

TOWN and AROUND

ISSUE 208 FEBRUARY 2023
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First word



There's a lot to love about February, the days are getting noticeably longer, the first signs of spring are emerging and there's plenty to do in this part of the world too - just turn to page 32 for some ideas. And for some educational fun, what about a trip to Snettisham Park? The lambing barn is open and lambing is underway.

Our cover photo, taken by Ian Burt, is of Assistant Head Teacher Claire Dack with two of the children from Heacham Infant and Nursery School celebrating their

Ofsted 'Good' rating and the story is on page 55.

We have two competitions for you this month and they can be found on pages 46 and 47.

My thanks to everyone who has supplied news, articles and photos for this edition. Please note that the copy date for the March edition is strictly 12th February - this short month means a very quick turnaround in the T&A office.

Revenue from advertising pays for the production of the magazine so I would ask you, whenever you can, to support the advertisers in these pages.

Lastly, and I do remind you of this important date every year, it's Valentine's Day on 14th, the day to tell the special person in your life how much they mean to you.

With all best wishes for a fabulous February

Elaine

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Town and Around is published by Elaine Bird and printed by
Mortons of Horncastle
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Page	297.00	247.50
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All prices are per issue, exclusive of VAT. Phone for more details.

The copy date is 12th of the month preceding publication.

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What service does your car need?

Abigail Brown

Unlike the slipper socks you may have unwrapped for Christmas, it's not a case of one size fits all with your vehicle's service schedule. If you read our column in last month's issue, you would have learnt about 'menu' servicing and what that means for you and your car. What we touched on but didn't cover in detail, however, was how to know what kind of service your car needs and when.

You may have come across the concept of small and large services or something similar. These are usually set services that you would be advised to alternate between year on year. We, personally, do things slightly different. Although we do offer set services (Bronze, Silver and Gold) most of our customers choose to have what is required based on their vehicle's age and mileage - this is menu servicing. To explain how this works, it's easier to use an example: a car is 7 years old and has done around 40,000 miles. We would use our technical data software to look up the vehicle and determine the correct service based on this information. This could be anything from a simple oil and filter to the full works - it all depends on what the manufacturer has recommended for that interval.



Why is this any better than a standard, set schedule? Well, it's bespoke to your vehicle make and model, its current condition and how much its driven - the no one size fits all phrase fits in nicely here! - it enables you to be proactive with your car maintenance, and you can have peace of mind knowing that everything the manufacturer advises is due for your car at that time is done. It can be more cost-effective too, as you are only paying for jobs that actually need doing. Keeping up-to-date with this kind of servicing is a great way to avoid running into sudden problems with your car down the line. Returning to the bespoke element one last time, it's important to note that different makes and models of vehicle differ in their ideal service schedule enormously; some only need servicing once every two years, some every year, and others, usually commercial vehicles, may need one even more frequently due to the amount of miles they do. It would be impossible to design a service schedule to suit all vehicles.

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An Elected Mayor for Norfolk?

County Councillor Alexandra Kemp

Landline: 01553 630329 Mobile: 07920 286636

It's back. An Elected Mayor for Norfolk. The public rejected the idea of an Elected Mayor and new Combined Authority for Norfolk and Suffolk in 2016. People didn't like the cost, the extra layer of government, and raised concerns it gave too much power to one person. That Deal cost the County £100,000 in officer time and consultation costs. But now, the Conservative County Administration has negotiated a draft "County Deal" with Govt, for an Elected Mayor, just for Norfolk. To be called an "Elected County Council Leader". A political role for a Leader of a Political Group in County Hall. There would be elections for the office every 4 years from 2024 (first term of office 5 years). The cost of "implementing" this County Deal, would be £1.632 million over the next two years, paid for by the Government. A lot of money in a cost of living crisis. We don't get to directly elect the Prime Minister, why the County Leader?

You will soon have the chance to have your say from 6 February for 6 weeks, and I urge you to do so. County Council is going to discuss the Deal on 17th January. Though the Deal takes away the Council's right to elect its own Leader - a substantial change to the Constitution - Council is only being asked to "note" the Deal.

The Government thinks "devolution deals" spread opportunity equally. The Norfolk Deal would bring £600 million over 30 years from Govt to the County Council for "infrastructure" in Norfolk, plus another £12.9 million for growth. This might sound a lot, but pales into insignificance, when you reflect West Norfolk needs £862 million now to rebuild the QEH, but Govt keeps frustratingly moving the goalposts. Incidentally, the QEH rebuild did not form part of the County Deal negotiations. Nor did the West Winch Bypass, for the 4,000 new homes Conservatives plan for West Winch. So West Norfolk interests weren't at the top of the queue.

How is it spreading opportunity to concentrate more powers in one person?

County Conservatives have not distinguished themselves democratically recently. Shortened Council Meetings to 3 hours, placed Motions to Council last on the Agenda, with a Conservative Motion first.

The question is, would the Elected Mayor be Norfolk's man, or the Government's man?

Will he be the person to drive forward the Government's ambitious housing targets, as the Elected Mayor in 2016 was earmarked for?

Very likely - the "Elected Leader" would personally have powers of compulsory purchase, of land assembly, and could set up a Mayoral Development Area and a Mayoral Development Corporation.

This could bring him into direct conflict with the 7 District Councils. Housing is a Borough Council function. Is this part of a Government Agenda to take powers away from Borough Councils, inch by inch?

£20 million a year spread over the 7 Districts of Norfolk, is less than £3 million each.

If the Deal is done, would Government roll back on futures commitment and say to Norfolk, You've got the deal, paddle your own canoe?

There are small print risks. Government could devolve the Adult Education Budget to NCC. But NCC would have to sign up to work with the Government to ensure "future financial stability of the provider base, including sharing financial risk and managing provider failure". Is Government for real? Would NCC take on responsibility for failing colleges, like its responsibilities, if a care home goes over the brink?

Norfolk would have an integrated transport settlement for the first year of the deal 24/5, but after that, no commitment.

Promises, promises.

At the Cabinet Meeting after the County Council Meeting on 17th Jan, Cabinet is recommended to ratify the in-principle deal, consult the public and "prepare for a County Council resolution to change the current leader and Cabinet to a directly elected leader and cabinet in December 2023".

The full deal is on the Government website. Do have your say.

Editor's note: See also page 26 for NCC's article.





K. Brown

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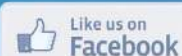
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Hunstanton's Sandringham Road is the scene of another serious crash

Three cars were involved in a road traffic collision at the junction of Park Road and Sandringham Road Hunstanton on Tuesday 3rd January.

Fire tenders from Hunstanton and Heacham attended the scene along with two ambulances and an emergency paramedic vehicle alongside several vehicles from Norfolk Police.

The junction was closed while the fire service used hydraulic rescue equipment to release the casualties from the vehicles.

First to leave the scene for hospital check-up was a mother with a young baby. It would appear that theirs was the first car to be struck by the blue VW that was driven up Park Road by a mature lady who was herself stretchered to the waiting ambulance.

Well known retired plumber and former local retained firefighter Peter Parsons received medical attention from the paramedic on scene before returning home. His vehicle was removed by local garage Flemings.

Town and Around's Richard Bird spoke to one of the firefighters at the scene who commented that the junction of Park Road and Sandringham Road has seen many similar collisions over the years.



Despite new road markings and signage being installed by Norfolk County Council Highways Department at the junction in recent years, collisions have continued to occur at this location.

Richard said: "This was a serious incident, someone could have died. In my opinion this junction is dangerous and more needs to be done to prevent accidents in the

future – and that means spending some money in Hunstanton and north-west Norfolk.

Since the incident Richard has written to the portfolio holder at Norfolk County Council about this junction and also the Austin Street and Church Street junction in the town that has seen multiple collisions over the years.

RUBBISH

Update on the Wishbech Incinerator Michael de Whalley

While we await the Planning Inspectorate to set a date for the Preliminary Meeting for the Wishbech Incinerator proposal, please humour me for a short while.

You are rubbish... or at least imagine yourself to be. You are in a black bin surrounded by lots of other rubbish. Government figures state that 53% of that rubbish is easy to recycle, and 27% can be recycled with a bit of effort, that means you and only 20 % of the binload really can't be recycled. Unfortunately, it is 2025 and the new Medworth mega incinerator in Wisbech is waiting to burn you and everything else in the bin, recyclable or not! The country has much more incinerator capacity than non-recyclable waste to burn. That's been the case since 2019 but still new incinerators are being proposed and built. Where is the waste to burn coming from? Well, it has to be more and more of that recyclable stuff.

Your bin is emptied into a collection truck, you and the other waste are weighed onto the Medworth site and loaded into the furnace. At no point have there been any checks on what is in the rubbish with you, after-all, this is black bin rubbish, so it will not have prohibited items in it, will it? That Nickel Cadmium battery beside you, the bottle of unwanted insecticide under you, the leftover

anti fouling paint above you and so on. Out of sight, out of mind. Your Council will pay the incinerator operators to burn you and the electricity you will generate, they will then sell, what a wonderful business plan, win-win all the way (but not for the environment or public health).

So now you burn and are turned into...

- Heat to raise steam and generate electricity.
- Ash to be landfilled or used as aggregate after any metal is removed.
- Gases such as carbon dioxide, which will intensify climate change.
- Tiny particles of carbon which become coated with toxic materials.
- Toxic substances such as lead, cadmium, arsenic, dioxins, furans and many more.

You journey on, in your various forms, until you encounter large fabric filter bags. The solid "fly ash" materials captured in the bags are so toxic that they have to be disposed of in special waste landfill sites. If your burnt remains got caught, then you will be part of the 20% of your original binload that will become landfill and, unlike everyone else, the incinerator operators do not have to pay landfill tax on this, so now it is win-win-win for the operators.

You or parts of you will be in the form of microscopic particles, coated in highly toxic materials and small enough for some of you



to pass through the filters and escape into the prevailing south-westerly breeze blowing over West Norfolk. You are small, light, invisible, without smell and you can travel large distances, eventually entering the lungs of residents. Your tiny particles pass through the lungs into the blood and end up free to cause disease and death. While particulates can also come from other sources such as car exhausts, factories, forest fires, wood burning stoves and so on, these are usually just particles of carbon but, even so, the medical evidence is growing that they are a significant cause of disease and death in the UK. How much more dangerous are those particles generated by incinerators, coated with toxic chemicals from the burning of who knows what mixtures of waste?

I hope you found your journey informative and may be as upset as I am to realise that your MP appears to have missed his opportunity to be heard by the Planning Inspectorate, who will be coming to a judgement on the Medworth incinerator scheme.

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Ideas being investigated by Hunstanton Advisory Group

The Hunstanton Advisory Group, established in March 2022, has been reviewing ideas it has received aimed at making the town better for all.

Since its inception, the group has received requests to pursue a number of key projects that have been proposed in the past; either identified by Wayne Hemingway in his 2018 report or previously. Additionally, new projects to assist both the town's residents and visitors have been identified, including better co-ordination of the events programme, improving the town's web and social media presence, reviewing signage within the town, and enhancing the seafront.

Charles le Strange Meakin, Chair of the Hunstanton Advisory Group, explained "The Advisory Group is drawn from a wide range of the Town's residents and the team has developed a series of proposals; additionally we have worked on prioritising and developing suggestions by residents. A dedicated email has been set up so as to co-ordinate these ideas from many people who share a passion to make Hunstanton the best it can be, for residents and visitors alike."

Among proposals brought forward, it was identified that the town needs a more co-ordinated regular events programme aimed at a broader age demographic and utilising not just The Green, but other public spaces in the town including the Recreation Ground and the Spinney.

A brief review of social media and websites promoting the town shows that whilst there is a wealth of information online, there is no single 'go to' resource which shows everything the town has to offer. The Hunstanton Advisory Group is investigating how a town-specific website, which would help residents and visitors make the most of the town and its facilities, could be funded and maintained. Discussions are ongoing with the Norfolk Coast Partnership as to how this might be achieved through their 'Be Norfolk' website.

We have received many comments on the town's signage, such as:

- it's difficult to read
- it doesn't guide visitors around the town's attractions
- it's too authoritarian
- it does not encourage
- car parking isn't adequately signposted



*Back row: Joe Bates, Derrick Lloyd, Joel large, Mark Kacary, Paul Searle
Middle row: Cllr Paul Beal, Cllr Graham Middleton, Cllr Howard Johnston
Front row: Amanda Bosworth, Charles Le Strange Meakin, Colleen Roper*

Following discussion with the borough council the group understand that funds were previously set aside to undertake an independent review and update of town signage. Following engagement with stakeholders an independent review and update is scheduled to be undertaken.

It is widely acknowledged that the seafront area is in need of enhancement to improve the visitor experience and could do with an additional attraction to encourage people to visit. The Hunstanton Advisory Group has formed a sub-group to review the current promenade offering and identifying repairs and improvements. As part of this, the group is investigating the feasibility of a sea-fed lido abutting the promenade. Such a structure, which might include a walkway around its perimeter, would offer a new experience to residents and visitors alike and would also make beach swimming far less tide dependent. Norfolk County Council have agreed to undertake a feasibility study.

The Oasis facility has already been identified as being in need of renovation or replacement. The borough council is currently bidding for government funding to replace the Oasis. Alongside the Hunstanton Town Council, the HAG is actively participating in a consultation

to determine the best location for the new facility, should funding be secured for this project.

Finally, several proposals raised in the Hemingway report were not progressed for a variety of reasons. The Hunstanton Advisory Group are revisiting those recommendations and considering what is still relevant and might be reasonably achieved.

Charles le Strange Meakin added: "The views of our membership and those shared with us by the public have been incredibly helpful in prioritising our activity and I hope that we have been able to show how we are using the feedback received to bring about improvements."

"Many of the suggestions put forward by and to the group overlap with work undertaken by Hunstanton Town Council. I am therefore extremely pleased that representation of HTC has been strengthened by the appointment of the Town's Mayor, Cllr Maureen Howard, to the group."

The group welcome continued feedback from residents and the public on how they think the town can be improved for visitors and residents alike. Contact one of the group members or email the group at hello@hunstantonadvisorygroup.co.uk.

MAY ELECTIONS

Terry Parish

There are elections for Borough Councillors in May. If you prefer to cast your vote in person at a polling station then, due to new government legislation, you will require proof of identity when you go to the relevant hall.

This proof has to bear your photograph. It can be your passport, photo driving licence, bus pass, or numerous other official documents/cards. The full list is on the Electoral Commission Website.

If you haven't got any of these, you can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate. However, postal votes are unaffected by the new legislation

so, if you are registered for one, just vote using the form you will receive before the election date.

If you think you would now like a postal vote then you have to apply for one by using a form. This is available on-line (Borough web site) though you will have to print and post it. I will provide some to Heacham and Sedgeford Parish Council offices to help anyone with printing difficulties. The address to post it to is on the top of the form.

All this only applies if you have registered to vote which might have slipped your mind if you have recently moved here. You can register on line. There are computers in Heacham library on the High St.

I am a current Borough Councillor for Heacham Ward which includes Sedgeford and Fring. I will be standing for election again in May. Your vote matters whether it is for me or for another candidate.

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It was 60 years ago today

Gareth Calway

Sixty Januarys ago the Beatles were on their first proper tour, a gruelling 5 gig winter whirlwind through Scotland. The first night (January 2, in the Highlands) was cancelled by arctic weather. The second was in an L shaped room in the Two Red Shoes Ballroom, Elgin, Morayshire in which some of the dancers couldn't even see the pre-Fab Four on the stage. The third - Twelfth Night 1963 - was in the Museum Hall, Bridge of Alan, Stirlingshire. The final night of the tour, on the day the decorations come down, was in the Sea Beach Ballroom in Aberdeen.

They thought they were doing well. Their first proper tour, future tours and BBC studios booked and a first chart 'hit' behind them- "Love Me Do, which peaked at Number 17 (most of its thousands of bought copies allegedly piled up in their manager's garage) . The world knows now what they had before them but in January 1963, after returning to Liverpool to head a five act bill at the Grafton Rooms on January 10, the nearest they had to their subsequent international profile - unless you count a live performance on BBC Radio in London on the 22nd - was a gig in North Wales on the 24th. Intriguing that 1963 the year of British Beatlemania (the world would have to wait until 1964) began in the Highlands of Scotland (Banffshire) cancelled by snow and ice and included a rare performance in Wales, where (in Cardiff, Dec 12 1965) this Liverpool-Irish band from what you might call the Celtic fringe of England would bring their 14, 166 gig concert tour career - in Britain at any rate - to a premature end.

On February 1963, after an eight days a week schedule of hard day's nights across the north of England including the Oasis Club Manchester (where they had played their first properly booked 'out of town' gig) down to the Midlands and Somerset they went in to Studio Two EMI Studios London to record their fabulous 14 track debut album. They could only afford to book the studio for one day so the whole thing was recorded in 24 continuous hours (John had a throat infection so his famous "Twist and Shout" lead vocal is a time-pressured first take recorded right at the end of the 24 hours, only made possible by a throat lozenge called Zubes and the brilliant harmony support and instrumental drive of his bandmates- it still sounds all right to me!) "Please Please Me Featuring Love Me Do and 12 other songs" included the title track and second single- "gentleman you have recorded your first Number One, said producer George Martin, and while that single only topped three of the four official charts the album stayed at Number One all year and would only be dislodged down to Number Two at Christmas 1963 by the Beatles themselves ("With the Beatles.") The



first LP made in such conditions probably the nearest we have to how rocking fabulous the Beatles actually sounded live, before those unforgettable screams they described as "like trying to sing in a bell factory" drowned them out for the next two years.

Peacock's Tale Folk Indie Duo EP "It Was Sixty Years Ago Today" which tells the Beatles story through narrative, pastiche and their own take on a selection of Beatles tracks across the 'Fab Four's career releases February 2023 on Bandcamp.

The EP kicks off with their cover of 'She Loves You' and will also feature 'She's Leaving Home' and six other Beatle related tracks including a lovely cover of 'When I'm 64' arranged for them by their musical friend Warwick Jones (from Fakenham).

This link will go live in February:

<https://peacocks-tale.bandcamp.com/album/it-was-60-years-ago-today-ep>



EQUITY RELEASE MADE SIMPLE



James Batchelor, Principal of Evergreen Equity Release Solutions, based on the historic Tuesday Market Place in King's Lynn, on making Equity Release simple.

When my business partner, Nigel Barrett and I first formed Barrett Batchelor Mortgage Services LLP, the aim was to not only be professional and efficient, but also to ensure that the service offered was personal and friendly. We firmly believed that this was required to make our company successful and is also what the people of Norfolk required. We were, and remain, determined to treat our clients with the respect they deserve and to ensure that they don't feel as if they are just a number, as can be the case when dealing directly with the big banks.

When we made the decision to extend our range of services a number of years ago by forming Evergreen Equity Release Services, it soon became apparent to us that this personal approach was probably even more important when dealing with people who were considering Equity Release.

Important decisions have to be made when people are approaching retirement, and using your property to raise funds could well be the most important one of all. It's fair to say that Equity Release is not for everyone, and part of the process I guide people through is explaining other options that may be available to them. In addition to this, future plans and state benefits could be affected. It's not a decision that should be rushed into and it all depends on your individual needs and personal circumstances.

Having said that, more and more people are recognising the benefits of raising money this way, and that it can be a very efficient way of doing so.

Many of you will still be very active in retirement, and still have plenty of plans ahead of you. If you no longer have a wage coming in, and maybe

your private pension has not performed as you had hoped for, the question that could be asked is how you can fund your future plans?

For many, it could be a case of having the majority of your wealth locked up in your home. Where some will look to downsize their property to release some money (not a cheap option in itself when you take into account the fees from estate agents, solicitors, potential stamp duty on the new purchase etc), more and more people are looking at the option of staying in their current property, and raising funds via Equity Release to enable them to do so.

One thing I am very keen to do is to explain to people how the Equity Release market has evolved over the last 25 years. You no longer have to sell your property to the bank, so you still retain ownership of the property. Another important point is the "No negative equity guarantee", which ensures that the amount you borrow will never exceed the debt on your property.

Examples of how I have assisted people with their Equity Release requirements are:

- raising funds to boost their income in retirement
- clearing an outstanding mortgage on their property
- property improvements
- assisting family members financially
- funding a new or existing hobby, such as caravanning

There are of course numerous other reasons you may be looking to raise money, and the importance of fully discussing such matters with a fully Qualified Equity Release Adviser cannot be stressed enough.

A big concern I have is that many people decide that Equity Release is not an option for them, without being in possession of the full facts. They could be missing out on a great opportunity due to this, and this is why I offer a completely free consultation, without any obligation. I'd even suggest that you bring a family member or a trusted friend with you to the meeting.

If you are fast approaching retirement (Equity Release is available to over 55's only), or indeed you have already reached this milestone in your life and would like to explore the options available to you, I'm here to offer a helping and guiding hand. To understand the features and risks, please ask for a personalised illustration.

If our service is of any interest to you, I'll be only too pleased to visit you in the comfort of your own home if you would prefer me to do so.



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A page from the Sage

Here we are again with the February 2023 issue of Town and Around.

Joy was looking on the web cam when she called me and said look here - and there was a man fishing of the promenade outside the Waterside - something we had not seen for many years. You sometimes get one or two people fishing off the promenade up the north end and a lot of people fishing by the powerboat slipway for eels but now all of the eels seemed to have disappeared, just like the mackerel, herring and the flat fish. Sixty years ago you would get many people fishing from small boats and also putting out long lines for dabs and nets for herring. I had a net, not a good one as it was all patched up, but once after we had been out playing crib I had sent my son and my daughter's boyfriend down to look at the net. When they hadn't got home by midnight Joy said you better go down south beach and look for them so I got on my trade bike with a couple of carrot nets in the carrier and it was a good job I did because there they were with one torch between them trying to get nearly 300 herring out of the net! The next day I took nearly all the fish up the club after sorting some of the best for myself and I gave the rest away.

Another time my mate Don and I had put a long line out as at the time we lived in a flat right near the beach in Seagate. We had been bait digging that afternoon so we baited the line up with cut worms, the line had about one hundred hooks on it. When we went out to the line nearly every hook had a dab on it so we took them home and I said to Don we will put the fish in the bath and we can sort them out in the morning. It was January 1970 and Joy was due to have another baby, the midwife had been that day and told Joy she would not have it for another day or two. Joy stayed in bed that morning so her friend Wendy came to keep an eye on her. I was at work at the Kit-Kat when Wendy came in she said I think Joy is going to have the baby now so I went to the nearby phone box to get the midwife but I could not get one. When I got back to the flat the baby was lying on the bed so I went back and phoned the surgery. They said it is okay Doctor Ford is on his way and about five minutes later I could hear the tyres on his Triumph Herald screeching as it came around the corner. Doctor Ford looked after Joy and the baby then he said I will bath her. I said I am sorry but you can't as the bath is full of fish, so he had to wash the baby, Wendy, in the sink in the kitchen.

I started fishing at a very young age. My mother and I lived at East Winch during the war with my granny, my two uncles and an aunt. My uncles went fishing a lot in a large and very deep pit over East Winch Common. When I was about five they would take me with them but my granny stopped me going as she said the pit was very deep and she said if I did fall in they would never get me out. Granny said that before the war a man was driving a horse and cart past the pit when the horse bolted and they all went into the pit and drowned; there were many attempts to find them but as the pit was so deep they were never found.

After the war we moved to Dersingham but I used to go on my summer school holidays with my Aunt Ada, Uncle Bob and my cousin Brian. The river Little Ouse runs by the town of Brandon and by now I had my own fishing tackle so I was able to catch a few fish mainly roach but sometimes a perch or two. When I left school at the age of fifteen and I went to work at Lamberts the ironmongers at Snettisham there was a chap worked there who went fishing at Stradsett Lake most Sundays in the season and he would pick me up in his old Ford Eight; we were told there were many different fish in the lake but we only ever caught roach, all of the other fish kept away from us. From the age of twelve I had my own bike so my mates and I would go down to Wolferton Pumping Station. We would catch some good eels which mother would cook for my tea. Once I caught a pike which mother was going to cook for my mum and dad and myself but there was so many



01485 535658

bones in it she chucked it away.

Whilst I worked at Lamberts a chap who worked there made me a twelve foot long sea fishing rod it was a very good rod but it was in one piece so you could not get it in a car or a bus so I gave it away.

When I got married in 1966 we moved to Hunstanton so I became more interested in sea fishing. I joined the local sea fishing club and we went on fishing trips all around the coast of Norfolk and Suffolk. One night fishing out of Lowestoft in a boat the handle on my reel broke and a chap in the boat gave me a six inch nail that he had in his tackle bag. I used this as a handle and with it I caught seven codling. A lot of us went to Kessingland beach to take part in a beach fishing competition organised by Mobil Oil; it was a mild sunny day in September and just under five hundred fishermen took part in this competition. The first prize was a holiday in Spain and there were twenty prizes in the competition. As there were only three fish caught the organizers decided to put the peg numbers in a bag and draw them out. I

was very lucky they drew out my peg, number eleven, and I won a large bale of bath towels. Joy was very pleased with these she said it made a change from smelly fish!

One day a mate of mine and I went beach fishing on the beach at Trimmingham. When we got there the tide was on its way out so we decided to fish it out and back. At about 4pm the tide was nearly right on and we had caught nothing then a young lad came on the beach and after about half an hour he reeled in a nice eight pound cod, we were flabbergasted so we packed up our tackle went back to the car and set off for home. On the way back we stopped at Wells and bought some fish and chips.

From 1970 I went fishing a lot, even on Hunstanton pier where we caught very little. Cromer pier was a good place to fish, you could catch a lot of mackerel there and the best thing about it was most of it was always in the water as the tide never went out far. As well as the Hunstanton Fishing Club there was the Hunstanton Tope Club whose members had four boats between them. They had a lot of competitions between them in the early nineteen seventies and they had a Tope Festival in the Wash with boats from all over the place and the King of Belgium, who did a lot of Tope fishing, came over to present the prizes.

The railway shut down in 1969 so the Railway Hotel was renamed the Wash and Tope Hotel and a Tope in a glass fronted case was hung on the wall at the back of the bar for many years then all of a sudden it went and nobody knows what ever happened to it - or do they?

Now then, let us stay with the sea. The wash barrier; I think that over the years this is the third time a wash barrier has been proposed, I know that an idea came about to turn the Wash into a fresh water lake and two small fresh water lakes were constructed in the Wash just off Terrington but after about four years the scheme was abandoned. The lakes are still there. Another pie in the sky idea was a bridge from Hunstanton to Skegness; the Wash is a wildlife haven and that's the way it should stay for ever and a day.

Christmas 2022 is over and as usual here in Hunstanton we had the Christmas Day Swim. This time it was back to its usual place off Johnson's Slipway on the Central Promenade at 11am. I only watched it on my web-cam but there looked to be a good lot of swimmers and as usual a large crowd of onlookers this was the 52nd sponsored swim. The sponsored swims started in 1970 though a small group of local people had been going for a swim in the sea at Hunstanton on Christmas Day for many years.

I hope you all had a good Christmas and let's hope 2023 will be a better year than 2022.

All the best to you all

The Boy Dick the Sage from Sunny Hunky

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MAKING TAX DIGITAL FOR INCOME TAX SELF ASSESSMENT DEFERRED – YET AGAIN!

By Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton

In an unexpected, but welcome, announcement, and despite repeated statements to the contrary since the last deferral in September 2021 HERC, confirmed on 19 December 2022 that the implementation of Making Tax Digital for Income Tax (MARITSA) will not now become mandatory until 5 April 2026, rather than 2024 as previously stated (or indeed the 2020 start as envisaged in 2015 when the process was first announced!).

Even better news is that the new regime of quarterly submissions will initially only apply to businesses and landlords with turnover in excess of £50,000. Those businesses turning over between £30,000 and £50,000 will have a further year, until April 2027, to prepare for the new rules. There will also be a “review into the needs of smaller businesses” – so whilst these are not entirely ruled out for the future, one can assume that implementation will not take place for at least three more years. No date has been given for the extension of the rules to general partnerships, other than that it will not now be 2025, as previously planned.

It is unclear exactly what has given rise to this change of heart, although likely causes might be:

- Continuing uncertainties with the interaction between MED and PAYE for those with multiple sources of income.
- Problems in the early trials of the system
- Lack of public engagement, particularly among smaller businesses and landlords, and those with a limited range of IT skills
- Lack of available free software and inability of some software packages to deal with more complex MED scenarios
- The fear that introducing a major change in a period of “challenging economic environment” might cause economic damage as some smaller businesses decide to close or accelerate retirement plans rather than comply.

It seems unlikely that the project will be abandoned, since too much



cost and effort has already been expended, and the more likely course of events is that taxpayers will, over the next few years, be encouraged into early adoption, with the aim of ironing out all the problem areas before entry become mandatory. One might even guess that by 2026/27 the proportion of “aged and disengaged” taxpayers will be that much smaller so implementation and enforcement will be less difficult.

Whilst the issue will move into the background for the time being, businesses now have a strictly defined and achievable date to introduce digital systems and ensure they are in good working order by the time MED really does happen.

Please contact either myself or my partner Nicola Tarry FAC. on 01485 534800 or email kate@katalyzing.co.uk if you require any advice regarding digitizing your accounting records and any concerns about MARITSA.

Mrs K H Gigg FAC.

N.B. Article written in January 2023

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

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New Hunstanton Women's Institute

The Mayor of Hunstanton Maureen Howard was the special guest at the December meeting. She was amazed by all the goodies the members had donated to the Mayor's Christmas Fogbank Appeal and she thanked everybody.

Entertainment was by David Young in the form of a musical quiz very much enjoyed. The Christmas hat competition was won by Carol Comer, our Secretary.

A full program is arranged for 2023, new members and visitors very welcome.

Crossword solution

Across: 1. At variance, 6. Flow, 10. Ailment, 11. On order, 12. Unnoticed, 13. Meets, 14. Pierced, 15. Blotto, 19. Prefab, 21. Concept, 25. Lhasa, 27. Puissance, 28. Pitcher, 29. Sparred, 30. Echo, 31. Ascendancy
Down: 1. Abacus, 2. Valentine, 3. Re-enter, 4. Articles, 5. Cloudy, 7. Ledger, 8. Workshop, 9. Formal, 16. Tip-and-run, 17. Apple pie, 18. Non-issue, 20. Apathy, 22. Costard, 23. Sparks, 24. Needle, 26. Aitch

Kathryn Gigg

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Winterwatch at Wild Ken Hill

Chris Packham and Michaela Strachan were back at Wild Ken Hill on 16th January preparing for a fortnight of live programmes in what will be the last Winterwatch from this location.



KL1 Radio's Richard Dix (left) talking tech with Outside Broadcast Engineer Adam Robbins who is in the Vision Supervisor

On-site at lunchtime on 16th the BBC production team and presenters were meeting the press, including ourselves.

Asked what they were most looking forward to Chris Packham said: "We have got the thermal camera back which gives us the opportunity to see the animals doing things that you would never see in real life. Last year we had a fox taking a stoat which was an extraordinary piece of behaviour. That thermal camera is really cutting edge."

Michaela said: "I'm always excited to see what the star of Winterwatch will be."

Chris Bishop asked what the team would like to see before they leave Wild Ken Hill. "Foxes," said Chris, "we've seen a few but not many, a polecat would be good but any of the mid-size mammal predators that play a really important ecological role, and without

them you haven't got a fully functional ecology, and those numbers really need to pick up here at Wild Ken Hill."

The question from T&A was: "So after two years here, what do you consider is the legacy for Wild Ken Hill and going forward what would you like to see them do?"

Michaela said "I hope that other farms would be inspired by the work they've done here and what they've seen and the fact that you can do farming and wildlife hand-in-hand which is what we've shown. Both can be productive so I hope other farms can be inspired by it and want to follow."

Chris added: "We're going to leave and take all our cameras with us, but Wild Ken Hill need the opportunity to bring people here and show people what they are doing, so part of that is diversification and what we see in

UK farming is the more farmers can diversify and employ new business practices the more they profit, sometimes to significant levels. I read a report recently that in parts of Wales where diversification has within three years increased profits by 20%.

"What Wild Ken Hill needs to do now is to make sure they can get public visitors; we want the public and farmers to come here, stay here, and see the work they've done then go away, copy it and spread the word."

"This needs to be seen as a site of excellence where people can come and visit and recognise effectively how little it costs to achieve that excellence and how profitable it can become in terms of the future of the farming here, and everyone who lives and works in the community."

Photos: Ian Burt

Barclays Bank to close its Hunstanton branch

Customers of Barclays have been told that the branch in Hunstanton will close on 12th April

Rumours around Hunstanton that Barclays would close soon were confirmed in mid January as letters to customers dropped through the letterbox.

The company says that fewer customers are using the branch as they are choosing to bank differently these days. A statement from the bank said that only twenty-one 21 customers use the branch regularly as the only way to do their banking. They go on to say that they are finalising details of where and when they will be based to support customers in the future with a Barclays Local, a pop-up cashless banking site where customers can meet a colleague face-to-face for banking support.

Customers wishing to visit a Barclays branch will have the choice of High Street King's Lynn which is sixteen and a half miles from the Hunstanton branch or Market Place Fakenham at nineteen and a half miles away. The bank also points customers to Post Offices who offer limited banking services.

Alternative cash machines are available at the Nationwide Building Society on Greevegate and Boots in the High Street.

Barclays said: "The decision to close a branch is never easy and

we appreciate this might not be welcome news.

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Pride in our Neighbourhoods - 67

Andrew Murray

The public hearings to determine the soundness of the Borough's Draft Local Plan commenced on Tuesday 6 December at the South Lynn Community Centre. I attended the sessions for three days before Christmas and a further day on 10 January. When I attended on the 11th, the two Planning Inspectors announced that the remaining five planned sessions were to be cancelled to allow the Borough time to produce further evidence to justify their spatial strategy.

The Inspectors have been analysing the way in which land allocated for housing development and employment is proposed to be spread around the Borough and noticed some anomalies. In particular, some localities described as growth areas had few if any allocations. They have also been reviewing all the sites currently under construction and removing from the housing trajectory those that have been completed. It is expected that the Borough will need several weeks if not months to produce the required evidence before the hearings can recommence.

My main concern which affects Heacham, Hunstanton and the villages along the North Norfolk Coast is that there is no policy either in the National Planning Policy Framework or in the current Local Plan to provide the members of the Planning Committee with valid reasons for refusing permission when it is evident that the proposed development is inappropriate for that area on account of its size or over

specification. Developers find it to be more profitable to build for the second home or holiday market. The result is that local people can neither afford to buy or rent homes in the area and are forced to move elsewhere. The mere number of homes that are built does not necessarily equate with meeting the need.

It is now recognised that the development of large shopping complexes in the Hardwick estate has harmed the viability of King's Lynn Town centre. To a lesser extent the development of shopping oases at Drove Orchards, Burnham Deepdale and Creak Abbey takes trade away from Hunstanton Town Centre. The remedy is not to impose restrictions on these oases but to level the playing field by permitting shoppers to have two hours of free parking near the town centres.

The major development that is planned is at West Winch where initially 1600 homes are proposed eventually rising to 4000. Even though the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies of 2016 state that the developer(s) must make suitable arrangements for public transport to route through the wider site, and connectivity to main routes to encourage non car modes, the outline planning permissions do not provide for efficient connectivity between the three main centres within the development or with the Hardwick and town centre.

The 2nd Twinning Sign is in place North of Lighthouse Lane

John Maiden

The Twinning of Hunstanton with the USAF 67th SOS took place in May 2016.

Nearly 7 years later a 2nd Twinning Sign is now in place to the north of Lighthouse Lane, thanks to collaboration between Norfolk County Council and King's Lynn Signs.

Perfect timing for the 70th Anniversary of the catastrophic Floods on January 31st 1953.



From the Mayor of Hunstanton

Cllr Maureen Howard

It has been 70 years since that tragic night of the floods. On 31st January 1953, 31 people living in Hunstanton, unfortunately lost their lives, 15 local people and 4 families from the United States. An event which left many families without houses and loved ones, and changed many lives for ever. Hunstanton Town Council recognised the importance of that fateful night and the significance it holds in the history of Hunstanton and organised a poignant commemoration day which brought together many of the local emergency services, dignitaries and people from the local community and schools.

Displays from the Hunstanton Heritage Centre and Sculthorpe Heritage Centre remained in the Town Hall the following day, and schools were invited along to learn about heroic rescues and how much people suffered as its important the younger people learn about the floods and the impact it had on the town.

Local elections will be taking place in May, and once again, I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that becoming a councillor is open to all. If you feel you are able to make a difference, then please contact the clerk on 01485 532402 to get information on becoming a councillor. It does take a fair amount of time, but it is rewarding.

As we approach the Spring, it will be good to see the town spring into life again with visitors and residents once more taking advantage of everything the town has to offer. Rainbow Park will open on February 11th, weather permitting, a sure sign that the summer season will soon be us once more.

The Councils Helping Hands in the Community Hub at the Town Hall café is growing weekly and more organisations are participating, offering their valuable services. During February and March there will be 'Art Therapy' courses and cookery demonstrations. So please don't be shy, come along on a Monday or Wednesday, have a chat over a cup of tea or coffee, make new friends, and see how it can help you, as well as having the chance to buy goods from the community supermarket at reduced prices on a Monday. Also available and free, is perfectly edible food, collected from local supermarkets and businesses that would otherwise have been deemed for landfill.

The Friday Friendship Group on a Friday morning at the Community Centre continues to grow, offering a warm welcome and an opportunity to make new friends.

These groups are organised by Hunstanton Town Council for your benefit, so please come along and see how we can help you.

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Borough Council News Heacham, Sedgeford and Fring

Cllr Terry Parish

The year moves swiftly on. First item is something which may be positive, two more funds from government intending to improve life. These are the Shared Prosperity Fund and its supplement, the Rural England Prosperity Fund. I am assured that the money does not originate in China/

The aim of the Shared Fund is 'to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK'. £1.856 million has been allocated to West Norfolk. I am still unsure of how anyone will know if the aim has been met and much of the fund appears to have been allocated to 'projects' though there may be capacity to do things people want, so look out for news releases. Much of it is linked to towns so of less direct interest to our communities.

However, the Rural England prosperity fund is meant to address, 'the extra needs and challenges facing rural areas.' We are such an area. I picked up on this fund in the autumn and asked that it was not cut and diced between existing initiatives but put into the public arena. The answer to my question at Council before Christmas seemed to confirm this would be done and a recent meeting of the Environment and Community (E&C) panel underlined it.

The indicative allocation is for £1.5million, 25% of which is available in 22/23 and 75% 24/25. It is for capital investment only, into lasting assets such as buildings and equipment to support rural communities and businesses. Do look out for announcements in the press, on the Council website, via Parish Councils, and from me if I know first.

The delayed meeting about sea water quality took place on Dec 22nd. The Environment Agency and Anglian Water was present. 2022 was confirmed as the second year of a Poor rating for the sea off Heacham beaches, Hunstanton was Sufficient, Old Hunstanton dropped from Good to Sufficient. Apparently, deterioration in quality has not been uncommon in 2022 around the English coast.

Numerous possible reasons have been postulated but evidence to support them is lacking. Microbial Source Tracking (MST) analysis will be used to determine where investigations need to proceed when funding has been agreed. Actions will involve checking the sediment of the Heacham River and associated ditches, and pollution prevention visits to areas adjacent to the coast etc. Another meeting will be held on March 13th.

I briefly commented, before Christmas, on the Portevo 'project' to place a barrier across The Wash. My statement that I thought it a daft idea received criticism in some quarters, support in others. At least it made people think about it.

I am concerned that the proposers are acquiring several millions of pounds to advance their cause whilst those who have doubts will not have access to such resources. Consequently, I raised the issue (with others) at the January E&C panel. I was told, perhaps, time could be found in about 2 years. I will be shaping up proposals which can be taken to Council rather sooner. Any perceived benefits need to be weighed against detrimental impacts and the public told both sides.

Serendipitously, at that meeting, the Harbour Master of the Kings Lynn Conservancy Board gave an excellent presentation about the

work of the board – piloting, maintaining navigable channels, pollution control, buoy maintenance, etc etc. It was very interesting and deserves its own article. He was asked about the barrage idea. He told us that he had not been approached at all but could see likely problems for the Port of Lynn.



The Harbour Master explained about the changing sand bar patterns in The Wash which required navigation guidance to be constantly refreshed and would also, now, require some dredging work. One of the contributory problems was the lack of water flowing into the Wash. The hot summer added to the ongoing issue of water extraction from the Ouse and other rivers. This is done by water companies to provide drinking water and has become more significant in recent years.

There is a parallel locally because the Heacham River regularly disappears between Fring and Sedgeford and not just in summer. This is due to over extraction at the Fring boreholes. A new pipeline bringing water from Lincolnshire is planned but when that will deliver and whether it will help the rivers and the Port is yet to be determined. Water supply never figures in any large-scale planning developments and there is no requirement to harvest rainwater for toilet flushing etc.

Before Christmas I attended, as an observer, one of the Examination into the Local Plan Review days. The very big West Winch development came under scrutiny. Inspectors and participants raised some incisive questions and it is clear that drainage and roads still pose concerns for locals.

In Heacham, we are beginning the 6th year since the large housing development off Cheney Hill first became approved in outline. When the reserved matters will come before planning committee is still unknown. A promised public consultation has not happened and no approaches made to the Parish Council for several years. Rising construction costs and interest rates are impacting on other developments so who knows? I will ask yet again.

The two significant applications by Wild Ken Hill are moving towards completion in, I surmise, March or April when they will go before planning committee. NCC Highways hasn't come to a decision yet but indications are that they foresee any traffic problems can be resolved albeit with some conditions. They are relying on the applicant to provide more traffic analysis on which they will base their decision. There are currently just 21 public comments, 12 objections, 7 in support. Whatever your thoughts you should really send them in.

Proposals for the County development of the school site at Sedgeford will soon be outlined.

An attempt by developers at South Wootton to remove a planning condition to allow some building to commence without the previously agreed roundabout access was refused by a unanimous vote at planning committee. NCC Highways supported the developers which sums up their stance on traffic disruption in the Knights Hill area. The developers could go to appeal which would take about a year. Much quicker to build the roundabout and honour their earlier agreement.

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HISTORY OF HOLME NEXT THE SEA

By Terry Hegarty

1953 Flood

On the evening of the flood we had a visit from the coastguard who said that a huge flood would happen with the next incoming tide. We weren't to be evacuated from Corner Cottage, but it was recommended that all of our furniture downstairs was to be taken upstairs. We couldn't get the furniture up the stairs, so everything was piled on top of tables downstairs.

Holme Farm was not only a farm it was also a riding stables of some note with about 60 horses and ponies at that time. In the winter a lot of the ponies were "turned out to the marsh" which was where they grazed from late October through to the following March. The "Marsh" was a large field with the northern boundary being the river Hun. It is situated approximately halfway between Holme and Thornham.

My father was tasked with the job of going to the marsh on the night of the flood, to open all the gates so that the 20 or so ponies could escape. Didn't matter where they escaped to, they were to be found and caught later.

It was pitch dark when dad went with his horse "Finney" down to the marsh. By the time he got there the flood had already happened. There were two gates to open. The first gate had about 3 feet of water surrounding it, so was difficult to open and meant being thoroughly soaked in salt water. The second and more important gate could only be reached by swimming about 200 yards. Dad was not a strong swimmer so he hung on to Finney's neck and the pair of them swam to it together. When the gate was reached and opened there was still no sign of the ponies, so the two of them swam to an area of high ground where all of the ponies were found, cold but safe and sound. The ponies were far too clever to be persuaded to leave the high ground, so dad and Finney began the swim back to dry land.

The flood had carried in a roll of barbed wire, (formerly in use as part of WW2 defences) which wrapped itself around Finney's back legs part way through the return swim. Fortunately farm workers would invariably have a tool or two in their jacket pockets back then, dad had a jackknife and pliers. After managing to cut the wire the pair got back to dry land desperately cold and with significant cuts, bruises and abrasions. On getting back to Home Farm the first thing to be done was to dry off Finney, clean up his cuts and abrasions, put a blanket on him and feed him a hot mix of bran and oats. All of that took over an hour and all that time my father was thoroughly soaked through and probably suffering from exposure.

How the pair of them managed to survive is really beyond me. It isn't unkind to say that both were bad tempered, but very determined, so that's probably what got them through.

The flood waters didn't quite reach Corner Cottage, they stopped about 10 yards short. By the following morning the water had receded about 100 yards down beach road, to be level with the property Brownsea. The water stayed level with Brownsea for several days.

I don't believe any lives were lost in Holme due to the flood but a number of people needed to be rescued over the next few days.

Searles amphibious DUKW was the rescue vehicle/boat. My memory is that the Misses Ellender, Mrs Bellars, Mr and Mrs Parker, Mrs Bond and Mr and Mrs Morris all had reason to be grateful for the DUKW.

After the people were rescued my father and I were able to go on the DUKW to the small field in Firs Approach which he rented so that he could grow his own crops and keep additional chickens. During earlier trips the chickens had been spotted perched on the roof of their coup, which was floating in the middle of the field. Chickens are not usually all that easy to catch but the dozen or so we had there were delighted to be rescued. When we got them back to Corner Cottage it quickly became apparent we hadn't enough space for them plus the ones we already had in the garden. We had to have a cull and consequently we ate most of the rescued ones over the next 6 weeks or so.

When the flood waters receded, it wasn't a gradual process. All of a sudden one day the water was gone.

A walk down Beach road revealed that the flood had cut a deep channel through the Golf Course before making its way up beach road.

All of the fresh water fish in the Hun perished, not being able to cope with salt water. I remember finding a dead pike, which as a small boy I thought was enormous but which was probably only 5 or 6 pounds in weight.

Work on new improved sea defences, plus the planting of huge amounts of Marram grass went on for the best part of a couple of years.

Ice skates and climate change

In the 1940s and 1950s many of the households in the village would have a pair of ice skates hanging from a nail on the back of the kitchen door, or in the coal shed.

Winters were colder then, and after a few days of frosts the skates would come out and young men would skate down the iced up ditches to shallow but open areas of water on the fresh water marsh where they would have friendly competitions/races with each other. Sometimes money changed hands.

This activity more or less stopped in the mid 1950s due to a lack of quality ice. Although 1963 saw the sea freeze up so that was probably the last year that skating occurred.

Doesn't at this time seem all that believable but goes to indicate that climate change may well have started earlier than some might think.

Sea Henge(s)

I first saw the Henge in, I believe, 1953. It was a little bit after the flood.

Nobody took that much notice of it back then. I suppose the country was trying to recover from WW2 and the flood.

There is, or certainly was, more than one Henge. I have memories of two more, although they lacked the centrepiece of the famous, but sadly vandalised one.

The two smaller ones were to the west of the famous one, but I am not saying how far.

All three "disappeared" within a few months of my first seeing them - just what you would expect from a beach subject to a regular scouring by the tides which come in and go out a long way twice a day.

There was an area of pretty deadly quicksand near one of the smaller Henges. The quicksand has gone too. Again, it must be something to do with the tides.

Editor's note:

This is Part 1 of Terry Hegarty's memories, mainly from the Beach Road area in Holme-next-the-Sea during the 1940s - 1960s that have been sent to T&A by his sister Mary Christodoulou. Mary tells us that Terry died last August after a serious illness.

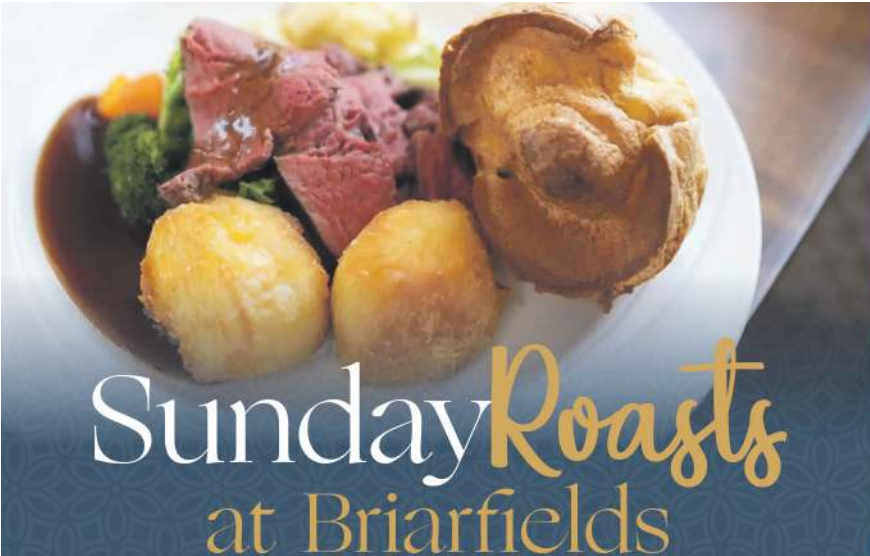
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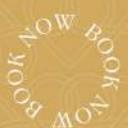


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Michaela says: "Lockdown presented opportunities for us to widen the scope of the business and add on our maintenance services.

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Hunstanton Society news

We have a number of items of news for you, particularly following the meetings that were held on 14th December in the Heritage Centre.

Our Chair, Amanda Bosworth, reports as follows:

An exciting year ahead for the Society and Heritage Centre

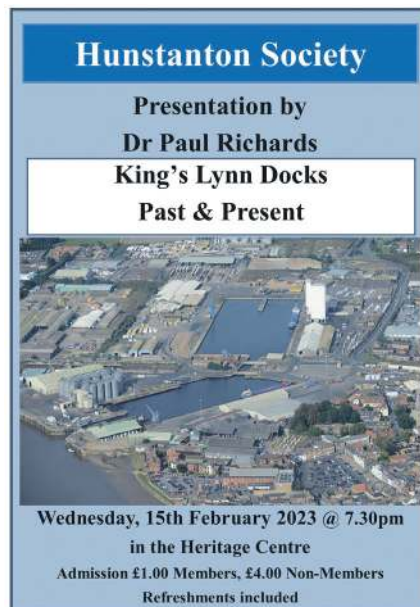
Hunstanton and District Civic Society celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2022. During the year, the committee carried out a wide review of operations and considered whether any changes might be required to adapt to the changing environment.

Immediately following the Annual General Meeting on 14 December 2022, an Extraordinary General Meeting was held to put forward two Resolutions for consideration and we are very happy to report that both Resolutions were carried.

The name of Hunstanton and District Civic Society has been formally changed to "Hunstanton Society", effective from 11th January 2023. The thinking behind this change was given in the explanatory Notes under the heading 'Moving Forward' that was distributed with the AGM Agenda papers. At the same time, the following clause was added to the Articles of Association of the Society:

"2.1(d) to promote and preserve for the benefit of the public a museum and local studies centre with material of historical, artistic and social importance to the people in the area of benefit".

All material relating to the Society will be modified in line with this change, as and when possible, over the coming months. The area of benefit will not change.



This addition of the clause in our Articles of Association will enable the Society to apply for registration as 'Working towards Accredited Museum Status' for the Heritage Centre. The name of the Heritage Centre will not change.

Once confirmed as 'eligible', museums have three years with 'Working towards Museum Accreditation' status to submit a full application. During this time, museums are eligible for support and grants from Museum Development sources. There will be much work involved while we try to achieve this status, which is why the Arts Council give applicants so much time. The Committee believes that in applying for this accreditation

there will be an incentive for us to take the Society forward, enhance its profile, increase its membership and improve its benefit to the residents of Hunstanton as well as our visitors.

At the AGM members duly elected the new Committee of Directors and Trustees, as follows:

Chair: Amanda Bosworth, Secretary: Sheila Kent, Treasurer: Stephen Kent. Other Committee members elected – Tony Armstrong, Bob Clark, Val Everitt, Andrew Murray plus two new committee members, Jackie and Bill Cunliffe, who were welcomed with open arms!

Margi Blunden decided not to stand for re-election and she was thanked for her many years of service on the Committee. We also warmly welcomed Canny Jones who has very kindly offered to take on maintenance of the Heritage Centre and Railway gardens, taking over from Margi.

Heritage Centre

Just before Christmas we cleared out the Main Room and Railway Room ready for a contractor to create a Fire Proof Intumescent barrier between the Ground Floor and the upstairs accommodation. This will enable our Landlord to eventually obtain a change of use from commercial to residential use for the upper floor. Those attending the AGM will have seen the main room somewhat empty looking. We are now about to rehang many of the displays that were there previously, but with some modifications. We are planning to re-open the Heritage Centre to the public on Wednesday, 15th February and will host a talk by Dr Paul Richards (King's Lynn Docks - Past and Present) that same evening.

Time to rid our Conservation Area of the Hangar

John Maiden

Before we moved into a newly built house on Hunstanton Road, Heacham, more than 40 years ago, the owner of the land submitted a planning application to West Norfolk District Council in October 1979. In response he was advised by a District Planning Officer that our new house must "be designed in sympathy with the traditional building character of the area." The Planning Officer making this demand was Clifford Walters, which prompts the question: why on earth didn't he insist that plans for "Hunstanton Pier", submitted in June 2002, had to be in sympathy with the traditional building character of the surrounding Conservation Area?

By this time Mr Walters had become Councillor Walters, Deputy Chairman of the Borough Council's Development Control Board. In the absence of the Chairman, Councillor Brenda Burch, on September 9th 2002 Clifford Walters was instrumental in rushing through a revised application for the 'hangar', which was almost identical to an application that had been unanimously rejected by the Board less than two months earlier.

In answer to a question he assured members of the Board that the proposed structure would occupy no more land on The Green than the previous entrance to a pier, which had not existed since 1978. A fact that must have been known to Councillor Walters, since it was during his time as a Planning Officer that he had given Listed Building Consent for the demolition of the Pierhead, which had survived the storm on January 11th 1978.

Within days of work commencing on the hangar it finally dawned on the Council that the proposed hangar would cover more land on The Green than had been covered by the previous structure. Amazingly, no one on the Council had worked out that the site area of the new building would be large enough to require consultation with English Heritage. As a result of this omission English Heritage was not consulted and, in spite of overwhelming opposition, the council tried to solve a problem of its own making by causing a bad situation to become even worse.

Fully aware that The Green is supposed to be protected by a



The Hangar viewed from the south in August 2021

restrictive covenant, imposed by Bernard le Strange in 1955 for the benefit of local inhabitants and visitors, the council permitted the hangar to encroach on even more of The Green than any previous building on the site set aside for a pier entrance.

Now, in case anyone is under the impression that I am going over old ground simply for the hell of it, I am not. In my book this highlights the need for the Borough Council to come clean and admit to mistakes made by its members and officers. Then the current leader has a duty to unravel the numerous failed attempts to cover up those mistakes. As a former police officer he will be aware that if an offence is reported to the person in overall charge, and they choose to ignore it, they will be committing an act of misconduct in public office.

It would have been better to have started the clean-up operation years ago, but the recent change of Pier Leaseholder makes it essential for the Borough Council to ensure that the new leaseholder replaces the hangar with a pier. If this is what is intended, all well and good. The alternative is for the council to enforce the terms of pier lease, or take all the necessary steps to rid our Conservation Area of the hangar, just as the riverside at King's Lynn lost all of its unsightly silos!



Hunstanton Pier in the early 1950's - before the rot set in



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Cabinet backs £600 million-plus county deal for Norfolk

Councillors have agreed to progress a £612.9m County Deal, to transfer more powers and funding from the Government to Norfolk.

Following a two hour debate at full council on 17th January, the council's cabinet agreed to progress the deal.

County Council leader Councillor Andrew Proctor, who signed the in-principle deal with the Government last month, said: "We have a generational opportunity to unlock significant long-term funding, gain greater freedom to decide how best to meet local needs and create new opportunities for the people who live and work in Norfolk."

"Moving decisions and funding previously controlled in Westminster to Norfolk, for Norfolk; to take control of our own destiny

and shape our future; a catalyst for change to build on our strengths, address challenges, deliver infrastructure and grow the economy.

"For too long has Norfolk as a rural county been left behind, which is why devolution is a prize, and one worth fighting for."

A six week public consultation on the deal will be launched on 6 February. The full council will decide whether to support the change to an elected leader, in December. If approved, an election will be held in May 2024.

For further details on the County Deal, including the full text, visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/norfolkcountydeal. You can register for updates at countydeal@norfolk.gov.uk.

Editor's note: See also Alexandra Kemp's article on page 4

NEWS FROM BRANCASTER VILLAGE HALL (BVH)

Geoff Wingrove

Community Hot Spot Lunch

As a major innovation in the New Year, BVH will be hosting Brancaster's first Community Hot Spot Lunch, which will begin a monthly series that will last four months and then recommence in August. This is a joint effort between the Church and BVH; lunches will be provided from 18th January, 12.00pm until 3.00pm, at a cost of a £1 donation.

Future events

Raising Cain, a professional theatre company, will bring their show to BVH in March: view our website for details.

Other

For details of all future events at BVH and our regular activities, please visit our website: www.brancastervillagehall.co.uk mail: brancastervillagehallcommunitybookings.co.uk

FROM THE BRANCASTER VILLAGE HALL ARCHIVE SMUGGLING ALONG THE NORTH WEST NORFOLK COAST IN THE 18th CENTURY

This is a story about a significant period in Brancaster's history which is mixed with that of the other villages along the North West Norfolk coast. The principal events run in the main from Old Hunstanton to Wells-next-the-Sea, but also involve the coast along to Stiffkey and Blakeney.

In the 18th century Brancaster, together with other villages along the North West Norfolk coast, was extremely poor – a shadow of today's village. Most villagers were employed in the farming or fishing industries, and during the winter faced desperate times when the farming work tailed off and the sea conditions made fishing impossible. Villagers looked to other ways of making money in order to scrape a living to survive. North West Norfolk has a huge number of isolated beaches, where it is possible to land a boat relatively easily and without detection.

In these circumstances it is no wonder that the smuggling trade flourished, led by characters of determination and ruthlessness. The smugglers offered the additional income

that impoverished villages needed to survive if they were not to starve; such income ensured the loyalty and active involvement of village communities in their dealings with smugglers. An added advantage was that the North West Norfolk beaches were also remote from the main Customs Houses and Excise Offices which were based in King's Lynn and Wells.

On the Government side, a great deal of its income was derived from customs and excise duties that were charged on goods entering the country: it therefore had every incentive to stop the smuggling trade.

In the 1780s the remote beaches and coastal creeks of North West Norfolk witnessed an upsurge in illegal activity and violent confrontation, which was at times class insurrection. The smuggling gangs grew in size, power and audacity, and the Government side always struggled to cope. A desire to bypass customs and excise was prevalent across all social classes in order to access cheap brandy, gin, tobacco, wine, tea and silk.

As this business became a serious drain on reserves, the forces of law and order began to take firmer action. Officers of the Board of Customs and the Board of Excise became the front line in this fight; Custom Riding Officers became the first line in the intelligence operations. They patrolled the isolated beaches that, unlike those of King's Lynn, Wells and Blakeney, did not have customs houses. One of these Riding Officers was based at Brancaster: not unnaturally, his presence was not welcomed or popular, and could be dangerous amongst a hostile village populace who detested his role.

The smuggling became so extensive and financially damaging that the Customs and Excise officers were overwhelmed, and the Government decided to bring in Dragoon units from the army to reinforce the local officers and also increase the Navy presence off the coast.

One of the most famous episodes on the coast occurred in September 1784. This event happened at Old Hunstanton, where William Kemball, a notorious and long serving smuggler, was attempting to land goods. Following seizure of the cargo by the authorities and their transport to nearby

William Clare's farmhouse, Kemball and his supporters planned to ambush the Customs and Excise officers and retrieve the smuggled goods. In the ensuing fracas, which involved a mixed group of Excise Officers and Dragoons, Private Webb was killed outright and William Green, an Excise Officer, critically wounded.

Kemball and two other smugglers were caught and arrested at the scene of the crime and - in an extraordinary miscarriage of justice at the Thetford Assizes - subsequently acquitted; it was rumoured that bribes were paid to witnesses and jurors. Kemball returned to smuggling, and was finally arrested by the Navy off the coast, but subsequently disappeared in mysterious circumstances.



The pictures show the graves of Private Webb and William Green in the churchyard of St. Mary's Church, Old Hunstanton.

Finally, could I recommend an excellent book by Neil Holmes, "The Lawless Coast", which offers a much more detailed account of these smuggling events, with some extensive research.



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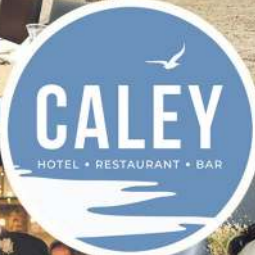
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THE BARKING BUGLE NEWS

What a really busy time my sisters Ziggy Bear, Clara and I have had in the last few weeks! I cannot believe some of the things we have done since I was rescued from a horrible puppy farm where I had the misfortune to spend most of my life. I would now like to woof from the comfort of my doggy duvet about the fun adventures the team has had recently.

Early one morning in December we visited Santa Paws' Grotto in Norwich which was utterly pawsome. We all posed nicely with a human dressed up as a doggy and, incredibly, an Anglian TV crew arrived soon afterwards and asked if they could take some photos of all three of us. We naturally woofed back in the affirmative and couldn't believe our eyes when we saw ourselves on the local news station later in the day.

One thing I would thoroughly recommend to all my furry four legged friends is a trip to Holkham Hall just before Christmas for a spot of Canine Carolling. Some really nice humans had put on an event just for doggies. A few people read out poems about man's best friend and there were five pawsome carols to sing, including my favourite, 'Bark The Herald Angels Sing.' Ziggy was a real star and started singing (or howling some might say!) as soon as the first one began, much to everyone's amusement. This set me off too and I'd like to think I gave Ziggy a run for her money! It was great to see so many doggies present for such an unusual event. There was even a small fun dog show afterwards and a guided walk in the grounds. This is only the second time the Canine Carolling has been organised and we will certainly go again in December if there is to be a third one.

The most impawtant thing we did on the lead up to Christmas was to have a collection outside Hunstanton in Tesco, in order to raise funds for PACT Animal Rescue Sanctuary, a cause very dear to our hearts. The wonderful volunteers who work at the Sanctuary help lots of animals, not just doggies, who have been injured, neglected or abandoned, to lead a happier and healthier life. Places like this really need our help and supawwt. I have to admit I did shed a few doggy tears when we discovered that we had raised the princely sum of £371.

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I know what it's like to have a sad life and I also know that this money will really help a lot of the animals at the Sanctuary. First of all I would like to woof a huge THANK YOU to all you generous humans who gave so willingly for such a worthwhile cause. I would also like to bark a big thank you to all the humans and the doggies who took part in the collection, namely my pawrents, Alex, Maureen, Rachel, Fran, Sophie, Ziggy Bear, Clara, Marmite, Ollie and Hero. However, I would like to reserve the loudest woof for Emma, the Manager at Tesco, for allowing us to do a collection in the first place. Without her assistance and friendliness this would not have happened at all.



On Christmas Day the BB team decided to visit the Royal Family at Sandringham. Well, we are Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, aren't we, and it would be rude not to give our respects to our new King, who funnily enough has the same name as us!! Can you believe it, while we were waiting in line to enter the grounds a BBC crew interviewed us live on TV that morning! A very friendly repawter took a shine to us because we looked very festive in our Christmas jumpers and also because my very loud sister, Ziggy Bear, was howling long before the church service was due to begin! She's such an attention seeker! I don't know why but we always seem to be in the right place at the right time! Lots of humans took photos of us and we even posed with two policemen. My sister was in great form again soon afterwards when the Royals appeared on their walk to the church. Her howling made most of them look over towards us and smile. Indeed, King Charles, leading the way with Camilla, pointed over at Ziggy and gave her a great big beaming smile. Someone has since told me that this means she has been knighted so I will have to curtsy and call her Dame Ziggy from now on! Oh no, I don't think I could cope with that! Camilla stopped by very briefly and commented on our smart festive outfits and Sophie, the Duchess of Wessex, talked with admiration about Ziggy's howling.

I can hardly believe that little ole' me, who did not have the best start in life, has now laid eyes on our King and has even been interviewed live on TV. How woofastic is that! We would like to thank all our friends and supawwters for the lovely comments we have received and we wish everyone a very Yappy New Year!

**Woofs Miss Zsa Zsa Gapaw,
Editor of the Barking Bugle
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News from the Woottons

Richard Coates

I enjoy writing my column News from The Woottons for Town and Around Magazine but it does seem to come round a lot faster than once a month - and so it has done this time. Of course, we have to write these columns somewhat in advance of you actually reading them so this one is my first to be written since Christmas/New Year and there's a lot happened for most of us in that time. In The Woottons we've had a victory! Yes, it really does feel like that. But victory for someone inevitably means that someone else is a loser and that is precisely the case here.

Some of you will remember that there's going to be a building boom in The Woottons - it's already started with 125 Persimmon homes being built off Nursery Lane. Many of us are concerned about the total number of homes for which planning permission has been granted because, back in 2016, there was an application to build 600 homes on a site near the Knights Hill roundabout. The Borough Council refused that application but the applicant successfully appealed in 2020. In the meantime Persimmon Homes put in its application for 125 homes in June 2017 for the Nursery Lane site and Allison Homes did likewise, the same month, for 450 homes on an adjacent site - that's the one accessed from Edward Benefer Way, which runs into Grimston Road which goes to Knights Hill and the 600 proposed homes near Knights Hill roundabout - now keep up please!

The Borough Council decided that, because the road from Knights Hill to King's Lynn is so busy, before any construction work takes place, the Allison Homes are to build a roundabout on the Edward Benefer Way to make the traffic flow easier. But the bean counters at Allison Homes decided that it was going to cost £1.6m to build the roundabout and it would take six months. So Allison Homes applied for that planning condition to be changed, saying that this cost made the whole project "financially unviable". Instead it wanted to start construction work on the main project at the same time as it started to build the roundabout. I objected as did the local parish councils. We both spoke when it came before the Borough Council Planning Committee on 9 January and I'm pleased to say that the Planning Committee agreed and said that the original planning condition stayed - Allison Homes must build the roundabout first. So, a victory for us. But will it mean that Allison Homes throw in the towel and say it's not going to build those 450 homes because it's "not financially viable"? Well, I spoke with the man from Allison Homes after the



planning meeting and all he could talk about was how he was going to get his construction vehicles on to the site to build the roundabout so, as I thought, the "not financially viable" was just a try-on. And The Woottons won! So who were the losers? I reckon Allison Homes and their accountants because next time they try a similar tactic, we'll remember what they said. Probably the same goes for other construction companies as well.

Some of you will know that I publish a weekly email of Wootton News and Diary Dates. Many of the local groups meet on regular dates each week or month and, providing I'm methodical, I can keep track of which group is due to meet on each

date. The Wootton Crafters aren't straightforward, though. They meet on a Monday one week but on a Thursday the next week. After Christmas, my contact at the Crafters sent me a list of meeting dates for the next three months which was quite useful until I came to enter the first dates and found that I'd been given a Monday and Thursday in the same week and nothing in the following week! Obviously an error but which was the right one and which was the wrong one? I'd no telephone number for my contact, all I could do was send an urgent email and hope for the best. My reply came but hours after I'd had to send out my email with a warning that one of the dates was probably wrong! The reply explained that, no, the dates were, in fact, correct! The Wootton Crafters are indeed meeting twice in one week and not in the next week! I'm not even going to ask what the logic is for that. It must be something to do with meeting at the local Scout & Guide Hut because the local W.I. meet there as well and they also publish their meeting details in the local church magazine as well as my weekly email. Unfortunately, their December meeting details in the church magazine got carried over to the January edition so they were thankful I was able to include the correct details in time for their meeting in my weekly Diary of Events. And whilst I'm talking about the Scout and Guides, I'll also mention that we have some quite active groups in The Woottons but their safeguarding measures mean I can't tell you when they meet, just that they do and guess where? At the Scout & Guide Hut - I can tell you that!

If you live in The Woottons and want my weekly email about Wootton News and Diary Dates, let me know at richardcoates@inbox.com.

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Henry Ford



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Yoga for U3A members on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Mondays : Strength and Balance Class 4.40 p.m.

Wednesdays : Scrabble 10.00 a.m. , Whist Drive 7.00 p.m.

Fridays : Lunchtime Raffle drawn at 1.00 p.m. Cash Bingo start at 7.30 p.m.

Saturdays : 'Open the Box' draw at 1.00 p.m.

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David Elsey's cryptic crossword

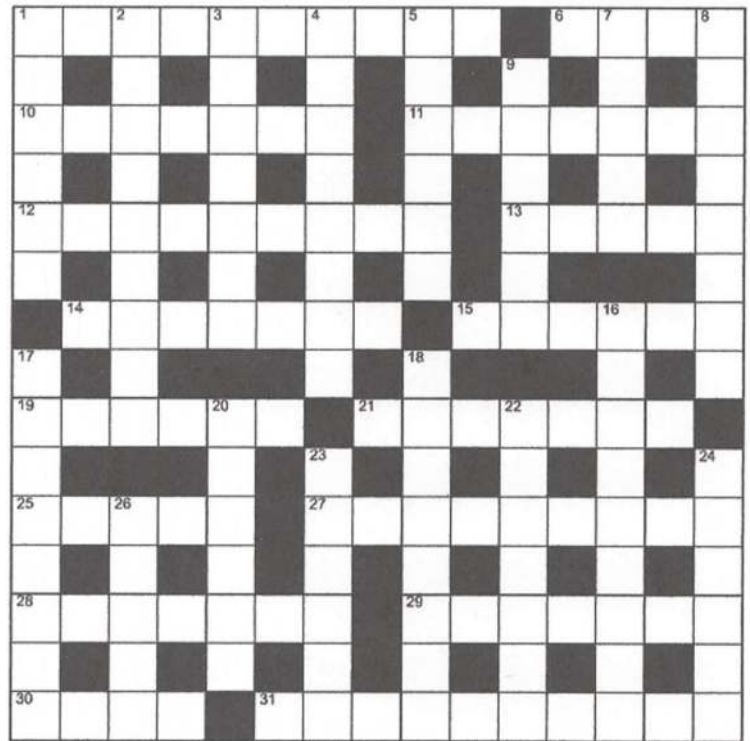
CROSSWORD CLUES

Across

1. Amateur set to race in a relay is out of step (2,8)
6. Run over wild animal (4)
10. Top soldier, briefly in charge of troops, causes disorder (7)
11. Sent away for working to rule (2,5)
12. Bun needs topping and again is overlooked ... (9)
13. ... I set out to get answers (5)
14. Went through post delivered to church at start of day (7)
15. Squander most of extravagant backing – it's wasted! (6)
19. Temporary accommodation, with parking (official), next to a barn (6)
21. Thought Charlie had previously put out uniform (7)
25. Tibetan capital has surroundings of note (5)
27. Might Tom escort one to dance after being introduced? (9)
28. Someone who makes a case (or can) (7)
29. Boxed left over right, blocking to end of round (7)
30. Copy is a sound reproduction (4)
31. Case can end abuse of power (10)

Down

1. Counter a loan set up to cover bill (6)
2. Admirer made advances in vain, being brought down to earth (9)
3. To regain admittance tenant needs to secure second lease (2-5)
4. Large trucks are used to convey the French goods (8)
5. Booming city banks admit being dull (6)
7. Left worm on step (5)
8. Study group is going on trip (8)
9. Seat fifty-one under cover, to be precise (6)
16. Kind of cricket that achieves reward with spin (3-3-3)
17. Best order pudding (5,3)
18. Certainly not new, affair isn't worth talking about (3-5)
20. Leap at hyena, showing a complete lack of concern (6)
22. One is bound to be cut up, if required for 17 (7)
23. Lovers' top secret places for fun and games (6)
24. Hector can get under your skin (6)
26. Heir renounces it in speech (5)



Crossword solution is on page 10

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February Diary

Wednesday 1st

Burnham Community Cinema presents Fisherman's Friends: One & All (12a) tickets £5 Burnham Market & Norton Village Hall PE31 8ER 7pm.. For information or tickets, call Diana Walker on 01328 738604

Thursday 2nd

Stanhoe and Barwick WI 'Lynn as it was'. Michael Aldis gives an illustrated talk. The Reading Room, Stanhoe. 2pm. Visitors are most welcome; there is a charge of £3. Please contact Valerie (01485 576261)

Friday 3rd

Coffee & Brunch morning with stalls at Snettisham Memorial Hall PE31 7LX 10am-1pm

King's Lynn Festival Coffee Concert 11am at King's Lynn Town Hall, PE30 5DQ: Maxim Calver and Kumi Matsuo. Prior to the concert, from 10.30am, enjoy a cup of coffee and slice of cake with fellow audience members (included in the ticket price). Tickets: £15 www.kingslynnfestival.org.uk

Fincham Memorial Hall PE33 9EJ - Quiz night - Entry £2 per person. 50/50 Raffle. Bring your own refreshments. Come join the fun - all welcome. Up to 6 in a team.

Saturday 4th

United Services Club Hunstanton entertainment: GLITZ DUO songs from all eras 8.30pm

Thursday 9th

The Arts Society King's Lynn will be welcoming the cartoonist Harry Venning on Thursday 9th February to give a lecture on 'The Art of the Cartoonist'. West Winch Village Hall 2pm.

King's Lynn Community Cinema Club will be screening the powerful Australian thriller 'The Dry'. 7.30pm in St George's Guildhall, King Street £5 cash on the door. communitycinemaclub@goolemail.com

Friday 10th

Music is my Valentines - Music Night with Kevin Barry 7pm. £10 with sandwiches. All money for QE Hospital. Snettisham Memorial Hall PE31 7LX Call Maggie 07951 732033

Saturday 11th

United Services Club Hunstanton entertainment: THE TONICS DUO Superb duo songs from all eras 8.30pm

Saturday 11th - Saturday 25th

King's Lynn Mart. Enjoy traditional fairground rides, food stalls and games surrounded by the historic marketplace.

Monday 13th

The Arts Society lecture: Industrialism and Revival: Lecturer: John Sherlock. 2pm Sedgeford Village Hall PE36 5NG. Free. For more info and how to join, visit our website: www.theartssocietynwnorfolk.org.uk

Tuesday 14th

Valentine's Day

Wednesday 15th

Hunstanton Society talk: Dr Paul Richards - King's Lynn Docks Past & Present. Hunstanton Heritage Centre 7.30pm

King's Lynn Music Society host a Classical Guitar Recital by Michael Christian Durrant at King's Lynn Town Hall, PE30 5DQ at 7.30pm Visitors welcome- donation of £10 suggested. Free to under 18s and students. Coffee from 7pm. www.klmsocietysoc.org.uk

Thursday 16th

Hunstanton Gardeners' Association Hunstanton community Centre 2.30pm Garden Quiz with prizes for the winners and tea and biscuits for everyone! New members welcome. Please contact Canny Jones on 01485 535034

Friday 17th

Fincham Memorial Hall PE33 9EJ - Cash bingo with prize raffle and other games. Just pay for the games you want to play. Doors open 7.30pm with eyes down 8.00pm. Bring your own nibbles & drink.

Saturday 18th

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

United Services Club Hunstanton entertainment: CHARLOTTE SAYER Songs from across the decades 8.30pm

Sunday 19th

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

Monday 20th

Hunstanton u3a meeting 2pm at The Community Centre, Avenue Road when Kindra Jones will be bringing The Bayeux Tapestry to life. hunstantonu3a.org.uk

Tuesday 21st

Shrove Tuesday. Anyone for pancakes?

Wednesday 22nd

Ash Wednesday

Snettisham Gardening Club Mark and Suzanne Eves of Belmont Nurseries will be telling us about the tulips they grow in our area. Info: Gail on 01485 541279 or Addie on 01485 544754.

Burnham Community Cinema presents Ticket to Paradise tickets £5 Burnham Market & Norton Village Hall PE31 8ER 7pm. For more information or to reserve tickets, call Diana Walker on 01328 738604

Thursday 23rd

New Hunstanton Women's Institute Meeting at Methodist Church Hall at 2.15pm Annual Meeting- Members only

Friday 24th

George Michael Tribute Act at Old Hunstanton Village Hall PE36 6HS 7pm. Limited tickets £30. Prosecco and Fish and Chips Contact Sarah on 07836 255997 or Neil on 07918 911716

Saturday 25th

Stargazing for beginners with the King's Lynn Astronomy Society RSPB Titchwell Marsh PE31 8BB 6-8pm More info visit <https://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/titchwell-marsh/>

Syderstone Village Screen presents Mrs Harris goes to Paris (PG) Amy Robsart Village Hall 7.30pm. Tickets £4 contact 01485 578171

United Services Club Hunstanton entertainment: D.N.A. Rock & Pop 8.30pm

Sunday 26th

Dersingham Sunday Social Afternoon. Village Centre PE31 6LN 2-4pm

Heacham Songsters

We are back in business and are looking for new singers to join our group. We are also available to perform concerts - we don't charge but we combine any donations we receive throughout the year and make contributions to local charities. Please call Peter Francis on 01485 534031.



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Heacham and Hunstanton at night

Terry Parish

February fill dyke. Well, one hopes not given the amount of rain we have had since I last wrote this article (early Nov for Dec and Jan). The weather washed out much of the night sky observing opportunities too. We can but try. If the clouds roll in, look in the right direction at the right time and use your imagination.



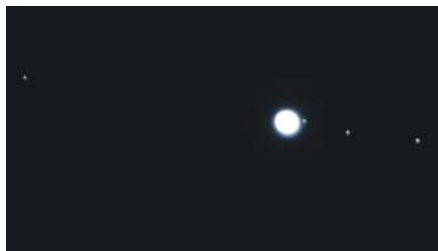
Virtual rain from the Internet

This month there are numerous opportunities to see two planets, Venus and Jupiter, without need for any optical instruments and at the friendly times between 5pm at the start of the month and 6.30 towards the end. Venus sets around 8pm and Jupiter 9pm so no late nights for this pair.

You will need a SW horizon or, at least, a position which gives you one between roofs or trees. I find the middle of an appropriate road is often useful (if care is taken). Heacham Beaches or Hunstanton cliffs are good alternatives and provide a walk before tea.

On the first, the evening is dark enough from 5pm to see brilliant Venus (magnitude -3.9) low in the SSW. Jupiter will be much higher in the sky and SW. With a very good, clear, horizon you might just catch a last glimpse of Saturn very low in the west. It will be very dim and competing with the last of the Sun's rays as sunset is around 4.45pm.

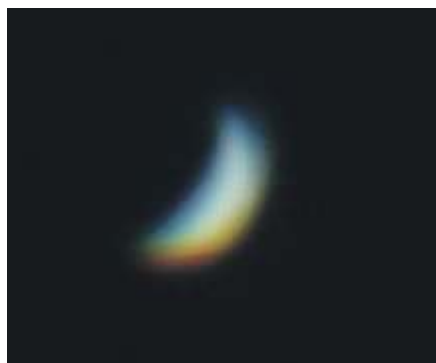
By the 7th Venus is higher in the SW, Jupiter higher, Saturn will have gone until it appears as a pre-dawn object in April.



*Jupiter and the four Galilean Moons.
Heacham Parish*

The evenings will be lightening so, in the second week, leave observations until 6pm. Venus is moving closer to Jupiter which will be above and to the left. If you have a telescope, birding scope or large aperture binoculars, take the opportunity to study Jupiter and watch the Galilean Moons dance. Turn binoculars or a small 'scope to Venus to

discern its phase which will be gibbous – not



quite full.

A fuzzy crescent phase Venus. Heacham Parish

On the 15th, Neptune, the most distant planet lies very close to Venus, they are in conjunction. This is best seen around 7pm when Neptune will be just below and to the right of Venus, the 5 O'clock position. Good eyes and a telescope should pick up a faint blueish dot. Venus will be 60,000 times brighter than Neptune!

On the 21st, the Crescent Moon pops up over the SW horizon and, on the 22nd, at 7pm, it lies between Venus and Jupiter. This will be a nice celestial grouping so let's hope the clouds respect it.

On the 28th, Venus and Jupiter are very close. On the 1st March they will be in 'touching' distance. A very close conjunction.

Mars is still very much in the sky and I have managed to follow its progress across the sky for several months. Its orange colour has been prominent due to its relative proximity. Observe from around 7pm. Look south and straight above Orion, on a vertical line drawn between Betelgeuse and Rigel (top left, bottom right).

On the 27th, at 8pm, Mars is very close to the Quarter Moon. On the 28th it is closer but after midnight.

If you are looking at Mars then enjoy Orion and locate a few bright stars around it. Below and to the right of Mars but still above Orion is the orange giant Aldebaran. At a similar distance to the left of Orion is Procyon. Drop closer to the horizon and find a very bright star, the brightest in our sky, Sirius the dog star.

Procyon is just 11.46 light years distant and is, like many stars, a multiple system. It consists of a white F type star, Procyon A, with a faint white dwarf, Procyon B, orbiting a common centre of gravity.

Sirius is closer at 8.6 light years. It, too, is a binary system. It has a visual magnitude of -1.46 and will get brighter for some thousands of years as it is approaching our solar system. It will then recede but remain the brightest star for about a quarter of a million years. Sirius

was very important in many cultures over millennia. It was a guide to navigation and farming; its appearance pre-empted, for example, flooding. This was in the days when weather had a regular pattern and could be predicted with a degree of certainty.



The stars around Orion. Internet

Returning to the planets: Uranus is visible until the early hours but you will need an optical aid. Draw a line between Jupiter and Venus. At the middle of it look for a faint blue dot. If you have a very good SE horizon at 7am during the first week of the month look for the bright spark which is Mercury. Always hard to find but nice when you do.

The UK's first ever space launch took place on the 9th January. It was from a Virgin 747 which took off from Newquay airport which has a very long runway. Space launches from aircraft are nothing new but the location is. The payload on the first rocket is 9 small satellites for different customers. Satellite construction is well developed in the UK where the space industry is now worth over £15 billion. (The rocket launched but failed to reach altitude. There will be more).



The successful launch of the rocket on 9th January. Unfortunately, it never made it to orbit. Internet

Vertical rocket launches will soon start at Saxavord spaceport in the Shetlands. The first of three concrete launch pads have been completed. It is planned that 30 rocket launches a year will take place. These aren't the huge rockets like NASA's Artemis Moon missions or the even bigger Starship of Space X which is designed to carry tens of people to Mars. They are carriers for payloads like

CubeSats which are 10cm on a side and weigh no more than 2kg. Thousands of such satellites are being commissioned by governments, universities, and private companies. They are sent on deep space missions as well as near earth orbits to carry out observations, perform experiments and test kit.

A company called Gravitilab wants to build a vertical launchpad on a floating barge 10km off the Norfolk coast. The company manufactures rockets and drones in Coltishall, works with Spaceport Cornwall, and wants to bring suborbital launches close to its manufacturing base.



Gravitilab Norfolk Internet

A successful local space industry might encourage youngsters to take science and engineering just as it does in France, the USA and many other countries who now have established deep space industries.

Artemis went to the Moon and back successfully so the next stage is to crew it. There will no doubt be delays as NASA is ultra-careful but there will be people on the Moon within a couple of years. They may be Chinese of course.



Yang Liwei, China's first astronaut. Will they win the race back to the Moon? Internet

You might not get to the Moon and beyond but your grandchildren might. Meanwhile look up and wonder.

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Legal steps to consider when diagnosed with a life-limiting illness

By Kieran Athow, Solicitor, Hayes + Storr

On top of the heartbreak and worry that a diagnosis of a life-limiting illness can cause, there will be a raft of concerns and uncertainties about your care and financial affairs, and it can be difficult to know exactly how to prepare from a legal standpoint.

There are steps you can take to ensure that your care runs smoothly following such a diagnosis.

A Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) for Health and Welfare can be an essential part of future care planning, alongside the preparation of an Advance Care Plan.

Considerations for an LPA for Health and Welfare

An LPA for Health and Welfare allows you to appoint a number of individuals to act as your 'attorneys' with respect to your health and care decisions. Your attorneys must be over 18 years of age and have mental capacity.

You must select your attorneys carefully, having due consideration as to whether such individual(s) would be appropriate attorney(s) and whether they have suitable character/experience to make difficult decisions on your behalf.

Your attorneys will have the power to make decisions on your behalf in relation to your health and care, including but not limited to; your daily routine (diet etc), medical care, moving into a care home and also decisions surrounding life sustaining treatment (with the latter being subject to express authorisation being provided within the LPA itself).

It is important to note that your attorneys can only deal with your health and care decisions when you become incapable of making such decisions yourself.

You may also wish to prepare an LPA for Property and Financial Affairs. This will deal with decisions surrounding your banking, selling your home and paying any bills and outgoings during your lifetime.

Advance Care Plan

In addition to an LPA, an Advance Care Plan (ACP) allows you to clearly set out your personal wishes regarding the care and treatment you should receive. It is not a legally binding document; however, it ensures that the people involved in your care know what is important to you.

ACPs are normally made together with your healthcare team. Some people feel they need help from their nurse or doctor to fill in an ACP, but you can complete one yourself. An example of an Advance Care Plan template can be found on the Dementia UK website.

Once completed, you should keep a copy amongst your papers and also give a copy to anyone else involved in your care. If you have prepared an LPA for Health and Welfare, then you should make a note of this within your ACP.

Will considerations

It is also important that you consider the terms of your existing will (if held) to ensure that no changes are required. If you do not have an existing will, then it is advisable that you consider preparing one.

How can we help?

If you would like legal advice following the diagnosis of a progressive illness, please call 01328 863231 and ask to speak to Kieran Athow or email 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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Wendy Warner's plant of the month

Dwarf Irises

I must confess, I don't always choose plants I like when writing this feature, but this is definitely one of my favourites for the early months of the gardening year. Dependent on the winter weather, the delightful flowers of dwarf Irises will emerge from their buds from January through to March. If it's mild, they'll flower earlier, or later in colder years.

Most of these miniatures are *Iris reticulata* varieties and can be grown from dry bulbs planted in the autumn or purchased ready potted at this time of the year. They are suitable for growing in rockeries or gravel gardens, on the edges of borders, planted beneath deciduous trees or shrubs or using in containers, troughs or window boxes. Try growing them on their own in shallow terracotta pans or pots on the bench in a cold greenhouse or porch where they can be admired, and the scent can be appreciated at nose-height. Their delicate flowers have a look of being hand-painted.

Choose a position in full sun or partial shade and plant in open soil with plenty of



humus and good drainage. If planting in heavier soil place the bulbs on a layer of grit to improve the drainage. It's also advisable to spread some horticultural grit on the surface of the soil around the bulbs to protect the fragile flowers from being damaged by soil splashing onto them.

Although most of these dwarf irises are quite similar, they all have distinctive features. *Iris reticulata* is rich blue with yellow splashes down the middle of each petal. *Iris reticulata* 'Harmony' has pale blue flowers with deeper

blue falls, 'Pauline' is dark purple with a white blotch, 'Rejoice' is another dark purple with blue/white feathering and an orange crest on the falls and 'Painted Lady' has ivory-white petals with pale blue and lilac striping. *Iris* 'Katharine Hodgkin' is my personal favourite. From a distance it can look rather dull and wishy-washy but when studied close-up you will see the petals have a creamy-yellow base intricately etched with azure blue stripes and speckles and a deep yellow centre. For something brighter, look out for the more recently introduced 'Katharine's Gold' or *Iris danfordiae* with its vivid yellow blooms which glow in the low winter sun. They all flower at a height of between 10cm (4") and 15cm (6").

Try creating a winter corner near to the house, either in the garden or pots, combining these little gems with other dwarf bulbs such as snowdrops, *anemone blanda*, *chionodoxa* (glory of the snow) and early miniature narcissi, it is bound to cheer you up on even the dullest February day.

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Copy date for the March issue is strictly 12th February - as it's the shortest month I have a very quick turnaround to complete the magazine. Your co-operation is appreciated. Thank you, Elaine.

From The Ground Up: What Winter Does

Hanneke Robson

Isn't it wonderful that when Big Ben chimes we can wipe an ogre of a year off the slate and become positively cheery about the magic of a brand new and better year to come! It's a truly cleansing moment. We move on and during January peer hopefully at the ground for signs of spring.

Snowdrops have a lot resting on their fragile little heads. We yearn for them to pop up. And they do magically, breaking through the hard earth with every leaf intact.

Some people may think of January as in, sales. I think of snowdrops and the minute stirrings beneath the land. How does she do it, this forgiving earth? How does she pop up with miracles to brighten our hearts year upon year?

Walking the cold earth of Peddars Meadow yesterday, I saw at least ten tiny plants for every step I took. Summer plants grow aggressively, these small jobs were excellent ground cover against erosion and I was pleased to see them.

Soil provides home to many forms of life, and in winter protects its diverse organisms and plants. When the temperature drops the water in the top layer of soil freezes and becomes a solid layer of ice. If the soil is healthy and contains mulch from deceased summer plants etc. the frozen layer will be shallow. In other words, the more organic

matter, the shallower the frost layer.

We do this in our gardens; put it to bed for the winter with a nice layer of compost. Nature will do it naturally. But if we faff about with it, we have to make amends. Snow is actually a lovely cosy blanket for the soil, keeping it warmer than if it lay bare to the cold air. Many of the creatures that live in the soil have evolved to live below the frost line, and some plants can be magicians and create their own antifreeze in their roots.

We are at the beginning of a wonderful journey of discovery with our meadow. We have seeded lightly once, and will repeat this process in April, this time by hand and with help from two of our gallery artists. Looking forward to that! But I wish... that there were more locals to share our journey.

When we began this project of recreating a chalkland meadow where one had once been, we had hoped for interest from our community or to have sparked the attention of a school. So far, we have realized neither and I know that I haven't tried hard enough.

In this busy world, we must find time to peer at what grows beneath our feet, to understand the land, and what it bestows freely and without complaint year upon year.

We must learn and be glad of discovery. I shall leave the last word to Albert Einstein: "Look deep into nature, then you will

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understand everything better."

With grateful thanks to our artists so generously supporting our project, and to Linden Bevan-Pritchard and James Young.

You can follow us on Fb and Instagram: The Garage Studio Norfolk
www.thegaragestudionorfolk.co.uk

Mudpies & Butterflies

With Louise Barby, Balanis

"If January is the month of change, February is the month of lasting change. January is for dreamers.....February is for doers".

Marc Parent

The days are getting longer, there are snowdrops and even some daffodils starting to emerge. Temperatures tend to plummet in February.

If your garden lacks colour, try planting Hellebore, sweet box or cyclamen to brighten an area that you see from the house.

For a big, fiery impact, if you have room, please cornus. The stems are vibrant tones of green, orange or red. They turn in to a fairly normal shrub in summer, but in the winter, they shine.



Cornus

Flowers

- Divide congested herbaceous perennials. Return one part to the bed, the remainder can be re-planted or offer to neighbours.
- Prune winter jasmine, cut back to flowered shoots.
- Transplant shrubs growing in the wrong place while they're dormant.
- Plant lily of the valley for both scent and delicate flowers.
- Deadhead winter-flowering pansies and bedding plants.

Fruit/Veg/shrubs

- Continue to plant hedging, shrubs, trees and climbers.
- Force rhubarb for an early crop by putting an old bucket over it.

- Plant raspberry canes, in the ground, large pot or raised bed.
- Move deciduous trees and shrubs as long as the ground is not frozen.
- Many summer flowering deciduous shrubs can be pruned from February to March. Pruning now will maintain shape and form. Deciduous hedges can also be shaped now.

Lawns

- Re-cut lawn edges to crisp up the appearance of the garden and save work later in the season.
- Moles activity increases in February, as this is the mating and nest building season. Remove the largest hills and re-firm the ground before overseeding with grass seed in spring.

Armchair time

We often inherit flowers and shrubs in our garden. It is very easy to just live with someone else's taste and vision. Why not make your own mark. Jot down your ideas. Think about a border, some pots, hanging baskets etc. that you could devise a scheme for this summer. Keep some large, established shrubs as a back drop to your new plants, working as a 'frame' to your new scheme. The seed catalogue companies inundate us with choice at this time of year. Become a little more adventurous, grow something new, from a plug plant or seed. It's a very cost effective way to trialling a new idea.

The World's largest wildlife survey

Take part in the RSPB garden bird watch. The survey provides important information about the changes in numbers of birds using our gardens in winter and helps alert conservationists to those species in decline. The survey is the last week of January.

You can request a free pack or download at <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch>
Happy gardening!

HUNSTANTON GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION

Our first meeting in 2023 will be on Thursday 16th February when Simon White from Peter Beales Roses will test us with his special Garden Quiz. Prizes for the winners and tea and biscuits for everyone! We meet in the Hunstanton Community Centre. Meetings commence at 2.30pm. and new members are always welcome.

For further information please contact Canny Jones on 01485 535034

SNETTISHAM GARDENING CLUB

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 22nd February when Mark and Suzanne Eves of Belmont Nurseries will be telling us about the tulips they grow in our area.

Our March meeting on 29th will welcome Richard and Rosie Ernst who will be speaking about their work in Houghton Hall gardens. We look forward to seeing you then.

We are also pleased to say that we are holding our Annual Open Show again this year in the Memorial Hall on Saturday 8th July. Everyone in the village is invited to enter the competitions which include vegetables, fruit, flowers, art and crafts.

It will very shortly be time to start planting for the summer so perhaps consider what you could grow to enter?

Schedules will be available at our meetings and there are separate classes for those up to 12 years old with prize money to be won.

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

Volunteer roles at Holme Dunes

Norfolk Wildlife Trust have a fantastic reserve at Holme Dunes, home to some wonderful wildlife including rare natterjack toads and birds including marsh harriers, barn owls, spoonbills and cuckoos. We rely on volunteers to help us keep the reserve running, and we currently have some vacancies in a variety of roles:

- Reserves volunteer – helping to carry out practical tasks around the reserve to keep it in great condition to support the wildlife that calls it home.
- Beach warden - help protect, monitor and educate about the vulnerable beach nesting birds like Ringed Plover, Little Tern and Oystercatcher that nest on Holme Dunes and it's neighbouring beaches during their spring/summer breeding season (April-September).
- Or you could help out in our Visitor Centre, checking visitors in and talking to them about the wildlife they might see, and helping to keep the Visitor Centre neat and tidy for visitors.

You can find more information about all these roles on our website at www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/support-us/volunteering/vacancies, or you can email alanm@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk, or telephone 01603 625540 and ask for Alan Marchbank, the Volunteer Coordinator.

We look forward to hearing from you!

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Nature notes with Carrie Carey

A young child stops to pick up something from the tideline. Her tiny frame is pushed gently along by the wind, and she clings to her mother's skirt to stay on her feet. All manner of objects are scattered along the strandline. Bottle tops and ring pulls jut guiltily from the sand, empty crisp packets lie crumpled under clusters of seaweed and a half-chewed ball rests irreverently among the remnants of oyster shells. Evidence of man's spurious relationship with nature lie alongside the organic memorials to creatures that once lived here.

During the last Ice Age, much of Great Britain was buried under vast glaciers and extensive sheets of ice. This frozen plateau connected us with Scandinavia, allowing a host of large mammals to roam freely across the ice bound tundra. The fossilised remains of animal bones reveal that elephants, rhinos and hippos lived alongside woolly mammoths on the land mass that now forms the North Sea. The formation and movement of these glacial belts scarred the ground with furrows and valleys. Then as the titanic swathes of ice thawed, the rocks and boulders they encased were left behind to form crags, rocky escarpments and shorelines.

Norfolk's coastline is geologically unique due to the topography created as the Ice Age ended. Man-made settlements began to appear here as early as 8,000 BC and the discovery of worked flint on Brancaster's beach suggests this area of the coast was a key site for early hunter-gatherers. Sea levels fell during Roman times and although much of East Anglia remained a mosaic of waterways, areas of boggy terrain became dry enough for it to be settled. Low-status settlements were established along the coast protected by military bases such as the one at Branodunum (Brancaster). The fort here was first established as a trade port, then took on a more strategic role as part of the Saxon Shore defence. To the other side of Titchwell at Holme, it is thought a ferry once transported troops across the Wash to Lincolnshire. The worn leather from the sandals of a well marched legion shaped much of the coastal path we use today, but I imagine that the places we scuff our walking shoes now are substantially different from the days of Roman occupation.

Life for Roman soldiers could not have been easy, especially those sent to the inhospitable east coast. Little enjoyment for lookouts stationed on the shoreline on a thunderously dark morning, the fury of an Arctic wind freezing their Mediterranean bones. To give battle weary forces a taste of home, military cooks imported some of their potted herbs to Britain. One of these plants, the Alexander, now grows prolifically along Titchwell reserve's West Bank Path. All parts of the plant were eaten, either raw or cooked. The stalk and leaves have a celery-like flavour, roots were roasted and even the hard seeds were used in place of black pepper. Look out for these tall plants with their glossy



Reed Warbler

leaves and umbels of yellow flower heads next time you are on the reserve.

The Ice Age didn't just leave a unique landscape in its wake, boulder clay deposits in Norfolk meant the land was ideal for crop cultivation. However, our ancestors have been working hard to hold back the sea ever since the days of those early settlers. Over millennia, silt deposits left by incoming tides raised land levels and by the mid-17th Century, the introduction of man-made sea walls, made land reclamation possible. The erection of sea defences did in part protect areas such as Titchwell Marshes and from the late 1700s to the winter storms of 1953, sightings of otters were replaced with views of grazing cattle and fish-filled lakes swapped for crops of potatoes.

Over 200 years of agriculture impeded further silt deposits, so the land stayed at the same level as it was in the 1700s. This offered little protection from advancing seas driven by storm surges and at the end of January 1953, a gale force full of fury, swept across the North Sea and smashed the northern sea defence at Titchwell. There was little impetus to repair the damage. Farmlands were abandoned and the sodden fields left to revert

to salt marsh. In time, tidal action repossessed the beach, creating sand dunes and a shingle spit. Prior to the winter of '53, only a handful



Titchwell beach and ruins

of reeds grew along the narrow, freshwater creeks. Their growth and distribution inevitably kept in check by the movements of grazing cattle. Once farming practices were abandoned, only the limitations of the landscape restricted their spread. Frequent tidal floods made this land unsuitable for ground nesting birds, but species such as bearded tits and reed warblers, who nest slightly higher in the reedbeds, became a common sight. Flocks of long-tailed ducks, shore-larks and little terns were also evidence that Titchwell Marshes was a haven for wildlife once more.

Fifty years ago, in February 1973, the RSPB purchased the land that now forms Titchwell Marsh reserve. Today, it is a montage of bird-filled lagoons, reedbeds and woodlands. Small mammals, invertebrates and aquatic life share these natural spaces; the shoreline, once the site of an ancient forest, is home to a plethora of marine life. This magical place stands as evidence to nature's resilience and determination to survive.

As we celebrate our 50th birthday this year, do keep an eye on our website www.rspb.org.uk/titchwell and social media pages @RSPBTitchwell for updates, news and invitations to our celebration events.



Titchwell fresh water lagoon

The joy of shopping well

We love to shop - but sometimes, we get so consumed with purchasing things online, often still in our pyjamas, we forget how satisfying and ultimately better it can be, to physically go into a shop and walk out with something that we know is right for us.

This is particularly true when it comes to fashion. You can try on different sizes and go home knowing you found the size that looks the best on you. It's also much easier to see and feel the quality of the materials and craftsmanship of the garment, after all you may not want a dress that's totally sheer - and many of us have fallen for that online!

Shopping is about more than just what you buy, it's a treasure hunt to discover something that's perfect for your shape and colouring that will make you feel great. If you've ever looked at something on a hanger and thought no that's not for me, then a trip to Castle Rising is long overdue. Allez Chic's Cheryl Daubney and her staff will help you choose and sometimes suggest you to try something you'd might have otherwise overlooked, rather like a personal shopper. Their fashion know how and ability to put an outfit together is second to none.

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PEOPLE!!

I have rambled on several times over the years about communication in our business but this one is the icing on the cake for 2023 already! So, a little story for the new year.

Guest due to arrive at 4pm. They have been regulars at this particular property for a number of years, either with family or by themselves. The owners and family had vacated after New Year leaving the house for housekeeper to prepare for incoming guests a few days later. All confirmation correspondence duly sent by us to owner and housekeeper, together with a few calls also to confirm that the booking was OK. So, all good it seems. The system works. Guests arrive after long journey at property. Property not cleaned, no fresh laundry, not prepared whatsoever. My clever, quick thinking office girls, placate guests and find them another property close by after checking with the housekeeper that all was well and it

was 'ready to go'. Unfortunately, their freezer items had now started to deteriorate as the freezer in the 'overnight' property was not large enough. They were happy in at least they had a bed for the night until their correct accommodation was ready the next day, hopefully.

Next day.....I was ready to pick up the pieces. I called the owner of first property who was livid that housekeeper had not been and he knew she was aware of the arrivals. 'Overnight' property owners were fine with the emergency and guests could stay on if need be. Correct accommodation owners were on to their housekeeper immediately after my early morning conversation, to find out what the problem was. Allegedly she had had an emergency – but the property was cleaned at 5.30pm – an hour and a half after the guests were scheduled to arrive. Emergency (or forgetfulness..?) or not, why did she not let us or the owner know 1. that she was delayed but cleaning would be done asap so we could inform the guest? 2. Find another person to do the housekeeping.

3. Admit that she had forgot. Ok – maybe she gets the benefit of the doubt, but.....

The 'piece de resistance' housekeeper told owner that she thought the guest would contact her. Now why should she do this? Arrival and departure details do not include contacting the housekeeper. Our thoughts and the owners too. The guests arrived as they usually did, collected keys and went to property with normal expectation of preparation for them.

The outcome – guest moved into their holiday accommodation the next day and enjoyed the rest of their stay. Owner offered a huge discount for the inconvenience for another holiday. As for the overnight expenses incurred, housekeeping for this plus loss of food/freezer items, someone has to pick up the bill.....

Quickly.....another little tale on different property. TV broken down – owner told, chased, called again, emailed again all within two days, and over a week later he sent an email with 'troubleshooting tips'! We had already gone through unplugging, rebooting, pulling this and that out, etc, etc. to no avail. Hence contact with the owner. Thankfully the signal in the village had issues and many people had no TV. Buying a new one would have been on the cards as telephone conversation with repair engineer feared a big problem after making the same suggestions as our actions. Finally, over a week later, a response.

Both situations, not quick enough reactions. This is not a satisfactory situation in our job when we are working for the owners trying to do our best. We are not perfect, and boy have I made some errors over the last 42 years! So please, no matter what, don't delay in communication or communicating for anything – get it sorted! And, of course my favourite expletive which is polite.....

P E O P L E! This simple word seems to be catching on.

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1370-106

On the turf with Charles Joyce

Named as the athlete of the 20th century and the greatest player to ever tie a bootlace Pele passed away between Christmas and New Year. Coming from a humble background in Sao Paulo where he earned extra money working in a tea shop, he was later to become Minister for Sport in the Brazilian Government. During his 3 year tenure he introduced multiple reforms to tackle corruption in state football. A one-time UNESCO goodwill ambassador and United Nations ambassador for ecology and the environment Pele was not only the single player to ever win 3 world cups and the best footballer in the history of the game he also fought to improve the lives of the poor and people of colour. The great Hungarian footballer Ferenc Puskas who now rests under the dome of St Stephen's Basilica in Budapest was the star of the Mighty Magyars. Although at the time playing for Budapest Honved which conscripted the best players in Hungary, when in 1956 the Hungarian Revolution was brutally crushed by the Russian military Puskas was one of the players who refused to return to Hungary to live under the communist regime. Puskas said that his Real Madrid teammate Di Stefano was the greatest ever footballer. He refused to classify Pele as a player saying he was more than that.

Another great footballer to pass around Christmas was George Cohen who was one on Alf Ramsey's boys who won the World Cup for England in 1966. He began his professional career playing alongside legends Johnny Haynes and Jimmy Hill. Fortune was not on the side of George who later in life tried to sell his world cup medal which failed to reach the reserve. It was bought in a private sale by then Fulham chairman Mohamed Al Fayed father of Dodi who died in the Paris car crash along with Princess Diana. At times seen by some as little more than a clothes horse Diana was a true princess who tried to teach humanity the meaning of the word compassion.

The Lionesses swept the board in BBC's Sports Personality of the Year winning the team event, Sarina Wiegman winning the coach of

the year and Beth Mead winning the Sports Personality of the Year. It was a big let-down that only 4 of the team received honours in the New Year's Honour List. When a Johnny Wilkinson inspired England won the rugby world cup the entire team were recognised. The same as the Michael Vaughan captained England team that won the Ashes in 2005.

The British Horseracing Authority has relented over its self-imposed ridicule around the use of the whip in racing. Very few people will have noticed or even known of the backhand and forehand use of the whip. Some people argue the whip should not be used at all. That's a fair position to take, but it has little to do with animal welfare. Others, including most jockeys, tried to use common sense and argued that using the whip in the backhand position would lead to the horse being hit in the wrong place which could easily be an animal welfare issue.

Over Christmas Constitution Hill emphasised his claims for the Champion Hurdle in March. But like many of the present favourites for the grade 1 races at the Festival he is not a price worth considering this distance out, especially with the Cheltenham trials at the end of January and the Dublin Festival this month still to come. It does not mean these favourites will not win, only that their prices are less than inspiring, and it's very possible they will be better odds come the day. If not, we are not obliged to part with our hard earned cash. One example was Bravemansgame who was Evens back in early November for the King George VI Chase over Christmas only to win at 11/4. At Evens in early November I would not have backed him with any money. Come the day I was on at 100/30 which was offered for a short time by one bookmaker on the morning of the race. He's now 9/1 to win the Cheltenham Gold Cup which is reasonable enough as he will turn up barring accidents. He is 7/1 with money returned if he does not show along with the best odds guarantee from one bookmaker. Favourite Galopin Des Champs is too short with so much to prove including whether or not he will stay the full distance. More clues on that are likely to come at Leopardstown this month when he is set to tackle the Irish Gold Cup.

The Welsh National trends were slightly off when The Two Amigos defied his age. It is often difficult to find a runner that is a perfect fit, and even then they do not always win, but a close fit does. It does require judgement.

Looking forward the big February handicap is due to be run at Newbury on 11th of this month. This was the race the late Ryan Price won 4 of the first 5 races including when Hill House was found to have doped himself.

Going back to 2005 all the winners up to last year were five or six years old. Although prior to that older horses did win more often. Of the last 24 runnings 20 were won by a horse in form having finished in the first 3 the last time it ran in the UK or Ireland. Triple Champion Hurdle winner Persian War won carrying eleven stone thirteen pounds in 1968. Al Dancer won a weakened race in 2019 when the race was run at Ascot and last year's trends buster Glory and Fortune won. But they are the only 3 winners to carry more than eleven stone seven pounds to victory. Ryan Hatch and Lizzie Kelly are the only claiming jockeys to win in the last 24 years. 9 of the last 13 winners were novices with 6 of the 9 having raced only 3 times over hurdles.

There are a few bigger prices that win, but 21 of the last 24 were 20/1 or less with 13 being in first three in the betting including 7 favourites. Nicky Henderson has won the race 5 times since 1998, but he has had 57 tries. Less obvious trainers are Gary Moore with 3 winners between 2007-2015 at odds of 14/1; 20/1; 50/1: So any of his runners are worth a second look. Nigel Twiston Davies has won 3 times since 2014. In the last 24 runnings trainer Philip Hobbs has tried 33 times all unsuccessfully. David Pipe has trained 18 consecutive losers, but his father Martin did win the race twice. A bit surprising is that Willie Mullins has trained 18 consecutive losers. He has likely favourite Gaelic Warrior who is as short as 4/1 for the grade 1 Ballymore Hurdle at Cheltenham which is over half a mile longer than this race. He does fit most of the trends but it's a bit ominous that the trainer has been spectacularly unsuccessful in the past.

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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A Fine Strong Boy – Kath Fryer

(55 illustrated pages) - £5

Were you living in the Hunstanton area twenty years ago? If so you may have a copy of this book. It tells the story of the L'Estrange family who have been Lords of the Manor in this corner of N-W Norfolk for centuries. Of particular interest is Henry Styleman L'Estrange, born 1819. He planned, founded and financed the town of New Hunstanton from his home in Hunstanton Hall and brought in the railway. His many artistic interests included painting the ceiling of Ely Cathedral and he managed his estate and a family of six children.

Twenty years on, the book has been reprinted and is on sale to anyone interested in the history of Hunstanton and North West Norfolk. It can be obtained from By the Book or Witley's in Hunstanton High Street.

Any profit from sales will be donated to Hunstanton Heritage Centre where copies of the book will be on sale when it reopens in February.

We all have two ears and one mouth

John White

Whoever gets elected in May should remember they are representing the people and should listen to the voice of the people.

Furthermore, having a public debate at Town and Parish Council level. Finally, completing the circle by giving the people the final decision by having a public vote.

I would like to see Town and Parish's Councillors be paid the going rate for representing the people and given decision-making powers and budgets to implement the changes the people want to see. For it is the people who make up the communities, the councillors represent.

"With all two ears and one mouth, what is life telling us?"

Attributed to Epictetus, a Greek philosopher 60 AD.



by the book

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The 10 best fish and chip shops in the UK



6. Fishers, Hunstanton, Norfolk

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

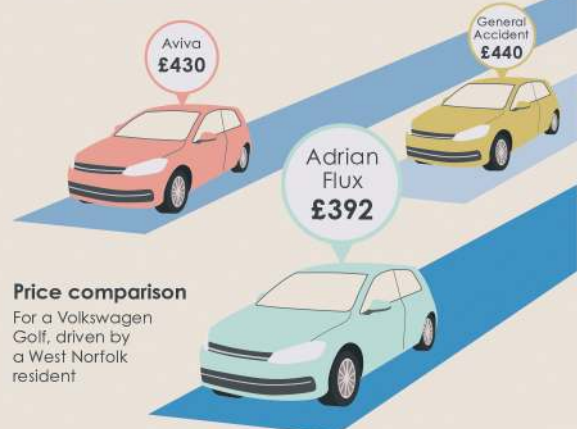


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Celebrate the Chinese New Year in style at Silk Road II

Tim Keogh



The Chinese New Year, or Lunar New Year and Spring Festival, starts on 22nd January and celebrations continue until the Lantern Festival and Full Moon on February 5th. Silk Road II restaurant are inviting people to come and celebrate the Chinese New Year with traditional Oriental cuisine.

2022 was the year of the Tiger, 2023 is the year of the Rabbit. So anyone born in the years 1927, 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999 or 2011, this is your year. According to Chinese astronomy, "rabbits" are gentle, quiet, elegant and alert as well as quick, skilful, kind, patient and very responsible. Chinese people also love the colour red and a New Year tradition is to exchange red envelopes, often containing money. The history of the Chinese New Year can be traced back to over 3,500 years ago.

Anyone driving towards (or away) from Hunstanton along the A149 will not failed to have seen the iconic Silk Road II Chinese restaurant at Heacham. Silk Road is a family run business that started over 25 years ago

with the first restaurant being opened in the heart of Kings Lynn. The Heacham restaurant was opened in 2007 by owner and Head Chef, David Lau, along with his wife Louise.



With over 35 years of experience in traditionally prepared Cantonese Cuisines, David's humble beginnings started in Hong Kong and China, before he travelled to England in the 1980's where he worked his way up from an apprentice in restaurants in China Town in London to a become a highly skilled chef. He has invested his vast knowledge and passion for food into his Restaurants. Unsurprisingly, the restaurant



name is derived from the network of trade routes set up between Asia and Europe as early as 138BC called the Silk Road.

In recent years, David and Louise decided to slow down their lifestyle to spend more quality time with their family which led to the closing of the Kings Lynn Restaurant and their Takeaway in Burnham Market to focus solely on their remaining flagship operation in Heacham. The restaurant provides both a sit down and takeaway service. Open seven evenings a week from 5pm, the restaurant is also open for lunchtime bookings on Friday's, Saturday's and Sunday's.

Silk Road offers an extensive A La Carte menu of high quality authentic Chinese food, freshly prepared with local ingredients and is the perfect destination for locals and holiday makers alike. More recently, they have expanded their menus to include a Dim Sun speciality dumplings menu, popular during New Year celebrations as they represent wealth. There are plans to introduce additional Far East themes, such as Japanese and Thai cuisine, throughout 2023.

Manager, Jack Loh, is also looking to invite all primary schools in the area to attend the restaurant during the festival, with food tasting, celebrations and games. For more information, please email Jack at Silkroadheacham168@hotmail.com or by calling 01485 572268.

Silk Road are offering Town & Around readers the opportunity to win a meal for two at their restaurant. For a chance of winning this prize, please answer the question below and email your entry to tim@townandaround.net by Friday, 24th February, 2023.

How many Chinese Zodiac animals are there?

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QUESTION: American Football's Super Bowl LVII takes place on Sunday, 12th February. Only once in Super Bowl history has there been less than 20 points scored in the final. What year did this occur and who were the teams involved?

Closing date: 15th February 2023 .

Answers to: editor@townandaround.net or by post to:

18 Tapping Close, Snettisham PE31 7FF

Steve Burgess from Hunstanton was the winner of January's competition answering correctly that swimming is the sport where competitors race to a line but don't cross it .

Hunstanton Lifeboat Station

Geoff Needham, LPO

With no incidents to report, training and maintenance carries on. On Thursday 22nd December a Carol service was held at the Boathouse. The Boathouse Café opened and supplied hot drinks etc. The Service was conducted by the Rev. Rachael Dines, it was well attended. Looking through our incidents in 2022 our most serious one was August 13th, and is a reminder why it is dangerous to venture out onto the sandbanks at big ebb tides.

Saturday 13th August at 4.50. p.m. U.K. Coastguard requested launch of Hunstanton Lifeboat to go to the aid an inflatable dinghy with 2 young girls on it, and a swimmer trying to save them, and reports of people on the sandbank caught by the incoming tide. Hunstanton volunteer crew made good speed to the area, and rescued the two 14year girls along with the male swimmer, they were taken aboard the lifeboat they were suffering from water inhalation and shock. The lifeboat then picked up the other three people who were in the water, a father and mother and young daughter, because of concern for the casualties, an Ambulance was requested to meet them at the Boathouse on return. This was a multi- agency incident involving RNLI. Ambulance including Air Ambulance, Coastguard and Police, the casualties were later transferred by road Ambulance to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital at Kings Lynn for further observation. This was our most serious incident this heat-wave, and Highlights the importance of the dangers of using inflatables in tidal waters, and venturing out to



the sandbanks unaware that the tide comes in at a very fast rate.

A note from History. January 3rd 1868 Hunstanton Lifeboat Licensed Victualler launched to the aid of the Barque Paunure of Newcastle aground on The Woolpack Sands in North easterly Squally winds. On reaching vessel assistance was refused, must have been frustrating to the crew, having spent some considerable time and effort under oar and sail to reach casualty.

NCI Brancaster



AGM Team photo

Accredited Watchkeepers

We are pleased to have assessed and passed three trainee watchkeepers in recent weeks. Congratulations to Katt, Anthony and Henk who become our latest Accredited Watchkeepers.

New joiners

Our numbers continue to grow with 26 volunteers now registered. It is a delight to welcome 6 new members who have recently joined: Richard T, William, Sue, Claire, Mary and Mark.

NCI Brancaster stats for 2022

- ~ Number of hours station manned – over 2,000
 - ~ Number of incidents reported to HMCG – 13
 - ~ Number of vessels logged – over 250 commercial, over 2,000 leisure
- Some examples of incidents reported during 2022 include: motor

cruiser losing power and drifting, capsized dinghy, kite surfer in difficulty, chemical container washed up onto the beach, persons trapped on Scolt Head Island.

Fundraising

Our thanks to the Brancaster Community Choir who raised over £112 from their carol singing around Brancaster Village. Two of our volunteers (Sarah and Anthony) are members of the group. Four of our brave volunteers stood outside of Morrisons in Fakenham in the freezing cold with collection buckets just before Christmas. We were delighted to raise over £100 and are grateful to Morrisons for authorising our collection. Registered charity (Number 1159975).

How you can help! New station

Our priority in 2023 is to raise sufficient funds for a new station. The existing station is rapidly coming to the end of its life – we are plagued by leaks when it rains, condensation makes everything damp, black mould and rust on the fittings. In addition, the station floor is in need of repair or replacement. We are currently putting together a plan to see how we can raise the funds needed, but if anyone has any ideas or suggestions, (or funds to donate!) please contact Richard Burrows (Deputy Station Manager) by email – richard.burrows@nci.org.uk

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

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Cumberland Pie

The Prudent Pensioner

My easy recipes for nutritious soups use only a few wholesome ingredients I often experiment and add other ingredients. This recipe is similar to the one on page 70 of my book with the addition of Chicory.

Carrot, Red Pepper and Chicory Soup.
1 onion
Knob of Butter
Potato approx. 115g/4oz
Carrots approx. 230g/8oz
1 large or 2 medium sticks of celery
1 red pepper (capsicum)
6 Leaves of Chicory (I used red)
Chicken stock cube dissolved in 500ml hot water.
Salt and Pepper to taste.

Trim and peel carrots and cut into small pieces. Peel potato and cut into small pieces.

Peel onion and slice thinly

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

Clean pepper, discard seeds and stalk. Cut into chunky pieces.

Wash chicory and cut into smaller pieces

Place butter in a saucepan over a low to medium heat, add onion slices stir and cook for 1 minute stirring continuously.

Carefully add potato, carrots, celery, chicory and pepper stir and mix well. Carefully add stock increase heat and bring to boiling point. Reduce heat and leave, covered, simmering gently, stirring occasionally, until vegetables are fairly soft (approximately 15 minutes). Strain off most of the liquid into a jug, put aside while you either put vegetables into 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 if necessary, stirring gently. Turn off heat, serve and enjoy.

My updated book "Less Waste more Soup" 45 easy, budget friendly recipes for nourishing soup is available from Ridouts Bakery in Heacham, Docking Farmers Market, By The Book in Hunstanton and Hunstanton indoor market.

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"This company is amazing" - CATHERINE

Sporting corner with Tim Keogh

Emotional return to the home of Scottish rugby

Town & Around is continuing to publish excerpts from the memoirs of Ian Smith who lives in Snettisham. Ian owns the Grange Dental Practice and is an ex international Scottish Rugby Union player. He has already released one book, "A Full Back Slower Than Your Average Prop", about his rugby career and is due to release another, "Have Teeth, Will Travel", about his life as a dentist, later on this year. This month we focus on his return to Murrayfield, the home of Scottish Rugby.

Murrayfield is the home of Scottish rugby, and to have tickets for an international, especially against England, is good fortune indeed. It is best to walk to the ground because the sights, the sounds and the smells really whet the appetite for what is always an exciting match.

What a truly unique experience it is to be walking amongst a crowd of several thousand, and from as much as half a mile from the ground you come upon stallholders selling scarves and shirts with fellow spectators bedecked in their team's colours all marching along side by side regardless of their nationality.

Kilts are worn by young and old, bare legs undeterred by the biting cold and intermittent snow and rain, as they march steadfastly on; the pace definitely quickening the closer we get to the ground.

Now we begin to pass hotels, their gardens full of rugby fans and how this increases the noise level. The smell of barbecued sausages fills the air, and the beer tents erected in many gardens encourage you to stop awhile.

Suddenly we begin to hear the skirl of the bagpipes, enough to lift the heart of any Scotsman, and it is now we see the stadium itself, huge against the dark and threatening sky. There is a loud cheer as the team

bus goes by escorted by police outriders, and we are almost up to the ground.

The stalls now line the road, and when we walk past, the aromas change from frying onions and burgers, even to curries. In no time at all we join the queue for the turnstiles, nervously gripping the card that is our ticket for the game.

A voice from behind says only thirty minutes to kick off, and your heart quickens as you pass into the ground and buy your match programme. All shiny and smooth you hold it tightly in your hand, as you fight through the huge crowd to get to your booked seat in the stand.

Is there time for a drink and a bag of chips has become the most pressing question. The answer is yes for a hot dog, with the sweet onion flavour and the grease from the sausage running down your chin, just like last year, but that is just so much part of the experience. There is more than enough time left to get to your seat. You climb up the never ending steps, until finally the empty place which matches your ticket is in front of you.

What a view and what a noise when the teams come out. The anthems are sung with 'Flower of Scotland' ringing out, what an emotion. You cry silent tears because 38 years ago you were one of the warriors on the pitch. Now all you can do is cheer and hope, too old to do any more than that.

I was once described as a 'has been', and these were the emotions of being a former player making me realise what it meant to be just that, so much different and better than a 'never was'.

Christmas Swim returns with a big splash

A

fter a three year absence, the Hunstanton Christmas Day Swim returned to the delight of a huge festive crowd.



Nearly 100 swimmers braved the North Sea, turning out in colourful and, in many cases, outrageous costumes. How on earth Emma Guy dressed as a large Christmas present was going to manoeuvre the course proved a particular point of interest. She managed it though. Many of the swimmers feared the grinchies manning the turn point, but they proved warm hearted adjudicators. Given the recent extreme cold weather, the swimmers were let off lightly with relatively mild conditions. Or, so they thought. The icy Wash waters were not the swimmer's friend on this occasion, a shock to the system to many as the freezing sea caused a few eye balls to virtually pop out of heads. In true Christmas fashion, with ages ranging from teens to pensioners, everyone who braved the swim made it through unscathed to earn their certificates. Scooby Doo won the fancy dress competition.

Once again, the event was excellently managed by Hunstanton and District Round Table, raising funds for Caring Together, a leading charity that provides support to carers of all ages. Chairman, Mark

Williamson, was delighted with the turnout and the kindness of the estimated 2,000 onlookers. Mark said, "it was worth it as people gave really generously to the donation buckets".

The event has been running for over 50 years when a group of local sea swimmers decided to take to the waters over Christmas. The record turnout is over 200, but the plan is to try and break that record in 2023.



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Will Parfitt In the Spotlight

The Australian-based performer, model, and world-renowned social media influencer Will Parfitt, who is also known as a lookalike for Channing Tatum, was part of the 2022 RNLI Christmas Swim Team. He's pictured below - front row, centre



Name: Will Parfitt

Age: 32

Star Sign: Cancer

Where Born: Croydon

Occupation: Owner/entertainer of Magic Men Australia

Family: Came for a relaxing Xmas with my family, suddenly I have been roped into doing the swim by my sister and the RNLI Team!

A Cats or dogs person: Dogs

Hobbies: Gym

Team Support: Crystal Palace

Biggest achievement: Getting my Australian citizenship and running my own online business

Funniest memory: Running in the sea Christmas Day!

Famous Idol: The Rock

Favourite meal: Christmas dinner

Favourite drink: Tequila

Favourite holiday destination: Sunny Hunny

Three items for a desert island: A plane, a pilot and a runway

Favourite band/ singer: Drake

Worst habit: Unhealthy obsession with spending money, healthy obsession with making it

Pet hate in others: Negativity

Best advice ever given: What IF it can turn out better than you imagine!

What would you change in the world: Better weather in England and warmer seas!

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Sporting corner with Tim Keogh

Fundraising for the Gurkha Welfare Trust

The Gurkhas are soldiers from Nepal who are recruited into the British Army (or the Indian Army) and, for the last 200 years, committed themselves to the service of the British Crown. To this day, Gurkhas remain renowned for their loyalty, professionalism and bravery, and in military service, have been awarded a total of 13 Victoria Crosses.

The Gurkha Welfare Trust provides vital support to Gurkha veterans, their families and communities in Nepal, enabling people to live with dignity by delivering essential financial and medical aid, working with local communities to provide access to clean water and education.

Town and Around recently met up with Nick Holt of Holts Auctioneers and Johnny Fenn, GWT Ambassador, in Snettisham to discuss their fundraising campaigns.

Holts Auctioneers, based at Wolferton, raised over £61,000 for the Gurkha Welfare Trust (GWT) from their annual Clay Pigeon event in 2021 and continue to add to this amount through ongoing funds raised from modern and antique guns donated to the auctioneers.



Last year, Holts annual fund raising event, the Platinum Clay Day, also raised over £61k for the Riding for The Disabled Association, where Princess Anne is patron. This year's event, their fifteenth, is The Annual Clay Day, to be held on the Sandringham Estate on 4th August.

Holts, originally set up in Chelsea in 1993, moved their auctioneering operation to Wolferton in 2019 on the invitation of King Charles to oversee the management all Royal modern and antique guns. One famous client, Eric Clapton, has even advised on the catalogue item listing system.

Nick said, "The Queen was passionate about how the Gurkhas were treated, given their loyalty, particularly in their capacity as

bodyguards to the Royals. So we were delighted to channel all fundraising from donated guns back to the GWT". As part of the Holts Charitable and Legacy programme, as well as the GWT, they also donate to the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust and the Gamekeepers Welfare Trust.

Holts hold regular auctions throughout the year, with the next one due on 20th/21st March. They also offer free valuations on modern and antique guns. Presently, Holts have over 7,500 guns on display. For more information, please visit www.holtsauctioneers.com.

Johnny Fenn is kickstarting 2023 with an incredible fundraising challenge – an epic trek walking the entire length of Nepal.



Johnny is a long-term supporter and Ambassador of The Gurkha Welfare Trust. He will be setting off in early January, heading for Nepal's western border to begin a journey that will see him walking for around four months. His route will take him through rugged mountain terrain, across rivers with suspended bridges, and along steep mountain tracks far from civilisation.

Johnny anticipates the journey will take roughly 16 weeks, covering around 1,400 miles including over 60 miles of vertical ascent. He aims to raise an incredible £20,000, with the proceeds being divided equally between The Gurkha Welfare Trust and Hello World.

Jonny said, "The GWT has been, for years, the lifeline that allows impoverished ex-Gurkhas to live their lives with dignity. It's an incredible charity absolutely bringing real comfort to those in the hills."

There will be little comfort on the journey though, as Johnny plans to live like a porter, eating a simple plate of 'dal bhat' twice a day (rice, lentil dal, and vegetables).

"I will be accompanied by two porters that I have known for years, and who are also both excited to see the whole of Nepal," Johnny said. "We will eat simple rice 'dal bhat' throughout; no meat, and just water and tea. I



have 112 days to complete this, and if you have ever trekked in the hills of Nepal, you'll know it's a tough ask."

Johnny has been involved with Nepal and the Gurkhas for many years. He is a former British Army Officer and served 16 of his 25 years with the Brigade of Gurkhas. His Gurkha service took him to East Timor and Iraq, before being posted back to the UK as Deputy Chief of Staff for the Brigade of Gurkhas. On promotion to Lieutenant Colonel, Johnny was appointed British Military Advisor to ECOWAS in Nigeria, then took up the role of Field Director of The Gurkha Welfare Trust in Pokhara, Nepal.

He is now a professional photographer and explorer, and he has travelled the globe on photographic adventures. Since becoming a photographer, Johnny has returned to Nepal at least once every year.

Johnny will be joined on sections of his walk by local staff and supporters including Hari Budha Magar, another Ambassador for the GWT. Hari is a double above-knee amputee and record-breaking mountaineer who will be attempting to summit Mount Everest in 2023.

He will be carrying a GPS tracker so supporters will be able to track his progress.

Find out more: <https://www.gwt.org.uk/news/walking-nepal>

Visit Johnny's fundraising page at: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/johnny-fenn-1>



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Record turnout for Marham Flyers New Year's Eve 10K raises £3,000 for RAF Benevolent Fund

A record-breaking number of runners took part in the 2022 Marham Flyers New Year's Eve 10K. Now in its 7th year, 370 runners signed up to take part in the event on 31 December at RAF Marham.

The popular event raised £3,000 for the RAF Benevolent Fund, the RAF's leading welfare charity.

Race organiser Gary Walker said: "Although it was a damp dull day, the rain held off and we were blessed with good weather conditions for the race with some great times being recorded.

"Each year we try to make the New Year's Eve 10K bigger and better than the previous. The 2022 race was no different and the last few weeks saw a big rush in sign ups, with the event eventually reaching the over the maximum anticipated attendance, which was excellent."

Officer Commanding HR, Sqn Ldr Micah Aopare, who was standing in for the Station Commander who was away on leave, started the race and presented the winning trophies at the end of the event.

Everyone who took part received a goody bag and a specially designed 'Lightning' medal, together with a commemorative bottle of Battle of Britain beer at the finish.

This year's top finishing male runner was Zac Houghton of the City of Norwich Athletics Club, who completed the race in a brilliant time of 33 minutes. Taking first place for the females was local girl, Dawn Robinson from Ryston Runners, who finished the race in an excellent time of 40 minutes 20 seconds.

Further events are planned for later in the year, these including the annual Summer Special 10K Race, Duathlon and Children's 1K run, in June.

The Marham Flyers will be confirming the dates for each of these events on its web page www.marhamflyers.co.uk and on its Facebook page facebook.com/MarhamXk



Runners at the start of the 2022 Marham Flyers NYE 10K

King's Lynn parkrunners sign up for the TCS London Marathon in support of The Norfolk Hospice



L/R - Steve Franklin, Lynn Lockheart and Justin Walker, with Lynn's dog Poppy getting in on the act. Photo credit - Gary Walker

With the running season now beginning in earnest and people planning their events for this year, two of King's Lynn's regular parkrunners have signed up for this year's TCS London Marathon in support of Tapping House, The Norfolk Hospice.

Seasoned runner Steve Franklin, who has run the London Marathon in the past for Tapping House, is this year joined by Justin Walker, who has a very personal reason for supporting the charity.

Justin's Aunt Meg passed away in May 2019 after a long fight against cancer and was cared for at home by Tapping House, who did a great job in looking after her during her final few weeks. Justin said "I remember very well just how poorly aunt Meg was and will never forget the loving care she received from the Hospice during her final days, which was absolutely outstanding. It was a great comfort to the whole family to see the kind attention she received during those difficult times"

The runners were joined at parkrun by Lynn Lockheart, Tapping House Director of Operations, who said "It is great to receive the support of the runners, who sign up to run the Marathon on our behalf and to hear the really special reasons why they do so. It is so good to know what we do is appreciated and all the fund raising goes into enabling us to continue our support to those who need it. We are really grateful to Steve and Justin for running in the marathon this year for us"

Steve and Justin have an ambitious target of raising £4000. Any donations, however small, are greatly appreciated and you can do so by going to <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/justin-casey-walker>.

In addition, any business who wishes to sponsor Justin and advertise their company name on his race day running t-shirt, please contact him at runjustin2023@gmail.com

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Heacham Infant and Nursery School is GOOD

A West Norfolk school has been awarded a 'Good' Ofsted rating, with inspectors highlighting its "rich and exciting" curriculum and singling out both staff and children for praise.

Heacham Infant and Nursery School, which is a member of the West Norfolk Academies Trust, was praised for its curriculum, as well as the "admirable" behaviour and "positive attitudes to learning" of its 112 pupils, who range in age from two to seven.

"All pupils value the interesting curriculum and events, including special guests who enhance their lessons," said the report. "Pupils enjoy being at school. They feel safe, happy and well looked after. Pupils' behaviour is often admirable. They have positive attitudes to learning."

"At Heacham Infant School, everyone is comfortable being an individual. Pupils treat each other well, regardless of their differences."

The report continued: "Pupils demonstrate maturity in the way they behave. They are polite and friendly towards each other. Leaders make sure that everyone is valued. They help pupils to become ambitious yet well-rounded young people."

In the early years, the school's leaders create a "love of learning through a rich and exciting curriculum".

The Ofsted report continued: "Leaders have ensured that the curriculum flows seamlessly from the very start of the nursery to the end of the reception year. Children take part in a range of activities that help them develop their behaviour and literary skills."

"Parents receive regular updates about their children's progress and how best to help them at home."

Parents too were found to be happy with Heacham, with the report adding: "There are warm relationships with parents who speak highly of the school."

Ofsted inspectors carried out 'deep dives' into early reading, mathematics, science and geography at the school, discussing the curriculum with subject leaders, visiting lessons, speaking to teachers and children, and looking at samples of pupils' work.

They found "teachers regularly check what pupils know and understand", including making "regular checks to test the knowledge and skills of pupils".

"Leaders are determined that pupils will be fluent, confident readers by the time they leave Year 2," they noted. "This journey starts when



Louise Jackson (back row left) and Claire Dack reading with the children

children start school at two years old.

"Staff immerse them in song, rhyme, poems and books... The school has a superb range of quality reading materials which are found in every corner of the school."

Safeguarding at the school also received positive mention in their findings, along with the staff's "consistent approach to teaching mathematics".

"They plan carefully ordered lessons which help pupils build what they know," wrote the inspectors.

Headteacher, Louise Jackson, said: "We are delighted that Heacham Infant and Nursery School has received a 'good' Ofsted rating."

"The rating reflects the continuing hard work of our staff and children, and we will continue to work to ensure our high standards are maintained and Heacham remains an enjoyable and nourishing environment for all."

Cover photo: Assistant Headteacher Claire Dack with two children from Heacham Infant and Nursery School. Photos by Ian Burt

News from Brancaster Academy

Happy New Year from Brancaster Academy. We hope you had a good Christmas.

Term restarted for the children on Wednesday 4th January. We break for half term on Friday 10th February and restart on February 20th. Term finishes for Easter on Friday 31st March.



Thrift Class write "We loved all our Christmas activities in school like our party and Christmas lunch and Father Christmas coming. We went to a Puppet Show at the Village Hall too. Thank you to them for arranging it. We all had a lovely Christmas and some of us went to the Christingle like we learnt about in school. This term we are

learning about Our Wonderful World. We have already had 2 whole days on maps which was fun and we got really good at them. We



have started learning about farming and are also getting ready for the Big Birdwatch. We are learning to identify birds and are going to make bird food."

In Samphire's Geography lessons, we are looking at Europe, in particular comparing and contrasting our area with Paris and then going south to the Mediterranean. In our science lessons, we are looking at "materials" and how we can change solids, liquids and gases as well as mixing and separating materials. We continue to have music lessons with a specialist teacher from Norfolk Music Hub and Mrs Parkinson comes in on Wednesday and teaches us some great art.

Hunstanton Primary School

We greeted 2023 with open arms and it has been nice to be back and regain our routines again.

January wasn't as busy as December, understandably but the pupils have had a few things to look forward to. Throughout January the children enjoyed 'Favourites Day' lunch, lots of activities and learning throughout their class settings. Music lessons resumed and the hustle and bustle of school life continued.

At the end of January, Year 6 visited the Houses of Parliament on a trip to London. During the day, the children received a tour of the House of Commons and Lords, they gained access to the public galleries and a tour of Westminster Hall. They also watched a short film on the story of Parliament and took part in a workshop during their visit.

This was an incredible opportunity for the children and it heavily supported their learning about the suffragettes and supports the children in learning about British Values, a core element of the national curriculum. A great day was had by all.

We have also held a couple of our Uniform Swap Shops in the school hall. Parents are able to bring in any pre-loved uniform items. We then get these washed and ready so that items can be passed on and made available for anyone to collect at the swap shop. This is proving very successful and is enabling those families who need a certain item that may have been lost or grown out of the opportunity to see if we can provide.

In February before we finish for half-term the PTA will be hosting their annual Valentine's Disco for the whole school. This is something all the children really look forward, a chance to break out some dance moves and to have some fun. Huge thanks to our PTA for orchestrating and putting on these events throughout the year.

As a school we are now the proud owners of an outside community defibrillator. This is located outside of our main school This has been



kindly donated by Hunstanton & District Round Table and we are so incredibly grateful to them. This life-saving device can be used by adults or children whether they are part of the school or not. If you need it, please use it. The Round Table also have more money that they are looking to put towards local projects so if you have something in mind then please do get in touch via contact@hunstantonroundtable.co.uk

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

Do you have or know anyone that has a child starting Reception in September 2023? Have you had a tour of our school yet so you can see what we have to offer? Book your tour now. Contact us on 01485 533373 or email office@hunstanton.norfolk.sch.uk

Hunstanton and District Inner Wheel

Sue Trewin, Club Correspondent

I hope Christmas was all that you wanted it to be and 2023 will prove to be a smooth journey.

Our collection of toys and tins for the Salvation Army was very successful and a small group of us delivered to the Hunstanton shop so many items we had to borrow a Sainsbury's shopping trolley to deliver them. We received a lovely welcome from the staff and hopefully the recipients will find Christmas a little more bearable. Photo below.



Baby Basics were also recipients of gifts which coincided with urgent requests for newborn items. On this particular day, 9 Moses baskets were filled and were dispatched promptly. See photo (right)

Gill Teicke one of our members organised a lantern making class after we had enjoyed a

delicious Christmas Dinner at Le Strange. I was not a particularly good student as I do not do well with glue. She had copious amounts of patience and although my lantern did not bear any relation to a lantern, it became the topper for my Christmas tree. I can understand why children usually enjoy group activities. Regardless of the end product,

there is something good about socialising with friends.

After many phone calls and discussions, all



expertly handled by Val Garner, our secretary, finally the day arrived to plant the tree to commemorate the Queen's platinum jubilee and sadly her passing too. Tree planting is not that easy. Choosing the tree, in our case an oak, finding a suitable location, digging the hole, staking the tree to prevent it snapping, and protecting it from a passing muntjac. If you would like to visit the tree, it is situated at the Lower Spinney in Hunstanton. We hope it will flourish and bring pleasure to those who visit it.



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Although only just into the New Year, Ash Wednesday this year falls on 22nd February, so although not yet confirmed at time of writing, we should be holding our usual Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper at St Cecilia's on the evening of 21st February. Details will be on the website and weekly bulletins. If you would like to be on the distribution list for the weekly bulletins straight to your inbox, please send your email address to hunstantonparish@rcdea.org.uk. Also, if you are a new to the parish, there is a form in both church porches to fill in your details to welcome you to the parish. Feel free to ask if you can't see them.

We have regular Rosary prayer meetings at St Cecilia's every Monday from 2pm. and

there is also a Mothers Prayers group which meet at 2.30pm Monday fortnightly at OLSE. There is a fair-trade stall in the meeting room at St Cecilia's on the first Sunday of each month, which it is hoped will also come to OLSE from February.

The Pope's prayer intention for February; For Parishes: we pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

A few members of the parish have been getting together to discuss ways to enliven the life of the parish. One of the things under discussion is the setting up of an SVP Group in our parish. The dates of the meetings are published on the website and in the weekly church bulletins and anyone interested in contributing in any way is more than welcome to attend or speak to someone and pass on ideas.

Sr Danuta is guiding a regular parish study/discussion group at the Convent every Tuesday, 4.00-5.00pm, looking in more depth at the readings for the following Sundays. Anyone who is interested is welcome to come along to any of the meetings and take part.

Please contact the Convent direct about daily Masses there on tel. 01485 532837.

For Parish news including Mass times and prayer requests, please see the Parish News page on our website. www.hunstanton-catholicparish.org

Christian Science

"All you need is love"

The Beatles song "All you need is Love" released in July 1967 could be a message for today. It is what the world needs now, not for just Valentines Day, that is a romantic view of love; but a compassionate, selfless and deep caring for humanity. God-created man has been given unlimited love, and since Love is a quality and not a physical thing, we all have the love that never runs out, and is always available. We need to tap into this selfless quality, share it, spread it to everyone we meet. Love lifts the dark clouds that would try to depress or stop humanity's natural trust and joy for our families, friends and the world. As the Bible states "Love never fails (never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end)" 1 Cor 13:8 The Amplified Bible.

Our church services are held on Sundays at 11am and at 12o'clock on the first Wednesday

of the month at 10 Queen's Drive, Hunstanton. Free magazines are available in the box outside the church, online information on Christian Science at www.christianscience.com or spirituality4.me or 01366 328108.

Union church

A Tuft of Snowdrops.

William Wordsworth wrote a short poem entitled On Seeing a Tuft of Snowdrops in a Storm and the sight of these delicate white flowers boldly withstanding the dark, stormy days of February is guaranteed to lift the spirits!

Snowdrops hold a promise of hope that the frozen ground is not dead but merely sleeping and when they push through any snowfall, they melt it with their inner warmth.

That hope is not one of wishful thinking but anchored in the knowledge that as the seasons change so our natural world responds. We have faith that the snowdrop is a harbinger of Spring.

The Bible puts it very succinctly: "To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see." (Hebrews 11:1)

A bit like our snowdrop...we cannot see how it gets nourishment from the soil or know for certain that Spring will follow but we know that it's alive and we believe that Winter will end.

Jesus offers a hope that rests on assurance rather than wishful thinking and even on the darkest days His presence will bring an inner joy that changes lives.

Titchwell Matters

Dear Friends,

Now that Christmas is past, our readings Sunday by Sunday in church follow the life of Jesus, and I have recently been mulling over my favourite bible passage. It's Luke's account of Jesus at the age of twelve staying behind in Jerusalem after his family have set off to walk back home to Nazareth. When Mary and Joseph realise that he is missing, they go back, and after three days they find him in the Temple debating in the most amazing way with all the learned rabbis. Some of you may be familiar with it: it's in Luke's Gospel, Chapter 2.

We read: When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

"Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

Jewish boys take their place in synagogue worship at thirteen, and Jesus was preparing himself for this, but also recognising God's claim on his life in the most marvellous way.

Now debate about this passage often centres on the issue of whether the boy Jesus was being naughty or disobedient to his parents, but God's claims on us can often be in conflict with our own human desires.

The hardest decisions are not those between right and wrong, but often between two options that both represent worthy claims

on us. And here, Jesus was already subordinating other priorities to his sense of God's purpose in his life; something that we can all find so hard to do. But we read on to discover that he went back home with Mary and Joseph.

With my prayers and best wishes for you all, James Monro (Assistant Priest).

Hunstanton & Saxon Shore

Dear Friends,

In these first few months of the year it can seem a bit dreary can't it? The nights are still long and the weather is very unpredictable. During these times it is good to have something to look forward to. In February we traditionally think of Valentines Day but for those who have lost a beloved partner this can be a difficult season of adjustment and grief. For others it can be a time of year when you avoid the cards as it seems to highlight the difficulty of being single.

All of this got me thinking about love and how we show, those we love, what they mean to us. I'm not talking about partners in particular but anyone we love and care for. Apparently there are five 'love languages' and one of these is Words of Affirmation. These can be things said or written that affirm the other person. Within friendships this is a valuable way of letting someone know how important that they are to us. We all know that when the post arrives, if you have a bunch of typed envelopes and one that is hand written, we open the hand written one first. It just seems more personal, especially if you recognise the handwriting as that of a loved one or friend. Personal notes are so important and up-lifting.

Often within friendships and relationships people have nicknames for each other. These are ways of showing affection. However sometimes people create nicknames that are designed to hurt and diminish. I recently discovered that some people refer to me as 'The Vicar of Dibley'. I must admit I laughed when I found out, but I know it isn't said with affection, it is meant to belittle.

As Christians we do have to turn away from those who would ridicule and laugh at us and show a better way. Jesus suffered from great unpleasantness, ridicule and eventually death on a cross, yet he forgave all because love conquers everything. We can make a choice not to let negative words stick in our minds and affect our hearts.

As we start the season of Lent in February perhaps we could reflect on the way in which we use Words of Affirmation towards others. We could also choose to ignore those who try to put us down and make us feel small. It can happen in different ways but saying a little prayer for the other person it can help those words to float away and not sting us. We could then be determined in Lent, rather than give something up, to make a conscious effort to support, thank and encourage others. Jesus was all about doing the unexpected and showing love in many different ways. We can do that too in this month of February and beyond.

May the start of Lent be a positive one for you.

God bless you all,

Rachael

(Or if you like, The Vicar of Dibley 😊)

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Art and Architecture

Lesley Nadel

Art is recognized as creative activity but what is it about a painting, a sculpture, a piece of music that defines it as art? There is no definition of art that is universally accepted and forever the debate continues. We know that painting, sculpture and architecture are the three traditional visual arts, and we may also know that "the arts" also include literature, music, drama, poetry, interactive media, decorative arts, etc. Definitions such as "fine art" or "low arts" may concern the art experts or the well-informed but for most of us it's a subjective exercise; do we, don't we, like it? To the creator, these terms have real meaning and particularly in the field of architecture.

The term fine arts has traditionally been attached to works of the highest artistic expression, unique, pleasing to the eye and ear. Low arts may also be pleasing to the eye, but the main purpose of their design is for practical purposes. Designing a beautiful structure and building it, is considered one of the classical forms of fine art known as architecture. Architectural works are often symbols in physical form of the meaning of a culture or ideology and encompass artistic elements of historic civilizations. Roman structures were often decorated with floral patterns, columns embellished with scrolls, and between 1890 and 1910 the Art Nouveau architectural style was characterized by organic features, intricate ornamental shapes, and the use of a diverse range of materials. The Victorian era saw the revival of the ornate aesthetic Gothic style of art which was used to characterize architectural elements of buildings and define our national landscape.

Architecture as fine art deviates in many ways from what is the standard, accepted criteria. Structures are designed to have a functional purpose, but by choosing the practice of architectural design, aesthetics, and not just function, are introduced. This architectural hybrid of art, technology and building is a form of human expression that is there to be shared and interpreted. Therein lie the similarities between art and architecture, with the added element that humans are part of the environment. We take part in it, experience it and make connection to the objects, buildings, etc. as we move about them. We experience the artistic element as well as the functional.

Frank Lloyd Wright is quoted as saying that architecture is 'The mother of all arts' with its combination of artistic and aesthetic beauty together with the scientific and mathematical precision used in building design. Without architecture there would be nowhere to display other works of art and many classical and historical buildings have been constructed with the aim to display the objects and the building as the whole experience.

Not everyone agrees that architecture is art. The critics believe that the least useful definition in circulation is that it is "art" - misleading to the public and damaging to society. But one issue that is universally agreed upon is that industrialism (1750 - 1900) had a massive influence on architecture. Civilizations experienced enormous changes with the mechanisation of manual labour, new building materials such as cast iron, steel and glass, and the development of technology.

You can learn more about how industrialisation changed the world of architecture at the next Arts Society lecture on Monday 13th February 2023, at 2.00pm in Sedgeford Village Hall. Non-members are welcomed to come along and join us for one free lecture.

Hunstanton & District Community Voices

After a busy Christmas season and a well - deserved break, the choir will resume weekly meetings, and begin to focus on a summer repertoire to cover more public performances, and celebrations for the coronation of His Majesty, King Charles III.

New members are always welcome, whether or not they are already used to singing in a choir - so feel free to try us, free of charge for your first visit. Meetings at 7pm, The Way Christian Fellowship Hall, Downs Close, Hunstanton PE36 5HU. Every Monday until we break for Easter.



THE ARTS SOCIETY - ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH THE ARTS

Next lecture: Monday 13th February 2023
Sedgeford Village Hall at 2pm

Industrialism and Revival: Lecturer: John Sherlock

The lecture looks at how industrialisation changed the world of architecture, and how the Victorian Gothic revival did so much to define our national landscape in Britain. (1750-1900). John picks out Ruskin and Prince Albert as being the key catalysts for the revival.



Would you like to try out The Arts Society lectures? Why don't you come along and enjoy a free lecture this February? You will be made very welcome.

For more info and how to join, visit our website:
www.theartsocietynwnorfolk.org.uk

or email:
info@theartsocietynwnorfolk.org.uk

STRICTLY ARTS

NEW DIRECTOR WANTED by Hunstanton & District Festival of Arts

Looking for a fulfilling challenge for 2023? We urgently need a new Festival Director - an important, rewarding role for the Arts in our area. The job involves leading a team to bring a variety of artistic events together to complete a new programme each year. Please do contact me if you would like to talk about this exciting opportunity.

We are in the middle of programme planning for the coming year and would love to include an audience with Judi Dench or Maggie Smith or even settle for Hugh Bonneville if they are not available. We could invite Ed Sheeran to top the bill at the Music Festival in July. But sadly, we don't have that kind of budget for big names. However, we can bring a variety of quality performers to our area and who knows, one day they may become famous and where did we first see them?

We also know there are many talented people living locally and we would love to hear from you if you sing, play an instrument, act, dance or entertain an audience in other ways. Or do you have useful connections with someone you could introduce us to?

We also need a new Art Exhibition Organiser.

Last year we held an excellent art exhibition and would really like to repeat it this coming summer, but we need someone to take the lead - we have a great team of helpers some of whom will exhibit their own work. West Norfolk Arts Association would give us their advice as they did in 2022. Could you do this exhibition?

To respond to any of the above suggestions please contact 2chrisearnshaw@gmail.com or phone Chris 533367.

The Arts Society King's Lynn

We will be welcoming the cartoonist Harry Venning on Thursday 9th February to give a lecture on 'The Art of the Cartoonist'. Harry will be tracing the history of his profession with examples from early practitioners like Cruickshank and Hogarth, to more contemporary artists such as Giles and Schulz, bringing events right up to date with cartoons produced fresh on the page that day! Harry will be drawing live. So be prepared to hear some tricks of his trade, learn where to put eyebrows for maximum effect and discover exactly what the Eskimo brothers said in The Funniest Joke Ever (possibly). The lecture will take place in West Winch Village Hall where there is ample free parking available and starts at 2pm. TASKL meets once a month on the second Thursday from September to May and anyone is welcome to become a member for just £52 a year or can go along to individual lectures as a guest for £10. Anyone interested in finding out more about TASKL can visit their website at www.theartsocietykingslynn.org.uk or to join the Society contact the membership secretary on 01366 328648 or via email at info@theartsocietykingslynn.org.uk.

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Behind the Scenes...

Hello all! Firstly, we hope you have had a wonderful Christmas and we would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy New Year. We have now returned to open our doors after our post Panto break, and we couldn't be more excited for what's to come this 2023! Our Box Office, Sunset Wine Bar, and Theatre are ready to welcome you, our first show being on the 28th of January, and it's going to be a blast with the sold out Showaddywaddy.

Kicking off this February is The Story of Guitar Heroes. If you are a fan of guitar legends, then this is the show for you! This act has performed both locally and internationally, gathering fans along the way. Featuring amazing musicianship, iconic guitarists of the past 50 years are celebrated, such as Hank Marvin, Chuck Berry, Eric Clapton, Jimi Hendrix, Brian May, Jimmy Page, Mark Knopfler, Van Halen, Slash and many more. With the performers utilising no less than 30 different authentic guitars, it is fair to say the atmosphere of our auditorium will be electric! So, make sure you 'pick' up your phone, and book your tickets, performing February 4th.



An exciting February will end on the 26th with Circus Spectacular, when you may recognise a familiar name, 'Shone', the production company behind our recent pantomime, Cinderella. With the fantastic reviews we have gratefully received throughout the past December for our Panto, it's clear that you really don't want to miss out on this hilarious show. Jokes are paired with outstanding circus acts, an afternoon of great family entertainment!

March begins with a fantastic act – Totally Tina, performing March 3rd. Returning now for multiple years, this high energy night never disappoints! With the well-earned title of the official UK no.1 winner of The National Tribute

Music Award 2018, Justine Riddoch alongside her talented band and dancers make for an excellent tribute to Tina Turner.



As stated on the Totally Tina and Justine's professional website, Justine has 'been singing professionally for over 30 years and has worked extensively in theatres and on national TV'. Justine started at the young age of 11 'in school productions, moving on professionally for a living at just 17'. Not only a clear master of her craft, with years of experience behind her, she has also been deemed a 'human juke box', and hence it seems her talent has no limits!

Justine's journey to become the Tina act we all know and love today began after she had been told on numerous occasions that her voice shared resemblance to Tina, and so Justine 'set herself the challenge to become the closest copy she could be.' It's apparent that the transformation took Justine Riddoch time and dedication, but through listening to various Tina musical numbers, studying video footage, and researching costumes, the challenge she had set herself had been well and truly reached. Then, the final touches were left, finding the amazing dancers, paired with the instantly recognisable choreography, alongside the talented musicians, plus rehearsal and practice, the group were then performance ready.

Justine leaves an inspiring personal quote on the Totally Tina website, "I've been myself a lot longer than I've been a tribute to any artist and it's strange sometimes to transform into my big alter ego. But you get away with an awful lot with being TINA! Her sheer presence, her energy, her humility and dynamite vocals." She continues, "I've never



Jemma Hall - Author

thought of myself as an impersonator and in no way ever think I can replace the legend that is Ms Turner, but I hope if she ever sees the show, she will appreciate the hard work and sacrifice we have put into it, just so we can keep spreading her name to her fans." So, come and shake a



tail feather with Justine and her fantastic cast in the unmissable Totally Tina!

Please visit the back page to view the full 'what's on list' featuring February and the start of March. That's it from me, thank you for the support you have shown our theatre over the past year, we look forward to seeing you all again now that our venue is open, and we can't wait for you to experience the thrill of the big lights once more with our fantastic act line-up! But until then, break a leg!



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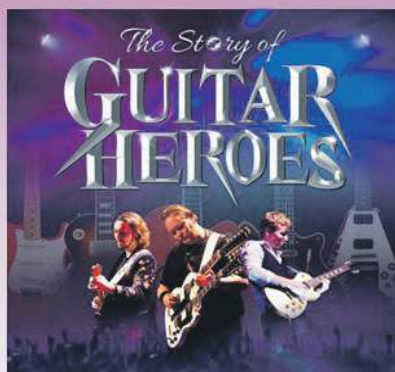
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What's on February 2023



Saturday 4th

Friday 10th

Saturday 18th



Sunday 19th

Saturday 25th

Sunday 26th

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**March
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