

TOWN and AROUND

ISSUE 212 JUNE 2023

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Local News • Events • Great Outdoors • Features

First word



You'll probably hear the expression 'flaming June' more than once this month but did you know that it's not a weather forecast? Flaming June is the title of a Victorian painting of a woman in an orange dress sleeping under a canopy in the summer heat. The artist, Sir Frederick Leighton, didn't divulge if June was the woman's name or indeed if it was painted in the month of June. However, this study of summer heat and laziness remains associated with good weather in June. Let's hope the month lives up to its reputation!

Whatever the weather there's plenty to do in June including an abundance of gardens opening to the public. Our cover shows ladies preparing for the Ringstead Garden Sunday on 18th and you can read all about it on page 10. Elsewhere gardens are open at Sandringham in Bloom, Old Hunstanton, The Norfolk Hospice and Stanhoe and they are included in the diary of events (p40-41).

This is a very full issue, thank you to everyone who has supplied articles and apologies to those that have had to be edited to ensure everything fits in. Other articles can be found on our website. Thanks also to all our advertisers, there are several new ones this month and I urge you all to consider them first when making a purchase – and don't forget to tell them that you saw their advert in Town and Around.

With all best wishes

Elaine

Elaine Bird, Editor,
Town and Around

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Everyone is welcome and we would love to see you all on the day. Doors open at 2.30pm.

More information is available on our choir website. (Use QR code below)

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Election news



Terry Parish

New Cabinet

Following his election as Leader of the Council, Terry put forward his recommendations for his cabinet, committee and panel positions.

His deputy is Cllr Jim Moriarty – who will also be responsible for the Development and Regeneration portfolio.

The rest of his Cabinet is:

Cllr Alex Kemp – People and Communities
Cllr Simon Ring – Tourism, Events and Marketing

Cllr Chris Morley – Finance

Cllr Alistair Beales – Business

Cllr Michael de Whalley – Climate Change and Biodiversity

Cllr Sandra Squire – Environment and Coastal

Cllr Bal Anota – Property and Corporate Services.

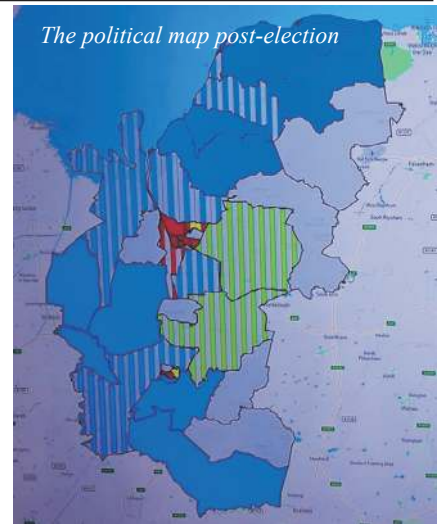
Following the elections held on 4 May, the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk finds itself in a position of no overall control, with no group gaining enough seats to form a majority administration.

At the Annual Council Meeting on 18 May, it was confirmed, following a vote, that Cllr Terry Parish, Ward Member for Heacham and Leader of the Independent Group, would become leader and would form the administration in partnership with the Liberal Democrat and Green Party groups, and work closely with the Labour Group.

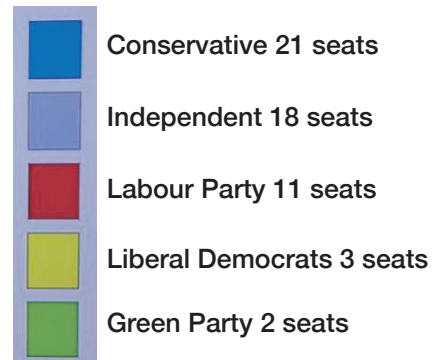
Overall the turnout for the Borough elections was 28.11%, with Hunstanton recording the highest turnout at 39.02% and North Lynn the lowest at 12.37%.

The postal vote turnout was 70% and this perhaps contributed to the Hunstanton figure as there many people carried on voting by post following the all-postal election in 2006.

The lack of voter ID saw 101 voters initially turned away in West Norfolk of whom 64 returned to the polling station with the correct identification.



Below: Colour key for the map



Borough Council news

Terry Parish, Leader of the Independent Partnership and Leader of the Borough Council

I remain a Borough Cllr for Heacham Ward. There is another, Cllr Andrew Jamieson. This was much to his surprise and I hope his fellow candidate wasn't too miffed. Andrew is a very experienced County Cllr and, I am sure, will involve himself fully in the goings on of Heacham Ward. My commiserations to the Labour Candidate who only missed out by about 20 votes, this despite her Heacham leaflets not being distributed as they were intended.

If you haven't already picked it up, I am also, now, the Leader of the Borough Council, my Group forms the administration. This is a change from several decades of Conservative 'rule'.

Such a change was necessarily a little more complicated than it could have been. There are 55 councillors. A Group or political party has to have at least 28 of them to be in overall control. I formed a new Group called the 'Independent Partnership' which has 23 members, 18 independents, 3 Liberal Democrats and 2 Greens (we have worked with both parties for 4 years).

Still not 28, so I have a working agreement with the Labour Group, Leader Cllr Charles Joyce, who have 11 seats. Consequently, I was elected Leader of the Council.

There have been several concerns made by my supporters or supporters of Independents. Have we become political? Answer: No. Do we have to follow the dictates of the Labour Group willy nilly? Answer no; we have a rational agreement which will enable things to be done that likely wouldn't be. Labour wants some things, many, but not all, in their heartland of Lynn. They want to improve the lot of their electors and others and we, the Independent Partnership, can't see anything wrong with that. We want to do the same across the whole Borough.

Having said that, we have inherited where we are and we have to

find out exactly what that means first before anything easily seen as different emerges. My Cabinet has to get to know each other and the new members outside it. Officers have to be introduced to all and working relationships established. In the second week, we will get started at sorting the wheat from the chaff, begin policy making, and set initial priorities. In the 50th week, we will rest before starting our second term.

Ideas being floated, many mine but none agreed, so don't hold me to them yet.

Housing: More rental. Restrictions and conditions on second homes and holiday letting so houses are primarily for people who live and work in West Norfolk. Solar panels on new houses as they benefit the people in them, do not remove farm land, and are not just an investment opportunity.

Business: Tourism yes and there is a Cabinet Member for it but there will be some changes in emphasis. Business other than tourism, another Cabinet member, both existing and new opportunities will be pursued, including a specific focus on food production.

Green: I have two Cabinet members with an environment portfolio. The environment, water quality, air quality, biodiversity, energy production, sewage, flooding, drought, is paramount to the quality of our lives and it is our intention to make things better, greener, in West Norfolk.

There is more but I do have to talk to my Cabinet and all such things have to get through Council. An Independent Partnership and a healthy agreement with Labour are how I have decided to get things done.

Terry Parish's news for Heacham, Sedgeford and Fring can be found on page 12.

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King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council Mayor making 2023



Cllr Margaret Wilkinson has been elected as Mayor of King's Lynn & West Norfolk and as Chairman of the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk for the coming year at the Mayor Marking ceremony on Thursday 18 May 2023.

Proposing Margaret as Mayor Cllr Stuart Dark said: "Margaret moved to King's Lynn with her husband Peter in 1967. In 1983 she was elected to the Fairstead Ward and she's served the residents as their councillor for 40 years; as the longest serving councillor in the Borough, she's the Mother of the Council.

"In 1990, whilst working full time and serving on the council, Margaret was approached to stand as a Justice of the Peace, a role which she continued for 20 years.

"Margaret has also been an active member of the Unite trade union for more than 30 years, receiving a special award for her long and valued contribution.

"Like a stick of rock, public service goes right through; she has been Deputy Mayor twice, she works so hard and this is the right time for this position.

"There is no-one more deserving to take over from Lesley and I have no hesitation in recommending her to this council."

In spite of her busy life, Margaret still finds time for her favourite pastime of gardening.

The Mayor's chosen charities are the Pandora Project and Norfolk and Waveney Mind.



Cllr Paul Bland, elected as deputy Mayor, is a true Linnet having been born in King's Lynn and lived in west Norfolk his whole life.

After leaving school Paul gained an electrician apprenticeship with the Eastern Electricity Board and progressed to Chargehand, Foreman, Estimator, Sales Engineer, and eventually Business Development Engineer.

He married his wife Marion in 1970, moved to South Wootton, and had three children who attended local schools. Marion will be the Deputy Mayoress.

Paul was appointed as a Magistrate and served the community for 32 years. He was also the Chairman of the West Norfolk Bench.

Paul's other interests locally are President of the Sea Cadets, Director of Festival Too, Trustee of Trues Yard, Parish Councillor, Vice President of Norfolk's Magistrates Association, and a verifier for the Duke of Edinburgh's award.

Stuart Dark proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing Mayor Lesley Bambridge saying: "She embodies the best of King's Lynn.

"It's been a busy year for her with 305 engagements, she has worked hard and been a true ambassador for our area."

Images: Ian Burt

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Snettisham Guide & Scout groups come together to Celebrate the Kings Coronation

Ruby Goold, 1st Snettisham Brownies

Over 40 Snettisham Guides, Brownies, Rainbows, Scouts & Cubs, aged 4 - 18 years, came together to Celebrate the King's Coronation.

Arriving 20 minutes early, eager Cubs and Brownies started to spot hidden Crowns around Jimmy's Field, Snettisham. This first scavenger hunt opened their big celebration party.

During the evening, the Torc Scout Active Support unit (ASU) kindly helped the younger generation plant a mini canopy of trees for all future generations to enjoy.

In the meantime, other Royal activities and games were completed. One being A Royal picture quiz. There were 16 photos of members of the Royal Family, palaces and a well known Golden carriage. The lucky winner was so excited to tell her Dad she had won that she had forgotten all her belongings! Prizes were kindly donated from the Sandringham Estate.

Eventually, the evening ended with a buffet fit for a king and a traditional camp fire and songs (only a few as we ran out of time!) with the parents invited to join in for the finale.

Lots of royal laughter, smiles & cheer sent everyone home with another plate of food from the buffet table and a smile on their face.

Much fun was had by all.

Have you ever wondered what Guiding and Scouting does to help young children, young and old adults gain skills for life, build lasting friendships and make a positive impact in and around your community? We challenge you to come along for an evening so you can see what adventures we get up to. Don't hesitate contact your local Girlguiding unit or Scout



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<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/>

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/>

1st Snettisham Guides and Scouts are on



Facebook too. Please message us through there as we can pass you on to the relevant leader.

We can't wait to see you!

STRICTLY ARTS

Christine Earnshaw



HDFA? Many people have asked what it means. So, we have changed our logo to use our other name more prominently, Festival 3 By the Sea. Let me explain - King's Lynn has an excellent annual festival followed by their very successful Festival Too. So, some years ago we adopted 'Festival 3 By the Sea' as a catchier name and we use it on all our publicity.

The 2023 brochure is now out, 'WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN 2023?' I hope you have found a copy in one of the public places you visit but it is also online at www.festival3.com

Some of our readers will have attended John Harris's Gala Concert for King Charles III on May 13th. He has produced so many and really

thought the Platinum Concert would be his last but with the coronation on May 6th he couldn't resist just one more!! It was fun. Well done John and thank you.

But now we're in June with an Art Exhibition on June 9th to 11th in the Town Hall. It is for local artists, including semi-professional and even some well-known so if you would like to put 1 or 2 pieces of work on show, or even sell them please look online for the entry forms. No time to lose.

'Bad Dad,' a play from David Walliams' book - so popular with children will be performed in the grounds of the Community Centre on June 22nd. It's almost straight after school starting at 4.30 but gates open at 3.30 so people can arrive and enjoy a picnic. Kids will love it so please make time for this event. We have subsidised the cost to £5 a child, £15 adult but £35 for a family ticket (2 adults, 2 children) Indoors if the heavens open but the Company usually stay outdoors. I'll bring my brolly!

Buskers Corner on June 10th introducing some new and young performers. Just what we need! This will be by the Pavilion on the Esplanade Gardens.

Such a busy month with Carnival Day on June 25th! We'll be there with our gazebo for painting ceramic tiles to finish off the Tile Wall down on the North Prom - it's free, all materials provided. All ages welcome to participate.

And finally, because they help to raise funds, a 2-day Craft Fair, June 24th and 25th in the Town Hall. Always worth a visit!

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Ring-a-ring-a-Ringstead!

Ringstead Open Gardens is taking place this year on Sunday June 18th 2023 with a wonderful blaze of colour, cakes and community spirit on offer and a record number of gardens opening to the public – all to raise money for St Andrew's Church.

A tradition spanning nearly 50 years, the ROG Sunday is popular with both locals and holidaymakers, many of whom return year on year to spend a day touring the gardens and enjoying delicious homemade lunches and teas – all designed to reflect the epitome of a wonderful British summer day out.

Gardens offer treats of traditional beauty with deep herbaceous borders, established climbers and trees within carstone walls around large manicured lawns to smaller cottage gardens each with their own special allure, spectacle and creative ideas.

The gardens will be in full bloom in June with a wonderful range of roses, delphiniums and hydrangeas to name but a few, and host gardeners are working to ensure their displays are at their best.

One such gardener is Bridget Crowfoot who, now in her 80s, remembers first opening her garden to raise money for St Andrew's Church 30 years ago in 1993. She has, over the years, developed the large garden behind her house into the most amazing display of herbaceous borders full of colour and inspiration to many visitors. Bridget is passionate about gardening and also runs a popular Plant Stall with many plants grown from seeds or cuttings from her garden. Ever the enthusiast, Bridget is always on hand on Open Gardens Sunday to welcome visitors, many of whom return year on year.

Inspired by Bridget's passion, many village garden hosts have joined the tradition taking pride in presenting their gardens to the public to raise money for the village Church but also putting their culinary skills to good use preparing the added popular attraction of delicious homemade lunches of cold meats, a variety of special salads, quiches, tarts and bakes. You can then take another stroll round the gardens to work up an appetite for an amazing array of homemade cakes on offer for afternoon tea!

For the cooks and their wonderful team of helpers, Ringstead Open Gardens is a special day in the village calendar which everyone looks forward to.

Ringstead resident and garden co-host Sara Stocks has been involved with the event for over 23 years and is the culinary brains behind the amazing menu each year.

"It brings the whole village together and makes you feel proud to be part of it", sentiments shared by Head Organiser, Melanie Hutchinson who has seen 23 years of Open Gardens 'service' with her husband David. Garden hosts and helpers Bo and Chris Tyler came to Ringstead with their young family 20 years ago.

"For me [Bo] it's all about being part of the Ringstead community. I really love our village and the people in it so it's always good to get together and Open Gardens gives us that opportunity. The day is always fun with so much goodwill from helpers and visitors alike, many we now know well from coming to see all our gardens year on year."



Bridget Crowfoot

Jane and Chris Whiteford are relative newcomers, settling in the village 6 years ago and developing their garden, complete with petanque court, pretty much from scratch. Jane remembers,

"We love Ringstead and joining the Open Gardens team was a great way to meet people and share a common interest, raise money for the church, ensure your garden looks good at least for one day a year, and have fun along the way!"

The delicious homemade lunches and teas will be available in the Village Hall Car Park with live music accompaniment. The typical British contingency of "dining inside if wet" will ensure no one is disappointed. St Andrew's Church will host an Art Exhibition and the popular Flower Festival (open 10am – 5pm (Saturday Sunday and Monday)) will, this year, showcase 'Musicals' as the theme.

As well as Bridget's Plant Stall, there will be a Pre-loved stall and the usual Tombola and Raffle stalls at the Village Hall. You can also play Petanque, take a walk round Courtyard Farm or head off to enjoy Ringstead Downs Woodland Garden. The Free Minibus will take you around the village.

Gardens Open 11am - £5 admits to all locations

To book lunches served from 12-2pm @£15 a head, please call (01485) 525494 or (01485) 525384. Teas served from 12-5pm

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Photographs are © Antoinette Eugster including our front cover: Seated from left Sara Stocks, Cherry Green, Standing Bo Tyler, Melanie Hutchinson, Jane Whiteford.

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Rebecca Vass

Rebecca (Bex) Vass is a practitioner originating from, and living in, the local area. She qualified as an Audiologist in 2012 at De Montfort University and has worked in both private and NHS sectors.

Bex is now working as the Audiology Services Manager for WNDA (West Norfolk Deaf Association), a local voluntary organisation.

She is also at The Drift carrying out Professional Earwax Removal along with ear health checks, tinnitus and vertigo concerns, hearing loss and much more.

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BC NEWS Heacham, Sedgeford and Fring

Cllr Terry Parish

Locally a few planning applications are proving interesting. I shall be following them but I am no longer on the planning committee so will speak, if necessary, from the floor. There is still time for public comments on the Wild Ken Hill application. I have continued talks with Dominic Buscall and had updates about potential traffic mitigation measures. I will shortly find out if Highways have moved forward on their ideas for improving Lamsey Lane junction.

The siting of the fibre optics cable junction shed has now been moved to the St. Mary's Church car park I suggested this as it is out of the way, allows an engineer to park safely, and the annual fee will go to the Church.

I mentioned in earlier comments about the importance of the environment which includes biodiversity. A simple way of promoting this is through native wild flowers and hedgerows. It is disappointing to find locals mowing grass verges which are County or Borough so removing food plants and habitat. Planting laurel hedges is pretty dire too. And, if you have hedges abutting footpaths, please trim them so people don't have to walk in the road or duck to avoid them.

Returning to County Council concerns; footpaths in Heacham have been getting a thin layer of black gunk laid on them in recent weeks. They look tidy when finished. However, there have been complaints about the process which involves pressure washing the pavements first so throwing muck and stones up fences and into the road. A pig's ear seems a reasonable summary. Heacham Parish Council has taken up the matter with Highways.

Other problems have occurred with the ongoing fibre cabling operation which has seen road surface damage, broken inspection covers and cones blocking pavements for weeks. This has been taken up too.

MAGPIE CENTRE WELCOMES A NEW ARRIVAL



A new arrival at the Magpie Centre, home of West Norfolk Riding for the Disabled Association, was a great surprise for staff and volunteers alike.

Ginger, one of the smallest ponies, acquired last September, had been suffering from a gastric disorder, and seemed unwilling to work. When the vet did an internal examination, she said: 'There's a foal in here'!

Two weeks later, Jo Gordon, who works at the Centre, went to the paddock to give Ginger her breakfast, and found that the foal, a filly, was being born.

A vet check gave Ginger and her foal a clean bill of health and the next task was to name the new arrival. Staff, volunteers and friends submitted suggestions, at £2 each, which raised £192 for the Centre, and the name Luna was finally chosen.

Said Natalie: 'An equine pregnancy lasts 11 months, and Ginger was only in her previous home for a short while. She and baby are both doing well, although we have no idea what breed the sire might be.'

And now an update on the Quiz with Hog Roast supper, held at Stowbridge Village Hall on April 22: this was a great success, with 17 teams participating, and raised £924 for the Magpie Centre. Many thanks to all who supported the event, and for the generous donations of raffle prizes.

Upcoming events

Saturday June 3: Craft Fair and Have a Go Dog Agility at the Magpie Centre, Wallington Hall, South Runcton, PE33 0EP 10 am – 4 pm. There are around 50 stalls to browse in the indoor school, with wheelchair-friendly access. Admission £2.00; under 16's free. Free parking. Refreshments served all day. Dog Agility £2. Well-behaved dogs on leads welcome. No dogs to be left in cars.

Saturday June 10: Bingo at Stowbridge Village Hall, Downham Road, Stowbridge PE34 3PE. Doors open 6.30 for Eyes Down at 7.00 pm. Light refreshments available. For more details see Magpie Centre Facebook page. Proceeds to the West Norfolk Riding for the Disabled Association.

Sunday June 11: Sponsored ride around Wallington Hall estate. Rides of varying lengths, including a short route for lead-rein riders. No road work. For more details visit Hoofbeats Facebook page.

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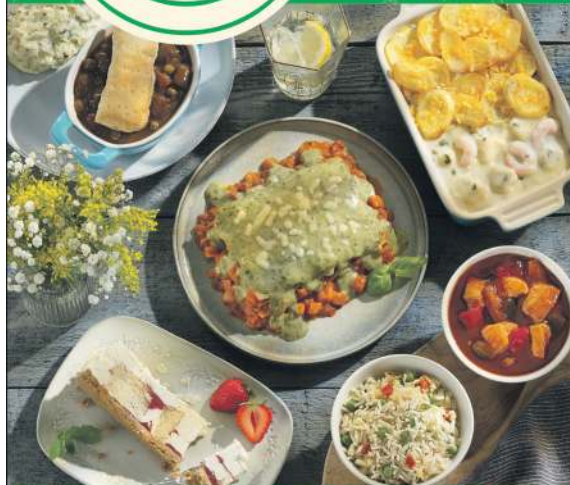
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SNETTISHAM GARDENING CLUB

Our meeting on Wednesday 28th June will be "Gardens Us and Them" by Dr. Ian Bedford, an expert on creatures of the garden. We look forward to seeing you all.

May we also invite you to enter our Open Show which we will be holding in the Memorial Hall on Saturday 8th July Show open 1.30-4.30pm. Schedules and entry forms are available at Stockley the Chemist, we hope you will

find something you would like to enter. Entries should be made by Wednesday 5th July, details are in the schedule.

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

SWAG delivers the goods in Snettisham

Eric Langford

With the successful launch of its "afternoon activity get together" event in April, the Snettisham branch of the Royal British Legion has agreed to promote further events for villagers on a regular basis.

SWAG, (Snettisham Wednesday Activity Get-together) meets at the Royal British Legion Hall, Church Road, Snettisham.

SWAG is planned for every fourth Wednesday of the month up to and including Wednesday, 26th July 2023. If SWAG proves to be popular then the RBL volunteers have agreed to run it as a regular monthly event.

Thirty five villagers attended the pilot event and the overwhelming response was excellent with requests for "more of the same please".

Retired good friends Arthur Clarkson and John Fry expressed amazement at how good the event had been with so many attending and all engaging in the various activities and obviously having fun.

David Sexton and his wife Jan, commented how good it was to catch up with friends and meet "new friends" in such a welcoming and social environment.

Wheelchair bound widower, Rod Forster, was "over the moon", exclaiming how wonderful it had been to get out and enjoy the social interaction and opportunity to talk and mix with others...and to win a game of Draughts!

Activities include Floor Skittles and Hoopla with a range of table and board games such as cards, cribbage and dominoes as well as just sitting and chatting with others. Very popular were the "part finished" jigsaw challenges for individuals / couples to complete and the group scrabble board games.

Entry is free so please come along and enjoy biscuits and a "cuppa", as well as the opportunity for a nice social chat with good company.

Please contact:

Eric on 01485 541515 or June on 01485 533011 for more details.

100 years of experience

The commercial property team at Hayes + Storr have over 100 years' experience of working with businesses across the region. The department is one of the fastest growing teams at Hayes + Storr, reflecting a growing economy and business needs throughout the county.



Richard Hewitt, who has been with the firm for over two decades and leads the team, explains what the commercial property department does: "Owners, tenants, investors, developers, and those with large portfolios are all served by the team, as are clients who are starting out, borrowing on projects, or investing their pensions or their own resources in property-based projects."

Typical transactions include - taking on a shop lease, buying or selling storage and industrial units, the sale or purchase of businesses, and the development of sites for residential, commercial and other uses.

On the local economy, Richard Hewitt said: "North Norfolk is a popular place for people to live, work and invest in, and this has been the case for many years. Being able to work here, supporting the commercial activity of clients old and new, is a real privilege for the team. Like the businesses we represent, our firm has ambition to grow and prosper further - as we look ahead to the next 100 years!"



Pictured from left to right: Laura Leventhall, Richard Hewitt, Michael Wakeman and Amanda Davies

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A tale of two chalk streams

Extinction Rebellion King's Lynn held a drop-in information session at the Gaywood Library on 29th April providing information about chalk streams and river health, particularly focusing on the Gaywood River. This was the latest event in their campaign to raise awareness of the poor health of the town's chalk stream.



XR members produced information boards detailing the signs of good chalk stream health compared to signs of poor health, and showcased photos from King's Lynn's chalk stream - the Gaywood River. They also had a showing of a video by Norfolk Rivers Trust presented by Stephen Fry, who had signed their previous petition to the Environment Agency putting pressure on them to address the state of the river.



After the event, multiple volunteers reported to XR King's Lynn that there was a strange sludge in the river that evening. The 'sludge' appeared to be floating from upstream of the Gaywood area and accumulating along Gaywood allotments. A spokesperson from XR King's Lynn said: "It's unclear if this is a result of the sewage spill in Grimston earlier in the week."

Campaigner Julia Irving said of the Library event "It was very moving to hear local people who live near the Gaywood river speak of the distress and anger they feel about the state of the river. "We heard stories how in their



childhoods they swam, fished and sailed rafts on the river. Most said it looks like a drainage ditch that they wouldn't dip a toe into now."

XR King's Lynn report: "The river has been plagued by pollution, over abstraction, and neglect from responsible authorities.

"The Gaywood River is a tale of two chalk streams, upstream is in better health, it has crystal clear water and flourishing plant life.

"Downstream is another matter; the water is murky, plants are dying off and there is algae overgrowth, all signs of very poor river health."

Jenny Walker, of Extinction Rebellion said: "Unfortunately, the government hasn't helped; in fact the reverse. In 2021 there was a bill to stop water companies pumping sewage into rivers but the Conservatives including local MP James Wild voted against it, allowing water companies to carry on polluting."

However, responding to the statement from Jenny Walker, James Wild MP said: "North West Norfolk is home to many precious chalk streams and I have consistently highlighted the need to protect these rivers including as a member of the Gaywood River Improvement Group. That's why I supported the Environment Act 2021 and new powers to require water companies to tackle pollution

and the unacceptable use of storm overflows and for Ofwat to act.

"It is essential any pollution incidents are reportedly immediately to the Environment Agency's hotline 0800 80 70 60 and Anglian Water has just received a record fine for polluting.

"Last week (25.4.23), Labour and the Liberal Democrats had an opportunity to back the government's fully-costed plan to tackle sewage and improve our water quality, with unlimited fines along with new rules and robust targets requiring water companies to invest £56 billion into our water infrastructure – the largest infrastructure investment in history. But they failed to vote for our plans, playing political games over supporting real action."

On 9th May, Norfolk County Councillors unanimously backed a motion tabled by the Labour opposition group calling for County Hall to investigate what more it can do to ensure water companies that breach rules over sewage discharge are fined.

Raw Sewage in Rivers

The Rivers Trust says: "Sewage is discharged into rivers across the UK and Ireland on a daily basis. This isn't an isolated problem; it occurs up and down the country, affecting urban city centre rivers and pristine chalk streams alike." A segment of their updated Sewage Map (below) will help you find out where this happens. Key: Brown dots - Storm overflows with Event Duration Monitoring. Clear rings - Storm overflows without Event Duration Monitoring. Yellow squares - Treated sewage discharges.

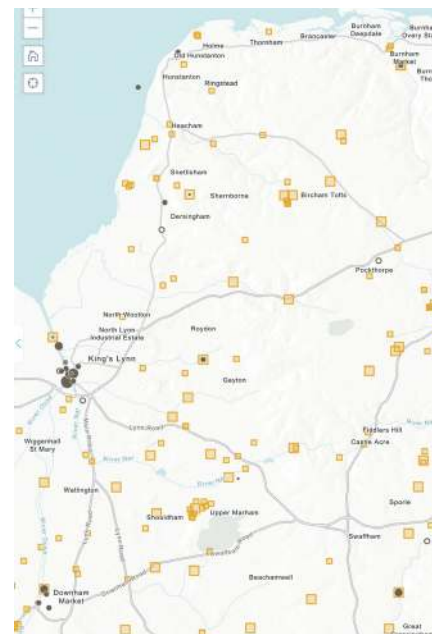


Image credit: theriverstrust.org

Wendy Warner's plant of the month - Cordylines

Hearing the common name 'Cabbage Palm' for a plant you might understandably think it was a palm with similarities to a cabbage – how wrong you would be. Cordylines are neither palms nor look anything like a cabbage! They are evergreen shrubs with an exotic appearance and strong architectural form. Young plants have a fountain of strappy leaves like a firework whereas more mature plants can form a single or multiple-stemmed trunk with tufts of leaves on the end. In warmer summers, mature Cordylines can produce spikes of tiny, fragrant flowers which are loved by bees. If your Cordyline reaches maturity and has a trunk, any yellowing leaves should be gently removed from the bottom to expose more of the trunk.

Originally Cordylines were plain green or red (which is actually more brownish-red). These are the most hardy and largest varieties, with Cordyline australis growing up to 8metres tall and 4metres in diameter in maturity. There are now many alternatives in a variety of colours – 'Coral' has coral coloured leaves with brownish-green striped edges, 'Southern Splendour' has olive green leaves with stunning pink edges and 'Charlie Boy' is probably the most hardy of the pink varieties with its striking pink, red and purple foliage. Cordyline 'Can Can' is even more of



Torbay Dazzler

a mix with its young pink leaves maturing to silvery-green with a cream variegation. In my opinion one of the most notable is 'Torbay Dazzler' with its attractive bold cream stripes and margins.

They work well as specimen plants in a pot on their own where they can be used in a formal setting or more informally grouped with other plants in pots. Smaller plants can also be used as the focal point in the middle or at the back of a mixed pot with smaller bedding plants around them.

Cordylines prefer a warm, sheltered position in sun and well-drained soil. Young plants and those in containers require regular watering and will show signs of lack of water by the tips and edges of their leaves drying out and going brown and crispy. Mature specimens in the ground, once established, will actually become drought tolerant. In milder seaside locations, they will tolerate the salt-laden winds.

For less hardy varieties, it's advisable to grow them in pots so that they can be moved into a greenhouse or a more sheltered spot for the winter. Ensure they have good drainage and that they don't become waterlogged by standing the pots on gravel or pot feed. Plant them in John Innes No. 3 compost for mature plants with the addition of multipurpose compost and slow-release fertiliser.

For winter, if particularly low temperatures are forecast and you can't move them undercover, Cordylines should be protected by pulling the leaves upwards to a point and wrapping them in horticultural fleece to protect the growing point. Try to do this in dry conditions so no moisture is trapped inside. If they are growing in pots, the pot should also be wrapped in sacking or bubble wrap to protect the roots.

Treat yourself to a Cordyline this summer for a touch of the exotic!



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Christine Earnshaw



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Please send us your photographs of anything horticultural in Hunstanton and they could be included in our portfolio.

We are saying thank you to all our gardeners and volunteers on July 12th when we hold our annual tea party.

Please contact our Chair for further information or to join us - carollhunstanton@btinternet.

Mudpies and Butterflies

with Louise Barby, Balanis

"It isn't the big pleasures that count the most, it's making a big deal out of the little ones" - Jean Webster

June is the perfect month to spend time in the garden. The warmer weather and longer days mean that plants are growing rapidly, and there is plenty to do to keep your garden looking its best. Whether you are an experienced gardener or just starting out, there are plenty of tasks to keep you busy this month. Here are some ideas for what to do in the garden in June:

Plant summer bedding plants

June is the perfect time to plant out your summer bedding plants, such as cosmos, marigolds, and lobelia. These plants will add a burst of colour to your garden and are perfect for filling gaps in borders and pots. If you would like to go for understated, keep to one of two colours, evergreens with lots of white lobelia look stunning, simple and elegant.

Deadhead flowering plants

Deadheading is the process of removing spent flowers from plants to encourage new growth. Spend some time deadheading your flowering plants, such as roses, dahlias, and lavender, to keep them looking their best. Remove the flower to the base of each stem, not just the head.

Water regularly

June is typically a dry month, so make sure to water your plants regularly, especially if they are in pots. Water in the morning or evening to avoid evaporation during the hottest part of the day. If you collect water via a water butt or even buckets hidden behind a shed, even better. Try a mulch of bark/old compost or even shingle to retain moisture and suppress weeds.

Mow the lawn?

Maybe continue your no mow May ethos in a particular area of your lawn, or for access, mow paths through the longer grass. That way, you won't trample delicate wild flowers en route to weeding the garden.

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Prune shrubs

Prune any shrubs that have finished flowering to maintain their shape and encourage new growth. This will also prevent them from becoming too leggy and sprawling.

Support tall plants

If you have tall plants, such as delphiniums or hollyhocks, make sure to support them with stakes or cages to prevent them from falling over in the wind.

Weed regularly

Weeding is a never-ending task in the garden, but it is especially important in June when weeds are growing rapidly. Spend some time each week pulling up weeds to keep them from taking over your garden. If you have provided a hearty mulch, start to change your mindset to 'no dig'. It is possible, if you are not sure, mulch one area and give it a try this summer.

Harvest early crops

If you have planted early crops, such as peas, lettuce, and radishes, now is the time to harvest them. Enjoy the fruits of your labour in a delicious salad or stir fry.

Protect from pests

June is a prime time for pests such as aphids and slugs. Take preventative measures to protect your plants, shells, a shingle mulch on pots or natural pellets all work well.

In conclusion, June is a busy time in the garden, don't lose heart, you can keep your garden looking its best if you just check the garden regularly. Whether you are planting summer bedding plants, deadheading flowers, or weeding, there is plenty to do to keep you busy this month. So put on your gardening gloves and get to work – your garden will thank you!

Garden inspiration

There are lots of open gardens in Norfolk this month, one to pop on your list is our local hospice. Tapping House. This is all day on 11th June.

<https://www.norfolkospice.org.uk/event/national-garden-scheme-open-gardens-the-norfolk-hospice>

Ringstead, Old Hunstanton and Stanhoe are all holding open gardens in June too. Check the link for Open Garden events near you.

https://opengardens.co.uk/open_gardens_in_norfolk.php

There is nothing more inspiring than seeing other people's gardens, learning from their successes and failures, understanding their challenges. You can then cherry pick those ideas that appeal most to you, armed with lots of knowledge. These are real gardens, maintained by normal people, often with busy lives like you and me. Enjoy!

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Sadmin, Death Cafés and Bill Nighy

By Miranda Marshall, Director, Hayes + Storr.

I have only recently come across the term 'Sadmin'. This new portmanteau word means both putting one's own affairs in order and administering the estate of someone who has died. We should all do it; not just those with limited life expectancy or of a morbid disposition, as death is the only true certainty.

Lack of forward planning is worse where a person dies a traumatic death, as it is tragic and sudden which makes the grief much worse. We all have mental blocks but with care and the right professional support and advice 'sadmin' can be achievable.

Even the best prepared are often squeamish about making Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPAs). The young and middle-aged think they are only for the old, and many older people think they are only for those approaching death or dementia. Grasp the nettle and enjoy peace of mind!

I have been asked to be one of the speakers at a series of events titled 'Death and Dying' at Wells Maltings in June. The thinking behind the four events is that it is a practical and inspirational course to help people, and those close to them, to prepare for 'the inevitable'. I have heard it described as 'anticipatory grief'.

The organisers' brief of the four Friday



mornings course is to help people to get their affairs in order, and so reduce the burden on those left behind. Other speakers will discuss the dying process frankly, and the 'hereafter' (fully respecting all points of view). The intention is that the events will be informed by a wide range of real peoples' experiences, with the aim of increasing comfort and reducing fear, as we head towards life's final horizon.

The Death Café movement has been growing in numbers and influence in past years, undoubtedly hastened by the pandemic.

The Maltings is to become Wells' very own 'pop up' Death Café.

The movement started in Los Angeles (where else?). Their website says: "At a Death Cafe people, often strangers, gather to eat cake, drink tea and discuss death. Our objective is to increase awareness of death with a view to helping people make the most of their (finite) lives'.

This year's movie 'Living' starring Bill Nighy is quietly moving and explores a private man's reaction to a terminal diagnosis. This article is not the place to explore the themes of the film which come from a long pedigree starting with Tolstoy, via Japan. The 1950s British reticence to discuss 'unpleasantness' and the real fear of cancer made me realise how much most of us have moved on.

For further information, please contact Miranda Marshall on 01328 863231 or email miranda.marshall@hayes-storr.com.

What happens next? – A practical and inspirational course on death and dying will be held at Wells Maltings from 10am-12.30pm, on Friday 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd June. To book a place on the course call Lucinda Mackworth on 0785 091 2006 or email: lucinda.mackworth.young@gmail.com

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Crystal Cave and Serenity

Lauren Buckby

Crystal Cave and Serenity are pleased to welcome three new therapists. Sharon is offering Reflexology, Reiki and Rahinni. Jo will be at Serenity to offer Psychic Tarot Readings. Michele is also joining the team taking over from Cat, offering Foot Care on Tuesdays.

A message from Jo, our new Psychic and Tarot reader. "I had my own healing shop in Coventry until 2011 and have been doing this type of work since 2000. My psychic gift developed at a time when I needed clarity and guidance. I joined a psychic circle to develop my talent. My methods work with open-minded people. Join me on this journey..." Readings with Jo are £38 for 40-45 minutes.

Sharon is a specialist nurse at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital where she has worked for over 30 years. Since reducing her hours at The QE, she has decided to concentrate more on holistic therapies. Reflexology, Reiki and Rahinni all promote emotional and physical healing. Helping to reduce stress and negative energy, leaving you feeling relaxed and rejuvenated. For a limited time Sharon is offering therapies at a discounted price, 60 minutes for £35.

Michele's Foot Care treatments include nail trimming, corns, callouses, verrucas, fungal nails. Foot Care appointments are up to 45 minutes.

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A page from the Sage



01485 535658

Hello all you good people out there in good old Sunny Hunny and way beyond. This is the Boy Dick once again writing for the June issue of Town and Around.

Web cams

As my eye sight is very poor I have had a very large TV screen fitted to my computer so I can watch the web cams around Norfolk and beyond. We are very lucky in Hunstanton as we have five of them erected around the town. A few weeks ago the Soap Box Derby was run; it was a good sunny day and the race course was

from Greevegate where the race started down town hill, left into Le Strange Terrace then right into Beach Terrace and the finish was outside the Waterside. There were about 40 carts taking part and it attracted a lot of onlookers. The event has taken part on at least three different roads in the town. Next year why don't they stage it from the Redgate roundabout down Oasis Way to the Tesco roundabout? I may not be very popular saying this but there would be plenty of room for spectators!

I would think that most of the seaside towns around the coast of Norfolk and some villages too had a start to the summer season looking at the web cams – that's five at Hunstanton one at Brancaster, one at Wells, one at Sheringham and one at Cromer.

I watch the cruise ships and all sorts of other craft going in and out of the very busy port of Yarmouth which is of course busy with a large new ride along the sea front next to the Yarmouth Eye (big wheel), but it seems to me that Wells-next-the-Sea is one of the busiest places on the Norfolk coast as it is a working port with its crab boats coming in and out of the harbour. There is always something to watch and even in the winter Wells is busy especially at the weekends. There is an old saying if you have not been to Wells and sat on the harbour wall and eaten fish and chips you have not lived.

Voting

I was listening to the wireless when there was a program on Radio Norfolk and they were talking about the election that has now gone by and how to vote evidently you had to have a photo of yourself and other forms of identity, all this information can be had on your computer. I do not think that the government realise that a lot of people do not have a computer or know how to use one. In 1957 I was eligible to vote so I went round to the local school where the elections took place went up to the person behind the desk gave him my name which he ticked of his list then gave me a slip of paper with the candidates' names on so I ticked the box of the one I wanted to win and off I went on my way. That was a long while back but I reckon with all of these new rules and regulations a lot less people will make their way out to go to vote.

Motor bikes

I always liked motor bikes and when I was seventeen and old enough to ride one I began looking for one to buy. When I was walking past Heath Road Garage one day there was a 350cc Douglas for sale it was a hire purchase snatch back, they only wanted what was owed on it which was twenty seven pounds so I went back home straight away and got the money. You did not have to wear a crash helmet those days but my father thought it best to wear one so he gave me the money. The bike was a horizontal twin and it was on the heavy side, so after about a year I went into Peter Guest's, the motor bike agents at Gaywood. He was agent for Francis Barnet so I then bought a Francis Barnet 125cc two stroke Plover and they allowed me twenty pounds on the old Douglas. The Plover was a good little bike I had it for about two years then I got called up for two years National Service so I sold the Plover back to Peter Guest as I didn't see any point in keeping it in

the shed for two years. When I came out of the army I bought a second hand 250 BSA but it was a lot of trouble. My next bike was a bit different as it was a Norton 350 with a Watsonian child/adult sidecar; it was a good old work horse and it never let me down. I was using it in 1963 when at the beginning of the year we had ice and snow for six weeks and I was working 14 miles from home so I put a concrete block in the sidecar. I had to be at work at 7am and I was never late. After about three years I swapped the old Norton and side car in for a BSA 650 Road Rocket twin which was much faster than the Norton with a top speed of over eighty. After a year or two I sold the rocket. I never had another motor bike though an American who was going back to the States offered me an Indian motorbike but it was a huge machine with a foot brake and a gear stick on the petrol tank; I went and had a look at it but he wanted £200 for it and it wanted a lot of work done on it so that was the end of my motor bike days.

Shops

I was asked about the post office and some of the small shops that were scattered around. The first post office was built down the bottom of Westgate near to the junction with Southend Road. I am not sure of the exact date but I think it was round about 1870 it was closed down in 1899 after a new one was built in the High Street. Up to then the High Street had just a track with a few cottages. The main street in Hunstanton being Le Strange Terrace. There was also at one time on the lighthouse estate a post office and shop in King's Road and along the main road opposite the Glebe School one run by a Mr Raven - this shop now sells antiques and pictures. at the corner of Church Street and St James Street there was for many years a small grocers shop that is now a private house. Down Southend Road just around the corner from Westgate there was another small grocers shop that was run by the same gentleman for many years, when he retired it changed hands a couple of times then it was changed into a private house as it is still. Further down Southend Road where Flemings Garage is today was a small shop run by a dear old lady she sold mostly seaside things like buckets and spades, shrimping nets sun hats, children's toys and bottles of pop. If you went up Park Road and turned right into Crescent Road there on your right was a grocers and off licence owned by a Mr Winlove, it was there for many years when it did close down it became a bakery. If you carried on up Crescent Road you came to the junction of Hill Street and Melton Drive there on the corner was a large brick shed with a corrugated sheet roof where Jacksons of Lincoln had a laundry. They also had a shop in Westgate in the corner of this shed was a small shop run by a very pleasant lady who lived in Melton Drive in this shop she sold a few groceries, cigarettes, pop, sweets, crisps and plasters for cuts and small sharp knives that were bought by the ladies that worked in Jack Israel's onion factory on the opposite side of the road in Melton Drive where the Post Office Sorting Office is today. The ladies from the onion factory were the shop's best customers. Where the shop and laundry was there are now four houses. If you went up Waveney Road at the top of the hill is a road called Chatsworth Road with about 48 bungalows along it. At the corner of Waveney Road was a shop called Chatsworth Stores it was a shop for a few years before it was turned into a private dwelling. This shop and the bungalows were built around about 1959 / 1961 with the intention of letting them to the many Americans who were stationed at Sculthorpe and living in the vicinity of Hunstanton. At that time about 1,000 Americans and there families living in and around Hunstanton but in the early 1960s the Americans were being recalled back to the United States so the bungalows were sold to private buyers.

Mistakes

In the Town and Around a month or to back I wrote a bit about all the fish and chip shops that had been and still are in Hunstanton. I would like to thank the person who informed my wife that I had left one of them out - that was the fish and chip shop that was built on to the Kit-Kat in Seagate Road. This shop not only served the public in the street but it also served fish and chips to the customers in the Salad Bowl restaurant on the ground floor of the Kit-Kat. This fish and chip shop was run for many years by Mr John Rafferty.

A chap rang me up to say in my write up about cribbage I said that there was no cribbage league any more, I was wrong as nine teams are still playing. I apologise for my mistakes and I hope the cribbage league goes on for many more years.

I have been writing in the Town and Around and the Village Voice for about sixteen years without too many mistakes. I would just like to thank Tom Wilson for his very kind words

and Tom if you want to ring me up at any time and have a good old muddle please do so, my phone number is at the top of my write up.

Butterfield Estate Playground



It has been brought to my attention that the children's playground on the Butterfield estate is still not open for the children and they would like somewhere to play.

They held a demonstration and collected signatures for their petition in April and are pictured here beside the fence.

Elsewhere on the estate the management company have erected signage saying no ball games so they cannot play on the field.

Some of the children who moved to the estate four or five years ago



are now too old to play there, so all you people in charge of this project please get a move on and get this play area well and truly open.

Zebra Crossing

A year or two back I asked the Town Council if there was any chance of having a zebra crossing over the Oasis Road near the Redgate roundabout as there are a lot of young children living on the Butterfield estate who have to cross this very busy road to get to school. I have not heard anything from them yet but you never know even in Sunny Hunny miracles might happen.

Housing

As if we need more housing in and around Hunstanton, it looks like we are going to get it as planning permission has been given for 160 houses, flats and bungalows on an area of land on the eastern side of the A149 road opposite the Redgate Hill water tower.

From what I know and what people have told me over the last sixty years, four parishes meet here, the Heacham parish boundary comes up Redgate Hill as far as the Redgate roundabout then it goes across the fields past the old ruined church then across the fields to Heacham Bottom then turns west down to the sea. The old ruined church was in the parish of Ringstead Parva, Lodge Farm was also in this parish. A lady who lived in a cottage at Lodge Farm whose husband was a cowman showed us her marriage certificate which said Lodge Farm Ringstead Parva. At one time Old Hunstanton parish boundary came

up as far as Smithdon School. A nice chap, who has sadly not long passed away, had for many years lived down Lodge Farm told me that at one time hundreds of years ago Ringstead had a port and the river ran from Ringstead through the Downs past the old church across where the golf course is and out to sea. He also told me that Ringstead still had 200 yards of the beach right near the Heacham/Hunstanton boundary. I think that all of these boundaries want sorting out and made more recognisable.

That's about all for this month, I have been eating some nice mussels over winter and now there are now some very good crabs about and I am told that the sanfer is looking good. I have kept off the cockles and shrimps, I will try them later in the summer. You keep on a troshin'.

All the best, The Boy Dick, Sunny Hunny

Playground photos credit: Chris Bishop

Kings Lynn Community Cinema Club

The KLCCC new Summer Season continues on Thursday 8th June with a screening of the drama 'Aftersun' directed by Charlotte Wells. This is the first feature film from the young Scottish director and won her the 'Outstanding Debut BAFTA amongst several other awards. The film is starts in the late 1990s and follows Sophie, an 11-year-old girl, on holiday with her father (Paul Mescal) at a Turkish resort on the eve of his 31st birthday. Twenty years later Sophie reflects on the joy and melancholy of the holiday with her father. Memories real and imagined return as she tries to reconcile the father she knew with the man she didn't.

The film will be shown in St George's Guildhall, King St and starts at 7.30pm. Membership for this season is still available for £17 which gives KLCCC members entry to all films, but if you don't want to sign up for the whole season you can just come along to any film as a day member for £5 cash on the door. Anyone over 18 is welcome to join the club and full details of how to become a member can be found on the club website, Facebook page or by e mailing communitycinemaclub@googlemail.com



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Nature notes with Carrie Carey

It's damp. The kind of damp that seeps through your layers. No matter how many you have on. It's settling on my skin, on my eyelashes and I can feel my hair starting to frizz. But even the damp is preferable to the bitter chill of the wintry morning. It's nipping at my nose and biting toes that are wedged into two pairs of socks and walking boots. Fingertips are numb despite being rammed into pockets lined with yesterday's sweet wrappers.

I'm sitting in the warden's hide and outside a layer of mist hangs over the landscape. It hovers like a thermocline over the cold, sodden earth while the sun strains to warm the waking world. Ian is sitting next to me. He's eagerly scanning the reedbeds, waiting for the morning action to begin. He's keen eyed, excited and knowledgeable. His conversation is witty and full of anecdotal chatter. Only my teeth chatter back. But I am grateful for his company, his obvious delight in being on the reserve and for his dedication. It's one thing to get up at five in the morning because it's part of your paid role, it's another doing it because you're a volunteer.

Look online and you'll see formulas that non-profits use to calculate the cost of a volunteer. This is offset against the impact and added value they bring to the organisation. But should this be the only yardstick of a volunteer's contribution? For instance, how do you measure value? Anyone who ditches the duvet to help me count harriers on a freezing January morning has outstanding value to me. A volunteer offering their time to lead a guided walk, clear a blocked ditch, patrol a beach or bake scones...well that's also priceless. Let's face it, volunteers are amazing.

The Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius said, "The measure of a man is the worth of the things he cares about". And that sums up our volunteers quite nicely. They connect us as an organisation to the people and communities they care about. And they also care about the things that we're passionate about, and that's a world richer in nature. Having a well-rounded team of volunteers enhances our capacity to



Volunteers Chris and Asia

do more, to deliver more and to serve our community better.

Getting out of the house and into a landscape filled with nature can be a lifeline for some people. But stepping into somewhere new can also be daunting and overwhelming. A friendly face on arrival, a calming voice on a walk and a helping hand in the shop all make that experience a little easier. And these are the things that our volunteers do well. We are a nature conservation charity, but not all volunteers are on the reserve before sunrise or patrolling breeding areas in the height of summer to make a difference.

Two small children fill the wildlife garden with excited chatter. Tiny hands tightly grasp magnifying glasses and pond dipping nets. They're off on an adventure. Parents laden down with bags rammed full of picnic foods, spare clothes and other necessities trail behind. They're not sure what to expect, it's all rather new...but then they meet Judy. She puts the family at ease and soon everyone is engaged in watching whirligig beetles, pond skaters and water boatmen. Inside the shop, Mandy is helping a couple choose a suitable nestbox for their new birder. Sally is busy in the kitchen prepping fresh vegetables for soup before serving hungry visitors in the café. You don't have to be on the reserve before dawn, or erect cordons on windy day because whatever the role, all our volunteers help us deliver nature conservation.

Many years ago, I came across an old poster from WWI, it read "One volunteer is worth ten pressed men". I've also seen this amended to twenty or fifty. However you want to measure this, the value of volunteering cannot be underestimated. From my perspective, equating volunteer value to time alone discounts the other contributions of expertise, skill, knowledge, work ethic and heart that volunteers give so freely. So, if you are a volunteer, regardless of which non-profit you support, may I thank you for your esteemed contribution.

And now, a small plea from your local nature reserve:

Do you have a few hours to spare each week? Would you like to spend time at our fantastic reserve? And does being a member of a lively and friendly crew appeal to you? Then why not pop along to RSPB Titchwell Marsh and ask about volunteer vacancies during Volunteer Week, 1-7 June. Drop in during any morning for a chat over coffee and cake. We can't wait to meet you!

For more details about Volunteer Week drop-in sessions and volunteer roles please contact
clare.garwood@rspb.org.uk or
telephone the reserve on
01485 210779



Family Fun

Have a great day out with the kids. Take a mini-beast safari, grab an adventure backpack or pick up everything you need to explore the depths of the dragonfly pool.



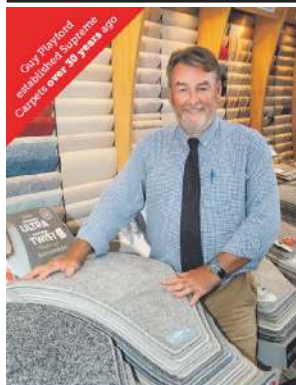
Guided Walks

Experience the best that Titchwell has on offer in the company of our friendly and experienced guides. Group walks, family strolls and individual tours available.



Coffee and Cake

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MAKE SURE YOU CHECK YOUR TAX CODE!

By Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton

Believe it or not, the Income Tax and National Insurance collected through PAYE make up approximately 40% of all tax receipts.

The Tax Code system is the mechanism for achieving this, and, if you are not in Self Assessment, the key to paying the right amount of tax as an employee, or a pensioner with an occupational pension, is having the right tax code.

PAYE is only a method of collecting tax. If the wrong amount of tax is collected, a liability, or a refund, will arise. This is one reason to understand how PAYE works and to check that the tax code that is being used by your employer, or pension provider, is the right one for you.

HM Revenue & Customs carries out a reconciliation of your tax position at the end of each tax year, and together with Self Assessment, any errors should be corrected eventually. Nevertheless, it is better to get it right at the outset.

WHAT TAX CODES MEAN:

In basic terms your PAYE Tax Code is the amount of your tax free allowance with the last digit removed, followed by a letter, e.g. someone with a full personal allowance of £12,570, and no other complicating facts, will have a tax code of 1257L. From then on, dependent upon a tax payers circumstances, it all becomes more complicated.

The letters used are as follows:

L	Standard Personal Allowance
M	You are receiving part of your partner's personal allowance
N	You are transferring part of your personal allowance to your partner
T	Other calculations are needed
OT	No allowance

BR	All at basic rate of income tax
D0	All at higher rate of income tax
D1	All at top rate of income tax
NT	No tax
K	Extra amount added to your income
W1	Emergency code week 1
M1	Emergency code month 1

HOW TAX CODES ARE WORKED OUT:

If you have a single source of earnings, the code will start with your personal allowance which will then be adjusted downwards for any employee benefits (e.g. car or private medical insurance). Additionally, it may be reduced if you have savings, rental profits or dividends above their respective annual allowances. There may also be increases in your coding to provide tax deduction for allowable employment expenses, personal pension contributions and higher rate relief for charitable donations or where the Marriage Allowance has been transferred to you from your spouse. These adjustments will only be made to your main PAYE source of income. Any supplementary sources will have a Basic Rate (BR), Higher Rate (D0) or Additional Rate (D1) code. K codes can be confusing but are essentially just negative codes where an amount gets added to your income for PAYE purposes e.g. where your personal allowance is abated or lost completely because you earn over £100k, or where pensioners receive the State Retirement Pensions, and have other earnings or private pensions and annuities.

Pensioners should be aware that the State Pension is taxable and is paid gross (i.e. without deduction of tax). Hence due to the recent triple lock increase of 10.1%, some pensioners will find that they have insufficient allowances to cover it and will have received lower tax codes than they expected for 2023/2024 tax year, with the additional tax liability having to be taken from their PAYE sources of income.

The 2023/2024 Notice of Coding that you will have recently received will tell you how the Revenue has worked out your code. The supplementary notes on the reverse will explain the adjustments arising from your specific circumstances. The basics of the allowances/benefits in kind etc will be pretty straightforward but adjustments to rate bands are not so easy to understand. If you had a prior year underpayment of up to £3k you may have asked HM Revenue & Customs to "code this in" by way of an adjustment to your code in the following year.

E.g. if you owed £1k from a previous year and are a higher rate tax payer, your code would be reduced by £2.5k.

If you think your tax code is wrong you can use the HM Revenue & Customs "Check your Income Tax for the current year" online service to update your employment or pension details. (<https://www.gov.uk/check-income-tax-current-year>) Alternatively you can write to HM Revenue & Customs quoting your PAYE Reference/National Insurance Number/10 digit Unique Tax Reference number (if you have one).

For further advice regarding your Tax Code please contact either of the partners Kate Gigg FCA or Nicola Tarry FCA at Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton on 01485 534800 or kate@kathryngigg.co.uk.

N.B. Article written in May 2023

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

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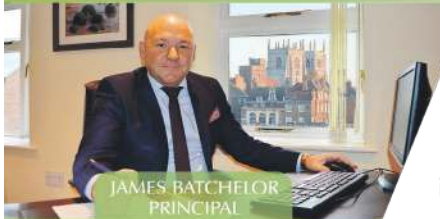
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Round the bend with Dean Baker

Everything Passes or Everything Passes

What's the news from Norwich? Well, Mrs B is now the shortest member of the Baker household and 'the littles' have been replaced by 'middles'. I expect the situation, as all situations, will change again and that I won't be the tallest Baker for much longer.

I had hoped, that as I write this in mid-May, the central heating would be off by now and our energy bills would be heading towards Summer credit. No such luck, it's been a cold Spring, even though we have our thermostat set firmly on 19c, just last week, the heating came on twice. There's nothing else for it but to carry on with making sure we're not wasting money on energy bills. Let's review all the usual suspects – don't heat rooms you're not using, this applies until September/October. Turn electrical items off that are lurking on standby e.g. the microwave.

By far the biggest fuel problem in our house is the younger members



Round the Bend



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have ridiculously long showers and sometimes hot long and probably very deep baths. I've explained to them all the reasons why this is unacceptable and that ice cold showers are beneficial and indeed character building but I'm old enough to know that time changes and that this too will pass –

Until next month, take care.

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ROYAL THEMED CARNIVAL

Jan Roomes, Hunstanton Town Clerk

Anyone can be part of the Hunstanton Carnival – and yes, that includes YOU! It's really easy for families, groups, organisations and businesses to join us either in the parade or on The Green as a stallholder.

This year's theme is The King's Coronation – all you need to do is get into the spirit by dressing up and sign up.

Our carnival route is from the Recreation Ground to The Green and is fully accessible by pushchairs, wheelchairs and mobility scooters.

We are also looking for fun, creative performers for the parade – as individuals, or groups of any size.

You can be dancers, musicians, marching bands, stilt walkers, walkabout acts, majorettes or pretty much anything else!

If you're interested, just email clerk@hunstantontowncouncil.gov.uk or call 01485 532402 for an application form.

Families are welcome and encouraged to take part in the carnival procession – it's really easy to just join in! No expensive or elaborate costumes needed, just dress up and come along!

The carnival is just one event taking place over the King's Coronation Festival Weekend.

June 24th – live music with KL1 Radio Station & various artists entertaining from 12 noon through to 10pm.

June 25th KL1 Radio Station & various entertainers from 1pm through till 5pm.

Carnival parade 1pm from recreation ground.

Information/Bookings call 01485 532402



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Catalytic converter thefts on the rise

Abigail Brown

Catalytic converters are present on practically every car on the road today. They use chemical reactions to clean harmful gasses - such as carbon monoxide, nitric oxide, nitrogen dioxide and hydrocarbons - from your car's exhaust emissions. Their job is particularly important these days now that we are more climate-conscious. They convert (hence the name) these harmful gasses into less damaging substances like carbon dioxide and water vapour. The interior of the 'cat' is generally fitted with a honeycomb structure onto which a coating is applied that contains a catalyst - this creates a reaction with the exhaust gasses, altering them chemically.

Sadly, we are hearing from more and more customers who have had their 'cats' stolen. They're being targeted not because of their value as car parts, but because they use precious metals like palladium, rhodium and platinum as the catalyst. In most of today's cars, the converter is found underneath the vehicle towards the exhaust outlet, making it easily accessible to thieves who can cut the whole unit out from underneath the car, sometimes in less than 2 minutes. It's a quick win for thieves, but a big loss for car owners.

All vehicles are at risk, but cars and commercial vehicles that sit higher off the road (like SUVs and crossovers) are often in the firing line because it's easier to get under them. Thieves may even keep targeting the same model of vehicle, simply because they get used to removing that particular 'cat'. Customers of ours have even come to us to replace their stolen 'cat', only to have the new one stolen not long after.

If you can, it's best to park your car in a locked garage. If not, try to park in a well-lit and busy area. If you park your car in your driveway or on the road outside your house, installing sensor-enabled lights and security cameras is an effective way to either deter thieves or catch them in the act. Some car manufacturers offer locks to slow thieves down, such as Toyota's 'Catloc' for the Prius and Auris. Or you can look into installing a Thatcham Category 1 alarm which uses tilt sensors to detect if your car is being lifted by a jack before it sounds an audible alarm.

Hopefully the above will help to reduce the risk of your 'cat' being stolen. For more information or advice visit www.kbrownautoskingslynn.co.uk.

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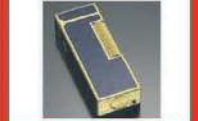
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Annette's Hunstanton Eyecare Blog



Well, it's been just over a month since I have been back to work, following my unfortunate hurdle down the stairs without a parachute, and it's good to be back. Although not 100% I can do things reasonably well. The joke was that when I came back I wouldn't be able to find things, all of us have different ways of working and also our funny little ways, like what order the pliers go in on the rack and your favourite screwdriver to hand! Julien did a fantastic job covering for me as well as keeping his General Managers hat on too, I think he deserves a medal!

One major change has been our opening times, or rather not opening, as we will now be closed on Saturdays. It's wasn't a decision taken lightly, but as I was out of action we couldn't cover Saturday morning, and to be honest, not many people noticed!! As our clientele are mainly more mature, have to be careful what I say here, most people can visit us during the week. Saturdays were always very quiet and my absence gave us a chance to "test the water". We still have our Cromer practice to provide advice if required.

Another big change is the introduction of our Hearing Service, the clinic will be every Monday and we are looking forward to welcoming Sam as our Audiologist, and his first day is already booked. It will be good to provide easy access to hearing services to our local community.

In these days of technology and an App for everything, you may notice a funny little square thing on our advert. It's a QR code, and by waving your mobile phone in front of it you can be directed to our website, all clever stuff!

Other changes of note are our frame stock. In February this year some of our staff went to "100% Optical", it was one of the major industry shows of the year held at Excel in London. I think they certainly deserved a jolly weekend away and they came back with some lovely new frame ranges, notably "Face A Face" a collection from Paris and "Woow" which as you might have guessed is a bit different! Come and see for yourself.

We look forward to seeing you soon

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News from Hunstanton Foodbank

The foodbank continues to support local people in need, and grateful thanks are due to all our kind donors, particularly as we know just how sacrificial giving at this time can be.

We are a small organisation compared to some foodbanks, but we gave out just over nine metric tonnes of food in 2022 and demand shows no indication of slackening off. The current financial crisis and high inflation, particularly in price of food, is causing real hardship for many.

At present we would be particularly grateful for donations of tins of meat, custard, fruit, rice pudding and spaghetti rings, as well as breakfast cereals, UHT milk, fruit squash and toilet paper. We have collection points behind the check-outs in the Hunstanton branch of Sainsburys and at Burnham Deepdale stores - our thanks are due to both of these shops.

We are also looking to appoint new trustees, and anyone who is interested in the possibility of supporting our charity in this way is invited to send me an email at alexander.monro@btinternet.com

James Monro (Chair of Trustees, Hunstanton & District Foodbank)

THE HUNSTANTON FUN DOG SHOW

Saturday 13th May

What a woofastic Fun Dog Show we had at Glebe House School in Hunstanton where I believe little humans go to learn lots of things! I can't believe I have been organising the event for three years now, taking over from our hero and founder of the Barking Bugle, Frodo Cavalier. Big barks must also go to my sisters, Ziggy Bear and Clara, who carried out my orders pawfectly.

As well as the 14 fun classes (including two new categories, Cute Crossbreeds and Cute Pedigrees), there were several trade stands selling lots of goodies not just for us doggies but for all their humans to enjoy as well, a 125 foot bouncy castle, a fastest recall competition, an opportunity to have a go at Parkour, a scent work demonstration, doggy dancing and a trick masterclass display.

Despite the rather chilly weather many furry friends and their humans turned up to compete. Now I had heard that a very important human was going to have his coronation the week before our event, and so I thought it was only right and proper that we had a class devoted just to Cavalier King Charles and crosses. Well, we do all have the same name, don't we? It must have been a very difficult job for Alex, one of our human judges, to decide who was going to win. If it had been up to me they would have all won first prize!

Well done to everyone, in pawticular to Ziggy and June who won our Best In Show, and to Sadie and Elvis who won our Reserve Best In Show.

Here is the list of all our winners:-

Prettiest Girls - Precious with Mim and Sadie with Shiela

Handsome Boys - Simba with Liz and Ziggy with June

Young Dog Under 3 years of age - Heidi with Bev

Veteran (over 8 years) - Poppy with Val

Girl with the most Appealing Eyes - Winnie with Carol

Boy with the most Appealing Eyes - Ozzie with John

Best Rescue - Sadie with Elvis

Waggiest Tail - Boo with Thomas

Cute Crossbreeds - Lunar with Poppy

Cute Pedigrees - Ted with Penny

Happy Families - Tess, Lexi and Kal with Jane

Judges Choice - Pebbles with Saskia, and Patch and Dot with Lynn

Fancy Dress - Hugo with Helen

Dog with No Rosettes - Taty with Judy

Best in Show - Ziggy with June

Reserve Best In Show - Sadie with Elvis

Our thanks go to our special pals at Coastal Vets who have been sponsoring our Show for the past eleven years, to all our wonderful human volunteers, to the Men's Shed for helping out with the parking, to Laura, our professional photographer, to the K9 Capers' amazing display and for running the fastest recall competition, to Ruth for organising a superb trick masterclass, to Kevin, our compere, who presided over the event with his microphone in hand and unique sense of humour, to Fran and the team at Paws Obedience who ran the Parkour course and, last but not least, to our excellent main judges, Victoria, Alex and our Mayor, Maureen Howard, who had the extremely difficult job of deciding who would win rosettes in each category.

However, in PAWticular we at the Barking Bugle would like to give huge barks of appreciation to all you humans and canines who came to our Show, because without you this event would not have been able to take place. Well done if you managed to win a rosette but as we always say here at the Barking Bugle, you all go home with the best dog in any case! We really look forward to hosting the event again next year.

Woofs Miss Zsa Zsa,

Editor of the Barking Bugle

Pictured right: Best in Show Ziggy, a rescue dog who has been living with his human June for nearly a year. Credit Laura Jane Photography



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Winning King Charles - credit Chris Bishop



On the turf with Charles Joyce

First an apology to everyone who filled Elaine's inbox with emails asking where the May article was. I'm very sorry I was overly busy with local council elections.

On the day King Charles III was crowned the first of the classics was run at Newmarket won by Chaldean ridden by Frankie Dettori in his last year of racing riding. Outsider Mage won the Run for the Roses at Churchill Downs, Kentucky, and everyone became aware of the local elections with the possibility of a change in leadership and direction of the Borough Council. During the campaign some harsh words were exchanged, especially around who was doing the most about getting a new hospital. There have been different approaches, but surely, we all are on the same side and tit for tat is not helpful to the main cause. We stand together or apart we fall. As Mahatma Gandhi said an eye for an eye means we are all blind.

On the racing front we did well at Cheltenham back in March with a few winners which hopefully T&A readers picked up on. Much has happened since then with Silvestre De Sousa being banned from racing in Hong Kong for allegedly being involved in betting. When riding in the UK from a very slow start he eventually became champion apprentice. Later he was almost a licence to print money riding around the Northern tracks. He became champion jockey in 2015 after leaving Godolphin as their retained jockey. The Brazilian later joined King Power Racing as their retained jockey, but left again to go freelance at the end of 2021. Some newspaper reports suggest he pleaded guilty to the offence, while others say he will appeal. Either way it seems the Hong Kong authorities will ask the British authorities to impose a ban on Silvestre if he wishes to ride in the UK.

Dr Marwan Koukash has been declared bankrupt. The Palestinian has a PhD in electrical engineering. He was famous for his racing exploits especially at Chester where he won the coveted Chester Cup 4 times in 10 years. His horses won nearly 600 races between 2007 and last year including 97 at Chester from over 1,000 runners at the Deeside track. The flamboyant previous lecturer at John Moores University Liverpool has been removed as a registered owner.

The really big issue affecting racing was the publication of the White Paper on gambling. The long and the short of it is that there is nothing in it for the average punter. It seems an overkill with no distinction between skill-based betting and straight forward chance gambling similar to the fixed odds betting terminals which Tracey Crouch MP curtailed much of the abuse and problems. Rather than insist that licensed bookmakers must accept and honour a bet where a punter can win a minimum amount as happens in parts of

Australia. For example, in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria all have a minimum win bet of Aus\$ 2,000 which means with any bet the punter can win at least Aus\$ 2,000, for example Aus\$50 on a horse at 40/1 or Aus\$ 1,000 on a horse at 2/1. They have other minimum win stakes for different types of bets. In the UK licensed bookmakers can and often do reduce punters stakes to paltry amounts so that for the punter the bet is not considered an option. It's a much simpler way to stop punters winning than banning them altogether which would bring bad publicity. Lucy Fraser MP has missed the golden opportunity to introduce minimum win betting for punters on skill-based betting. Rather she has gone for soft credit checks which means bookmakers can run a credit check on anyone who loses more than the suggested sum of £125 in a month or £500 in any rolling year. The futility of this is obvious. A successful punter will often lose one month and win on either side of the losing month. I've lost over £125 in a day more often than I care to remember, let alone a month, but there's a long list of bookmakers who will argue I won too much from them for them to accept a bet from me at the stake I wish to bet. So, I'd be subject to these so-called soft checks which still can have an effect on my credit score if for any reason I wanted a loan from a bank. I do skill-based betting. Not always well, but I've never lost £500 in any rolling year. Yet how many people spend £10 a week or more on bingo which is pure chance betting. Still there are no suggested restrictions for this type of gambling. It's the same with the National Lottery and other chance gambling lotteries, similarly scratch cards. A hard check will be carried out on what is termed binge gambling when over £1,000 is lost in 24 hours and over £2,000 in 90 days. I do know some people who lose that amount of money and still do very well punting. Much worse than all this is the likelihood that bookmakers will be authorised to exchange information on individual punters. This is all considered benign with firms telling each other if they have a client who has triggered one of the loss triggers. A cynic will look at this and consider if they speak about "losers" they will have in their gift the opportunity to tell each other about winners. The Government could be allowing the fox into the hen house. Since 2020, bookmakers do no longer accept deposits from credit cards. So, everyone who bets on line must be using cash they have available. It's only right that people bet with their own money and not someone else's cash. But it seems as if this Government often wants to interfere in people's private lives for the sake of it. Not only with punting the Online Safety Bill is turning into an omnishambles which was described in an article on the politico website as a Frankenstein Bill to

please everyone which could end up not achieving its aims and still cause the loss of access to sites such as Wikipedia and strangle the golden child of Europe's tech industry all in the name of protecting the "vulnerable". It seems the more government prevaricates and fiddles the more it fails. Are we back to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital?!

As we move forward to Epsom and the Derby the usual Aidan O'Brien hotpot does not seem to be on the horizon. Auguste Rodin blotted his copy book in the Newmarket 2,000 Guineas. Hailed as the next coming Aidan O'Brien's great hope beat only 2 home. There are a few other entrants with San Antonio possibly the best option following his Dee Stakes win at Chester. As a normal route the 2,000 Guineas, a couple of races at Leopardstown, Chester, Lingfield and York. The best of the lot this year seems to be Military Order that won the Lingfield Derby Trial. Arrest is another that won at Chester. He was only a head behind Dubai Mile in a Group 1 at the back end of last year. Dubai Mile finished 5th in the Newmarket 2,000 Guineas with Royal Scotsman 3rd. The 2nd and 4th in the race were 100+/1 which casts some doubt on the value of the form. Breeders Cup winner Victoria Road is yet to be seen, but he lowered the colours of French 1,000 Guineas winner Blue Rose Cen at Deauville in August. He could be very interesting but maybe needs a prep run before taking on Tattenham Corner. The runner up at Deauville is likely to try for the Prix Diane rather than the fillies classic at Epsom. I don't have York's Dante result but if Ballysax winner White Birch scores for John Jo Murphy there he could present a real threat to them all on the big day. At this stage the 25/1 about San Antonio offers better value than the others, but Military Order has done nothing wrong so far.

As for the Epsom Oaks Aidan O'Brien's Savethelastdance won the Cheshire Oaks in a way seldom seen on a racecourse. If she turns up even her present 13/8 will look generous. The nagging doubt I have is was it the ground conditions that hindered the others or is she so good. It's not impossible that the Aga Khan will supplement Tahiya who fought a valiant fight when going down to Mawj in the Newmarket 1,000 Guineas. She has an entry in the Irish Oaks later in the year suggesting stamina is not an issue and her running in the Epsom Oaks would have a major impact on the market and she has the best Group 1 form likely to be represented on the day.

There are still a few trials left. So everything could change.

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



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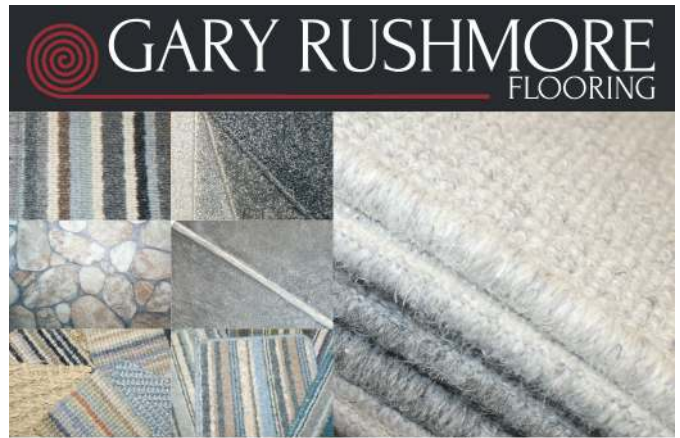
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So much to see at Bircham Newton Heritage Centre

A familiar date for many that marks the Allied Invasion of Normandy, commonly referred to as D-Day is 6th June 1944. It was the largest seaborne invasion in history, and the RAF played a crucial role. To mark the 79th anniversary of this momentous day in wartime history, Town and Around met Trustees Jamie Heffer and Pauline Fisher at RAF Bircham Newton recently to see the refurbishment and improvements that have been completed at the Heritage Centre over the 2022-23 winter.

The Centre, where visitors can visit on all bank holiday weekends and other selected Sundays throughout the year, now tells the story of the base through its exhibition over three areas: The WWI, WWII and the post war-1962 rooms. Jamie said: "We have a wonderful collection that has been added to each year since the establishment of the heritage centre in 2005 by the RAF Bircham Newton Memorial Project – and this winter was the perfect time to reorganise our exhibits in a chronological order."



Chairman of Trustees Jamie Heffer is pictured here next to the Roll of Honour

Relics of war and artifacts have been carefully collated by trustees and kindly donated by people with ties to the site, preserving the integrity of the former RAF base. Trustees are always keen for people with personal or familial ties to come forward and stories are collected and kept in large books, available to read at the Centre.

There are countless air force memorabilia to peruse at the museum: photographs, plaques, uniforms, model replica airplanes that flew from the site and various artworks, to name but a few.

A distinctly personal touch pervades the museum, telling the stories of various individuals that served. This includes a large board by illustrator Austin Godfrey of CITB that lists every senior officer and the important squadrons that served at Bircham Newton. A famous airman on the board is Ray Collishaw who was credited with shooting down 60 German aircraft in WWI.

Another particular highlight includes a plaque depicting Squadron 119 dated from 1918, painted by Air Mechanic Frank Coe and donated by his daughter Rene almost 100 years later.

With a distinct royal link thanks to their proximity to Sandringham and the royals' use of the airfield to fly between London and Norfolk, photographs of Queen Elizabeth II's



Trustee Pauline Fisher in the WWII room

(then Princess) visit to the site in 1941 adorn the wall. King George V also visited in 1934. Prince Philip also made several landings at Bircham Newton during his flying training in 1952 and 1953.

A particular individual of note is flight lieutenant Peter Hall and his uniform is housed at the site. Hall was shot down in Holland and bailed out of his aircraft and was sent to a prisoner of war camp called Stalag Luft III, where the Great Escape was hatched and where Hall created escape maps. Around 20 airmen based in Bircham were shot down and ended up as prisoners of war.



More than 530 individuals who served at Bircham Newton lost their lives in the course of their duties. The vast majority were killed on operations across the North Sea. St Marys Church Great Bircham hosts the local Commonwealth War Graves cemetery where there are 66 graves of British and Commonwealth airmen who lost their lives locally or were recovered from the sea around the Norfolk coast. There are also the graves of 11 Germans that were shot down locally.

Two memorials have also been erected, one at Bircham Newton (2006) and the other near the village of Docking (2007).



D-Day

Regarding D-Day, Bircham Newton had a role to play in the events that unfolded. Aircraft from the station conducted armed reconnaissance patrols over the English Channel in the period leading up to and during the D-Day landings. These patrols were tasked with finding and destroying heavily-armed enemy marine craft, known as E-Boats and R-Boats, which threatened to hamper the D-Day landings on the 6th of June and the subsequent flow of supplies and reinforcements. Bircham Newton's No. 415 Squadron was involved in these patrols, flying Vickers Wellington aircraft.

Over 11,590 Allied aircraft were involved in the operation overall, and 5,656 of these were Royal Air Force. Over 1,800 RAF personnel and 456 vehicles landed on the beaches, increasing in excess to 3,500 personnel and 815 vehicles by 9th of June.

Station history

Bircham Newton was in operation for several years before and after this event. The former station of RAF Bircham Newton was born in 1918 during WWI. The airfield was first used for training pilots joining the war. This training soon moved to Sedgeford aerodrome and Bircham Newton was destined to become a bomber base, and plans to bomb Berlin were only cancelled after the Armistice was signed.

During the inter-war period in the 1920s and 1930s, Bircham Newton was a peacetime bomber base. The Sidestrand bomber that flew from there was built in Norwich. During this time in 1936, Bircham Newton was assigned to the newly created Coastal Command, the RAF's maritime arm responsible for protecting allied shipping and supply routes. Many of the redbrick building that surround the site were built during this time of expansion before WWII. During WWII, they were heavily involved in the operations against German convoys carrying war materials. They also rescued airman who had ditched in the North Sea.

During WWII, there were too many visiting units to list, proving a very busy time for the base. Two satellite airfields were opened in Docking and Langham to cope with the additional tasking during this time. Many units were involved with hunting down enemy boats and convoys in the North Sea.

Post-WWII Bircham Newton's days as a flying station was numbered, as in the new jet age there was little use for grass airfields. It was briefly transferred to Flying Training Command, later used as demobilisation centre and aircrew holding unit. In 1946 Transport Command controlled the base, but lacking concrete runways flying was predominantly conducted at RAF Sculthorpe. Two years later in 1948 the station was transferring to Technical Training Command, becoming the RAF's School of Administration. Bircham Newton finally closed in December 1962 and in 1964 the site was acquired by the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB), who remain there today.

RAF Bircham Newton open days

Sunday May 28th

Sunday June 11th

Sunday July 16th

Sunday August 13th

Bank Holiday Monday August 28th

Sunday September 10th

Sunday October 15th

Last open day - Sunday 12th of November Remembrance Sunday.

Open from 10am until 4pm. Entrance and parking will be free, and disabled access and toilets will be available.

For further information, please visit our Facebook page: RAF Bircham Newton Heritage Centre.

SATNAV PE31 6RH

Sunday June 25th

Sunday July 30th

Sunday August 27th

Sunday September 24th

Sunday October 29th

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Diary of events for June (also see <http://www.townandaround.net>)

Thursday 1st

Stanhoe and Barwick WI talk by Stuart Grant of West Norfolk Beekeepers Association. The Reading Room Stanhoe 2pm. Visitors are most welcome. £5 includes refreshments. Contact Valerie (01485 576261) for further details.

Friday 2nd

Fincham Memorial Hall PE33 9EJ Quiz Night. 30pm Entry £2 per person. 50/50 Raffle. BYO refreshments. Up to 6 in a team, either bring your own team or help make up a team on the night.

United Services Club Hunstanton entertainment: John Carr Singing Songs from all eras 8pm

Saturday 3rd

Fincham Village Fete 11am - 4pm. Stalls, children's activities; Classic car displays; wood-turning demonstration; Marham Military Wives Choir; VR roller-coaster - teas; coffees & cakes. Followed by LIVE MUSIC with 'RETRO X' in the evening - doors open 7pm event starts 8pm. Licensed bar available

United Services Club Hunstanton entertainment: Glitz Duo All eras 8.30pm

Saturday 3rd - Sunday 11th

Sandringham in Bloom PE35 6EN an inspiring week showcasing daily celebrations of Flora & Fauna Visit: <https://sandringhamestate.co.uk/post/sandringham-in-bloom-41e2db>

Sunday 4th

Car Boot Sale at Glebe House School 7am-1pm Contact Chris on 07774 650606 or chrisHDS7@gmail.com

Hunstanton Bandstand: King's Lynn Town Band 2-4pm

Ladies Day at Fakenham Racecourse. First race 2.30pm

Yorke Trust Benefit Concert A violin recital by Carys David. Programme comprises English works including rarities by William Alwyn and William Reed. 15:00 The Old Chapel, Burnham Road, South Creake, NR21 9JF Tickets £12.00 from 01328 738482, Text 07899 771366 or email to carol.jennings2@btinternet.com.

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 - Donations of prizes welcome. For information email events@anmerclub.co.uk

Tuesday 6th

Jolly Sailors Brancaster Staithe Jolly Charity Quiz 8pm Teams of 6, £2 per person. All monies donated to The Big C cancer charity.

Wednesday 7th

Burnham Market Village Hall Community Cinema 3.30pm Swan Song (12) £5 on the door or Diana Walker on 01328 738604

Thursday 8th

King's Lynn Community Cinema Club 7.30pm at The Guildhall, King's Lynn. Screening 'Aftersun'. £5 at the door

Friday 9th

Snettisham Memorial Hall Coffee & Brunch with stalls 10am-1pm

Fincham Memorial Hall PE33 9EJ There will be a Matinee showing of the NTL production of 'Life of Pi' The £5 entry will include home-made soup & a roll. Doors open for food 12md, performance starts 1pm.

Anmer Social Club: FILM NIGHT - MATILDA: THE MUSICAL - 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

Classical Music Rocks Journeys for Flute and Harp 7.30pm St Nicholas Chapel, King's Lynn PE30 1LT Featuring music by Mozart, Shankar, Debussy, Alwyn and more, given by internationally renowned harpist and CMR's patron, Gabriella Dall'Olio, and flautist & Classical Music Rocks' Creative Director, Klio Blonz. Corn Exchange Box Office (01553 764864)

United Services Club Hunstanton entertainment: Quiz Night £50 First Prize £4pp including supper. Up To 4 in a team 8pm

Friday 9th - Sunday 11th

Festival 3 by the Sea Art Exhibition at Hunstanton Town Hall PE36 6BQ

Saturday 10th

Buskers Corner on Crazy Golf Pavilion, Hunstanton PE36 6DX 2-4pm

Fincham Memorial Hall PE33 9EJ There will be a NTL encore performance of 'Good' Doors open 7pm, showing starts 7.45pm. Licensed bar available. Book through EVENTBRITE or pay at the door £5 entry.

United Services Club Hunstanton entertainment: Closer To Home Duo. Superb vocals from Simon Lee & Graham James 8.30pm

Saturday 10th- Sunday 11th

Old Hunstanton Open Gardens PE36 6HS contact Neil Bailey neilbailey@hotmail.com or call 07918 911716

Sunday 11th

RAF Bircham Newton Open Day 10am until 4pm. Entrance and parking will be free, and disabled access and toilets will be available. SATNAV PE31 6RH

Norfolk Hospice Open Garden (Two acres) PE31 6BH 9am-5pm Admission £4, children free.

Monday 12th



We meet at Sedgeford Village Hall at 2pm. Large car park.

Come as our guest for £5 to one talk to see if you enjoy our meetings.



Next illustrated talk:
Monday 12th June
Tutankhamun's Tomb and Treasures
Lecturer:
Lucia Gahlin

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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.

Stanhoe Village Screen: A Good Year (12) at 7.30 pm. Russell Crowe and Ridley Scott team up again for this feel-good story of an Englishman who finds his soul.

United Services Club Hunstanton entertainment: Fun & Laughter with Richard Wymark Comedian & Ventriloquist 8pm

Friday 16th - Saturday 17th

North Norfolk's annual festival of poetry and prose. Wells Maltings, Wells-next-the-Sea. SEA FEVER 7 <https://www.seafeverliteraryfestival.com/copy-of-programme>

Saturday 17th

Stanhoe Open Gardens PE31 8QL 2-5.30pm £5 per person permits entry to all gardens (12 years and under free) CASH ONLY

https://townandarounds.net/whats-on/june

Tickets available from the Church and Village Hall on the day only.

RNLI Summer Party 6pm Old Hunstanton Village Hall. £28.50 pp with supper & music. Booking essential Helen Thory: 07796 278999 Angie Coker: 07775 775362

Fincham Memorial Hall PE33 9EJ Fincham Chorus are putting on A Royal Celebration Concert at 7.30pm. Entrance £5, which includes light refreshment, payable at the door. All proceeds to go to St Martins Church, Fincham and Fincham Memorial Hall.

United Services Club Hunstanton entertainment: Laurie Haley Duo 60s onwards 8.30pm

Sunday 18th

Car Boot Sale at Glebe House School 7am-1pm Contact Chris on 07774 650606 or chrisHDMS7@gmail.com

Ringstead Open Gardens 11am-5pm £5 admits to all gardens. Lunches and teas at the Village Hall Car Park. Art Exhibition & Flower Festival in St Andrew's Church 10am-5pm To book lunches (£15) call 01485 525384 or 525494.

Hunstanton Bandstand PE36 5AH
Rhiannon Rae 2-4pm

Monday 19th

Hunstanton u3a 2pm Hunstanton Community Centre, Avenue Road. Speaker Page Pope: The work of the Dogs Trust. Visitors welcome Further info: www.hunstantonu3a.org or 07443 763679

Wednesday 21st

Burnham Market Village Hall Community Cinema 7pm – The End Of The Affair (18) £5 on the door or contact Diana Walker on 01328 738604

Fincham Memorial Hall PE33 9EJ Fincham History Group will meet at 7.30pm

Thursday 22nd

New Hunstanton Women's Institute meeting, Methodist Church Hall at 2.15pm.
Flower Demonstration and Talk by Doreen and Lorraine. New members very welcome. Visitors £5. Enquiries to 01485 572027.

Festival 3 by the Sea: Heartbreak Productions present: "Bad Dad" by David Walliams, Thursday 22nd June 2023, 4.30pm Hunstanton Community Centre, Avenue Road, PE36 5BW Tickets £15.00 Adults, Children £5.00, Family £35.00 (2 Adult +2 Children) £1.00 each extra child Tickets available from 'by the book', Hunstanton High Street or at the gate.

Friday 23rd

Fincham Memorial Hall PE33 9EJ. Fincham Film for All. Doors open 7pm. Licensed bar available. Book through EVENTBRITE or pay at the door £3 entry.

United Services Club Hunstanton entertainment: Tommy Baxter. Superb vocalist 60s To 2020s 8pm

Saturday 24th

Anmer Social Club: MID-SUMMER PARTY – 12.30 p.m. onwards. £5 per person to include Buffet and musical entertainment with The Whickers Folk group To book please contact Dorothy on 01553 631349 or email anmerchair44@gmail.com Village Screen Cinema Amy Robsart Village Hall, Syderstone 7.30 EMPIRE OF LIGHT (15) Margate, England, 1980.

United Services Club Hunstanton entertainment: Travis all eras 8.30pm

Saturday 24th – Sunday 25th

The Hunstanton King's Coronation Carnival weekend. Saturday: 2pm - 9pm Live music festival with KL1 Radio on The Green. Sunday: Carnival Parade from the Recreation Ground to The Green at 1pm. Plus fun & entertainment from KL1 Radio. Craft Fair at Hunstanton Town Hall PE36 6BQ 10am-4pm both days

Sunday 25th

Car Boot Sale at Glebe House School 7am-1pm Contact Chris on 07774 650606 or chrisHDMS7@gmail.com

United Services Club Hunstanton entertainment: Music in the garden With Mike Shelby 60s, Rock & Roll & more 3pm (Indoors if bad weather)

Wednesday 28th

Afternoon Tea at Beach View, Hunstanton PE36 6DL 3-4.30pm £2 donation towards the resident's amenities fund.

Snettisham Wednesday Activity Get together (SWAG) at the Royal British Legion Hall 2-4pm. Contact Eric 01485541515 or June 01485 533011.

Snettisham Gardening Club talk: Gardens Us and Them by Dr Ian Bedford, an expert on creatures of the garden. Snettisham Memorial Hall 7.30pm

Friday 30th

Norfolk Hospice Charity Golf Day 1-6pm at King's Lynn Golf Club PE31 6BD. The cost of entry is £220.00 per team of 4 players

Lynn Museum Afternoon Talk - The Dersingham Hoard: The English Civil War in Norfolk and Beyond. 2pm - 3pm Price -

£2 per person, free for Norfolk Museums Passholders. The Dersingham Hoard, made up of 129 silver shillings in a silver cup, dates to the English Civil War, and is thought to have been hidden for safekeeping during this turbulent period of history. https://www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk/events/events-search/eventdetails?id=cfd45354-3cbf-ed11-a2dd-b6a507c45f96

Friday 30th

United Services Club Hunstanton entertainment: Toni G 60s & Elvis 8pm

Friday 30th – Sunday 2nd

The Hunstanton One Act Drama Festival 10 plays in 3 days at the Princess Theatre Tickets £7.50 per session or £20 weekend season ticket. www.oneactdramafestival.com

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www.princess-theatre.co.uk
The Hunstanton One-Act Drama Festival 2023
Princess Theatre
Borough Council at King's Lynn & West Norfolk

Looking forward to July

Summer Fete at Fridham Rest Home, Heacham PE31 7AB on 29th July

Heacham Heritage Exhibition at Heacham Public Hall on Sunday July 30th
11am - 4pm Free Admission, refreshments available.



Car Boots at Glebe House School

Walk by the Sea to D'feet MND

Saturday (13th May) was very cold on the Prom at Hunstanton but 77 walkers set off to Heacham, determined to make a difference for local people living with Motor Neurone Disease.

Families affected by MND, people living with the disease, friends and local health care professionals set out together, to raise awareness of the illness and funds for the local Kings Lynn Group of the MND Association. Accompanied by children and dogs, the group braved the chill wind and have already received over £990.00 from donations from the Walk.

Before setting off, Jon Walter, Charity Steward for the Joppa Lodge of Freemasons at Fakenham, presented a cheque for £1,000 to the local MND Association volunteer Visitors.

Chairperson, Jane Lewis said: "We are extremely grateful to Joppa Lodge for such a generous donation, which will make a big difference to our funds and help us to provide more financial support grants to people living with Motor Neurone Disease. As MND often progresses very quickly, our aim is to be capable of responding fast to requests for equipment which can help people to remain comfortable or independent for as long as possible.

"Our Association Visitors play an important role and are trained to provide practical and emotional advice or support to people living with Motor Neurone Disease and their families, as they face the tough challenges associated with the illness, for which there is no cure. We are looking to recruit two more volunteer Visitors to the team, so that we can provide more help in the future, as we are typically in touch with between 20 and 25 people with MND in the Kings Lynn and West Norfolk area at any one time."

Do contact us or follow us on social media – Facebook : @MNDKingsLynn, Twitter : @mndkingslynn and Instagram : @mndnorfolk.



Motor neurone disease (MND) is a fatal, rapidly progressing neurological condition affecting up to 5,000 adults in the UK at any one time. The disease causes messages from nerves (motor neurones) in the brain and spinal cord that control movement to gradually stop reaching the muscles, leading them to weaken, stiffen and waste.

The result is that people become locked in a failing body, unable to move, talk and eventually breathe. Some may experience changes in thinking and behaviour, with a proportion experiencing a rare form of dementia. MND does not usually affect senses such as sight, hearing and touch.

MND kills a third of people within a year and more than half within two years of diagnosis. It affects people from all backgrounds and a person's lifetime risk of developing MND around 1 in 300. Today six people will be diagnosed and six will die from MND. There is no cure.

Photos: Ian Burt

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The Future of The Wash

Pride in our Neighbourhoods 69 By Andrew Murray

On Wednesday 10 May a meeting entitled 'The Future of The Wash' was held at the Maltings in Wells next the Sea as part of their Saltmarsh Series. At the end of the meeting the host, Ian Scott, Emeritus Professor of Environmental Sciences at University of East Anglia, declared that the meeting had been both the most controversial and the most memorable.

A wild fowler, Kevin Thatcher, set the scene by giving a fascinating account of how the Fens had evolved from the Bronze age onwards and how important they were as well as their vulnerability to rising sea levels.

James Sutcliffe explained his concept of constructing a deep water container port to relieve the congestion at Felixstowe. The port would be powered by huge turbines built into a tidal barrage stretching from Lincolnshire to Norfolk. About 20 to 30 fish friendly turbines are needed to maintain the tidal nature of The Wash with 780 square kilometres of water rising and falling 4.5 metres twice per day and saving some 450,000 tons of CO2 per year. In the event of a storm surge the turbines could be shut off to protect the low lying Fenland. See www.centreport.uk for more details.

Dominic Buscall, project manager at Wild Ken Hill said that The Wash was a complex of moving water and mud flats. It is the last great wilderness on which 2 million birds including Curlew depend as well as common seals and the European eel. The Wash area attracts 20m visitors per year and tourism is vital for the economy of the area. He considered that the construction of a barrage would be catastrophic. See www.norfolkwildlifetrust.co.uk for more details.

Although James said that his proposal would maintain the tidal nature of The Wash, members of the audience were concerned that sewage overflows or nitrogen run off from the land would accumulate in The Wash and convert it into an inhospitable soup.

Clearly more research is needed into how best to manage rising sea levels and the possible consequences of building any form of barrage.



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The Bishop of Norwich opens St. Faith's Community Hub in King's Lynn

Sunday May 14th was a day of celebration for the people of St. Faith's Church and Gaywood community as the Bishop of Norwich, The Rt. Revd Graham Usher, was at the church to officially open and bless its new community hub.

The St. Faith's Community Hub hosts a suite of meeting rooms, a light and airy social space, a fully equipped kitchen, toilets including an accessible toilet, and a new spacious church office.

Bishop Graham toured the new hub and chatted with service users and those involved with developing the project before he officially opened the new facility.

Earlier that morning, Bishop Graham, together with Methodist Deacon Lynne Tonge, had led a confirmation service in St. Faith's during which three candidates: Jeanette, Mark and Tony, were confirmed by the Bishop and Deacon Tonge.

Later, at the hub opening ceremony Bishop Graham said: "I'm delighted to open this vital community hub that has long been the vision of those at St Faith's, Gaywood."

Borough Mayor Cllr Lesley Bambridge and her deputy, Cllr Margaret Wilkinson, together with other local councillors and representatives of various grant-awarding bodies joined members of the community and St. Faith's church family at the dedication, where the Bishop gave thanks and blessed the premises.

Bishop Graham said he was particularly struck, during this current Mental Health Awareness Week, of the important role that will be fulfilled in these premises by Norfolk and Waveney MIND.

St. Faith's Rector, Revd Kyla Sørensen, said it was wonderful, after so many years of fund-raising and planning, to finally see the vision for a Community Hub for Gaywood come to life.

She said: "Our thanks go out to everyone involved - those who raised funds, others who oversaw the project to completion, all the volunteers who helped out and everyone who has been praying."



Revd Kyla told us it is such a joy to see the hub already in use by a variety of groups and individuals. "It is truly a working model of church and community coming together."

The official opening was followed by a fantastic parish lunch for over 100 guests in the nearby Church Rooms.

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KLHS reunion

On April 22nd, over sixty past pupils and staff of the King's Lynn High School met at Springwood School Sixth Form Cabin for their second whole school reunion since 2018.



Soon the atmosphere was buzzing as the girls reminisced about the good old days at King Street/ Queensway.

There was a vast display of photos of ex pupils dating back over one hundred years and one lady had brought her old bottle green beret and games skirt which brought back many memories.

A collection raised £100 for the Dementia Cafés in King's Lynn and Hunstanton.

Any past KLHS pupils wishing to join the OWLS (Older Wiser Ladies) register can contact the membership secretary sue.oga@icloud.com Alternatively contact Veronica on 07522783638 who will pass on your details to Sue.

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The Hunstanton Society

HERITAGE CENTRE

Thankfully numbers of visitors are gradually increasing and the level of donations similarly.

We have been given a very small but interesting donation of a small locket in the form of a miniature photograph album with old photos of Hunstanton by the Massingham Historical Society. This is now on display in the display cabinet in the main room. It is small but the material we have mounted it with will make it more easily found. We have provided photos of the pages included in it.



Docking History Fair - credit: Ian Burt

Tony kindly represented our Society at the Docking History Fair with a display in conjunction with Dreamy Hollow and the Lovett Scouts. There seemed to be quite a bit of interest in what we do.

HUNSTANTON SOCIETY HISTORY GROUP

The History Group, under the umbrella of the Hunstanton Society, had a very productive meeting a couple of weeks ago. We covered several topics:

- a request to look into the Irish branch of the Le Strange family from someone in the USA,
- what building had been behind Witley Press and the Nat West,
- a stone coffin in St Mary's church, Old Hunstanton,
- the history of Brenda Lodge, the airplane trips given by the 2 ladies,
- the history of both local outdoor bowl's clubs
- the soap box derby,
- the fire in the convalescent home in Valentine Road,
- the history of the building that currently houses the library and the Coal Shed.

These are just a small part of the research that we are doing. If anyone knows anything about any of these topics, please email the History Group secretary, Hazel Denslow h.denslow55@gmail.com.

The reorganisation of the filing system in the Centre has been worked upon with great gusto and huge strides have been made. As a result of some of this work, members of the History Group found enough material to create an instant display in celebration of the Coronation. Thank you ladies.

If you are interested in such satisfying work, please do contact the History Group Chair – Kath Fryer on kathfryer@aol.co.uk

OUTINGS

FORNCETT INDUSTRIAL STEAM MUSEUM – Andrew Murray has arranged a visit to the Forncett Industrial Steam Museum at Forncett St Mary south of Norwich. This is planned for Sunday, 2nd July. Andrew Murray, who is actually a Trustee of the Museum is organising this and has produced a simple form for those wishing to join a number of us driving over there that day. We understand that on the first Sunday of the months of May through to October they actually light up and are in full steam those days. Andrew has arranged a guided tour. Call in to the Heritage Centre for information and to complete the form for the trip.

Breast of Friends Charity Race Night



Breast of Friends Fund Raisers L-R: Jimmy Hazell, Claire Ling, Steve Ling, Deborah Wright, Gary English, Joanne Hazell, Brenton Carver, Jeanette Kidd, Paul Kidd (Missing from Photo Gary Merchant, Anne Merchant, Gail Ruffell & David Bowman)

The Breast of Friends Charity Fund raisers are a group of local people who fundraise for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Breast Care and Chemotherapy Unit, on Saturday 22 April they organised a Charity Race Night at Dersingham Social Club as part of their fund raising activities, the event was well attended and supported on the night, there was a total of 8 races which had been sponsored by a large number of both local businesses and local people, during the evening there was an interval where 3 volunteers did a sponsored head shave which was carried out by Crown Barbers.



Headshave - Credit: Rex Makemson

The event helps to support the groups major fund raising activity which has always been primarily a Charity Ball each year, which they will be hosting again in September at Briarfields Titchwell, the race night was a huge success and raised £5002.80 on the night, the group would like to thank everyone who supported the event, Dersingham Social Club, Steve, Brenton and Gary who braved the shave to help boost funds on the night. Race Number 8 was in memory of Chris Marsh of Dersingham who had sadly passed away recently and this race was really well sponsored by his friends which helped boost the total on the night.

Anyone wishing to sponsor or provide both raffle/auction prizes please contact the Breast of Friends team via their email address breastoffriendscharityball@btinternet.com



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NEWS FROM BRANCASTER VILLAGE HALL (BVH)

Geoff Wingrove

Coronation Celebrations

Like many villages in Norfolk, Brancaster organised a number of events to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. BVH hosted a Coronation Party on 7th May, attended by over a hundred villagers, which included a barbeque, refreshment tent, live music and the possibility of a game of pétanque. The music was provided by "Goz Unplugged", a popular local group; the Coronation concert at Windsor was also screened. Activities also included a cake competition, organised for adults and children, which produced many imaginative offerings. The whole event was generously sponsored by two anonymous Brancaster residents, with grateful thanks from John Wareham, Chair of Trustees. Joanna Morris, one of the key organisers, reported: "The whole event was hugely successful and everybody thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We were also blessed with perfect weather!"

Regular groups

Details of all regular groups and other forthcoming events can be found on our website: www.brancastervillagehall.co.uk For enquiries, please visit: brancastervillagehallcommunitybookings.co.uk

FROM THE BRANCASTER VILLAGE HALL ARCHIVE NATIONAL COASTWATCH INSTITUTION (NCI) BRANCASTER

The NCI was founded in Cornwall in 1994 and followed from many of HM Coastguard's visual watch stations being closed. In 2021 there were 58 NCI stations operating around the UK's coast. The NCI works closely with HM Coastguard, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and – more recently – with the UK Border Force. Most NCI stations have acquired, or are working towards acquiring, "declared facility status", which gives the NCI a very important role to play when needed across the UK's search and rescue organisations. There are currently six NCI stations in Norfolk, the most recent being that at Brancaster, which opened on a temporary basis in summer 2021 and is now a permanent feature. This article is about NCI Station Brancaster.

Scolt Head Island is situated off the beach at Brancaster and is a high risk area due to the strength and speed of the currents. The island serves as a magnet for people, as it can be reached at low tide on foot. Over many years there has been a number of incidents of people being stranded on the island, having been cut off by swift tidal movements. Brancaster beach and its waters too attract tens of thousands of visitors every year and are popular too with sailors, kayakers, windsurfers and kitesurfers. The level of popularity means there are bound to be incidents and accidents each year.

Due to the frequent callouts of RNLI craft – mainly from Hunstanton – the authorities came to the conclusion that a NCI station should be established. The temporary station commenced duties in summer 2021 and had an immediate effect in reducing RNLI callouts. A permanent station provided by RNLI was established in 2022 in the grounds of the Royal West Norfolk Golf Club (RWNGC). The RWNGC proved very helpful, providing facilities and car parking at a very nominal ground rent. NCI National Office provided a start up grant to allow the station to be converted and kitted out with radio, optics and other necessary equipment. The grant was supplemented by local fund raising by volunteers and supporters.

The new station has managed to recruit 27 volunteers to crew the facility, and it is hoped to increase this shortly to 40 in order to allow longer operational hours each day. Training is provided "on the job" by an accredited watchkeeper. Trainees are expected to complete a minimum of 10 watches (3 hours in winter and 4 in summer) and also undertake some self-study. The response from the local community has been very good in terms of volunteers and has also provided funds for ongoing running costs.

The NCI station is effectively the eyes and ears for HM Coastguard, and crew report concerns and incidents they observe to Coastguard

staff who will then decide on appropriate action, such as the callout of RNLI lifeboat or hovercraft, helicopter or HM Coastguard's own Search and Rescue Team. Although the majority of incidents are reported to HM Coastguard, the NCI station can call on other emergency services – police, fire brigade and ambulance.

The present NCI station building in Brancaster is second hand and not entirely suitable for all-season use. There is therefore a need to replace the facility by raising local funds and seeking gifts, grants and charitable donations. The current crew members are mainly retirees over 65; volunteering allows staff to learn new skills, undergo specialist training in rescue equipment and work with other search and rescue organisations.

I am extremely grateful to Richard Burrows, Deputy Station Manager, for his assistance in writing this article, to all the volunteers who provide this critical service, and to the RWNGC for being so helpful in establishing this station. There is a wealth of information online, should you wish to find out more about the NCI. If you would like to know more about volunteering for the Brancaster Coastwatch Station, please contact Richard Burrows on 07535 612777 or email richard.burrows@nci.org.uk

The pictures show some of the volunteer Watchkeepers at their monthly meeting - unfortunately none of the lady members could attend on this occasion – and the Watch Station overlooking Brancaster beach in the grounds of RWNGC.



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High days and holidays

The summer calendar is filling up, so make sure your wardrobe is ready for the strawberries and cream season with a trip to Allez Chic.

It's a fabulous time of year with long, and hopefully warm, evenings and lots of opportunities to socialise. June is the month when stylish casual wear comes into its own.

At Allez Chic Cheryl has a wonderful selection of versatile summer styles that you'll love. Cool and comfortable is the watchword and looser styles can still be feminine and chic without clinging to the body and creating excess body heat.

The best colour palette for your summertime wardrobe will always feature light colours over dark and the summer months are perfect for ultra-feminine light greens, blues, pinks and pastels.

The fresh apple green dress in the advertisement is from Pomodoro. Crafted in machine washable 100% cotton voile, it includes a delightful dobby pattern and has very useful pockets. It's a catwalk inspired over-the-head shirt silhouette, with a very visual button front. And it has that little bit extra - a floaty silhouette is guaranteed with the extra special amount of tiers. Pair with some strappy sandals and you too can pose like no one is watching!

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Tulip fundraising is a blooming success for the Hospice!

We are thrilled to share our exciting news having counted every penny raised from the Tulip for Tapping Campaign – the final figure...drum role please... £140,268!

The Hospice is known for delivering exceptional care to our West Norfolk community and is reliant on income such as this.

The amount raised is unbelievable and exceeds all our expectations – we are grateful to all those that visited, volunteered or contributed in any way.

We would like to say a huge thank you to our fantastic volunteers, Norfolk Tulips, Roydon Hall Farms, TM Brown, Rural Broadband, Algeco, Rudd Marquees, Baco Compak and all of our food & drink traders

Norfolk Tulips said "Thank you to everyone who supported the event this year. Tulips for Tapping has become a beloved annual tradition for visitors from across the UK. With the success of this year's event, organisers are already looking forward to planning for an even bigger and better event next year."



Staff with Willow the therapy dog - credit Ian Burt



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from left) Lynn Lockheart, John Garrett, Victoria Rush, Susanne and Mark Eves, Lindsey Atkin and Niki Ellis - credit Ian Burt

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Artificial Intelligence – A I or Averse Information in our case!

Sandra Hohol, 01485 534267 www.norfolkholidayhomes.agency info@norfolkholidayhomes.agency

Googling – we all do it to look for things we want to know about. Usually, we are happy with the outcome. We never think twice about how our computers, phones and ipads collate all the information for us. Just type in what you are looking for and hey presto, there it is!

Google describes Artificial Intelligence, ‘the theory and development of computer systems able to perform tasks normally requiring human intelligence, such as visual perception, speech recognition, decision-making, and translation between languages.

There has been some controversy about Artificial Intelligence (AI) on the news in May. The “godfather of AI”, the scientist Geoffrey Hinton, had resigned from Google so he could speak freely about how worried he was about what would happen once the AI bots were cleverer than humans. Scary!

In our business, a potential holiday guest can go on any website and search for their perfect holiday home. They can state the area wish to be in, the number of bedrooms they need, whether or not they require somewhere which allows pets, ground floor, etc. Not forgetting calendar dates. Press a button and you get a list of accommodation which should suit your needs.

For those who are not au fait with AI, this is how I can explain it simply apart from Googles explanation above - AI is information which is gathered from what is put into our computers, ipads, phones etc. The computer brain where ever the information goes to, stores this and it is then used to go into other information and picked up when you search for something you want. This sounds complicated. So, an example is that all our holiday homes are on booking channels (Airbnb,

Booking.com for example). One has them all advertised as being near a National Park or Lake. We did not put this information in to the details. We might be an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty but we have no National Parks or Lakes nearby. All our properties can be edited by us on Booking.com. That is, the number of bedrooms, pets allowed, etc. And then there is a ‘National Park and Lake’ heading to which we have no access for editing. I called Booking.com and eventually got through to a very polite and robot trained lady and after a long discussion and me asking to speak to someone else she did actually call me back. The answer was that it was the ‘wordings and photos’ that we have used are being picked up by their system which is categorising each property into their ‘National Park and Lake’ title. So, I asked her to tell me exactly what she meant by ‘wordings’ and which ‘photos’? I was not happy to start off with and certainly not happy now as she said that their system picked up ‘pets’, ‘playgrounds’, and any outside and garden photos which are used all correlate to being keywords and pictures for their ‘National Park and Lake’ information in their title searches. She suggested deleting all garden photos, all the ‘pets allowed’ and ‘playground nearby’ edits so that their artificial intelligence computer system did not pick these up. You can imagine my outcry on this! People need to see the gardens and need to know about pets and the area they are in.

If this was done, then guests would not know the full information. Plus, surely this is a Trade Description issue too?

Sadly, there is nothing you can do to change the way these systems pick up information, store and use it, correct or not and that is what the controversy is all about.

Clever as it may seem, it is not all it is cracked up to be.



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 Down: 1. Firmly, 2. Cafeteria, 3. Instrumentation, 4. Nodular, 6. Misappropriates, 7. On air, 8. Heedless, 9. Swayed, 16. Certified, 17. Clobbers, 19. Drudge, 20. Tried on, 21. Ascend, 23. Largo

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Thursdays: Games evening from 7.00 p.m. includes, Darts, Table Tennis, Dominoes, Cards, Scrabble etc.

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David Elsey's cryptic crossword

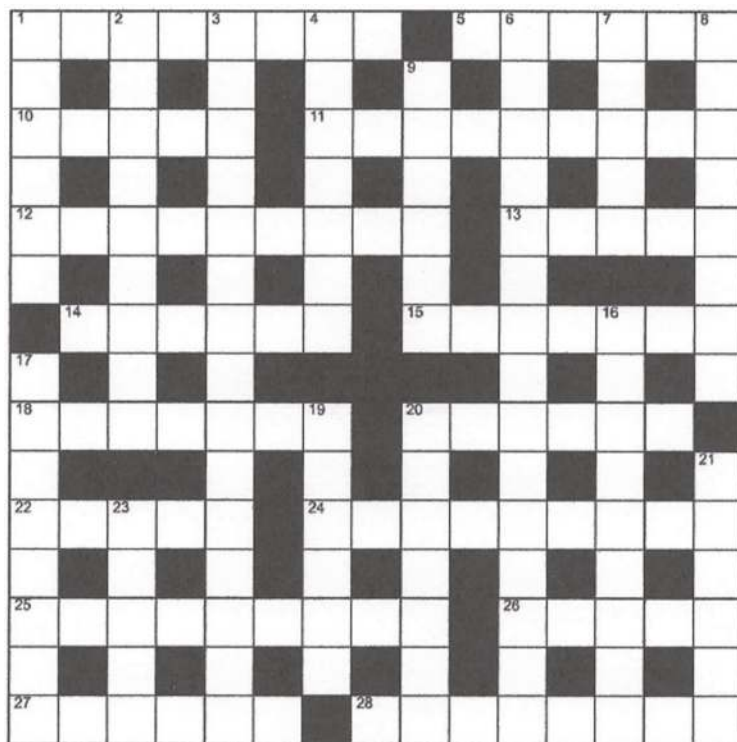
CROSSWORD CLUES

Across

1. Fine suits put on for parties (8)
5. Plane from south coming in low (6)
10. Floats on river, fast flowing (5)
11. From above, point towards the audience (9)
12. At the last minute turn the corner, travelling from one side to the other (9)
13. For each one left there is danger (5)
14. Charge minimum rate for first reading-book (6)
15. Ushers are crucial to courts (7)
18. Took in student and got paid (7)
20. Water suppliers are hesitant to admit spills (6)
22. A bit of verbal saves wood used for 10, perhaps (5)
24. Until last demon is exorcized I restrict Sunday services (9)
25. Listened in to performance of Grieg, awed (9)
26. Well-worn and drunk – sound about right? (5)
27. Derides clichéd-talk on board ship (6)
28. Unbalanced? Indeed so (3-5)

Down

1. Company goes to lobby banks, in a resolute fashion (6)
2. Somewhere to eat fare – say, in vehicle, when road is up (9)
3. Controls tournament (it's in spring) (15)
4. Bumpy new road remade around the centre of Hull (7)
6. Lifts skirt to accommodate fitting (15)
7. Delightful place to walk and live (2,3)
8. Attend to minor rash (8)
9. Persuaded to broadcast high-quality material (6)
16. Fed rice? It can be guaranteed! (9)
17. Thrashes second gear to overtake (8)
19. Plod, in the shape of top detective, Barnaby (6)
20. Heard number come up and had a fit (5,2)
21. Scottish earl joins in with climb ... (6)
23. ... slow and dignified, being quite big and old (5)



Crossword solution is on page 50

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Fire Cadets Recruiting



The Hunstanton fire cadets opened their doors to the public recently for an insight in Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service and to show exactly what it means to be in a fire cadet unit.

There were great activities on offer where children and adults were

able to get involved, from running out fire hoses to extinguish a simulated fire, to throwing a rescue line to retrieve a casualty.

Watch Manager Guy Tavener said: "The fire cadets took centre stage three times with drills where they performed a rescue from height with ladders, they put out a mock fire and rescued a casualty using hoses and breathing apparatus, and then to top it off a fine display of a roof removal on a car.

"They had planned the day to recruit new cadets into their unit. Everyone who attended had said they had enjoyed themselves and were very impressed with just how much the fire cadets could do."

Currently the Hunstanton fire cadet unit is actively recruiting new fire cadets. With the summer coming up we've been told there will be plenty of new and exciting opportunities ahead. If you have in your family or friends a member 13 to 17 that would like to know more then use this QR code. Or visit Hunstanton Fire Station on a Tuesday 18:30 – 20:30 which is their weekly training session.



Hunstanton Lifeboat Station news

We were thrilled to bits by the turnout for our special evening at the Community Centre.

It was great to know we have so much support in the town we serve.

What we do would not be possible without you, it really is that simple.

Maureen Howard, Hunstanton's outgoing mayor, said many visitors to our beaches were unaware of the dangers and many owed their lives to the heroism of our crew over the years.

Visiting the boathouse a few days before the meeting, Mrs Howard said she was impressed by the commitment and dedication of our personnel, who are all volunteers.

Many do not realise just how much goes on behind the scenes to keep things ship-shape.

Our 18 sea-going crew are supported by a small army who help to run the station and make sure they're always ready to launch when someone needs them 24/7, 365 days a year.

Their work would not be possible were it not for the volunteers who staff our station shop, the work of our incredible guild or those who remember us in their wills.



All raise vital funds for the RNLI, the charity which saves lives at sea, which in turn pays the running costs of our station and the vital service it provides.

Saving lives does not come cheap. Kitting out one of our crew with everything they need

from their gloves to their flotation suit and life jacket comes to around £3,500.

The jackets, which cost £350 alone, must be replaced every six months.

"These people are risking their lives, it's cold, so they've just got to have the best kit out there," our treasurer Bob Macdonald told the meeting at the Community Centre.

We always love meeting our supporters when they come to see us at our regular Sunday morning training sessions at the boathouse.

Babs Dale, from Milton Keynes, dropped in while she was staying in town a few weeks back.

Pensioner Babs, 69, is walking a mile a day throughout May for the RNLI and originally hoped to raise £200.

After smashing that total in the first week, she's now set herself a target of £300. Go Babs..!

We'll let you know how she gets on - and we hope she doesn't get too many blisters.

Stay Safe,

Your Crew

See also page 54.



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Hunstanton Lifeboat Station's remarkable work revealed at open evening

Hunstanton Lifeboat Station's open evening attracted a capacity crowd at the town's Community Centre on 3rd May.



Credit: Chris Bishop

More people than were expected arrived necessitating a call for extra chairs – a call that Chairman of the Station Charles le Strange Meakin acted upon with gusto!

Opening the event the Mayor, Maureen Howard praised the Station for the work they do and all the lives they have saved over the years.

With 238 stations around the UK, Hunstanton is one of only four that operate a hovercraft in addition to their lifeboat. The station has a total crew of 36 and most undertake several roles. It is the busiest of the seven stations in Norfolk and covers the Wash and North Sea up to Gibraltar Point just south of Skegness.



Charles le Strange Meakin T&A

Charles le Strange Meakin said that it takes 40-50 people to run the station and Hunstanton is blessed with a strong team spirit. He then introduced the members of the team who would be making presentations about the work they do.

The areas the speakers covered included operations, fundraising, events, accounts, costs, the shop, training, water safety and education.

Shaun Edwards (seated far right in the picture above), whose full time job is managing five stations including Hunstanton for the RNLI and Rigil Kent Station LOM reported that during 2022 there were 32

launches aiding 63 people. A significant number of people had been stranded at Brancaster requiring three hovercraft and five lifeboat launches, and in one day a total of 16 inflatables were pulled in.



Derek Greening T&A

Guild Chair Derek Greening talked about fundraising and it was noted that £37,000 was the largest amount raised at one event, the Golf Day at Old Hunstanton Golf Club.



Shop presentation T&A

The Lifeboat Shop was the subject of Mandy Styles and Gill Leary's presentation that included showing the merchandise in a fashion somewhat reminiscent of the old Crackerjack programme when all the prizes had to be held at the same time and not dropped, much to the amusement of the audience. The shop is open seven days a week through the summer and is staffed by volunteers. Local businesses contribute to the income through sales of cards and the total raised in 2022 was £50,000 - £8000 up on the previous year.



Bob McDonald T&A

Running a station is an expensive business and it was Treasurer Bob McDonald's job to explain the numbers. Each crew member is supplied with a set of kit that totals £3,241. This includes their helmet that alone costs £350 – and each lifejacket has to be replaced every six months. When the lifeboat or hovercraft is launched the kit value on board is £12,964 and if both are launched together £25,928. 66% of income comes from legacies, in 2022 that figure was £226,000. The income for 2023 year to date was £63,000.

Paul Stewart told us the station has a total crew (land and water) of 36 and they are aged between 17 and 90. Most crew members have several roles and there are a number of unique crew facts that the Hunstanton has reason to be very proud of:



Standing from left Joel Wright and Andrew Craven.

Seated from left Charlie Parfitt and Leesa Espley. Credit: Chris Bishop

Leesa Espley – first female RNLI Pilot in the country

Charlie Parfitt – first female Hovercraft Commander in the country

Dave Cleland – Commander, Helm, LTA, TRIM Officer

Ryan Darby – Helm, youngest on station, following on from father and grandfather

Rigil Kent – Station LOM and Watch Manager at Hunstanton Fire Station

Lee Torrice – Lifeboat Training Assessor

Geoff Needham – Oldest on station and associated with the station since it re-opened in 1979

Ed Napolitano – Helm and multi Soap Box Derby winner

Chairman's Father – Admiral of the Wash

Water safety and education is the remit of Kate Craven (one of the April T&A issue's cover girls). Kate talked about the partnerships with Brancaster Coastwatch, her work taking the message out to students in schools and colleges, the Stormforce Kid's Club that meets on Sundays in the summer holidays and visits to the boathouse by organisations including cubs, scouts and schools. She's a busy lady but she found the time to get the audience to their feet and teach them what to do if they found themselves in trouble in the water.

*Credit: Chris Bishop*

Although I've been covering news from Hunstanton Lifeboat Station for the past eighteen years, I learned a lot from each of the officers' presentations and if and when another evening is organised, I strongly recommend you to attend.

The event concluded with questions and then a rousing performance by the excellent Nelson's Shantymen who, incidentally, told us that there is to be a Sea Shanty Festival at the Jolly Sailors, Brancaster Staite on 16-17th September.

*Credit: Chris Bishop**Credit: Chris Bishop**Credit: Chris Bishop*

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Wild in Westminster and West Norfolk

As part of my focus on improving educational outcomes in North West Norfolk, I've committed to visiting all local schools by the next election and Hunstanton Primary School was the latest.

Coastal villages and towns areas face particular economic and social challenges and what happens in schools is fundamental to giving every child the opportunity to realise their potential regardless of their background.

During my visit to Hunstanton Primary I saw first-hand the important focus the school places on ensuring a 'whole child' principle of learning is provided. This is all part of the clear commitment of teachers and staff to encouraging children to aim high to realise their potential.

Part of that is offering pupils trips and visits to experience new things - such as their visit to the

Houses of Parliament earlier this year. I talked to year 6 pupils who had visited Westminster about what they had learnt and the role of MPs. I hope my visits to schools across North West Norfolk give the pupils opportunities to think about what is important to them and their local area.

On wider experiences, I recently attended North Wootton School's year 5 Shakespeare productions at St. George's Guildhall which was full of excellent performances. Talking to the pupils, there was great excitement at having the opportunity to perform on the only stage that can credibly claim that Shakespeare himself did. Through the £25 million Lynn Town Deal project we will be able to create more educational opportunities for young people and give them the chance to expand their horizons and

experiences.

The time I spend in schools is invaluable to hear direct from the Headteacher and staff and then take that feedback to ministers. By doing so, I have been able to help influence changes to support for children, for example, with special educational needs (SEND), where the new government strategy included reforms to speech and language therapy which is one of the areas where I had pushed for changes.

And of course along with SEND and Ofsted, funding is a major issue. While the NHS continues to absorb ever higher spending, it is important that we also invest properly in the most effective policy to help younger generations - education. So I welcome the extra £2 billion going into schools this year and next. For an average primary school that will mean an extra £35,000 a year, or £200,000 for a

typical secondary school. Even with that additional funding I know schools still face challenges.

Buildings are also an important part of giving pupils the best environment to learn in. I was pleased to work successfully with Smithdon High School on its bid to be part of the Schools Rebuilding Programme.

Raising aspiration, increasing resilience, and helping every child are common themes in the schools that are succeeding locally. As I continue my visits, I'll continue listening and learning from the professionals to help ensure that our policies are giving children the best opportunity to succeed.

House of Commons
London

SW1A 0AA

james.wild.mp@parliament.uk

Tel: 020 7219 6968

www.jameswild.org.uk

James Wild MP quizzed on Parliament and pineapple at Hunstanton Primary

James was given a tour by headteacher Jo Bland alongside Head boy, Harry and Head girl, Cherry, and pupils of all year groups who had been learning about Parliament this week. They had the chance to quiz James with questions ranging from serious topics about what is involved in being an MP, discussions about the NHS, as well as lighter topics including whether pineapple should be a pizza topping.



From left: Chair of Governors Jenny Butler, Head boy Harry (11), Head Teacher Jo Bland, Head Girl Cherry (11) and James Wild MP

James was presented with a book produced by Seals class with letters on topics from the environment, QEH, cost of living, littering, and animal extinction as well as drawings of the Houses of Parliament.

He also saw the music room, IT suite, art room, and library.

James then met the School Council and he asked about their roles within school life including events they help to organise including for Children in Need. He spoke about his role as MP for North West Norfolk. Finally, he also enjoyed seeing the excellent outdoor facilities, which have been tailored to the different year groups educational learning, such as interactive play and gardening areas and outdoor



climbing equipment for the older years.

Commenting after the visit James said: "It was encouraging to see first-hand the important focus Hunstanton Primary school places on ensuring a 'whole child' principle of learning is provided. This is all part of the clear commitment of teachers and staff to encouraging children to aim high to realise their potential.

From the work on display, the book of pictures and letters they gave me, and questions, I was very impressed by the pupils' understanding of Parliament and will look closely at the ideas to make our area even better."

Speaking about the visit, Ms Bland, Headteacher said: "Following a week of learning about Parliament in classes, the pupils were thrilled to finally meet James Wild MP, in person. They listened intently as Mr Wild answered their numerous questions ranging from his parliamentary role to favourite hobbies. The children have been truly inspired by the visit."



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A recipe from the Prudent Pensioner

Oatcakes were mentioned in a programme I was watching recently, I used to really like them, there are different types, some are like a pancake but I liked the crispy ones. I decided to have a go at making some and found a recipe on line. I then decided to experiment and using oats, I made some Oaty Cheese biscuits which have been very well received. This is how I made them:

Oaty Cheese Biscuits

40g Butter
40g Cooking fat (I used lard)
165g Porridge oats
60g Full Flavour cheese grated
A pinch of salt
¼ Teaspoon Mustard powder
Cold water (I put a cup of cold water in the fridge beforehand)
Flour for rolling out.

Turn on oven at 200c

Put oats in a food processor and whizz for a few seconds until they resemble course flour, then place them in a mixing bowl. Add salt and mustard powder and mix well.

Cut butter and fat into small pieces, add to bowl and using fingers or hand blender rub/mix together until like breadcrumbs. Add grated cheese and mix well

Using a palette knife or similar, gradually add approximately 2 tablespoons of cold water, working in well until it forms a firm dough.

Transfer dough to a floured board, knead a little then roll out to a thickness of approximately 7mm and cut into preferred shape. (I cut into strips approximately 8cm x 2cm)

Place biscuits on a baking tray and bake in a pre-heated oven at 200c for approximately 20 mins, or until fairly crisp.

My updated book "Less Waste more Soup" 45 easy, budget friendly recipes for nourishing soup is available from Ridouts Bakery in Heacham, Docking Farmers Market, By The Book in Hunstanton and Hunstanton indoor market and Robert & Christine home shopping. Copies are available to borrow from Heacham Library & Hinckley Library

See lots more recipes on The Prudent Pensioner Facebook page

Email: pr_u.pensioner@btinternet.com

A helping hand for Little Lights



The new trustees of Little Lights mother and toddler group received a cheque for £250 from Richard Bird of Donate.

Little Lights is a friendly group that meets in the Hunstanton Town Hall basement on Thursdays between 9.30 and 11.30. There are games, toys and other entertainments and the organisation is fully licensed with all the appropriate officers. Healthy snacks are provided and prepared on site.

On 27th April a cheque was presented by Donate to the group who will use the funds for running costs.

You can find the details of Donate on page 52.

A photo from 1956

Slim Wilkinson



Seeing the photo that accompanied Ben Colson's article in the April edition of T&A reminded me of the shots I took of Hunstanton in September 1956. The clip above shows the town centre and a close up of it I made of it shows there were no yellow parking lines at the side of the roads, and in the foreground (right) shows cars parked in front of the Town Hall.

The one I took of the railway station shows the sidings filled with what looks like holiday rail carriages.

I took my photo from an Auster aeroplane belonging to a Mr Ringer, a farmer in Docking. I had just finished doing some electrical work for him and he saw me taking a photo of some seagulls fighting over some food, and as I had finished work he asked me if I would like to take a trip in his aeroplane and take some photos from the air on the way back from flying over to his mother's farm at Rudham. I accepted the offer and we flew over Sandringham House, Castle Rising and Hunstanton. Mr Ringer adjusted the height of the plane so I was able to get some good photographs at each location.

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



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Summer of Art

Esther Boehm

I am so excited that my concept for the Wighton 23 exhibition has been selected!

Many of you are probably familiar with the Cley summer exhibition held in July. The main venue was St. Margaret's Church. Over the years artwork was exhibited throughout the town and on the beach. In 2021, the final year at Cley, my installation piece 'Ether' was exhibited.

Run by the North Norfolk Exhibition Project (<https://nnepcontemporaryart.com>) and originally located in Salthouse, the exhibition will take place at Wighton for the first time this year. It runs from Thursday 6 July – Sunday 6 August. The venue is All Saints Church and includes the churchyard and conservation area. Forty artists will be responding to the theme 'Cycle' in an exhibition curated by Rachel Allen of Mandell's Gallery in Norwich.

The conservation area is reached through a gate off the churchyard. It's like a magical entrance to an intimate space. Present are several historic gravestones and crosses. One bears the name Raymond Spencer Moore, father of Henry Moore. It's funny to have landed in a place so close to where Henry Moore spent his holidays while studying at the Royal College of Art. What a surprise to find that it was here that Henry Moore found the flint that so inspired him. It is here that my work will be.

The title of my piece is Beginning – Ending – Beginning. I will be making a sequence of pillar-like shapes growing out of the ground in which I will embed organic materials found on site. This will be a development of the work I did at the Symposium in Germany last September. It will be an exploration of how time will effect the natural materials and how long it will take for them to break down and disappear allowing new surfaces to emerge. What will happen to the cement?

On the one hand the work will be a living piece in that it will change over the month at Wighton. At the same time it's a decaying and dying piece. A paradox.

So, if you are curious about how my work is progressing or questioning whether I will be able to get everything done on time, don't hesitate to drop in and 'check up' on me during my open hours (Saturdays and Sundays from 10-1). If you are passing and see me working, tap on the door and I will open for a chat.

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Testing the armature at the conservation area of
All Saints Church, Wighton

School football 1963



Back row from left: Mr Rymer (PE Teacher), D Baker, M Drewery, R Ludham, D Meek, C Minns, C Garwood, R Woolsey.

Front row from left: R Leverett, P French, D Ward, M Middleton, D Pooley. Two members of the team, M Drewery and C Garwood went on to play professional football.

Thanks to Mr R Leverett for this photograph.

In 1963 the Hunstanton Secondary Senior Football team won the Lynn Schools' Football shield. A report in the Lynn News reported:

Hunstanton Secondary Modern School, losing finalists last season, won the Lynn Schools' Football Shield for the first time when they defeated Gaywood Park School 3-2 in an exciting final on the Grammar School field.

D Baker and R Leverett gave Hunstanton a 2-0 interval lead and by playing some good football in the second half looked likely to win by the score.

But a team switch in the last quarter of an hour brought immediate success for Gaywood Park. J Caton, who moved from full back into the attack, scored with a low drive.

Hunstanton hit back with a breakaway goal by M Middleton but the Lynn School promptly replied with a well taken goal by T Howard.

New Hunstanton Mayor and deputy

At the Full Council meeting on Wednesday 17th May Cllr Michael Ruston was elected the Mayor and Cllr Adrian Eden was voted Deputy Mayor for 2023/24.

At the time of going to print new photographs of the Mayor and Deputy wearing their chains of office were not available, so here are images of the two gentlemen from the Town and Around's files.

Cllr Ruston photographed at an art exhibition at Smithdon School and Cllr Eden at By the Book in Hunstanton High Street.



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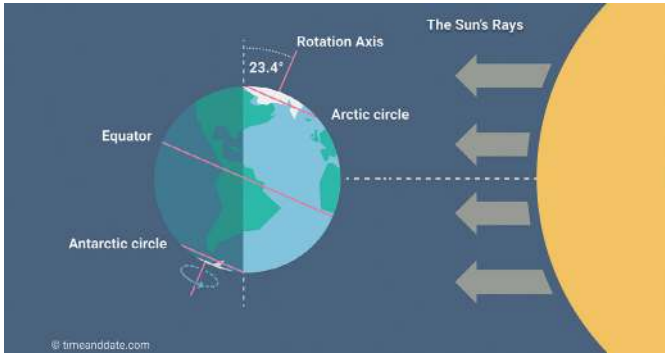
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The Dark Skies of West Norfolk

Terry Parish

Apologies, a short article this month as I have been and, possibly, still am, very busy. It is fortunate that June is a month of light nights and viewing of the sky can be problematic even if the weather allows.

The 21st June is the Summer Solstice when the Sun is highest in the sky at noon and it is the longest day at over 16 hours. The moment the solstice happens is 3.57pm so stand still and enjoy it. After that, night time begins to lengthen until December 21st, goody.



We bask in sunlight. Internet

The planets: Venus is well placed and bright again. Those of you who watched the Coronation concert will have seen Venus in the background, well above the stage. Commentators didn't seem to notice.

The Goddess of Love / Evening Star / planet will actually get brighter over the month, from magnitude -4.4 to magnitude -4.7 (new readers: the lower the number the brighter). On the 4th June, Venus is at its greatest elongation, furthest distance from the Sun as seen from Earth.

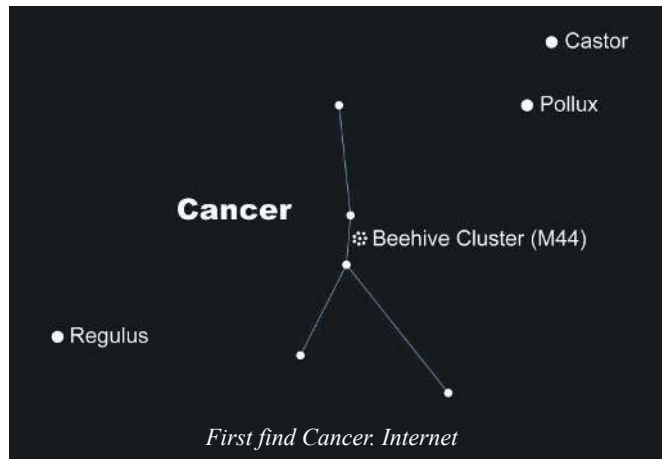
On the 13th, Venus is close to a star cluster named Praesepe or The Beehive. Binoculars will bring the stars into view. On the 21st, a Crescent Moon is to the right and a much fainter Mars, magnitude +1.6 is to the left. Look for a reddish dot.

Please read my articles in the last two issues of Town and Around for details about Venus. They are available on line.

Mars is around all month, setting after midnight. On the 2nd, it is in the middle of the Praesepe star cluster of 1000 stars. This 'Beehive' is in the middle of Cancer. A 'phone app will help you find it; Venus helps on the 13th (see above). There is another reddish object in the sky, the red giant star Antares. The Full Moon is just above it in the on the third.

Early morning people will find Saturn rising in the NE after 1am but you will have to wait a couple of hours for it to clear any buildings and trees.

After 3.30 am, Jupiter shines brightly at magnitude -2.2. Again, it will likely be close to dawn before it clears obstructions.



Lots about the Sun in the news in recent weeks and months. It is heading towards a solar maximum in 2025 though it might get there next year. This is when there is most agitation, sunspots and solar flares, mass ejections of lumps of stuff, the northern lights and potential problems with communications and power supplies. Interesting stuff to write about.



Sunspots over Heacham. Parish

I will get around to some solar observing this month which guarantees clouds.

Admire Venus and look for Mars at least. If late evenings are warm and clear, see what else you can spot.

That's all folks. I hope normal service can be resumed for next month.

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Not enough councillors but plenty of evidence...

John Maiden

A lack of sufficient candidates willing to serve on Hunstanton Town Council has deprived us of the opportunity to elect - or not to elect - any of the councillors who will be claiming to represent us over the next 4 years. Even when it was up to full strength in days gone by, those of us who were elected to the town council knew only too well just how little power town councillors have when it comes to determining the future of Hunstanton.

Since local government reorganisation in 1974, all major decisions affecting Hunstanton have been taken either by Central Government; Norfolk County Council; or West Norfolk Council (WNC). To make matters worse, in 1981 our town was even further down graded when WNC decided to change its name to the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk (BCKLWN). If anyone doubts the significance of making King's Lynn into a 'rotten' borough, they should make a comparison between council spending on enhancing Lynn and the pathetic amount spent in Hunstanton. In fact, most of the money spent in our town comes from selling off land that should have been earmarked for a greener form of transport; parking; and a new leisure centre!

For the first time since 2003 this year's election did not result in an overall Conservative majority. At the time of writing it is yet to be decided if BCKLWN will be governed by a coalition and if so, which parties this will include.

I was particularly impressed by the manifestoes delivered by Hunstanton's two Independent candidates, but since only one of them was elected, I will focus on his manifesto. From nine commitments in Paul Beal's manifesto, there is one that really stands out: "No more building on council car parks, as parking in West Norfolk is essential." Elsewhere in the document Paul appears to be making reference to the controversial decision by BCKLWN to allow apartments to be erected on a considerable section of the Southend Road Car Park. He could be making a reference to this apparent fiasco when he states: "There have been some unfortunate occurrences involving our town which is now in police hands and will no doubt be made public soon."

If planning regulations were ignored in order for work on the apartments to proceed, then it might well result in renewed calls for an enquiry into other contentious decisions of a similar nature. It remains to be seen if the incoming administration will be prepared to expose mistakes made by previous regimes since the turn of the century.

Stuart Dark, leader of the outgoing Conservative administration was provided with evidence of serious mistakes made by the last Labour council in the months leading up to its defeat in the 2003 election. The bundle of documents handed to him earlier this year also contained evidence of a 'cover-up' perpetrated for several years in the aftermath of the 2003 election. Among these documents is evidence of the council's perverse decision in 2009 to release the Hunstanton Pier Company from its statutory obligation to provide a proper pier at Hunstanton.

The fact that I was joined to this High Court action as an "interested party" on behalf of the Civic Society, often leads people to conclude that I am desperate to see a pier added to the current non-pier. However, in common with many people who saw The Green in 2003 - looking magnificent without a building of any description on the site designated for a pier and nothing else whatsoever - I would happily settle for the whole of The Green to be maintained as the area of open space envisaged by Henry le Strange, the founder of our town.



Image: Tony Cassie



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Hunstanton Croquet Club

Caroline Harper

I decided to experiment by asking the AI chat app on my phone to write this month's text. With a few minor adjustments (eg the robot referred to a croquet 'court' so I changed it to 'lawn') This is what it produced! I think I shall be made redundant!

Croquet is a delightful outdoor game that has been enjoyed by people of all ages for centuries. It is not only a game of strategy and precision, but also a great way to spend some quality time with friends and family.

One of the joys of playing croquet is the physical activity it offers. The game requires players to move around the lawn, setting up their shots and striking the ball through the hoops. This can be a great way to get some exercise and enjoy the beautiful natural surroundings.

Another joy of croquet is the social time it provides. Players can engage in friendly competition, while also chatting and laughing with their companions. The game is not overly competitive, which allows for a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere.

Croquet also challenges players to think logically and strategically. It is not just about hitting the ball through the hoops, but also about positioning the balls in a way that will make it difficult for opponents to score. This requires careful planning and execution, which can be satisfying and fun.

Finally, croquet is a great way to enjoy the outdoors and embrace nature. The game is usually played on a grass lawn, providing a soothing and peaceful ambiance. Whether you are playing in a park, backyard or country club, the fresh air and sunshine make for a refreshing and invigorating experience.

In conclusion, playing croquet is a wonderful activity that offers numerous joys. It provides physical activity, social interaction, mental stimulation, and an opportunity to appreciate the natural world. So, grab your mallet and let the croquet balls fly – you're in for a treat!

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Pics are of some of our super U3A students (Mary, Linda, Jean, Rachel and Sue) who completed their Introduction to Golf Croquet course and of Ian Lines being presented with the Lord Fermoy Cup by Janet Kendal at the Robert Prichard tournament.



Armchair Sports Trivia

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QUESTION: Who are the only team to have won the FA Cup final and be relegated in the same season?

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John Hoffman was the lucky winner of last month's trivia question. Congratulations John.



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Jonny Fenn completes epic trek across Nepal

Tim Keogh

Jonny Fenn met up with me in December to discuss his forthcoming attempt to walk the length of Nepal (Town & Around January).



Well, after 114 days and over 1,500 miles, aided by his two Nepalese porters, Mini and Rakcha, he managed it! Faced with tough weather conditions and varying terrain, they also narrowly avoided an earthquake.

Johnny, an Ambassador for the Gurkha Welfare Trust and Gurkha veteran, used the trek to raise money for the GWT and Hello World.

A decidedly slimmer Johnny said, "this trek is as much Mini and Rakcha's achievement as it is mine. I am now looking forward to a cold beer".



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Sporting corner with Tim Keogh

Being capped for Scotland

Ian Smith is an ex Scottish international rugby union player who lives in Snettisham. Ian has been providing Town & Around's Tim Keogh insights into his life as a rugby player and well-travelled dentistry career. This month Ian talks about his debut selection for Scotland.

I have often been asked what it was like to be picked for your country, and it is a question that is actually quite hard for me to answer. The one thing I can tell you straight away is that it was a lot different back in 1969 compared to today.

To answer properly I need to go back to being a boy at school and what it was like to get picked for the 1st XV for the first time. It was, if I remember, January 1961, so I was sixteen years old. After 3 boys had left school somewhat suddenly, I had my chance in the 2nd XV at the practice matches, and had played well. The 1st XV selection was on a board at the entrance to the school quadrangle, and the day the team was selected it was to be seen there. My first three casual walks past were unsuccessful, but on the fourth time, trying to appear as nonchalant as possible, I saw the small white sheet, and nearly ran towards it, and there was my name on the list. I have never forgotten that moment and indeed the hairs still stand up on the back of my neck when I think about it.

Getting chosen to play for Scotland was completely different. I had been full back in a very successful Edinburgh University side between 1965 and 1968, but had then joined the Army as a dentist and been posted to Germany. I was posted home to play rugby but only for the Army. My club, London Scottish, only considered I was good enough to play for their 3rd XV and, to be considered for Scotland, you needed to be in the first team.

Surprisingly I was chosen to represent

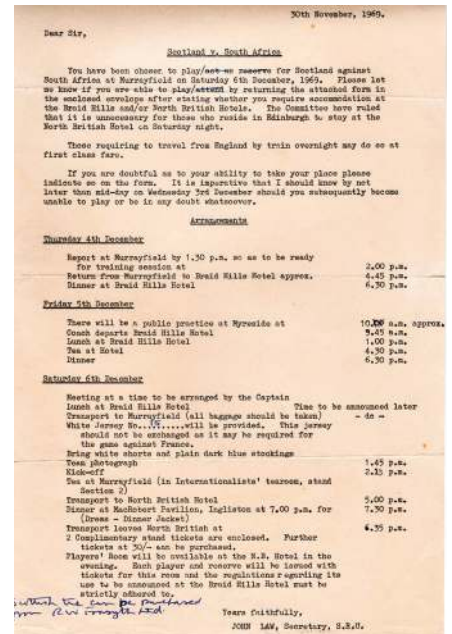
Combined Services against what was to be the Scotland XV to face the Springboks, in what was a warm up fixture for them. I was just happy to be going to Edinburgh to see my parents and never thought for one moment that there was any chance of being chosen for Scotland.

It was a bit disconcerting to read on the morning of the game that I might be the prodigal son if I played well, with the chance of selection as the two best full backs in Scotland were unfit. I had my photograph taken before the match, details written down for an international program, and prospective enjoyment and excitement turned into acute nervous tension.

As things turned out we lost 26-12, but I scored all 12 points, and four days later my phone rang at home, and it turned out to be the very well known Daily Mail rugby correspondent Terry O'Connor, telling me I had been chosen for Scotland but who was I, because I was completely unheard of in England!

The standard letter which as you can see, I have kept, then arrived from the Scottish Rugby Union, telling me that I would need to supply my own white shorts, boots, and dark blue stockings. In addition, I would not be put up in the team hotel on the night after the match because my parents lived in Edinburgh and so I would have to go home to them! I was also told not to exchange my shirt and, if I did, I would have to pay for it!

I was told to report to Murrayfield on the Thursday at 3pm. In the days of amateur rugby that was the earliest the team could meet. No squad sessions, no coach, no substitutes who might get on for ten minutes. So, not only was there no coach, but I had also never even met two of the side! In fact, I'd played with one a



lot at University, another four a couple of times, and the remaining eight I had only played against.

By some miracle this scratch side went on to beat the mighty Springboks who were on tour and training every day!

There was no presentation of my 'cap', which arrived later by post, and I had to go to a major Edinburgh shop - RW Forsyth - to buy my Scotland tie. That was rather fun, because I had tried to buy one when I was sixteen, and the rather haughty man behind the counter informed me it was necessary to play for Scotland to get one, and that was highly unlikely to ever happen to me. He was behind the counter on this occasion, and when I asked if he remembered me he had the grace to blush!

West Norfolk Snooker League



Gayton Social Club won the bragging rights in West Norfolk's prestigious snooker league and the IPA Cup, pipping Conservative Club 'A', who were runners up in both competitions. The league could not have been tighter as Gayton sealed the league title on the final evening of fixtures by a solitary frame. John Pesci won the Cawdron Cup Singles title, a fitting winner given he won 15 of his 18 frames this season, as well as achieving the highest break of 95. Conservative Club 'A' made amends in the Johnson Pairs Final, where Tim and Chris Drew overcame fellow team mates Ricard

Asker and Andrew Johnson. The United Services Old Town team were victors in the Eddie Pandal and Witley Cup Competitions.

The committee would like to give a special thanks and recognition to Sportique Sport in Hunstanton who sponsor the league.

Anyone wishing to join a team for the 2023/24 season, which starts in September, can email league organiser Geoff Hitchcock at Geoff.hitch54449@btinternet.com.

Photo left : The victorious Gayton Social Club team of L to R in the photo :- Geoff Hitchcock, Alan Docking, Eric Grange, Simon Todd, Mark Higby and Steve Haylett.

Photo right John Pesci



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Sporting corner with Tim Keogh

Ladies and junior softball and Cricket season launches

Snettisham Cricket Club are inviting all budding cricketers, young or old, new or experienced to one of the most picturesque grounds in the area.

The club can offer hard or softball versions, represented across all age groups (mixed for Juniors) through to senior teams, participating in their relevant Norfolk Cricket Club/Norfolk Cricket Alliance leagues. 'All Stars' is an ECB initiative and is aimed at Juniors aged between 4-8 years who have never played cricket. This is a fantastic first experience for juniors to learn the basics of cricket and a lot of other skills, including making new friends in a fun and safe environment.

All Juniors train on a Wednesday evenings (6.15 - 7.30pm) where they will be trained by Level 1 and Level 2 accredited male and female coaches, on hand to provide guidance whilst enhancing skills to put the youngsters through their paces. All equipment is provided. With over 50+ children already turning up to practice, it is a great opportunity and environment to introduce and nurture their cricket and softball skills.

Snettisham have the following teams to accommodate all levels:

Under 9's & 11's Softball (mixed)

Under 11's & Under 13's Hardball League (mixed)

Ladies Senior Softball and Hardball

Over 40's Veterans

Men's Senior Saturday sides (1st and 2nd XI's)

Friendly Sunday Side XI

The Men's training takes place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6pm and the Ladies train on Sunday mornings from 10am and Tuesday evenings from 6pm.

Michelle Knott, who oversees the training, said, "We are a friendly and welcoming group of players of all ages and abilities who share a love of the game. Whether you're a seasoned pro or a complete beginner, we have a place for you at our Club. With regular practice and matches, you'll have the opportunity to improve your skills and play competitive cricket in a relaxed and enjoyable environment. Don't miss out on the chance to be part of our community. Just come down, grab a bat and join us on the field".

Snettisham Ladies host Dereham Ladies in the first round of the Norfolk County Cricket Hundred Competition on Sunday, 21st May.

For more information about joining the club, you can contact Michelle on 07837778119 or email her at michelleknott1973@gmail.com.

Match Report - Thornham CC 1st XI v Snettisham 2nd XI

Thornham CC hosted local rivals, Snettisham CC, on Saturday, 13th May at their scenic Cromer Road ground.



Thornham Cricket Team

Back row l/r: Duncan Rix, Kevin Williamson, Bradley Williams, Tom Chudley, Ben Harris, Adam Rose

Front row l/r: Steve Bishop, Jacob Hewson, Finlay Hewson, Jim Clarke, Andy Arnold

With both teams on a win and loss thus far this season, this match was an opportunity for each side to propel themselves up the Norfolk Cricket League Division One (West).

Snettisham won the toss and chose to field on an overcast afternoon. Steady batting from opener, Steve Bishop (45), helped build a useful lead, aided by Ben Harris (73). But it was the arrival at the crease of big hitter, Kev Williamson (51), that set this match alight, albeit aided by several missed catches by the visitors. His fifty in just forty balls took their tally over 200, as Thornham posted a respectable score of 218 for their opponents to chase down. Josh Herbert, Danny Suckling, Jack Johnson and Harry Knott all grabbed a wicket apiece.

Snettisham made an awful start in their run chase, as openers Callum Fisher and Johnson were dispatched back to the pavilion for just 11

runs. Matthew Herbert (21) and Suckling (17) managed to steady the ship, but excellent bowling from Thornham stifled any real attempt by the away side to make a match of it. Snettisham were all out for 86. Pick off the bowling figures were Adam Rose, Thomas Chudley and Duncan Rix with three wickets each. Jim Clarke bagged the other wicket. A superb catch by Bishop capped off a fine day for the home side. Thornham are now second in the table, whilst Snettisham already find themselves in a relegation battle.



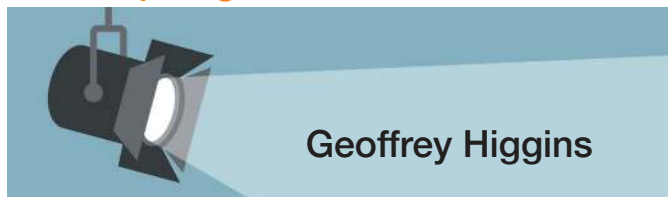
Snettisham Cricket Team

Back row l/r: Mark Morrison (umpire/injured), Jack Johnson, Jake Lammas, Josh Herbert, Harry Knott, Harry Daniels, Zac Fountain

Front row l/r: Callum Fisher, Will Rhodes, Matt Herbert, Danny Suckling, Thomas Harrison

Elsewhere on the local cricket scene, the most senior side locally, Bircham, sit mid table in the Norfolk Cricket Alliance Division Two. Sandringham are faring similarly in Division Three. Snettisham 1st XI are second in Division Five. Castle Rising have had a mixed start to the season, their 1st XI bottom of Thornham's division, whilst the 2nd XI sit proudly at the top of their respective division.

In the Spotlight



Geoffrey Higgins

Geoffrey Higgins is a resident at Millbridge Care Home in Heacham. As an Honorary member and ex captain of King's Lynn Golf Club, Geoffrey was president of the Norfolk County Golf Union. He is this month's In The Spotlight personality and gives some insight into his life.

Name: Geoffrey John Higgins

Age: 92

Star Sign: Capricorn

Where Born: Hounslow, Middlesex

Occupation: Retired now but was a General Manager of Standard Chartered Bank and a British Consul.

Family: Wife Mary and sons Dermot and Kevin, daughter Moyra.

Cats or dogs: Dogs. I had a loyal springer spaniel, Lechna, who travelled with me everywhere, even abroad. She, quite rightly, sulked every time after quarantine.

Sports Team Support: Arsenal

Biggest sporting achievement: Probably my early cricketing exploits, latterly golf and getting my handicap down to 4.

Funniest memory: walking into an interview by mistake and getting the job ! This took me to West Africa, where I ended up driving into the middle of an inter tribe conflict and being chased by a man with a spear.

Hero: John F Kennedy and Winston Churchill

Previous/other sports: Tennis

Favourite meal/cuisine: Curry

Favourite drink : White Wine

Favourite holiday destination: Portugal and Italy

Three items for a desert island: My wife, a crate of good white wine and a West Indian Chef. (If I could have a fourth item, it would be the staff at Millbridge Care Home)

Favourite band: The Beatles and Elvis Presley

Worst Habit: Not being able to take things seriously

Pet hate: Arrogance

Biggest achievement in life: Finding Norfolk by mistake. I got lost and ended up in Gayton. I asked some fellow for some directions, turned out he was selling his house and I ended up buying it !

Best advice received: being told at Worcestershire cricket club to concentrate on my banking career, which sounds like an inference I wasn't very good at cricket but was meant in the right manner. They were probably right.

What would you change in the world: More tolerance

Like to live forever: I would like to reach 100, receive a letter from the King, and then quietly bow out.



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Heacham FC are champions of the Thurlow Nunn Division One

Tim Keogh

A bumper crowd of over 300 people turned out to cheer on The Magpies as they attempted an historic promotion to the Eastern Counties Premier Division.



Heacham knew a win would secure the title, whilst a draw or loss meant a reliance on results elsewhere. As it turned out, a convincing 9-1 victory was enough to calm all nerves. A first half hat-trick by Man of the Match, Fletcher Toll, meant the match was all but over as a competitive spectacle by half time. Second half goals by Luke Gray (3) and Charlie Royal (2) plus a fourth from top goalscorer Toll, turned this display into an exhibition match. A depleted Haverhill team, with a browbeaten team manager in goal, did manage a late consolation goal.

It seemed a distant memory since an opening day home defeat to

Framlingham Town in September who, as it turned out, proved to be Heacham's main foes throughout the early part of the season. Framlingham wilted, but along came Downham FC who posed a real threat towards the tail end of the season. Heacham held their nerve.

The coolness and shrewdness of manager Dave Griggs, along with coaches Sean McQuaid, Jordan Courtney Jenner and the returning Ross McNeil, should not go unrecognised, nor the support of the back room staff and the loyalty of the fans. However, it was all about the players delivering on the pitch. And deliver they did this season. Consistent, reliable, ruthless. Able to field a constant team reaps dividends through familiarity and confidence in each other's play, key requisites in Heacham's success this season.

Hopefully, the progress of Ingoldisthorpe FC and Dersingham Rovers FC will offer launching pads for local talent to this level whilst the success of Heacham Minors bodes well for the future of local football.

Chairman, Dave Page, was ecstatic, "if you had told me 8 years ago we would be in the Eastern Counties Premier Division I would have laughed. I simply cannot believe it and thank everyone involved with the club who have made this monumental achievement possible. We are checking to see if eight consecutive promotions is a Guinness book record!"

Next season will prove a different challenge altogether, competing in one of the toughest divisions at this level across the country. Whilst they can look forward to local derbies against Sheringham and Fakenham, as well as mouth-watering visits from the likes of Ely City, Newmarket Town and Lakenheath, this promotion will involve considerably more mileage on their travels. For the moment, however, Heacham FC can continue to enjoy their incredible journey.

A report of this match with lots of images by Ian Burt can be seen at:

<https://townandaround.net/news/heacham-fc-are-champions-of-the-thurlow-nunn-division-one>

Success for Heacham Minors

In their first year Heacham Under 13 Girls have won the Mid Norfolk Youth League topping the table with 28 points, winning nine from the twelve games played, drawing one and losing two.

Director of Football Rick Gower said: "All at Heacham Minors are so proud of all our under 13 girls, the majority of whom are under 12's which means they've been playing up a year.

"It's been an impressive season to say the least."



Heacham Under 15's and Under 12's teams put in lots of hard work and dedication to each come runners up in their leagues.



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Glebe House School update

As you discovered in our last update, March was an extremely busy month for everyone at Glebe House School, and as such they were rewarded with the majority of April off for their Easter holiday. Our update is therefore a little shorter this month, but we are still excited to share with you what we got up to during our first week of Summer Term!

You Are A Star Celebrations



As we delightedly shared with you last month, our Nursery was rated as Outstanding in the recent ISI Report. With this being its second consecutive such accomplishment, we

wanted to mark it properly. The first week of term was an outstanding start for Nursery and Reception in every respect as they enjoyed their 'You are a Star' celebrations. There were star balloons, celebration cakes with star candles, a host of star-based crafts and activities, as well as You are a Star scented stickers for all children when they went home!

Prep School Trips



It was a busy week for Division VI on their return from Easter. They had a great trip to the Castle Museum, Norwich. They learnt about the Norwich School of Painters and the challenges of being an artist in the 19th Century. They had a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the shipwreck 'The Gloucester' off the coast of Yarmouth. They also created some beautiful sketches of the stuffed animals for use in future Art lessons. That same week, Division VI enjoyed a trip



to Gressenhall to take part in a Victorian Activity Day. They experienced life in the school room, workhouse and on the farm. At Glebe we embrace these opportunities for taking the learning outside of the classroom.

Character Education

A new term means a new educational characteristic at Glebe. The Autumn term saw us focusing on Resilience, last term was Respect and in our welcome back assembly Mr Taylor, Headmaster, introduced Authenticity as our new whole school focus. At Glebe we thrive on helping children develop their own unique and endearing personalities and strive to give them the skills to deal with pressure to act otherwise – in essence the very definition of Authenticity.

After-school Clubs

An exciting offering of new after-school clubs started after the Easter break. Children in Pre-Prep got to choose from activities such as yoga, tennis, ballet, choir, football, Disney club and Mini Strictly. For our older Prep children their choices included chess, netball, drama, athletics, music and sailing. Our after-school clubs are a very popular part of our offering at Glebe and are a great opportunity for the children to try their hand at a variety of activities as they discover and develop their core interests.

Family Fun Morning



To start the May Bank Holiday weekend, we hosted our first community early years event since pre-Covid. It was wonderful to be able to open our doors and invite people in again! The sun shone and over 200 people came through our doors and enjoyed the range of free activities on offer. There were award-winning Hartbeeps sensory music classes,

opportunities to get up close to minibeasts, reptiles and invertebrates with the Mini Monsters Creepy Crawly Roadshow, tables full of fun, hands-on early maths activities with the Numberblocks as well as coding, creative play and an opportunity to enjoy our large outdoor play area. Thank you to all who came and made the morning such a success!



Mini GEAR

To wrap up April, a number of very keen children from across Pre-Prep and Prep took part in the Mini GEAR race in King's Lynn. We were excited to see how well they all did by competing, some for their first time whilst for others its becoming an annual event! The children were proud to bring in their medals and share with their classes the following week.



Come and see us!

We hope you have enjoyed catching up with our latest news! If you would like to find out more about life at Glebe House School & Nursery, please don't hesitate to contact us. Why not enquire about one of our taster mornings and a personal tour? We would love to hear from you!

Did you know we offer wraparound care from 8am to 6pm? And that we offer means-tested bursaries? We are now registering for Reception 2023 with limited spaces remaining, so please do contact Tamzine Fraulo on 01485 532809 or email tjf@glebehouseschool.co.uk to register your interest!

Brancaster School news



Usually the children write this piece but this month I wanted to say a HUGE thank you to everyone who made donations to the school following our request on Nextdoor. We received sufficient to send all Thrift Class to Holkham and the resulting trip fund should see us through the all the other trips in the pipeline.



At the end of June the school are honoured to have been invited to sing at the Norfolk Show so we are busy planning that, and, as part of our topic "Sun, Sea and Sand", we hope to



arrange a trip connected with that. The children have done a thank you to everyone and this thank you plus trip photos are on our blog: <https://www.stmaryfed.org.uk/class-page-thrift> Not only does the money make a huge difference to what we can offer our children, but it is also lovely to know how you, the community, want to support us.

Our next venture is our raffle, tombola and cake stall at the Jolly Sailors Ale and Beer Festival on Sat 17th June. This is traditionally the PFA's biggest fundraiser of the year, so put the date in your diary and we hope to see you there. If you haven't been before, the local businesses are always really generous and the raffle prizes are usually well worth winning!

We are also looking forward to a picnic up at School Farm, courtesy of the Smith Trust. This has become an annual event and much appreciated by all. Not only do we get a picnic but we have lots of exciting educational (and fun!) activities planned.

Thrift Class have been gardening all term – again, photos and a thank you letter are on the blog. Thank you to everyone who has



supported this project, which will, of course, be ongoing throughout the term.

We enjoyed our coronation celebrations in school, and it was fantastic to see so many families able to come and share these with us - thank you. A big well done to the children for their fabulous singing of the special coronation song, and to the PFA for supplying a wonderful spread of treats for us all to enjoy. We hope everyone enjoyed celebrating this very special occasion as much as we did.

Hunstanton and District Inner Wheel

Sue Trewin, Club Correspondent

It is impossible to disregard the Coronation even though this article is meant to focus on Inner Wheel. I cannot do justice to what we have seen and heard but suffice to say it has been a thrilling experience. As I sat here looking at a blank screen today, I remembered my grandmother's brooch. Eventually I found it at the bottom of a box and thought you might like to see it.



On to Inner Wheel. We have just celebrated our 46th birthday and our President organised a celebratory tea-party at Briarfields for our Charter event. The candles of fellowship were lit. This would be an opportunity for me to remind people what Inner wheel is all about. Inner Wheel is an international organisation to create friendship, service and understanding. It has clubs in over 100 countries with over 100.000 members and

was founded in Manchester in 1924 by Margaret Golding, a nurse, business woman and the wife of a Manchester Rotarian, to unite wives and daughters of Rotarians. The Inner Wheel emblem is a small wheel contained within the Rotary Wheel and hence the name Inner Wheel and is universally seen as a symbol of Progress.

If you would like further information about Inner Wheel please make contact on hunstantoniw56@gmail.com



Hunstanton Primary School

Welcome to the June edition of Hunstanton Primary School's newsletter. As we move into the Summer Term, our school has been brimming with vibrancy and excitement, despite the somewhat unpredictable weather. Our dedicated students have been working diligently, including those who recently undertook their Year 6 and Year 2 SATs tests. To congratulate our Year 6 students, we treated them to a SATs breakfast each morning, consisting of bacon or sausage rolls, fresh fruit, and squash. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Teachers and Teaching Assistants who tirelessly helped out and moderated throughout this period.

Last April, a group of our pupils, staff, governors, family, and friends participated in the mini G.E.A.R. race in Kings Lynn, and it was a fantastic morning enjoyed by all. Well done to everyone who took part in the race! Reception and Year 4 students also had an unforgettable experience at the Amazona Zoo near Cromer, where they were introduced to over 200 birds and animals from tropical South America. It truly was a Brazilian time!

We were privileged to have James Wild MP visit our school and spend the morning with us. Our Head Boy and Girl, Harry and Cherry, provided him with a tour of the school, and James visited each classroom, allowing the children to ask questions and engage in discussions. He also met with our School Council, where he listened to our children's important and relevant topics. Thank you, James, for taking the time to visit us.

This term, our PTA has been instrumental in spearheading various school projects. In May, they rallied together with family and friends to volunteer and commence the revamp of our Secret Garden area. The progress made in a single morning was impressive, from clearing a large area of dead shrubs to pruning back bushes. This enables our children to use the garden space to plant their flowers and vegetables, watch them grow and learn more about nature. The PTA also organized for the school to take delivery of ten chick eggs. Within 24 hours, seven of the eggs had hatched, and we eagerly awaited the arrival of the remaining three. Throughout the day, they all hatched, and we had ten adorable and feathery friends that we looked after and nurtured for two weeks before they were rehomed. The children enjoyed this educational experience and visited the chicks every day.

On May 5th, we celebrated Coronation Day, with the entire school dressing up in red, white, and blue, or anything royal. After the celebration assembly, the children had a royal parade around the hall, and the winners of the homemade crown competition from each year group were announced. Each class decorated biscuits, and a coronation picnic was provided. Thank you to the ladies in the kitchen for providing such a lovely lunch. The highlight of the day was our version of Hunstanton Primary School Has Got Talent, where the children participated and performed in front of the whole school – not an easy task. Also thank you to the teachers who performed (they didn't get out of it) and those that helped. To round off the day, the PTA gifted every child with a special commemorative leather bookmark and coin in celebration of the coronation of King Charles III.

We are delighted to inform you that we have a Facebook page where you can follow all of our school's activities and highlights. Follow us @HunstantonPrimary.

If you are new to the area or considering transferring your child to our school, we invite you to book a tour to see what we have to offer. Contact us on 01485 533373 or email office@hunstanton.norfolk.sch.uk to schedule your visit.



Hunstanton Primary School now has an AED/Defibrillator

We wanted to make you aware that the school now has a defibrillator or AED. This was very kindly donated to us by the Hunstanton and District Round Table 615 we thank you so much for this life saving equipment.

It can be used by anyone in the community (for the time being this is currently only accessible during term time and when the site is open). The device is for use on children and adults as we have both size pads available. This is located in the school foyer in a big yellow box and we now have green signs located in designated areas along the gates sign posting its placement. We have also registered it with The Circuit – the national defibrillator network. It is also now connected to the East of England Ambulance Service and more likely to be used in an emergency. Defibrillators save lives but they depend on people like us who can offer assistance if needed.

We hope that we never need to use it.



Schools in the West Norfolk Academies Trust celebrate the Coronation

Royal crest at Hunstanton



School blazers and shirts were put to good use when they helped create a great picture of the official cypher of King Charles III.

Students at Smithdon High School were split into groups of red, white and blue in order to create the image on the playing field where pictures were taken with a drone to see the complete effect.

The blue school blazers and white shirts were joined by red sports shirts, and the students managed to create the graphic - complete with a Union Jack flag.

Coronation party in Snettisham

Pupils at Snettisham Primary enjoyed a street party as part of their school's Coronation celebrations.

They also made crowns to wear, and were presented with commemorative Coronation mugs, which had been provided by the



Friends of the school.

The festivities marking the ascension of King Charles III to the throne continued beyond the day, with a Coronation Banquet taking place the following week.

HRH Heacham



Pupils at Heacham Junior School became royalty for the day, when they donned crowns to celebrate.

Children at the school made their own

crowns to mark the historic occasion, with their creations then being displayed at St Mary's Church in Heacham.

The celebrations were also set to continue, with a whole-school Coronation Banquet planned for the following week, complete with sandwiches, sausage rolls, crudites, cream and jam scones, and fruit.

Lunch fit for a king at Heacham Infants



Kings and queens, princes and princesses, enjoyed a special Coronation lunch, when a coastal school celebrated the Coronation.

The pupils at Heacham Infants dressed as royalty to mark the occasion, wearing crowns they had made themselves, and which were later put on display in St Mary's Church in Heacham.

The celebratory meal, which took part in the school's specially decorated canteen, included traditional party fare, such as sandwiches, sausage rolls, scones with cream and jam and a fruit platter.

News from the Woottons

Richard Coates

Last month's News From The Woottons was about the forthcoming elections for both the Borough Council and the Parish Council at Castle Rising. This month I can bring you the results of those elections which weren't what some might have expected and, in the case of the Castle Rising Parish Council election, produced a curious result!

First the Borough Council election. The ward covers the parishes of South Wootton, North Wootton and Castle Rising and, in the past, has returned three Conservative members to the Borough Council. But four years ago, the third Conservative was very closely challenged by an Independent who got within 11 votes of getting elected. This time that same Independent challenged again and topped the poll, followed by a second Independent and they both pushed out two sitting Conservatives. A third Conservative - a new one - managed to get the third seat. So, who were these successful candidates? Paul Bland was that two times challenger followed by retired businessman Simon Ring. And the third placed, the new Conservative candidate, you may remember the name from last month, Richard Coates and, no longer bound by either electoral law or the rules of fair play, I can confirm that is your columnist!

I had written in previous months, actually many months, about meeting people in The Woottons and that was because I was busy ringing doorbells canvassing for votes. I couldn't tell you that at the time because it might have unfairly influenced you in the way you would decide to vote in the election. I know some election candidates don't like going door to door asking for votes but I really enjoyed it. Well, not the actual door bell ringing but meeting all the wonderful people! There were some lovely characters in The Woottons and I'd never have met them if I'd not been going door to door. My only regret was missing the people who weren't in when I called and the size of the ward which meant it was impossible for me to get round to meet anywhere near everybody.

Of course, not everybody said they'd vote for me or for my party. Indeed, as throughout the Country there were many traditional Conservative voters who said they would not vote Conservative this time because of recent events at Westminster. I pointed out the difference between West Norfolk and Westminster with varying degrees of success.

Another common theme that people said to me was that nobody ever came asking for votes down their road. They said they couldn't remember the last time anybody ever came



from any party. A number of people told me that they'd vote for me, only because I'd taken the trouble to come and visit them and nobody else could be bothered to do so. (Should I give all my success secrets away like this?).

But what about that Castle Rising Parish Council election? Now that did produce some surprising results. I told you about two unsuccessful Conservative candidates in the Borough Council election for The Woottons ward. Well, one of them was long standing Borough Council member Lord Howard who fell to the national trend. But not in Castle Rising. There he came top of the Parish Council poll. And remember the second successful Independent Borough Council candidate Simon Ring? Well he was rejected for a seat on the Castle Rising Parish Council! So it's all a bit topsy turvy.

Hunstanton & District Rotary Club

Adrian Evans

March/April were busy months for club members. On 15th March we were given a presentation by the Coastal Stroke Support Group based in Hunstanton. The members were so impressed by their work supporting stroke survivors and their families that we agreed to donate £500 to support their efforts.

The following week we held our annual President's Night which is a joint event hosted by Hunstanton & District Rotary and Inner Wheel. It consisted of a 3-course meal with entertainment provided by Jamm'in Joe. A raffle was held with proceeds going to Baby Basics West Norfolk.

The club's social night, held on the last Wednesday of the month, was an evening trip to Smithdon High School to attend their performance entitled 'A Night of Cinema and Stage' which was in celebration of the arts. This was followed by a lovely meal at Chives.

On the 12th of April Ten of our club members attended the Rotary Club of Kings Lynn Priory Charter Night, celebrating its 50th Anniversary. The black-tie event was held at the Town Hall Kings Lynn with well over 100 attending.

On 26th April we took part in the Rotary District Quiz held at Soham. We chose 6 of our club's sharpest minds to compete in what turned out to be a hotly contested event involving 9 other clubs in the district. Unfortunately, we were defeated by some teams which would not have been out of place on BBC's mastermind!

Starting on 27th April was the Tapping House tulip festival where a number of members are carrying out duties such as car park and traffic Marshals, tulip field marshals and administration.



In preparation for the coronation celebrations, we have designed a tribute to mark the event on the Green in Hunstanton (see photos). We would like to thank the Men's Shed and for their brilliant work making the crown, which forms the centrepiece of the display, Hunstanton Council for their £200 contribution to plants, and Anna Greyson for the overall design. Thank you also to the five Rotarians in the picture for the supplying and planting of the 450 pansies. This is a fine example of organisations working together for the benefit of the local community.



If you are interested in finding out about Hunstanton & District Rotary Club and would like to come to any of our weekly meetings, you would be very welcome. Or if you would just like a booklet to find out more about us and what we do then we would be happy to post one to you. Please contact Mick Harpley (01485 544412) or send an email to: jmvernon56@gmail.com.

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It's a packed programme for Hunstanton's One-Act Drama Festival 2023!

Following last year's successful event, Hunstanton's One-Act Drama Festival is back for 2023 with what promises to be a packed programme of exciting new presentations.

This unique experience, hosted once again at Hunstanton's iconic Princess Theatre from 30th June - 2nd July, sees amateur theatre groups from Norfolk and beyond compete with each other as they perform their short one-act play to a live audience.

For the groups, the rules are simple; a suitable one-act play or extract from a full-length play, no less than 20 and no more than 50 minutes on stage from curtain up to curtain down (that includes setting and clearing the stage) and at least three speaking roles. Each play will receive a short verbal adjudication from one of our three adjudicators at the end of the session, and awards will be presented at the Gala Awards Ceremony.

For the audience - and that's you! - it's an opportunity to enjoy a theatre experience of at least two, possibly three performances at once for just £7.50 or you can buy a weekend season ticket for just £20 and attend some or all of the sessions!

This year's participants include the award-winning ManNic Productions who last year won the coveted Stagecoach Cup for Best Adult Production, Kei Bailey who won the N.O.D.A. Cup for Best Original Script for his clever short play 'Sunny Side Up' as well as returning groups Boston Playgoers, Wisbech Theatre Players and the Sutton Bridge Players to name but a few, so don't miss out on a wonderful weekend of live theatre!

Festival Director Stephen Hayter said: "The standards were so high last year, we're excited to see what our theatre groups have to offer in 2023 and we know they are all looking forward to an exciting competition. Thanks once again to Brian Hallard and his team at the Princess Theatre for supporting the Festival and also thanks to our loyal audience for their support. We can't wait!"

Tickets are on sale now from the Princess Theatre Box Office and all event details are published on our new website www.oneactdramafestival.com including entry rules for groups and information on our adjudicators.

The Hunstanton One-Act Drama Festival is a not-for-profit organisation, sponsored by the Borough Council of Kings Lynn & West Norfolk, supported by the Princess Theatre, Hunstanton and run by a small committee of volunteers and helpers.





Soul & Motown NIGHT



Saturday 14th October

Enjoy a two course meal followed by an evening of Soul & Motown classics with Roy G Hemmings (understood as the longest serving former member of legendary group The Drifters) is a great showman and dynamic singer.

7.30pm - 11.30pm
Over 18's only **£49.50 Per Ticket**



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What a busy month is June

Music in the Burnhams works with and supports the village school in Burnham Market this month but first a recital by one of our favourite musicians. Leo Popplewell (cello) will play unaccompanied Bach and Mendelssohn on Sunday June 11th at 3pm at Sutton cum Ulph Church Burnham Market PE31 8HQ. Tickets are £15.00 each and proceeds go to the church.



In 2022 we had a hugely successful and enjoyable workshop at Burnham Market Primary school with graduate students from Trinity Laban College of Music in London. This year Jodie Wiggins returns (soprano) with Callum Adkins (baritone) with Gill Smith on piano and they will concentrate on music from The Sound of Music and other favourite West End musicals. Naturally there



will be a costumed performance by all the children at the end of the workshop on Friday June 16th at 6pm. Family tickets are £10, and proceeds go to the school.

We send the month out in style with the wonderful Galaxy Big Band. Who can fail to remember those dancing in the aisles last year to the brilliant sound this band makes. So, bring your dancing shoes on Saturday June 24th at 7.30pm and have a fun enjoyable evening in aid of the village school. Tickets are £20 each.



THE HUNSTANTON ONE-ACT DRAMA FESTIVAL 2023



30TH JUNE, 1ST & 2ND JULY

10 plays... 3 days...

Come on down to the Princess Theatre for a feast of amateur entertainment from local theatre groups as they present a series of One-Act plays over the three days. Each session will consist of one, two or three short plays with an interval between.

Performances:

Friday 30th June 7.30pm (including Opening Ceremony),
Saturday 1st July & Sunday 2nd July 2.30pm & 7.30pm

Tickets £7.50 per session or £20* weekend season ticket

*Season tickets include entry to the Gala Award Ceremony at the theatre on Sunday 2nd July at 7.30pm.



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www.princesstheatre.co.uk

Borough Council of
**King's Lynn &
West Norfolk**



Behind the Scenes

Welcome to June's edition of Behind the Scenes. It's hard to believe that we are nearly halfway through the year and are heading firmly into the summer months. Much as the first half of the year, the Princess continues to house an array of spectacular diverse performances, and in this edition, we will speak on what to expect from this month.

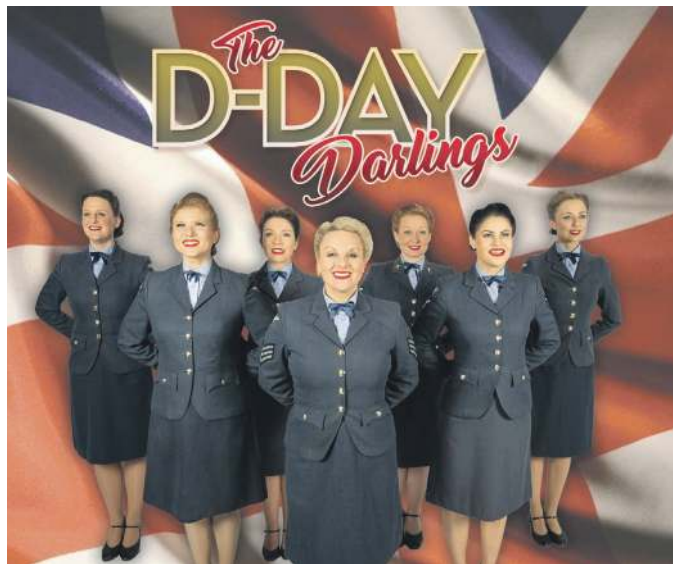
Firstly, the end of April and start of May saw many joyous occasions. We had great shows on our stage such as *Walk Like A Man – The Four Seasons*, and *The Legends of American Country Show*, both of which filled our auditorium with excited and enthusiastic guests, taking place over the last weekend of April. *Walk Like A Man – The Four Seasons* will be returning in 2024, and tickets are already on sale. The first weekend of May was a busy time for our Sunset Wine Bar, where the town was decorated in red, white, and blue in celebration of the King's Coronation. It was great to see many enjoying the views from our terrace whilst soaking up the atmosphere.

We have also had, alongside our regular Film Club, some amazing screenings of Live Theatre Productions. In April we screened *Life of Pi*, which was professionally filmed live in London's West End. The production is not only an Olivier Award-winning stage adaptation, but also presents a great way to experience theatre from across the nation, within your local community. One of the most iconic factors within the visuals is the puppetry which paired with live actors, creates the animals, including the almighty Tiger. The movements are not only beautiful, but the intricate details are outstanding, and we were very grateful to be able to bring this to our guests, where it was thoroughly enjoyed by all who visited. To follow, throughout the coming months, we have more screenings of Live Theatre, so keep an eye on our website for the latest information to experience yet another masterful story told by the means of Theatre.



'Jemma – Author'

a Podcast named "Behind the Uniform". Their dedication and hard work behind and in front of the scenes has resulted in this spectacular song and dance display, to be enjoyed by all generations.



'The D-Day Darlings'



'Life of Pi – Previous Theatre Live Screening
photo by Johan Persson'

Looking to the future now within the month of June, we start with The Haunting of Blaine Manor. You may remember our Halloween special edition last October, where I spoke with director Joe O'Byrne, well the time has come around for the performance to begin! A play described as the new *The Women in Black*, will be a production that will have everyone on the edge of their seats, whilst leaving your mind buzzing as you follow along with the show's detective narrative. So, join Earle and his companions this June at the Blaine Manor...

During the middle of June, linking back to the King's Coronation, we have *The D-Day Darlings* with their new *Coronation Celebration Show*, performing on the 14th. Finalists in Britain's Got Talent in 2018, this UK's Premier wartime act's success has continued to skyrocket through their many musical concerts and releases. This includes their VE Day 75 Celebration Edition album, which followed on from their time on *Britain's Got Talent* and went on to reach number 5 in the official UK album charts. One of their most recent editions to their music is their new single "I Vow to Thee My Country", which accompanies the start of their tour, and they have even recently created

Closing the end of June and moving into the start of July, the Princess is housing the return of the One-Act Drama Festival. Again, running over the course of 3 days this is a unique opportunity for both audience and performers alike. Witness a variety of entertainment from amateur drama groups, where you can purchase a season ticket for just £20 giving you access to all sessions. If you are part of a drama group, writer, performer, and so on, this is a great opportunity for creative lovers, for more information on how to enter, visit the festival 3 by the sea website. There are many awards up for grabs, pioneered by adjudicators, including festival coordinators such as Stephen Hayter as festival director. All of which have extensive and inspiring experiences within the dramatics field, and therefore results in a great opportunity for all to be a part of an exciting and memorable weekend that celebrates a love for The Arts.

That finalises this edition, thank you for reading and as always, for your support. We hope to see you soon, and look forward to the month ahead, but until next time, break a leg!



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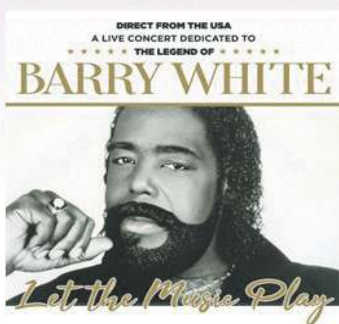
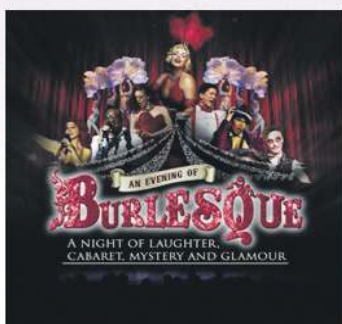


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Sunday 11th

Wednesday 14th



Saturday 17th

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Fri 30th - Sun 2nd July

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