding customers passed away. Loss, is always heart breaking, but I was struck that in this instance, his widow in the midst of grieving, was at a loss in her own home. With no idea how the heating and hot water worked or how the bills were paid and to who.

So, my advice is this, if this sounds familiar and you don't pay the bills in your home sit down with whoever pays the bills with a cup of tea and a choccy biscuit and ask them all the questions you can. Who provides the gas and electricity? where are the meters? - while you're asking check the whereabouts of the stop cock! Keep a record of all this information in a boring old A4 brown envelope and put it somewhere prominent. Add anything else that's important you and your family. Do this as soon



as you can ...

Then - walk round your house together. Where's the thermostat and how do you adjust it? Do you have an immersion heater? Where does the boiler live?

This will seem strange but it's worth the effort.

Should the worst happen and the person you share your home with passes away - what will happen to the energy bills. If the account is paid by direct debit then the payments will be frozen

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and you must inform the utility companies. Your gas/electricity/water supply won't be affected. You will need to change the name on the account and you may be asked for a meter reading. Age UK - ageuk.org.uk - has lots of good advice on looking after your money. They also run a help

line. I've checked them out and they're very good.

Don't be afraid to ask for help - there are good people out there!

It's March next month, lighter days and daffodils, take care.

plombierdean@yahoo.com  
Tel 07973 131 906.

## Action plan for more trees

John Maiden

In every copy of this most excellent publication, our incredible editor reminds us of the date by which contributions must be received. As usual my contribution is being written within hours of the deadline! This leaves me with an unanswered question relating to the Town Council's Action Plan. I want to know how many trees have been planted in Hunstanton as part of the county council's pledge to plant one million trees in Norfolk?

As regular readers will have noticed by now, I care about the environment and ways of combatting climate change caused by global warming.

In European Conservation Year, 1970, my English students at Hunstanton Secondary Modern School composed letters pointing out the need for more trees to be planted around their playing field. The best letter, as democratically selected by the students themselves, was sent to the Forestry Commission.

In response, the school received a gift of 100 trees, which still lift my spirits every time I see them. It is to be hoped my former students share similar feelings, because their participation must have helped when it came to getting the trees established.

Sadly, a project that saw a few trees planted on The Green ten years ago has been less successful. My response to this setback was to suggest planting 70 trees spread across the whole of The Green. This idea was put



forward last year at a meeting in the town hall to discuss ideas for marking the Platinum Jubilee, but the audience did not respond with the enthusiasm shown by my students in 1970.

While waiting for some of those in attendance to recognise the role of trees in saving the planet, I have renewed my efforts to see the land between Tesco and the cemetery planted with more trees and turned into a park, to commemorate victims of the 1953 Floods, as opposed to becoming yet another residential development providing more opportunities for second home owners.

A few years ago west Norfolk councillors were prepared to sell this land to Tesco, for use as a car park serving an extended store. The proposed extension did not go ahead, but the council's willingness to turn a greenfield site into a car park raises serious questions about its response to the very real threat to the future of our planet posed by Climate Change!

Under its current leadership West Norfolk

Council is still unable to offer a plausible explanation for its past shortcomings when dealing with planning and environmental issues affecting Hunstanton. For this reason I intend to submit a proposal for Tesco to renew its interest in this land. This time for use as a People's Park not as a car park!

We already have an example of a similar initiative in Hunstanton, with the orchard on the Community Centre Field, but a scheme similar to one north of the border is also worth considering.

Up in Bonny Scotland, twenty small areas of woodland are being planted in urban environments using the 'Tiny Forests' method. Scottish ministers say they will be a legacy of Cop26 and provide outdoor learning opportunities for schools.

Volunteers will plant and tend the forests as they grow, as well as monitoring the wildlife they attract. The first demonstration forest was planted at West Pilton Park in Edinburgh during October last year.

The scheme is part of the international 'Tiny Forest' programme coordinated by 'Earthwatch', using a forest management method developed in the 1970s by Japanese botanist Dr Akira Miyawaki to bring biodiversity into urban settings.

'NatureScot' is leading the project, and its chief executive, Francesca Osowska, said: "Wee forests are a fantastic way for people to connect with nature close to home. We're delighted to see our demonstration project being extended to create many more pockets of nature-positive green space across our towns and cities, as a living legacy of Cop26."

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## NORFOLK HOLIDAY HOMES busy times.....

Sandra Hohol

January has always been the traditional and busiest time for taking bookings. Christmas and New Year have settled, everyone is back to work and usually everything is as normal as can be given the current circumstances with the pandemic not making any moves to disappear soon. This year is no exception. We are busy taking bookings for Hunstanton, and the coast and with the emphasis still on 'Staycation' the UK seems to be more attractive, Norfolk in particular. We know that local people in this area will not be holidaying here themselves, but there are family and friends who may wish to visit and stay locally so don't turn them away thinking you have no-where to put them – get them to contact us and hopefully we can help. But sooner rather than later otherwise there will be nothing left for summer holidays!

There are new properties on our register and we are lucky that we have such a vast selection of holiday homes to offer sleeping two to ten, with pets welcome too. Beach huts at Old Hunstanton to a few large 'high end' properties. The majority of our properties are decorated and furnished to a high standard but although they are all different, they attract the everyday person hence our slogan 'Quality Properties for Everyday People'. The majority are '4 star' quality graded so still offer a very high specification – some with a 'Gold' award as they offer just that little bit extra. There are properties to

suit all requirements and budgets, plus customers actually speak to a person who knows the accommodation.

Besides a myriad of managerial jobs in the Tourist Industry Carol Bacon our 'inspector' spent over 15 years as the dreaded 'Hotel Inspector' where she graded B & B's, hotels and self-catering accommodation all over the UK. She started working for Norfolk Holiday Homes about 4 years ago so was 'au fait' with all of them. She gives an honest and fair report for each property and grades accordingly all in line with National Standards. If there are any suggestions which will enhance a property or ideas for improvement then Carol is our lady with her wealth of experience! At Norfolk Holiday Homes there are no hard and fast rules for décor – just because we are near the seaside, does not mean that a seaside scheme is the order of the day. Cleanliness and safety are paramount and there are legalities to be aware of too. Carol will clearly indicate any issues if they involve quality standards. Just because a property does not reach the grading target on some levels (within reason) does not mean that we cannot market it, although there is a percentage level of achievement to keep above.

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**u3a**

Our February meeting will be on Monday 21st at 2.00pm at The Community Hall, Avenue Road, Hunstanton. Giles Orpen-Smellie, our new Police Commissioner will be updating us on Norfolk Police activities.

Our March meeting will be on Monday 21st, also at the Community Hall. Saffron Summerfield will be speaking about "When Birds Sing".

The meetings will be held under current Government requirements.

Please go to the u3a Hunstanton site at [u3asites.org.uk/hunstanton](http://u3asites.org.uk/hunstanton) for further information.

### CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Across: 1. Endemic, 5. Madison, 9. Saskatoon, 10. Lumen, 11. Debris, 12. Artisan, 14. Ursa, 15. Misfortune, 19. Paradiddle, 20. Bias, 22. Embroid, 25. Squint, 27. Aaron, 28. Prostrate, 29. Do or die, 30. Striker

Down: 1. Erse, 2. Dispenser, 3. Meagre, 4. Crosswind, 5. Manta, 6. Dilatory, 7. Samos, 8. No-nonsense, 13. Subpoenaed, 16. Full stops, 17. Union Jack, 18. Adjoined, 21. Putter, 23. Burro, 24. Lapsee, 26. Weir

# The Sage writes...

Here we are again with a tale or two from the Boy Dick, the Sage from Sunny Hunny for the month of February 2022

This is a line or two about bait digging for lugworm along our Norfolk beaches mainly Snettisham, Heacham, New Hunstanton and Old Hunstanton. When I was a lad I would walk along Hunstanton beach and talk to an old boy in the late nineteen fifties who dug worms on Hunstanton beach for two shillings and sixpence a hundred. Gradually more and more men, and one or two women dug worms and there have always been a few anglers bait digging on the beaches in the Wash; dealers and tackle shops from all over England including one tackle shop in Durham and two in London. The gang that I worked with sent ours to Lowestoft, the worms that went to London and Durham went by train but the ones that went to Lowestoft were put on the Eastern Counties buses or the ganger would take them himself so that he could get paid and pay us.

It was a dodgy way to earn a bit of extra cash as you never knew when you were wanted to dig as it depended on the weather it could be sunshine in Lowestoft but pouring of rain in Hunstanton so the bait dealer still expected to get his worms. Also you had to watch the tides and the wind; the weather in and around the Wash is very unpredictable, you can go on the beach in sunshine and come off the beach in snow and high winds.

You do not see many bait diggers on the local beaches these days as the beaches around the Wash have been dug out. In the 60s, 70s and 80s it was nothing to see over 50 bait diggers on West Norfolk beaches especially on a Saturday, now even on a Saturday you will be lucky if you see 3 or 4 diggers on the beaches.

You did not need a lot of gear to go bait digging just a flat tine fork, two buckets - one to put your worms in and another to put your flask of tea in and your waterproof leggings. Sometimes we would go on Terrington Marshes; this was a long walk and you had to

keep an eye on the tide. When the beach got nearly dug out in the 1990s I stopped digging. I enjoyed bait digging but really all I got out of it was a bit of pocket money and a bad back.

A chap asked me about the history of Hunstanton Pier well the pier was washed away on the evening of Wednesday the 11th of January 1978, Hunstanton pier was built in 1870 it was 830 feet long, in 1899 the pier was closed down for a year as the wooden planks had to be replaced, in 1908 admission to the pier was estimated at around 100,000 a year. In 1939 there was a fire on the end of the pier and two ladies who were trapped had to jump into the sea. In 1957 the film Barnacle Bill was filmed on the pier and a lot of local people took part as extras.

A lot of things happened and changed on the pier over the years, when Horace Brooks held the lease of the pier he had a small train with two carriages that ran up and down the pier. He also built a skating rink on the end of the pier. The lease was given up by Mr Brookes and was taken over by a Mr John Harris who pulled down all of the old wooden buildings and built a new three story brick building. In the new building in the 1960s there was a small zoo on ground floor a prize bingo and slot machines on the first floor and a restaurant on the top floor. Over the years the top floor was a night club, snooker hall and function room.

The entertainment centre at the head of the pier caught fire in 2002 and was destroyed; a new entertainment centre was built and was up and running within about two years with a ten pin bowling alley on the top floor, fruit machines on the first floor, a fish and chip shop also two other retail units. The pier head entertainment center is still going strong. A lot of local people used to fish off the pier, it was a good place to fish for mackerel in the summer time.

During the Second World War the pier was fenced off with barbed wire and it was guarded by soldiers who were billeted in the old Sandringham Hotel that was demolished



in 1967.

Just one more bit about the old pier; for many years just outside the main entrance on the grass was an old drinking fountain with two tin mugs on chains attached to the fountain, there was a pedal at the bottom of the fountain you pressed it with your foot and water came out of the tap at the top of the fountain for you to drink.

An old friend of mine who worked for the Hunstanton Council was for many years the keeper of the fountain. In the summer time he would keep an eye on it and then at the end of September he would switch the water off to stop it freezing and then he would switch it on again at the beginning of April. A few years back the old fountain was taken away and has never returned.

I reckon most of you who walk along the promenade have noticed the radar mast mounted on the top of an old shipping container behind the power boat club, it was put there three months ago to monitor the beach it was taken away just before Christmas, I wonder if we will ever be told what it monitored?

Well that's it, another year has started. I made a wish like I have done every year since 2002 for life guards on the beaches.

I will just finish with a little bit of squit. Aunt Agatha she says if you don't get all you want, think of the things you don't want and don't get.

I hope you all have a better year than the last one, all the best from the Boy Dick, the Sage, at Sunny Hunny. Keep a troshin'.



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# Letters to the Editor

## MPs call for a moratorium on new incinerators issue 195

It is of course unacceptable that a plume of emissions especially if they are dangerous falls on Kings Lynn or anywhere for that matter.

I also note the disproportionate impact of pollution on poorer communities.

Surely the solution is to use technology to make incinerator emissions safer. I understand the university of Birmingham is developing such systems.

If we don't harness technology it is difficult to know how we can reduce pollution:

As the Glasgow summit demonstrated no country wants to bite the bullet and move to: more expensive renewable energy; go nuclear; change our lifestyles; exclude poorer people from air travel etc.

The article refers to the disproportionate impact of pollution on poorer communities but for me and many others sending our rubbish to poorer countries is also totally unacceptable.

**Gwyneth Atkinson**

## New Year's Resolutions

I know, we've usually forgotten about them by February but so far so good.

2022 is the year I want to sing more and walk with my new Nordic sticks.

With the Hunstanton Community Choir restarting in January I went along to join the rehearsals now meeting at the Christian Way. There I met the new Musical Director, Liz Dark who is clearly very talented and full of fun to work with. I came away on a high. Hope more people will join in on Wednesdays at 7pm.

As for Nordic walking - I have covered far more miles than usual

and am reinvigorated from being out in fresh air.

How are you doing with your resolutions?

**Christine Earnshaw**

## King George VI's death

On the 6th of February 1952 King George VI passed away in his sleep at Sandringham House. He lay at rest in Sandringham church for three days then his coffin was taken by road on a gun carriage pulled by horses to be put on a train to London.

I went to Dersingham St George's Secondary Modern School on Admirals Drive on the Sandringham Estate. On that day when King George was taken from the church to Wolferton Station all of us school children walked up to Sandringham to line the route; I well remember it was a very cold day then one of the soldiers lining the route told us to jump up and down and stamp our feet which we did. When the carriage came by we took off our caps and bowed our heads then we walked back to school. We were allowed to take the rest of the day off, that is 70 years ago this February, but I still remember it well.

**Dick Melton**

## First Class Service

We would like to express our gratitude and thanks for the first class service we received from Foreman and Son Ltd plumbing and heating engineers, in particular Cameron, who managed to trace a leak in our old and complicated heating system and got us back up and running quickly at a very difficult time.

A big thank you to Cameron and his team.

**Kevan Fleming at Café Legge**

Please send letters for the March edition to: editor@townandaround.net or by post to The Perches, 18 Tapping Close, Snettisham PE317FF by 12th February 2022.

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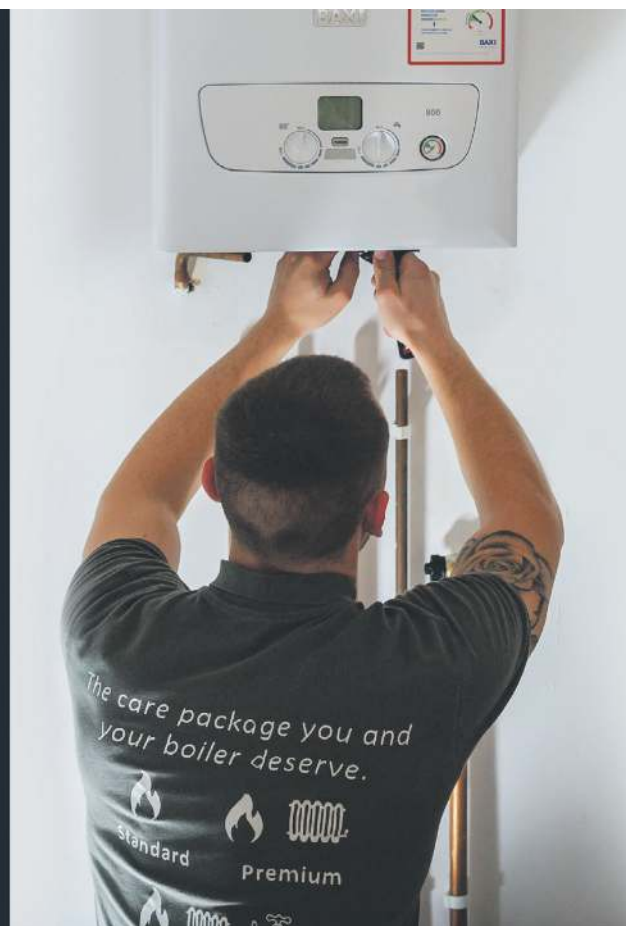
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## Home improvement season ahead

As we look ahead to early spring, West Norfolk Glass' managing director Geoff Parker shares some of the home improvement trends for 2022

Springtime is traditionally home improvement season, and in recent years more of us are turning our attention towards getting the most from our property. Lockdowns prompted many homeowners to focus on their property's appearance, usability and energy performance.

While many of us are hoping to be able to travel more freely in 2022, with household savings over the past couple of years and continued low interest rates, we're seeing more customers investing in home improvements such as fully glazed extensions, bi-fold and sliding door systems to blend interior and outdoor spaces and energy-efficient glazing.



There is perhaps even more of a pressing reason to sort out draughty doors and windows this year, with imminent energy price rises meaning that poor glazing could cost you even more, pretty soon. While double glazing is a long-term investment, many homeowners find replacement doors and windows immediately help to reduce heat loss with potential savings for our energy bills – something most of us would welcome with the current price hikes just ahead.

I'm often asked what's on trend in glazing, and for 2020 flush windows are undoubtedly a growing trend. Offering a more streamlined profile, particularly with a woodgrain finish, flush windows offer a totally different, elegant look that works particularly well with traditional, period properties.

Many houses have been extended over the years and for properties with flat roofs a glass lantern roof or flat glass roof light is a great, affordable home improvement which can make a huge difference to a living space.

Garden rooms have always been a popular way of extending living space and with the trend for working from home continuing, a glazed extension can provide an impressive solution to creating a home office. Other creative uses of this type of extension can be to create a dedicated dining space, a family den or lounge.

Finally, one of the most exciting innovations which gives homeowners the opportunity to create a unique style for their home is the use of colour for doors and window frames. While white has traditionally been a standard, today's colour bonding systems enable homeowners to select their preferred hue and create a chic façade to mirror their interior design choices.

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# Nature notes with Carrie Carey

## February – the season of love and construction

Humans are by nature avid builders. Since the days when early man whittled wood with a piece of flint, we've spent thousands of years constructing homes and we're pretty good at it. Surprisingly though, primates are not next in line for architectural awards despite the advantage of having hands and opposable thumbs. This accolade goes to the birding community. Just think about the well-built and complex nests you may have seen and you'll agree that there are few comparable structures made by mammals.

Using just a beak, birds ably build some very intricate and sturdy homes. These serve primarily as incubators and nurseries for young chicks so it's rare for them to be used beyond the breeding season. In most cases, the life of a working nest is only a few weeks. I

can't imagine labouring intently on a self-build just to use it with barely enough time to unpack, yet some birds will do this year after year.



*Image: A coot using its bill to build a nest Credit: Phil Gwilliam*

Nest building usually begins in spring when most males are in hot pursuit of a mate and want to establish their territory. However, some species will get off to a speedy start and can begin gathering supplies in late January. In theory, early nesters are in a strong position to grab those resources before the competition heats up. Ironically though, producing chicks before insects and other foods emerge from winter dormancy has obvious drawbacks. However, for some species food sources are readily available all winter. Crossbills can breed as early as January in Scotland because their diet consists of conifer seeds extracted from pinecones.

Research suggests that climate change is pushing the breeding season forward, so expect to see more birds enthusiastically prepping for parenthood before spring. Long-tailed tits build extravagant and complex nests taking weeks to complete. This labour of love begins in late February with both partners gathering moss and lichen to build their fanciful structure. This is then lined with up to 1,000 downy feathers ready for the 8-12 eggs which are usually laid in April. When all eggs hatch it can get pretty crowded in there!

Grey herons elect for an easier option and often reuse last year's nest. Why waste energy on building a new place when the old one will do? It's not unusual for these long-legged waders to lay their first eggs in early February. Also off to an early start are ravens. They pair for life so don't need to spend time searching for a mate each spring. Blackbirds choose to nest while winter ground is still soft and damp since this makes pulling worms out of the soil less of an effort. Also taking advantage of seasonal conditions is the mistle thrush whose bulky stick structure nest is less vulnerable to predators in late winter. Who wants to be up and about ravaging nests when it's cold outside? Tawny owls lay their first clutch of eggs in March before vegetation has a growth spurt. This takes the pressure off hunting for prey in long grass.

Winter temperatures and lack of foods can take their toll on some species. The diminutive wren has very little body fat and a quarter of



*Image: grey herons on nest credit: Phil Gwilliam*

the population can die during a harsh winter. However, this is countered by the female producing two large broods each year and the male being polygamous in nature. The wren is also a fine example of a prolific avian architect. In early spring, the powerful vocals of the male fill gardens and woodlands. He is warding off potential trespassers and signalling to females that his self builds are move-in ready. He will build several unlined nests and is happy to court any female who enters his territory. It will be up to her to select a domicile and set the moving-in date. As these opportunists may have more than one wife on an active nest at any time, the population can bounce back over the season.

Nesting and breeding are hard work and require a lot of energy but there are ways in which we can help. If you have a garden, leave out natural fibres and plant materials for birds to collect. I distribute late winter clippings, straw or natural wool along the top of a hedge. Starlings use the leaves and house sparrows will pop out and pinch a few of the other supplies. Living in the Fenlands means we have plenty of muddy areas on the lawn, this is perfect for song thrushes and blackbirds who use mud to construct their nests.

Loss of woodlands, trees and hedgerows mean there's a housing shortage for many birds.

It's National Nestbox Week from 14th February and what better way to give our breeding birds a head start than by putting up a nestbox. It can be as simple or as fancy as your budget allows. From build ready to DIY, there are lots of ideas on our website at [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk) or pop into our shop at Titchwell Marsh reserve for a chat.

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# Plant of the month: Cosmos

Wendy Warner

If you are considering growing just one flower from seed this year, I would suggest Cosmos. They are easy to grow, versatile, low maintenance and extremely floriferous. They come in a wide range of colours and flower shapes with new varieties being added every year.

These half-hardy annuals have attractive ferny leaves acting as the perfect foil for the flower heads, making them valued as a cut flower. Cosmos look spectacular in beds, borders and pots, flowering from early summer right through to the first frosts. They are also loved by pollinators and will attract beneficial insects to the garden.

Most Cosmos have large, open blooms and come in shades of white, pink, purple or maroon with a contrasting yellow centre. There are also bi-colours such as Candy Stripe with white flowers with a varying pink, picotee edge and doubles such as Double Click Cranberries with deep maroon double flowers. Seashells varieties have unusual petals which curl to form shell-like flutes. New for this year is Cosmos Apricotta with its unusual pinky apricot flowers.

Most grow to 3 to 4ft (90-120cm) although there are shorter varieties such as Dwarf Sensation Mix at 2ft (60cm) or Brightness Mix at just 1ft (30cm) with the more unusual shades of red, orange and bright yellow.



*Cosmos Apricotta*

For best results, sow indoors, from February to early April, in trays of seed compost with a light covering of soil or vermiculite. Water well and place in a warm position such as windowsill, a temperature of 15-20°C (60-68°F) is ideal. I tend to put a propagator lid over the tray until the first seedlings appear, this is usually within 14-21 days. Grow on in good light and a slightly lower temperature to avoid them getting leggy and thin out into small pots once 2-4 leaves have developed. Harden off young plants over a couple of weeks by putting them

outside during the day on fine days and bringing them in at night before planting out, avoiding frosts. Pinching out the growing tips will make the plants more bushy and encourage blooms.

Plant out approximately 12" (30cm) apart in groups or amongst other plants in a sunny position. Most cosmos do well even in poor soil, however for best results add a slow-release fertiliser but don't over-feed as this could result in lush foliage and less flower. Taller varieties may need staking, especially if they are in an exposed position, this is best started when they reach about 2ft and then again at 3ft and 4ft. They will require frequent watering especially in dry soil and can look quite droopy in very hot weather but will usually recover with a good drink. Deadhead regularly to encourage more flowers and prolong the flowering season. To use as cut flowers, cut long stems when the buds are about to break.

Cosmos can also be sown outdoors for ease where they are to flower in April or May. Sometimes you will find self-sown seedlings appear where you had Cosmos the previous year, these will make strong plants but the seedlings won't necessarily be the same colour as last year due to cross-pollination.

Add some colour to your garden this summer with Cosmos!

## Nestboxes at Northfields

Northfields Allotments Plot Manager Derek Cosbey and friends took a break from winter digging in early January to erect some Tawny Owl nestboxes in trees around the site.

Assisted by David Murtagh and Peter Wheeldon, twenty boxes were made to the specifications of the Barn Owl Trust and they were put in place in good time for the breeding season. With a bit of luck the first eggs should be laid around mid-March.



## Snettisham Gardening Club

Our February meeting will be on Wednesday 23rd at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall, Old Church Road, Snettisham when the speaker will be Mr. David Reeve who will tell us about the Sandringham Show.

All meetings will be subject to any Covid restrictions that may be applicable at the time.

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

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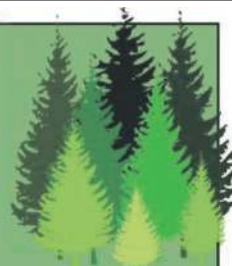
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## Discovery Grant for peatland restoration at Roydon Common and Dersingham Bog

The Fens East Peat Partnership (FEPP), including Norfolk Wildlife Trust have been awarded a substantial 'discovery grant' by Government as part of their progressive Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme.

The Fens East Peat Partnership has been awarded £815,877 to explore the feasibility of restoring peatlands in the Fens. The government's Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme grant will enable the partnership to investigate the state of peat on 20 sites and neighbouring areas across Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. The aim will be to develop site restoration plans for those peatland sites.

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust are leading the project on behalf of The National Trust, Natural England, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, RSPB and the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Northamptonshire. These organisations have been working together across the Fens for many years through the Fens for the Future partnership.

Eliot Lyne, Norfolk Wildlife Trust CEO, said: "The Fens, which cover significant parts of west Norfolk, as well as Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire, make up one of the largest areas of remaining lowland peat in the country.

"In Norfolk we will be working with landowners across seven sites in and around the west of the county, including NWT Roydon Common, Natural England's Dersingham Bog as well as areas of privately owned farmland.

"What we learn in the coming year is the first step in achieving our vision to revitalise Norfolk's wildlife-rich, fens landscape.

"By exploring the best places to regenerate areas of peatland and supporting the development of innovative land management practices for this special environment, we can protect and enhance a vital resource for both wildlife and people.

"As well as offering potential protection against flooding, improving



*Credit: Richard Osbourne*

water quality and providing new places for people to connect with nature, a landscape filled with healthy peat-based wetlands will teem with life, supporting a variety of wildlife species including dragonflies and damselflies, breeding waders, bitterns, cranes and otters."

Peatlands are Earth's largest terrestrial carbon store, holding more than twice the amount of carbon in all the world's forests. They cover 10.9% of England's land area. Unfortunately, 87% of our peatlands are degraded. In this state, they do not capture and store carbon but emit an estimated 10 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent every year.

The scheme aims to capture this carbon by setting 35,000 ha of degraded peatland on a path to restoration by 2025. This will help deliver the UK's Net Zero target. It will contribute to the Nature Recovery Network with wider benefits to biodiversity, water quality and natural flood management.



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# Can I give up or amend my Inheritance after someone has died?

By Kieran Athow, Solicitor, Hayes + Storr Solicitors

Whilst the specific terms of any will are up to the individual who makes it, after they have died there may be circumstances in which a beneficiary does not wish to receive their inheritance or wishes to pass all or part of it to somebody else. Beneficiaries are not obligated to accept their inheritance, whether received under the terms of a will or under the rules of Intestacy.

## How to vary an estate

A beneficiary could choose to 'vary' all or part of their interest in an estate to another individual(s). This allows the 'original' beneficiary to choose the ultimate recipient of their 'unwanted' inheritance.

For example, an estate may have been distributed equally between the deceased's two children, however, following the death, it may be the case that one child is financially independent and they may be content to forgo their own share in the estate (or part of it) to benefit their child(ren). There may be good tax planning reasons to adopt this approach.

Where the deceased did not leave a valid will, then their estate would be distributed in accordance with the Intestacy rules, which provide a hierarchy of relatives entitled to inherit from the estate. However, these rules do not make provision for unmarried partners (irrespective of the duration of the relationship) and, therefore, those relatives entitled to benefit may wish to vary the distribution of the estate to provide for the deceased's partner to benefit to some degree.

## Disclaimer

Alternatively, the beneficiary could 'disclaim' their inheritance, however, they must typically disclaim any inheritance in its entirety (unless the will provides otherwise).

For example, if a beneficiary receives a cash gift (legacy) of £10,000 and also a share in the residuary estate under a Will, they may be in a position to elect to disclaim the cash gift, whilst taking the share in the residue.

Typically, the disclaimed asset(s) would be distributed as though the original beneficiary had died before the deceased and the original beneficiary would have limited control as to the ultimate recipient.

## How to vary or disclaim your Inheritance

To vary or disclaim your inheritance, a beneficiary must sign a Deed of Variation/Disclaimer. Further, the variation/disclaimer must be signed within two years of the deceased's death to have retrospective effect for Inheritance Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax purposes.

## How can we help?

Giving up or varying an inheritance will have consequences for you and for the

deceased's estate. You should seek legal advice before disclaiming or varying your entitlement to benefit to ensure that this is carried through correctly. Our private client team members can advise on disclaiming or varying an entitlement to benefit under an estate and would assist in the preparation of all relevant documentation.

For further information, please contact Kieran Athow on 01328 863231 or email [kieran.athow@hayes-storr.com](mailto:kieran.athow@hayes-storr.com)

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



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# The Barking Bugle

Dog memorials and the environment

I have some exciting news to woof about. The Barking Bugle has teamed up with The Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership in order to help protect our environment, and to make it a super special pawsome place for all you furry friend lovers out there to enjoy. Their main aim is to protect our wildlife and we totally bark our sup pawt. One of the issues they have brought to our attention is dog memorials and the environment.

We know what it's like to lose a beloved canine companion and we totally understand why humans want to create lasting memories. Whilst out on our walkies we often see doggy memorial toy boxes dotted around either in the countryside or on the beach. We have also spotted balloons or sky lanterns that have been released in memory of a beloved doggy.

These ideas might seem wonderful but they can have terrible consequences for our wildlife and our environment. The toy boxes often contain plastic or rubber which can easily end up in our rivers, lakes and in the sea. The toys themselves can become worn and create hazards for other dogs. It might seem like a totally pawsome idea but shared toys may have diseases that can quickly spread. Doggies and sea mammals could easily choke on the smaller toys. They can become entangled in rope toys and those very nasty plastic rings.

Balloons and lanterns are a magnificent spectacle when released into the sky but they pollute our environment and our wildlife suffer as a result of swallowing horrible bits of rubber and plastic. So please please please don't do this.

We all want to remember our beloved fur babies but there are lots of other ways in which you can celebrate their lives. Below are some very woofastic ideas:-

- Why not share your memories and photos on the tributes' page of supportive websites such as Team Dogs at <https://teamdogs.co.uk/tributes> or Blue Cross at <https://www.bluecross.org.uk/create-tribute-your-pet>.
- Plant a tree or a shrub in your garden. We have planted three pawsome fruit trees in our allotment in memory of my brothers Frodo, Gizmo and Will-i-am. (Remember to ask the landowner's permission if you are going to do this elsewhere).
- Donate to animal charities like the RSPCA or PACT. They need all the help they can get to give rescue doggies the life they deserve.
- Create your own scrapbooks, photo albums and memory boxes. This is a lovely way to reminisce on all the great times you have shared together.
- You could have a star named after your beloved pal. Sit under a starry sky with a bottle of Pawsecco and think about all this fun times you have shared.

The impawtant thing is to allow time to grieve. Losing your furry companion is just as upsetting as losing a human loved one. Talk to someone if you need to - there are a lot of humans out there who can relate to what you are going through. The Rainbow Bridge Website has a Grief Support Centre and you can join their pet loss forum or chat rooms.

**Woofs Miss Zsa Zsa - Canine Editor**  
[www.thebarkingbugle.co.uk](http://www.thebarkingbugle.co.uk)



## THE BRANCASTER VILLAGE STORE



In the recent past Brancaster, along with many North Norfolk villages, could boast a range of shops. Gradually, as the character of the villages and employment changed and large supermarkets made an appearance, village shops began to disappear. By the late 20th century Brancaster was down to a single shop provided by a cooperative effort from members of the community. When this closed a temporary shop was provided in the grounds of Brancaster Village Hall (BVH). This enterprise also proved very challenging and was eventually closed, despite the best endeavours of the staff and support from the community.

The Post Office was situated inside the BVH, but came under threat when the postmaster retired.

In 2017 it was decided by the Trustees of BVH to refurbish and extend the BVH building. To achieve this, the Trustees applied successfully to the National Lottery for a grant and also launched an equally successful appeal for support from the local community and businesses. At a very early stage it was agreed that the extended building should house a shop and Post Office, as these were viewed as crucial to village cohesion and development.

Following negotiations, a local businessman and entrepreneur, Mungo Gurney, together with his wife, Holland, agreed to operate the shop and Post Office. Mungo grew up in Brancaster, where his father ran a small fish sales business called "The Hole in the Wall". The family subsequently bought a shop in Burnham Market in the 1980s to sell fish, and this still operates today. A second fish outlet was opened in Drove Orchards, Thornham, in 2015, and the family acquired the Humble Pie Delicatessen in Burnham Market in 2017. Brancaster Village Stores and Post Office opened in 2019; the family hope to open a restaurant in Thornham shortly.

There are a number of challenges and risks in running a village store in a small coastal village. One of the main factors to be addressed is the seasonal nature of the trade, with very busy summers and quieter winters, caused by a proportion of properties being holiday homes. In the circumstances it is crucial to know the market and stock what is likely to sell seasonally and avoid waste. It is important to be flexible and to react quickly to changes in tastes, and to spend time in researching new products. Shop manager Liam Nicol's previous experience as a rosette-awarded chef helps in this regard.

A village store must provide the basics that people need throughout the year and also stock speciality items routinely found in a deli, but not necessarily available in larger stores. It is also important to source as much produce as possible locally, and also products people are familiar with from further afield.

Both Mungo and Liam feel that a village shop plays a crucial role in assisting community cohesion, as it provides a daily opportunity for the community to meet and talk, and get the latest village news. It is also at the forefront of showing visitors to the Norfolk coast the kind of produce that can be found locally. In order to undertake these tasks it is critical that store's staff present as friendly and helpful, and the success of the store over the past two years is a testament to these staff qualities. It is also important that the store should continually innovate

and, where possible, develop home-made meals appealing to diverse tastes.

The key message that Mungo and Liam emphasise is that the village community needs to offer strong support for the store if it is to prosper and not go the way of previous enterprises. The store has played a vital role throughout the Covid crisis, as it has continued to offer a full range of services, while protecting customers and staff. A village store, along with church, public house and school, forms the heart of any small community and Brancaster has been no exception, but if the heart is to continue to beat strongly, the community must continue to offer loyal support.

The rallying cry for all village stores should be "Use it or lose it!" For further information on all the facilities and activities provided by BVH, please visit our website: [brancastervillagehall.communitybookings.co.uk](http://brancastervillagehall.communitybookings.co.uk)

The photograph on page 30 shows Liam Nicol (left) and Mungo Gurney at Brancaster Village Stores.



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## You'll be singing in the rain in our stylish raincoats

A raincoat is spring a must-have and a wonderful new range inspired by the vibrant colours and magical beauty of an English garden is now available at Allez Chic.

The raincoats are part of creative, new 'wearable art' fashion label under the charming name From My Mother's Garden.

Each print will cheer up a gloomy day. Incredibly lightweight and made of a soft, comfortable fabric, it is easy to travel with and pull out on those rainy days when you're out and about.

It has a quality zip and popper fastening up the front and a zip-on hood. You can cinch in the waist with adjustable elasticated drawstring and toggles. It also has nice deep front pockets.

Made from a recycled polyester and cotton outer fabric, it is coated with an environmentally friendly showerproof coating and the inside of the jacket is lined with polyester to give it an extra layer of protection.

Allez Chic's Cheryl Daubney said: "Imagine my delight when I found these beautiful and wearable showerproof designs that tick all the boxes."

Looking forward to brighter days ahead, some new dresses from the Marble Spring Collection will be landing in store



soon. These super designs are really flattering for women of all ages, so why wait? We look forward to seeing you soon.

## Stanhoe and Barwick WI

We have a busy year ahead, with a fantastic line up of varied speakers. We'll be hearing tales of Hollywood Royalty, the history of Trinity House as well as being entertained by a classical singer.

On Thursday 3rd February, 2pm, our speaker will be from Norfolk Lowland Search and Rescue.

Thursday March 3rd sees us partaking in some gentle, seated yoga with Jean Clarke.

Visitors are most welcome; please contact Valerie (01485 576261) for further details and to confirm your attendance.

## New Hunstanton Women's Institute

At our December meeting we welcomed several visitors including 5 members of Ingoldisthorpe WI. We were entertained by The Dukes Ukulele Band and finished with a medley of Christmas songs and carols. The members joined in with a Secret Santa and enjoyed sausage rolls and mince pies and a welcome cup of tea. Our President Sally wished everyone a happy Christmas and hopefully a healthy New Year.



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## Private Pool Hire

My name is Sarah Bennett and I have just started a new venture; this is private pool hire. The pool is 8m x 4m and 1.2m deep, this is kept at a wonderful 30 degrees and has loungers around the poolside for leisure. The facility has a wet room in the style of a home bathroom, including one large shower, a toilet, sink and a bench to place belongings on.

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## Fire Service update

By Chris Guy from Hunstanton Fire Station

The New Year has started busy for us and we are only a week in as I'm writing this. It started as Big Ben had barely finished ringing in the New Year when the crew received its first call out of 2022, this turned out to be the start of a busy New Year's Day with a total of three call outs being received, which finished with a wheelie bin fire on Hunstanton prom.

With the first week of January over the crew have been called out a further two times, once to another fire in a wheelie bin on the prom and then along with Heacham and Sandringham fire crews to a residential property fire at Heacham South Beach. Hose reel jets and main jets were used whilst wearing breathing apparatus to extinguish the fire.

During January we have two firefighters on training courses with one of our development firefighters on a two-week

Initial Breathing Apparatus course and one of our competent firefighters attending an Initial Incident Command course, we will be providing more details on how they get on next month.

A New Year is a great time to try something new and to start a new challenge so if you have ever considered becoming a retained firefighter why not make 2022 the year you take the leap and contact us for more details on what's required to become a member of the team. For anyone interested in joining you can contact Watch Manager Rigil Kent on 07452940635.

Finally for this month, did you know Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service has a live incident feed on its website where you can see incidents that are ongoing in Norfolk and details of closed incidents for the last 3 days it can be found here:

<http://live.norfolkfireservice.co.uk>

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## Reduce your risk of stroke

In Norfolk and Waveney, more than 173,000 adults have been diagnosed with high blood pressure. And for every ten people diagnosed with high blood pressure, seven remain undiagnosed and untreated. High blood pressure is one of the leading causes of stroke.

One of the ways to reduce blood pressure is to reduce your sodium intake. Most of this sodium is in the salt we eat and that's why we're proud to support Season with Sense, a public health campaign which aims to drive down consumer sodium intake.

The good news is that by making small changes to our diet – such as cutting the amount or type of salt – we can greatly reduce our risk of serious health issues.

If you find it hard to cut out salt completely, there are alternatives to regular table, sea and rock salts such as LoSalt® which has two thirds less sodium without any taste compromise. When you're out shopping, watch out for the special tubs of LoSalt® on sale in supermarkets. For every tub sold a 20p donation will be made to help fund the vital work we do to support stroke survivors and carers.

The tubs will also have information attached to help shoppers understand the FAST test. Face, Arms, Speech, are the most common signs that someone is having a stroke. Time tells you that Stroke is a medical emergency and you must phone 999 straight away. We are thrilled that this vital information will be getting into the hands of 150,000 people.

Please do note that if you take some types of medication that affect potassium levels, LoSalt® and other reduced sodium salt alternatives may not be suitable for you. This includes people receiving medication for diabetes, heart or kidney disorders. Check with your GP for advice.

Juliet Bouverie OBE

Chief Executive, The Stroke Association

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## 'Twas the season to support Glebe's Christmas Charity Appeal!

Will, Shayla and Molly

For their first big charity event the school year, the Glebe Heads of Charity, Will Saunders, Molly Mulligan and Shayla Smith, wanted to support people locally who are facing challenging times, to try and help them have enough food and warm clothes over the cold winter months. To do this, they wanted to donate to the local Food Bank and charities preventing and supporting homelessness.

Molly said "Last year there were over 1.8 million food handouts given out by food banks, with over 430,000 of them to children. Winter is also an especially dangerous time for the homeless with freezing weather and lack of warm clothes. So, while we may have had enough food and warmth to enjoy our Christmas, we wanted to try to make a difference this winter to local people who may not be as lucky as us."

Following a very successful appeal at school, Glebe pupils donated a huge amount of non-perishable foods, toiletries and hats, gloves and scarves. Will, Molly and Shayla then took these donations to local charities.

The first was Hunstanton and District Food Bank.



Shayla said "The volunteers at the Food Bank gave us a tour and explained how the foodbank worked. They do a brilliant job sorting out the parcels ready for distribution and they were delighted with the donations from Glebe (we took over 1,000 items!). They weighed it all in at an amazing 314 kgs. They thanked us for our support and for helping to provide for local residents and families."

The second was to The Benjamin Foundation, which is a charity which helps people across Norfolk and Suffolk to deal with some of the challenges that life throws at them. Whether it's preventing youth homelessness, helping families to build stronger relationships, offering

emotional wellbeing support or providing positive activities for young people with limited opportunities, their work brings hope, opportunity, stability and independence to the people they support.

Following donations made in the Glebe Christmas appeal, Will, Shayla and Molly were able to donate 120 brand new beanie hats for young people living in Benjamin Foundation's supported accommodation.



Will said "We are proud to support the Benjamin Foundation, which is a brilliant local young people's charity and were really pleased to visit them to make our donation. They work to prevent youth homelessness and support over 100 young people every night by giving them a supported, safe home and also life skills, like cooking and budgeting so they can live an independent life."

Rachel Hogg, from the Benjamin Foundation said "Thank you so much for your amazing support. These hats will be great for some of the young people in our accommodation services in the colder winter months. We are so grateful for the kindness of our local communities"

The third charity is The Purfleet Trust, a charity in Kings Lynn which supports homeless people. The services they offer include housing advice and support and a Health and Wellbeing Centre providing daily hot meals, use of a computer and a phone and the opportunity to gain life skills.

The donations to be made to the Purfleet Trust are 79 warm hats, 94 warm scarves, 42 pairs of gloves and 20 other warm items including blankets and coats.

They are now planning for their next big charity appeal and fund raiser to continue supporting small local charities and to try to make a difference.

Keep up to date with local new stories between print editions at [www.townandaround.net](http://www.townandaround.net)

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# Brancaster School news by Thrift Class

We are now an Academy! We have lovely new signs and have to remember our new name – Brancaster Church of England Academy.

We are looking forward to all of our work this term. In Thrift we are going to learn all about homes and houses, and the Fire of London. Samphire are going to learn about Antarctica including explorers such as Scott and Shackleton. They hope to have an explorer visit them.

Term finished well with the pantomime and fish and chips. We had SUCH a good time. Thank you to everyone, (including the PFA) who paid for this and our other trips.



We had our parties and Father Christmas came to school, and we all got presents. We got pencils with our names on and Father Christmas knew all our names, and we got chocolate too. We also had our Christmas Dinner with crackers. We went into Samphire class and we all ate together and all the teachers served us and sat with us.

We finished with a magical Christingle Service. We couldn't go to the church because of Covid but we held our own service in school. Sainsbury's donated the oranges, and the church gave us everything else we needed. When we had made them, we turned the lights out and then lit our candles. We sang the two Christingle songs we had learnt, and it was calm and peaceful and happy and lovely.



We were unable to update our website with photos, due to access problems but Mr Johnson thinks he can get around it, so we hope to update it soon, maybe before you read this.

School closes for half term on Friday 11th February and starts again on February 21st.

## £3500 grant to help combat food poverty

Hunstanton Town Council has recently been awarded £3,500 funding from Norfolk Community Foundation through the Norfolk Household Support Fund to help combat hunger this winter by supporting those who may be forced to choose between getting food on their tables and putting on the heating.

The Mayor of Hunstanton Cllr Adrian Winnington reported "Hunstanton Town Council is very pleased to have received this funding, it has enabled us to help those in our community who may be in need of a little financial assistance this winter to put food on their table. The money has been used to purchase food vouchers from our local essential food businesses and have been distributed to local Charities & groups who are aware of those most in need plus £1,500s worth of vouchers presented to the Hunstanton Food Bank."

Jenny Bevan, Head of Programmes, said: "Norfolk Community Foundation is delighted to support Hunstanton Town Council with this much needed project that will make a real difference in the community. We wish them every success with their work."

If you know anyone that could benefit from the Council's voucher scheme please contact the Town Clerk, Jan Roomes on 01485 532402 or email clerk@hunstantontowncouncil.gov.uk all calls will be treated in strict confidence.



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**Sunday March 27th**

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# Notes from a Norfolk Newbie

At school, the father of my BFF, was a train driver. With his job, he was given a train pass which allowed, not only himself, but also his family to travel hither and thither across the country. The green eyed monster has never stalked me, but very occasionally, I feel envy. The train pass, created a great deal of envy, an emotion quite frowned upon by the nuns at aforementioned school.

From early childhood, I have hankered after the experience of new pastures (possibly due to 5.00a.m. calls to chapel, to kneel on a cold concrete floor, on a freezing January morning). Imagine then, my joy at learning old age came with a Bus Pass! I anticipated the day I would be able to send off the form and the photo was taken some months in advance, to ensure I was timely with my application. The sight of my Bus Pass, in my wallet, gives me joy. All those miles to travel. All those people to meet.

It was with some trepidation I entered the Number 21 bus recently, en route from Hunstanton to Docking, would my pass be accepted?



Matthew Stannard, driver for Go To Town  
(photo credit- Kris Elmer)

“Oh” said Matthew the charming and delightfully extrovert driver, “that’s a foreigner!” So started, my relationship with the number 21 route. I had booked my car in for a service in Hunstanton and the ‘local’ advice was to catch the bus back. Happily, thought this devotee of bus travel. Now, I have spent many an hour travelling on a bus. Many, pre pass. The experience of the Number 21, stands out as one

of those life experiences, one does not expect, but cherishes for its spontaneity and delight.

Learning I was a new resident, Matthew, took my education in hand and enquired if I had heard of Samphire. “Oh yes, it grows in the South Hams” I replied. This being my most recent place of residence. “Ah, but do you know how to cook it?” Not only was I mispronouncing the name of this seaside delicacy – the correct pronunciation (as all local readers will know), is Sampha, with the emphasis on the second syllable - but the sacrilege of steaming the said delicacy, was a step too far for Matthew. My companion (I was the only passenger), took me through the age old process of preparing ‘Sampha’ with vinegar. His distress at learning I was coeliac and therefore not able to eat anything prepared with malt vinegar let alone to soak up the juices with chunks of bread, almost caused him to exercise an emergency stop. For, you see, not only was traditionally cooked ‘Sampha’ off the menu but also, Norfolk Dumplings!!

How does one compensate for such an irreversible tragedy? To take his mind off the devastating thought that bread and all things tasty, could ever be excluded from someone’s diet, I asked about the local bus service. Well, enter into the conversation the renowned and celebrated Ben Coulson much respected champion of the rural passenger. Ben Coulson used to own and run the local bus, serving the outlying villages of the area. When he was entitled to his own bus pass, he retired and sadly, I am told, within a very short time villages such as Sedgeford, Hillington, Great Bircham and of course Docking, were left without their bus service.

Happily the ‘Go To Town’ bus routes served by the Numbers 21 and 49A have been started again, thanks to a trust set up, due to the encouragement and persistence of Ben Coulson and his enthusiastic team from West Norfolk Community Transport.

Now, who would have thought, catching a bus would inspire not only a cookery, but a local history lesson as well? I was so engrossed with all this new found knowledge, I almost missed my stop.

Another delightful surprise.... Catching the Number 21, is as simple as standing outside my house and waving as the bus approaches. I have not experienced this since I spent a childhood holiday on Guernsey. However, following the guidelines, returning to collect my car, I dutifully stood by the side of the road outside my house (Matthew pointed out it would have to be somewhere safe for him to pull in) and hailed the bus for my return journey.

“How are your hands?” enquired Matthew. Is this another local custom I wondered. I was directed to look at a pair of gloves, nestling on the seat near the driver. They looked very familiar. Cookery lessons, local history updates and great customer service. As so many people have kindly said to me recently, “Welcome to Norfolk”. Believe me, it is a great pleasure to be here.



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# Eric's 'Penny for your thoughts' charity walk

A well known Heacham man is to walk the Norfolk Coast Path over three days in March in memory of his wife of almost 50 years for the Norfolk Hospice.

The numbers are important. Eric Rhodes was born in Wales and as it is St David's Day on the 1st March it seemed like a good day to start. The walk is 47 miles and since they were both born in 1947 it was a good fit. Eric will stay in Cromer and Cley during his solo challenge.

Eric and Penny were often seen hand in hand out walking around the Norfolk countryside and on days when Penny was playing mah-jong with the u3a, or out with friends he would go off for a walk. "She used to worry I'd get lost," he said, "but I'm out on my ten mile training walks now and things are going well."

Eric's career as took the couple to Gibraltar and Germany where he taught service children, then forty years ago they settled in Heacham. Penny worked at Norfolk Lavender and Eric continued teaching, at the Middle School in the village, until his retirement in 2003. The couple's children Megan and Stuart were taught by Eric before they moved on to Smithdon School.

"When the new bypass at Snettisham was built I took part in the fun run in aid of the Norfolk Hospice; little did I know that years later they would play such an important part in our lives.

"Penny died on 5th November (she hated fireworks) at home, supported by the Hospice at home team."

"In April my son Stuart is doing the London Landmarks half-marathon for a Brain Tumour Charity and I wanted to do something



too which is why I thought of the Coast Path Walk.

"I've set up a Just Giving page and anyone who donates can be certain that their money will go direct to the Norfolk Hospice." He added.

Donations for Eric's 'Penny for Your Thoughts Walk' can be made online at [www.justgiving.com/Eric-Rhodes](http://www.justgiving.com/Eric-Rhodes)

Photo Credit: Ian Burt

## Join the Lifeboat crew!

By Tim Keogh

Hunstanton Lifeboat Crew are part of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and provide cover for HM Coastguard from as far North as Skegness round to Wells to the east.

Their present boat, an Atlantic 85 called The Spirit of Norfolk, is usually ready to launch within 5 minutes of a call out, so ideally volunteers need to work or live within a 5 minute radius of the Lifeboat House in Old Hunstanton. They also have a hovercraft (The Hunstanton Flyer) which assists in incidents inaccessible by lifeboat such as tidal mudflats.

They exercise on Sunday mornings between 8am and 12pm. Anyone interested in joining are invited to pop down to the Lifeboat House in Old Hunstanton between these times to discuss the wide range of positions available, covering roles such as lifeboat/hovercraft crew, tractor drivers and Lifeboat Station Support staff.

There are no formal qualifications required although new recruits would need to pass basic medical and physical tests for Lifeboat crew roles.

Rigil Kent, a lifeboat volunteer as well as an On Call Fire & Rescue member said, "We normally get between 30 and 50 call outs a year. With crew ages ranging from 17 to 55, we presently have a team of 25 crew members. There are a number of positions available across the whole operation. Anyone interested in finding out more are invited to come down and speak to one of the team on a Sunday morning".

Rigil can also be contacted direct for an informal chat on 07861 300439.

To donate to this invaluable service that saves lives please visit [www.rnli.org](http://www.rnli.org).



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# Heacham and Hunstanton at Night

Terry Parish

At the time of writing, 10th January, the last two months have had very few nights of good viewing, clouds, rain or fog being predominant. I did manage to catch Venus in her glory with Saturn and Jupiter strung out behind her. The phase of Venus, a fat crescent, was clear in early December.

Venus is now a morning object, rising around 5am. It is very bright with a magnitude of -4.6 but is in the SE rather than the SW. Consequently, it is in the same direction as the rising Sun which can catch you unawares. Sunlight caught in an optical instrument will blind you immediately.

Mars is also a morning object. It will be closer to the horizon than Venus so you will need a good SE horizon. The red planet appears about 5.30am. At the beginning of the month, it is to the right of Venus; at the end, below. Look out at 6am on the 26th and a crescent Moon will be at a similar altitude to Mars but off to the right.

Still in the morning, it is theoretically possible to spot Mercury after 6.15am though the rising Sun will likely blank it out. It will be lower than Venus and a tad to the left. It does get brighter as the month progresses, attaining magnitude -0.1 at the end. So, given a very clear horizon, considerable luck, and patience, the bright spark you see is likely Mercury. Again, take great care if using optical instruments. Mercury is at its furthest distance from the Sun on the 16th Feb but is not at its brightest then.

Whilst looking for Mercury at the end of the month you may as well look for Saturn which is just left of the winged messenger. However, this is very faint, will need optical instruments capable of pointing close to the horizon, and you have the rising Sun to contend with.

So, so far, all a bit hard and unlikely observations except for Venus which will be bright and just needs a good view to the SE. I have included these notes in order to help regular readers understand the dance that planets play as they move along their orbits, following that curving line in the sky, the ecliptic. The dance is choreographed by their relative speeds and the speed of you, the observer, travelling on spaceship Earth. As the year progresses, these morning objects will rise earlier and become evening objects again - some earlier than others. Venus and Mercury, being closer to the Sun than us and, consequently, moving faster along shorter orbits, flip between morning and evening more frequently than the outer planets.

Anyway, this article is entitled 'Heacham and Hunstanton at Night' so are there planets in the night sky? There are only three left to find.

Jupiter is still with us until the middle of the month. It lies low in the SW with a bright magnitude of -2. It does set by 6.30pm so you need to catch it before tea. Its low altitude means that the atmosphere you are looking through will be thick, likely dust laden, and moving due to convection currents at best, so observations through a birding 'scope or other telescope will be blurred. However, you should be able to catch the gas giant's four Galilean Moons, Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto. Jupiter is lost to us until April when it will be a morning object.

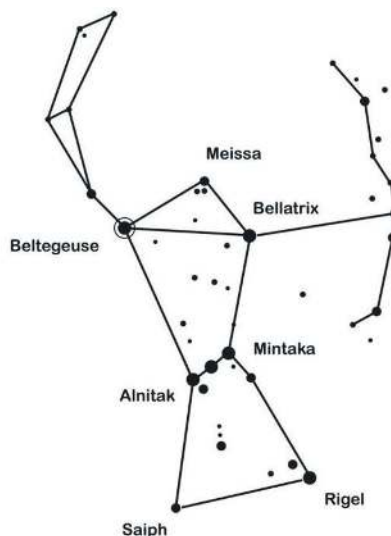
Neptune is visible until around 7.30 pm but only through a significant telescope. Uranus sets later at around midnight. At magnitude +5.6 it should be possible to see it through very good, mounted, binoculars but you need a clear sky and to know where it lies.

On the 7th there is a pointer; find the crescent Moon and look at the line, terminator, dividing the sunlit portion from the dark. Follow this line up, and a tad to the right, for a distance equivalent to three Moon diameters. Stand on one leg and turn widdershins once. The point in the sky at the end of your imaginary line should contain a faint, blueish, spot. You have found Uranus. Those of you with issues can miss out the one leg and turning bit.

As the Earth moves along its orbit around the Sun, the star constellations we see, to an extent, change, some rising from the NE, some setting in the SW. These would be visible in daytime if the sky was dark! Due to our latitude, the view towards the north changes little whilst that to the south changes quite significantly.

Some constellations and star patterns (asterisms) are visible all year round because they are high in the sky and close to the celestial pole. All constellations appear to circle around this point marked by Polaris, the Pole Star.

The favourite winter constellation is Orion. It is easily recognisable and contains bright stars which emerge even through thin, high level, cloud.



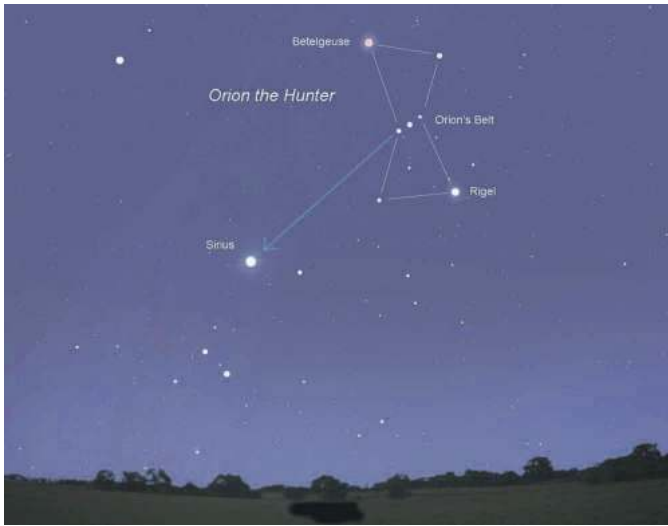
Hanging from the belt of Orion is the Orion nebulae. This is a huge ball of gas lit by stars within it. It is a star factory; gas is collapsing inwards under the influence of gravity, heating up and emitting light. Good eyes on a clear, dark, night can make out the misty shape. Binoculars make it easy. A telescope brings out the rosy colour and a camera attached to it allows detail to be captured.

Within the Orion Nebulae, around 1,300 light years away, there are hundreds of new stars being born. The light we see left the nebulae about AD700. Smaller Anglo-Saxon kingdoms had coalesced into larger ones including here, East Anglia, and the skeleton in our garden was already 200 years old.



Orion is a figure in our skies but the stars that make it up are not associated. Bellatrix is 250 light years away, Betelgeuse around 650, Rigel 860, and Saiph 650. The belt stars are all around 1300 light years away.

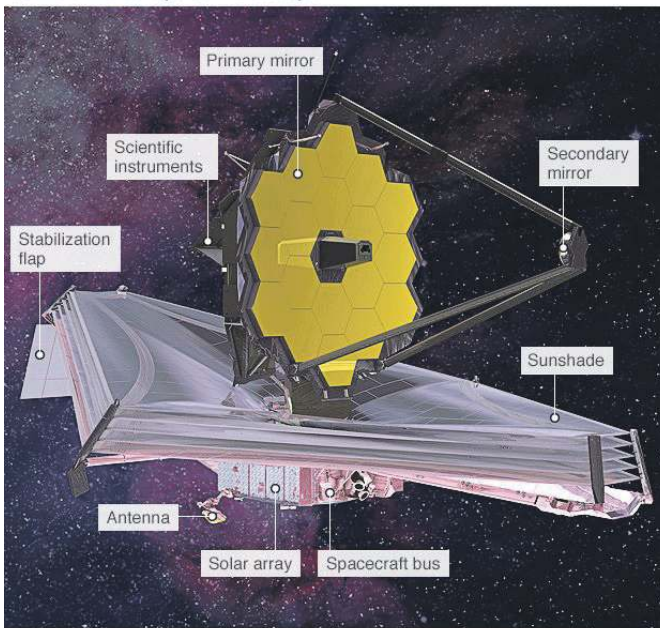
Another bright star whose light can penetrate mists is Sirius. This has the popular name of the Dog Star. This is a young star, just 230 million years old and is the brightest star in the night sky largely



because it is just 8.6 light years away. It is also a very hot, white, star. A telescope reveals a companion which is a white dwarf. Someone christened it the 'Pup'.

*Potted history: Sirius appeared so bright in the dark skies of the Ancient Greeks that they thought it helped warm the Earth. Summer heat was the 'dog days' as dogs liked to sleep. The appearance of Sirius in the sky was a marker for imminent Nile floods and helped guide the agriculture of the Ancient Egyptians.*

#### James Webb Space Telescope



Source: NASA

BBC

On Christmas Day the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) was launched and has since fully deployed its massive mirror. This is 6.5 metres wide and made of gold-plated hexagonal reflectors. The telescope is still on its way to a stable orbital position some 1.5 million km (about 1 million miles) from Earth. The stable position is Lagrange Point 2 one of the five points where the gravity of the Sun and that of Earth effectively cancel each other out.

A spacecraft at a Lagrange point can remain there with minimal need to burn fuel to maintain station. Hence the mission can last 10 years or more. The Gaia spacecraft, measuring the position of a billion astronomical objects arrived at L2 in 2013 and is still operating.

Many JWST operations have to be completed yet: a further course correction; tensioning of the mirror by operating 126 motors; alignment of the optics, and the gradual cooling of instruments to -

230C with the use of a sunshield. JWST should start taking images in May or June. They will be in the infra-red part of the spectrum.

The telescope took over 20 years to complete and cost \$10 billion. It will be able to detect light which set out from the first stars just after the birth of our universe over 14 billion years ago. It will also be sensitive enough to examine the atmospheres of exoplanets – planets which orbit far off suns – and look for evidence of life on them.

It will be July before planets like Saturn and Jupiter can be seen again in the night rather than the early morning sky. And then it doesn't get really dark. So, the world spins and turns in its journey through space. And the pattern has been repeated for several billion years and will continue for far more.

Value the glimpses of the universe our atmosphere permits and turn off unnecessary external lights.





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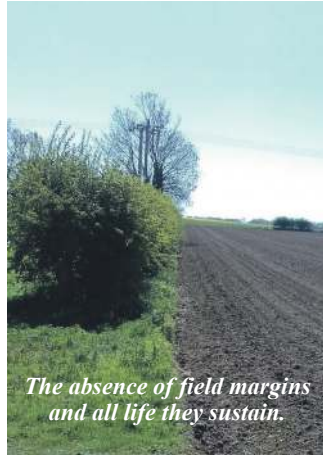
# From The Ground Up: and Into the Future

Hanneke Robson

Driving the Docking to Ringstead Road at after dark these last years, I noticed a frightening dearth of insects and moths in the headlight beams. In fact, we had noticed this absence during our recent pastoral adventures. Sadly, we tend not to notice things till they are gone and now only the 'boomers' can remember humming hedgerows and bee laden plants.

Decades ago, farmers were told to set land aside to curtail food production for the burgeoning European food mountain. A plan which inadvertently provided a boost for our declining pollinators. But over the last decades this land has been reabsorbed into cultivation.

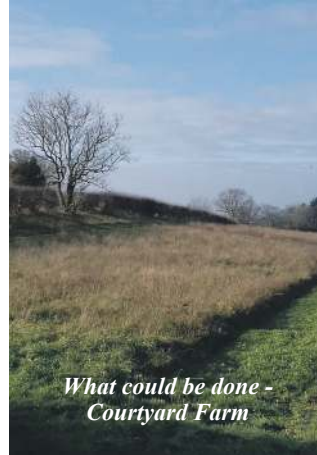
It was this knowledge that inspired me to release an acre of land from agriculture about which I have written previously. Last year we began to truly enjoy the surprises our land threw up and at very little cost. In the case of Peddars Meadow, we made small payments to our farmer for



*The absence of field margins  
and all life they sustain.*

discing and cultivating. Though the disadvantage of having to rely on the farmer is that he is not always available when you want him to be. As the combined ages of our small PM group is nearer to the Australian cricket score than the English (at time of writing!), digging over the land ourselves was not an option.

Here in NW Norfolk, paying the farmer for loss of crop costs about £300 per annum (plus any work that may have to be carried



*What could be done -  
Courtyard Farm*

out with machinery to get the meadow going.) Not a huge amount of dosh. The initial costs will decrease as the land reverts. And that's it, you have your meadow! In our case a chalkland one. These flower rich lowlands are a hugely important habitat for a large variety of insects, herbs and flowers. The National Trust states that over forty species of flower can be found in one square meter of calcareous grassland (and we were so happy with the sixty-five we found on our ½ acre last year!). The NT also states that chalkland meadows are sometimes referred to as Europe's tropical rainforest: in other words, under severe threat.

If we don't do something now, it will simply be too late. In every which way, we are doing something bad to our planet. Yet, that is not quite true. The planet will spin along quite happily and shake us off when it's had enough. But we are without doubt the only species set upon ruining its own environment. The human race is very, very clever, but are

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we intelligent?

Now, we must find a twin village to share our journey with. The land freed from cultivation doesn't need to be an acre; after all, our piece is nearer half! Farmers are a friendly lot and very amenable, as long as they don't lose out financially. Or, you may own land and would be willing to widen your field margins. This Acre per Village project is so very doable! We just have to do it. We shall spread word outside Norfolk in the coming months, but would love a twin before we do. This enterprise should not mean more than a few hours of time and a few bob; it's instructive, healthy and fun.

If none of the above is of interest to you, but you like wildlife and art, do pop into our gallery in Ringstead; it is stuffed with lovely goodies and we look forward to seeing you here. PE36 5LA  
hanneke@thegaragestudionorfolk.co.uk

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## ‘The Naughty Ladies of Shady Lane’

By Marion Mardall

**T**he oldest profession in the world or allegories of love? Or to paraphrase, can a Tart be Art?

This appears to have preoccupied artists for centuries and in every culture world-wide from France to Japan, Italy to India and England. The answer rather depends on the extent to which the artist sanitizes his muse into near respectability: a courtesan in ancient Greece or a mistress to royalty such as Nell Gwynne, as opposed to Toulouse Lautrec's unashamedly graphic depictions of prostitutes.

Many will recall the old Dean Martin song which took its inspiration from The Naughty Lady of Shady Lane who 'hit the town like a bomb', although she proved to be a complete literary illusion. After toying with lines like 'The back fence gossips ain't been this good

since Mabel ran off with Tom' and 'You should see how she carries on with her admirers galore', the songwriter reveals in the last line that it's all mere titillation as 'she's only nine days old!' But I digress into frivolity! So, let us look at some serious definitions.

A person, in particular a woman, who engages in sexual activity for payment is defined as a prostitute. In the 1750s and 1900s prostitution was the norm in art. In Paris in particular, artists found modernity and inspiration in these women. For example, Toulouse-Lautrec captured them in his painting Rue des Moulins, showing the indignity of forced medical inspections that Parisian prostitutes endured. The provocative and lustful side of these women added to art and revealed new views on the female body

and self expression.

A courtesan is basically a glorified prostitute and these women played major roles for many artists when it came to exploring the worlds of art. The term courtesan, which originated around 1540, came from the fact that these were women of the court. They weren't just regular prostitutes but rather high-class ones. Many artists such as Kitagawa Utamaro and Alphonse Mucha used courtesans as the main subject in their work. These women played major roles for many artists when it came to exploring the worlds of art. Courtesans are in fact a particularly large theme in art, probably more so than queens and duchesses. They were not just sexual partners but elegant women those men of society wished to be seen with, and would 'court' with gifts, in the hopes of becoming her patron (or one of two or three patrons, depending on how she played the game). Many were famous as singers and actresses, but some were known as poets, and in Ancient Greece, some were even reputed to be philosophers. They always had a strong bond with artists, who portrayed them in paintings, novels, and in the opera, for example as in Madame Butterfly. La Traviata is the story of one of Paris' most famous courtesans of the 1840s, Marie Duplessis, the so-called Lady of the Camellias. So next time you walk through a portrait gallery and see those haughty looking women, smile to yourself and wonder if they are exactly what they seem!

If this has whetted your appetite for a further mixture of art historical analysis, scandalous anecdotes and illustrated examination of this subject, come and join us at Sedgeford Village Hall on February 14th at 2pm for a lecture by Linda Smith, an Arts Society Accredited Lecturer entitled Great Tarts in Art: High Culture and the Oldest Profession.

We aim to make our events welcoming places of friendship for all those who have a curiosity for the arts. Details of membership: [www.theartsocietynwnorfolk.org.uk](http://www.theartsocietynwnorfolk.org.uk)



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**Great Tarts and Art: High Culture and the Oldest Profession**  
Lecturer: Linda Smith

A mixture of art-historical analysis and scandalous anecdote, this lecture takes a generally light-hearted look at changing attitudes to sexual morality down the ages, by examining the portraits and careers of some of history's most notorious mistresses and courtesans. It also charts the rather complex and ambiguous attitudes of art and society towards the numerous anonymous working girls at the lower end of the scale, by investigating how they have been represented in art at different times and places from the 17th to the 20th century.



For more info and how to join, visit our website:  
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**W**e are pleased to report that following decisions made at our AGM that was held on Wednesday, 12th January 2022, we plan on restarting rehearsals on Wednesday, 2nd February 2022.

These are being held at Heacham Methodist Church weekly every Wednesday at 7.15pm until 9.15pm. We have a growing number of singers and would welcome additional singers of all sorts – Sopranos, Altos, Tenors and Basses. We are also renowned for being a very friendly group who simply enjoy singing.

If you would like to join this group, please contact our Chair – Anne Davis by phoning her on 01485 571315 or email her at [chair@westnorfolksingers.org.uk](mailto:chair@westnorfolksingers.org.uk). She really looks forward to hearing from you if you are interested and she will be happy to tell you all about us.

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# Strictly Arts

Update from the HDFA

You can expect to see some wonderful gifts and crafts on offer when we start up our regular Craft Fairs at Hunstanton Town Hall again, beginning on Saturday 26th March and continuing on the last Saturday of the month through the year up to and including Saturday 19th November. We've thrown in a couple of Sundays too and (28th August & 30th October) don't forget entry to the public is free with refreshments served all day from 10am to 4pm. Check our website [www.festival3.com](http://www.festival3.com) for more details.

Our next confirmed date is our presentation 'Blokes of a Feather' at the Princess Theatre on Friday May 13th when you can enjoy an evening with comedy writers Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran. Between them, Laurence and Maurice have created a hatful of hit TV shows including Shine on Harvey Moon, The New Statesmen, Love Hurts and of course Birds of a Feather! Expect an evening of anecdotes, revelations, insights, fun and laughter. Tickets available from the Princess Theatre Box Office.

Of course, the big event of the year is the start of the national celebrations in honour of the Queen's Jubilee year on Thursday June 2nd when evening beacons will be lit across the land to mark Her Majesty's 70th Anniversary. To kick off the celebrations, we will be staging our annual Live Music Festival on Hunstanton's Lower Green from around 1pm with some fabulous bands, so please come along with your chairs, rugs, picnics and your dancing feet and enjoy an afternoon of cracking sounds before the beacons are lit. It should be a very special day!

We have plenty more happening during 2022 with not enough space to put it all down here, so please visit our website [www.festival3.com](http://www.festival3.com) to see our calendar of events. More here next month.

## THE HUNSTANTON ONE-ACT DRAMA FESTIVAL 2022

The One Act Drama Festival returns for 2022!

Thanks to the support of the Hunstanton & District Festival of Arts and the generosity of the management at Hunstanton's Princess Theatre, the One Act Drama Festival returns to Hunstanton for 2022.

Staged over three days, the Festival sees upcoming playwrights and actors presenting and performing in a 40-minute play on stage and awards will be presented for Best Performance (Adult & Youth), Best Actor/Actress (Adult & Youth), Best Original Script, Best Technical and the Adjudicators' Award.

The competition is open to any amateur theatre groups, with a separate category for Under 18s in the Youth entry group and performances can be of a short play (with or without musical numbers) or an excerpt from a longer play.

Festival Director Stephen Hayter said: "We're thrilled to see a return to live theatre after what has been a challenging couple of years and very grateful to the Princess Theatre for helping us stage the event."

"We have just 13 slots available to groups over the three days so now is the time to get your entry in and we're looking forward to welcoming new - and familiar - faces to this wonderful event."

All the performances are open to the public and tickets will be available just as soon as the entrants and schedules are confirmed.

In the meantime, anyone interested in participating in the event can contact Stephen directly on:

[hunstantondramafestival2022@btinternet.com](mailto:hunstantondramafestival2022@btinternet.com)

or go to <https://www.festival3.com/events/theatre> to find out more.

## THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH!

Audiences are being invited to run away with the circus when Shone Productions brings International Circus Acts, Amazing Magic, and Lots of Laughs to The Princess Theatre, Hunstanton.

Leading the cast of Circus Spectacular is Bippo the Clown who has been a favourite on stage and screen for 20 years, appearing in circus, theatres, and on television shows, most recently CITVs The Sooty Show.

Bippo is joined by the incredible Duo Salsky with their death-defying antics, The amazing acrobatic skills of The Salvador Brothers, international juggling sensation Alfio Macaggi, and many more. This show promises to thrill and entertain audiences of all ages!

Producer James Shone says: "Circus Spectacular will be a massive hit with family audiences."

"The show is packed with great performances from some of the most talented performers in the world, The show involves the audience all the way through with some great surprises if you are sat on the front couple of rows!"

Circus Spectacular! The Princess Theatre, Hunstanton  
27 February 2022 2:30pm Tickets from £15.50



## A Prudent Pensioner Recipe Carrot, Ginger & Red Lentils Soup

Makes approx. 700ml

1 med Shallot or small onion

Carrots approx. 230g/8oz

1 large or 2 medium sticks of Celery

Red Lentils (dry) approx 60g/2oz. (see note)

Chicken or vegetable stock cube

½ teaspoon grated fresh or ground ginger

Salt and Pepper to taste.

Rinse lentils well in cold water. Place lentils in a large pan (They do froth up when boiling) and add 500ml of cold water. Bring to boil and boil rapidly for 10 minutes, stirring often to prevent lentils sticking to base of pan.

Meanwhile peel carrots and cut them into small pieces.

Peel shallot or onion and slice thinly.

Trim off and discard ends from celery, clean and slice fairly thinly.

Remove pan from heat, place stock cube in a jug and strain off most of liquid from lentils into same jug, top up jug with hot water to reach 500ml and stir well to dissolve stock cube.

Add stock with all vegetables and ginger to pan. Stir and mix well. Increase heat and bring to boiling point. Reduce heat and leave covered, simmering gently, stirring often, for a further 10-15 minutes when vegetables should be fairly soft.

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. Turn off heat, serve and enjoy.

*Note: Boiling rapidly for 10 minutes was in accordance with instructions on the packet.*

My updated book "Less Waste more Soup" 45 easy, budget friendly recipes for nourishing soup is now available from Amazon.

## AN OBJECT OF INTEREST FROM HUNSTANTON HERITAGE CENTRE

### A WANDERER FROM THE START

This is the second part of an article about Ivy Scales's life by Margi Blunden (part one was in the November 21 edition)

We left Ivy as a very young woman working in King's Lynn in the 1950s.



Her next move was to secure a job as a stock control clerk at USAF Sculthorpe in the PX, where military personnel could shop. Suddenly her life opened up.

Sculthorpe base was a lively place then. It employed many people involved in flying American planes, amongst other places to the Russian border. The noise, life and vibrancy of the place made Ivy feel alive for the first time.

Her sister Mary also worked there and met a Norwegian airman at the base and married him. Her future life was in

Trondheim which is where Ivy would go at Christmas by rail and boat. Her memories of the skiing and the Trondheim Cathedral full of 2000 people are still bright for her.

Two years later she moved to the commercial transportation offices at the base which had electric typewriters. Again her view of the world expanded as she was allowed to use the base library where she started to read American authors like John Steinbeck. Her curiosity about the world was starting to be satisfied.

Despite loving this work she knew it would not last forever and she made the bold move of going to London. Here, despite the WW2 bomb sites still very evident in the city, London provided a lively setting for Ivy's new life.

The easiest way to find work was as a temporary secretary. They were known as temps and Ivy was one of them. She lived in Brixton, which at first frightened this country girl, but the liveliness of this area became quickly familiar.

She went out to meet life and was soon meeting new people one of whom was Anne who was Scottish. She had worked on the Continent and now ran a dental surgery in Knightsbridge. They became great friends and Ivy's interest in Europe grew.

The 'swinging sixties' of which Ivy and Anne were a part was underway. Ivy was now living in Bayswater, partying at the weekends and visiting London museums on Sundays. She now had a job in Berkley Square in the international money section of Morgan Guaranty Bankers.

At the Hammersmith Palais during this time, she met an engineer off a ship. He offered to show her his ship in the London Docks. Did she fall in love with him? No! She fell in love with the ship and whilst on board she spotted a typewriter in an office.

'Well', she thought to herself, 'Girls do go to sea!'

This incident inspired her to apply for a job on a ship with the Shaw, Savill Line in 1964. She got the job of junior officer but was told firmly that there was "no promotion for women."

Undaunted she started her marine career on the Southern Cross a splendid ship built by Harland and Wolff in Belfast in 1955. This ship was remarkable for its time and had innovative features like the funnels and engines aft and all 1100 passengers were offered the same class of accommodation.

So off she went sailing from Southampton to New Zealand round the world 4 times a year – three times westbound and one eastbound.

On her initial trip she worked in the office (which was bedlam she said) as well as helping the passengers to settle in, which involved entertaining them with fancy dress parties and various deck games.



*SS Southern Cross (1955)*

She found herself organising the Purser's Sunday Night Quiz when her job was to ring a bell after the minute was up for the contestants to answer. Once she fell asleep, got poked in the ribs by her colleague, whereupon she rang the bell vigorously but of course at an inappropriate moment. There was uproar from the floor!

Her life on the sea had begun and she did this for five years not only working hard but having fun too.

As her first journey on the sea progressed "... the sun got stronger and the sea got bluer, pale-skinned young ladies appeared in bathing costumes around the decks, glistening in Ambre Solaire sun lotion, becoming bronzer daily," she recalled.

Eventually the ship called in at Tahiti – this became one of her favourite ports of call. Of one such visit she said:

"Next stop Tahiti and all its loveliness. So good to be there again. Leaving at 0600 the next day I was up early to throw my flower lei over the stern and watch it get lost in the wake....."

The day before leaving Julie (real name forgotten!) and I went over by boat to the beautiful island of Moorea, just 12 nautical miles off Tahiti, of which it was like a smaller version. The big difference was that it was still undeveloped and as Captain Cook found it. There were high, green peaks and a bay where he anchored in 1777. One tiny hotel stood alone. No-one else came out to the island all day. Paradise."

When the Southern Cross was finally withdrawn from service in 1972 due to competition from the air, she disembarked in Perth, Australia and lived there for ten months.

During that time, she recalled:

"It was a State holiday and I was leaning over the bath washing something. My feet were clad in some beloved Fijian straw slippers and suddenly they had a row of bumps pass underneath them. Surprised, I grabbed the side of the door when a loud roaring noise began and the door was twisting! I opened the outer door and came face to face with the brick wall of the opposite apartments moving in and out like a wave all along."

Was it the frightening experience of a 5.3 earthquake there or the desire to be back on the sea which caused her to rejoin Shaw, Savill on the Northern Star as it went eastbound back to London?

When this ship too was withdrawn in 1975, she started work for United Newspapers in London where she had the job of executive assistant to the chair of six printing companies.

This was a busy and fulfilling job however Lord Barnett died in post and Ivy was not enamoured of his replacement.

It was time to take an initiative and seek pastures new. Another crunch point had arrived in her life.

Margi Blunden

# Borough Council News for Heacham, Sedgeford and Fring

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

**A**nother year when the unresolved issues of the last become the possibly resolved of this, whilst new ones roll along until next. Is that cynical?

## Anyway, local matters first

Heacham: Expect caravan site extensions to be hot topics from this month on. More visitors against less green fields. Take your choice. (There are around 2,400 caravans currently sited in Heacham).

There will be two large fields lost as building on the Cheney Hill Site starts (I have been predicting commencement for about 4 years but it will happen). Apparently log burners will be permitted as one of the heating sources in these new builds but they won't be able to burn non certified wood – look out for job adverts for domestic fire police.

The South Beach toilets rebuild / refurbishment will begin. I was recently asked to supply a press statement about this but it hasn't appeared yet. I hope that isn't ominous. It's well over 6 years since I raised the issue.

Sewage contamination in English rivers has been in the news again. At the end of last year, the sea water off both Heacham beaches was verging on poor quality and may enter those murky waters this year. No one admits to doing anything they shouldn't and I am pushing for some investigative work.

Looking around the village at Christmas there were some nice lights to celebrate the event. Such lights are OK because they are temporary, usually switch off late at night, and come down until next year. There are too many other lights which spill light where it is not needed, remain on all night, and are permanent. Please fit baffles, use timers, and remove where not needed. Illuminated switches are a good idea – switch lights on when appropriate. Lights shining on the right place at the right time are useful, others are a nuisance to many.

A new floodlit pitch at Heacham Football Club should likely be approved about the time this publication goes to press. The application has taken a long time to process as the needs of the club had to be balanced against local impact. It is important to ensure such applications are backed by rigorous, technical, analysis and public consultation from the start.

The Borough Council do a good job with the rubbish and recycling bins. The County lost it when they started charging for DIY material, wood, glass, rubble etc. Please report any fly tipping of rubbish to the Borough Council website, or the Parish Council, and, if a problem remains, to me.

Sedgeford Parish Council is small in the number of councillors it has but they tackle a great deal of issues aimed at improving the environment and life of the people of Sedgeford. I hope this year does not have an excess of property owners wanting to extend their 'homes' above and beyond necessity, so that they detract from the sense of place Sedgeford has. I hope, too, that Anglian Water does not reduce The Heacham to a trickle.

Sedgeford Village Hall has been enhanced outside by the provision of exercise machines funded through a Community Infrastructure Levy bid. Other improvements may follow inside following new bids this year. The Hall continues to host events A safe and legal Christmas Party was enjoyed by many and another play is being performed on the 12th of this month.

Fring: I hope this year will see a solution to the current lack of representation Fring suffers because it has no Parish Council. This month should see a meeting which, hopefully, will consider options and move things forward. The need for local representative(s), on the ground, became evident a year ago following the floods. This year a planning application has raised some concerns which should have been considered at Parish level but couldn't be. An alternative strategy has been adopted.

The Borough Council lumbers on in the New Year much as it ended the last. The Towns Fund utilises a lot of officer time. To new readers, this is a £25million tax payer funded grant for improvements in Kings Lynn. It is not a done deal as procedures and reports and forms all have to be completed. The revised Local Plan is heading towards the examination stage towards the end of the year. Something, I am assured, is moving on the 'green' front. The budget for 2022/23 will exercise some minds.

At the time of writing council business is hindered to an extent by covid. On-line or hybrid meetings take place unless voting is needed such as at Planning Committee and Council.

Standards complaints seem to have risen several orders of magnitude. There haven't been any for several years, now there are 5 I know about. They all stem from people doing something they shouldn't, or someone thinking they have, or an attempt by one party to cover their errors by shouting louder, or just plain pettiness. All such matters could be resolved if people thought first and spoke, emailed, or texted, second. And all politicians and people in public life were honest. Perhaps next year.

All these shenanigans cost time and money – your money.

# The Hunstanton Mayor writes..

**A**s we move further into the new year we can perhaps begin to look forward to getting closer to what life was like before the pandemic.

Many of our local groups and organisations will be meeting again and making plans for their year. Most of these rely very much on the times and talents of dedicated volunteers. Some groups will be looking for people to step up to help run their meetings and activities. I hope that people will begin to have confidence to return to their groups or perhaps try out new ones. Hopefully those who have felt lonely or isolated

during the last two years will find a group or activity they would like to be part of.

The Town Council is involved in planning for some major events later this year. A number of these are going to be taking place in June. The 2nd – 5th June is the four day Bank Holiday for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Queen Elizabeth acceded to the throne on 6th February 1952 but the decision was made to hold most of the Jubilee celebrations nationally in June, when the weather will be warmer. Meetings are still taking place to finalise plans for the celebrations in Hunstanton and

these will be publicised in due course. It is hoped that the whole town will make a big effort to celebrate this unique anniversary.

The other major event which the Town Council is working towards is the Carnival to be held on Sunday 26th June. The Town Council is working as a partner with the Round Table, Rotary, Lions and the Festival of

Arts to revive the Carnival this year. Application forms to take part in the procession or for stalls on The Green will be available and we hope that everyone will join in the fun on the day.

If anyone has any suggestions for the Jubilee or Carnival or would like to volunteer to assist in any way, please contact the Town Clerk.

Mayor: [cllr.winnington@hunstantontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.winnington@hunstantontowncouncil.gov.uk)

Cllr Adrian Winnington 01485 534747

Town Clerk: [clerk@hunstantontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hunstantontowncouncil.gov.uk)  
01485 532402

Hunstanton Town Council website:  
[www.hunstantontowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.hunstantontowncouncil.gov.uk)

## A new product is getting noticed at Anita's Salon

If your hair is chemically treated/bleached, damaged and fragile or just plain frizzy, then read on...

Anita's Salon in Hunstanton is promoting the use of the Moroccan Treatment Blow Dry Hair Straightening Treatment. Anita says: "This is proving to be a very successful treatment which contains keratin, white clay and cacao oil. Its formula is rich in minerals and re-establishes the natural beauty of the hair."



The manufacturers, INOAR, say that this vegan and cruelty free product restores damaged areas and reduces the volume dramatically with a balanced pH 7.5 - 8.5, cocoa extract and keratin and the treatment, which is for professional use only, reduces the volume and straightens 100% with long lasting results.

They go on to say that it is an original Moroccan formula held by INOAR that promotes deep cleaning, clears the scalp pores and replenishes keratin, restoring strength and softness. It nourishes, shines and adds smoothness to hair instantly which lasts 3 or 4 months.

Jessie is one of Anita's customers and she said: "Finally I have confidence in my hair; I didn't think it would be that good."

"If you have uncontrollable frizzy hair then this is the product you need to be trying. I found my wonder product at last!"

**Call Anita on: 01485 533736.**

## Hunstanton & District Inner Wheel

Sue Trewin, Club Correspondent

Normally I would have plenty to write about but not so this month. We decided to cancel our monthly meeting due to COVID. It would have normally been an opportunity for members to donate unwanted Christmas gifts for our January Bring and Buy table. The proceeds go into our charity account and ultimately donated to a chosen charity.

I am pleased to say that we were able to contribute a good quantity of items to Baby Basics. The picture below shows President Susan Bradshaw and District Chair Coral Campbell with items donated.



A Sandringham walk was organised by President Rosemary Bowett. I was unable to attend but June Sexton who covered for me as club correspondent recently has written a few words:-

'The weather was in our favour as we set off on a 2 mile walk around Sandringham. Well wrapped up against the cold and the prospect of hot coffee and lunch at the end and experiencing the camaraderie of Inner Wheel made for a good experience.'

Hunstanton and District Inner Wheel send you good wishes for 2022.

## Anita's Salon

Open Monday to Saturday

from 9am to 4pm

or at other times by appointment

66 Westgate, Hunstanton

Tel: 01485 533736



## Give Seals Space

Diane Westwood

The grey seal pupping season is here. Thousands of seal pups are born along the Norfolk Coast and the majority will be fine. Sometimes however seal pups will not fare so well and may be found on our beaches, without their mums. Some are weaned and finding their flippers, others are separated too early and will need help to survive. This week we have had numerous calls regarding disturbance of seals. In particular people taking selfies with seal pups and allowing dogs to approach.

Our advice is Give Seals Space and stay away. Do not put seal pups back in the water. Do not chase as they can lose energy trying to escape. Observe from a distance.

If you are concerned about the health and wellbeing of a seal call RSPCA on 0300 1234 999 or BDMLR on 01825 765546.



Photo of rescued seal pup at Heacham beach. Credit Diane Westwood/BDMLR (British Divers Marine Life Rescue). Now at RSPCA wildlife centre at East Winch.

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# Wargaming in NW Norfolk

By Barry Slemmings

Fighting games of war with model soldiers and miniatures may seem very modern - or just very childish - but the hobby has a long history and a surprising list of famous British literary devotees, including one with a Hunstanton connection.

Chess and draughts are the two best known wargames. The standard chess pieces are based on foot soldiers (pawns), cavalry (knights), war elephants (rooks) and warrior priests (bishops). Players take it in turns to try to outmanoeuvre their opponents, one move at a time, while also destroying the enemy army. Draughts pieces may be less detailed but that game still essentially consists of two armies facing each other on a battlefield of 64 squares and then advancing to destroy each other or reach the enemy's back line and cause mayhem.



While the military had employed wargames for training purposes in past centuries it was British author H.G. Wells who wrote the first serious English book on the subject as a hobby, in 1913, entitled "Little Wars". This has been reprinted several times, the last as recently as 2004. Described by its author as: "a game for boys from twelve years of age to one hundred and fifty and for that more intelligent sort of girl who likes boys' games and books" Wells' rules used classic metal soldiers and sprung-loaded cannons firing bits of

metal rod. Wooden bricks represented buildings and stacks of books were used for hills. It was a fun parlour game aimed at middle-class youngsters and their affluent dads who could afford that sort of stuff. Little Wars arose out of a visit by author Jerome K. Jerome to Wells' home where they started to casually play with toy soldiers and then realised that there was potential for an organised game.

It should be noted that Wells' son Anthony West was born in Victoria Avenue, Hunstanton, just a year after Little Wars was published. At that time Wells was in a relationship with Rebecca West and they - perhaps - chose the quiet Norfolk coastal town to keep themselves out of the public eye. They were not married, a major social issue in those days.

Treasure Island author Robert Louis Stevenson had developed wargame rules while staying at Davos from 1880 to 1883. G.K. Chesterton was known to challenge guests to an after-dinner wargame. Matters rested there until the late Don Featherstone, the (then) Southampton F.C. physiotherapist, found a battered copy of Little Wars in the 1960s and started thinking about the 1/72nd (OO) scale plastic models being manufactured by Airfix. The result was the first in a long series of books by Featherstone on land, sea and aerial wargames plus his excellent military histories. He is regarded, today, as the father of British wargaming with Wells being its grandfather.

Wargaming even got into television drama in the 1970s when TV tough guy Callan (Edward Woodward) was revealed to be a wargamer. The plot of the first TV episode and the subsequent cinema re-make revolved around Callan wargaming the 1863 Battle of Gettysburg with a suspect - and then shooting him. We try to end our games rather more amicably!

Featherstone's books started a UK trend towards wargaming with miniatures while - at that time - US players favoured games with cardboard tokens on colourful hexagonal gridded maps. Ideas criss-crossed the Atlantic and eventually both styles caught-on, in both countries. Today it is a multi-million pound industry with UK companies like Games Workshop producing vast quantities of science-fiction plastic figures at one end of the scale while cottage-industry manufacturers make white metal, tin or pewter figures - in many sizes and scales - for virtually any period of warfare from our Stone Age past to the far distant future.

Rules can vary from the simple to the quite complex but the aim of most historical wargamers is to try - as far as possible - to reflect on the table-top what happens in a real battle. For example, the rules will allow infantry to move slowly, horse-drawn artillery to move slightly

faster, heavy cavalry faster still and so on. The fastest would be light cavalry or couriers. Likewise weapons are scaled for range. A pistol might shoot four or six inches on-table, a rifle might shoot 30 or 36 inches. You could describe a wargame as a time-and-motion study but others have called it: "The chess of 1,000 pieces". It has also been compared to owning a model railway layout but then running your model railway to a strict daily timetable.

In developing the rules, rule writers usually have to encompass the classic four Ms of wargaming - movement, missiles, melee (hand-to-hand combat) and morale. Movement I have already outlined above; missiles is the exchange of projectiles such as sling stones, arrows, bullets or artillery shells. Melee is the ugly business of hand-to-hand combat. Often ancient battles were more akin to a violent rugby scrum with two forces of men colliding and then pushing with shields and spears until one side collapsed and fled in rout. In later centuries close combat became more about the fear of the bayonet rather than the reality. A line of glittering fixed bayonets coming towards you can shatter morale before those bayonets arrive.

The last M - morale - is where wargaming and chess really diverge. A chess piece will stay where you place it. It knows no fear. Real war is very different and real troops may have their own ideas. For example I have seen some of my Wars of the Roses units collapse in a panic-stricken rout and flee or else surge forward in a sudden 'uncontrolled advance' - much against my wishes - in a fit of fighting enthusiasm. These were unruly 'levy' quality units. The retinue and household troops are deemed somewhat more reliable unless they suffer major casualties, witness their commander being killed or see friends flee past them in panic. Panic is always infectious. When bad things happen in a wargame morale has to be tested on a sliding scale of: 'just how bad is it?' Reactions can vary from being unaffected, halting disorganised, stepping backwards disorganised or fleeing the scene in utter panic. Or as I often phrase it: "Suddenly remembering a very important appointment some ten miles to the rear..."

As a sidebar one of our wargaming women (yes, there ARE many female players) once had a unit of model ancient warriors who were absolutely useless. Every time she fielded them they did badly - lost melees, fled in rout or just failed to appear on time. In desperation she replaced them with an identical unit and sold the offenders at a wargamers' bring-and-buy event. By chance she met the new owner about two years later and inquired after the offending unit. He said: "They were absolutely useless, never did anything right, I had to give them to someone else in the end..."

Even in wargaming there's always a 'Jonah'.

While the rules will cater for the likely and the known, we also have to cater for the unknown - the fog of war or those factors which you sometimes read about in history books but which are individually so rare that a special rule cannot be written. So we use a random number generator. Other people call these dice. The straight D6 dice beloved of Ludo or Snakes and Ladders are quite common but wargaming has inspired the creation of many special dice with four, six, eight, ten, 12 or even 20 sides and varying ranges of numbers. Critics say it is just a dice rolling game but, if the rules consider multiple real factors and a single die introduces a short range of random influence, then it is not. Indeed any player who relies on mere lucky dice throws will always lose in the long-term. I know, I tried. Napoleon himself believed in battlefield luck. Surveying a list of promotion prospects one day Napoleon is alleged to have pointed at one name and said: "Yes I know he's good... but is he lucky?"

A single model soldier on the table may represent one man - such is called a 'skirmish' game. The television series Sharpe has led to an interest in the dusty fields of the Peninsular War while Last of the Mohicans has inspired at least one range of musket-and-tomahawk skirmish figures for the French/Indian Wars of the mid-18th century. And yes, they even make a figure of 'Hawkeye'. At the other end of the scale a single figure may represent 20, 25, 50 or even 100 real men. Such representative figure scales make large battles like Agincourt, Blenheim, Waterloo or Gettysburg a practical possibility. 20 model figures, on the table, might equate to a 500 or 1000 man battalion.



*Aspects of modern table-top wargaming. Aircraft from the First World War; the Earl of Salisbury's retinue from the Wars of the Roses, Sherman and Tiger tanks. Various types of dice, HMS Hood and a small flight of Swordfish torpedo-bombers. All from the author's collection.*

Traditional toy soldiers are 40 to 54mm high but these are normally too large for anything other than skirmish games. Modern figures are 28mm, 20, 15, 12, 10 or even 5mm high. These last are about 1/300th scale and while very small, they do allow you to put the Battle of Waterloo on to a small table. Personally I favour the mid-range 15mm figures as a nice balance between size, cost, ease of transport and ease of painting. Most wargamers purchase unpainted figures from the manufacturers and then research the uniforms and paint them themselves, but those with more money than sense can use a professional painting service. I paint my own; it's therapeutic and saves a lot of cash.

Finally there are commercial games. I have already mentioned Games Workshop and readers may have walked past their shop in King's Lynn and seen futuristic or science-fiction games being played. Various boxed games are available from Langleys in Norwich. I recently purchased Zombicide, a skirmish level co-operative survival game set in a post-apocalyptic future from Zatu Games, also in Norwich. Players co-operate and pool resources and weapons to stay alive and fend off the ever increasing zombie hordes. It's a tough ask, especially when there are 15 zombies are coming down the street and you find yourself in a cul-de-sac and running out of ammunition.

A few years ago 'Axis and Allied - War At Sea' produced a very workable WW2 naval wargame with warships, aircraft and submarines. Two Italian designers then came up with Wings of War, a WW1 models and cards skirmish game between pairs or groups of aircraft dog-fighting over the trenches of France and Belgium. After a chequered business history this is now known as Wings of Glory. I play it myself and have many of its 1/144th model aircraft. A new iteration of Wings of Glory now diverges into H.G. Wells' very own territory with a supposed Martian invasion in 1917 uniting all WW1 nations to fight-off the newly-arrived Martian war machines. This is called TriPods and Triplanes. I wonder if wargamer Wells would have approved of his classic story being re-told in a wargaming context?

Some have decried wargaming as a violent - even immoral - hobby and, to be frank, there are a few periods of history which even I would shy away from. Vietnam War figures and scenery are available in several scales but, as a child of the 1960s, I could not bring myself to wargame that period. On the other hand I am happy to tackle the World Wars, the American Civil War or my favourite - the so-called Wars of the Roses. Don't start me on those roses - only one member of the York family used a white rose as his retinue badge while there was no use of the red rose until almost the end when Henry Tudor resurrected it. Shakespeare then got it wrong and Sir Walter Scott just copied Shakespeare.

Surprisingly H.G. Wells, the grandfather of British wargaming was a pacifist. He considered bellicose politicians and sword-rattling generals should be locked away in vast temples of war, with all the model soldiers and all model terrain they wanted. There they could then fight their little wars among themselves and leave the rest of us alone to pursue our peaceful lives. I think I can agree with Wells on that one.

There are a couple of wargame clubs meeting in the Norfolk area. I am seeking to make contact with any single wargamers or groups of wargaming friends, within the north-west Norfolk area, with an interest in wargaming within historical periods rather than fantasy or science-fiction. I am also happy to chat to anyone interested in starting in the hobby. I can be contacted at: [barry.slembo@gmail.com](mailto:barry.slembo@gmail.com)

(Barry is a former journalist and editor and is the author of two sets of wargame rules; "Bills, Bows and Bloodshed" which cover 14th and 15th century English land warfare and "Eggshells Armed With Hammers" which covers WW1 combat at sea, including Jutland and Dogger Bank).

Editor's note: Barry added "You may remember that I wrote a piece for your June 2015 edition (page 8) on the identity of the Titchwell tanks. I run the world Tank, Artillery and military lorries groups on Flickr.

"Tidal scour on Titchwell beach subsequently revealed a lot more of both Covenanter wrecks and has confirmed that both are former range targets, having been shot-through with armour-piercing solid shots and hit by at least one large high explosive shell.

See: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/barryslemmings/albums/72157650072784984> for comparisons.

"Another Covenanter was subsequently found buried in a field in Surrey. They are quite rare."

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## Armchair sports trivia

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### Question:

Who is the only opening batsman to have had a "pair" (out for zero in both innings of a test) on two separate occasions in Ashes history ?

Closing date: 15th February 2022

Answers to: [editor@townandaround.net](mailto:editor@townandaround.net)

or post to: 18, Tapping Close, Snettisham, Norfolk PE31 7FF

Graham Wells of Hunstanton was the winner of the January question.

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# Sporting Corner with Tim Keogh

Ahoy there sailors!

Nestled to the West of Snettisham is one of West Norfolk's hidden gems, in the form of Snettisham Beach Sailing Club.

Located on a tidal stretch of The Wash, the club provides a unique and exciting sailing experience due to the ever changing tide and weather conditions of the location.

The club can cope with as many as 50 boats for racing events with race meetings a sight to behold throughout the Summer. There is also dedicated safety cover helmed by qualified sailors, to support all sea sailing.

Chief Instructor James Trim said, "there really is no better place locally to put your sailing skills to the test in such an idyllic setting. We also have an inland lake to accommodate novice and junior sailing. We invite anyone interested in taking up sailing, enhancing their existing skills or simply wishing to volunteer to come down and have a look. We have a whole variety of different water sports to accommodate all tastes".

The Club puts on a number of race events at the weekend throughout the sailing season (usually March through to October), a Friday series when tides allow and Bank Holiday race meetings. There is a junior club that meets on Wednesday evenings whilst there are six week beginner courses available to new and junior members alike. If you don't have a spare boat lying around in your garage the club has a fleet of boats and equipment available to all members for small hire fees.

The club house has recently been extended offering excellent bar and restaurant facilities. The west facing balcony also offers panoramic views of the beach and the beautiful evening sunsets, where better to enjoy a glass of wine or two. There's a series



of social events running throughout the sailing season. The club house facilities are also available for private hire. Excellent changing room facilities, a private car park and sea launch pad add to the superb setup.

The club is a Royal Yacht Association Training Centre as well as a RYA British Youth Training accredited club, with a number of courses available to members. As well as sailing, the club also has facilities for power boats, wind surfing, canoeing, kayaking, dinghy riding and paddle boarding. The location is also close to unique wild life and bird reserves adding to the ambient setting.

Also located on site is a club bungalow available for private rental, which is popular amongst sailors, bird watchers and wildlife enthusiasts throughout the year. Forthcoming events include the Kirkland Cup and Model Yacht regatta in April. At 7pm on 23rd February, bird lovers will be delighted to hear

that the RSPB are hosting a zoom for an update on the ringed Plover breeding success on Snettisham beach in 2021 and to discuss how you can help the flock in 2022 (all 2022 events are listed on the website).

Membership can be tailored to meet individual requirements starting from as little as £30.00 a year for a social member. Once you've learned the basics and have your own boat, expect to pay £145.00 for a year of sailing and to park your boat at the club, just £12 a month! It compares very well with your gym or golf club.

For more information about the club please visit [www.snetbeach.co.uk](http://www.snetbeach.co.uk) or contact Mark direct on 07833 332 055 [publicity.sbsc@gmail.com](mailto:publicity.sbsc@gmail.com) for an informal chat or to arrange a tour around the facilities.

Lastly, a date for your diaries... there is an Open Day on 22nd May which all are welcome to attend.

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If you want a chat or more information, call Gay Paterson on 01366 328108 or email [paterson.g@aol.com](mailto:paterson.g@aol.com).

Our Sunday services are at 11am, held in our church building at 10 Queens Drive, Hunstanton PE36 6WZ. We also hold a service on the first Wednesday of each month at 12 noon. Follow us on Facebook to see up-to-date information about our church and its activities and services. Information on Christian Science and our worldwide church can be found at [www.christianscience.com](http://www.christianscience.com).

Daily inspiration can be found at <https://www.christianscience.com/christian-healing-today/daily-lift>. <https://quarterly.christianscience.com/thanksgiving>.

## Norsemans Boxing Club

Leon Bolmeier (Chairman)

Our club is forever indebted to Fred Pooley. I first met Fred back in the Year 2000. I was interested in setting up a local amateur boxing club and Fred was the Hunstanton Mayor at the time and was very enthusiastic about the idea (having boxed himself as a youth) and thought the discipline involved would be great for the local youngsters.

He arranged for us to use the local hunstanton youth centre and gave us £200 to get us started. One month later we opened with over seventy two youths turning up on the first night.

The club is still going strong, it is non profitable and is run by two ex boxers from the club, Justin Barret and Mark Rothwell. We have had county and regional champions over the years but the real purpose is to get the youngsters off the streets and teach them great values and discipline.

Fred was always happy to hear about the club and was a firm believer in the benefits it has to offer. The club probably wouldn't exist without Fred's initial interest and willingness to help.

So from the bottom of our hearts, we would like to sincerely thank Fred Pooley and offer our condolences to his family and friends for the very sad loss of a great man.

R.I.P. Fred

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# On the turf with Charles Joyce

When the New Year came in Tumbling Dice won for Sue Smith at 9/2 from an opening price of 8/1. Lucy Wadham had a winner at Fakenham while Bryony Frost had a winner at Musselburgh for Paul Nicholls. Hopefully a few T & A readers started the year with a winner. On the Sunday before Christmas, Bryony Frost and Lucy Wadham teamed up at Fakenham with Admiral Barratry winning at 3/1 from an opening price of 5/1. So perhaps an extra present for the better half.

The big issue brewing is the proposal to introduce a single customer view. The Gambling Commission claim they want the bookmakers to explore and develop a solution to enable an holistic view of a customer's online gambling and help reduce gambling harm. The gobbledygook does not stop there, but basically the chief nanny prefers to launch their attacks on punters rather than bring in rules that give punters a fairer chance to win. The Gambling Commission are looking at affordability checks that can be aimed at ensuring punters do not lose more than a hundred pounds a month. Bookmakers already have a large amount of information about punters who bet online. Affordability checks could be providing passports or driving licences, utility bills, bank statements etc. to the bookmakers. Tracey Crouch MP was right in her actions against the fixed odds betting terminals, and it's right to restrict punters to betting with the money they have rather than what they can borrow from a credit card company. Gambling can be addictive and can cause harm to some. But how far will the modern day puritans go? Will the shopkeeper need to run an affordability check before someone buys a lottery ticket or scratch card? Maybe the barmaid will need to see someone's bank statement before serving them a drink. An outcome of the chief nanny's proposals, if implemented, are more punters will be driven into the unlicensed bookmakers where the probability of winning is outweighed by the likelihood of being paid if the punter wins.

It's unlikely to make much difference which one of the commissars is head of the politburo. The Government has become drunk on the elixir of right thinking people wanting to help and support others through the Covid pandemic. But when it comes to tackling other serious matters such as putting the people traffickers out of business they choose to almost turn a blind eye. In sport it has failed to take the steps the Australian Government have taken with Novak Djokovic as according to ESPN, who reported Christmas week, that 84% of Premier League players were on the journey to vaccination, meaning almost 1 in 6 were still totally unjabbed. (A leaked email suggested in September only seven Premier League clubs were even 50% vaccinated.) The ESPN report also said in Italy's Serie A 98% of players and staff are fully vaccinated, Germany's Bundesliga it's around 94% and in Spain's La Liga it's around 92%.

Last month I suggested there were two ways to look at racing going for either more wins at lower prices or fewer wins at bigger prices. When Clyde Beatty (not Warren Beatty nor Clyde Barrow but Clyde Beatty) was born in 1903 life was not easy. Just after his eighteenth birthday he and a friend jumped a boxcar of the DT&I Railroad headed for Washington Court House Ohio. Like Nelly the Elephant they packed their bags and went off to join the circus. Clyde started off cleaning the animal cages working his way up to being a lion tamer. At the time lion tamer's were often killed or seriously injured by the animals. They would have a whip, but it proved ineffective against a big cat. Clyde Beatty died of cancer in 1965 after becoming legendary for taming the fierce wild animals. He perfected the art of being a lion or big cat tamer. He would have a mixture of big cats in the ring at the one time. He holds the world record of 43 tigers and lions of both sexes at one time. He was able to control the big cats, not by using a whip which he had for show, but by introducing a chair into his act. It sounds crazy, but it worked through understanding the simple rules. When faced with the 4 legs of a chair a big cat becomes confused and distracted from the human holding the chair. He almost came unstuck on the Ed Sullivan Show in 1957 when after complaining the studio was too small for his act he lost control of the act on live TV. Fortunately, he was able to subdue the big cats without harm to himself or the lions. But abandoning one of his golden rules was close to being literally fatal.

There is a clip of the performance on a DVD of the Best of the Ed Sullivan Show. A lot of punters are like the lions; they try to focus on too many races or sports events at the one time. Many winning punters are like the lion tamer concentrating their efforts on certain races or sports events.

One of the easier options is to concentrate on the Group or Graded races where the best horses run. One of the reasons for concentrating on these is because all the horses are usually out to win the race, especially the Group races often because of the massive earning potential of the horse once its racing career has ended. The bookmakers are not fools they know that as well. They will have spent substantial resources pricing up these major races and are likely to be on top of the prices, but they have to also concentrate on minor races, because a 10/1 winner pays the punter the same if it is in a low class seller or the Derby. This can leave them vulnerable to a punter who "knows his onions". Some punters concentrate on the handicaps, especially the big handicaps. While others put their efforts into finding the winners of the low class all weather races. Others will concentrate on trainers and where they do well. For example, the Skelton brothers Dan and Harry do well at their local Uttoxeter track with hurdlers. Donald McCain does well at Bangor with his hurdlers. Hurdlers, because often they are younger less exposed horses who can improve on their previous runs in public. It's the same in all sports. The bookmakers will know how many times Harry Kane kicks the ball and with which foot he scores a goal in a match. Such stats are available. In golf they know they can take a chance and offer better odds on Rory McIlroy playing in Europe than they can at somewhere like Quail Hollow in North Carolina. Similarly many European players especially Spanish and Italian players are dangerous on red clay tennis courts. The average punter does not know what the bookmaker and the specialist punter knows, and that's why there are so many losing punters. But wherever the winning punters put their efforts they usually specialise. It's this speciality which gives them the confidence to put down their money on a horse or Getafe to beat Real Madrid or take what looks silly odds on Rafael Nadal winning at Roland Garros.

Keep in mind the odds of a bet are what the bookmaker wants them to be, but they may not reflect the true probability of the outcome. It's knowing when the odds are in a punter's favour that the punter should consider investing rather than take a gamble when the odds are against him.

Looking ahead the Christmas races did not provide many clues for the Cheltenham Gold Cup. Maybe the end of January Cheltenham trials or the Leopardstown Festival will. I'm not keen on horses that have previously lost in the Gold Cup, nor those older than nine years old. Minella Indo was a big let-down at Kempton, but Cheltenham in March is another day, and if the race is to remain in local hands rather than exported, Paul Nicholls trained Protektorat looks to hold the best chance. The Champion Hurdle looks to be at the mercy of Rachael Blackmore and Honeysuckle, but this far out from the race I'll be content to let her win and enjoy the spectacle.

In other parts of the world the Meydan Festival is gearing up to the Dubai World Cup run at the end of March. Last year Godolphin had a very good festival thanks chiefly to the efforts of the horses trained by Charlie Appleby. The same looks likely again this year with such as Creative Force, Naval Crown and Yibir.

The Godolphin fillies maybe hard to beat in such as the Balachine. Newmarket trainer William Haggas may run Alenquer who was placed in a couple of top Group 1s last year and beat both Yibir and Epsom Derby winner Adayar at Sandown in April. Dubai Honour who won two Group 2s before running 2nd on Champions Day is another of William Haggas trained horses who could turn up. South African trainer Mike De Kock has Najem Suhail who could spring a few surprises in sprint races. In Saudi Arabia the world's richest horse race could make Mishriff the highest earning horse in history topping Winx's fourteen million pounds earnings. One that will give him a run for his money is Pyledriver, if he turns up.

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



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The faithful from around the world suggest Papal prayer intentions in each country to their national office. Some of these are then selected and sent to the international office of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network in Vatican City. After prayer and discernment, the Pope selects a number of them and sends them to be translated and published as the official set of monthly prayer intentions. The Pope's prayer intention for February 2022 is: For religious sisters and consecrated women: We pray for religious sisters and consecrated women; thanking them for their mission and their courage; may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times.

The World Day of Prayer service for 2022 will be at St Mary's Parish Church, Heacham on Friday 4th March starting at 10.30am. This year's service has been prepared by the women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland and the theme is 'I know the plans I have for you'. This is an ecumenical service and everyone is welcome.

The Sisters at St Theresa's Convent are now offering daily Mass at 12 noon. Please confirm with them if you intend to be present. Contact 01485 532837.

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, including Coronavirus updates see the Links page of our website at, [www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org](http://www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org)

The Sunday Masses are at 9am at Mountbatten Road, Dersingham and 11am at Sandringham Road, Hunstanton.

Daily Masses are at 10am at Hunstanton on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays and 10.15am at Dersingham on Wednesdays.

Website: [www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org](http://www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org)

Email: [parish@hunstantoncatholicparish.org](mailto: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](mailto:parishpriest763@gmail.com)

## The God of Love

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

With Valentine's Day coming in a couple of weeks it seems appropriate to consider love as a subject for this article.

One of the shortfalls of the English language is the paucity of words meaning 'love'. In Greek, the original language of much of the new testament, there are at least four words all translated 'love' in the English version, though they have completely different meanings. Eros is love between a man and a woman, philos is love between family members, and storge is a reverent love that people may feel for some person who they respect highly, such as many felt for the Queen

Mother. Agape is the love God has for His creation.

Love can also communicate a decision. I have decided to that I will love you. Such love does not depend on the behaviour of the other person. If it did it might be a bit like the child playing with a daisy pulling the petals off one by one 'she loves me, she loves me not, she loves me, . . . etc'. It would be on-off. Young people today are surprised if you have been married for more than ten years. I remember when our son went to university; his friends thought we were the exception because we'd been married for about 35 years at the time. All their parents were separated, divorced, etc. His were the only ones who were together!

Real love is a decision that involves actions too. No matter what the other person does, you will still love them. If they have been horrible when they come back, you'll still be there for them. It is constant. Even when our children disappoint us, our love for them remains steady, unchanging.

Real love is how God loves us – agape love. He created us, loves us, and continues to do so. Mankind rebelled against God and turned away from him. We went off and did our 'own thing'. But when we turn back to God He responds, and like the father in the story of the prodigal son in Luke's gospel chapter 15, as soon as the son returns his father runs to him, puts his arm round him, puts a ring on his finger indicating he is being restored to the family, and gives him new clothes. That is how God looks out for each one of us.

If you are away from Him, why not return and receive his love? His perfect love was demonstrated for us when his son Jesus became a willing sacrifice for our sin, to bring us forgiveness, and restore us to relationship with our Father in heaven.

## Mimicking

A few years ago I was asked if I could find a new home for an African Grey Parrot, which thankfully over time found a new home. Be warned if you do have a Parrot; be prepared in case this true story happens to you!

Buddy the African Grey parrot showed he's a clever boy by mimicking his owner to order shopping via "Alexa" an online voice-controlled system.

The shocked owner could not work out how she had ordered a £10 set of gift boxes until she realised her African grey parrot had bought them!! The parrot had impersonated one of her conversations and placed the order while she was out.

Buddy activated her smart speaker, by calling the name "Alexa" which it responded to. I have seen a video of the bird mimicking its owner speaking to the electronic device. The bird adds in the film: "Oh, um, hang on! Alexa!"

The owner couldn't believe how well the parrot had mimicked what she does. Buddy the parrot followed his owner and Jesus seeks us to follow him in our lives as his disciples. In the Bible Mark 4:18-22 records: Jesus saw some fishermen Peter and Andrew and invited them to "Come, follow me," he then said, "and I will send you out to fish for people. At once they left their nets and followed him". Then using his voice Jesus called out to James and John and they also responded. A voice has so much potential, who do we mimic or follow in our life?

If you do have an 'Alexa' or other voice recognition device; do be aware of parrots and for that also children following your ways and voice!

Rev Mark Capron

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## February diary: please check with organisers before making a journey!

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| <p>1 Docking Heritage Group Classic Film Night – Barnacle Bill (A classic Ealing comedy partly filmed on Hunstanton Pier). Doors 6.30pm, film 7pm £5 on the door (incl a glass of wine). Light refreshments available. Docking Village Hall.</p> <p>2 West Norfolk Singers. Heacham Methodist Church 7.15-9.15pm contact Anne Davis on 01485 571315 or chair@westnorfolksingers.org.uk</p> <p>3 Deepdale Guided Walk – Deepdale Farm, Burnham Deepdale PE31 8DD. 2-3.30pm 01485 210036 or email enquiries@deepdalefarm.co.uk</p> <p>3 Stanhoe and Barwick WI Speaker - Norfolk Lowland Search and Rescue. Visitors welcome; contact Valerie (01485 576261) for details and to confirm attendance.</p> <p>4 Anmer Club QUIZ NIGHT - 7.30 p.m. start Club opens 7pm. Entry £2 per person. Fully Licensed bar. Raffle To book email to events@anmerclub.co.uk</p> <p>5 United Services Club Hunstanton PE36 5HL, live music from Simon Lee 8.30pm</p> <p>7 Anmer Club BINGO NIGHT – Club opens at 7.00p.m. “Eyes Down” at 7.30 p.m. £6.60 for a book of 10 cards &amp; £1.75 for a “Flyer Card”. Fully licenced bar and Raffle. To book email to events@anmerclub.co.uk</p> <p>9 West Norfolk Singers. Heacham Methodist Church 7.15-9.15pm contact Anne Davis on 01485 571315 or chair@westnorfolksingers.org.uk</p> <p>10 Live theatre on film at St George’s Guildhall King’s Lynn PE30 1HA at 7.30pm Featuring David Suchet as James and Laurie Metcalfe as Mary. £9.50, under 18s £5</p> <p>11 Anmer Club FILM NIGHT - THE FRENCH DISPATCH - 15 - Club opens 7pm. film starts at 7.30 p.m. Admission £4 payable at the door.</p> <p>12 United Services Club Hunstanton PE36 5HL, live music from Just Us (all eras) 8.30pm</p> <p>14 CHAT Club West Norfolk Deaf Assn. Conversation, hearing aids &amp; tea Hunstanton Community Centre 10am-noon.</p> <p>14 The Arts Society Lecture- Great Tarts and Art: High culture and the Oldest Profession. Sedgeford Village Hall 2pm. www.theartsocietynwnorfolk.org.uk</p> | <p>16 West Norfolk Singers. Heacham Methodist Church 7.15-9.15pm contact Anne Davis on 01485 571315 or chair@westnorfolksingers.org.uk</p> <p>16 Cello Concert by Jamal Aliyev at King’s Lynn Town Hall PE30 5DQ 7.30-9pm. Coffee from 7pm. Visitors welcome - suggested donation of £10 at door. Free to students and u18s</p> <p>18 United Services Club Hunstanton PE36 5HL, Quiz Night 8pm start £3pp with light supper.</p> <p>19 North Wootton Village Market 9am-2pm North Wootton Village Hall, Priory Lane PE30 3PT. Fresh produce and hand crafted products.</p> <p>19 Anmer Club FISH &amp; CHIP SUPPER – 7.30 p.m. - £8.50 per person To book please contact Dorothy on 01553 631349 or email: events@anmerclub.co.uk by 16/2/22.</p> <p>19 United Services Club Hunstanton PE36 5HL, live music from Splash 960s onwards) 8.30pm</p> <p>21 Hunstanton u3a meeting at 2.00pm at The Community Hall, Avenue Road, Hunstanton. Giles Orpen-Smellie, our new Police Commissioner will be updating us on Norfolk Police activities.</p> <p>23 Snettisham Gardening Club at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall, Old Church Road, Snettisham when the speaker will be Mr. David Reeve on the Sandringham Show.</p> <p>23 West Norfolk Singers. Heacham Methodist Church 7.15-9.15pm contact Anne Davis on 571315 or chair@westnorfolksingers.org.uk</p> <p>23 United Services Club Hunstanton PE36 5HL, live music from Kenny Lee and Hustler (50s &amp; 60s) 8.30pm</p> <p>24 New Hunstanton WI, Methodist Hall, Austin Street, Hunstanton. 2.15pm. Entertainment from Leah &amp; Irma - After Lockdown Litany. Visitors welcome £3.00.</p> <p>25 Winter Warmer and Supper Talk by Jason Dagleish, author of the Hidden Norfolk detective series of novels. Thornham Village Hall 6.30pm. email winterwarmers@thornhamvillagehall.co.uk</p> <p>United Services Club: CASH PRIZE BINGO every Thursday Eyes Down 8pm POKER night friendly every Tuesday friendly and every Thursday League 7pm</p> |
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## PRESENTATION OF VOLUNTEER PLAQUE TO THE PARISH OF BRANCASTER

On Tuesday, 11th January, the Countess of Romney, DL, presented a plaque to the Villages of Brancaster, Brancaster Staithe, and Burnham Deepdale to mark the work of volunteers in the Community during the pandemic.

At the monthly Parish Council, Cllr Briony Bax, Chair of Brancaster PC, accepted the plaque on behalf of the three Villages which make up the Parish.

Lady Romney noted the effects that COVID had had on the County, and the local Health Services, adding that the Norfolk Association of Local Councils had decided to award these plaques to mark the efforts of the entire Community.

Cllr Bax commented on how the process was co-ordinated: “When the lock down was announced, Brancaster Parish Council called two meetings for volunteers to sign up to help assist people in the community. The area of the villages was divided into wards, and lead volunteers appointed to each. At the end of the meetings over 67 volunteers had put their names forward and they delivered fliers in their local neighbourhood telling everyone that help was available.

“The Brancaster Village Hall committee organised volunteers to help distribute newspapers and food boxes at Brancaster Stores, via the Parish Council and at the local Nisa store. Lead volunteers for the scheme were Caroline Symington, Tracey Wareham, Paul King, Jude Oleson and Shelia Spink. In addition to the formal scheme many people in the village cared for their neighbours and so the villages were able to weather the Covid storm.”

Caroline Symington noted that the experience of COVID had really brought the community together. “Everyone I spoke to were so appreciative of what the volunteers did, as many of them clearly did not want to venture out.

“One person I delivered to on a regular basis lived on her own, and all she wanted to do was have a chat on the doorstep. Sometimes she would just order cat food and a pint of milk. Normally, when I delivered any food, I rang the doorbell and waited for residents to open the door and would then disappear. This particular lady just wanted to talk, so I always made sure I allowed plenty of time when delivering to her! It was humbling to see how many people live on their own, who were obviously quite lonely and not able to get out and see friends.”



*Cllr Bax, the Countess and those attending the meeting, many of whom had been involved.*

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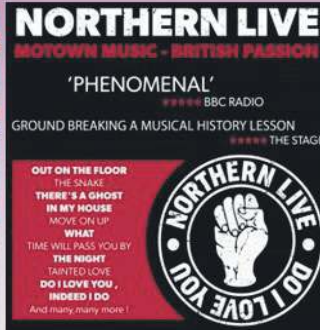
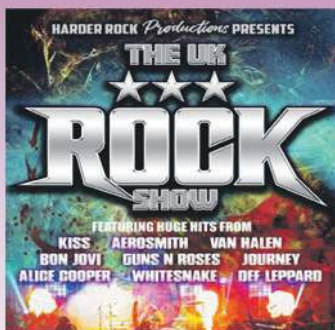
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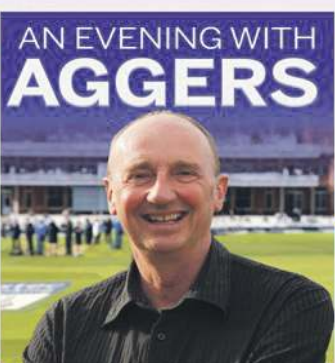
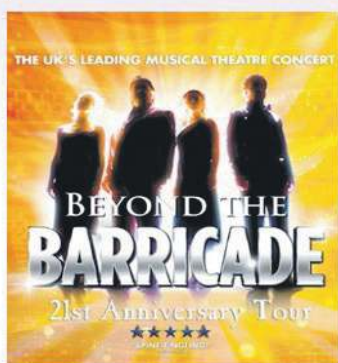


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**Friday 18th**

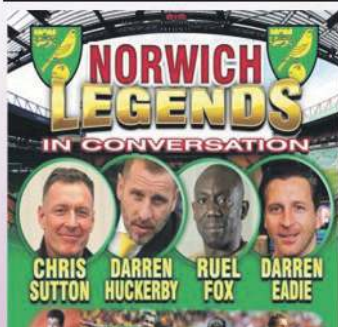


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