

# TOWN and AROUND

ISSUE 220 FEBRUARY 2024

PRICELESS!



# First word



**L**eesa Espley was on the cover of T&A in 2021 when we ran an article about the female volunteers at Hunstanton Lifeboat Station for International Women's Day. This time it's all about Leesa, the RNLI's first female hovercraft pilot, who has been presented with her 20-year service medal from the RNLI. You can read about her on page 6. Thank you, Chris Bishop/RNLI for the photos.

The magazine is crammed full of very diverse content and new for this issue is a February Food page (56). There you can find the

Prudent Pensioner's Less Waste, More Soup recipe, details of the free food and cooking sessions in Hunstanton starting on 30th January and a cheeky Leap Year cocktail invented in 1928 by an American in London escaping prohibition in his country of birth.

Garden and nature lovers will find articles on pages 18-22 and those who prefer to look skywards page 30 is for you.

Local politics, history, business news, fashion, health, events, sport, the arts, and news from schools and local organisations are all included in these pages. My thanks to all who have contributed.

Little by little the days are getting longer and next month we change the clocks!

In the meantime, don't forget Valentine's Day on 14th.

With best wishes for a fabulous February,

## Elaine

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## Extraordinary Town Council meeting ends in 6-5 vote against new hotel

Hunstanton Town Council met on 3rd January to respond to a planning application for a new four storey hotel and restaurant above what is currently a car park above retail units on the South Promenade. The Borough Council makes the decisions about planning, but the Town Council is a statutory consultee and is asked for its opinion. There is a time limit for the Town Council to respond which is why the extraordinary meeting had to be arranged.

Local businessman Derrick Lloyd who is applying to build the hotel attended the meeting along with several members of the public and the Borough Councillors representing the town.

The design and access statement prepared by Strata Architects specifies that the building would be set out over five floors with the promenade, and ground floors providing the development's retail / restaurant functions, including car parking and other communal facilities. The hotel accommodation on the top three floors would comprise of two one-bedroom suites and seven two-bedroom suites.

Mr Sach, who owns a property near the proposed development said: "The residents of Harlequin House would be severely impacted by the new build; it is already practically impossible to get in and out of the Harlequin House private car park, and the reduction of car parking spaces and increased traffic would only make this worse."

Cllr Howard pointed out that the Norfolk guidance was one parking space for every bedroom and the project had 16 bedrooms and only 9 car parking spaces.

Cllr Tony Bishopp said the council was in favour of investment in the town. "Personally, I'm in favour of this build, it will add value to the town and if we have local businesses wanting to take this on, we should support it."

Cllr Robert Corby said: "The application ignores the Neighbourhood Plan and falls within the conservation area."

"We are obliged to follow the Neighbourhood Plan, the Conservation Document and then the Local Plan."

"The development is too tall for the area; an application for a hotel is not the issue, my problem is the size and impact within the conservation area and the reduction in car park spaces."

"I don't think what we have here fits in with the Neighbourhood Plan, it is an overdevelopment of the site."

Cllr Jordan Cribb said: "This is a massive application for this town; it is great to see business investment, but I don't think investment should supersede good development." He also said there was much missing from the application that hadn't appeared on the borough's planning portal.

Responding to questions from the public and members of the council Mr Lloyd, who owns three other hotels plus self-catering properties in the area, confirmed that their feasibility study revealed there is a strong demand for family accommodation; Hunstanton is a family resort and there are not enough family rooms available. He confirmed that about 30 jobs would be created.

Mr Lloyd also rebuffed suggestions that the suites would be sold off as seafront flats. He said: "As a family business we are investing in



*Hunstanton Town Council Extraordinary Meeting*



View 1 - from the Promenade



View 2 - from the beach

*Picture credit: Strata Architects p31 Design and Access Statement*

the area; we intend the hotel to open all year round and we are not intending to have a bar there – it's a different format altogether.

"We run all of our businesses ourselves and employ 500-600 staff; we wouldn't do anything detrimental to the area."



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# Hunstanton Lifeboat Station

One of our long-serving volunteers paid tribute to her crew-mates after receiving a 20-year service medal from the charity that saves lives at sea.

Leesa Espley became part of the crew at Hunstanton RNLI in 2003, shortly before the hovercraft arrived at the station.

Teacher Leesa, now 52, went on to become the RNLI's first female hovercraft pilot - a duty she still performs today at the controls of the Hunstanton Flyer, along with crewing the station's inshore lifeboat Spirit of West Norfolk.

"I always knew I was going to be in it for the long haul," she said. "You're doing something for your community, you're doing something that's really worthwhile."

"And the people at the station are just great, there's so much camaraderie. You're working as a team, with like-minded people and I just love doing what we do."

"Being part of it gives you a real sense of achievement and the crew is like an extension of your family."

Hunstanton Lifeboat Operations Manager Rigil Kent said: "We've got a number of firsts at the station but 20 years' commitment is a big



thing.

"Although we have got some long-serving crew, the average is 10 years, so for someone to do 20 or more is pretty special and it's a well-deserved award."

This year marks the 200th anniversary of both the founding of a lifeboat service at Hunstanton and the birth of the RNLI.

Our forbears launched in wooden boats with oars and sails, which were hauled across the

beach by horses.

Today we operate a fast inshore lifeboat from our station on Sea Lane, which is also one of just four around the country which operates a search and rescue hovercraft.

Generations before us went to sea in all weathers wearing oilskins, ganseys and gumboots, with no radio or radar to guide them.

Today's crew are equipped with state-of-the-art clothing and technology for their lifesaving mission.

But while they might be centuries apart, some things have not changed.

For our volunteers have always been ordinary people from your town and its surrounding area who do extraordinary things.

Running a lifeboat station needs both sea-going and shore crew, along with many other roles.

If you'd like to find out more about the ways you could help our lifesaving work, we train at the station on Sunday mornings or you can e-mail [hunstanton@rnli.org.uk](mailto:hunstanton@rnli.org.uk).

Stay Safe, Respect the Sea

*Photo credit: Chris Bishop RNLI*

## More Lifeboat news

In a display of continued cooperation and skill, the crews from RNLI Skegness in Lincolnshire and RNLI Hunstanton in Norfolk met up in The Wash for their annual joint training exercise.

During the training exercise, Skegness RNLI's all-weather lifeboat, the Joel and April Grunnill, with Hunstanton's B class inshore lifeboat, Spirit of West Norfolk, and their Rescue Hovercraft, the Hunstanton Flyer met to conduct joint training. This gathering allowed both crews to engage in training across three classes of rescue craft, enhancing their operational proficiency and readiness.

This exercise is important for both stations, providing an opportunity to expand their understanding of the different lifeboats in the RNLI fleet, their operational differences, and ways to more effectively work together in future rescue operations. The partnership between Hunstanton and Skegness has been evident in numerous service launches, including a recent joint operation in May 2023, to assist a casualty in The Wash.

Hunstanton's Lifeboat Operations Manager Rigil Kent said: 'It's something our crew look forward to all year. As an annual thing we meet up with the Skegness crew, we usually exchange mince pies and soft drinks and see in the New Year out in the middle of The Wash.'

**RNLI crew members Elise Kyle (left) and her sister Louise on board the Skegness lifeboat, as Hunstanton lifeboat passes astern.**  
*Credit RNLI*



## Home Instead shines in top survey results for West Norfolk care company

Home Instead, a leading provider of home care services in West Norfolk, has achieved outstanding results in its recent Client Satisfaction Survey. The company, renowned for its exceptional care services and rated outstanding by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), received overwhelmingly positive feedback in the anonymous survey, with a remarkable 100% of clients expressing their likelihood to recommend Home Instead.

Key highlights from the survey include:

- 100% of clients affirmed that their Care Professional consistently arrives on time.
- 100% felt a sense of safety during their visits from Home Instead.
- 100% noted that their Care Professional demonstrated a genuine interest in them as individuals.
- The overall service was rated as 100% satisfactory by surveyed clients.

Tom McEwan, Managing Director of Home Instead, emphasized the significance of the annual PEAQ survey, stating, "Our annual PEAQ survey is crucial for us; it provides our clients and care professionals the opportunity to provide feedback on how we are performing. This year's client results are a testament to the dedication of our amazing Care Professionals and our dedicated office team."

In addition to exceptional client feedback, Home Instead's Care Professionals also expressed high satisfaction, with 100% indicating pride in working for the company and a unanimous likelihood to recommend Home Instead as a workplace.

Tom McEwan added, "We are immensely proud of our Care Professionals, and their commitment reflects in these outstanding survey results. It's a true reflection of our commitment to providing high-quality, person-centered care."

For more information about Home Instead, please visit [homeinstead.co.uk](http://homeinstead.co.uk) or visit their office at 66 High Street, Kings Lynn.

\*Advertisement on page 3.



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David Young provides unique musical entertainment on clarinet, tenor saxophone and wind synthesiser. The instruments are accompanied by pre-recorded musicians and covers all tastes from jazz standards, film/show music, Latin (cha cha, samba, bossa nova), ballroom and upbeat pop music from several decades.

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And with Valentine's Day fast approaching, why not pop in and see what special offers we will have on our steaks – you'll love 'em!!

Our Valentine's discounts will run from 12th – 14th February. (Don't forget to treat yourself to a lovely bottle of wine too, from one of our local suppliers, to go with your meal – there's plenty to choose from.)

As always, we have plenty of other goodies for you at the Deli and on the shop floor, so why not pop in and see if anything takes your fancy. Please ask our staff if you need help ordering or call 01485 570002.

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# Dental campaign goes out to schools

County Councillor Alexandra Kemp

County Division: Clenchwarton and King's Lynn South Llandline: 01553 630329 Mobile: 07920 286636

December marked the first visit into school in the Dental Campaign. I purchased 157 toothbrushes and tubes of toothpaste and distributed them to each class at West Lynn Primary, on the last day of term before Christmas..



*Cllr Alexandra Kemp (third from left) delivering toothpaste and toothbrushes to West Lynn Primary School.*

I asked pupils, how often is it a good idea to clean your teeth and how long should you spend brushing your teeth? How much toothpaste should you use? Answers: twice a day, two minutes, pea-size amount.

I was really pleased to hear a child say, "This really makes me want to brush my teeth!"

Local Councils have a really important role, in helping to all we can

to reduce Health Inequalities. But Government must reform the Dental Contract, so everyone can access an NHS Dentist.

## Karen Mason and Purfleet Pantry's Survey

Karen Mason, Manager of Purfleet Pantry Social Supermarket in South Lynn conducted a Survey on behalf of the Dental Campaign.

The survey found that out of the 262 West Norfolk residents, who responded, only 98 were registered with an NHS Dentist, 81 had registered with a private dentist, and 83 had no dentist at all.

This shows how serious the NHS Dental deficit is in West Norfolk. We need to train dental staff locally and encourage them to stay and work here. A Dental School in West Norfolk is part of the solution.

Purfleet Pantry continues to give out children's toothbrushes and toothpaste, which is gratefully received by customers.

The Integrated Care Partnership's Short Term Dental Health Plan in September, shows West Norfolk has the worst prevalence of tooth decay in the East of England among 5 year-olds and increasing numbers of 15-19 year-olds being referred to secondary care for tooth extraction. When I asked what they are going to do about it, the ICS agreed to fund local Dental Surgeries up to 20k each, to carry out dental prevention work on an interim basis for young people.

But residents cannot get children registered with a dentist. There needs to be root and branch reform of the National Dental Contract and proper funding to incentivise dentists to work in the NHS, and the return of the school dentist. All young people in West Norfolk should be able to register with an NHS Dentist, as they could when I was a child, and so should all residents. This is a rich country, but we are underfunding basic public health services like NHS Dentistry. This is leads to other more costly health interventions, as a leading cause of admission to hospital for young children, is tooth extraction.

# Wild in Westminster and West Norfolk

After the challenges of Covid and the impact of war in Ukraine, let's hope 2024 is the year we turn a corner. There was certainly welcome news last month for 27 million people who saw a cut in tax on their pay slip. With the National Insurance reduction worth around £450 a year on average and inflation now far below its peak of 11 per cent, this will help ease pressures on families.

But there is more to do and there is ongoing financial support in place for the most vulnerable households and increases in the national living wage from April, as well as pensions. And I hope next month's Budget will set out more plans to cut taxes to allow people to keep more of what they earn as well as additional help our vital local tourism, hospitality, and leisure businesses in particular.

The economy is the issue I am contacted about most frequently. People often ask me how many emails I get from constituents. Well, last year it was 14,459 seeking my help with benefits, housing problems, pensions, flooding, sorting a tax issue, accessing Help for Households support, visa matters or many others.

Many messages have been about QEH and



securing a new hospital. That's been my priority since I was elected and after the brilliant announcement adding QEH to the new hospitals programme my focus this year is on working closely with QEH to move the plans forward so we have a new modern hospital by 2030 to serve West Norfolk and beyond.

I'm also making sure the exciting projects including Shakespeare's St. George's Guildhall and Creative Hub, a new community and library centre, riverfront improvement, active travel, as part of the £25 million Town Deal for Lynn continue to progress making our area an even better place to live, work, and visit.

The Hunstanton Advisory Group is modelled on the Town Board and is developing projects and plans that could improve the town. That compliments other initiatives such as better bus services and the new Hunstanton travel hub and library that are coming. The feasibility study for Smithdon High School as part of the School Rebuilding Programme is also due shortly which is the next step in delivering better facilities for pupils and staff.

As I write I am continuing to help people affected by flooding in Burnham Market, South Creake, Grimston and elsewhere. Part of the challenge has been ensuring Anglian Water and other agencies work together to help affected households and areas.

Improving the quality of coastal waters and rivers is high on my agenda and I continue to work closely with the Environment Agency, Anglian Water, and others on this. At Heacham, bathing waters would now be classified as "good" if only one year's results were used (rather than a four year period). This is encouraging and expert analysis available soon should help guide further action.

So plenty to get stuck into and if you think I may be able help please drop me a line james.wild.mp@parliament.uk

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## Buying or selling a property with subsidence

By John Perry, Solicitor, Hayes + Storr

If you are looking to buy a residential property, any mention of subsidence can be disconcerting. But what is subsidence, and how can it affect a property transaction?

### Subsidence, settlement and shrinkage

Subsidence occurs when instability in local subsoils and the geological conditions of the area cause a building's foundations to sink. This underlying instability compromises the building's structural integrity and cracks appear as walls shift and floors drop.

Not all damage is attributable to subsidence. Some movement occurs where the weight of a building compresses the subsoil and this bedding-in is known as 'settlement'. 'Shrinkage' may occur in new-build properties when building materials dry out.

### What causes subsidence?

Subsidence can be down to the type of subsoil upon which a property is built. Norfolk rests predominantly on glacial deposits and the subsoil is prone to disturbance by being washed away. Such disturbance is commonly caused by leaks from damaged pipes and drains. Subsoils, like clay and silt, will shrink and expand with changes in their moisture content. Subsidence can also occur to developments built on infilled land and in areas of past mining

activity.

### How do I know if a property has a history of subsidence?

To manage the risk, you should commission a comprehensive survey from a qualified surveyor. If buying with mortgage finance, a lender's valuation is not as thorough as a survey, and should not be relied upon.

The lawyer plays a key role in identifying the risk. The conveyancing searches and enquiries may reveal whether subsidence is a potential issue or requires further investigation. The seller's Property Information Form should provide details of any remedial works carried out to the property. Moreover, details of past insurance claims should be included, and a Certificate of Structural Adequacy issued by the insurer's surveyor produced.

### Seller's duty of disclosure

Full disclosure of any subsidence issues is always the best policy. Where a seller makes an untrue statement of fact which is relied on by a buyer who suffers loss, the buyer may rescind the contract and seek damages for misrepresentation.

### Buying where there is a subsidence issue

Your surveyor can indicate the likely future



physical impact to the property. If there is an ongoing unresolved risk of subsidence you may consider re-negotiating a price reduction to reflect the additional risk.

Finally, previous subsidence may mean you struggle to get buildings insurance or can only get insurance cover at a hefty premium. It is important to check early on with your insurer whether insurance for the property is available at the usual rates.

### How we can help

Our team of residential property lawyers are experienced in dealing with issues relating to subsidence in property transactions and can advise accordingly.

For further information, please contact John Perry in the residential property team on 01328 863231 or email [john.perry@hayes-storr.com](mailto:john.perry@hayes-storr.com).

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# Introducing Crabpot Cottages

Crabpot Cottages are a family-run, independent holiday letting agency and are proud to announce they opened a second office in Hunstanton in January, situated on Westgate. They are aiming to bring their award-winning service combining the warmth of a close-knit family team with the drive and passion rivalling the bigger agencies.

They focus on quality over quantity, and pride themselves on marketing properties that meet high standards—homes the team would be delighted to stay in themselves. Whether you're a seasoned homeowner looking to let out your property, a newcomer navigating the holiday let landscape, or even considering a change in agents, Crabpot Cottages is there to guide and support you every step of the way.

The agency's commitment to excellence has even earned them the prestigious Theo Paphitis Small Business Sunday Award, a testament to their dedication to providing exceptional service.

One of the agency's standout features is its competitive commission, ensuring your investment goes a long way. They go the extra mile to showcase your property with professional photos and video walkthroughs on their well-optimised Google-friendly website. All at no extra cost to the homeowner. With over 8 years of



*Family run Crabpot Cottages with children and Peggy Sue the Dog Credit Crabpot Cottages*

establishment and over 20 years' experience in the holiday letting industry, coupled with a reputation for excellence, Crabpot Cottages competes well with larger agencies, drawing repeat guests year after year who appreciate

the more personal service they are able to give.

Operating from their original office in the charming seaside town of Sheringham, Penny, Mike, Lucy and Tom welcome visitors to drop by and say hello, fostering a genuine connection with the local community. They want to bring the same welcoming approach to Hunstanton and look forward to meeting the community.

For those looking to market their holiday cottages, Crabpot Cottages invites you to contact them for a visit or request their comprehensive Home Owner Info Pack. The team offers informed market insights, property valuation for rentals, and is eager to market quality holiday properties along the coast and inland.

Crabpot Cottages can be contacted at either their Sheringham office at 15 Cooperative Street, phone number 01263 579435 or our new Hunstanton office at 68 Westgate, phone number 01485 592853.

Holiday Like A Local with Crabpot Cottages.

If you are looking to holiday in the area take a look at our easy to use website [crabpotcottages.co.uk](http://crabpotcottages.co.uk) or send us over an email to [stay@crabpotcottages.co.uk](mailto:stay@crabpotcottages.co.uk) and we will send you over some options.



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# News From The Woottons

Richard Coates

## Wootton Property News

Wootton property continues to be in the news but not for the right reasons for home owners. I asked several local estate agents to comment on the Wootton property market for this column but I've had no takers so I did some research of my own on Rightmove.com. I found that for half of Wootton properties listed, the price was marked as "Reduced". I've got no information on actual sales but I can see that some of the properties listed for sale have been for sale for some time so it's obviously a buyer's market. I can't describe it as good news for our younger generation wanting to buy in the Woottons because prices are still high as they carry the "Wootton factor" but at least local prices are not rising as they have been doing and, if they should be easing a little, it makes them a bit more affordable. But it's bad news for anyone who has to move with their job, for example, if there are few people buying.

## New estates

Persimmon Homes have a good selection of new homes for sale on their Lavender Fields estate on Nursery Lane, South Wootton and some may think this extra supply of houses on the market will risk holding prices down even more. Others may think Persimmon's wider advertising will bring more buyers into looking at all South Wootton property.

It'll be interesting to see what happens because Allison Homes

are raring to go with their new estate of 450 homes in the south western tip of South Wootton that will be accessed from a new roundabout to be built on Edward Benefer Way. Half of that roundabout is already built and, now that the Christmas traffic is out of the way, I expect they'll soon be able to divert the Edward Benefer Way traffic on to it whilst they build the other half. Then it'll be all systems go to start on the 450 houses there with the show homes being opened later this year. But this won't be any ordinary housing estate. After having to cut down a row of existing trees to build the new roundabout access road, Allison Homes will be planting 390 new trees, over 2,750 shrubs and 6,750 hedge plants!

## New Doctors' Surgery

Nobody can have missed the large building which will be the new doctors' surgery being built just off Edward Benefer Way, next to the new housing estate. When completed it will be the new home of the St James Medical Practice which is currently in County Court Road in the town centre. It was originally due to open in January but, like many building projects, work has fallen behind and the latest estimate is March before it will be open to patients.

Since the Wootton Surgery merged with the Southgates Medical Centre in the town centre, many Wootton patients have found their appointments are at Goodwins Road and so they will be eyeing up this new large, modern, doctors' surgery

on their doorstep. At the same time, some of the town centre residents who are registered with the St James Medical Practice, will be faced with travelling out of town to South Wootton when they want to go to their doctor. So I can see quite a number of patients deciding to move from one doctors' surgery to the other and the numbers wanting to transfer probably cancelling each other out. If that happens, it'll save many car journeys and parking frustrations.

## Tattoo Parlour

Do you know someone who works from home? Many people do now, indeed, many people run a small business from their homes. Everything from a one man painter and decorator with his van left outside on his driveway each evening, perhaps an accountant working off his kitchen table. Or there might be a hairdresser. All quite unofficial, of course. There's no alterations needed and no planning application needed for a change of use and yet some might say there has been a change of use, particularly when a small business grows over the years and completely takes over one room and there's different people coming and going from time to time.

What's the difference between a beauty parlour that does permanent eyebrow work with a needle, an acupuncturist and a tattooist? All work with needles but each conjures up a different vision and expectation. Traditionally you'd expect to find these businesses in town but with



the trend for people working from home, you could find almost any business working next door to you these days. You'd never know that some people are working from home but when it involves customers visiting the house, it becomes a different matter. One or two a day would hardly be noticeable but how many would be acceptable? And what kind of business would be acceptable? An accountant? An acupuncturist? A tattooist? The Woottons has a planning application from a tattooist to work from a residential address and, rather predictably, many neighbours object. The tattooist says it will only involve a very few people visiting and be nothing like the popular image of a town centre tattoo parlour. The planning committee will have to give this application some careful thought.

## Election in Castle Rising

You may remember my comments last month about the cost of holding an election in the small parish of Castle Rising for its parish council. Residents there were clearly of the same mind and only one name was proposed for the vacancy so that person was elected unopposed, saving the parishioners several thousand pounds in the cost of an election.

## Need some wardrobe inspiration?

Whilst the February weather can make you want to stay indoors and cuddle up in a blanket, the days are getting longer, and a wardrobe re-vamp will get you out of any winter rut.

Cosy and chic items including super soft and snuggly knit jumpers, tunics and lots of layers are what's needed to brighten up the final winter months. Take advantage of the remaining bargains in the winter sale at Allez Chic and snag some winter essentials to add some fizz to your existing wardrobe and form the start of your autumn 24 collection.

Have a friend with a February birthday? Think about it, wine is lovely, but it doesn't last very long and a pair of one layer soft gloves or cable fingerless gloves layered together will keep her cosy until spring arrives and she'll think of you each time she puts them on!

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 try something you'd might have otherwise overlooked. Their fashion know how and ability to put an outfit together is second to none.

Cheryl says; "We are passionate about providing a relaxed and enjoyable retail experience for customers who are looking for a calm and welcoming place to shop.

"What's really important is that you feel comfortable with your choice - and that's where we come in."

"Looking forward to brighter days ahead, the Spring Collections will be landing in store soon and there are some super designs arriving that are really flattering for women of all ages, so why wait?

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**2ND SUNSET**  
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**2ND SUNSET**  
3-6PM  
SUN 5 MAY

  
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FROM 8PM  
FRI 28 JUNE

  
**GRINTER STREET**  
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# Borough Council News

Terry Parish, Leader of the Borough Council, Ward Councillor for Heacham Ward

## The Ward, Heacham, Sedgeford and Fring

**A** New Year should mean changes but issues, plans and intentions don't recognise a calendar.

In Heacham, the Cheney Hill development has undergone some changes and people have been asked, again, for comment. I am now told it will likely appear at planning committee this March or April. Look out for it. Public speakers, 2 for, 2 against, are allowed. The Parish Council will, no doubt, speak too and I will do so as Ward member. What I say I haven't decided. I represent you and welcome comments.

Email me if you have any views at all. However, the access to the development is not up for debate. That was settled years ago after a planning appeal in which the inspector decreed that there was no problem with cars from a 140 house development accessing the bottom of Cheney hill opposite to the back entrance of the Junior School.

Fenway continues to be plagued by lorries. Both the Borough and County Councils are engaged in various actions, The white smoke from the planning inspectorate is still awaited.

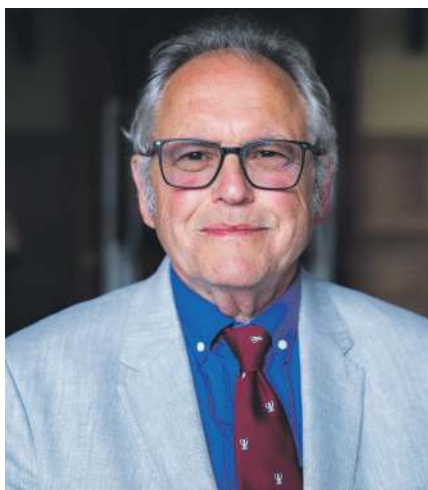
I have had complaints about cars parking on pavements to an extent that they block the passage of people with mobility issues. Please do not do that. Blocking a public footpath is an offence.

The shingle ridge from North Beach to Snettisham, the first line of flood defence, was in the news again. I was earlier asked to write to the appropriate minister to tell him of public concerns. A reply was received just before Christmas and essentially repeated all that we already knew: There is no immediate threat of flooding; investigations will take place this spring; monitoring will continue; a solution which is possible, effective and pragmatic will follow. No new money is on the table. I am sure that all options will be considered.

Sedgeford still awaits some decisions about the old school site. I hope the meeting between Parish Councillors and the Borough Council went well. I couldn't attend but will have been briefed before you read this. Sedgeford also remains active about the state of The Heacham River as is the Fring estate and me. Efforts regarding negotiations with the EA and Anglian water should get co-ordinated soon.

Fring has concerns over its very neglected pond and I have been assured that it will be sorted, by the Fring Estate, this year. There was some council confusion about who owned it but the Estate knew and is taking responsibility. The pond could become a valuable habitat as well as providing an opportunity for flood water to be managed better.

Fring should also be getting a defibrillator



in the disused 'phone box which is accessible to all. This will be paid for from Community Infrastructure Levy money the village unknowingly received due to development. There is no Parish Council to receive or monitor such monies so I arranged for it to be used. Once it is installed, the Fring Estate will take on annual maintenance of the machine.

Highway matters generate a lot of complaints. On 11th January, I came out of Heacham at the Lavender lights and turned right towards Lynn. Traffic soon came to a halt. It then took me one hour to reach the Snettisham island where some resurfacing work was being done. There was no warning of these road works until a 400m sign came up, well after any opportunity to take a diversion. Three-way traffic lights in use appeared to be giving equal priority to each road when the queue was on the Heacham side.

When I got to the office I 'phoned the County officer responsible for the area and reported the problem. He agreed that it could have been managed better and would contact the operatives - work is sub contracted out.

I raise this Highways matter as highways are the responsibility of County. I ask anyone with complaints to contact them. An easy step might be emailing or 'phoning the other Heacham Ward councillor who is also deputy leader of Norfolk County Council.

## The Borough

2023 ended with a lot of whinging from the opposition. Be assured that the press articles were less than accurate or well out of context and let's leave it at that.

The Independent Partnership continues to work well with the new Labour Leadership and we are now moving forward with our corporate plan. This follows establishing what the true financial picture is and getting to grips with significant issues that need addressing. This investigative work has taken six months but you have to know what you are building on before moving forwards.

We want all new housing built on Borough land by our agents to be for local people, effectively reflecting but not emulating prime residency requirements that many Neighbourhood Plans require and which I fully support. We also want to create both affordable homes and more homes for rent. To do this we are seeking to borrow money to lend to our own housing companies who will take on the houses. The council cannot own and rent houses directly or the right to buy rule comes into play and we would likely lose our stock. Legal and financial arrangements have utilised much time since June but are now coming to a conclusion. The mid to long term intention is to build our portfolio of housing.

We are going forward with charging double council tax on second homes. This will have to be ratified by Council but is an essential component of our strategies to raise more income. We will take similar action on empty properties which will also provide an incentive to bring those properties into use.

Increasing income is a priority as what the Borough spends on services and activities for the public far exceeds income from council tax, business rates and government contributions which remain far too little. The difference is made up by withdrawing from general reserves which will run down to the minimum allowed in around 3 years. There are other reserves, several millions of them but they are ring fenced to pay for anticipated costs e.g. replacing bin lorries; maintaining flood defences, and repair and maintenance of council owned properties. These reserves could be raided but with serious consequences to follow.

The only solutions to an emerging problem is to bring in more money and spend less, Funding the Internal Drainage Boards, once done by government, takes millions away and we are a member of a consortium of councils attempting to convince government to change tack. An earlier appeal, by the Borough before Christmas, was rejected out of hand. Now there are many more councils taking concerted action in an election year, perhaps there will be a change of heart. MP Liz Truss, who I meet every few months, is supporting the consortium and hosting a presentation to MPs in February.

We are seeking to change the King's Lynn Area Consultative Committee to an Area Committee with executive powers and a budget, effectively creating a pseudo parish council, with limited powers, made up of ward councillors. There is appropriate support for this but, at the time of writing, it has to go to Council.

We are investigating becoming a Marmot authority. Not a release of furry animals who live in holes, this refers to Lord Marmot. It is a scheme to address health inequalities and

other related matters. If it happens, then we will be working with both County and the Integrated Care Partnership. As a District Council, we are not a prime provider of anything health related but this administration is committed to do what we can. We stated, last year, that we were going to take action regarding the lack of dentistry and are doing so.

Parish Councils have been invited to their

second meeting with me this month. I will be able to say that we have made progress with some of their concerns raised last November and we will take on any new ones raised this time. Planning issues remain a significant annoyance, particularly planning enforcement. This ensures conditions on planning permissions are followed. This administration takes planning conditions seriously and will not seek to default on any

for short term 'political' reasons. If anyone thinks a condition is unreasonable then they need to apply to have the condition changed and officers or, more likely, planning committee, can then hear their case.

We are also doing a lot of work on the Council's property stock; the nature of that obscure thing, special expenses which Parish Councils are charged; and leisure provision. More anon.



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## NORFOLK HOLIDAY HOMES - Que Sera Sera

To allay fears of Norfolk Holiday Homes closing, I am happy to say that we are not moving or closing which has what the office window has been saying for a few months now. Business is as usual and will be the same as it has been for the last 44 years since I first started with Norfolk Holiday Homes in 1980. My anticipated early retirement is now on hold, but this is not a bad thing. It was just not meant to be at this time. What will be, will be.

Norfolk Holiday Homes will carry on as usual offering the same personal and friendly service to all our past and future guests and clients. We have had so many people say that they are pleased that they have found a company with people who actually speak to them directly and are actually handy in the town. No robots here! And we try to do away with the artificial intelligence too although the computers do have their own ideas sometimes! And, yes, we know all our properties, owners, housekeepers, maintenance engineers, etc personally. We try to deal all matters as efficiently and effectively as possible.

I must say thank you to all the owners and guests who are happy that I am not going anywhere - your lovely messages are much appreciated. Just to give a bit of 'back history', as they say nowadays, for those who are new in the town or do not read the brilliant Town and Around, I started work at Cruso & Wilkin in Northgate, Hunstanton when they owned the company. Prior to this it was established in the late 1950's by an accountancy firm called Ingram Watson - probably not now remembered by many! The late Richard Bird who worked for 'Cruso's' started up his own estate agents and took over Norfolk Holiday Homes, renaming it Birds Norfolk Holiday Homes. Julie Rushmer joined me when I had my daughter and we bought the business in December 2015 moving to 68 Westgate. Three years later we moved to the opposite corner as we had more staff and then Julie retired in 2021. Claire and Carol also joined the company for a few

years each between from 2016 and 2022. I now have Chloe who has a brain like a sponge, a very sensible head and who is excellent at her job just like her predecessors. She is the friendly receptionist who multitasks with huge list of things we have to do in our office. There have been many changes of trends, rules and regs so always something new to learn.

New properties are always welcome, so If you and are thinking of holiday letting, please get in touch by phone, email or call in to see us. We will always gladly help and offer advice. I can visit if you wish to discuss and show me the property directly. Houses, cottages, caravans, apartments, lodges, bungalows, chalets, are all considered as long as they meet our criteria and National Standards. Plus, they must be legal, safe and clean. To get an ideal of what this all means, you will have to get in touch! Oh, and we will take on the unusual or unique property too! All may seem a bit daunting initially, but with our experience we can guide, and glide you through it all.

If you are reading this as a holiday maker or day visitor and are looking for short breaks, long weekends, weeks or more - we can cater for singles, couples to families at any time of year if you wish to explore the area further or just wish to escape.

We are already into 2024 and now the town starts to get busy.....

...February Half Term will soon be here and Easter is on its way .....

....and we start all over again!

Sandra Hohol - 01485 534267

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## HOW NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICS IMPACT ON US LOCALLY

Jo Rust

As I write this article in early 2024, I hope you'll all accept my "Happy New Year" greeting! You'll be reading this in February, so I know it'll be much too late, but I really do hope that for every one, 2024 brings health and happiness.

I consider that I'm in a privileged position to be able to reach so many people through articles such as this, in Town and Around. Not everyone has the same opportunity to be able to put forward their own point of view which might well be the opposite to that which is considered as the prevailing one. I have noticed that, like me, other columnists who write for a variety of different publications, have used their platform in the same way that all of us do – to get personal views, ideas and beliefs across. One of the issues which has been mentioned critically is concentrating on national politics rather than local. This really does need addressing as politics at our local - borough level, is most certainly influenced by national and even international politics. Borough Councillors have an absolute right to comment on what is taking place in the global arena. It would be remiss of us if we didn't factor this into our considerations about what happens at a local level. For example, the issues around policing and the police force. Since 2010 there has been a reduction of police numbers by 20,000, a programme of austerity and a selling off of police buildings. There has also been, naturally, a population increase over the same period. This information is widely known and evidenced in the Institute for Government Figures, it's not something random that I've plucked out of the air. And while both funding and personnel numbers are on the increase, the funding is no where near the levels it was in 2010, and per head of population, we still have fewer officers than previously. These national issues led by a Conservative government since 2010 have had a huge impact on the force's ability to undertake services that



have previously been seen as their remit such as closing roads for Remembrance Day services. Previously the police would have done this as a matter of course, costing the tax payers through their taxes, but not at the expense of any other organisation. Now however, police will only close a road for an emergency, which Remembrance Day services are not. It was this change which necessitated the use of a local private security company to oversee my local service at Gaywood in November. So, the local councillors shared the cost and our service went ahead. But it was cuts to national funding for police (institute for government figures) which necessitated this. Remaining with policing, anti-social behaviour has been a focus of attention recently. It has a huge impact on the daily lives of so many people, but criticism has been levelled at police forces because of their perceived failure to treat this issue seriously enough, but much like responses to calls relating to mental health conditions, the police have been seen to have stepped back from responding due to prioritizing cases and the fact that they rightly claim there are other agencies for whom dealing with these issues is their priority. Although these agencies, much like our own borough council, have had funding slashed since 2010 (local government funding is down by 27% in real terms since 2010/11). This is down to national politics and a programme of austerity, but it has a direct impact on our local lives. So, while referring to national politics might not go down well with local politicians who are of the same political persuasion as those running central government, it cannot and must not be ignored. The national picture affects our local lives, they are not different and those who seek to distance themselves from the actions of the party that they pay a membership to belong to, shouldn't try and absolve themselves from the part that they play.

## An Unhappy Birthday for me!

John Maiden

February was supposed to be the month that I would finally be able to celebrate my birthday by writing about the end of Hunstanton's non-pier saga. Instead of which I am beginning to think that West Norfolk Council is in danger of becoming as incompetent and corrupt as the Post Office! It is said that there is no such thing as 'bad' publicity. If this is so, then a drama documentary filmed on location at Hunstanton, should be good for local tourism if not for local residents.



Hunstanton's non-pier



The Green in 2002 by Tony Cassie

Watch this space, by which I mean the supposedly 'open space' of The Green that lies within our historic Conservation Area. Views into and out of conservation areas should be subject to national planning policy, under the supervision of 'Historic England' previously known as 'English Heritage'. Experienced West Norfolk Council planning officers 'forgot' to consult English Heritage before recommending approval for Hunstanton's non-pier building in 2002!

Perhaps the latest crop of planning officers

have been better trained, or simply have more reliable memories, because on the planning portal I recently came across a carefully worded objection from Historic England to application 23/00775/FM for a five-storey beachside hotel just north of the Waterside Bar.

This should be the last word on the matter, but from bitter experience I know that members of the planning committee can sometimes ignore the evidence of well informed professionals for no apparent reason. Sadly, some Hunstanton town councillors have been known to score own goals when it comes to the town's own Conservation Area. In 2002 they voted 7-4 in favour of supporting the non-pier application; with one prominent businessman suggesting to the West Norfolk Council's planning committee that the whole of The Green was not included in the Conservation Area! Fortunately, common sense narrowly prevailed when it came to the current application, with a 6-5 vote against approval!

See also page 4 for the report about the Town Council's meeting in January referred to in this article.

# BORDOLI PIZZAS

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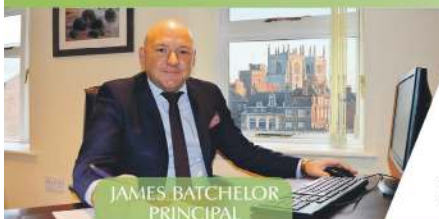
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## Wendy Warner's plant of the month

### Saxifrages

Plants known as Alpines can be used in many situations. Most are quite compact, some spreading making them suitable for groundcover, others can be used as stand-alone plants on rockeries or in gravel gardens and nearly all of them can be used in container gardening. Mossy Saxifrages are particularly versatile as they are hardy, evergreen perennials and flower early in the year. When not in flower, their small, light, glossy green leaves form a cushiony mound looking very much like moss.



Alpine mossy Saxifrages are native to harsh conditions in high altitude mountainous conditions and are therefore adapted to survive in extreme cold and wet conditions. Saxifraga 'Alpino Early Picotee' grows 5-10cm with small rosettes of leaves around the central stem. The leaves are slightly waxy which helps protect them against winter weather. The mass of tiny, delicate, upward-facing, five-petalled, cup-shaped flowers are pale pink with dark cerise pink edges and a yellow-green centre and stand on tall stems above the foliage and can last for several weeks from mid-spring to early summer. There are other colours of these early alpine saxifrages including red, white, salmon and 'Carnival' which has pale pink, magenta and reddish-pink flowers all on the same plant.

These plants need a moist but very well drained soil and prefer to be out of direct sunlight in the middle of the day. They require neutral to alkaline soil and add plenty of grit if your soil is slightly heavy. A top-dressing of sand or fine horticultural grit after flowering will keep the clumps tight and avoid root rot.

They can be used in the front of borders, in rockeries or gravel gardens even in crevices in walls or gaps in paving. Wherever they are grown they want to have space around them and not get overgrown or crowded by other plants as this will cause the leaves to try and find light and become untidy and less of a mound. They are also ideal for alpine sinks, bowls or troughs outside or can be grown in individual shallow terracotta pans on shelves in an alpine house or cold greenhouse where they can be admired nearer to eye level. They are also an ideal choice if creating miniature or fairy gardens. Due to their early flowering, they are beneficial in attracting bees, butterflies and other pollinating insects.

There are many other types of Saxifrage including other alpine varieties, herbaceous perennials and even houseplants, but these mossy saxifrages are my personal favourite and I imagine that if there were fairies at the bottom of the garden, they would love them too, especially the variety called 'Peter Pan'!



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## £210,000 boost for west Norfolk's wetland wildlife

Norfolk Wildlife Trust opens the new year with an exciting new project making vital improvements to rare wildlife-rich wetlands near Kings Lynn.

Thanks to £210,350 from the FCC Communities Foundation as part of the Landfill Communities Fund, the new 'Grimston Wetscapes' project sees the wildlife charity embarking on further restoration of parts of NWT Roydon Common and Tony Hallatt Memorial Reserve. The land forms part of a huge area of globally important wildlife habitats, including wetlands, woodlands and heathland.

Together, these nature reserves represent one of the most important lowland wetland and heath landscapes in the UK. The sites support an incredibly diverse range of plant and insect life, including many species that are rare or threatened in the UK such as black darter dragonfly, insectivorous sundew plants and the tormentil mining bee.

The wetlands found across the sites also provide one of the most important locations for breeding waders in lowland England, whilst the drier heathland habitats support nationally important breeding populations of iconic species, such as nightjar and woodlark and provide a winter home for a range of raptor species, including hen harriers, merlins and marsh harriers.

Historically, these sites would have formed part of a vast chain of wetlands, but due to drainage, afforestation and development, almost all of these have now been lost.

The new project will build on decades of work by the Trust to successfully restore NWT Roydon Common and Tony Hallatt Memorial Reserve for wildlife and sees the charity focus on improving the way water is managed across the sites.

In addition to supporting rare wildlife, healthy, functioning peatlands are the most important UK habitat for carbon storage, crucial in helping to combat the impacts of climate change.

Ash Murray, Norfolk Wildlife Trust's West Norfolk Reserves Manager, explains: "Over the last 20 years, we have worked hard to restore the heathland and wetland habitats of these precious sites. We've been thrilled to see so much rare and fascinating wildlife return - from incredible insect-eating plants and peat-forming mosses to rare fungi and an abundance of breeding wading birds.

"We are excited to be embarking on this ambitious project to



continue to restore these vital wetlands in Norfolk. We aim to bring back more natural water flows, undoing the damage caused by long-term land drainage systems. We will also be restoring a former stream with pools where an abundance of dragonflies will once again bustle and clash wings as they compete for territories over an abundance of rare plants including fountain apple-moss and lesser water plantain.

"Our work will bring back to life wetlands that have been damaged by past pollution and climate change for the benefit of Norfolk's wildlife and people. In addition to helping to combat the impacts of climate change, we'll be providing thriving reservoirs of peatland species that can help to reestablish damaged peatlands elsewhere in west Norfolk."

The project will also support Norfolk Wildlife Trust to manage the ponies and cattle that graze the site to better benefit wildlife, as well as investing in new ways to survey how the wildlife across the area is faring - helping the wildlife charity to support some of Norfolk's rarest creatures into the future.

The works are due to be completed in March 2025.

*Photo credit: Richard Osbourne*

## Mudpies & Butterflies with Louise Barby

"While it is February one can taste the full joys of anticipation. Spring stands at the gate with her finger on the latch" ~Patience Strong

As February unfolds, the promise of spring whispers through the crisp winter air, and for passionate gardeners in the UK, it's the perfect time to embark on a journey of renewal and growth. Despite the lingering chill, there's a sense of excitement as nature begins to awaken, and our gardens are no exception. So, grab your gloves and gardening tools, because February is the month to sow the seeds of a flourishing garden!

### 1. Early Bloomers:

February is the harbinger of a colourful spectacle in your garden. Some brave souls among the plant kingdom, like snowdrops, crocuses, and daffodils, emerge from their winter slumber, showcasing delicate blooms that signal the impending warmth. Witnessing these early bloomers is a reminder that even in the coldest months, life persists beneath the soil, ready to burst forth and paint your garden with hues of joy.

### 2. Plan for the Future:

While the ground might still be chilly, February provides the ideal opportunity to plan for the months ahead. Grab your

gardening journal and start mapping out your dream garden. Consider the plants you'd like to grow, the layout that would best showcase their beauty, and any additions or changes you've been longing to make. This thoughtful planning ensures that when spring truly arrives, you're prepared to turn your vision into reality.

It's never too early to start sowing seeds indoors, giving your plants a head start before the warmer months. February is the perfect time to plant seeds for summer vegetables and flowers. Set up a cozy corner with trays and pots, filled with nutrient-rich soil, and watch as the magic of germination begins. Your efforts now will be rewarded with vibrant, healthy plants ready to thrive in the upcoming season.

### 4. Tend to Your Tools:

A well-tended garden starts with well-maintained tools. Take advantage of the slower pace of February to clean and sharpen your gardening implements. Pruning shears, shovels, and hoes that are in top condition make your gardening tasks more efficient and enjoyable. Remember, a little care for your

tools goes a long way in ensuring a bountiful harvest.

### 5. Connect with Nature:

Gardening is not just about plants; it's about connecting with the natural world. Take a moment to observe the wildlife in your garden. February is a crucial time for many birds as they prepare for the nesting season. Set up bird feeders and baths to attract feathered friends, adding a delightful soundtrack of chirps and melodies to your gardening experience.

### Conclusion:

As the days gradually lengthen and the anticipation of spring builds, February in the UK becomes a canvas for gardeners to express their creativity and love for nature. Embrace the blooms, plan for the future, sow the seeds, tend to your tools, and connect with the vibrant life that surrounds you. Your garden is a sanctuary waiting to flourish, and with a touch of care and dedication, you'll soon witness the beauty of your efforts blooming in abundance.

Happy gardening!

# Nature notes with Carrie and Ryan

## Balancing human intervention with nature

My son has just purchased his first house. It's a lovely hundred-year-old cottage surrounded by open fields on three sides and sheep, lots of sheep. A venerable willow stands proudly in one corner of the back garden, its gnarled trunk is a welcome home for invertebrates and the sweeping branches offer refuge and nesting sites for birds. To one side, the garden boundary is marked by hardy shrubs and over winter, hungry birds have enjoyed their bounty of juicy berries. The other side of the garden is bordered by a very rickety fence. Patched and repaired to within an inch of its life it is bowed and distorted from the weight of the neighbouring shrubbery. Now I'm all for a garden that's wildlife friendly, I advocate it, but sometimes gardens can become 'lost' if they are overwhelmed by brambles and overgrown greenery. Left unmanaged, trees can split and rot, invasive weeds spread strangling immature flora and unwanted vermin can thrive!

Millenia ago, Mammoths and Wild Boar made clearings in densely grown areas allowing light in and a diversity of flora to flourish. The grazing and hefty trampling of Bison shaped vast plains. Beaver dams prevented land erosion while creating waterways that were home to other animals. There was equilibrium. Since man's explosion onto the planet, things have gone somewhat awry. Misled into thinking we have an endless supply of natural resources we neglected to foresee the impact of sequestering natural ecosystems to meet a growing demand for food, animal feed, transport, housing and recreation. Now, victims of our own folly we have finally recognised the need to work with, rather than against nature if we want our natural world to survive.

The way we govern land has a significant impact on the environment and we can, through positive management, improve and create habitats and bring species back from the brink of extinction. For example, river flood plains and low-lying coastal areas were once dominated by wetland reedbeds. Large scale drainage and development have led to a significant decline in these nutrient rich habitats and only small pockets remain. Reedbeds play a key role in protecting wetland fringes from erosion, preventing soil run off and protecting inland areas from flooding. They are also vital ecosystems for birds, fish and aquatic mammals. Consequently, reedbed degradation poses a threat to both man and wildlife.

Historically, reedbeds have been cut on a rotational basis to prevent the build up of dead material which causes the habitat to dry out. At Titchwell Marsh, our warden team are revisiting traditional management practices in favour of something a little more innovative. Titchwell's reedbeds were hand



*Reedbed management*



*Reedbeds (water level management)*



*Reedbed pool*

planted in the 1970s to provide a home for several key species of birds including Bittern, Bearded Tits and Marsh Harriers. Left unmanaged, the frothy fronds fall to the floor of the reedbeds forming a thick mat at their base, this clogs passage for food such as fish and amphibians. Bitterns really benefit from reed-cutting which opens up the ditches and creates shallow edges – ideal for these secretive wading birds to spot and spear fish with their longish bills. On the flip side, both Marsh Harriers and Bearded Tits rely on drier, older areas, so when managing a reedbed a mix of ages of reed is key - variety really is the spice of life!

Common reed is incredibly fast growing and by the end of the summer, the areas that have been cut back in winter will have grown back to their original height. During the growth stage, the more open and sparsely vegetated reedbeds potentially attract a different variety of wildlife. But if you blink, you could miss it all! To have the in-between



*Marsh Harrier*

stage long enough for birds and other wildlife to make regular use of this habitat means we need to reduce the vigour and growing speed of the reeds. This is the main principle of a new form of larger scale reedbed management known as "rejuvenation". This practice has been used to significant effect on other RSPB reserves such as Ham Wall in Somerset. Although this approach is a much bigger undertaking for our small team, it has the potential to yield significant benefits.

Although it may seem counterintuitive, over several years we'll be doing everything that the reed does not like (cutting, flooding hard in the winter and drying to out in summer) with the aim of almost killing the reed! However, when the plants are allowed to grow again, they will lack the energy to develop and spread quickly. This should increase the time it takes for each area to reach full regrowth giving more time for a diversity of wildlife to make use of this habitat. Every stage of the management process will deliver for wildlife, not just the end result.

You and I are more likely to be faced with managing an overgrown garden than acres of wetland habitat. But the principles of balancing human intervention with nature remain the same. And having a team of conservationists on hand means you can achieve larger results than if it's just you and your spade. Several years ago, we let out our house and when we came back, our lovely garden was as far removed from a serene retreat as you can imagine! But instead of being overwhelmed at the thought of rescuing the whole garden, we said to ourselves "Today, we're going to rescue the Clematis". Focussing on one area made the whole project achievable and gave us a sense of satisfaction as we freed each section from the grasp of brambles and weeds. We now have three dogs whose vision of the garden is quite different from ours! But we've managed to retain a small area that's simply perfect for sitting in and watching the world go by.

**Carrie Carey and Ryan Daggart**

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## SNETTISHAM GARDENING CLUB

Our February meeting will be on Wednesday 28th at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall, Old Church Road, Snettisham when we will be updated on the activities of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust by Gary Hibbard.

Our March meeting on Wednesday 27th will bring Kate Graves to give us a talk on the activities of the RNLI.

You will be most welcome to join us at either or both. Any further information can be obtained from Gail on 01485 541279 or Addie on 01485 544754.

## Open Gardens

The garden visiting season will soon be upon us and there is an exciting variety opening for the Norfolk National Garden Scheme.

Banish the winter gloom by planning a visit to a garden opening for the National Garden Scheme. Over 70 glorious gardens will be opening, most of which are not usually on show to the public. They include those from the large country estates to small cottage gardens, both rural and urban, an interesting community garden, a hospice garden, evening openings, guided tours and those open by arrangement.

Spread over 8 months the garden visiting year begins in February with the ever-popular Snowdrop Festival and who doesn't enjoy a walk through a carpet of snowdrops? Six gardens will be opening, three of which are woodland walks at Lexham Hall, Bagthorpe Hall and Horstead House. A special guided tour at Raveningham Hall with the owner Sir Nicholas Bacon, former president of the Royal Horticultural Society, and you will find over a hundred varieties of Galanthus at Chestnut Farm, and Old Hall Farmhouse, Swanton Novers belongs to a snowdrop enthusiast and will be opening for the first time for the Scheme. Raveningham Hall and Old Hall Farmhouse both need to be pre-booked by buying tickets at [WWW.ngs.org.uk](http://WWW.ngs.org.uk)

March and April see the spring bulbs beginning to bring a little colour to Gayton Hall near King's Lynn, followed in May by amazing azaleas and riotous rhododendrons which feature in some of our larger gardens.

June is the busiest month, with a medley of gardens filled with the joy and scents of summer; evening guided tours of peony fields at Erpingham House Farm, Aylsham an evening opening in the garden of a famous designer at Silverstone Farm, North Elmham and three new gardens opening near East Rudham, are just a few examples.

In July, take a guided tour of the fascinating Walled Garden at Little Plumstead, visit two new gardens opening in the rural village of Tittleshall, or admire an interesting group of small town gardens in Norwich; perhaps you might be tempted to bring the family to the collection of four gardens in the historic village of Castle Acre.

During August the gardens continue to flourish with a masterclass of grasses and late planting at Severals Grange, Wood Norton, a new garden opening for the Scheme called Charnwood, Brundall, and the quirky Fiddian's Folly, North Barningham.

In September there is an exclusive evening opening at Holkham Hall walled garden, plus a new garden Vicarage House, Great Hockham which will welcome visitors over two days.

October brings autumnal colours which you can enjoy at the extensive gardens at East Ruston as well as a new garden at East Carleton Manor.

Details of these gardens can be found on the website. Along with the standard open days, many of the gardens also open by arrangement which means you can take a group whether they be friends, colleagues or clubs, and book directly with the garden owner.

The Norfolk National Garden Scheme which opens gardens across the county, last year raised a record £155,000 (30% up on 2022's record year) for the many health & nursing charities it supports.

Garden visiting continues to be an enjoyable and inexpensive day out for the family, with children going free. It is advisable to check our website for any UpToDate details on [ngs.org.uk](http://ngs.org.uk).



## MAGPIE CENTRE NEWS

From the home of West Norfolk Riding for the Disabled Association.

Thanks to a brilliant response to our call for 'hands-on' volunteers to help with pony care, stable management and escorting riders, we are now up to full complement, and our new volunteers began their training in January.

If you fancy an evening out, away from the cold and wet, tickets are still available for our Ceilidh Barn Dance, with a caller and live band, on Saturday February 17 at Stow Bridge Village Hall, Holme Road, Stow Bridge, PE34 3PW 7.30 pm – 11.00 pm.

Tickets, at £17.50 per adult and £8.50 per child (13 years and under), include a Hog Roast supper (with vegetarian option), salads and desserts. Bring your own drinks.

To book, just call 01760 337056 or email [suer2006@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:suer2006@hotmail.co.uk).

The Christmas rides proved popular, with 28 young riders participating over the two days, and they enjoyed posting their letters to Santa as they rode past the Magpie Centre 'post box'.

New developments for 2024 include lessons for home schooled children who have additional needs, e.g. asd, or adhd. More details to follow.

And as the tax year draws to a close on April 5, this is an ideal time for businesses to sponsor activities, ponies and/or renovations at the Magpie Centre. For more details, visit our website [www.rda-westnorfolk.org.uk](http://www.rda-westnorfolk.org.uk) or call the Centre on 01553 810202.

## PACT ANIMAL SANCTUARY CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

On Saturday, 23rd December, The Barking Bugle and friends held a collection at Tesco in Hunstanton in order to raise valuable funds for PACT Animal Sanctuary, a cause very close to our hearts. Every year the Sanctuary takes in all sorts of animals which have been neglected, injured or abandoned, and sadly the numbers increase particularly around this time of year.

Amongst the human beings helping out on the day were several doggies dressed in their festive Christmas outfits, including myself, Ziggy Bear, Clara, Jodie, Marmite, Hero and Ollie. Like me, Hero and Ollie have been rescued and have experienced the cruelty of people and have gone hungry, so we have a pretty good idea what these animals must be feeling when they arrive at a Sanctuary like PACT. You're bound to be a little nervous and frightened at first because you don't know where you've been taken to, and you certainly don't know what the human volunteers who work there will be like. Will they be nice to me? Will they make a fuss of me? If you've been treated badly in the past you are bound to be a little mistrustful in your new surroundings. As well as being physically well looked after and nourished all rescue doggies need lots of love which means plenty of stroking, cuddling, spoiling and being spoken to in a soft, kind manner.

I have visited PACT on a number of occasions with my pawrents,

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and I can honestly woof that the human beings who volunteer there do a tremendous job of looking after all the animals in their care. However, they cannot do this alone and desperately need finances to keep the Sanctuary running and this is the same for all such places up and down the country.

I was totally overwhelmed when I came back home after the collection to discover that we had managed to raise the woofastic sum of £668-, thanks to the amazing generosity and kind spirit of so many human customers at Tesco. Not only that, but we had a large trolley stuffed full of goodies that very compassionate humans also donated. They dug deep into their pockets out of love and care despite the difficult financial times they are all facing. I must admit I did shed a few doggy tears that evening, knowing that this amount of money would go a long way to helping improve the quality of life of some of the animals at the Sanctuary!



I would like to woof a huge THANK YOU to so many people and doggies for their help on the day. Firstly a big paws up to the humans, namely Maureen, Alex, Debbie, Fran, Joan and my pawrents. Big barks of gratitude must also go to our canine friends, Ziggy Bear, Clara, Marmite, Jodie, Hero and Ollie. They all worked the customers really well with their pleading faces and captivating good looks. I was pawticularly impressed by Marmite and Hero who rolled over whenever they were near a human in order to get their tummies tickled. I love your style! However, my biggest thanks go to the manager at Tesco, along with the staff, without whose help and co-operation this event would not have been able to take place. Huge woofs go to all of you from the bottom of our paws!

Woofs Miss Zsa Zsa,

**Miss Zsa Zsa Is A Ex-Puppy Farm Rescue Dog And Editor At The Barking Bugle.**

## NEWS FROM BRANCASTER VILLAGE HALL (BVH)

Geoff Wingrove

It has been a tremendously successful year for Brancaster Village Hall, with a wide variety of events and celebrations. This is due entirely to the dedication and hard work of the volunteers who give their time freely to make BVH the centre of the village community. The Events Committee is already planning a full programme for 2024 in order to build on the achievements of 2023.

The regular groups continue in 2024, as do the Hotspot Lunches. Bar 71 has events organised for the new year including Pool, Skittles, Darts and Quiz Nights.

For full details of all events and activities please visit our website: [www.brancastrvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.brancastrvillagehall.co.uk) and for enquiries: [brancastrvillagehallcommunitybookings.co.uk](mailto:brancastrvillagehallcommunitybookings.co.uk)

### FROM THE BRANCASTER VILLAGE HALL ARCHIVE: THE HISTORY OF SEA SHANTIES

The origins of the sea shanty are rather lost in the mists of history. The idea of using rhythmic chants to undertake hard physical seafaring tasks has been found in many cultures over the centuries. This was also for tasks carried out on land, particularly at docks. Undoubtedly sailors sang songs and made chants in undertaking routine physical work and in the 16th century there are references to sailors' chants in "Complaynt of Scotland" as well as in other books and records from that time.

Undoubtedly the sea shanty emerged as a regular part of seafaring life in the 19th century after the American War of 1812, coinciding with the development of the package trade; later the appearance of clipper merchant ships became larger, with enormous spreads of sail and relatively small crews. The major criteria for ship trade were costs and speed, hence the sail area for speed and small crews to keep costs down.

These large ships demanded coordinated physical strength to undertake essential tasks such as raising anchors, setting and training sails and yards and pumping the bilges. In order to maximise the efforts of small numbers of men and ensure those efforts were coordinated the chants sailors used became more regularised and sophisticated, eventually evolving into the shanty form we know today. This was a gradual process which was confined to merchant ships. Singing or chanting whilst working in the Royal Navy was strictly forbidden, as it was felt to interfere with sailors hearing instructions from officers, although fiddle and fife were often used to raise the anchor.

In 1867 Clarke's "Seven Years of a Sailor's Life" was published, which gave an account of the sailors' use of shanties when performing tasks. He referred to the lead singer as "the chanty man" and the respondents or chorus as "the chanty gang". It was felt that the word "chanty" may have



derived from the French "chanter", which means "to sing". Shanties were used by sailors to boost morale, relieve boredom and foster camaraderie; they were encouraged by owners, as they were held important in developing and maintaining an efficient crew. Indeed, a really good lead shanty man was often paid a bonus in recognition of his special skills and worth.

The shanty musical form was also quite sophisticated, as different shanties were used for the different tasks that sailors performed. There were, for example, halyard shanties which were long and measured and capstan shanties - which were regular in rhythm - and many others, depending on the type of task to be performed. Packet and clipper ships, with their enormous spreads of sail, needed constantly to coordinate the crews' efforts, as well as provide a measure of entertainment and, occasionally, amusement in terms of the message contained in the shanties. Shanties were also used to load and unload cargoes, which could be done by the crew or, more likely, the dockyard workers; with heavy cargoes such as wool, this could be an arduous task.

The heyday of the shanty during the 19th century quickly passed with the development of steam ships, which needed even smaller crews, were as fast as the speediest clippers and did not require wind. They could therefore sail in a straight line between ports without paying attention to the direction of the wind. They also did not need the expertise required to set and adjust sails - often in appalling weather - or carry out many of the tasks that sailors in clippers had to perform.

Cecil James Sharp (1859-1924) collected a compendium of 200 shanties, writing down both words and music: he visited numerous ports and spoke to dozens of sailors in compiling his information. Stan Hugell was also a leading light in collecting shanties, and Terry produced "The Shanty Book" in 1921 and 1926. These efforts were part of the

revival of the shanty tradition in the 20th century which was associated with the contemporary interest in folk music. East Anglia has, of course, a long seafaring history, with many ports and harbours along its coasts. This has led to a strong local shanty tradition, with renowned shantymen in Brancaster, Sheringham and Harwich; each year there is an International Shanty Festival held in Harwich.

Nelson's Shantymen were formed in 2010 by Chris Jackson, who heard sea shanties at the Tall Ship Festival in Liverpool. He decided to set up a group in Norfolk where he lived and, following a workshop with the Sheringham Shantymen, Nelson's Shantymen came into existence. The name Nelson Shantymen came from rehearsing in The Lord Nelson pub in Burnham Thorpe, the birthplace of Nelson, which became the group's base. The pub closed in 2016 and the group moved to The Jolly Sailors pub in Brancaster Staithe, where it performs every Monday evening from 7.00pm.

Nelson's Shantymen have sung at the Harwich International Sea Shanty Festival on three occasions and has performed on the deck of SS Götheborg as part of the Lord Mayor's Reception in Great Yarmouth. The group also performs for the Royal Navy every year on Pickle Night at RAF Marham.

Since the group was formed it has raised £52,000 for local charities in the Norfolk area. Being non-profit-making, group members give their time and expertise for the love of keeping the tradition alive. Currently fans of sea shanties can buy any of 5 albums the group has recorded at gigs, on the website or streamed online.

If you are interested in hearing Nelson's Shantymen, pictured above, come along to The Jolly Sailors on Monday evenings - where you will be very welcome - or visit the website ([www.nelsons-shantymen.co.uk](http://www.nelsons-shantymen.co.uk)) for details of other performance venues.



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## NATIONAL COASTWATCH INSTITUTION (NCI) BRANCASTER

Since the last report a further volunteer, Christopher, has been recruited, meaning the Service now has 31 volunteers, a welcome start to 2024. Volunteers are classified as "Watchkeepers under training"; their training is overseen by an experienced and certified Watchkeeper. Training is mostly carried out on watch, with self-study online, and lasts about 10 watches before a formal assessment takes place. Tuition involves understanding tides, use of VHF radio, chartwork, correct use of optics, keeping the official log and contact with the emergency services.



Once the trainer feels the volunteer is ready, a formal assessment is carried out which lasts about an hour. A successful outcome means that the volunteer is then classified as a "Certified Watchkeeper" and is presented with epaulettes and a certificate: the photograph shows Frank being presented with these by Bob, his trainer. Training is an ongoing operation to ensure high service standards.

We would like thank Lucinda and Brancaster Community Choir, who raised £355 for the Service at a carol concert held on 20th December.

For further information about NCI Brancaster, please contact Richard Burrows, Deputy Station Manager and Watchkeeper, on 07353 612777.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Across: 1. Bemus, 5. Varnish, 9. Tonga, 10. Relocated, 11. Adrenaline, 12. Loco, 13. Strong suit, 16. Peck, 18. Acts, 19. Love letter, 21. Trod, 22. Opposition, 26. Scavenger, 27. Incus, 28. Needles, 29. Day trip

Down: 1. Betrays, 2. Manor, 3. Stagnant, 4. Sorel, 5. Valentine, 6. Race, 7. Introvert, 8. Haddock, 14. Rationale, 15. Stoppages, 17. Felicity, 18. Artisan, 20. Rings up, 23. Oared, 24. Incus, 25. Well



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## Tai Chi for good health

In the early part of the new year, many of us are thinking about taking up an activity that is good for health.

Tai Chi is a good choice. There are local Tai Chi classes, currently held at Heacham, and from time to time, at Hunstanton Clifftop, that have been going since 2005.

Tai Chi is an exercise activity, that when practiced daily, has many benefits. Although Tai Chi has its origins as a martial art, it is now most popular purely for the health, fitness and wellbeing benefits. It began as a cultural activity in China and spread throughout the world. It consists of dynamic, fluid, relaxed, graceful movements and postures.

The benefits of Tai Chi include better relaxation, fitness, strength, balance, coordination and general health.

No special kit is required, just flat soled footwear and loose clothing. Tai Chi is suitable for all ages and genders and can be modified for medical and disability conditions. Tai Chi is practiced daily at home as well as in a weekly class. Tai Chi Teacher, Glenn.

**Cloud Hands Tai Chi**  
**For local Tai Chi classes**  
**www.west-norfolk-tai-chi.com**

## Honda Goldwings light display

Paula Penn

Norfolk Goldwing Motorcycle Club are holding their annual charity event in aid of the East Anglian Air Ambulance, displaying their customised bikes and trikes, on the Green in Hunstanton on 23rd March 2024. This will be our fourteenth year of holding this event.



The Honda Goldwing is considered the best touring bikes available and this is your chance to see some of the best examples of this wonderful motorcycle with their custom lights.

We depend on the public supporting us to raise as much as we can for the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

The day starts with a static display on the green, from 12pm to approx. 4pm, then from 6.30pm the bikes will assemble in the coach park, for a 7.00pm start to an impressive light parade around the town centre, finishing at the shelter on the Green with a static light display.

Your support at this event would be greatly appreciated.

**For further information please contact Paula on 01366 324396**

## Hunstanton eyecare blog

### Myopia Management

This title might get you wondering what I'm going to chat about? Myopia is short-sighted, and management, as the name suggests, is all about trying to control its progression particularly in our children and even young adults, by this I mean 18–25-year-olds.

I first mentioned this subject back in October 2022, but at the end of last year I attended an intensive course organised by our professional body, the Association of Dispensing Opticians, and so feel far more knowledgeable on the subject. It does appear that Myopia Management is the hot topic in the optical world, and me being a bit of an old cynic needed to be convinced that it was actually a problem and not just another marketing ploy. However, looking at all the facts and figures it certainly does look like myopia and its rate of progression is increasing and we should at least make patients aware that there are options and new methods of controlling its progression. Perhaps the most important thing I took away from the course is that we will probably never halt myopia progression, and folks will still need spectacle corrections, but what we need to do is try and slow it down so that it doesn't become a cause of visual impairment in later life.

What's so bad about myopia you may ask? afterall it's only caused by the eye growing in length. A highly myopic eye is at greater risk of retinal detachments and general degeneration of the retina as it is stretched with an enlarging eyeball, this in turn can lead to visual impairment. As short-sight increases the spectacle lens edge thickness increases and we end up with the "bottle-bottom" look, although we have many lens materials and anti-reflection coatings to minimize these problems. Other factors that influence myopia are our genetics, if parents are myopic then children may inherit the trait. Research also tells us that the younger a child becomes myopic, the faster will be the progression and the higher the degree of myopia once adolescent growth stops around the age of late teens or even early twenties. Another factor appears to be that we are becoming an indoor species, glued to our digital devices and concentrated close work rather than being outdoors, this seems to encourage myopia.

Research and development continue all the time, and the products that have evolved are new designs of spectacle lenses and contact lenses. Studies so far do suggest that these products are effective by up to 67% at slowing down myopia progression, but just because it works in one case it doesn't guarantee that it will work for all. The message is to get your children in for a sight test and check their vision, if they are showing signs of myopia, we now have the knowledge and products to do something about it and give them the best chance of maintaining healthy vision throughout their lives.

Annette



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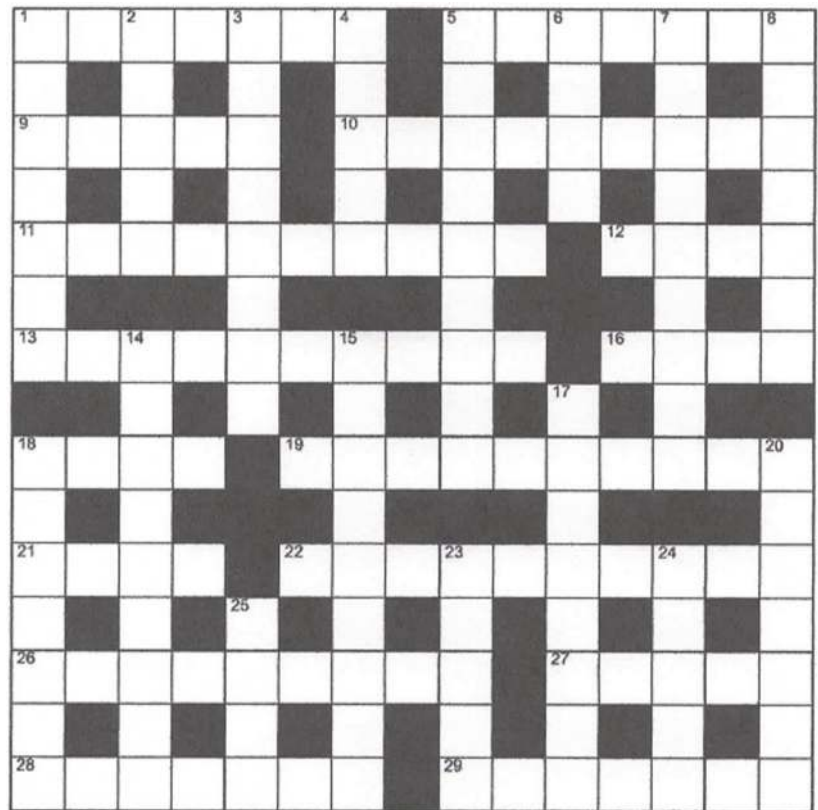
# David Elsey's cryptic crossword

## Across

1. Act inspirationally and start to solve puzzles (7)
5. Vehicle bearing right is hard to follow in Japan (7)
9. Country cousin's last seen wearing Roman garb (5)
10. Retiring old king, admired all round, is moved (9)
11. Nana relied on treatment to provide a booster (10)
12. Look around (nothing is touched) (4)
13. Powerful executive's area of expertise (6,4)
16. Dot foregoes starter, having to eat sparingly (4)
18. Puts on a show for kids (4)
19. Duck landlord's amorous approach (4,6)
21. Time to face staff and put one's foot down (4)
22. The other side of having two different jobs (10)
26. Verges can be tricky for street cleaner (9)
27. Hearing aid popular with some customers (5)
28. Spurs could do with someone like Ferdinand at the back (7)
29. Outing Democrat at wild party gatecrashed by Independent (3,4)

## Down

1. Take a chance on fish shops (7)
2. Way to be heard in big house (5)
3. Male worker, new, has to get involved still (8)
4. Young buck, very relaxed, allowed to go on vacation (5)
5. Secret lover of Latin, even in translation (9)
6. Motorists finally reduce speed (4)
7. Shy person is home and dry, cuddling dog (9)
8. Fish dad cooked in white wine (7)
14. Limited booze...in theory (9)
15. Prevent leaves causing obstructions (9)
17. Woman's happy event (8)
18. Skilled worker, in part, is a nurse (7)
20. Calls round to get drink (5,2)
23. Rowed over a choice of wine (5)
24. Run up some satin curtains (5)
25. We will get what's mine (4)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION IS ON PAGE 25

## Hunstanton - The Last Resort or the Best Resort?

Holger Levey

During the 2023 summer season, one of the biggest OTA's (Online Travel Agency) reported that bookings were 17% down on the previous season.

The biggest 'threat' to survival in many cases was something every household in the town also recognised – our overhead costs, like electricity, gas, water, mortgage/loan interest rates, food, fuel etc etc. Looking at ways to reduce or contain these costs is and continues to be a thankless task.

What are businesses crying out for on a daily basis.....more visitors...especially during the 'winter' months like November – April and here is the challenge.

If you were in the town on Xmas Day to watch the swim then you will have seen and heard something rarely experienced during winter....lots and lots of visitors (and residents) and the tills ringing in shops and cafes.

Seeing more visitors in Hunstanton will benefit us all in the long run and for those of you shaking your heads or raising your eyebrows, think about it in a much broader sense than being cheesed off because there is nowhere to park (badly?) in the High Street, your fav coffee shop is busy, having to queue in your fav shop or similar.... thinking about me, me and me is not the answer!

Some new ideas to rejuvenate the town to make Sunny Hunny an experience that makes guests come back and tell their friend lets make the destination of choice! At present we can make life difficult for visitors as well as sometimes unpleasant and a lot of effort should be focussed on the winter months although many changes would affect summer in a positive way as well.

I know of many fairly simple ideas that can make a change and then there are lots of ideas that involve many of us in making an effort, giving our time but importantly enjoying this....that attitude is felt by visitors as well...believe me!

Thank you for reading this and I look forward to receiving any responses via this email [TheLastResortdebate@Gmail.com](mailto:TheLastResortdebate@Gmail.com)



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**SERVICE begins at 10.30a.m.**

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February blues got you down? Look no further than your local nature reserve for a day out that's sure to tick all the boxes!



## RSPB Titchwell Marsh

### National Nestbox Week 14-21 February 2024

Adding a nestbox to your green space is a great way to attract birds. We can help you choose the perfect nextbox, tell you where to put it and how to look after it. Speak to anyone in our shop.



### Cornish Pasty Week 26 February - 3 March 2024



Join in the fun with a delicious pasty from our cafe. Choose either a classic Cornish or our vegan-friendly Keralan variety with a sweet and spicy twist! Don't forget to pair it with a piping hot cup of deluxe hot cocoa or a zesty latte to ward away that winter chill.

### Valentine's Month 1-29 February 2024

Treat yourself to breath taking views of the North Norfolk coastline with a visit to Titchwell Marsh reserve. Walk through woodland retreats, past whispering reedbeds and bird filled lagoons. It's the perfect lovers' paradise!



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# The dark skies of West Norfolk

Terry Parish

A little late but Happy New Year to you all. You may have noticed that there was little night sky in January, quite literally in fact as rain and clouds obscured it most of the month. This brings to an end my postulation that any astronomical object I write about renders them invisible. It happens anyway.



*A typical sky!*

Before Christmas I did snatch a couple of hours of vaguely clear sky to grab a look at Jupiter (and its moons), Saturn (and its rings); Uranus and even far off Neptune. One dark but clear morning I espied Venus rising over the front garden. So, 5 planets to end the year was good, we live on another, so that's 6 out of 8.

I would like to say that crisp and clear winter nights are now coming but, at the time of writing, though it is forecast to be colder, the clouds are likely staying. Jupiter is still with us and doesn't set until around midnight but we are losing Saturn into the west. It is low down and sets about 7pm at the beginning of the month, and is lost to view in horizon murk by the middle. Neptune does the same but Uranus, visible in good steady binoculars, doesn't set until around 1am.

Mars and Mercury are too close to the Sun to discern but Venus will pop up in the SE before dawn.

There are stars and clusters and such like but they may remain semi mythical above the cloud or mist base. No meteor showers to miss this month.

What the month does have is an extra day, February 29th, as 2024 is a Leap Year. Every school person used to know why but I wonder if they do now?



*Internet*

A (solar or tropical) year is the time it takes for the Earth to make one orbit around the Sun which is not 365 but 365.242 days. If this extra is not taken into account, then every 4 years the Earth is lagging behind on its predicted path by approximately 1 day, after 40 years by 10 days etc. Over longer periods, the dates for crop sowing change dramatically.

In Julius Caesar's time an extra day was added to the calendar every four years so that the calendar became not too much out of step. February was chosen because, for whatever reason, it has the least number of days.

However, note that 365.242 is not 365.25. A year is 0.008 short of a true quarter to be added to the 365. This difference accrues an error over time – 8 days in 1000 years. Mathematicians got to work and, in 1582, Pope Gregory XIII added a rule: A century year is only a leap year if you can divide it by 400 (so 2000 was but 2100 won't be). Hence, we have the Gregorian Calendar which superseded the Julian calendar. This was principally done to ensure that the date of the Spring Equinox could be stabilised and the start of Easter calculated appropriately.



*Pope Gregory. Internet*

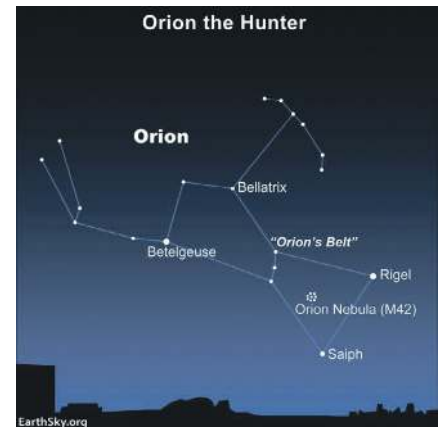
Back to the sky: look to the Moon and, on the 7th, at 7am you will find Venus just to the left of it. In the evenings, on the 14th and 15th, Jupiter is close to it, and on the 16th, the Moon passes just below the Pleiades star cluster. Well worth turning binoculars on this and it is worth reflecting that whilst the light from the Moon has taken just over 1 second to reach your eyes, that from the Pleiades has taken around 420 years.

(It takes 8m 20s for sunlight to reach the Earth, 1.3s for it to travel onwards to the Moon where it's reflected back to the Earth – another 1.3s. So, moonlight leaves the Sun 8m 22.6s before you enjoy it).

Jupiter is still blazing bright at magnitude -2.5. You can't miss it and must have seen it between clouds or even through thin ones. The four Galilean Moons are worth looking for through a small telescope. Europa will have a visitor in 2030 when the Europa Clipper arrives from NASA. It is being

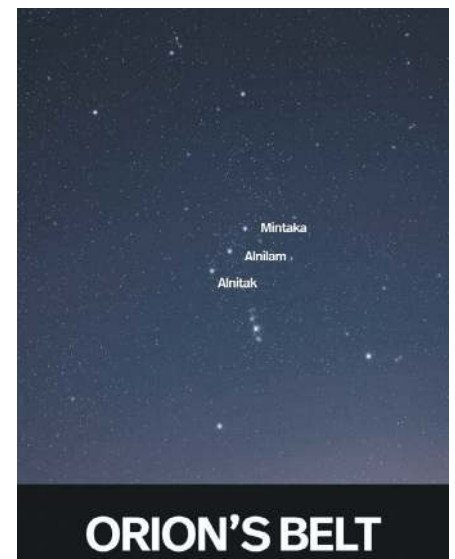
launched this year with the quest to find if Europa can harbour life.

Let's hope some nights are clear and use those to look at the stars. I will cast my eyes on Orion again as it makes a good sight in the SSE and is in the middle of the ecliptic, the line which the planets travel along. So, look for planets and take in Orion. Its stars are bright and the body of the Hunter is a feasible shape. Below the belt is the Orion nebulae, the closest star nursery to Earth being a mere 1,340 lightyears away. It is 24 light years wide and contains immense amounts of gas from which stars are currently forming.



*The Hunter will be more vertical from our latitude before bedtime. Internet*

Betelgeuse and Rigel at opposite corners are easily picked out and both humble our Sun in size – the red giant is 760 times wider whilst Rigel, also a giant, is blue white because of its temperature, 12,000 degrees. The belt stars look dimmer but that's because of their distance, 1200 light years. In fact, all three are 200,000 times as bright as the Sun.



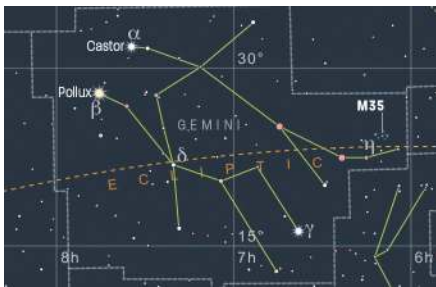
*As Orion will likely appear from your garden. Use steady binoculars around the sword to see the star nursery. Internet*

Betelgeuse will go nova one day but the excitement generated several years ago, that it might be imminent, has faded so we won't see it visible in the day. Such explosions follow an expansion and then a collapse. Our Sun will do those two things but has insufficient mass to go nova. Its expansion will, however, take out the Earth – in about 4 billion years.

Latest observations of some exoplanets (those orbiting stars other than the Sun) have shown that planetary systems can survive stellar expansion and Earthians in 4 billion years could move to Mars, then to the moons of the outer planets. I assume, if the human race remains in some evolved state, it will be spread across space by then.

Something to look at through binoculars: Messier 35, an open star cluster just under 3000 light years away and covering an area of sky about the same as the Full Moon.

It is high in the sky, above and to the left of Orion. Other bright stars can help locate M35. It lies between Procyon and Capella (lower left to upper right) and between Pollux and Aldebaran (upper left to lower right). Stellarium, or similar, on your 'phone can help you locate them and it.



M35 at the foot of Gemini. The wishbone shape at the bottom right is the upraised arm of Orion. Internet

Clear, cold, sparkly skies are what we need but if we don't have any, remember all that is up there. Let's hope we don't become characters in a science fiction story below an everlasting cloud cover who never know that their planet is less than a dot and that there are other places to observe and visit.

Old Hunstanton Village Hall presents

## A Ticket to Murder

A Murder Mystery evening from

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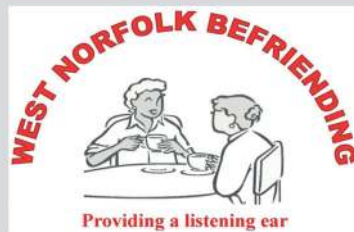
**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024**

Arrive at 6.30pm the fun will begin at 7pm

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for tickets contact: Nell Bailey 07918911716

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Copy date for the March edition is 12th February. Please send to: editor@townandaround.net

## Anita's Salon

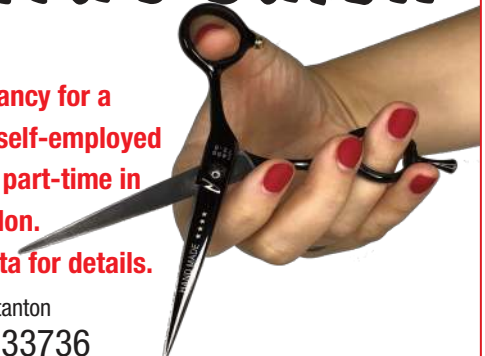
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# February events - see also <https://townandaround.net>

## Thursday 1st

Stanhoe and Barwick WI, The Reading Room, Stanhoe 2pm. Penny Simmonds introduces Reflexology. Visitors most welcome. £5 incl. refreshments. Please contact Valerie 01485 576261 for further details.

## Friday 2nd

Fincham Memorial Hall PE33 9EJ QUIZ night is at 7.30pm. Entry £2 per person. 50/50 Raffle. Bring your own refreshments. Come join the fun - all welcome. Up to 6 in a team, either bring your own team or help make up a team on the night.

United Services Club  
Hunstanton: Diamond Pauls  
Mixed Bag Disco any requests played 8pm

## Saturday 3rd

United Services Club  
Hunstanton: The Tonics Duo  
Fun Night 8.30pm

## Monday 5th

Anmer Social Club BINGO NIGHT – Club opens at 7.00p.m. "Eyes Down" at 7.30 p.m. £6.50 for a book of 10 cards; £1.50 for a "Flyer Card" & £2 for a "Cash Accumulator" card. Fully licensed bar and Raffle – For information email : [anmer.club@outlook.com](mailto:anmer.club@outlook.com)

## Tuesday 6th

Classical Music Rocks concert. King's Lynn Town Hall. Johan Lofving (Theorbo/Guitar) 7.30pm followed by a drinks reception £12 at the door. Free to under 21s

## Wednesday 7th

Community cinema at the Burnham Market village hall 2.30pm National Velvet (1944) . £5 on the door or please contact Diana Walker on 01328 738604 [www.burnhammarketandnortonvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.burnhammarketandnortonvillagehall.org.uk)

## Thursday 8th

The Arts Society King's Lynn lecture by Sophie Matthews 'Music in Art' 2pm West Winch Village Hall. Free parking. 01366 328648 or [info@theartsocietykingslynn.org.uk](mailto:info@theartsocietykingslynn.org.uk)

King's Lynn Community Cinema Club screen Past Lives 7.30pm St George's Guildhall, King's Lynn. £5 cash at the door.

## Friday 9th

King's Lynn u3a Gaywood Community Centre. Doors 9.30am. Talk at 10am by Penny Hubbard 'An inside view of a Cambridge College' Join us to hear Penny talk about her time as both an Undergraduate and Development Officer at her College, with reminiscences of some of the famous people she encountered. All welcome £3.

King's Lynn Festival Coffee Concert 11am King's Lynn Town Hall. Bach Partita No.3 in A minor BWV827, Fauré Nocturne No. 13 in B minor, Op.119, Beethoven Piano Sonata No. 28 in A major, Op.101. Award-winning pianist Richard Zhang Prior to the concert enjoy a coffee and a slice of cake from 10.30am (incl in ticket price). [https://uk.patronbase.com/\\_KLCE/Productions/2RX/Performances](https://uk.patronbase.com/_KLCE/Productions/2RX/Performances)

Valentine's Music and Dance with Kevin Barry in aid of the Critical Care Unit QEH. Snettisham Memorial Hall PE31 7LX Doors 6pm, music 7pm £10 each with rolls and cake. Call Maggie 07591 732033

Anmer Social Club FILM NIGHT – THE GREAT ESCAPER – 12A – Starring Michael Caine & Glenda Jackson The club opens 7.00 p.m. – Film starts 7.30 p.m. Admission £4 at the door. For further information email [films@anmerclub.co.uk](mailto:films@anmerclub.co.uk)

United Services Club  
Hunstanton: Diamond Pauls  
Mixed Bag Disco any requests played 8pm

## Saturday 10th

Fincham Memorial Hall PE33 9EJ There will be a National Theatre Encore performance of 'SKYLIGHT' at 7.45pm. Entrance £5 pay at the door by either cash or card. Licensed bar available from 7pm.

United Services Club  
Hunstanton: Dr Phil Motown  
Man 8.30pm

## Monday 12th

North West Norfolk Arts Society 2pm Sedgeford Village Hall. Lecture by Kirsty Hartsiotis 'Arts and Crafts in Stained Glass in English Churches'. Guests £5 [www.theartssocietynorthwestnorfolk.org.uk](http://www.theartssocietynorthwestnorfolk.org.uk)

## Wednesday 14th

The Heritage Centre in Hunstanton re-opens today with new displays

Phoenix Ladies meet at Burnham Market village hall. Juliet Webster's talk about travelling round Norfolk in a yellow caravan in 1912.

## Friday 16th

Fincham Memorial Hall PE33 9EJ BINGO night. Cash bingo with 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.

United Services Club  
Hunstanton: Quiz Night First Prize £50 Teams up to 4 persons £4pp including supper 8pm

## Saturday 17th

North Wootton Village Market, North Wootton Village Hall PE30 3PT 9am-2pm. [events@northwoottonvillagehall.org.uk](mailto:events@northwoottonvillagehall.org.uk)

United Services Club  
Hunstanton: KCR Duo Fantastic vocals all eras 8.30pm

## Sunday 18th

Hunstanton Society talk at The Heritage Centre 2.30pm Anna Keay on her book 'The Restless Republic'. £1 members £4 non-members.

## Monday 19th

Hunstanton u3a at the Community Centre, Avenue Road, Hunstanton at 2.00 pm when Ed. Foss will be speaking about the River Hun and chalk streams in Norfolk. You will be most welcome to join us. For further information please see our website [hunstantonu3a.org](http://hunstantonu3a.org) Telephone 07443763679

## Tuesday 20th

Brancaster Camera Club 7pm  
Brancaster Staithe Village Hall.

Admission is £3 to include refreshments. Visitors to the area and potential new members are always welcome at our meetings. For more information contact Sue Till on 01485 210013 or Wendy Calow on 01553 674725. We look forward to seeing you.

## Wednesday 21st

Fincham Memorial Hall PE33 9EJ FINCHAM HISTORY GROUP will meet at 2.00pm. All welcome to attend.

Community cinema at the Burnham Market village hall 7pm A Haunting In Venice (2023) Certificate PG13 £5 on the door or please contact Diana Walker on 01328 738604 [www.burnhammarketandnortonvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.burnhammarketandnortonvillagehall.org.uk)

Hunstanton Society talk by Colleen Roper 'The Story of Hunstanton's Rainbow Amusement Park. The Heritage Centre 7.30pm £1 members £4 non-members.

## Thursday 22nd

New Hunstanton Women's Institute meeting at Methodist Church Hall, 2.15pm. Annual meeting. Members only. All enquiries to 01485 572027

## Friday 23rd

Anmer Social Club QUIZ NIGHT – Club opens 7.00 p.m. Quiz starts 7.30 p.m. Entry £2 per person. Licensed bar – Raffle

Fincham Memorial Hall PE33 9EJ Fincham Film for all is showing 'THE GREAT ESCAPER' at 7.45pm. Entrance £3 pay at the door by either cash or card. Licensed bar available from 7pm.

United Services Club  
Hunstanton: Diamond Pauls  
Mixed Bag Disco any requests played 8pm

## Saturday 24th

Village Screen Cinema at Amy Robsart Village Hall, Syderstone. 7.30pm. A haunting in Venice (12A) £4 on the door or book: 01485 578171 [syderstonecinema\\_ARVH@outlook.com](mailto:syderstonecinema_ARVH@outlook.com)

# nd.net/whats-on/february

United Services Club  
Hunstanton: DNA Rock Pop and  
Soul Band 8.30pm

## Tuesday 27th

Dersingham Village Cinema at  
Dersingham Village Centre  
7.30pm The Great Escaper  
(12A).

## Wednesday 28th

Snettisham Gardening Club  
meeting at 7.30 pm in the  
Memorial Hall, Old Church  
Road, Snettisham when we will  
be updated on the activities of  
the Norfolk Wildlife Trust by  
Gary Hibbard. You will be most  
welcome to join us. Any further  
information can be obtained  
from Gail on 01485 541279 or  
Addie on 01485 544754.

## Thursday 29th

Leap Year Day: Turn to page 56  
of this edition for a Leap Day  
Cocktail

## Looking forward to March

## Friday 1st

RNLI Fish and Chip Lunch with  
speaker 10.30 Sedgeford Village  
Hall. Booking 07775 775362 or

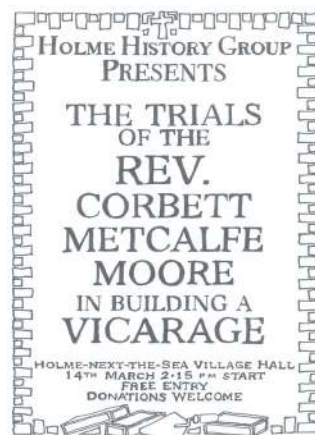
01485 512005

## Thursday 7th

Stanhoe and Barwick WI, The  
Reading Room, Stanhoe 2pm.  
Kate Craven from Hunstanton  
RNLI. Visitors most welcome.  
£5 incl. refreshments. Please  
contact Valerie 01485 576261  
for further details.

## Thursday 14th

Holme History Group presents  
'The Trials of the Rev Corbett  
Metcalf Moore in building a  
Vicarage



# RNLI FISH & CHIP LUNCH

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Terry Morris: 01485 512005



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## Record turnout for Marham Flyers New Year's Eve 10K raises £4,000 for RAF Benevolent Fund

Gary Walker

A record-breaking number of runners took part in the 2023 Marham Flyers New Year's Eve 10K. Now in its 9th year, 450 runners signed up to take part in the event on 31 December at RAF Marham.

The popular event raised £4,000 for the RAF Benevolent Fund, the RAF's leading welfare charity.

Race organiser Gary Walker said: "Although the day started off with heavy rain it cleared up just as runners started to arrive at Race registration to check in and held off until all the runners had finished.

Each year we try to make the New Year's Eve 10K bigger and better, this year exceeding all expectations with the race being sold out by the end of October. As a consequence, the number of entries was increased but even these also quickly sold out which was excellent."

The Station Commander Gp Capt Fred Wigglesworth Officer who had signed up with his son Lockey, was on hand to welcome the runners and to start the race, leaving his son to get ahead at the start beating him to the finish.

All taking part received a goody bag and a specially designed F35 Lightning medal,



RAF Marham Station Commander addresses runners taking part in NYE 10K 2023

together with a commemorative bottle of Battle of Britain beer at the finish.

This year's top finishing male runner was James Orrell of Huntingdonshire AC, who completed the race in a brilliant time of 33:06 minutes. Taking first place for the females, was Eleanor Grubb from Norwich AC, who finished the race in an equally excellent time of 36 minutes 28 seconds.



NYE 10K Runners heading for the finish

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](http://www.marhamflyers.co.uk) and on its Facebook page [facebook.com/MarhamXk](https://www.facebook.com/MarhamXk)

## Walking Cricket Sessions - Kings Lynn

Norfolk Cricket Board (NCB) have been running Walking Cricket Sessions In Norwich for just over a year now. The sessions have been well received, are attend by a mixed group of male and females, old hands and new converts to the game. In our drive to increase participation further we are to expand to Kings Lynn.

For six weeks starting on Friday 8th March 11.00am - 12.30pm the NCB will deliver Walking Cricket Taster Sessions at The Barn, Lynnsports, Kings Lynn. The sessions have no upper or lower age limit although they are adult sessions. The sessions are fully inclusive to everyone of all abilities and are open to both male and females interested in having a go.

The first six weeks will be free taster sessions, for people to try the game. The NCB will provide all the kit required to play the game, a soft ball will be used with everybody having the chance to bat and bowl in a relaxed environment. The idea is to have 12-16 people attend each week and to play a game of pairs based cricket. Underarm bowling will be allowed. Sides will be picked from a hat on the day.

The aim of the sessions is to get people back into playing cricket, or for people who want to try it for the first time. They games will be fun, not too serious and an ideal opportunity for people to meet or make old or

new friends. After, a coffee and a chat will be encouraged.

To attend the sessions, one or all, please contact:

**Andy Boocock on**  
[andy.boocock@norfolkcricket.co.uk](mailto:andy.boocock@norfolkcricket.co.uk)  
or 07501 861499.

### Walking Cricket



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Sessions For  
6 Weeks

11.00 – 12.30pm at  
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Starting Friday 8th  
March 2024

All welcome, male and females, experienced players and newcomers.

For more details, and to book a place :  
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Tel: 07501 861499  
Email: [andy.boocock@norfolkcricket.co.uk](mailto:andy.boocock@norfolkcricket.co.uk)

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

"Our aim is to INSPIRE, LEAD and INFLUENCE the growth, quality and accessibility of cricket in Norfolk"

## King's Lynn parkrun

Borough Mayor, Cllr Margaret Wilkinson was in the Walks to start the Saturday run when 318 runners and 24 volunteers, many in fancy dress collected funds for the Mayor's Charities, the Pandora Project and West Norfolk and Waveney Mind.

The Mayor was clearly impressed by the volunteers who ensure the event remains free to all who wish to take part. She commented the community spirit of all taking part and was particularly impressed by the inclusive nature of the event, with individuals of such a wide range of varying abilities taking part.

Christmas Day saw 376 and 25 volunteers gather again in The Walks to run the 5k course the Christmas day run now being a tradition at King's Lynn, with many of the runners once again getting into the festive spirit running in fancy dress.

Both events went without a hitch thanks to the fabulous volunteers and for many it is not just a case of getting some exercise but also a time to socialise in a very friendly and supportive environment on a very special day.



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# Sporting corner with Tim Keogh

Ian Smith is a former international Scottish Rugby Union player. He was also a well-travelled Army dentist before setting up the Grange Dental Practice in Snettisham. He has already written one book and is due to release another in 2024. He is now retired and still lives in Snettisham. Ian has been giving Town & Around's Tim Keogh insights into his fascinating life.

In my innocence in 1968, when I was first sent abroad to Munster in BAOR as a young captain in the Royal Army Dental Corps, I imagined being a dentist in the army would be very little different to general practice except I would be in uniform. How wrong I was!

The first inkling was being given a book to read on the history of the Royal Army Dental Corps with a foreword by Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery. He stated that he had lost one of his finest officers in 1944 who was hit by a shell less than a mile from the front, whilst being treated by his dental officer! My discomfiture increased when I had my Commanding Officer's interview at 31 Field Ambulance, to be told our job meant we were at around 1000 yards from what was described as the FEBA. Whilst nodding as if I understood, I later discovered it meant far too close to the Forward Edge of the Battle Area!

This wasn't exactly what I was hoping for and then, to make matters somewhat worse, when I examined my equipment, it was designed to be transported on a donkey. Everything had date marks for 1947, and this even applied to my materials including local anaesthetic as well.

Very fortunately it remained unused, and I didn't see a shot fired in anger in the 10 years I was to serve. Having said that I did have a couple of hours of genuine fear for my life, courtesy of rugby football. In the mid seventies when I held the rank of Major, my unit team, the Guards Depot in Pirbright had won a couple of matches in the Army Cup. We were then drawn away to a Welsh Regiment who were, at that time, serving in Northern Ireland, not the safest place to be.

After landing in Belfast, we were being bussed to the Barracks and found ourselves on a country road behind a tractor towing bales of straw. I had watched a film shortly before which involved Germans hidden behind straw bales, who kicked them away to reveal a machine gun which massacred the resistance fighters in the vehicle behind. To say I felt slightly uncomfortable was an understatement, but nothing compared to the moment the bus broke down after the match close to



Team that travelled to Belfast (Ian holding ball)

the Harland and Wolff shipyards.

This was compounded by a young guardsman shouting to a passing cyclist that we were from the base, and could they get help. At which point two things happened. Firstly, our medical officer got out of the bus and started running back to the barracks. This didn't exactly cheer us up.

The second and vastly more worrying thing was when a young Guards Lieutenant, and a very good friend, came up to me and said, 'Sir what would you like us to do?' My astonished response was 'John, what's all this Sir business.' He said, 'Sir, as a Major you are the senior officer on the bus, and so are responsible.' I just looked at him in amazement. 'I'm a dentist, you are a Welsh Guards officer, so don't be ridiculous,' then adding very quickly, keeping the rising panic I felt under control, 'what do you think we should do?'

'Well, my advice is we get everyone off the bus, and take cover behind the bushes over there,' pointing as he spoke. 'A car with a Thompson sub machine gun could make a bit of a mess of us if we stay on the bus, and the passing cyclist could be an IRA sympathiser, so we can't take a risk.'

So twenty young British soldiers spent an uncomfortable hour cowering behind some gorse bushes until a replacement vehicle arrived. The end of a not great day, as we lost the cup tie as well!

## Armchair Sports Trivia

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**QUESTION:** The first penalty shootout in professional football in England took place in 1970. Who has the unenviable accolade for being the first to miss?

**ANSWERS TO:** editor@townandaround.net or by post to:  
The Editor, Town & Around, 18 Tapping Close, Snettisham PE31 7FF

**Please note we do not accept entries via any social media channels or text message. CLOSING DATE: 15th February 2024.**

Last month's question was: In tennis, the Australian Open starts on 14th January. What is unique about this event in 1986 that has never happened before or since?

The answer was that it wasn't held - up until 1985 it was held in November/December, but they then changed it to January, but this didn't start until January 1987.

We received a lot of correct entries this month and the winner, picked at random, is Marilyn Prew.

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3rd February Quiz night 7.30p.m. | 10th February Neil Diamond Tribute, food available from 6.00p.m.

14th February Valentine meals. Lunch 12.30p.m. service Dinner 7.00p.m. pre booked only. Music by

Bill Cunliffe | 28th February cream teas from 3.00p.m

29th February fobs will be deactivated if 2024 subs not paid

Yoga for U3A members on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Mondays : Strength and Balance Class 4.30pm. Tuesdays: Cash Bingo starts at 7.30pm

Wednesdays : Scrabble 10am, Whist Drive 7pm.

Fridays : Lunchtime Raffle drawn at 1pm. Cash Bingo start at 7.30pm.

Saturdays : 'Open the Box' draw at 1pm

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



## GOLDEN LION

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SCAN FOR



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# Sporting corner with Tim Keogh



## Richard Burton in the spotlight..

**R**ichard Burton has been running Richard's Butchers in Hunstanton for 30 years. In those days there were four butchers in town. He is now the last one standing. His grandfather, Thomas, opened the shop in 1947, and the family tradition continued with his father, Brian, taking over before Richard took the helm in 1994. Not bad given he started out as a wee butchers boy at the age of six and is still going strong.

Name: Richard Burton

Age: 59

Star Sign: Leo

Where born: St. James Hospital, King's Lynn

Where live: Hunstanton, I love the pace of life.

Occupation: errm, see above

Family: Wife Mandy, brother, Andrew, two sisters, Angela and Suzie, four children and two step children.

A Cats or dogs person: Dogs

Sports Team Support: Arsenal

Biggest Break: Meeting Mandy if I'm truthfully honest.

Worst injury: A broken nose many years ago.

Funniest memory: The first time I saw The Life of Brian at Pilot's cinema in King's Lynn.

Hero: Tony Adams

Hobbies/interests: Poker (Richard organises all the poker events at the Ex Serviceman's Club). Golf. Arsenal.

Best memory: Walking Mandy up Ayers Rock in Australia to propose, I think she thought I was going to push her off before I got down on one knee.

Favourite international meal/cuisine: A good old traditional Sunday roast.



Favourite drink: Lager

Favourite holiday destination: A Caribbean Cruise if that counts.

Favourite Film: The Shawshank Redemption

Favourite author: George R. R. Martin

Three items for a desert island: Mandy, a classical book and a knife (but not in that order)

Favourite band/singer: Queen

Worst habit: Nail biting

Pet hate in others: People not standing their rounds!

Biggest achievement in life: Being my own boss (oh, and winning the Golf Spring Cup 2023 at Searles from over 32 players, looking forward to defending my title this year).

Best advice ever given: Live life with no regrets and never dwell on the past.

What would you change in the world: No religion.

Like to live forever: No.

## Stagecoach trip from York to London launches...in 1706

**P**re 1700, the most popular mode of land transport was by horse, horse and cart or by foot. No trains, cars or bikes in those days, although there is a record of horse-drawn public buses as early as the 1600's. The first stage-coach routes also started to emerge in the 1600's, which facilitated longer distance travel for groups of people.

An old advert for stage-coach trips from York to London has been uncovered in Sandringham, hidden behind a picture which was recently sent for re-framing.

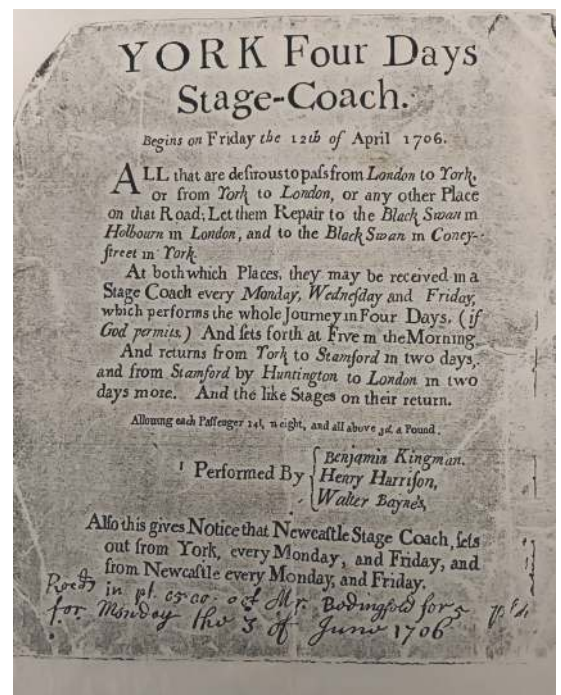
The trip, that nowadays would take less than five hours by car or two hours by rail, was probably the only realistic means of making that trip in 1706. It took four days.

The Stage-coach was increasingly becoming the most popular mode of

long distant transport for groups of people and goods in this age. With roads of questionable quality, trips were often arduous and bumpy affairs. They also had to deal with the increasing threat of Highwaymen.

Interestingly, the formation of a stage-coach company in 1706 established a regular coach route between York and London and soon there were regular stage-coach services linking major towns and cities, which then led to Coaching Inns springing up along routes. It is believed this advert was part of the initial "marketing campaign" to promote the new York to London service at the time.

Two museums have already shown an interest in the advert, giving an initial valuation of several thousands of pounds.





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# All the Fun of the Fair

Tim Keogh

Rainbow Park Funfair in Hunstanton officially open their doors for the season on Saturday, 17th February. The picturesque seafront park is free to enter and open to adults and children of all ages.

Everything has been spruced up for the launch. Dodgems, slides and rides, the ghost train, waltzers, gallopers, target shooting stalls, arcade amusements and many more are all back with the traditional sweets, rock and fast food stalls all on hand. The new ride, the Star Flyer, is eagerly anticipated. Charles Appleton, who purchased the ride, said, "the equipment arrived late last year and we have been working around the clock to ensure this exciting ride is ready for the launch". It will certainly change the Hunstanton skyline from across the Wash, with visibility of the ride from Boston and Skegness.

There have been Funfair rides in Hunstanton for over 140 years with the first rides believed to have emerged in the 1880's. Like most seaside resorts, the fair is part of Hunstanton's heritage. Whilst the emergence of 'ye olde Funfair' can be traced back to medieval times, the rides as we know them today changed in 1868 when Frederick Savage devised a method for driving rides by steam, transforming fairgrounds in England and around the world. In 1891 he produced the classic style for the ride we now know today as the Carousel. Towards the end of the Victorian era, fairs became a traditional part



of the holiday calendar, common in most seaside resorts. In more recent years, rides have become more sophisticated as demand for the thrill factor has increased.

This year's opening will be a particularly notable one, as it will represent 60 years since the Roper family became involved in the local Fairground. They are looking forward to celebrating this Diamond Anniversary with all their visitors, be it locals or holiday makers alike. Whilst the weather plays a part, it is anticipated the park will be open for the Norfolk half term break and all weekends and holidays moving forward into the Summer months. All updates can be found on the Rainbow Park Facebook page.

## Best foot forward in 2024



The 2024 events programme kicked off with a 3 mile walk in Hunstanton on Monday 1 January 2024, organised by the Borough Council and West Norfolk Walking for Health.

Cllr Simon Ring, Cabinet member for Tourism, Events and Marketing, said: "It's good to see that 78 people, and a few dogs, joined in the gentle 3 mile walk that started at St Edmund's Chapel Ruins, near the Old Lighthouse at 10.30am. The weather was good and the sociable walk took in many beautiful parts of the town."

"This was a wonderful way to see in the new year and is the first of many events planned for Hunstanton in 2024. We have new events planned this year including walking football, group tai chi, beat the tide, flower arranging and a classic car event. Also we have returning favourites like the Battle of the Bands and Soap Box Derby back in its rightful place in September to wrap up the summer events season for west Norfolk."

Find out more about planned events in Hunstanton at [west-norfolk.gov.uk/hunstantonevents](http://west-norfolk.gov.uk/hunstantonevents). Walking for Health run a regular programme of walks throughout the borough. They are a registered charity and experienced at leading safe, friendly and sociable walks. More details can be found at [wnwfh.org.uk](http://wnwfh.org.uk).

Roger Partridge, Events Coordinator at the Borough Council said: "The New Year's Day walk was a great success - 78 were on it and a good number of them finished up at Tim's Cliff Top Café so that was good too."

"Many of them said they had seen the event in the Town & Around, so thanks for your help."

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# Dersingham VA Primary School is Good

**D**ersingham primary school has been rated 'Good' after an Ofsted inspection.

The report praises the school for being a caring community which 'nourishes pupils to thrive and flourish'. It says the children are happy there and enjoy learning. They are able to apply their knowledge independently to solve problems in maths and to investigate in science.

The report states children learn to read confidently and quickly develop a love of reading. The children appreciate how their teachers support them to gain important knowledge through a new and ambitious curriculum.

Pupils have opportunities to hone their singing, dancing and sporting prowess in a variety of ways. The pupils are kind and compassionate towards each other and the teachers help nurture highly positive values across the school.



The report highlights pupils on the eco-council show their friends how to care for the local community and the environment. The school caters well for pupils' personal development.

Headteacher Mrs Zoe Warren said: 'As a



school we are all proud of the report. There is always an amazing team effort here at Dersingham and we work hard to ensure every child is valued, supported and empowered to reach their full potential."

Photos: Paul Tibbs

## West Norfolk pupils debate in Parliament

**T**omorrow's voters and politicians got a taste of democracy at work when they visited the Houses of Parliament and witnessed a live debate – as well as meeting their own MP.

The 57 Key Stage 2 pupils from Heacham Junior and Snettisham Primary Schools, members of the West Norfolk Academy Trust, enjoyed a tour of Westminster Palace before visiting the House of Commons.

"We were lucky enough to witness the Speaker's procession into the House of Commons," said teacher Kate Watson.

"The Speaker was accompanied by the Sergeant at Arms carrying the mace."

"The children climbed the King's Stairs to visit the House of Lords, and stood within the House of Lords looking at the historical statues, King's golden chair, and red leather debating platform," explained Ms Jackson.

"After this, pupils were taken to the Great Hall, where the Queen had lain in state.

"At the end of the tour, pupils sat in the viewing balcony in the House of Commons watching a live debate on defence led by Grant Schapps and featuring James Wild."

Mr Wild, MP for NW Norfolk, joined his young constituents after they had participated in their own debate in the Education Centre, where he answered questions about life as an MP.

"During our simulated debate, the children stood and waited to be asked to contribute by the speaker (Harry from Heacham), just as an MP would in the House of Commons," continued Mrs Watson.

"It was amazing to see how immersed all the children were in the entire experience."

The MP spent 20 minutes with the children before returning to the House of Commons to vote.

The children were accompanied by trip

organiser and Snettisham teacher Kate Watson, along with fellow members of staff Hannah Greenhough, Catherine Clemente, Jo Westmoreland and Nicky Scott, and Executive Leaders Louise Jackson and Emma Hunt.

"The pupils were fascinated by their experiences, and Harry from Heacham Juniors wanted to know what James enjoyed most about being an MP," said Ms Jackson.

"Alfie from Snettisham asked him which MP he admired the most, and Jessica from Snettisham asked about his daily routines. It was clear that James was very busy!"

It was the first time some of the children had visited the capital, and the trip was also a first for the two schools.

"The visit was inspired by being involved in UK Parliament Week in 2022 and because of the strong links made with British Values through our knowledge-rich curriculum," continued Ms Jackson.

"As part of the curriculum, pupils have learnt about kings, queens and parliament. They also learn about equality, rights and British values across the nation.

"It was noticeable that our pupils were highly engaged and able to answer questions about the history and organisation of the building. This is a great reflection on our curriculum, which celebrates and builds on our history and British Values."

"The trip to London gives all pupils within our rural and isolated communities an opportunity to broaden horizons and inspire young minds," she added.

"Nearly 25 per cent of pupils had not been to London before, and no-one had visited Westminster Palace. They loved their day, and this high-quality experience will become a regular event."



Photos supplied by the schools

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# Brancaster School news

**H**appy New Year everyone! It has been great to welcome all the children back this week. Now that Christmas is over (we had a great time!) and we embark on a new year, we can look forward to a new term and a fresh start. It is the time for New Year Resolutions and an opportunity for us to reflect on how we can do something to make ourselves better. Our value for the half term is "confidence". Confidence is the belief you are capable. It means viewing mistakes as learning opportunities, saying "I can" instead of "I can't," and believing you can face life's challenges and succeed. Skills and ideas that are important for us all.

The School Councillors have been thinking about what charities they would like to support as a school. Having looked at the list of charities that they have suggested, we have decided to focus on fundraising to support those who are fighting cancer. We will be supporting the Shouldham Ward at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

In Thrift Class, our new topic is "Houses and Homes". We are looking forward to our learning and, also, some exciting trips out.

Samphire will be continuing last term's work, looking at what happened after the Romans left, plus working on light.

Half term starts on 16th February and children return to school on 26th February.



## Jamm'in Joe's charity gig raises over £3,000 for the RNIB

Tim Keogh

**J**amm'in Joe did it, a 12 hour non stop performance to a packed house at The Terrace in Hunstanton. Joe played tunes from 9am to 9pm (nearer to 10pm with the encore!). He was joined throughout the day by various musicians and singers from across Norfolk. Diners enjoyed their breakfast to the tunes of saxophonist, Dave Taylor. Sunday lunch diners were serenaded by talented singer Emily Blake followed by 'star in the making' 17 year old Ronan Williams from Norwich. Jane Spillings and the soulful Lee O'Brien completed the afternoon performances. Immy and Laura from 2nd Sunset really took it to another level in the evening as they wooed the tapas diners with a 90 minute set assisted by Joe's background music and harmonious singing.

An exhausted Joe, who could barely feel his finger tips at the end, was delighted, "the kindness of people has overwhelmed me, it was all worth it though, raising money for a charity very close to my heart. My thanks also go to all the staff who put in equally long shifts and of course my fellow performers and everyone who turned up during the day". As well as donations, various raffles and all corkage receipts from The Terrace owners Dan and Vicky Kirk meant Joe raised over £3,000 for the Royal National Institute of Blind People. Some of this will be apportioned to the Amber Trust, which offers musical opportunities to blind and partially

sighted children. Joe had cataracts as a young child and eleven operations before he was just five years old. With only 50% peripheral vision left in one eye, this makes Joe's music playing even the more impressive.

Joe is also delighted to announce that he is teaming up with 2nd Sunset pair, Immy and Laura, to form a new group, Just Once. Their debut performance will be at the United Services Club in Hunstanton on the evening of Friday, 26th January.

Due to the success of the event and all tables being fully booked throughout, plans are already in motion to run a similar event in the Summer. For updates, please visit The Terrace Facebook page.



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# Glebe House School & Nursery Update

**H**appy New Year! We are very excited to be back at school and look forward to a busy Spring Term ahead. Please enjoy reading our news from December, full of joyful tales of the festive fun we enjoyed prior to the Christmas break. We hope it brings a bit of brightness and sparkle to a dull January day.

## Prep Choir perform at Hunstanton Christmas Festival and Hunstanton Golf Club



Our Prep choir were excited to take to the stage at this year's Hunstanton Christmas Festival. Led by Mrs Hawkins and dressed in black attire and festive headwear, the choir performed three numbers that spanned a range of genres.

There were other members of the Glebe House School community involved in the day. The Hunstanton & District Men's Shed, which is based on the school grounds, was responsible for crafting Father's Christmas' amazing sleigh, and The Ukrainian Cafe, located in the Town Hall, was run by parent and staff member Ms Churikova together with some fellow local Ukrainian families. It was a fantastic festive occasion that kickstarted our festive activities at school.

Two weeks later, our Prep Choir and their families were invited to join the festivities at Hunstanton Golf Club for their annual Christmas Carols. The Choir performed their much-enjoyed Christmas pieces, and led everyone in many well-loved carols. It was a delightful evening enjoyed by all!

## Christmas Outings



Each year the Parents' Committee treats the children to an end of year trip. First was the Prep trip to Skaters in Walpole Highway. An afternoon filled with excitement, disco music, laughter and lots of great skating, from pupils and staff alike! Next was the Pre-Prep's turn and they enjoyed a fabulous pantomime performance at the Princess Theatre Hunstanton. Jack and the Beanstalk was an exciting adventure with a huge amount of fun audience participation including children throwing mouldy sprouts on to the stage and Mrs Playford being cream pied by Dame Trot!

## Christmas Socials

Our Friday night socials took a festive and party feel this half term. Pre-Prep and Junior Prep enjoyed a 90-minute session of Gingerbread Decorating. Sprinkles, icing and Christmas themed-biscuit toppings allowed the children to showcase their creative flair before taking the edible treats home to share with their families. Senior Prep had the chance to don their partywear for their Christmas Disco held in the school hall. A perfect treat to end term for our older pupils!

## Pre-Prep Nativity



The school hall came alive with the heartwarming Pre-Prep Nativity performances of "A King is Born." The younger children delivered a magical performance of the traditional Christmas story. Thank you to Mrs Playford and the Pre-Prep staff for putting on the performance, and to Mrs Snaith and Mrs Twite for the beautiful backdrops. The hot drinks and mince pies served at the end of the performance added an extra layer of joy to the event too!

## Whole School Christmas Concert

A highlight of the celebrations was the Christmas Concert held at Hunstanton Town Hall on 8th December. The concert showcased the school's artistic talent starting with the



delightful Pre-Prep Nativity rendition of "Joyous News" and the Pre-Prep Ballet performing "Let It Go". Then it was the turn of the Prep School to entertain. Strictly led with an outstanding vibrant dance display, Divisions III and IV took to the stage with "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas".



There was a fabulous dramatic arts display by Eagles and a wonderful festive medley of Christmas tunes from the Prep Choir. Divisions V and VI performed "Merry Christmas Everyone" by Shakin' Stevens and Divisions VII and VIII sang "Merry Christmas" by Ed Sheeran and Elton John beautifully. The whole school finished with an incredibly festive performance of Sia's "Candy Cane Lane" before inviting the audience to join in with the "Twelve Days of Christmas". It was a delightful and exceptionally professional concert courtesy of the hard work put in by Mrs Hipwell, Mrs Carnell, Mrs Hawkins and Miss Gina, and of course all our pupils.

## Festive Bake Sale

Following the incredible success of our Coronation Bake Sale earlier in the year, our Festive Bake Sale did not disappoint! Organised by the Parents' Committee and supported by families throughout the school, there was a huge host of festive sweet treats on offer. It was a lovely community event to end the week. Here's to the next one!

## Christmas Lunch and Carol Service



On the last day of term, everyone came together for our whole school Christmas lunch. We enjoyed a delicious meal and then went on to St Mary's Church in Old Hunstanton for the School Carol Service, a wonderfully traditional end to the first term. The afternoon featured carol singing, solos,

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choir performances and readings from pupils as well as Mr Stewart. The warmed mulled wine and mince pies served at the end were an extra special treat!

### Christmas Day Swim

A huge well done to team Glebe for joining the annual Hunstanton & District Round Table Christmas Day Swim. Thomas from Div III and Mr Stewart's wife, daughter and dog braved the cold waters all for a good cause!

### Norfolk County Cricket Selections

During the Christmas break we learned the exciting news that two of our pupils have been selected to play Norfolk County Cricket in 2024. Toby in the U11 Boys and Freddie in the U12 Boys. Huge congratulations to both boys and we are excited to see where the season takes them!

### Come and see us!

Does your child start school in September? Is your child looking for a new school? Would

your child benefit from a new start?

Did you know we offer a comprehensive co-curricular programme until 6pm? And that we provide daily transport from many convenient locations across North West Norfolk?

Why not find out more about life at Glebe House School & Nursery, we would love to hear from you! Our next Open House is on Friday 8th March. We hope to see you then!

Please contact Mrs Fraulo on 01485 532809 or email tjf@glebehouseschool.co.uk.

## Hunstanton & District Rotary Club

**D**o you have a kind heart and a generous nature, do you want to make new friends whilst enhancing your social life, in a happy and welcoming atmosphere, and at the same time give some of your time to help and support good causes and charities in your local community, nationally, or even further afield, then joining your local Rotary could be what you are looking for.

Our main aim is to work together as friends in an effort to do good in the world by giving our time in support, hold fundraising events, and help the community in any way we can, whilst having fun at the same

time.

Rotary is open to all who represent the values and qualities outlined above, and are interested in being part of their community, there is no obligation or pressure to join, but I would urge you to make contact and have a chat, come along and have a look at us and see if we can together make a difference in our community make new friends and have fun along the way.

For an example, we have supported and raised funds for various good causes, these include:

Local Scout and Guide groups  
Raised Funds for local breast care treatment.

Assist and raise funds for Autism  
Assist and raise funds for Riding for the Disabled.

Help the Premature baby unit at QE2

Provide dictionaries for schools  
Support young carers.

Volunteer and raise funds for Tapping House local hospice.  
Support and finance Shelter boxes and water aid for major disasters in the world.

Provide funds for entrepreneurs in the poorest parts of the world.  
Continue to Support and finance the fight to eradicate Polio in the world.

These are a sample of our work, if you want to make a difference, please make contact



and talk to us about how YOU can contribute to good causes and support charities, you would be most welcome.

Roger Raven  
President Hunstanton and District Rotary  
rogerraven9@hotmail.com

## Hunstanton and District Inner Wheel

At their first meeting of 2024 members of Hunstanton and District Inner Wheel were transported to India. Member Veronica Welham showed slides and gave an account of her visit to Vizianagaram with the charity Brighter Future in October 2023. Brighter Future is a partner charity of The Leprosy Mission, founded and run by Victor and Mary Parisipogula and supports children who have been abandoned or are from impoverished backgrounds, providing them with safe and welcoming accommodation, healthy meals and educational opportunities. Up to 200 children can be cared for. The charity also provides medical care, bespoke footwear and basic food parcels for the leprosy-affected in 8 local colonies.

The group spent time at the Rainbow Home and the Shanti Nivas Children's village, sharing meals and joining in with dancing, despite the heat! We were given a guided tour of the new developments, including a bakery, cowshed, chicken run and vegetable garden, by Victor, who is always exploring ways of developing the Shanti Nivas site to provide more opportunities for the children. We also spent a day with a busload of children at a play park and Varuna Beach, where they hurled themselves into the sea with great excitement.

At the 4 leprosy colonies the group visited we were shown examples of foot care and the treatment of callouses and ulcers. We had the honour of fitting new footwear onto deformed feet and distributing food parcels which we then carried to the person's house. We shared worship and were delighted to meet Pastor Elisha, himself a former leprosy patient, who now petitions for the rights and entitlements of those in the colonies. Veronica also presented Victor with a cheque for £625 for food parcels from Heacham Parish Church.

Everywhere we were greeted with warmth and love and were presented with marigold garlands as a mark of respect. We were also able to indulge in some shopping, wonderful homemade curries and a visit to a local craft market. It was a privilege to visit a traditional, rural part of India and to see life as it is for many of the poor and outcast.



## Snettisham RBL and SWAG

Eric Langford

### Snettisham Royal British Legion

2024 promises to be an exciting year with four new members joining and a range of activities to be organised including 100 year celebrations of the RBL branch being open in Snettisham. The first recorded minutes branch show the RBL branch was established on April 8th 1924 and will have had a continual presence in the village life for 100 years in April 2024.

Plans are being put in place to celebrate the 100 year centenary and the Branch would welcome any old photos, artefacts, memorabilia, that may be gathering dust at home, along with family memories that could help / contribute to making the 100 year celebration events a success.

You do not have to have served in HM Forces to join the RBL Snettisham branch, whether as a male or as a female member. You only have to be an adult who shares the core values of providing care and support for those in need across our community... and someone who enjoys helping others.

For more information contact June Barrett, Snettisham Branch Chairperson on 01485 533011

### Snettisham Wednesday Activities Get-together- SWAG :

SWAG has become well established and with six monthly events now completed, is proving a successful and popular formula for

addressing the issue of loneliness and isolation existing within the village. Some 54 villagers, with an age range of 60 to 92 years, have now registered their names with SWAG. Without exception, all have stated how much they like the warm safe and friendly environment and the opportunity of meeting old, and of making new friends. SWAG offers the options of a variety of table top activities such as cards, dominoes, scrabble, word search, oxo, jenga and solitaire. Other activities include the challenge of finishing part-completed jig saws, playing "seated" floor skittles and hoopla as well as a popular table top "spinning top" skittles game. Others simply like watching others play and enjoying a chat.

Entrance is free and light refreshments are provided thanks to donations received from a local business.

Favourable comments and expressions of support have been received from doctors at the local surgery, advisors from the West Norfolk LILY / Befriending agency and the Salvation Army, all of whom praise the benefit and value of SWAG in meeting an important village community need of companionship.

A special December SWAG was held on Wednesday 20th December during which there was a Christmas themed break to include community singing of a number of popular carols led by the SWAG Singing



*swinging singers from left: Malcolm Brockway, Clive Killough (nose, hand and feet!), David Sexton, Roy Collins, Arthur Clarkson, Eric Langford and John Fry. (photo 5854 courtesy of David Drewery)*

Singers (6 male SWAG volunteer helpers!) Some 30 plus attendees enjoyed the SWAG event with free sausage rolls, mince pies, hot drinks...and the arranged choral entertainment with requests for more singing from the "6 men" in the future. Watch this space!

For 2024 SWAG events will revert to being held on 4th Wednesday of each month namely: Jan 26, Feb 28, Mar 27, April 24, May 22, and onwards to Nov 27. December date yet to be arranged.

SWAG organisers are conscious that there may be villagers who have mobility issues that keep them housebound and therefore unable to attend SWAG. Please let SWAG know of any such housebound people YOU believe may benefit from attending SWAG events. A number of village transport options are being examined that could possibly help such people to access and benefit from attendance at future SWAG events.

Contacts: Eric Langford 01485 541515 or June Barrett 01485 533011

## Probus Posers with Reg Eaton

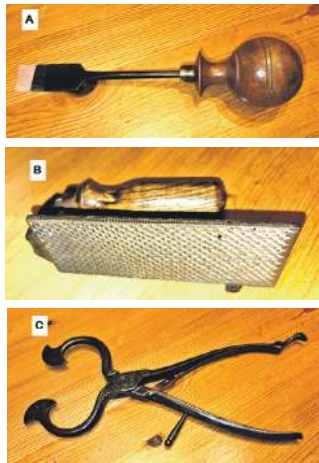
At the January Probus meeting, the members invited their ladies to their monthly luncheon at The Le Strange Arms Hotel in Old Hunstanton. Reg Eaton's Probus Posers thus reflected items more associated with the ladies' interests, albeit of bygone days. So, Town and Around ladies see if you can identify what this month's posers may have been used for:

A. A sharp flat cutting instrument with a boxwood handle.

B. A coarse rasp.

C. A pair of plier-like cutters

Answers on page 52



For further information on meetings and membership contact

[daviddickersonathunstanton.probus@outlook.com](mailto:daviddickersonathunstanton.probus@outlook.com)

## Letters to the Editor

### Post Office scandal

I have never been so ashamed and disgusted to be an Englishman living in England after hearing the amount of corruption that is going on, it's getting more like a third world country.

What with the banks in 2008, then little snippets on the news about various wrongdoings by companies both big and small, then I heard about the Post Office but at the time, I just thought, as a lot of other people thought, a rogue Postmaster.

Now that the truth has come to light our politicians are trying to make it right - sorry mate you have known about this for far too long and did nothing.

So now we've had corruption in Companies, Government and Councils, where will it end?

**Cookie Sunnyhunny**

### Thank you

Grateful thanks to the many kind friends who helped to make such a success of my Piano Party on 16th December. I'm delighted to announce that the excellent sum of £700 was raised!

I have sent cheques for £350 each to the two nominated charities (Diabetes UK and the Alzheimer Society).

Belated but sincere good wishes for happiness and good health throughout 2024 and beyond to all readers.

**John Harris**

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## Play today for your chance to win up to £15,000 and help support the amazing work of The Norfolk Hospice Tapping House

The Norfolk Hospice Tapping House currently cares for 1,500 patients and support 4,500 family members and relatives a year. Our Hospice at Home service constantly has a waiting list and our rehabilitative therapy classes are highly sought after, as are our bereavement and support services. The Inpatient Unit is at its busiest. In 2023-24 the Hospice will cost £3.25 million to run and we receive 30% of this from the NHS. With the increase in both energy costs and rising costs relating to staff salaries; in a bid to match NHS pay scales so we attract the best clinical staff in order to maintain our high standards, we are now looking at £2.5 million a year that needs to be funded through our charitable activity. As is the tradition with most hospices, our income has been generated through retail income, community fundraising and events.

We all do what we can to support the causes that mean something to us whether that be a financial donation, recycling our preloved items to a charity shop or volunteering time. However, there is another, lesser-known way that our supporters can contribute towards the work that the Hospice does to provide compassionate and personalised care to those in our community facing a life limiting illness.

For over 20 years the Hospice has run a weekly lottery, where in

exchange for £1 players are entered into a weekly draw with a chance to win a guaranteed prize of £1,000 every week as well as other, smaller prizes and a roll over prize of up to £15,000. To keep delivering our excellent and essential service we need to double the number of weekly entries to our lottery as well as increasing our other income streams.

When you buy a £1 entry in the Hospice's weekly lottery, 50p goes directly towards funding the Inpatient Unit, Hospice at Home care, rehabilitative therapies and bereavement support. Once you have registered, you will be sent your lucky number. This will be entered into the draw every Friday. Eight numbers are selected at random, if your number is picked, you will win one of the cash prizes on offer. The more entries you have in the weekly draw, the more chance you stand to win our weekly or rollover prizes! Prize cheques are posted directly to the lucky winners, so there is no need for you to claim. To enter, you must be 16 or over.

In November, lottery player Helen of King's Lynn was the firstly lucky person to win the rollover prize, she said "I support The Norfolk Hospice Tapping House via their weekly lottery and I just won £5,400 on the first ever rollover! I've been an admirer of the wonderful services provided by the Hospice for over



Rollover Winner Mrs Helen Mackee

30 years, and I am so grateful for the opportunity to share my good fortune with my children, grandchildren, and the wider family."

The Hospice relies on the fantastic support from all of our amazing volunteers and fundraisers to stay open. By

playing the Hospice's weekly lottery, you would be helping the charity to make a huge difference to our patients and their friends and families.

You can sign up via the website [www.norfolkhospice.org.uk](http://www.norfolkhospice.org.uk) or call 0330 678 3055.

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King's Lynn Community Cinema Club will reach the mid-point of their Winter season of eight films on Thursday 8th February when they screen a Korean American romantic drama 'Past Lives'. Beginning in Korea, Na Young and Hae Sung are school mates and close friends. They often walk back home together after school until Na Young's family emigrates moves to Canada and then to New York. Hae Sung continues living in Korea and becomes an engineer. Both keep in touch periodically through video chats where they talk of their past and general stuff. Meanwhile in New York, Na has changed her name to Nora, made a name as a playwright and is married to fellow writer Arthur. Hae is keen to meet Nora and visits her in New York where he spends some time with her hoping to rekindle their childhood relationship. As always the film will be show at St George's Guildhall starting at 7.30pm.

Anyone wishing to join KLCCC for the remaining 4 films of the current season, membership will be available for just £10. This gives free entry to each screenings. This can be paid in cash on the door at

the November film or BACs payments for membership can be arranged by simply emailing [communitycinemaclub@googlemail.com](mailto:communitycinemaclub@googlemail.com). Anyone over 18 is welcome to become a member. Alternatively, you can just come along to any individual film as a day member for £5. Please note only cash payments can be made on the door. Full details of all the club's films and events can be found on the club website and Facebook page.



  
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# The Arts Society King's Lynn

The Arts Society King's Lynn will be welcoming early instrument musician Sophie Matthews on Thursday 8th February to give a talk on 'Music in Art'. Sophie will look at how so many of our historical references for musical instruments can be found in works of art. Not only can these windows into the past show us what the instruments looked like but also the social context in which they would have been played. Music and different instruments also play a strong role within symbolism in art. Sophie explores the instruments in selected works and then gives live demonstrations on replicas of the instruments depicted.

Sophie is well-known for her prowess on the English border bagpipes and has become one of the foremost players of the instrument in the UK. She also plays a variety of early woodwind instruments such as shawm, rauschpfeife, crumhorn and recorder. She's also one of a handful of British players of the baroque musette, an 18th century French bagpipe similar to the Northumbrian small pipes. When not touring with Green Matthews, Sophie also makes instruments (she made her own baroque oboe) and works with respected luthier Tony Millyard on his



*Still-Life with Musical Instruments*  
by Cristoforo Munari

flutes. Sophie is self-taught on all of her instruments.

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 the remaining 4 talks membership is just for just £30 or you can go along to individual talks as a guest for £10. Anyone interested in finding out more about TASKL can visit their website at [www.theartsocietykingslynn.org.uk](http://www.theartsocietykingslynn.org.uk) or to join the Society contact the membership secretary



on 01366 328648 or via email at [info@theartsocietykingslynn.org.uk](mailto:info@theartsocietykingslynn.org.uk)

## The Benefit of Art

Lesley Nadel, North West Norfolk Arts Society

Monday 12th February 2024 starts our New Year season of monthly lectures at Sedgeford Village Hall at 2:00 pm with Arts and Crafts in Stained Glass in English Churches. Kirsty Hartsiotis is the accredited Art Society lecturer, and she is a wonderful storyteller, writer and speaker on folklore and Arts and Crafts history. In this lecture she will look at the revolution in church interiors brought about by the Arts and Crafts designers. Between about 1890 and 1930 Arts and Crafts designers built and contributed to hundreds of churches across England, with some famous schemes that included the church building and all its interior fittings. Most notable are Brockhampton - perhaps the finest Arts and Crafts church in the U.K; Holy Trinity, Sloane Square, London; and St Andrew's, Roker. Sometimes it is just one commission - a stained glass window, a screen, or a font cover. Find out how these designers and Morris & Co., in churches like Selsley, changed the course of church furnishings in England, and how the next generation of Arts and Crafts designers revolutionised church design.

Christopher Whall, a nineteenth-century master in the technique of stained glass, responsible for such masterpieces as the windows at Holy Trinity in Sloane Square, is quoted as saying, 'Our lives are like the broken bits of glass, sadly or brightly coloured, jostled about and shaken hither and thither, in a seeming confusion, which we yet hope is somewhere held up to a light in which each one meets with his own, and holds his place; and, to the Eye that watches, plays his part in a universal harmony by us, as yet, unseen.' His philosophy illustrates the importance of art generally and particularly how it can help our brain. Everyone's reaction to art can be different but it has the ability to have a strong effect on the brain, from highly lifelike portraits to abstract collections of rectangles. Each time our brain is working to make sense of the visual stimulation it is receiving by viewing and analysing the art.

*continued on page 54*



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Monday 12th February 2024

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Glass in English Churches**

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Herefordshire

**Lecturer:**

Kirsty Hartsiotis

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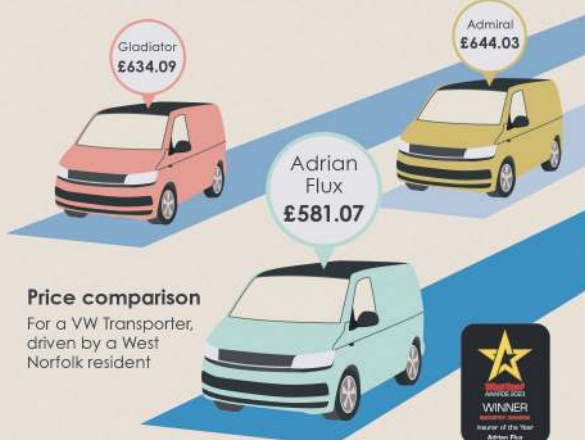


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When we look at wonderful artwork such as a painting, sculpture etc. it is believed the blood flow to the brain increases by as much as 10%, some say the equivalent of looking at a loved one. When we view and analyse art, we often are not just making sense of the shapes we see. We feel we want to place ourselves in the picture. Our brain can turn things like action, movement, and energy into actual emotions that we feel. Look at a Jackson Pollock drip painting and you may feel that you are one of those flinging the paint on to the canvas. A desert landscape can make you feel the hot sand beneath your feet and the sun beating down.

The relationship between art and brainpower is increasingly becoming serious science with findings that art is a great way to flex our brain while improving our life and well-being. Slowly, more public places are supporting this. Anywhere we might find ourselves

waiting, waiting, and waiting, we may find an art gallery or museum being made from the concourse. The Charity Paintings in Hospitals has created a collection of more than 3,700 artworks since 1959 which it lends to hospitals, hospices, care homes and surgeries. Many studies have shown the benefits to patients' recovery and morale when they have something pleasant to look at.

We invite you to come as our guest for £5 to one of our meetings and explore how much art may benefit you. Or you can join as an annual member for £45 (or less if joining later in the year) and enjoy a range of benefits - nine monthly lectures which cover a wide range of subjects; trips and tours in the UK and abroad, interesting study days, regular newsletters and magazines, and a warm welcome from a very friendly society.

[www.theartsocietynorthwestnorfolk.org.uk](http://www.theartsocietynorthwestnorfolk.org.uk)

## New painting by Fenland artist

A Wisbech painter has unveiled a new piece inspired by his love of nature and Butterfly Conservation's Big Butterfly Count. Accomplished artist and East of England resident, David Housden, has revealed a brand new painting inspired by his experience counting butterflies for Butterfly Conservation's 2023 Big Butterfly Count.

The painting, which has received thousands of views on social media, shows David, 72, in his garden just outside of Wisbech counting butterflies for the wildlife charity's annual butterfly survey, which took place in July and August 2023.

David, who is also a keen photographer, painted the piece in acrylics using photographs of each of the 20 species of butterfly and day-flying moths which participants are asked to record as part of the citizen science programme.

"It was a gloriously hot July day when I was taking part in the Big Butterfly Count and our Buddleias were inundated with Red Admirals and Peacocks. It was an incredible scene, and I was inspired to capture it in my art."

Butterfly Conservation recorded a 338% increase in sightings of Red Admiral during the Big Butterfly Count in 2023, with supporters sharing their photos and videos of the butterfly appearing in large numbers in their gardens and local wild spaces.

Sharon Hearle, Conservation Manager for the East of England at Butterfly Conservation, said: "We saw over 95,000 people take part in this year's Count and it was a fantastic year for butterfly and day-flying moth sightings with more than 1.5 million spotted in gardens and green spaces across the UK."

"We know that spending time in wild spaces is great for people's mental health and David's painting captures how special those moments of connecting with nature can be."

David began painting in his early teens before becoming an art teacher. Since retiring from the Queen's School in 2006, David has spent most of his time in his studio working on new art pieces. His work includes a 16ft painting of Wisbech before the 1978 floods which changed the face of the riverbank forever.

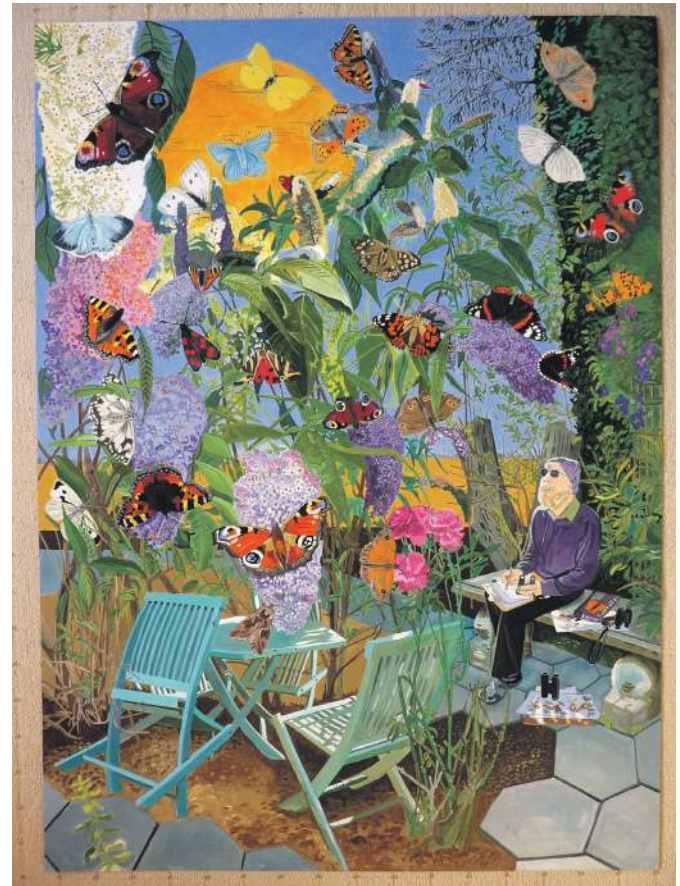
David, who is currently preparing for his first exhibition in 40 years at the National Trust's Peckover House, which runs between March and November 2024, said: "I've always been interested in the environment, landscapes and wildlife, and these themes come up in a lot of my work."

"I wanted to share my latest piece to encourage others to take part in the Big Butterfly Count in 2024. It's a lovely way to spend 15 minutes in nature, while supporting and celebrating the fantastic butterflies and moths we have here in the UK."

Butterfly Conservation is calling on UK residents to create a Wild Space in their garden or outdoor area to help butterflies and moths to feed, breed and shelter, and to create wildlife corridors across the country.

Creating a Wild Space now will help encourage butterflies and moths ahead of this year's Big Butterfly Count, which takes place from 14 July – 6 August.

Find out more about Wild Spaces here: Let's Create Wild Spaces - Wild Spaces ([wild-spaces.co.uk](http://wild-spaces.co.uk))



### Probus Poser answers

- A. Buttonholes are difficult to cut with scissors, so seamstresses and tailors used this to cut buttonholes in cloth and is a 'Buttonhole Chisel'.
- B. When bread was baked in the home, rather than nipping down to Tesco's, sometimes it got a little scorched and this was used to clean off the burnt bits and is a 'Bread Rasp'.
- C. Once upon a time sugar came in large, hard, conical loaves and this was used to break it up into more convenient pieces and are called 'Sugar Nippers'.

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# February Food page

## A recipe from the Prudent Pensioner

**L**ess Waste, More Soup is what I am hoping my budget friendly, easy recipes are helping to achieve. There are numerous recipes available on the internet for experienced cooks who do not have to count the cost but I would like to encourage anyone who is not finding it easy to make ends meet or may be lack confidence to try recipes. If you are fortunate enough to be an experienced cook and you have friends or relatives who are struggling, why not give them some guidance making an easy, nourishing budget friendly soup. It could be a great help to someone's wellbeing.

This recipe cost less than £1 and made 4 generous helpings.

Carrot, Parsnip & Cabbage Soup  
Makes approx. 900ml

1 med. Shallot or small Onion  
Potato approx. 200g/7oz  
Carrots approx. 200g/7oz  
Parsnips approx. 75g/3oz  
Approx. half of a sweetheart cabbage  
Chicken or vegetable stock cube  
Salt and Pepper to taste.  
A little butter (Optional)

Remove and discard discoloured base and outer leaves from cabbage and chop into medium size pieces.

Peel shallot/onion and slice fairly thinly.

Peel potato parsnips and carrots and cut them into small pieces.

Dissolve stock cube in 500ml hot water.

Place butter, if using, and all vegetables in a medium or large saucepan and stir to mix well. Over a low to medium heat, carefully add stock. Bring liquid to the boil (you may need to increase the heat) then reduce heat and leave, covered, stirring often, and simmering for approx. 15-20 minutes or until carrots are soft. 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 for a couple of minutes.

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

Season to taste. Reheat, serve and enjoy.

"Less Waste more Soup" 30 easy, budget friendly recipes for nourishing soup is available in Kindle format from Amazon. The 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 and Robert & Christine home shopping. A search in Amazon for Doreen Reed will find both books (together with my books of light hearted poems & tales) Copies are available to borrow from Heacham Library & Hinckley Library See lots more recipes on The Prudent Pensioner Facebook page Email: pru.pensioner@btinternet.com

## Food for Thought sessions coming to Hunstanton

**F**ree food sessions to help residents trying to make ends meet, due to increasing food costs, are coming to Hunstanton.

Lily, a service that is owned and managed by the borough council, is organising 12 weeks of interactive sessions. The Community Hub in Hunstanton Town Hall, PE36 6BQ, will host the weekly drop-in meetings between 9:30am and 11:30 every Tuesday from 30 January 2024.

Cllr Jo Rust, Cabinet member for People and Communities, said: "I'm pleased to see that Food for Thought is now coming to help residents who live in and around Hunstanton following well attended sessions held in Downham Market and King's Lynn.



"Previous sessions have made a positive contribution towards overcoming social isolation and loneliness. They are sociable and family friendly, children are welcome to attend with an adult. People can turn up at any point, and stay for as long as they can, but also

get to taste food cooked by a professional chef. As the increasing cost of living continues to affect all of us, I believe these free weekly sessions will prove invaluable to local residents."

Each week there will be tips about how to cook healthy and tasty food without breaking the bank. The themes to be focused on are listed below, booking is not required:

Week 1 (30/1): Bread and dough

Week 2 (6/2): Lunches

Week 3 (13/2): Dinners

Week 4 (20/2): Snacks

Week 5 (27/2): Healthy eating/fruit and veg



Week 6 (5/3): Dried and tinned foods

Week 7 (12/3): Batch cooking

Week 8 (19/3): Dietary alternatives

Week 9 (26/3): Low calorie cooking

Week 10 (2/4): Low cost desserts

Week 11 (9/4): Fakeaway meals

Week 12 (16/4): Low calorie cooking

## Love is in the air

**F**ebruary 2024 could be described as the month for love with Valentine's Day on 14th, and a legend dating back to the 5th century celebrated on 29th February. It is said that Saint Brigid of Kildare was complaining to St Patrick about how long women had to wait for a proposal of marriage and St Patrick agreed to grant women the chance to propose once every 4 years on Leap Year Day.

The legend became history in 1288 when the Scottish Queen Margaret passed a law that gave women the right to ask for a man's hand in marriage on 29th February, that also became known as Bachelor's Day.

These days there are no rules about who proposes or indeed when, but in the 5th Century it was quite bold, and then by the thirteenth century if a man declined the proposal, he'd have to pay a fine of a silk gown, money or twelve pairs of gloves - perhaps to hide the lack of a ring?

Whether or not you are contemplating marriage, 29th February is the perfect occasion to raise a toast to leap year with a special Leap Day Cocktail. Invented in 1928 by Harry Craddock, an American working during the Prohibition period in the USA at The Savoy in London, it is a mixture of gin, orange liqueur, lemon, and sweet vermouth. Craddock is said to claim this drink was "to have been responsible for more marriage proposals than any other cocktail that has ever been mixed."

### Recipe for two glasses:

90ml/6 tablespoons good quality gin

30ml/2 tablespoons Grand Marnier

30ml/2 tablespoons Sweet (Rosso) Vermouth

15ml/1 tablespoon freshly squeezed lemon juice.

Shake together with ice and strain into a cocktail glass.



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## Hunstanton Charity Shop's Generous Donation to Heritage Restoration Project

Heacham Parish Church is over 800 years old. Now in the middle of their important Tower Restoration project, St Mary's church in Heacham has received the generous donation from Hunstanton Charity Shop of £3000 towards the new Coronation church bell.

Rev. Veronica Wilson said: "We are very grateful for this support from one local charity to another. This will help maintain the heritage of our listed building which has been a focal point of Heacham for many generations - and our new Sanctus Bell will sound our new era of worship and community outreach."

The church bell has been commissioned and authorised to commemorate the coronation of King Charles in 2023. There are only a very few such bells in the country, and this will be the first in Norfolk. From February, a portion of the old bellcote will be reassembled and displayed in church by our dedicated construction team of Chris Wright, Terry Clay, Alex Knight and Cllr Robert Pritchard. This will enable visitors to appreciate the size and scale of the project.

Heacham Parish Church is the proud custodian of the oldest Sanctus bell in the county, dated from circa 1150. This is too frail to be rehung



so will be displayed in church.

Hunstanton Charity Shop has been trading for 14 years. During this time they have donated over £50,000 to a range of local charities and in 2023 awarded £9000 to local causes.

Established and managed by Angela and Kevin Green, the shop has been operated by a team of volunteers, and each year the team chooses the charities they would like to support.

This winter they are particularly keen to receive additional items to support families who will need to search out bargains for

clothing and gifts in these difficult financial times. Everyone is welcome to visit their shop at 77 Westgate in Hunstanton for a real bargain-hunt.

More information on the Heacham Parish Church's project can be found on the church's JustGiving page: [www.justgiving.com/campaign/heacham-church-tower-and-bell](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/heacham-church-tower-and-bell)

Donations can be received via the JustGiving appeal or please contact the church's office on [heacham.church@gmail.com](mailto:heacham.church@gmail.com)

## The learning of everyday life

Edwin Salter

What have you had to cope with this week? And is there anything that you could have done better? At the simplest, learning is trying and then discovering a better way. Just knowing lots of facts is no guarantee, and unused stuff is soon forgotten.

We tend to assume that schools will do the job and that families need not bother. But schools now focus on facts in a classroom of desks and on what is easy to examine: the realms of happy creativity and of mundane chores are both neglected. How much of all your GCSE knowledge can you recall now? And what of it have you put to use this week, this year, anytime? The argument here is that we can 'learn how to learn' from each other and that sharing family practicalities is crucial to children.

One way to start is to list all the tasks of one day, a mix of routine, occasional and odd that deal with the human and the practical, with planning and completing. Consider: cooking a simple meal; working out areas for a bit of decorating; knowing which way is N,S,E,W (try at noon); darning a sock; calculating percentages on expenses or savings. planning a journey; finding information; giving encouragement or explanation; meeting new people; making an annual budget. Is everyone around you able, or learning, to do these things?

Vast amounts of time are spent with screens, some useful but much trivial or quite unreal. The dreadful consequences of Covid included many small children strangely backward because abandoned to screens, and teenagers with no inclination to any practicality or useful cooperation.

But here's some less familiar questions to exercise the mind. How likely are the outcomes (most MPs got it wrong) of tossing a coin twice (hint – draw the first and second outcomes or just try it until you see a pattern)? Why avoid (it happened) marketing car model MR2 in France (hint – sound 'm-r -deux')? And for the great climate problem, how do melting ice and warming oceans connect both ways (hint – view from space)?

Life includes big decisions. According to opportunity, personality and aptitude we find work (what training will help?), establish and perhaps buy a home, likely marry and cope with children. Great changes, especially if hard to test or difficult to reverse, require balancing pros and cons, the imagining of outcomes. Many of us hereabouts have made retirement decisions that need to include how well-being, interest, and involvement with others can be rebuilt within local resources (check U3A, community action groups, neighbours, this publication ...).

These are skills that improve with practice and can resist ageing. Thought and usefulness add interest, bring a sense of personal worth, and help drive back the nonsense that abounds!

## Rob Colwell selected as Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Candidate for North West Norfolk

Rob is a solicitor in King's Lynn. He has considerable legal aid experience helping victims of domestic abuse as well as dealing with child contact and protection matters. He is well equipped to handle complex issues.

Having lived in the constituency since the age of five, he now lives in King's Lynn with his wife.

Rob has also been an active member of local charitable organisations for many years including the Round Table and Rotary.

Since July 2021 he has been County Councillor for Gaywood South and since May 2023 a Borough Councillor for Gaywood

North Bank and a member of the governing Independent Partnership. He is currently Chair of the Liberal Democrat Official Opposition at Norfolk County Council.

One of the reasons why Rob has decided to stand is because he has come to the conclusion that the problems we face cannot be fixed by local government: "In my roles as a County Councillor and also as a Borough Councillor, I have tried to pressure the government into taking action. Sadly, it's not working. Only national government can fix these problems. That is why I am standing for election as the Member of Parliament for North West Norfolk."





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# New library for Hunstanton Primary

Hunstanton's Mayor Michael Ruston was on hand to cut the ribbon in the new library at the town's primary school on 18th January.

Leading the project to create a library for the one hundred and sixty-nine pupils at the school was Deputy Head Sarah Jones who is also the Head of English at the school. Sarah said: "Reading underpins everything we do and it is important to not only encourage all our children to read, and read well, but to enjoy books."

"The new library is spacious and situated in the heart of the school and it is a focal point for all the children to engage with."

Prior to the installation the adjoining classrooms were enlarged and now each classroom has a book corner, and classes are encouraged take books from the library into the classrooms.

Specialist children's book sellers the Norfolk Children's Book Centre (NCBC) were called in to assess the existing stock of books and supply new titles. Their team is made up of former teachers and headteachers, librarians and book enthusiasts and they source books from over seventy publishers.

"Cataloguing the stock and arranging the books was three full days work, and we couldn't have done it without Chris Tye from the NCBC," said Sarah.

Financing for the project came from the Hunstanton Charity Shop £2000, Hunstanton and District Ladies Circle £250 and a community grant from Tesco.

Some of the school's class librarians joined the Mayor, staff and sponsors at the opening ceremony after assembly on 18th.

Hunstanton Charity Shop's Angela Green said: "We are so happy that we were able to support the new library for the school, when I approached the volunteers with the idea of supporting they were more than happy to do this we all felt that it's very important for children to have access to books, and we hope that the new library will bring lots of joy to all the children at the school now and children who will attend the school in years to come."

As a local charity shop we like to support local projects; the shop is well supported by all the people in the Hunstanton and it is lovely to be able to give some of that support back to the community.

"It's a pleasure to be part of such a lovely idea that will bring lots of happiness to many."

"This is the second project at the school that we have supported over the years and we hope that we are able to continue supporting them for many years to come with other projects that they have on the horizon."

"We are always looking for donations that help us raise funds that we then can then redisperse to good causes; we are also looking for new volunteers to come and help in the shop whether this is for a few hours or a day if anyone is interested please pop into the shop



*The Mayor Michael Ruston cuts the ribbon officially opening the new library with Librarian Katherine Hollin and some of the class librarians*



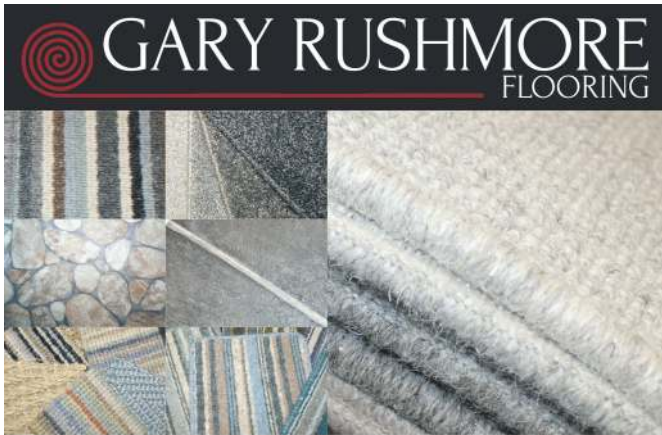
*Centre in yellow jumper Headteacher Jo Sullivan with (back row from left) Deputy Head Sarah Jones, Katherine Hollin, Sue Jones (Hunstanton Charity Shop), Mayor Michael Ruston, Chris Tye (NCBC), Sandie O'Donnell (Hunstanton Charity Shop) and (front row) some of the class librarians*

and have a have a chat with us or contact us through our Facebook page Hunstanton charity shop."

Sarah Jones added: "The library means a lot to us all and we are so grateful to everyone who has contributed to the project and enabled

us to realise something very special for the whole school community.

"Plus, our Year 3 classroom assistant Katherine Hollin has always dreamed of being a librarian and now the school has made that dream come true!"



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# Behind The Scenes

Welcome back to the second edition of 2024. We hope you have been having a great start to your New Year, and we are excited to have our doors open once more, with a year full of brilliant entertainment to look forward to! Please read on to see some of the shows we have performing this February.

Following on from the end of January, when we had near sell-out performances, we look forward to a bright February and 2024. Our Film Club makes a welcome return this month, with 4 films secured for screening including, *The Great Escaper*, *Oppenheimer*, *The Old Oak*, and *A Haunting in Venice*. A variety of genres and stories, and with *Oppenheimer* recently picking up multiple awards at the Golden Globes, these screenings are not to be missed.

During the month of February, of course, it's Valentines Day. Treating a loved one to a show is the perfect gift, whether it's tickets to *Soul Kinda Wonderful* performing on the 17th, (the Saturday after Valentines Day), or gifting tickets to a future show, we have many performances that make the perfect date night. For example, *Endless Love - A Tribute to Diana Ross and Lionel Richie*, which is here later in the year. Plus, don't forget, we also have gift vouchers available. These hold no expiry date, and also make a great way to treat others so that they can watch their favourite acts.

Also, during February, the first weekend begins with two incredibly strong acts – both have visited us multiple times in the past, and each year they have had great success! We have *The UK Rock Show* on the 2nd, and *Totally Tina* on the 3rd. Two evenings when the auditorium will be filled with singing audiences. Join *The UK Rock Show* for classic rock powerhouses paired with great musicianship, and *Totally Tina*, where the talented Justine Riddoch celebrates Tina's extensive hits, joined by her cast of wonderful dancers.

Towards the end of February, we have another brilliant tribute act to yet another icon within music, *The Elton John Show – The Ultimate Tribute*. The show notes that this act brings "Young Elton" to the stage, in celebration of Elton's many great songs, performed in dazzling costumes, alongside talented piano accompaniment. All elements create a show that truly captures Elton John, here Saturday the 24th of February.

Finally, looking at the start of March, we have *Shania & Friends*. Get ready for an evening of classic country music with this tribute to Shania Twain, joined by music of other country stars, this makes for an evening perfect for all the country music fans out there. Following on the 2nd of March is *Money For Nothing – Dire Straits Tribute Show*. This tribute band includes talented musicians that come together to re-

create a night that features a plethora of Dire Straits hits.

Thank you for reading through this edition, remember a full list of February shows can be found on the back what's on page, and please see our website for more show info regarding 2024. Thank you for your support, and we look forward to seeing you all soon, but until next time, break a leg!



Jemma



The Elton John Show – The Ultimate Tribute



Money For Nothing – Dire Straits Tribute Show

## Hunstanton Society

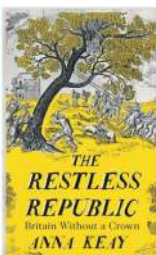
We have two talks booked in February. The first will be on Sunday 18th at 2.30pm in the Heritage Centre when Anna Keay OBE, author of 'The Restless Republic; Britain without a Crown' that charts the story of the Republic in Britain including many references to the Le Strange family.

Our second talk is on Wednesday, 21st February at the Heritage Centre at 7.30pm and it will be given by Colleen Roper whose family run the Rainbow Amusement Park on the Sea Front here in Hunstanton and have done so for the last sixty years.

The AGM took place on Wednesday, 13th December. During the proceedings, the accounts, both Management and Statutory were tabled and approved. Elections took place to find a new Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and additional Committee members.

**Hunstanton Society**

Presentation by  
**Anna Keay O.B.E.**



The Author of 'The Restless Republic; Britain without a Crown'. This book charts the extraordinary story of the republic of Britain including many references to the Le Strange family of Hunstanton Hall

From 1996 to 2002 Anna worked as a curator for Historic Royal Palaces. From 2002 until 2012 she was Properties Presentation and then Curatorial Director of English Heritage. She is now Director of The Landmark Trust. Anna is also a Trustee of the Royal Collection Trust and a Non Executive Director of the Big Yellow Self Storage Company. She is a Visitor Professor at Birmingham City University, has an honorary doctorate from the University of East Anglia, and was awarded an OBE for services to heritage and history in 2019.

**Sunday, 18th February 2024 @ 2.30pm**  
in the Heritage Centre  
Admission £1.00 Members, £4.00 Non-Members (TBC)  
Refreshments included

**Hunstanton Society**

Presentation by  
**Colleen Roper**



**The Story of Hunstanton's Rainbow Amusement Park**

**Wednesday, 21st February 2024 @ 7.30pm**  
in the Heritage Centre  
Admission £1.00 Members, £4.00 Non-Members  
Refreshments included



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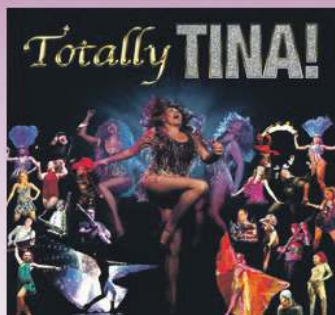
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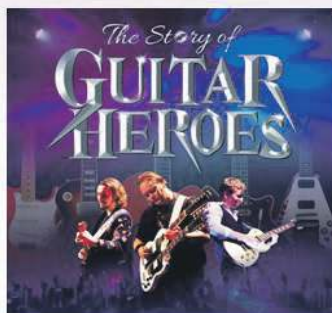
**Friday 2nd**



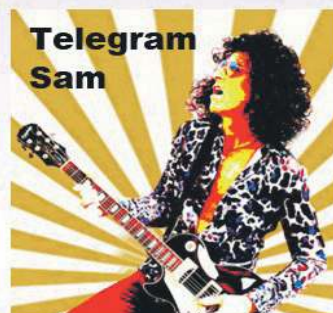
**Saturday 3rd**



**Friday 9th**



**Saturday 10th**



**Sunday 11th**



**Saturday 17th**



**Saturday 24th**

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