

TOWN and AROUND

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First word



The American gardening writer Jean Hersey said: 'June is the gateway to the summer', and she was right - June brings the promise of long sunny days, gardens in full bloom, and the smell of roses and freshly cut grass in the air. I would add my favourite summer scent, field beans in flower, to the list of lovely things about June too.

There are plenty of events to enjoy this month, just turn to the centre pages for inspiration.

We've been following the progress of the FOSLAM and Quilts 4 Care Leavers

collaboration since last year and on 13th May I attended the 'Hug' in Little Massingham. My report is on page 13.

Our cover shot, taken by Ian Burt, is of Melissa McSweeney, one of the over fifty brave participants in the Dersingham abseil that raised around £10,000 for accessible toilets and a new kitchen for St Nicholas Church, Dersingham. See page 6.

A report on the outstanding result for the Norfolk Hospice Tapping House from Tulips for Tapping is on page 4. Attending with Richard we were struck by the huge number of volunteers on hand to help the visitors. The Hospice says there were over two hundred of them collectively committing 2,500 hours over the two weeks of the event.

My thanks as always to everyone who has contributed to this issue.

With best wishes for a fabulous gateway to the summer,

Elaine

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Tulips for Tapping 2024 raised £322,294!

Visitors travelled from around the country for the spectacle

The Norfolk Hospice Tapping House and tulip growers Mark and Susanne Eves of Norfolk Tulips are celebrating the completion of the biggest and most successful Tulips for Tapping event in its four-year history.

The event, which closed on Monday 29th April after a two week run, drew over 25,000 visitors to the Kings Lynn area who travelled from all over the UK to see the spectacle of 6.3 million tulips in bloom.

A twelve acre field near the Sandringham Estate was planted last autumn. Lewis Eves explained: "The weather wasn't with us last autumn and the bulbs were planted quite late in November.

"The bulbs will be lifted in June or July then be put into a cold store to simulate winter conditions before forcing in our glass houses in Terrington and the cut flowers will hit the supermarkets in January."



Every penny raised from the Tulips for Tapping event will go directly to the charity The Norfolk Hospice Tapping House to support vital end of life care to patients and their families. This year the event raised £322,294 which will pay for more than a month of care services for people across Norfolk.

The event is supported by more than 200 volunteers who have spent more than 2,500 hours helping in all aspects of the event from setting up, manning the event and packing away at the end. Without their help, this event would not have been able to run and continue to be such a success, raising vital funds for the Hospice.

Nicola Ellis, Chief Executive at The Norfolk Hospice Tapping House said: "We were delighted to have the opportunity to partner with Norfolk Tulips to deliver this incredible event again this year and so grateful to Mark and Susanne Eves for their continued commitment to us. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of the visitors who came from near and far to see the magnificent sight of the tulip fields.

"As a charity providing free end of life care and bereavement services to 4,500 people every year in Norfolk – both in our Hospice and in their homes – we are increasingly reliant on the income that events such as these raise. We need to raise more than £4 million each year to deliver our transformational services to patients and families. The past two



From left: Adelle Bates – patient, Robin Lake – volunteer; Charity Rowe - Registered Nurse, Mark Eves - Director at Norfolk Tulips/PS & JE Ward Ltd, Susanne Eves - Director at Norfolk Tulips/PS & JE Ward Ltd, Melissa Bagge – Palliative Nursing Assistant, Steve Eglan – volunteer; Julia Saunders - volunteer



years have been particularly challenging financially, so we were thrilled that Tulips for Tapping has once again been so successful!

"The Norfolk Hospice Tapping House would like to thank everyone who came to see the tulips and I would especially like to thank all the volunteers, Norfolk Tulips, Michael Rae and Roydon Hall Farms for making this fantastic event happen".

Susanne Eves Director at Norfolk Tulips/PS & JE Ward Ltd said: "We are continually amazed by the interest in our tulip crop and astounded by the amount of visitors we have received over the 10 day opening, and yet we still can't keep up with visitor demand. We would not be able to open the fields without the considerable efforts of the Fundraising Team and all the volunteers that give their time to raise funds for this cause that is very much close to our hearts. It is a privilege to work with those people who help put the event together".

The Tulips for Tapping event continues to

grow each year, becoming one of the largest open air events in Norfolk and one of the largest charity events in the East of England.

The tulip fields are now closed and tulips can no longer be seen in the field. The Hospice is working closely with Norfolk Tulips and Roydon Hall Farms to bring this event back for another year. No dates will be available until April 2025.



Krista Mather & daughter Davanee (2)

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Hanging out with the Dersingham abseilers

Over 50 people abseiled the tower of St Nicholas' Church on Monday 6th May to raise funds for accessible toilets and a new kitchen.

The 75-foot tower of the 14th century church proved no obstacle for the Dersingham community as people from all walks of life and aged between 14 and 85 took the plunge under the instruction of Rory Howard and his team from Howard Adventure Hire.



Rev Mark Capron was first down at 10am, he said: "I deliberately didn't look down until I was about halfway; it looks a lot taller than its 75 feet from the top!" No stranger to the activity he's now abseiled five times, three in his previous parish of Pakefield, and more recently at St Nicholas' in October 2021.



Joel Capron on his way down



Joel (left) with Charlie Frammingham

It was Mark's son Joel's second abseil, now 15 years old, the Alderman Peel student was greeted by schoolfriend Charlie Frammingham as he touched down. "It was definitely a good experience, I really enjoyed it," he said.



Retired teacher eighty-five-year-old Martin Holland admitted that climbing over the top was the hardest part, "I'm not sure I was built for this type of activity, last time I did it I was only eighty-two!"

First lady down was mother of two, Melissa Mc Sweeney who is pictured on the cover. "I wasn't worried about it," she said, "you can see right over the Wash and it's sunny on the beach."

Thirty-nine-year-old Mrs McSweeney is a Client Relationship Manager for Allen Tomas & Co Financial Management whose offices are adjacent to the church in St Nicholas' Court. Melissa's boss Ben Allen was cheering her on, "We are very proud of her," he said.



From left: Martin Holland, Rev Capron, Rory Howard and Chris Pretty



Some of the abseilers waiting for their turn on the tower

Hundreds of people attended the event that went on until 4pm and as well as the abseil event there were fundraising stalls in the churchyard and a book sale in the church.



Tilly Dinmore



Coady Gibbling

Fundraiser, and one of the commentators on the day, Ian Bell, explained that fundraising prior to the event had reached just over £87,000 towards the total cost of £120,000. "We are well on the way and getting very close to being able to get the work done; we're really hoping to raise close to £10,000 today."

Checking in with Mrs Rosemary Bell on 13th May, she was able to tell T&A that there is still more money to come in and all the indicators show that it looks like they will have reached their target.



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D Day Veteran Remembered

Mike Lister, Chairman of 42F Civilian Welfare Committee

The cadets of 42F (King's Lynn) Squadron, Air Training Corps, like hundreds of other RAF Air Cadet units the length and breadth of the UK, are participating in several civic and community commemorations of the 80th Anniversary of D Day and the Battle of Normandy.

42F Squadron's current cadets have a tangible link to the momentous actions of the 6th June 1944 through just one of those countless thousands of individual unsung heroes who took part in the beginning of the liberation of Europe.

Geoffrey Frank Bullen



In the months before the Second World War the first squadrons of the infant Air Defence Cadet Corps, the forerunner of today's ATC, were being formed throughout the Country and on 2nd January 1939 42 (Founder) Squadron was registered. First in line to join was 16 year old Geoff, who whilst with 42F was recorded as an exemplary cadet.

In November 1941 Geoff was called up into the RAF and soon saw himself sent to America where he learnt to fly at a number of US and Canadian air bases, in particular Falcon Field in Arizona, with No 4 British Flying Training School. So proficient was Geoff that on receipt of his own 'Wings' he was one of only a handful of new pilots held back to train further young men.

On his return to England he eventually found himself, on 29th May 1944, flying a Sterling bomber with No 1665 Heavy Conversion Unit at RAF Tilstock. Just one week later on 6th June he was towing a Horsa Glider full of airborne troops to Normandy and the area of the River Orne at the commencement of Operation Overlord, the D Day Landings.

However, D Day was not the end of Geoff's war and on 18th September 1944 he again



Geoff - far right with wartime crew

towed a glider for Operation Market, the unsuccessful attempt to capture the bridge at Arnhem on the Rhine, and followed this with further supply drops on 20th & 21st when his plane was hit by flak. Geoff was attached to 570 Squadron and 196 Squadron and these attachments saw his Sterling involved in numerous night flying operations supporting SOE and resistance in Holland, Denmark and Norway.

After the war and his return to 'Civvy Street' Geoff returned to where it all began, the Air Cadets, by becoming an instructor with 617 Voluntary Gliding School. He moved with it from Hendon to Manston and finally Bovingdon where he was its Commanding Officer. Cadets from 1966 and 1967 remember him as "a true gentleman, fine pilot and patient instructor" and "a really nice guy and great instructor".

On returning to Norfolk in 1973 Geoff renewed his connection with 42F and regularly attended its reunion dinners and took a keen interest in the Squadron's current cadets. He planted a commemorative tree at the Squadron's HQ to mark its 60th anniversary. He also donated and presented an annual cup for aviation studies at the Squadron presentation evenings, his last time being in November 2013.

Sadly Geoff passed away at the age of 91 in 2014.

Although none of its ex cadets were lost during Operation Overlord, the King's Lynn Squadron commemorates, with its own memorial, 14 of its members who died as a result of enemy action between 1943 and 1946.

Many 'Town and Around' readers will have known and recognise Geoff and also his wife Margaret, herself a veteran of WWII's Bletchley Park codebreaking unit.



This is a propeller blade from Mosquito fighter plane Ns 998 recovered, with its crew of two, from The Wash near King's Lynn in 2004.



Geoff presents his cup at 42F's 2013 Presentation of Awards Evening in King's Lynn Town Hall. He is seen with his wife, Margaret, herself a part of the WWII Bletchley Park codebreakers operation.



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Do I need to sell my property to pay for residential care?

By Kieran Athow, Associate Solicitor, Hayes + Storr

A common concern for some clients and their families is the prospect of having to sell the family home to pay for care costs.

The current rules

If you require care, then the local authority will undertake a means assessment to determine whether or not you qualify for funding support. As part of the means assessment, you must declare your income and capital assets. Capital assets include, but are not limited to, savings, investments, and property.

If the capital value of your assets is over £23,250 then you would be considered 'self-funding' and you would need to pay for your care costs. If your capital is between £14,250 and £23,250, then the local authority may contribute to the costs of your care. If your capital is less than £14,250, then whilst you may be required to contribute to the costs of care from your income, the local authority would typically pay the remaining costs of your care.

The rules surrounding local

authority funded care may be changing as of October 2025. However, until the proposed changes come into force, the current funding rules apply.

Will my home be included in a means assessment?

Your home would not typically be included as your capital in any means assessment if it relates to funding for care and support at home, or if you were to go into a care home on a short term/temporary basis. However, if you move into permanent residential care, then your home would typically be considered unless the local authority agree to disregard the property. A mandatory disregard would typically apply in circumstances including but not limited to; if your property is still occupied by your spouse/partner as their main or only home, by a relative who is over 60 years of age, a relative who is disabled, or your child - if they are under the age of 18 years of age.

Further, your property may be disregarded for the first 12 weeks after you become a permanent

care home resident, which gives you and your family time to consider what to do with the property.

If your property is taken into consideration and you have insufficient other assets to pay for your care, then you could avoid the need to sell the property by entering into a DPA (deferred payment agreement) with the local authority, which may result in a charge being placed on your property. A DPA could last until you die, after which the costs will be paid from your estate, or could be a temporary arrangement to give you time to sell your home when you choose to do so.

It is important to note that if you gift your home to your children or into trust during your lifetime, the local authority could deem that the gift was a 'deliberate deprivation' of your assets for the purposes of avoiding paying for care. If so, then the local authority may treat the (then gifted) property as forming part of your notional capital during any means assessment. Legal advice should



be taken if you are considering gifting your property during your lifetime to avoid care costs.

How can we help?

We can provide tailored advice relating to all aspects of care costs, including confirmation as to whether your property should be included in any means assessment.

For further information, please contact Kieran Athow on 01328 863231 or email kieran.athow@hayes-storr.com. *This article is for general information only and does not constitute legal or professional advice. Please note that the law may have changed since this article was published.*

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THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING Earnest
By Oscar Wilde

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The Importance of Being Earnest

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Saturday 10th August will mark the organising committee's most ambitious dramatic production yet when they stage Oscar Wilde's comedy The Importance of Being Earnest.

The play will be performed outdoors on Sedgeford's playing field and a cordoned off area will accommodate up to 250 people...on-site parking is plentiful and free.

Guests are invited to bring camping chairs and picnics to enjoy this

evergreen comedy performed by Rain or Shine Theatre Company, a long established Gloucester-based company who have performed twice before in Sedgeford.

Tickets are £16.00 for adults and £8.00 for children and can be purchased online:

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FURNISHED HOLIDAY LETTINGS – WHAT IS CHANGING...AND WHEN?

By Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton

The development of the Furnished Holiday Lettings (FHL) market in recent years has been remarkable. From a fairly low base in the 1970's the market has grown rapidly in recent years, and it is thought that there are over 250,000 properties let on this basis. The reasons for the growth are manifold, but probably reflect a combination of inheritance, partial use of existing second homes and the investment of increasing personal wealth in an asset which is tangible, linked to the housing market and reasonably lucrative (as well as providing a "bolt hole" for periods when it is not let). The growth was no doubt also encouraged by the 1984 tax legislative changes which recognized that a commercial FHL bears many of the characteristics of a trading business, and therefore whilst not actually bringing it within the definition of a "trade", extended the trading advantages of Income Tax and Capital Gains Tax to a FHL which met certain conditions as to the availability, duration and frequency of short-term lettings.

One of the adverse consequences of this growth is that some parts of the country have seen a disproportionate number of properties used as FHLs with the result that local people feel priced out of the housing market. With this in mind the Chancellor announced in the Spring Budget that, with effect from April 2025 the special FHL tax treatment will be withdrawn.

What does this all mean? Certainly, on the face of it there will be a number of changes aimed at making FHL ownership less attractive from a tax point of view. For Income Tax purposes the profit will no longer be treated as pensionable earnings, mortgage interest will only be partly allowable and Capital Allowances will no longer be claimable on furniture, fixtures and fittings. For CGT purposes any gains on sale will no longer be eligible for the deferral reliefs of rollover or holdover, and on the cessation of the business will pay the full residential CGT rate (now reduced to a maximum of 24%) rather than the Business Asset Disposal Relief (BADR) rate of 10%.

Following the Budget announcement, a number of questions have been raised. No detail was provided regarding the implementation of the new rules, nor any concessionary treatment on the consequences of the changeover, or how, in detail, one might distinguish a "trading" operation from one which is primarily rental (although there have been several decided cases on this from an Inheritance Tax viewpoint, which now may be re-examined through the Income Tax perspective).

Specifically, we do not know:

- What allowances, if any, will be available in the future for fixtures, fittings and equipment used in an FHL
- How any brought forward or ongoing losses will be relieved, and whether these can be set against other forms of property income
- Will the FHL be treated under the "cessation" rules for Income Tax resulting in a claw back of previous Capital Allowances?
- Will FHLs become exempt from VAT (and if so will there be a VAT claw back on assets used in the property?)
- How the "anti-forestalling" rules announced in the Budget will be implemented.

The matter is further complicated by the fact that no technical note or consultation document has been published, nor is there any draft legislation available. Any measures to achieve the government's objectives in reducing the tax attractiveness of holiday lets will apparently therefore not be legislated until after the general election and not much before April 2025. Given this legislative timescale it could even mean that any changes in the rules move back by at least a year from April 2025 (if it ever actually happens?). On the basis of recent polls and local elections we might have the unusual scenario of a new government implementing fiscal policies set out by its predecessor. (But will they?)

However, it would probably be unwise to rely on a governmental change of heart, but in the absence of draft legislation, it is now (perhaps intentionally) difficult to plan. For those wanting to leave the industry or hand over to the next generation there may be a window of opportunity over this summer, but risk of anti-forestalling legislation is in the background (although this is not expected to catch simple sales, since the aim of the legislation appears to be to encourage them. Other options include simply keeping the property as a second home, selling and rolling over the gain into another business or simply moving it into existing long term residential lets (although the forthcoming Renters' Act may



Kathryn Gigg

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discourage that possibility). Whatever the case, it will be wise to decide on a strategy sooner rather than later.

For advice regarding Furnished Holiday Lettings please contact us at Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton on 01485 534800 or kate@kathryngigg.co.uk.

N.B. Article written in May 2024.

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One enormous hug

A huge hug of seventy five quilts encircled St Andrew's Church in Little Massingham on Monday 13th May following an exhibition of the quilt tops held in the church over the weekend. Each quilt, aka Hug, is unique and is destined for one of the 11,000 young people aged 16 to 25 who leave care every year and move out into the world with limited support and few possessions.

The hug was the culmination of months of work by quilt makers throughout the UK, from Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales to Norfolk and North Yorkshire to Hampshire and every county in between. The quilt makers are incredibly kind and gifted people who have come to the rescue of the Grade 1 Listed church, which is currently on the Heritage England Buildings at Risk Register.

Residents, friends, quilters and visitors held the quilts in a continuous line around the ancient building attracting press, radio and TV coverage.

The project began in the small Norfolk village in 2023 in a partnership between FOSLAM (Friends of St Andrew's Massingham) and the UK wide charity Quilts 4 Care Leavers.

Leading the FOSLAM project at St Andrew's is patron Rosemary Jewers who started the fundraising to repair the roof of the church following the theft of lead in 2017.

Quilts 4 Care Leavers is a UK wide Charity making quilted patchwork comforter hugs to give to young adults in the UK who have recently left the child care system. Founder Maggie Lloyd-Jones was inspired to set up the charity by the poet and recent chancellor of the University of Manchester, Lemn Sissay OBE, who, at the age of 12, returned to local authority care from the long-term foster placement he had been in since he was a baby having heard him tell an audience that what he had really wanted during that time, was a hug.

Maggie said: "I started this in 2018 but never thought it would get this big; there are groups all over the UK making quilts that are a specific size, but every one is different..

"I'm a grandmother and I know that what youngsters miss is having a hug when they leave care."

Standing by an example in the church that had been set aside for a fundraising raffle she explained that it had been made out of scraps cut into strips, "it's not a typical print pattern but it is so vibrant and jolly and somebody will win it."



The quilt hug encircled the church, pictured centre: Rosemary Jewers and Maggie Lloyd-Thomas

'We have 75 quilts here but we have enough to make the same number again back in the store so the work goes on!'

In charge of marshalling all the people holding the quilts, Rosemary needed the loudhailer to get everyone into position as the drones flew around the church and the TV coverage was recorded.

Rodney, Maizy and Chocky and their handlers from Donkeys for Therapy that is based in the village were joining in the fun and supporting the event.



From left Heidi Rust with Rodney, Petra Smith with Maizy, Karen Rust with Chocky and Rosemary Jewers

Prior to the enormous hug, attendees gathered in the church. Carolyn Walerton and Tracy Harris are both quilters involved in the project, and they explained that quilts are constructed in blocks. Every month someone from the group requests blocks of certain colours and style and then they get to work producing between ten and fifteen blocks.

The exhibition and giant hug events were free to attend but donations were welcomed. If anyone would like to donate to the church restoration they can do so via the fosalm.org website.



The 19th to 20th July sees Quilts 4 Care Leavers return the quilts to Little Massingham once more having added the backing, wadding and topstitching to the quilts. After they have been seen by the public for the last time, the completed, now quilted, Hugs will be handed over to local authorities to distribute to care leavers.



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new pair of spectacles the draw will take place on 31st July. Entry is free and all we ask is to be able to keep you informed of our promotions via email. Lastly, we have selected range of "Specs @ £50" that come complete with single vision lenses, upgrades are available at a nominal price, but it may fill the gap when you can't find your reading specs!

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Morris Dancers

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Wheel 2 Wheel

1.00 - 1.45

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1.45 - 2.00

Awards

2.00 - 2.20

Cambridge Caledonian Pipe Band

2.20 - 2.50

Wheel 2 Wheel

2.50-3.10

Stamford ShowStoppers

3.10 - 3.30

Shelly Keep Fit

3.30 - 3.50

Zimbabwe Singers

4.00 - 4.30

Raffle Drawn

4.30 - 5.00

Wheel 2 Wheel

5.00

Close

*Times subject to change



Wendy Warner's plant of the month - Lupins

A classic summer border favourite has to be lupins with their bold spires of brightly coloured pea-like flowers. They come in an array of colours from white to pinks, yellows, blues, reds and purples and various combinations of these. Most varieties reach 90cm in height, rising above clumps of softly hairy green or green-grey leaves divided into finger-like leaflets.

Lupins are sun lovers, so choose a warm, open, bright position for them. They also like a well-drained or even poor soil that is slightly acidic. They will tolerate light shade but dislike heavy, wet, clay soil. Don't add too much fertiliser to the soil when planting, as this is likely to encourage a lot of lush leaf growth rather than the flower spikes that you will enjoy. Due to their height, they benefit from a sheltered position where their flower spikes won't be damaged by the wind.

They are quite versatile and work well planted in bold drifts with ornamental grasses and other tall perennials such as bearded irises, delphiniums and campanulas. They add height and colour to the middle of the border, make superb cut flowers and are loved by bees and other pollinating insects.

They grow well from small plants, but make sure these are protected from slugs and snails. Use a slug repellent such as "Slug Gone", a sheep's wool based product, to protect them and this will also act as a mulch



to keep the soil around them moist too.

Deadhead lupins once the flowers have faded and you could be rewarded with a second flush of flowers. In autumn, cut lupins right back to the ground and they will reappear in the spring. Although perennial, Lupins are not long-lived plants and may need replacing after five to six years.

The Gallery series of Lupins are dwarf varieties growing to approximately 60cm so are ideal for smaller gardens, fronts of borders or containers. These tend to be straight colours. If you are looking for something a

bit more exotic, go for the West Country Lupins which are bred for their uniformity and colour range. There are such a lot to choose from; "Manhattan Lights" is purple and yellow, "Gladiator" is yellow and orange, "Rachel de Thame" is pink and white and "King Canute" is blue and white. Most of these varieties grow 75-90cm tall.

If you don't have any already (or feel you need some more!) check out the varieties we have in the garden centre now to add some extra early summer colour to your garden.



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Tell me more...

While countless songs have been written about summer, few can hear the words 'tell me more' without breaking into a rendition of Summer Nights, written by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey for the 1971 musical Grease. The version that many agree tops all others is by John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John in the 1978 film of the same name.

This side of the pond, the Beatles' 1969 hit 'Here Comes the Sun' has joyous lyrics that say goodbye to the long, cold, lonely winter and captures the feeling of a summer's day.

So now it is finally summer, holidays are looming and it's time to break out the short sleeves, sunglasses and summer dresses to complement the tunes we'll be hearing on the radio and humming in the car.

The lovely Penny Kaftan from Adini is a must-have. Ticking all the boxes it will become your definitive holiday essential, ideal for warm weather breaks and beach escapes. Presenting an eastern influenced, abstract print, this future wardrobe staple is made from pure cotton voile for the lightest and coolest feel. It comes in a relaxed, comfy silhouette and is detailed with short sleeves and falls to the ankle.

Tell me more. This one-size-fits-all dress is approximately 129cm / 51" long and machine washable at 30 degrees.

As the Beatles say "Here comes the sun, doo-doo-doo-doo, here comes the sun, it's alright, sun, sun, sun, here it comes..."

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Campaign update

County Councillor Alexandra Kemp

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

Ending Food Poverty - Purfleet Pantry Celebrates its First Birthday



Manager Karen Mason, Purfleet Pantry
Chief Executive Paula Hall,
Alexandra Kemp and David Goddard

Mighty Oaks from Tiny Acorns Grow. Purfleet Pantry in South Lynn is the first Affordable Food Hub in West Norfolk - on 10 May, customers, volunteers and organisers celebrated the Pantry's first birthday. Purfleet Pantry first opened its doors, in an empty dealership, at the Southgates in South Lynn, a year ago, and now helps over 900 members. The frenzied flurry of activity that set the ball rolling, behind the scenes, a whole year before that, started with me repeatedly raising at County Hall, why there was no plan for a Nourishing Norfolk food hub in West Norfolk, as we needed one ... and setting out the vision for a local food hub in meetings with Lorraine Gore, the Borough Council's Chief Executive. Lorraine spoke with Paula Hall of the Purfleet Trust. Would this ever be a reality? Then it took off. A magnificent Manager, Karen Mason was appointed, and recruited a team of 23 trusty volunteers. I personally know volunteers who have overcome their own significant barriers to help in the Pantry.

A shopping basket at Purfleet Pantry is 38% cheaper than a supermarket's. Everyone can join for just £3 a year and benefit from cheaper food - fresh, tinned and frozen - and

household goods: Furniture, Clothes, Children's Games and Books, Linen, Towels, Pictures, Mirrors, Jewellery, Hygiene products. There is signposting to Debt Advice from CAP, Education Advice from Multiply Norfolk.

This was a labour of love for the community, in the cost of living crisis. A community answer to Food Poverty, Furniture Poverty, Hygiene Poverty, Poverty of Self-Esteem, Debt, in the economic context of runaway inflation and unaffordability of the basics of life. A community hub with the accent on Health and Wellbeing. Purfleet Pantry has provided support for over 260 families with children under 12; and helped 400 people over the Winter with Household Fund Support Vouchers.

I set up the Dental Campaign to provide free children's toothbrushes and toothpaste in the Pantry - and the Beauty Box also donated funding. Specsavers provides Appointments. A student nurse, housed locally in an empty flat, was kitted out with furniture by kind-hearted Purfleet Pantry. There is "kettle food" for Homeless people. It's about the community - in a deprived area - helping the community. The £3 annual membership fee is reinvested in the hub.

EVERYONE in West Norfolk is welcome to join! and please donate your pre-loved goods to help others.

Don't forget to rejoin when your renewal is due.

West Norfolk Dental Campaign - A Dental School in West Norfolk

There are other poverties to overcome - the Poverty of Dentists and Doctors.

I distributed a toothbrush and toothpaste for every child, in St Michael's Primary School, South Lynn recently. Speaking at the Assembly, I was impressed at the pupil's level of understanding about causes of tooth decay - a health challenge the NHS found prevalent in West Norfolk, among 5 year-olds and 16 -



Alexandra Kemp and Head Teacher
Mrs E. Scarisbrick at St Michael's Primary
School South Lynn

19 year olds. The NHS offered £20,000 as a short-term incentive for dentists to work on Dental Prevention for children.

Public Health at the County Council, only sends in a Dental Nurse once a year who only sees children in Reception and Year 6. This is not enough. Strategic planning and delivery of the Dental workforce is the job of Government. In 2015, I met NHS England at the College of West Anglia (about the School of Nursing) and asked for a School of Dentistry in West Norfolk. NHS England's reason for not taking the Dental School forward was "there is an 8 year lead-in time so residents would not benefit for a long time". Well, if the School of Dentistry had been progressed then, it would be open now, training dentists, improving recruitment and retention, meeting patient need. NHS England were doubtful that the School of Nursing could achieve the necessary University-accreditation and I suggested approaching Anglia Ruskin University. A barrier resolved.

By 2018, West Norfolk was found to have the worst access to NHS Dentistry. I have written to NHS England that the Norfolk Dental School- now being considered - MUST include West Norfolk. EVERYONE should have the option to register with an NHS Dentist.

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Modern Story

In August 2022, Modern Story, a vintage and contemporary lifestyle store, took up residence in the historic Barclays Bank building in Heacham. Recently, a delightful little coffee shop has been added, offering a selection of locally roasted coffee, fine teas, freshly baked cakes, and toasted muffins and sandwiches.

Store visitors are invited to explore the curated selection of 20th-century design at their leisure. Items offered for sale include timeless mid-century modern furniture pieces created by legendary designers such as Lucian Ercolani and Robert Heritage.

The store also stocks an eclectic array of vintage cookware, ceramics, mid-century and contemporary homewares, and one-of-a-kind artworks. Look out for vintage Le Creuset pots, Denby, and Midwinter design classics, and much more. From preloved treasures to antique pieces and innovative modern designs, including some handcrafted items sourced from as far afield as Thailand, there's something to appeal to every taste.

The newly opened café is a fantastic addition to the store's offerings. With its relaxing atmosphere, it provides a welcoming retreat, encouraging guests to linger and discover hidden gems amidst the curated displays.

Both store and cafe exude warmth and character, there are plans for a storefront awning and a relaxed outdoor seating area for this summer. Almost everything you see in Modern Story is for sale, including the mid-century room dividers and antique pine dressers that are currently used for display.

Modern Story is dedicated to celebrating the beauty and innovation of 20th-century design, while infusing it with a 21st-century flair," says Maggie Menzies. "And we are delighted to have opened our café. Now, we are able to offer our visitors a place to relax and enjoy freshly brewed teas, espresso coffees, and light lunches while taking their time to browse the store.

In an age where sustainability is more important than ever, Modern

Story is committed to promoting the longevity of vintage furniture and preserving timeless design. Maggie Menzies emphasizes, "Our aim is to offer clients not just furnishings but pieces of history that enrich their lives and spaces."

As the 2024 summer season unfolds, Modern Story looks forward to serving as a hub for the local community and seasonal visitors alike, offering a refreshed and original destination for those seeking distinctive home décor, and a homely space for a relaxing coffee or tea.

For inquiries about specific items or sourcing requests, clients are encouraged to drop by the store or reach out to Modern Story through their Facebook or Instagram pages.



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Borough Council news

Cllr Terry Parish

Heacham Ward

Heacham Sedgeford and Fring

It seems that Heacham is hell bent on maintaining its reputation as the village with the most contentious planning matters. It would likely be cheaper for the planning department to establish an office in the village, maybe the Old Dairy Site?

The saga of the campsite at South Beach continues with unlikely decisions by the planning inspectorate going in its favour. Meanwhile the white smoke on the use of Fenway and nearby applications is still awaited. Let's hope different inspectors are involved. The land next to Lidl has been turned into a scrambling track with associated noise. Complaints about this bypassed me and went straight to planning enforcement. The story told to me by third parties is that there is a plan to sell the land off for development and I await any confirmation of that. There will be few green areas left in Heacham.

The done deal on the 134 homes (or so) off Cheney Hill is lurching ever closer to its two reserved matters applications. Years have gone by but this summer is the new target. I walked over the site recently and a green and pleasant place it is, much traversed by footpaths which someone maintains. Lots of birds and wildflowers too. If the two sites had come forward in the last year, there would probably have been a different outcome.

The sea made front page of the Lynn News, that publication well known for truth and unbiased opinion. Water quality remains poor, and some organisations rate it near the bottom of the pile. A recent public meeting at Heacham, hosted by Anglian Water and the Environment Agency, tried to clarify matters and, I think, those attending realised that the situation is not clear cut, that Heacham Waste Water Treatment Works does not release untreated sewage, and that the matter is under further investigation. I have been involved in meetings about this matter for several years. My current opinion is that sea water quality will fluctuate for undetermined reasons; the baseline will hover around poor; there will be no 'fix', and the answer will be to designate the beaches non-bathing. This does not mean people will not continue to do whatever they want to, but the requirement for testing will end. In effect, there is no obvious practical solution to remove the contamination identified.

Whilst at the seaside, the shingle ridge at Heacham is always good for a headline. Results of the EA investigation might be known by the time you read this. Now that I am free to say more than I could, I will take a gamble on what it will state or suggest: 'The ridge is secure for now and, barring severe storm events, it will protect the land behind it from sea water flooding in the near and mid-term, say 10-20 years. However, predicted sea water level rise and increasing frequency of storm events will weaken the ridge in the long term and there is no reasonable solution to



this. Consequently, coastal realignment will ensue which will affect properties and businesses along and just inland of the shingle ridge. To prevent problems moving further inland, improvements will be made to the secondary flood defence and extensions to it considered.' I will be happy if the prognosis is better than this.

Sedgeford has its own issues. Housing development on the school site is one that continues. Its Neighbourhood Plan is clear on the need for smaller houses which are in the financial reach of those needing to live and work in the area. The developer, via the County Council, is pushing at the boundaries of that requirement. The second, continuing issue, is the Heacham River, not pollution but viability, as extraction of water reduces flow too much. Extraction increases in the summer months when the population doubles and rainfall is at its lowest.

There is no effective consideration given to water supply issues when new developments are built, or caravan and other holiday sites expand. Anglian Water are intending to build at least one new reservoir which should be functioning in around 10 years' time. I am unsure what impact they will have on West Norfolk as sites are over the border. Cambridge will likely have priority as development there is on hold until its water supply is greatly increased. However, the problem is now on the agendas of AW, the EA, government, and local politicians. You will be asked, one way or another, for the money needed to enable the actions needed.

Fring had significant local flooding issues which affected toilets as well as roads. I imagine they will be forgotten about until the next time or is someone doing something about it?

The A149 has continuing quarry sand problems around the Snettisham island. A road sweeper appears more regularly but this does not touch the pavement nor the traffic bollards. A wet day means cars get coated in slurry. Wheel washing is needed on the quarry site. Can any interested County Cllrs take note?

A potential good news story at the Lamsey Lane junction. At the last Meeting of the West Norfolk Transport and Infrastructure Steering

Group, which I chaired, County officers informed us that money had been found for the junction improvements talked about when Wild Ken Hill got permission to extend its operations. Work will be done either next year or in 2026. Whether it is an island or traffic lights is yet to be confirmed.

The Borough

I am no longer Queen of the May but will likely hold another position which will tax my ageing brain. The administration is very well set up to move forward on policies and projects and there may be more stability in the structure with a formal arrangement with Labour. Whatever, the 10 Labour councillors (now without Charles Joyce) are a dedicated group who want the best for their Wards and the Borough as a whole so they sit well alongside the 21 members of the Independent Partnership. A change in the Tory Leadership is welcomed and I hope those 21 councillors in his group can now be more easily accommodated. However, it's not up to me anymore. Those of you who count councillors will find 3 left out, 2 who, I think, are the Progressive Party, and Charles Joyce, independent Independent. I wish him well.

There is much going on and much to emerge soon: Council housing companies; Alive Leisure; the Guildhall, and public engagement. The latter is our promise to ask the public what they want about all sorts of things so look out for opportunities to engage. A new Chief Executive should soon be appointed. I remain heavily involved in that process as I began it. From that appointment emerges opportunities to restructure the Council if deemed necessary.

The financial plughole inherited last May has not gone away but it is now more controlled, and it is clearer about how to proceed. Increased council tax on second homes will help and negotiations to improve the Borough's share of that money are proceeding at a pace. I have received letters and emails complaining about this increase which I sanctioned. I can only say, again, that national government allowed it because they know local government is underfunded and this source does not impact the exchequer. A change in government will not remove it.

The Local Plan Review continued either side of Easter. The two inspectors were rigorous and seemed to pursue lines out of kilter with views expressed by Michael Gove MP who exudes charm towards local communities whilst sending in the dogs. I was disturbed by the influence developers appeared to have on the proceedings and will await the dictats that emerge in the report. Similarly, there was a proposal which would potentially impact on Neighbourhood Plans which I did not like, and I discussed that with our Local Plan team to ensure a case for moderation was made. I will furnish details when I know the bad, poor, or good news about that.

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The political pulse with Mackenzie Large

The Wash Tidal Barrier

The Wash Tidal Barrier proposal is a £3billion project that, if realised, will impact numerous elements of The Wash. The company proposing the scheme, Centre Port Holdings Limited, have shared their clear reasoning for the project, but many local and environmental groups have voiced concerns.

The 11 mile barrier would be constructed across The Wash, linking Hunstanton in Norfolk and Skegness in Lincolnshire and it would include a road, a railway line, a hydroelectric power plant and an offshore container port. The energy company Centrica, who owns British Gas, has expressed interest in the project, offering funding for the initial feasibility study. Wild Ken Hill, the Norfolk Wildlife Trust, the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, The National Trust and Greenpeace are just some entities who have expressed their concerns, or in some cases, strong opposition to the proposal.

Arguably the most obvious benefit of the proposed Wash Tidal Barrier is the sustainable energy it aims to provide. The energy would be generated by the tidal flow from The Wash: the flow would spin approximately 40 turbines, creating carbon emission free electricity. Generally, hydroelectric energy is more consistent than wind or solar energy, as the turbines can run in any climate, at any time, as long as there is water flowing. Other advantages of hydroelectric energy include its predictable

nature, as tide predictions are longer-term and more reliable, and the longer lifespan of the infrastructure, ultimately meaning it is cheaper than the alternative solar or wind. In the case of the hydroelectric power plant linked to The Wash Tidal Barrier, Centre Port have estimated that it would generate enough energy to power around 600,000 homes and businesses. However, there is a second 'side' to the carbon detail of the project. The Wash comprises of the sea, mudflats and saltmarsh. The vast amount of saltmarsh has a natural ability to perform carbon capture: compared to local trees, saltmarsh captures carbon 40 times faster! Building the barrier, argues Tim McGrath, Director of Conservation for the WWT, could release "vast quantities of carbon into the atmosphere, further contributing to issues the scheme is claiming to ameliorate" (NWT, 2024).

Centre Port note that the barrier would also serve as a defence against flooding caused by storm surges, as it would be able to hold the water back, away from land. However, many believe the contrary, that the barrier would actually further exacerbate the threat of flooding in the local area, as The Wash currently acts as a natural flood defence, so the development of a barrier could threaten the current dynamic of the estuary. The Committee for Climate Change warns that sea levels could rise by 1m by 2100 and analysis by Climate Central suggests that most coastal

villages and towns in North Norfolk are likely to have around 50% of the village below the water level by 2040. This analysis does not take into account aspects including erosion, storms, or contributions from rainfall or rivers, factors which are already causing flooding in many of our local villages.

James Sutcliffe, CEO of Centre Port, suggests that the proposal for the barrier is in congruence with the strategy of the Eastern Powerhouse, whose goal is to "drive economic growth, investment in skills, innovation, and transport to enhance productivity across the region" (Eastern Powerhouse, 2022). This is because it is intended that the infrastructure will create the project will create "1,000+ job opportunities during and after construction with 300+ full time skilled jobs within the port in south Lincolnshire" (Centre Port, 2022). It is also intended that the container port will increase export and import opportunities, as it would be capable of handling the world's largest container vessels.

Despite Centre Port's assertion that the barrier would protect the ecology of The Wash against climate change, most environmental groups have argued the inverse. The Wash is listed under many protected titles; it is a Designated Special Area of Conservation (SAC), a Ramsar Site and the largest Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in England. It is a hugely important estuary for wildlife, providing a site for millions of migratory, over-wintering and breeding wetland birds each year. It is also home to one of the largest colonies of Common Seals in Europe. The Wash's deep intertidal channels, paired with its vast mudflats, provide an optimal environment for these different species and act as a 'vital resting and re-fuelling point for birds during their migration each year' (National Trust, 2022). Environmental groups have shared their concern that, through building the barrier, the dynamic of The Wash will be impacted, thus threatening the conditions



for the existing wildlife.

The development of the barrier would impact levels of tourism. The railway would mean that travel from Lincolnshire to Norfolk would take just 20 minutes. An alternative route to Hunstanton from the North and West would result in less of the congestion that the A149 is subject to every day of the summer season. In addition to reduced travel times, Centre Port have cited that the barrier will create "opportunity for cruise ship tourism", as well as allow for more sailing and recreational activities. They have also mentioned that "Norfolk will benefit from a new 6-mile West facing beach" (Centre Port, 2022). With Norfolk's existing 90 miles of coastline, some might not be won over by a prospective additional 6 miles of artificial beach. Many individuals may prioritise preserving the 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty' designation that much of the coast holds, expressing concerns that The Wash Tidal Barrier could threaten the landscape of North Norfolk's natural coastline.

The proposal is awaiting an impact and feasibility study to assess its economic viability and the potential impact on the ecology of The Wash. Interestingly, a similar development over a decade ago for the River Severn was abandoned after the Government learned it would cost around £30billion. With all the dichotomous opinions on the proposal, one thing is certain: the future of The Wash is currently uncertain!

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On the turf with Charles Joyce

One of the great jockeys of modern times retired in April. Frenchman Olivier Peslier was champion in France 4 times and also won the Prix De L'Arc De Triomphe 4 times along with winning the Epsom Derby, the Japan Cup and winning at the Breeders Cup including on the 3 times mile champion race mare Goldikova. In all he won 502 Group races including 167 Group 1s among his over 3,700 winning rides.

Another jockey to retire is Paddy Brennan who stood immediately after winning at the April Cheltenham meeting on Manofthepeople. The Galway man was champion conditional jockey in 2004/2005 season. He became stable jockey to Nigel Twiston Davies winning the Cheltenham Gold Cup on Imperial Commander in 2010. He left the Twister when Twister's son began taking ever more rides for the stable. Joining up with Fergal O'Brien he rode the trainer's first winner and the O'Brien trained Manofthepeople Paddy's last ride.

Willie Mullins achieved what had not been done for 70 years when he won the national hunt trainer's championship. The last Ireland based trainer to do it was Vincent O'Brien exactly 70 years ago in 1954. Vincent O'Brien did it twice and twice more was champion flat trainer. He is the only trainer in history to do win both the UK national hunt trainer and flat trainer championships.

The legendary O'Brien was born in the middle of the First World War in 1917 and began his training career as assistant to Frank Clarke before working unpaid as race finder for his father Dan. The year following his father's death in 1943 Vincent took over as trainer landing the Irish Autumn double with Drybob and Good Days both horses additions to the 10 he took over from his father. He had learnt that the way to be successful as a trainer was to lay a horse out for a specific race something he had done as race finder for his father. The 400+/1 Irish Autumn double set up the 27-year-old Vincent on a course that would make him a legend in his own lifetime. He would always try to travel first class on the off chance he would meet someone wealthy enough to buy a racehorse and have him train it.

When he converted to the flat he relied far less on gambling to win and more on the stud value of the horses he trained. Vincent was a very astute man who is famous for saying he only ever gambled on his own horses as he learned early in life betting on other people's horses "wasn't exactly a paying game." As with Michael Collins Vincent O'Brien was a son of the rebel county.

A modern-day daughter of county Cork is Allie Sherlock a nineteen year old busker who regularly can be seen and heard in Grafton Street Dublin. Grafton Street is one of the main shopping streets in Ireland. Imagine it's Ireland's Oxford Street. Buskers need a licence, extra if they use amplification. They can busk for only an hour with no return on the same day. No one seemed to notice Paul McCartney singing "Yesterday" when he was busking outside Leicester Square station in 1984. But when Sinead O'Connor, Lisa Hannigan and Bono of U2 were busking one Christmas to raise funds for the Simon Community they were noticed and I'm not sure how licence conditions could be enforced with Grafton Street totally blocked by the crowd that was 100 deep. Named after Simon of Cyrene who it is believed by some helped Christ carry the Cross the charity was set up in 1963 in the United States. Later a group of students who were studying in Dublin in 1969 began helping homeless people providing them with a soup and sandwich that still continues. The charity has extended its work to include helping people who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless.

Allie Sherlock often duets with various other performers including Fionn Whelan who's a thirteen-year-old Ed Sheeran lookalike. Well, he's got bright ginger hair. Others include Zoe Clarke, Brazilian Fabio Rodrigues and American Chris Izaak. There is a man who sings in Italian who sounds like Andrea Bocelli. The star though is Allie Sherlock who sings almost anything from Bill Medley to Gloria Gaynor and Tina Turner to Oasis as well as her own originals. She is exceptional with Adele originals. Type Allie Sherlock into YouTube's search engine you are very unlikely to be disappointed with what you see and hear.

Another video on YouTube is Kari Lake Arizona's Republican candidate for a seat in the Senate. She is a big supporter of Donald Trump and said at a Republican rally that her and her supporters will

not be victims of crime who will not lose their rights under the Second Amendment (right to bear arms) nor the First Amendment (right to free speech). However, it seems not satisfied with wearing the Armor of God which consists of the Belt of Truth, the Breastplate of Righteousness, the Gospel of Peace, the Shield of Faith, the Helmet of Salvation and the Sword of the Spirit. She said at a rally of the faithful in April that she and her supporters should "strap on a Glock on our side, just in case". The work of an Austrian curtain rod maker Gaston Glock who had no experience in manufacturing or designing weapons, but did in advanced synthetic polymers and introduced ferritic nitrocarburizing which combined played a significant role in making the handgun become the weapon of choice for many Americans. Not happy with what was available in 1982 he set about making his own starting from scratch. He was a shrewd man asking others what they wanted in a gun and then producing it. One issue that was quickly highlighted was the capacity of ammunition which he raised to 17 in a magazine. Anyone who watched Sonny Crockett in Miami Vice will have seen him using a Bren Ten and from 1986 on a Smith and Wesson 645 when the drug dealers he was up against were often using Steyr Aug and M16 assault rifles or a Heckler & Koch sub machine gun. A bit different from other gun makers such as Baretta who were happy to have Mick Belker in Hill Street Blues (he's the detective that growled at suspects) have one of their weapons but a bit reluctant to allow the bad guys have one. Glock was less selective. The first time a Glock 17 came on TV screens was in Season 3 of Miami Vice when Crockett and Tubbs go undercover to move on a major Miami drug dealer run into a Cuban paramilitary group armed with the gun. Once Glock had secured contracts with the Austrian Army he went after the American market initially targeting the police and other law enforcement agencies with discount prices to gain credibility before going for the much wider and more lucrative civilian market. Glock who died last year at the age of 94 years old had also prepared for the 1994 Assault Weapons Bill which was triggered by among other shootings the murder of 20 people in Texas which is the first record of a mass murder where a Glock was used. The Bill had a grandfather clause in it that meant if a gun which the Bill outlawed had been produced before the law was enacted it could still be sold. Glock had his factory run nonstop before the Bill came into effect and was therefore able to continue selling his guns. The Bill ended in 2004 by which time the gun's reputation was made.

So far no one at the Borough Council has strapped on a Glock, but there have been several changes and more to come. Three executive directors are expected to be leaving before the end of the year. Stuart Dark has stood down as Conservative leader. He is now Chairman of Norfolk County Council. This is a civic role for which I am sure he will carry out the non-political duties admirably. In my opinion Terry Parish was stabbed in the back. Michael Corleone did warn keep your enemies close and your friends even closer. After more than 30 years of being a member of the Labour Party, I left. To me if Labour means anything it's about helping the weak and wounded to become strong. So, when the chance came, I took it. As Tony Blair put it Labour would not walk on by on the other side. And although it's true what Margaret Thatcher said that no one would have heard of the good Samaritan if he did not have money, there has been no claim that either the priest or the Levite did not have money. I was very pleased and grateful to Terry and his finance tsar Chris Morley for immediately accepting my proposal for the council to help people living locally by providing some funding for the local foodbanks. I have since been told that the money will be used to pay for energy vouchers to help local people heat and light their homes. The council also approved my proposal to help victims of domestic abuse and violence. Maybe more on that another time. For now, back to the horses.

I hope T&A readers took note of the caution about City of Troy not being home and hosed for the Newmarket 2,000 Guineas as he trailed in well beaten by Notable Speech who was suggested as a possible alternative to the favourite. I could hardly believe he started at 16/1 and 28.6 on the Betfair exchange. As the price drifted close to the start of the race I did wonder if something was amiss with him. But he won well and is now headed for the St James's Palace Stakes at Royal Ascot where he will be hard to beat. Not for the first time Aidan O'Brien's

stable suddenly came alive at the Chester May festival with three winners. The one that took my eye was not a winner but the filly Port Fairy who went down by a head in the Cheshire Oaks. Come the Ribblesdale Stakes at Royal Ascot she'll be very interesting. On the Epsom Derby, historically one of the best guides has been the Newmarket 2,000 Guineas. I'm not so sure this year as the first three home don't look likely contenders for the Epsom downs event. One very simple trend has been to back Aidan O'Brien's runners that won one of their last three races. He has won the Derby nine times and while it seems obvious all of his winners fit that trend including Wings Of Eagles who won at 40/1 and Serpentine at 25/1, as have a few that went close such as At First Sight who was 2nd to Workforce at 100/1, Treasure Beach 2nd at 25/1 and Japan 3rd at 20/1. Although a note of caution is he has had 23 losers who ran in a Group 2 the last time the horse ran in the UK or Ireland, but some did place. Other trials that have taken place include those at Lingfield where Rubies Are Red came from the clouds to be runner up in the Oaks trial. The lingering question is how she handled the descent down the hill which is a big feature of winning at Epsom. She hung left in the home straight and handling the camber at Epsom is another important factor in winning. So, she maybe another for the Ribblesdale or maybe the Irish Oaks at the Curragh in July. In the Derby trial the one that took my eye was Illinois who is related to the top race mare Danedream. He could be a contender, if not the Derby, then maybe the St Leger or the Grand Prix De Paris on Bastille Day. One trial that produced several Derby contenders earlier this century is the Derrinstown Stud Stakes which this year was won by the unbeaten Los Angeles trained by who else but Aidan O'Brien. This year Godolphin could be housing the Derby winner with Arabian Crown or maybe Ancient Wisdom who missed the 2,000 Guineas. There are still some trials to go with the Dante Stakes at York where Ancient Wisdom is a likely runner. If he wins there, he's likely to become favourite for the June 1st event.

Looking forward to Royal Ascot the races up to a mile on the straight course are worth studying. It's in these races, especially the handicaps that Jamie Spencer got his nickname of Straight Track Spencer. His style is to sit at the back of the field and bring his horse forward in the last 2 furlongs. Any horse he rides will be worth noting. The draw may have a huge impact which Jamie Spencer's tactics to some extent negate. Most of the races will split with winners in each group. These are the ones to take note of for their next couple of races, especially those that run and win their own personal race against the draw bias.

One race that has an interesting trend is the 7 furlongs Jersey Stakes. Often a horse wins this that ran in one of the Guineas event, usually Newmarket, the Curragh or Paris/Longchamp. They run in this because their stamina ran out over the mile and the shorter trip suits them ideally. Plus, the race is only Group 3 which is a big drop in class. It's surprising how some of the Guineas placed horses win at rewarding prices in the Jersey. I looked at the last 27 runnings and the winner did not come from any of the lowest 3 stalls which means 81 losses. At this stage I don't know who will show up or even if any male or female Guineas placed horses run. But if they do they warrant very close scrutiny.

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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News From The Woottons

Cllr Richard Coates

Parish Council Vacancies

After many years service, one councillor from both North and South Wootton parish councils have stood down leaving a vacancy on both for an interested local citizen to become involved in local matters. Anyone wanting more information can contact the appropriate Clerk (I can give them the email address and phone numbers - see my email address at the end of this column).



New Development in The Woottons

The new doctors surgery on Edward Benefer Way is now open with a large, easy to use carpark and a bus service from town. Next door, Allison Homes' contractor got the new roundabout built and in use with the minimum of fuss. They've even got new grass growing on the exposed soil. So confident are Allison Homes about progress forging ahead that they've even released the first lot of houses for sale so, if you've got £405,000 for a 4 bed home, you can contact them now. Or £595,000 for a 5 bed 3 bathroom home of 2066 sq ft. This compares with the £550,000 being asked for the slightly smaller (1885 sq ft) 4 bed, 3 bathroom houses at the House on the Green site in North Wootton. Of course, there's a variety of houses being built by Persimmon off Nursery Lane and it won't be long before the Knights Hill development comes on stream. There's a new roundabout to be built just off the main Grimston Road, starting 17 June and the temporary access for the construction vehicles started to be built there on 1 May. Once the roundabout's in use, they'll start work on the roads and services but I think it'll be 2025 before the first houses are built. With hundreds of new houses, The Woottons is going to be the place to come to if you're interested in a new home!

Anaerobic Digestion Plant

Have you come across one of these before? Clues: it's not some new kind of exercise, nothing to do with your health and it's not a plant you buy at the garden centre. They get built to "eat" waste food and other green material. Anaerobic digestion is a process through which bacteria break down organic matter—such as animal manure, wastewater biosolids, and food wastes—in the absence of oxygen. You may have seen the entrance on Edward Benefer Way for Greenworld where traders can take their green material such as hedge clippings. Plans are in for an Anaerobic Digestion Plant to be built there. Now I'm not at all sure if that might mean noise or smell in the area so I'm going to check on a similar plant at Attleborough and ask residents there what they think. I'll let you know if I discover anything.

Picnic on the Park

As a Borough Councillor, I get an allowance of £1,000 that I can put towards local clubs and organisations that I identify have a worthy local project. I've mentioned about this previously in this column, at Parish Council meetings and other events to give it as much publicity as I can. You'd think giving away free money would be easy but I found almost nobody was interested! A parish council put one applicant my way so I talked to the Chair of next summer's Picnic on the Park about an idea with the result that my balance of £800 has been donated for it. With the local football club, we plan a penalty shoot-out competition open to all local primary school children. Saturday 8 June is the date. If your child doesn't attend one of the Wootton schools but you live in The Woottons, contact me using my email address below to take part.

Free Money

I've got another £1,000 to give away now that we're in a new financial year. Who would like some of it? You've got to be a local organisation with a project that needs funding which will benefit some of the local community. Talk to me at cllr.richard.coates@west-norfolk.gov.uk

THE HUNSTANTON FUN DOG SHOW

What a woofastic Fun Dog Show we had at Glebe House School in Hunstanton! The weather was superb and big barks must go to my sisters, Ziggy Bear and Clara, who carried out my orders pawfectly.

As well as the 14 fun classes there were several trade stands selling lots of goodies not just for us doggies but for all their humans to enjoy as well, a 40 metre bouncy castle and obstacle course, a fastest recall competition, an opportunity to have a go at Hoopers and scent work and doggy dancing displays.



Once again we were absolutely delighted with the large turnout of furry friends who strutted their stuff in their ring with great enthusiasm. If it had been up to me they would have all won first prize!

Our thanks go to our special pals at Coastal

Vets, 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 scent work display, to Lisa for running the fastest recall competition, to Ruth and Skylar for a fantastic dancing display, to Kevin, our compere, who presided over the event with his microphone in hand and unique sense of humour, to Fran and her husband who ran the Hoopers course and, last but not least, to our excellent judges, Vicky, Sheila, Maureen and Charmaine who had the difficult job of deciding the positions in each category. Well done to everyone, especially to the humans Tammy and Naylin with their doggy, Peggy, who won our Best In Show, and to Sophie with Lunar who won our Reserve Best In Show.

However, in PAWticular we at the Barking Bugle would like to give huge woofs 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**



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Seals suffering mortal injuries from entanglement in plastic flying ring toys

Jenny Hobson

Since 2008 seals have been spotted caught in plastic flying ring toys (a generic term for any type of throwing ring with a hole) with an increase in number and location to both East and West coasts of the UK since 2017. People typically throw these rings on the beach even in the sea where they can easily get taken by the wind and tide. The rings retail for as little as £1 and many are simply lost or discarded in or near water.



Pinkafo Photo Credit M.Perring

A Petition was launched on April 16th this year calling the government to ban the sale of these plastic flying ring toys in order to help protect the seals by Jenny Hobson a volunteer at East Winch RSPCA Wildlife Centre. Five years ago, Jenny saw at first hand a Grey adult seal with a pink plastic flying ring deeply embedded around her neck. The seal, rescued by Friends of Horsey Seals in Norfolk and taken to the Centre on the verge of death, was named Pinkafo. Ever since Jenny has been

campaigning to save the seals calling on people not to throw flying rings on the beach and for shops not to sell the rings. Solid frisbees (preferably biodegradable) are seal-safe alternatives.



Photo: Friends of Horsey Seals

Young seals being inquisitive, intelligent marine mammals find the flying rings at sea and explore them sometimes putting their head through the hole. They cannot get them off as they have flippers not arms and hands like humans and the pressure of the water with their forward swimming movement lodges the ring further down the neck. As each seal grows into an adult the ring cuts deeply into their neck causing deep open wounds. Hunting for food is inhibited as the seal becomes unable to extend their neck and sadly the seal will suffer a long and painful death from starvation and infection of the wounds.

A few of these seals have been rescued by groups such as British Divers Marine Life Rescue, the RSPCA and local seal groups such as Friends of Horsey Seals.

Rescue of an adult seal is a risky, stressful operation for both seal and rescuers. It is usually only possible when the seal is so depleted s/he has removed her/himself from the group and is hauled out away from the sea. A threatened seal will try and take to sea where rescue is impossible. A tranquilliser shot at the seal would take about 10 minutes to act, by then the seal would be drowning.

The RSPCA Wildlife Centre at East Winch near Kings Lynn is the only facility in the country where the team of vets and dedicated wildlife assistants can treat and rehabilitate adult seals with this type of injury. The injuries are treated as crush wounds: the ring cut off with secateurs or bolt cutters, antibiotics and painkillers administered whilst the seal is cared for in a salt bath. If the seal survives it typically takes about three days before it starts to eat fish. Often s/he will lie on his/her back which seems to relieve the pain and discomfort. The seal is eventually moved to a larger pool and encouraged to stretch his/her neck for food to reduce tightening of the healing areas. The seal is in care for 3-5 months costing around £10,000 - £15,000 for each seal.

Amazingly Pinkafo did recover and was eventually released back onto her beach and one of the first seals rescued Frisbee another

adult Grey female has been spotted doing well some years after her rehabilitation, but these seals will always have a deeply wedged neck caused by the flying ring and there may be long lasting adverse effects from this type of entanglement injury. Few seals caught in flying rings have been rescued.

Whilst some shops and vet chains have stopped retailing plastic flying ring toys, including dog toy rings to help protect the seals thousands are still being ordered, imported and sold across the country. Awareness has risen and when people see the images of the injured seals, they are deeply shocked and sympathetic. However, many people do not realise what a danger these toys are to seals or even that there are seals living all around our coast.

The campaign to protect seals from plastic flying rings has become a national movement and the Petition is backed by the Seal Alliance the national group who work tirelessly to promote the protection of our globally rare Atlantic Grey and European Common Seals.

Please sign the Petition:
<https://petition.parliament.uk/p>



A MIXED BAG FROM THE MAGPIE CENTRE

Caroline Dudley

First, many thanks to all those who came to support the Quiz Night with Hog Roast supper, held on April 27 at Stowbridge Village Hall to raise funds for the Magpie Centre, home of West Norfolk Riding for the Disabled Association.

The evening attracted more than 80 participants and raised a whopping £1006 for the Centre.

Next up is the Craft Fair, plus Have a Go Dog Agility event, scheduled for Saturday June 8, 10.00 am – 3.00 pm, at the Magpie Centre, Wallington Hall, Runcion Holme PE33 0EP (find us on the A10 three miles north of Downham Market).

Attractions include more than 40 stalls, a children's craft tent, an opportunity to meet and greet one of our lovely ponies and a Pre-Loved Walk-In Wardrobe, where you can purchase men's and ladies' clothing and accessories at a fraction of the usual price.

The event is undercover with full wheelchair access, free parking and refreshments served all day. Admission is £2.50 for adults (under 16's free) and entries for the Dog Agility are £2.50, surely a modest price for a family day out. Well-behaved dogs on leads are welcome.

Sunday June 30 sees the return of the popular Magpie Charity Ride, with off-road rides of varying lengths, including one for riders on lead rein, in the lovely grounds of Wallington Hall. Visit the Hoofbeats website for details of how to enter.

The Magpie Centre is currently seeking two new mounts: one a 14.2hh riding pony and the other a 15.2hh ride and drive horse. Must be sound and sensible. If you know of any suitable animals, please contact the Magpie Centre on 01553 810202 to discuss.

And finally – keep the date Saturday August 17 for the Magpie Centre Open Day.

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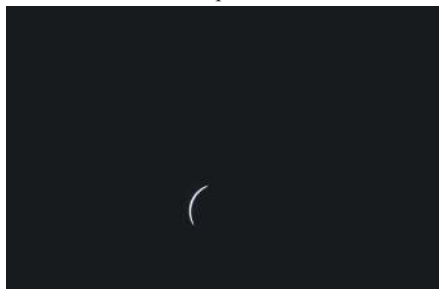
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Dark skies of West Norfolk

Terry Parish

I missed last month's as I was on holiday and didn't have time to sort it beforehand. I was in Texas on a short tour organised to see the total eclipse of the Sun at Waxahachie, Texas. Despite threatening storms and early morning fog, the clouds cleared, and the eclipse was seen in all its glory.

I had the same camera and kit that I used in 2017 for that year's Great American Eclipse. This one was longer, at 4 minutes and 20 seconds, than the 2 minutes and 26 seconds I enjoyed at Casper, Wyoming. If you haven't seen one, it is impossible to describe the experience: the gradual diminishing and changes in quality of light, the cooling of the atmosphere – very weird when moments before it was a hot day – birds roosting and a descending stillness. There is still much light right up to the moment of totality which is preceded by the Moon's shadow sweeping towards you (this was not as dramatic from my position in 2017 as, then, there were steep hills which the shadow traversed). The Sun winks out after the diamond ring is seen, a brilliant flash of light escaping around the edge of the Moon. Then there is a black disc, the Moon, surrounded by the glow of the extended Sun's atmosphere, the Corona.



Sun nearly gone

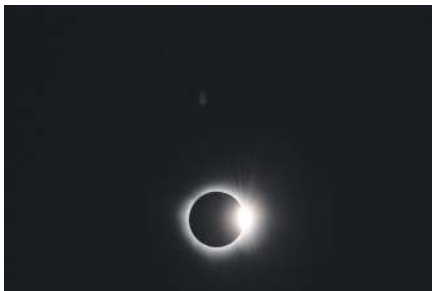


Totality. The corona, which was extensive, is not shown well. Prominences visible on screen.

Around the edges of the Moon, very small, isolated red lights were visible. These were solar prominences, great flares arcing thousands of miles into space. I used ordinary binoculars to study these. One, near the bottom of the Moon's disc, was tremendous and shaped like a shark's fin. I didn't observe Bailey's Beads this time. They are bits of sunlight which pass through valleys on the Moon's edge. It may be that I wasn't quick enough, but I didn't hear any cries of 'the beads' from any others gathered on the field around me. The Moon was closer to the Earth

by a tad than in 2017 so the Sun's disc was a little way inside the disc of the Moon rather than exactly on it so, perhaps that made Bailey's beads less likely to be seen.

I did see both Jupiter and Venus in the 'night' sky but not Uranus which would have needed a telescope. Neither did I see the much vaunted comet which was there somewhere. No-one reported seeing that and I have had no sightings of it reported locally either. Four minutes and 20 seconds later, the second Diamond Ring, on the opposite edge of the Moon, appeared and totality was over.



Second diamond ring

Of course, preceding and following totality is the gradual eating up and rebirth of the Sun. I have seen partial eclipses a number of times including two at Heacham. There is one due in March 2025 where over a third of the Sun will be covered by the Moon and then, in August 2026, 90% of the Sun will vanish. Enjoy them but realise that a partial of any description is not anything like a total. And to view a partial you must use filters, eclipse glasses or similar. I mentioned my using ordinary binoculars on the total, filters would have rendered invisible the details I and others were there to see. The use of binoculars is frowned upon by safety first people, but I didn't use them until totality and I listened for the warning shout of 'Filters On' which was organised. I also kept half an eye on time elapsed, otherwise I would have been left with just that, half an eye. My photographs of the event are not as good as those I took in 2017. Don't know why but there we are. I did spend more time looking than fiddling with equipment and that's what you should do, look and wonder.

I went on an organised tour with my son whereas, in 2017, we organised it all ourselves and did a road trip in a much more interesting location than southern Texas. The tour was not great and destinations were, of course, down to the tour operator who relied too much on their American partners to decide what was worth looking at. In brief, we visited the Johnson Space Centre at Houston. The principal reason for going there would have been to enter the control room where Moon missions were directed, 'Houston, we have a problem', is the famous phrase from the Apollo 13 equipment failure. Unfortunately, the organisers, who had two years to sort things, hadn't booked tickets. The shuttle craft perched on the back of a Boeing 747 was interesting though, and you can touch moon

rock and look at material brought back from Asteroid Bennu. Other space artefacts had their interest but the rocket park was disappointing if you had seen the one at Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, which I have.



Shuttle on the back of a 747. It was possible to enter both.

San Antonio, with its partially man-made River through its centre, is well worth a visit. The river walk is busy but pretty and full of places to eat. Its associated attraction, The Alamo, is somewhat a bore though not so to the Americans who flock there. The old film I saw in my childhood shows the Alamo in the middle of nowhere where heroes like Davy Crockett are besieged by the bad Mexicans. William Travis, Texan commander, refused to surrender and so all his men were killed in the ensuing battle (they were warned). Repercussions led to Texas becoming part of the US of A, hence the veneration paid to The Alamo. The visitor site is part of a church, a bit of wall, and a museum full of old guns etc.

Austin, the capital of Texas, is interesting though, seen from a coach, was a limited experience in the day. However, my son and I ignored the 'attractions' of the designated evening venue at an eatery and club to walk to the Congress Avenue Bridge where, from 1980, a million Mexican Free Tailed bats have made their home. In the season, at sunset, they fly out and several thousand people gather to see the spectacle. There are even riverside boat trips to view them which helps because they bring red flood lights with them. It was one of the best moments in the tour though NOT on the itinerary.



Awaiting the bats evening flight. We saw them as a fluttering black cloud.

The Fort Worth Stockyards and Championship Rodeo are not so much a disappointment as a con. Fort Worth was the centre of long horn cattle trading back in the

day. To celebrate that they have an afternoon cattle drive where thousands line the street to watch them. I was one amongst the crowd, my son sensibly went to the hotel early but not before visiting the John Wayne experience, really interesting. I spent my additional waiting time in a museum run by volunteers, cheap and worthwhile. The cattle drive moment came and four, maybe 5, cattle wandered down the road, nuff said. I have seen rodeos at several places including an excellent one at Casper in 2017. The Fort Worth one is over hyped and suspect in the manner the bucking broncos and cattle are made to perform. Two of the activities involved public participation, children, chasing animals around the arena to pluck off ribbons. The Americans lapped it up.

The last visit was to Dallas, specifically the location of the Kennedy assassination. There are X's on the roadway where the first shots hit the cavalcade and where the second ones struck the President. That might appear a little weird but people standing on them, in the middle of a busy road, so they can be photographed or take selfies struck me as sick. There is a museum, inside the former Texas

school book repository where Lee Harvey Oswald (possibly) fired the fatal shots. I stayed there for about 20 mins of the 2-hour slot and then went walkabout. I still remember where I was on Nov 2nd, 1963, when the news was released, the Birmingham Bull Ring which had an early electronic news screen. Lyndon B Johnson was sworn in as the new president and we are back where the tour started, the Johnson Space Centre. He wanted the NASA bubble to come to Texas. And we must not forget his wife, Ladybird Johnson, she brought flowers to Texas, encouraging large drifts of native flowers which are still evident today. It is against state law to pick them or even walk amongst them. The towering cities and cleanliness of southern Texas impress but the splashes of colour are welcome.

Perhaps I should mention astronomy. I have neglected it in the last year, I didn't even see the dramatic display of the Aurora. I intend to use the time I now have to get back into it.

It is the Summer Solstice on June 20th, the longest day and shortest night. Observations at reasonable hours are very difficult. Do look out for noctilucent clouds. These glow after

sunset and are found towards the north. They are very high-altitude clouds lit by the sun when it is well below the horizon.

If you get up before sunrise, which is around 4am, on June 2nd and 3rd you will find red Mars close to the crescent Moon. On the 27th, 28th, Saturn will be by the half Moon. You can use the Moon to find a few stars in late evening. On the 8th and 9th around 10pm, the crescent Moon is close to Castor and Pollux. On the 16th, the slightly gibbous Moon almost touches Spica whilst a few days later, on the 19th and 20th, a waxing Moon is close to red giant Antares. Its name means 'The Rival of Mars'. It is 550 light years away, is nearing the end of its life and will one day explode as a supernova.

At the end of the month, Mercury may be visible low in the NW after sunset. It sets about 10.30pm. Scan for a spark close to the horizon and then use binoculars – not before Sunset!

Enjoy any Sun but remember it is a big nuclear powered entity capable of spitting particles at us which create the aurora and be thankful for the Earth's magnetic field which prevents other harm.

Sonnets before supper

Poetry lovers gathered at The Terrace in Hunstanton on Thursday evening (25th April) for the launch of Ian Enters' new book - *Forms from Chaos*.

Organised by local bookshop 'by the book', the evening began with an introduction by Adrian Eden from by the book before Ian Enters took to the floor.

A Docking resident, Ian's career began as a teacher in Brixton having graduated from Trinity College, Oxford.

He has written four collections of poetry, three novels and an opera (that he also produced). Amongst his other accomplishments he was the winner of the

BTS International Sonnet Contest.

Forms from Chaos was born from lockdown when Ian was in Somerset. He challenged himself to write every day and the book is a collection of forty-one sonnets divided into sections. In the Day by Day section he was concentrating on thinkers and poets; he says he was getting angry as lockdown carried on, and hence the next section is Polemics. The final section is Nature.

Following Ian's reading, an open mic session included readings from members of the audience and by Adrian and Anna, owners of the Hunstanton by the book shop.

Ann McKimm said: "It was an interesting evening of poetry and good conversation."

And David Redfield commented on the "lovely convivial atmosphere; great food; warm and encouraging hosting; an attentive audience; masterful reading by a great poet; and some wonderfully varied supporting work from the open-mic participants. Recipe for a very memorable and enjoyable evening.

Thanking Vicky, owner of The Terrace, for the delicious food, Adrian said the evening had been enjoyed by all - "and we (by the book) plan to hold a similar poetry evening about 3 or 4 times a year.... so looking at something for July."



by the book's Adrian Eden and Anna Pugh with Ian Enters - holding his book



Ian Enters



by the book

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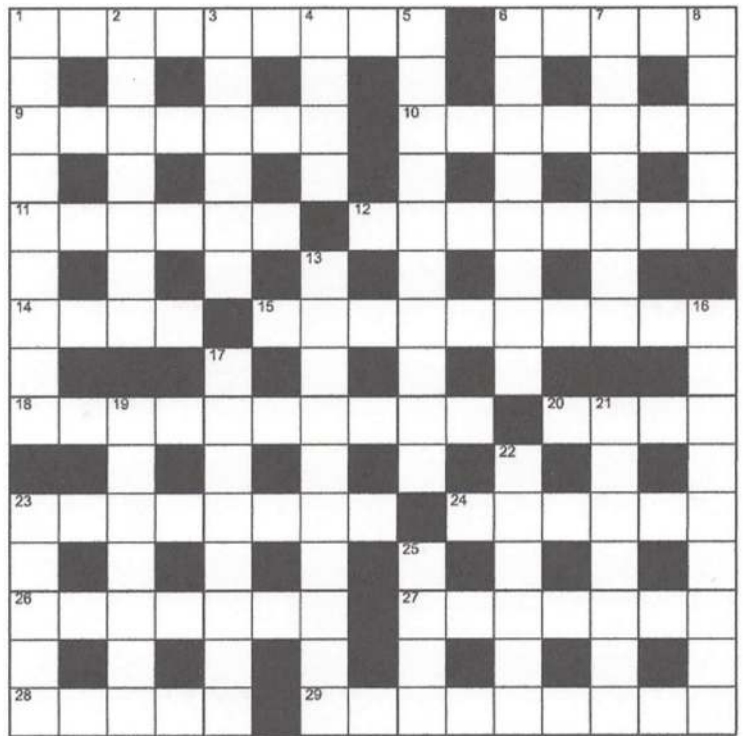
David Elsey's cryptic crossword

Across

1. Writer casually left to collect new desk (9)
6. Takes cover from hot side order (5)
9. Be in the middle of stuffing Tom in cupboard (7)
10. It's attractive ring that helps create spark (7)
11. Someone suffering with a complaint? (6)
12. Upset rehearsals, not content with part in show (8)
14. Theatre employee provides source material for 1 Across ... (4)
15. ... using cocaine on stage, they go downhill fast (10)
18. Dose doctor will give nurses, one assumes (10)
20. Gun repelled scores (4)
23. Pots on show in Charlie's garden feature (8)
24. They might be rocking to church music (6)
26. Most of team, overdue, get lift (7)
27. Stand, holding shelves – really? I don't think so! (7)
28. Record accompaniment to 24 (5)
29. Loves, without doubt, to wear three hats from time to time (9)

Down

1. Takes 10% from couples after beginning of month (9)
2. Shake, having to contend with badly behaved child interrupting (7)
3. Grandma upset the French port (6)
4. Goes for a round (pints) in bar (4)
5. It's necessary to make 1 Across sweep up after wild animal (6,4)
6. Gun out, he unsettled old French Protestant (8)
7. Lady's maid, like 9, might be found in kitchen with 23 (7)
8. 24 singularly lacking support (5)
13. Fancy man entered displaying a loving expression (10)
16. Error over university place is inflammatory (9)
17. Annual cover needed for storage unit (8)
19. Saw pair on top of bridge overlooking hilltop (7)
21. First of two hotels on the outskirts of Exeter is finer (7)
22. Con initially warms to screws (6)
23. That chap's in court for a big case (5)
25. Material lacks depth and is over-sentimental (4)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION IS ON PAGE 55

A recipe from the Prudent Pensioner

With lovely summer days to enjoy it is nice to have a simple recipe for a lovely dessert, this is a favourite standby of mine.

Yogurt Banana and Honey

Makes 2 portions

1 Banana

Honey

Greek Yogurt

Peel Banana and slice diagonally making slices a petal shape.

Arrange slices into shape of flower on base of dish.

Drizzle honey over.

Pour over 2 tablespoons of Greek yogurt.

Drizzle more honey over yogurt and it is ready to serve and enjoy.

"Less Waste more Soup" 30 easy, budget friendly recipes for nourishing soup is available in Kindle format from Amazon. The updated book "Less Waste more Soup" 45 easy, budget friendly recipes for nourishing soup is available from Ridouts Bakery in Heacham, Docking Farmers Market, By The Book in Hunstanton and Hunstanton indoor market and Robert & Christine home shopping. A search in Amazon for Doreen Reed will find both books (together with my books of light hearted poems & tales)

*Copies are available to borrow from Heacham Library & Hinckley Library
See lots more recipes on The Prudent Pensioner Facebook page*



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NEWS FROM BRANCASTER VILLAGE HALL (BVH)

Geoff Wingrove

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

D-DAY 80th COMMEMORATION 6th JUNE

This event will commence at 3.00pm and will involve an exhibition, live music and historical artefacts and documents from the 1940s. There will also be a baking competition using wartime ration ingredients and the opportunity to record oral histories about families' experiences during this time.

At 8.00pm on Barrow Common, near the Radar Station, the Brancaster Community Choir will be performing 1940s songs, followed at 9.15pm by the lighting of the beacon as a link in a chain of hundreds of others across the country.

The exhibition will remain in place at Brancaster Village Hall until 9th June, so come along and learn about 1940s life in North Norfolk and commemorate those people from this area who served or gave their lives during this period of our history.

BRANCASTER SUMMER PARTY 3rd AUGUST from 4pm until late

Spend the afternoon and evening with friends from across the community – always great fun, with live music and a Pimms tent.

“THE ZAKS AFFAIR” ART LECTURE 6th SEPTEMBER

A look at the market for Ukrainian and Russian art with James Butterwick, art expert.

For full details of all our regular events, groups and activities, please visit our website, www.brancastervillagehall.co.uk or our Facebook page, and for enquiries go to: brancastervillagehallcommunitybookings.co.uk

FROM THE BRANCASTER VILLAGE HALL ARCHIVE: NELSON AT BURNHAM THORPE Part Two: 1788-1793

Nelson progressed very quickly in his chosen naval career: he passed for Lieutenant in 1777 and was promoted to Commander in 1778, then to Post Captain in 1779. The main reason for this extraordinary success was undoubtedly the influence exercised by his uncle, Captain Maurice Suckling, who had become Comptroller of the Navy Board. This was an extremely powerful position in the navy, which provided Nelson with strong influence; that is not to deny that Nelson had proved to be an exceptionally able and inspirational sailor and officer.

In 1787 Nelson returned to England in the frigate “Boreas” from a rather unhappy posting in the West Indies. Much of this unhappiness was due to his friendship with Prince William Henry, later to become William IV, the Sailor King. William Henry had been promoted to Post Captain at a very early stage, following prompting from the King, his father. He proved entirely inexperienced for such a role and was also blessed with a personality which was difficult, particularly in the small frigate to which he was appointed.

The “Boreas” was paid off in 1787 and, as there was no further appointment for Nelson, he was put on half pay. Nelson had by this

time married the widow Fanny Nesbit in the West Indies and so had responsibilities for her and her young son, Josiah. Nelson decided not to return to Burnham Thorpe immediately: he was in poor health, and he and Fanny went to Bath to get over his ills. They eventually moved to the Rectory at Burnham Thorpe, where they lived for the next five years.

It was extremely fortunate that Fanny and Nelson's father Edmund got on very well. Fanny was also very relieved to have a home which represented a stable base after all her wanderings since marriage. Nelson also provided for schooling in Norfolk for Fanny's son, Josiah. Towards the end of 1790 Edmund moved out of the Rectory in order to give the couple more room; he moved into a cottage at Burnham Ulph. (There were seven Burnhams in those days: Burnham Ulph, Burnham Sutton and Burnham Westgate were merged in recent times to become Burnham Market. The other four Burnhams still exist today).

Nelson however still yearned for employment and at the end of 1788 wrote to Captain Cornwallis (without success) when he heard that he had been appointed Commander in Chief in the East Indies in the rank of Commodore: “I always shall, as I have ever done, be ready to step forth whenever service requires, or my friends wish me to serve”. Grudgingly Nelson took his place at Burnham Thorpe amongst those known as “the genteel classes” – men and women of some education, status, wealth and power: this class mixed at dinners, concerts, fairs and sporting events. A naval captain capable of placing sons in midshipmen's berths would be a welcome addition to any community at that time.

The first winter spent at Burnham Thorpe was exceedingly cold and Nelson and Fanny were confined to their bedchamber with bouts of rheumatism and other ailments. Nelson had little money, as his half pay was just £106 per year. However, he and Fanny also received money from their respective uncles, although this proved barely sufficient to sustain Nelson's status of gentleman. All in all, Nelson's want of money would have made him uncertain of his standing with his social equals, who were far wealthier.

Nelson was invited by his godfather, Lord Walpole, to stay at Wolterton Hall and there he met Thomas Coke (whose family later became Earls of Leicester) with whom he formed a firm friendship. He must have visited Holkham Hall, and Coke at a later stage sent gifts of game to Nelson's father. Nelson was also able to find places for Coke's protégés when he was finally appointed to a ship.

Besides the social round, Nelson buckled down to farming the 30 acres attached to the Rectory. He also attempted to take up shooting but proved an indifferent marksman. The Rectory was home to Fanny's son, Josiah, when he was not at school, and other members of the family were frequent guests. Nelson had become the head of the family and formed a particular relationship with Thomas Bolton, husband of his sister, who he relied on to

conduct his business and provide him with various goods and even a horse, as he was in trade and lived close to Norwich.

Being shackled to the land at Burnham Thorpe must have been deeply demoralising for Nelson, who dreamed of glory. At thirty, he would have found life purposeless, with little to stimulate his tremendous energy and talent: he longed for a new command. Someone who had travelled widely would have found his rural backwater very dull, and he would have spent hours poring over books, charts and newspapers, desperate for distraction and news. In addition, marriage was childless. He spent time haunting the Admiralty in London, but to no avail, as it seems the King had acquired a poor opinion of Nelson, due to his friendship with his son, William, of whom he disapproved.

The French Revolution in 1789 changed the continent forever, and with it eventually improved Nelson's chances of getting an appointment. The execution of the French royal family in 1792 sparked disquiet in England and the war on the continent further raised alarm as France defeated Prussian and Russian armies. Nelson wrote to the Admiralty again at the end of 1792 and then journeyed to London to meet Lord Chatham, the Head of the Navy. On 7th January 1793 he wrote to Fanny: “Lord Chatham yesterday made many apologies for not having given me a ship before this time, but if I choose to take a 64-gun ship to begin with, I should be appointed to one as soon as she is ready”.

He returned to Burnham Thorpe and within a few weeks was informed he had been appointed to the “Agamemnon”, a 64-gun fitting out at Chatham: his commission was dated 30th January 1793. On 4th February Nelson left Burnham Thorpe and Norfolk to take up his commission – his exile, as he would count it, was over for good, and fame and renown lay ahead.

The picture shows the statue of Nelson on the village green in Burnham Thorpe.



Mudpies & Butterflies

With Louise Barby, Balanis

"In early June, the world of leaf and blade and flowers explodes and every sunset is different" John Steinbeck

Elevate Your Garden: June Projects for Structure and Impact

As June unfolds its vibrant tapestry of colours across Norfolk, it's the perfect time to embark on projects that not only enhance the structure of your garden but also maximise its impact, even in the smallest of spaces. From creating focal points to optimizing planting schemes, let's delve into some captivating tasks that will elevate your outdoor sanctuary to new heights this month.

Create Architectural Interest

Inject a dose of drama into your garden by introducing architectural elements that catch the eye and captivate the imagination. Consider adding trellises, arbors, or pergolas to create vertical interest and provide support for climbing plants such as clematis, jasmine, or climbing roses. These structures not only define spaces but also create enchanting nooks and crannies for relaxation and contemplation.

Design a Focal Point

Every garden benefits from a focal point that draws the gaze and serves as a visual anchor amidst the surrounding greenery. Whether it's a striking sculpture, a bubbling fountain, or a carefully curated collection of pots and containers, choose a focal point that reflects your personal style and enhances the overall ambiance of your garden. Position it strategically to create a sense of balance and harmony within the space.

Plant for Maximum Impact

In small gardens, every plant counts, so choose your selections wisely to ensure maximum impact. Opt for bold, architectural plants with interesting foliage and vibrant blooms that command attention without overwhelming the space. Consider compact varieties of shrubs and perennials that pack a punch in terms of color and texture, such as dwarf hydrangeas, Japanese

maples, or ornamental grasses.

Embrace Vertical Gardening

When space is at a premium, look to the vertical plane as a canvas for your gardening creativity. Install wall-mounted planters, hanging baskets, or living walls to add greenery and interest to vertical surfaces such as walls, fences, or balconies. Fill them with trailing plants, cascading ferns, or compact herbs to create a lush, verdant back-drop that makes the most of limited space.

Experiment with Container Gardening

Containers offer endless possibilities for gardening in small spaces, allowing you to create mini-gardens that can be easily moved and rearranged to suit your preferences. Get creative with your choice of containers, from traditional terracotta pots to repurposed wooden crates or colorful ceramic planters. Mix and match different sizes, shapes, and textures to add visual interest and depth to your garden design.

Incorporate Hardscaping Elements

Hardscaping features such as pathways, patios, and decking not only provide functional elements to your garden but also contribute to its overall aesthetic appeal. Use materials such as natural stone, gravel, or reclaimed wood to create pathways that meander gracefully through your garden, inviting exploration and discovery. Add seating areas or cozy corners for relaxation, where you can unwind and soak in the

Light Up the Night

Extend the enjoyment of your garden into the evening hours by incorporating lighting elements that add warmth and ambiance to outdoor spaces. Install solar-powered lights along pathways, around seating areas, or beneath trees to create a magical atmosphere after dark. Opt for soft, diffused lighting that highlights key features while preserving the tranquility of the night.

As you embark on your June gardening endeavors, let your imagination soar and your creativity flourish. With thoughtful planning and careful execution, you can transform even the smallest of spaces into a haven of beauty and tranquility that brings joy to all who behold it.

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HUNSTANTON FRONT GARDEN COMPETITION

Organised by Hunstanton Gardeners' Association

Enter your front garden or hanging basket or container into our 2024 Front Garden Competition. There will be separate classes for large and small gardens and also for hanging baskets or containers.

Entry forms can be obtained from Witley's shop in Greevegate Hunstanton from 1st June onwards. The closing date for entry is 30th June, with judging to take place in early July. Completed forms can be returned to Witley's shop at the same location.

The best garden or display overall whether large or small, will be able to hold the Anneka Rice Challenge Cup for 1 year, with a replica to keep.

Although we welcome new members living outside of Hunstanton to join our Garden Association, entry into this competition is restricted to Hunstanton residents only.

Old Hunstanton Open Gardens Show

Carol Greening

Old Hunstanton Open Gardens Show will be on Sunday 23rd June 10am-4pm. This will be the second year we have run the event as separate to the annual Flower Festival. There are 13 gardens to visit plus the allotments. Tickets are £5 to visit all the gardens and will be available in the Village Hall garden and outside St Mary's Church. There are some new gardens on our trail this year for you to enjoy.

Entry into the Village Hall is free, and no ticket is needed. The Village Hall garden will be hosting stalls associated with gardening this year including five specialist nurseries, willow weaving, honey makers and more so please call in.

The hall will be serving lunch, and refreshments throughout the day. There will be a free shuttle bus between the St Marys Church and the Village Hall. Car parking will be available at the church car park. All proceeds from the event will be split between the Village Hall and the Church.

If you would like to help at the event please contact Carol Greening by emailing greeningcarolderek@hotmail.com



HUNSTANTON IN BLOOM

We're gearing up for another wonderful summer season with gardens being replanted and lawns being mown. But in addition to the horticultural aspect, we are reaching out to you, the community to join in.

With children in mind the Men's Shed will be making more wooden slugs and snails which can be painted during the annual Bug Hunt in Boston Square. When the weather is dryer, the men will mount more tiles on the wall on the North Prom. Perhaps you have been waiting for one of your works of art to go up – it will be, soon. Odd Socks, the caterpillar on the Esplanade Garden fence, has grown and you are welcome to draw on this too and even put your old socks on his many feet! A new Bug Hotel will also be built.

The In Bloom Committee held a tea party in the Town Hall to celebrate 60 years of the In Bloom Competition where we were honoured to host the Borough Mayor and Town Mayor along with about 50 guests. In fact this will be the 20th year that Hunstanton has entered so of course we are hoping to get another Gold plaque and so are other organisations in town like the Allotments, the Community Orchard and Searles Leisure, to name a few.

The overarching things we aim to highlight are our Horticultural Practice, Environmental Responsibility and Community Participation. So, we hope more people will come forward to offer some time to the Adopt-a-Bed scheme which involves deadheading and weeding. It has been going since 2007! But another plan for 2024 is to ask anyone and everyone to make flowers from anything they can recycle, bottles are good, and attach them to the Harris fence outside the old library. Don't wait to ask, just cable tie or use string to add to a colourful display to partly cover the 'grot spot' of the building site behind. Schools are already involved. This year's theme is "Friendship" so messages of friendship could be attached to the flowers.

"It's Your Neighbourhood" is also part of RHS In Bloom and invites people, perhaps 2 or more neighbours, to enter their front gardens or a group who choose to develop a pond or community allotment. Judging takes place in July and if you enter you will be visited, entry is free. We have some leaflets about this so if you would like to know more please get in touch.

Meanwhile we would like to show our appreciation to everyone and every business or organisation that endeavours to brighten up their gardens or open spaces with plants trees and shrubs.

Chris Earnshaw secretary to Hunstanton In Bloom. 2chrisearnshaw@gmail.com

Photos: Adrian Winnington - above Boston Square and below an example of a sustainable front garden.



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Diary of events for June - see also: <https://townandaround.net>

Saturday 1st

Fincham Memorial Hall PE33
9EJ FINCHAM VILLAGE
FETE from 11am to 4pm
Marham Military Ladies Choir -
food & drink & licensed bar.

United Services Club
Hunstanton entertainment: Dr
Phil. Motown & Soul Man
8.30pm. Non-members £5pp

Sunday 2nd

Glebe House School Hunstanton
PE36 6HW Car Boot Sale 7am-
1pm

Beat the Tide in aid of the RNLI.
5k and 10k races with 9am start
in front of the Oasis on
Hunstanton's promenade.

Norfolk Hospice Tapping House
Open Garden Hillington PE31
6BH.. £4.50 admission, children
free. 9am-1pm. Refreshments.

United Services Club
Hunstanton entertainment: Prize
Bingo Eyes down 5.30pm

Monday 3rd

Anmer Social Club BINGO
NIGHT - Club opens at 7.00p.m.
"Eyes Down" at 7.30 p.m.
anmer.club@outlook.com

Wednesday 5th

Community cinema at the
Burnham Market village hall
presents Phantom Thread (2017)
.2.30pm £5 on the door or Diana
Walker on 01328 738604

Thursday 6th

Stanhoe & Barwick WI. The
Reading Room, Stanhoe at 2pm.
Lizzie Scott, "Life as a 1930s
scullery maid at Blickling Hall".
£5 incl refreshments.
Valerie (01485 576261)

Friday 7th

Fincham Memorial Hall PE33
9EJ QUIZ night is at 7.30pm
Bring your own refreshments.

United Services Club
Hunstanton entertainment:
Pagan (Shane Gould) Rock &
Roll & 60s 8pm. Non-mem £5pp

Saturday 8th

London Road Methodist Church,
King's Lynn. Coffee Morning,
10.00 - 12.00

RAF Bircham Newton PE31
6RH Open Day 10am-4pm

Snettisham Royal British Legion
80th D-Day event at the RBL
Hall, Church Road, Snettisham
10am-2pm. Displays, teas etc

Magpie Centre, Wallington Hall,
South Runciton on the A10 PE33
0EP. Craft Fair and Have-a-go
Dog Agility 10-3pm.

Music in the Burnhams present
Henriette Poos (Harp) with
music from Baroque to Modern
at All Saints Church Sutton cum
Ulph PE31 8HQ 3pm Tickets:
£20, under 18s free.
musicintheburnhams.com

United Services Club
Hunstanton entertainment:
Laurie Hayley Duo 60s Former
members of The Rubettes
8.30pm. Non-members £5pp

Sunday 9th

Glebe House School Hunstanton
PE36 6HW Car Boot 7am-1pm

Ringstead Open Gardens. 14
gardens open from 11am,
homemade lunches, cakes and
live music. Plant stall, tombola
and Raffle. £5 admits to all
locations. Free minibus to
transport around the village.

Three gardens in the Rudhams
are open for the National
Gardens Scheme: Wensum
Farmhouse PE32 8SZ, The
White Cottage PE31 8TD and
Wensum House PE31 8SU. All
new to the NGS scheme.

Monday 10th

The Arts Society North West
Norfolk talk at Sedgeford
Village Hall 2pm. 'The Divine
Sunflower in Art and Culture.'
www.theartsocietynwnorfolk.or.uk

Tuesday 11th

Brancaster Camera Club:
Brancaster Staithe Village Hall
at 7pm. We are a small, friendly
club that meets monthly. We are
always pleased to see visitors.
Wendy Calow on 01553 674725
or Sue Till on 01485 210013

Wednesday 12th

Burnham Market village hall
Phoenix Ladies meet 2-4pm.
Tropics demo with Gemma
Willey. Open meeting

Open Air Theatre - The
Importance of Being Earnest
Dalegate Market, Main Road,
Burnham Deepdale PE31 8FB.
7-10pm Tickets
<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/the-pantaloon/1063771>

Thursday 13th

King's Lynn Community
Cinema Club present
'Chinatown' marking the 50th

Anniversary of the classic neo
noir mystery. St Georges
Guildhall, King's Lynn 7.30pm
£5 cash on the door.

Friday 14th

Kings Lynn U3A Gaywood
Community Centre. A Talk from
Pat Knight about the inimitable
Joyce Grenfell. Doors open
9.30am. Talk 10am. £3 entry
includes tea, coffee and biscuits.

Anmer Social Club WICKED
LITTLE LETTERS - 15 - The
club opens 7pm. - Film 7.30pm
Admission £4 at the door.
films@anmerclub.co.uk

United Services Club
Hunstanton entertainment:
Corrie Lewis Motown & more
8pm. Non-members £5pp

Saturday 15th

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

Music in the Burnhams present
Benedict Holland (Violin) and
Brenda Blewett (Piano) with
music by Mozart, de Falla and
Ravel at St Mary's Church,
Brancaster PE31 9AU 3pm
Tickets: £20, under 18s free.
musicintheburnhams.com

Fincham Memorial Hall PE33
9EJ National Theatre Encore
performance of 'NYE' at
7.15pm Entrance £5 pay via
Eventbrite or at the door
Licensed bar from 6.45pm.

Charity Race Night at
Dersingham Social Club PE31
6JX Doors 7pm, racing 7.30.
All funds to QEH Breast Care
and Chemotherapy Unit

Anmer Social Club SUMMER
FIESTA 7.30 p.m. Tickets £6 in
advance. Book: 07708769114
jennie_martin5@hotmail.com
by Monday 10th June Fully
Licensed Bar plus Raffle.

United Services Club
Hunstanton entertainment: John
Carr Great Vocals All era's
8.30pm. Non-members £5pp

Sat 15th - Sun 16th

East of England Flower
Arranging Show.
Hunstanton Lower Green.
Show Marquee with ten
competitive floral design classes
on display open free of charge
from 9.30am each day.

West Norfolk & King's Lynn
Beekeepers Association presents
Bees by the Sea 10am-4pm
Hunstanton Town Hall PE36
6BQ. Exhibition all about bees,
bee products and honey tasting.

Sunday 16th

Glebe House School Hunstanton
PE36 6HW Car Boot 7am-1pm

Hunstanton Food and Drink
Festival 10am-3pm with 30
stalls along the High Street.
A must for all foodies.

Manor House Farm,
Wellingham, Fakenham, PE32
2TH. NGS open garden
11am-5pm

Monday 17th

Hunstanton u3a at the
Community Centre, Avenue
Road 2pm. Hopefully Philip
Caine will be providing various
anecdotes of a Raconteur!
www.hunstantonu3a.org Tel:
07443 763679

Wednesday 19th

Community cinema at the
Burnham Market village hall
presents One Life (2023) 7pm.
£5 on the door or please contact
Diana Walker on 01328 738604

Friday 21st

Massingham Historical Society
Archive Evening at the Village
Hall 7.30pm. Come along & see
our collection of photos,
documents, research studies &
maps.

Fincham Memorial Hall PE33
9EJ BINGO night. Cash bingo
with raffle and other games.
Doors 7.30pm with eyes down
8.00pm. BYO nibbles & drink.

United Services Club
Hunstanton: Quiz Night £50
first prize. Teams up to 4
persons. £4pp including supper
8pm

Saturday 22nd

Concert at St Margaret's
Church, Clenchwarton. 'Singers
of Note' 7pm. Tickets £10.00
adults/£5.00-U16s Tickets
available on the door or in
advance from Jan and Andy
Taylor (tel:07939 055031).
Singers of Note is a four-part
harmony mixed vocal group
which performs fund-raising
concerts for local churches.
Wide-ranging programme
featuring numbers from West
End Shows, melodic pieces and
popular songs.

around.net/whats-on/june

Dersingham Village Centre presents a Midsummer Musical Miscellany celebrating the arrival of summer with local musicians, singers and stage school students. 7pm £4 in advance from Dersingham PO or £5 on the door. Food available to purchase.

United Services Club
Hunstanton entertainment: Steve Moyse All eras 8.30pm Non-members £5pp

Sat 22nd – Sun 23rd

Hunstanton Carnival Weekend: Party on the Green, live music, displays, food, craft, gift stalls, bouncy castle, Morris dancers, Grand Parade and much more.
Info: 01485 532402

Sunday 23rd

Glebe House School Hunstanton PE36 6HW Car Boot 7am-1pm

RAF Bircham Newton PE31 6RH Open Day 10am-4pm

Barton Bendish Open Gardens PE33 9GF. Lots of gardens including Barton Bendish Hall bartonbendishevents@gmail.com 01366 347549

Old Hunstanton Open Gardens Show 10am-4pm There are 13 gardens to visit plus the allotments. Tickets are £5 to visit all the gardens available in the Village Hall garden and at St Mary's Church.

London Road Methodist Church, King's Lynn Concert, Shanty Singers, 2.30pm. Free entry, light refreshments.

Tuesday 25th

Village Cinema at Dersingham Village Centre presents Wicked Little Letters. £6, under 16s £3. 7.30pm. Licensed Bar.

Wednesday 26th

Snettisham Gardening Club 7.30, The Memorial Hall, Snettisham. Fay Jones' talk about wonderful work of Nettles. Info Gail on 01485 541279 or Addie on 01485 544754.

Thursday 27th

New Hunstanton Women's Institute meeting 2.15pm, at the Methodist Church Hall, Austin Street, PE36 6AL. Lesley Robinson's illustrated talk on "The wonder of nature". Open meeting. £5 incl refreshments. Info 24wisec@gmail.com

Friday 28th

Hunstanton Lifeboat Station special evening celebrating the bicentenary of the birth of the RNLI and the founding of a lifeboat service at Hunstanton in 1824. 6.30pm

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

Fincham Memorial Hall PE33 9EJ Fincham Film for all is showing 'The Holdovers' at 7.15pm. Entrance £3 pay via Eventbrite or at the door by either cash or card. Licensed bar available from 6.45pm.

United Services Club
Hunstanton entertainment: Diamond Paul's Mixed Bag Disco All requests played 8pm

Saturday 29th

Hunstanton Craft Fair at Hunstanton Town Hall PE36 6BQ 10am-4pm

Music in the Burnhams present Piers Adam (Recorders) and David Wright (Harpsichord) - The wild Men of the Baroque with music from John Bull to Debussy at All Saints Church Sutton cum Ulph PE31 8HQ 7.30pm Tickets: £20, under 18s free. muscintheburnhams.com

Fincham Memorial Hall PE33 9EJ Concert by Fincham Chorus at 7.30pm which will include music by Vivaldi & Faure as well as well-known songs from the 1930's/40s. Contact John 01366 348136 for details.

United Services Club
Hunstanton entertainment: Move It Band Rock & Roll 8.30pm. Non-members £5pp

Sunday 30th

Glebe House School Hunstanton PE36 6HW Car Boot 7am-1pm

Looking forward to July

Thursday 4th
Stanhoe & Barwick WI. The Reading Room, Stanhoe at 2pm. Matt Curtis of British Divers Marine Life Rescue. Visitors are always welcome. Our charge is £5, which includes refreshments. Please contact Valerie (01485 576261) for further details.

July issue copy date is 12th June



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Ring-a-ring-a-Ringstead!

Jane Whiteford

Ringstead Open Gardens is taking place this year on Sunday June 9th June 2024 with a wonderful blaze of colour, cakes and community spirit on offer. A total of 14 private gardens will be open to be enjoyed – 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.



The Old Rectory garden Ringstead

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 and, for vegetable buffs, an allotment on Peddars' Way.

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



Glebe Farm Cottage

Enthusiastic garden hosts have joined the tradition over the years taking pride in presenting their gardens to the public to raise money for the village Church. Tracey and David Taylor moved to a barn conversion in Ringstead 4 and a half years ago and have enjoyed developing a beautiful cottage garden including a delightful feature of the original 'plain shed'. Tracey explains "I love being involved in the Open Garden Sunday and always try to add something different every year" – what she's planning for this year remains to be seen but her garden is certainly worth a visit!

Many garden hosts and villagers 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!

The delicious homemade lunches and teas will be available in the Village Hall and Car Park with live music accompaniment. The typical British contingency of "dining inside if wet" will ensure no one is disappointed.



All funds raised on the day will be for St Andrew's Church where, from 8th-10th June 10am-5pm, you can take visit the Flower Festival with the theme this year of 'Books'.

As well as the popular Plant Stall, there will be the Tombola and Raffle stalls at the Village Hall. You can also play Petanque in one of the gardens, take a walk round Courtyard Farm or head off to enjoy Ringstead Downs Woodland Garden. There is off street parking in the High Street and at the top of the village and of course the FREE Minibus will be operating too.

Gardens Open 11am - £5 admits to all locations.

To book lunches served from 12-2pm @£17.50 a head, please call (01485) 525494 or email melanie.hutchinson@hlhld.co.uk

Teas served from 12-4.30pm. Dogs on leads are welcome.

For more information follow us on Facebook and Instagram @ringsteadopengardens

All photographs are Copyright Antoinette Eugster.

BARTON BENDISH OPEN GARDENS (PE33 9GF)

Sunday 23rd June 2024
11 am – 5 pm

Many gardens will be open including Barton Bendish Hall. The historic St Mary's Church will also open.

Morning Coffees, Ploughman's Lunches (from noon) and Afternoon Teas from 2.30 pm.

Vintage and Classic Cars, Children's Trail, Raffle, Plant Stall, Cake Stall, Pimm's Tent, Community Library and Second-Hand Bookshop.

Village Hall toilet facilities open all day. Admission £5.00 (Children Free). Proceeds to St Andrew's Church.

Enquiries: bartonbendishevents@gmail.com 01366 347549



Snettisham Gardening Club

Our monthly meetings in the Memorial Hall, Old Church Road, usually on the last Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm. Having said that there is not a meeting in the Memorial Hall in July.

Our June meeting on Wednesday 26th will see Fay Jones telling us about wonderful work of Nettles! not generally recognised as a gardeners' friend, but perhaps Fay can change our minds!

Schedules and entry forms are still available for our Open Show on Saturday 13th July at Stockley's Chemist. Classes include flowering plants and flower arrangements, vegetables, cookery and preserves, through to crafts and photography.

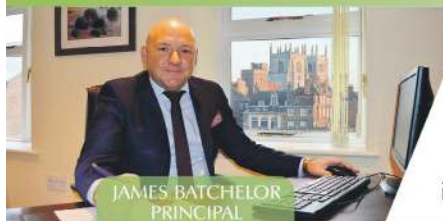
There are classes for Children and Adults with prize money for winners. Entries close on Wednesday 10th July so still time to prepare and enter.

If you are unable to take part the show is open at 1.30 pm for visitors to include refreshments and a Raffle.

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

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Sea Shanties and Words support Hunstanton Foodbank

A few weeks ago St Mary's Church, Docking mounted an evening of Sea Shanties and Words to celebrate the work of Hunstanton and District Food Bank, to raise awareness of the increasing need for the help it provides, and to raise funds and contributions to the work.

Nelson's Shantymen led the evening with their lively shanty songs and a few of our fine Norfolk wordsmiths - Paul Berry, Ian Enters, Liz Radley and David Redfield - chipped in with readings about the sea. The Church was full, in full voice, and the generosity of those attending was wonderful with £700.00 raised on the night.

The cheque for £700.00 was presented to the Chairman of the Food Bank, Sam Abramian, trustees Elaine Coker and Mark Fuchter, and volunteer Derek Dodwell, by Ian Enters and Jenny Barker on behalf of the Church.

The Food Bank is open Mondays and Thursdays from 1.30am until 2.30pm at St Edmund's Church Hall, Hunstanton, but the support extends beyond the food bank itself



From left: Elaine Coker, Mark Fuchter, Sam Abramian, Ian Enters, Derek Dodwell, Jenny Barker.

to providing fruit in a local primary school, volunteer delivery in the district, and other support through a Red Cross Community Support Worker.

The Trussell Trust oversees the work

The foodbank can be contacted on 07795 491154 and more information is available on their website: <https://hunstantondistrict.foodbank.org.uk/>

Ingoldisthorpe plant fair fundraiser

Baving the persistent rain on Saturday 27th April intrepid plant hunters descended on the church hall and field in Ingoldisthorpe.



Maggie Fisher was thrilled to bag her favourite variety of Pulmonaria, 'soldiers and sailors', with its distinctive pink and blue flowers on Susan Lake's stall.



Isla Manning and family, veteran stallholders at this event, sheltered in their tent. A real generational affair the team, who raise funds for the West Norfolk Lawn Tennis

club, included 10-year-old Isla, her parents, and grandparents Alan and Madeline Stewart. Their efforts have contributed to the re-surfacing of the courts at the club – and their fundraising continues as the next project is the clubhouse. Look out for Isla at the Hunstanton Tennis Tournament is August!



Indoors the stalls did a brisk trade in jams, craftwork and baked goods while the Vicar,

Mark Capron, and Jane Wood provided refreshments.

Mark Capron said: "Over the last three years we've made significant improvements to the hall and today is part of our ongoing fundraising.

"The hall is run by volunteers and every Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am-12.30pm we are open for Barista drinks and home-made cakes."



Snettisham RBL June Barrett

Snettisham Royal British Legion are holding an 80th D Day event on Saturday 8th June 2024 at the RBL Hall, Church Road, Snettisham 10am-2pm. Do join us for a coffee, cake, and a Tombola.

There will be a display about the 16 local men who paid the ultimate sacrifice. We will remember them.

Other local groups have also been invited to have a display about their work during WW2.

Poppy Appeal

I have recently taken over as Snettisham's Poppy Appeal Organiser, and although Remembrance is several months away, I need to get my orders in during the next few weeks, especially the Wreath order. We have been informed to only order wreaths that have been requested. This is due to the circumstances of current affairs and supplies may be somewhat limited.

If anyone would like to order a wreath, please contact me before 15th June for more details:

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Save our Studio!

by SJ Featherstone, Mo Laughton, Ann McCullagh
on behalf of the Studio @ 55 community

Esther Boehm opened Studio @ 55 on the High Street, Heacham in October 2017. In these 6+ years we have watched it grow into a vibrant community art hub.

Sadly, Esther has been told that she will need to Vacate the Premises. We don't want to see her go!

We love coming here and hope to get the support of people in Heacham and around to keep Studio @ 55 going.



Esther's work is a definite asset to the community. Not only is she a gifted artist of which Heacham should be proud — but through her courses she helps members of the community come together. We learn techniques, skills and develop our creativity. With her pottery, sculpture and printmaking classes Studio @ 55 has become a place where we come, we learn and are inspired. Also, seeing what others have done has given us the courage to try new things. Things we never dreamt of before.

Let me just share with you a snapshot of how we all feel about Esther and Studio @ 55:

"Wow what a wonderful creative space. The time just flies. Esther brings out the hidden artist within, ... so relaxing and therapeutic. A form of creative meditation. A real asset to our village....." GW

"I have been going to classes at Studio @ 55 for a while now. I started with making small things, ... Esther is a patient and encouraging teacher. Part of the enjoyment of the class is absorbing the knowledge from a real artist. We all enjoy the chat and the social aspect of getting together. I am currently working on a larger piece and feel thrilled at

my progress. I feel that Esther has inspired me to aim higher." SH

And picking up from what SH said, the social side is as important. Studio @ 55 gives us a sense of community. We have made friends here.

"My experience has been so so amazing! I look forward to every Tuesday as it gives me time to escape everyday things and just focus on creating the most wonderful things with the most amazing, friendliest people! Esther has the most beautiful energy and I couldn't imagine going anywhere else!" US

And now I want you to hear what Esther says:

"I have been at my studio in High Street, Heacham for almost seven years now. This space has provided me with a wonderful opportunity to develop my work and classes, fostering not only creativity but also community. The people who come here have found a place where they can meet, exchange ideas, and let their creative side flourish. It's been amazing to see the work develop."

So — although Esther's hand has been forced the time has now come for Change. A new Studio @ 55 needs to be found.

But fear not — we have a solution!

Our vision is to turn the Old Dairy site into an art hub and community space. Leaving the footprint the same.

We see the barn turned into Esther's studio and 3-D classrooms.

We envisage the Dairy building becoming a venue for local artists to sell their work — a place for the community and those who visit. Ideally, we'd love to open an Art Café.

We will have a painting and printmaking room that could also be used for meetings and by local groups.

Who knows we may even find a space for the Heacham archive. (Wouldn't that be wonderful? We love Heacham.)

We see the Old Dairy coming alive as a meeting place for events — a springboard for cultural community projects, and ? ... Over to you. Why not be part of our planned independent committee and have a say?

SAVE OUR STUDIO
We are about to lose our pottery, sculpture and printing workshops.

STUDIO @ 55 at 55 High Street, Heacham will be closing.
We love coming here. We love creating here.
We love the social interaction.
We need to find a new home for **STUDIO @ 55.**

Will you help us?
Email: save.our.studio.55@gmail.com
Facebook: Search for Save Our Studio
Sign our Petition: change.org/SaveOurStudioat55

We realise this is an enormous ask but we hope that the people of Heacham and the surrounding areas will help us find a way to make our vision become a reality — we want to save Studio @ 55 and — we want to save the Old Dairy for the community.

Please show your support for this project by visiting change.org/SaveOurStudioat55 and signing our petition and by following us on Facebook: search for Save Our Studio.

We know it will take some time for all of this to happen. And it's hanging on a whisper and a prayer. In the meantime, can anyone please give Esther and Studio @ 55 a home? If you have any ideas, please contact Esther directly at eb@estherboehm.com.

Email: save.our.studio.55@gmail.com

Facebook: Search for Save Our Studio

Sign our petition:

change.org/SaveOurStudioat55



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June 3rd Coffee / Brandy from 10.00 am

June 8th Music Night DR Phil, Soul / Motown food served from 6.00 pm

June 20th Coach trip to Southwold

June 26th Cream Tea from 3.00 pm.

Yoga for U3A members on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

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

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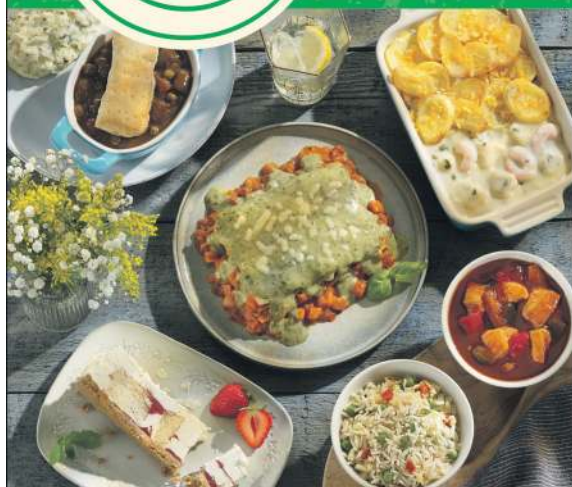
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85 years ago a Pier Fire marked the end for preserving Hunstanton's Conservation Area

John Maiden

According to a report in the Lynn Advertiser dated June 16, 1939: "The pavilion on Hunstanton's 800 foot pier, which was destroyed by fire late on Saturday afternoon, is to be rebuilt, most probably at the promenade end of the pier instead of at the sea end." After describing in detail how two ladies, both aged about 35, had to jump into the sea to save themselves from the fire, the article then lists the directors of the Hunstanton Pier Company as follows:

Messrs WR Coe, FA Bush, SH Markham, and WH Brooke, with Mr FGW Hayes (Secretary). Directors of the Pier Company visited the scene during and after the fire, and consultations about the future were carried on during Sunday and again on Monday. The Pier and pavilion were insured, and it was understood that the insurance covered loss of takings for the coming season.

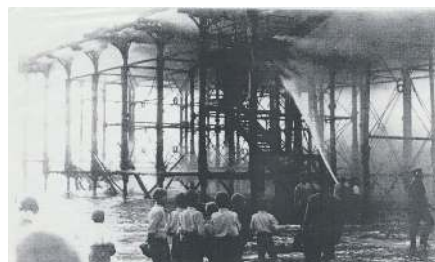
Needless to say, the plans of these directors had to be put on hold for the duration of World War II. In fact, it was not until February 1955 that Hunstanton Urban District Councillors approved plans submitted by one of their own, JW Harris, to extend the width of the pier from 16 feet to 76 feet where it would overfly the new north promenade, which was currently under construction. When and how shares of the original directors and other shareholders found their way, via Mr Harris, to Clive Sillis in 1978 and to Henry Moreton in 2007 is a mystery.

Sadly, the person who might have had the answer is no longer with us. In a lengthy

written reply to a question from my very good friend, Harry Croad, in April 2009, Town Councillor Jim Welham included these comments relating to the time when, as a detective constable with Norfolk Police in November 2002, he had been asked to interview Clive Sillis with the intention of proving or disproving the existence of the original Hunstanton Pier Company.

"He (Sillis) was in the company of his solicitor and his accountant who was in possession of a small suitcase containing all the original documentation, including the original Act of Parliament and detailing all the changes of ownership and transfers of ordinary and preference shares up to 27 February 1979, when all shares were transferred to CHS. I had no doubt the documents were authentic, ended the interview and photocopied some of the documents. I told Mr Sillis that no further action would be taken, and submitted a report to the Chief Superintendent, a copy of which was forwarded to the Crown Prosecution Service for their information."

As a devoted fan of Hercule Poirot I was disappointed that someone of Chief Inspector Japp's rank was not asked to carry out a proper investigation into the failure, of successive occupants of the pier site, to comply with the terms and conditions of the 999-year Lease for Hunstanton Pier. The Parliamentary Pier Order is unequivocal in stating that it gives permission for the construction and maintenance of a pier and nothing else



whatsoever. The number of Pier Company directors must be between 3 and 6.

Mr Sillis sold out to Mr Moreton in May 2007 when, thanks to John Dobson, the policy of the borough council was to reinstate Hunstanton Pier as part of the town's regeneration programme. Mr Moreton flatly refused to meet Henry Bellingham, but after Chief Executive Ray Harding has assured our MP that the borough council would not attempt to remove the pier from the pier lease, Mrs Leader was permitted to attempt just that, much to the satisfaction of Mr Moreton, who had to pay nothing in return!

I am still waiting for the borough council to provide me with exact dates on which annual rental payments have been made by CHS Amusements Ltd for the non-pier, ever since it was increased from the £1 pa to £10,000 pa (index linked) in 2003. Failure to pay the rent within 21 days of the due date, or failure of the pier lessee to comply with any of the other conditions in the 999-year pier lease, results in the automatic termination of the pier lease itself. I am beginning to think John Dobson was not joking, when he told me that he was the only one at the borough council who could read and write...

£1,500 friendly donation

King's Lynn Oddfellows has donated £1,500 to two local charities to help improve and save lives in the region.

The local friendship group, which has around 390 mostly older and retired local members, presented a £1,000 cheque to Norfolk and Waveney Mind and £500 to RNLI Sheringham Lifeboat Station on Wednesday 24 April at Gaywood Church rooms at our District meeting.

The money was raised through raffles and donations from members during its weekly meetups at Reffley Community Hall over the past 12 months.

Each year, the Chairman of King's Lynn Oddfellows chooses the charities they want to fundraise for. Roger Williamson, now the outgoing Chairman, said: "I chose Norfolk and Waveney Mind because I am aware of the ever-increasing problems of how mental health issues are affecting society today, particularly among the younger generation.

"Norfolk and Waveney Mind is an independent charity who raise their own funds, and tailor their local services according to what people in this area need the most. They have a wide range of services to help people struggling with mental health issues, including a crisis helpline as well as recruitment support, training and educational resources".

Lee Dade, Resource Centre Manager at Norfolk and Waveney Mind's REST Hub in King's Lynn, said: "Norfolk and Waveney Mind is incredibly grateful for this generous donation and appreciates the hard work of the Oddfellows who have contributed to support some of our services.

"It's this kind of support that helps us in our mission to ensure no one in Norfolk and Waveney should have to face poor mental health alone."

The Oddfellows has been a long-term supporter of the RNLI



Sheringham, which Roger was keen to continue during his year-long tenure as Chairman. Three lifeboats have been donated by the Society to date, in addition to essential equipment for the station and its crew.

King's Lynn Oddfellows is one of 99 nationwide branches that make up the Oddfellows friendly society, one of the oldest and largest of its kind in the UK. It aims to improve people's lives through friendship and support.

As well as its fundraising initiatives, King's Lynn Oddfellows hosts a range of affordable and accessible events in and around the King's Lynn and West Norfolk area which are open to all.

Oddfellows members can also access a variety of benefits including care and welfare support and a travel club, and there are also opportunities to volunteer.

Branch Secretary King's Lynn Oddfellows, Alison Schultz, said:

"Anyone interested in finding out more about us should get in touch with me or come down to one of our brilliant events. You'll be sure of a warm welcome."

Alison can be contacted at alison.schultz@oddfellows.co.uk or on 01553 776 030. More information about the Oddfellows can be found at www.oddfellows.co.uk

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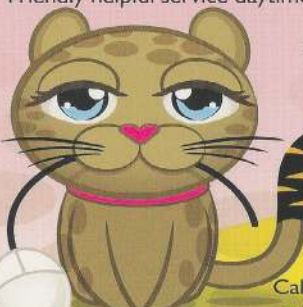
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Hunstanton and District Inner Wheel

Val Garner, Secretary

On a sunny day in April, four members enjoyed the district outing to Woodbridge, Suffolk. After a walk in the market town, we visited the Long Shed on the waterfront of the River Deben. This iconic building is built on the site of a former boat builder's yard and is the current home of the project to build a replica of the 90 foot, (27.4m) Anglo Saxon ship buried in a mound at Sutton Hoo. The impressive imprint of the ship was first discovered in 1939 and the find was the subject of the 2021 film "The Dig".

The ship is being built by a team made up of professionals, volunteers and enthusiasts using British Oak and similar tools that were used to build the original. On the first floor there are wonderful Kings River Tapestry panels depicting the find.

The photos show part of the ship being built and masks and a tapestry panel sewn by a local group.



We celebrated our Charter Day on the 2nd of May which was our forty seventh birthday with a delicious Afternoon Tea at Briarfield's Hotel, Titchwell. At the beginning of the afternoon, four candles were lit to symbolise the past, the present, the future and our international connections.



Past President Rosemary, President Coral, member Ann and Gill, International officer.

If you are near the lighthouse at Old Hunstanton shortly and hear shrieks of laughter it may well be us on our next day out as we try our hand at Pitch and Putt!

Email: hunstantoniw56@gmail.com

Rotary and Crucial Crew in West Norfolk

Michael Walker

In the week beginning the 29 April Year 6 pupils from all over West Norfolk attended half-day sessions on keeping safe at the King's Lynn Fire Station. In total over 1060 pupils from 32 primary schools took part. Similar events are taking place across the county and indeed across the country. The aim is to help children stay safe and learn valuable life skills.

In Lynn the children moved round seven rooms to hear short talks and see demonstrations on how to avoid or deal with a variety of risks such as fire, water, online abuse, gas hazards, panic attacks and injuries. Staff or volunteers from the following organisations were involved: the Fire Service, the RNLI, St John's Ambulance, Police, NHS, Cadet and the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

The groups were accompanied by school staff but escorted around the Fire Station by Rotarians and friends from five Rotary Clubs: King's Lynn; King's Lynn Priory; King's Lynn Trinity; Hunstanton; and Downham Market. This very worthwhile event, which has been run in Norfolk for 21 years, was organised by Fire Prevention Officer, Sarah Chalke and by Bob Hindry on behalf of Rotary.

Photograph – a group of Year 6 pupils taking part in a RNLI question and answer session.



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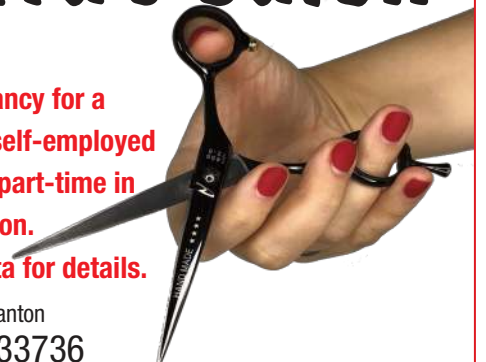


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Volunteers are the heart of the Hospice

As part of Volunteer Week, which runs from Monday 3rd June – Sunday 9th June 2024, the Norfolk Hospice Tapping House is celebrating and thanking those who commit their time to make a difference.

Volunteers from our local community are intrinsic to our work, helping us successfully run and support 4,500 patients and families annually. Our volunteers help in a variety of roles within the Hospice; these include working within our charity retail shops; driving patients to and from the Hospice, so that they can take part in therapy or counselling sessions; gardening in the Hospice grounds; ward volunteers who offer a welcoming and caring environment for patients and visitors; answering Hospice telephones; or helping out with fundraising and events throughout the year. There is something for everyone!

The Hospice welcomes volunteers from our local community and has a dedicated volunteer support team that ensures our volunteers are well looked after. The amount of time each volunteer gives is down to the individual. It can be a few hours per week or on a more occasional basis.

The recent event Tulips for Tapping 2024 which ran for two weeks in April was supported by more than 200 volunteers who had committed more than 2,500 hours to help in all aspects of the event. Without the help of volunteers, this event would not have been possible or continue to be such a success, raising £322,294 for the Hospice which will pay for more than a month of care services for people across



From left: Mark Eves - Director at Norfolk Tulips/PS & JE Ward Ltd, Julia Saunders – volunteer Rebecca Walls – Voluntary Services Manager & IT Projects Lead, The Norfolk Hospice Volunteers: Charlotte Hayes, Ali Ward, Marlene Hall, Sue Cabot, Robin Lake, Chris Vurley, Jacky Church, Christine Bowditch, Christobelle Brock, Jackie Kill, Tasha Woolston, Mike Moseley, Steve Willsher, Shirley Willsher, Steve Stratton, Jan Stratton, Hannah Henson - Voluntary Services Co-ordinator, The Norfolk Hospice, Steve Eglon – volunteer, Susanne Eves - Director at Norfolk Tulips/PS & JE Ward Ltd

Norfolk.

Volunteering can also be very rewarding for the person giving up their time. Our volunteers often report benefits including a sense of purpose and fulfilment, improved mental and physical health and a great way to make new friends, learn skills and support their community.

“The Hospice is so lucky to have a dedicated and inspirational group of volunteers who give up their time to support us. We have a huge range of backgrounds, ages and skills. I often hear from volunteers how much they get out of their roles personally, be it fun, purpose or new experiences. They contribute to the Hospice being the light and joyful place it is, with lots going on. People develop lifelong friendships here. We are so grateful for the work of our amazing volunteers, we simply couldn't do what we do without them.” Hannah Henson, Voluntary Services Co-ordinator,

The Norfolk Hospice Tapping House

Whether by using personal or professional skills to support the Hospice or just getting out to support a good cause, the Norfolk Hospice Tapping House welcomes volunteers from all ages.

As part of National Volunteers Week, The Norfolk Hospice Tapping House sincerely thanks every one of our volunteers for the time and dedication they generously give to help us to support patients and families in the local community.

Visit The Norfolk Hospice Tapping House website to see what volunteer opportunities are available or to learn more about volunteering, or phone Hannah Henson, Voluntary Services Co-ordinator on 01485 601700, Extension: 207.

<https://www.norfolkshospice.org.uk/Pages/Category/volunteer-opportunities>



Hannah Henson with some of the volunteers at Tulips for Tapping 2024

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CHESS NUTS OPEN NEW CLUB FOR JUNIORS IN WEST NORFOLK

A chess club for juniors aged seven to sixteen opened on Monday 13 May serving children across West Norfolk and North Cambridgeshire, named West Norfolk Knights.

The club is the brainchild of twins Henry and George Loveday from Downham Market, who were looking for a chess club they could join locally. After discovering that the nearest junior clubs were more than an hour in any direction, the twins decided to start their own.

The club has already attracted the attention of primary and secondary schools who have helped to advertise the group to their students. It has also attracted sponsorship from Kip McGrath, the Kings Lynn based tuition service whose team of qualified teachers work with learners from Year 2 to GCSE helping them to catch up, keep up or get ahead in English and Maths, who have kindly sponsored 5 new chess boards and chess pieces.

The first meeting was a flying start, attended by ten enthusiastic children who completed 27 games of chess in 90 minutes, stopping only to enjoy a celebratory chocolate cake halfway through!

Children will improve chess skills at the club by playing chess with a range of abilities. Tutoring at the Club will also be provided by Mr Loveday, parent of the twins and local teacher. The Club aims to appoint an experienced chess tutor in conjunction with improving skills and successful membership.

The initial club funding had been donated by the twins parents Mr and Mrs Loveday, but eventually, it is hoped that the club will be self-sustaining. All proceeds from the club will be put back into club activities, membership facilities and services.

George Loveday, aged 11 said: "We play chess at school and home but want to play with others to improve. My nickname at school is Chess Nut!"

"We were disappointed to find that the nearest clubs for juniors are in Norwich or in Bury St Edmunds, so deciding to start our club felt like the right thing to do. We are excited about the sponsorship of new chess boards and the Town Council was kind and discounted the room hire, so it feels like the community is behind us!"

Henry Loveday, also 11 said: "We have a leadership challenge at



From left: George, Reuben, Arlo, Reuben, Clarissa, Henry, Leighton, Zachary, Benedict, and Mylo.

school this year and this felt like a good opportunity to start the chess club we want and fulfil our challenge task! It is only £1 to come along to the club each evening, so it's affordable from pocket money. We hope lots of kids will join so we can get proper chess ladders going."

Heather Rugg from Kip McGrath, Kings Lynn said: "I spotted this initiative being advertised on Facebook and offered to sponsor some club chess boards. We are always keen to support kid's activities in the community, especially those initiated by kids themselves. Chess is a fantastic way for children to embed planning skills which support most curriculum subjects, especially STEM. We're so pleased to see this is available locally and wish the boys every success."

West Norfolk Knights will meet every Monday at Downham Town Hall between 6.30 and 8pm. For more information about membership please contact Samantha Loveday via Facebook or on 07977 600912.

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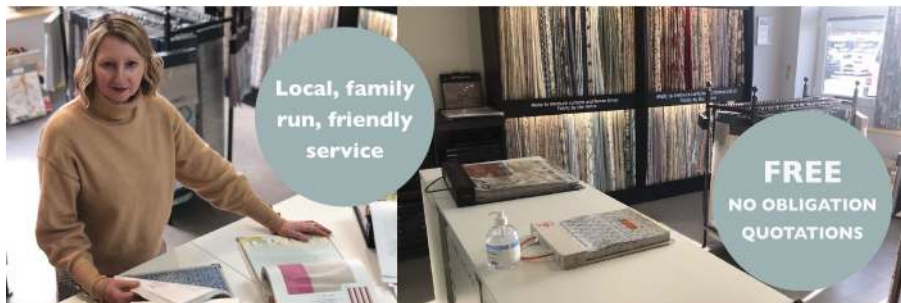
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BagLadies of Thornham

Tribute to Melanie Venes

In 2006, Melanie, who sadly died on April 25th, had the wonderful idea that a small group of village ladies could use their sewing skills to raise funds for projects in Thornham, and the BagLadies group was born.

Over the years, the group members have changed, but Melanie was always at the helm, encouraging and guiding us. One of the earliest things we made and sold was a bag made from recycled donated material, and we soon became known as the BagLadies.

In January 2014, Melanie presented a bag she had made to H.M. Queen Elizabeth on the opening of the Village Hall, and the late Queen declared she was delighted to be an honorary Bag Lady!

The £95,000 raised so far is a testament to Melanie's hard work, and shows how a simple idea can become an important part of the village.

The BagLadies will continue to fund raise and hope to reach a target of £100,000 as a tribute to Melanie, who will be sorely missed.



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Across: 1. Davenport, 6. Hides, 9. Cabinet, 10. Magnet, 11. Moaner, 12. Reversal, 14. Tree, 15. Snowboards, 18. Supposedly, 20. Sten, 23. Crockery, 24. Chairs, 26. Elevate, 27. Whatnot, 28. Table, 29. Treasures
Down: 1. Decimates, 2. Vibrate, 3. Nantes, 4. Opts, 5. Timber wolf, 6. Huguenot, 7. Dresser, 8. Stool, 13. Endearment, 16. Sinusitis, 17. Bookcase, 19. Proverb, 21. Thinner, 22. Cheats, 23. Chest, 25. Twee

Welcome to our world.... Margaret and Harry's Holiday 'Journey' Part 2

Sandra Hohol, Norfolk Holiday Homes

Please read April's T & A if you would like to catch up and make sense of the following....

Again, apologies for not writing in proper 'scene' script as I am saving the Editor's precious edit space.

Harry and Margaret want their holiday and are trying to decide exactly what they need to book. So now we ask for the exact dates. Margaret replies, *"What dates did you say love? 14 September?"* Yes it was. Two bedrooms, overlooking or within reach of the sea, with room for an electric buggy and parking off road. A walk-in shower is needed with hand rails. We tell her to just bear with us whilst we see what is available. *"What have you found love? We want something with a garden and near to the sea, remember."* Yes we do.... Our question to them is if they have access to the internet and can they take a look if we send them a link? *"OOoh no, no love, haven't got a 'compooter' thing. We have enough trouble working my phone. Nothing like speaking to a person who knows what they are talking about with direct answers. Just tell me about them and then we can decide."* There are two properties which fit the criteria so we go into details with the descriptions for each, sometimes repeating this several times, but with a continued smile on our face. *"I think we will go with the first one lovey. Was that the one with the bedroom and its own shower room or the one with the bunks?"* Yes, it was the 'shower one' and we are hoping she will stick with this so gently sing it's praises as we need to move on and do some paperwork and see to the couple standing in the office. *"HARRRRRRYYYY"* she shouts at the top of her voice. *"I'M GOING WITH THE ONE WITH THE LOVELY GARDEN THE LADY TOLD ME ABOUT."* We pull our phone away from our ear as her voice reverberates loudly! Hesitant in returning the phone to our ear, in a calm and friendly voice, we ask if she would like to now pay the deposit and can we take her details to confirm the booking. *"Yes I'll*

just get my husband to do that.....HARRY....." Silence. Maybe Harry has had enough now, he's done his bit. After all she has made the decision as she usually does. *"Have you got your card – the lady wants a deposit?"* Harry responds and does a big sigh, *"Just a minute. Now where did I put it? Ah yes. I put it back in my wallet. Tell the lady I'll have to go upstairs to get it."* We sit and wait, tidying the desk, looking at emails, etc., for five minutes while Harry ascends and descends the stairs giving his card to his wife. Somehow you get an image in your head of this cute elderly couple bobbling about. *"Right, here we are love. But I'm just wondering if I should find somewhere a bit bigger that takes pets...."* Oh no, we will have to go through all the details again, so we tell her that she will be happy with this and maybe sister and Henry the dog might come another time after you have told them how lovely the area is and that we can help them again. We ask Margaret the reservation questions, take her card details and print off the booking to send by post. In between all this Margaret tells us about her illnesses, family, car and driving ability and more. We secretly prey for those on the road at the same time coming to Norfolk when Margaret and Harry travel, plus make a mental note of not to venture out much that week in the car! We say our 'thanks' and 'goodbyes' and continue with the paperwork, people in the office and the next call.

It may have taken twenty minutes but we hope they will remember to book with us again. We will definitely remember them! They will be put in our mental notes of all the people who call with a chatty 'booking scenario'. We got there in the end. But, wait for it....they still have to pay the balance and receive and understand arrival and departure details before they come! That is another story as you can imagine! All I can say is that it is a good job we still actually deal with people and are here to help as there are bound to be more queries! Having just described the start of this couple's holiday journey, the majority of people are a pleasure. Happy days!



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Old photo prompts questions for Hunstanton care home

An old photograph of Nightingale Lodge in Hunstanton has prompted lots of questions.

The photo was handed to the home on Austin Street by a local Hunstanton resident in an ornate wooden frame. It depicts the home being built around 1905 with construction workers posing outside the home.

Most of the workmen are wearing flat caps and there seems to be no sign of safety helmets or work boots.

Staff and residents at the home have been studying the photograph and are fascinated to know more about the construction and history of the building which was purchased as a care home by Black Swan Care Group in 1994. The home now supports up to 29 people, including people living with a dementia, and is rated as Outstanding by the Care Quality Commission.

If the local community can provide any more information, they can add comments on the home's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/NightingaleLodgeCareHome>



"Stopping advertising to save money is like stopping your watch to save time." Henry Ford

Hunstanton Library

Enjoy crafting? Why not join our Wool Crafts group on a Friday morning at 11am? Learn something new or just meet up with like-minded people, refreshments provided...

Our Family History Sessions on a Wednesday at 10am or 11am are still proving very popular – helpful one-to-one advice – and free! – just ring the Library on 01485 532280 to book your session.

Do you write? Our Writers Group meet on the first Wednesday of

each month at 2pm – it's a self-led group, no need to book.

We're hoping to have an Author talk by local crime writer, Ross Greenwood at Hunstanton Library soon – his books are an interesting view on life on this coast – reserve your copies of his books – or any others! – via our online catalogue - www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries

We also offer printing from your own device, phone, email etc in Black and White or colour at very reasonable rates, plus we loan out Talking Books, jigsaw puzzles and playsets, as well as the usual books.

We are OPEN on Tuesday, Wednesday and Fridays from 9am to 7pm, and Saturdays from 9am to 4pm.

Nature notes with Carrie Carey

With all the media hype, you might think that only die-hard Taylor Swift fans have an exclusive claim to the term Swiftie.....but I don't believe that's the case.

Swifts are some of the most visually exciting birds to watch, going from tiny specks in the sky to zooming right above our heads in a matter of minutes. They live up to their name by achieving speeds in excess of 60mph, establishing themselves as one of the fastest flyers in the world. These aerial champions spend most of their lives in flight, multi-tasking on the wing as they eat, snooze and mate while airborne. During migration they'll clock in an amazing 500 miles a day as they take their epic round trip from Africa to the UK every summer.

The arrival of Swifts marks the beginning of summer for many of us as we scan the skies for these supreme flyers. Using rapid wing beats they will soar high before diving earthward for a quick insect snack. But hold onto your hats as you watch them pull off aerial acrobatics, zipping past buildings and obstacles with a sharp twist and turn.

Once cave or tree-hole nesters, swifts have adapted well to urban sprawl. Nest sites are commonly found in the eaves, lofts or recess of a man-made building, a little cosiness is added with a few feathers, leaves and fluff. Finding youngsters in the dark is no easy feat, so chicks have a white ring around their beaks making it easier for tired parents to navigate those never-ending feeding frenzies with ease. Growing chicks prepare for flight with wing and tail push ups and once they've nailed the 10 second push-up, they are ready for their flying debut. Juvenile Swifts spend the next two years soaring solo before settling down with a partner to start their own family. Once mated, they tend to stick with the same partner for life.

They're fashionably late summer guests being one of the last migrants to return. But each year as June erupts in her usual splendour, the Swift count seems to be a shadow of its former self. I recall, as a child, staring at the skies in awe as large groups of Swifts silhouetted against the clouds soared above me in elation. As evening fell, they would throw wild screaming parties and it was great fun to watch the summer soiree as guest after guest joined in. The most popular party anthem was a duet of screams in two opposing tones - the ladies hitting the high notes and the guys keeping it low. These days, my summer evenings feel as lively as a snoozing sloth, prompting the question: "What has happened to our screaming skies?"

Bird surveys confirm that Swift numbers have dropped by around 50% since the late 1990s, but the cause is no mystery. Swifts are very faithful to their nest sites and some colonies may be centuries old! Natural nesting sites are crevices in rock faces and caves and watching these birds fly up to a rock face at high speed then deftly fold wings to vanish into a nearly invisible crack is truly remarkable. Over time, Swifts have adapted well to urban environments and will happily nest under eaves, roof tiles and in similar gaps in buildings. Preferred locations are pre-WWII buildings. Modern houses and office blocks with soffits fascia boards and loft vents are a virtual no-go zone for



these birds. Sadly, many of the cosy old structures they love are disappearing, making way for super sealed-up new builds.

Unfortunately, Swifts are not only facing a housing shortage, there's also bad news on the food front. Like all insectivores, the decline in insect populations, attributed to pollution, habitat loss, climate change and excessive pesticide use directly impacts food sources. During unusually cold summers, when sourcing a bug buffet is even more difficult, these birds enter a state of torpor. Typically linked with mammals, torpor involves lowering the body temperature to save energy and decrease daily food needs. But even with this adaptation, the proportion of young birds surviving their first migration is low, especially in colder, wetter summers. Declining insect numbers also means parent must embark on epic hunting missions to keep ravenous chicks fed. And after enduring a challenging breeding season, returning to Africa becomes more of a challenge.

So, what can we do to help?

Let's try going chemical free in the garden. Flying aphids are a main source of food for these birds but a main source of annoyance for gardeners - draw your own conclusions from this! Encourage more flying insects and other wildlife by planting an insect-friendly garden, balcony or wild space. We can leave existing or potential nesting places undisturbed (like those under the eaves or in crevices in walls). We can further help by carrying out house maintenances and repairs before mid-May or leave it until mid-August when most Swifts will have returned to Africa. But if you lack a VIP Swift hangout, then you can put up a ready-made Swift box or get crafty with a DIY project. Just make sure its installed high up on your building with at least a five metre drop and not in direct sunlight. You won't want those chicks to overheat. Giving the birds as clear a flight path as possible will entice them to make this new abode home.

Andrew Mayers wrote "Without the Swifts, a silent summer beckons" and who wants a quiet summer? Perhaps if we can all contribute to this suite of solutions, we will ensure that our beloved 'Swifties' will grace the skies for decades to come.

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The Hidden Gem in Snettisham

Tim Keogh

Tucked away in Snettisham is an idyllic setting for lawn bowls, Snettisham Excelsior Bowls Club. Initially founded as far back as 1898 they played their first season in 1899 with the club celebrating 125 years in existence this season.

This, however, doesn't tell the whole story, as two years ago they were on their knees and it took a committed group of people to, basically, save and rejuvenate the club. Mo and Alan Stokes, Terry Jones and Tony Carr held an AGM and put into motion a project to make substantial improvements, turning a bumpy green into a higher quality lawn, building a new club house to replace the old caravan, improving the away changing rooms and toilets, and turning this quaint venue into something special. Roll on two years, and they are starting to flourish, attracting players of note to win the Eddie Hipkin Trophy in 2023. No mean feat.

On Sunday, 28th April, Deputy Mayor of the Borough Council, Councillor Paul Bland, cut the ribbon to officially open the new club house to the delight of over 30 members who turned out to celebrate this momentous occasion.

It has not been easy though and the hard work has certainly been aided with £2,500 from the Parish Council and the help of a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) grant of £9,374 for which the club would like to thank both Snettisham Parish Council and the CIL for enabling the project to happen.



Stuart Dark summed up all the efforts well, "I've seen first-hand how hard Mo, Al and all the volunteers at the club have worked over many months on the green, landscaping and facilities to bring them all up to a great standard. The increasing number of members and bright future for the club are a testament to their hard work. I am so glad that I was able to play a small part in this Snettisham success story by helping their bid for significant funding from the Borough Council's CIL scheme".

For joining enquiries, please contact the Club's Secretary Terry Jones on 07766 243833

Banking scam

I have now had several calls showing our local dialing code telling me it is my bank calling, and various amounts have been taken out from my account. The thing that concerns me is the fact the local dialing code is used, vulnerable people might think oh it must be my bank it's a local call.

The answer of course is just to hang up and install call bar system which most modern phones have.

Geoff Harris

West Norfolk Performing Arts Festival Back: Bigger and Better

Andy Bazeley-Smith

The West Norfolk Performing Arts Festival, back for another year, saw a fantastic range of ages and styles of dance and song at the Town Hall, Hunstanton on May 4th and 5th.

The festival that is hosted by The Rollason Stage School, attracted in excess of 150 young performers to the Town Hall in Hunstanton on the first bank holiday in May. Competitors, in what is billed as the "friendly festival", descended on the hall from dance schools across Norfolk and Lincolnshire. Schools represented were; Rebecca Dear School of Dance, Parallel Dance Studios, Guildhall School of Dancing, Central School of Dancing, Perfect Performers and The Rollason Stage School.

In a change from previous, year the festival expanded to two days with a fantastic range of trophies for all category winners. Children from ages 3 to 17 danced and sang in categories ranging from; song and dance, vocal only, cabaret, self-choreography, tap, classical ballet, contemporary, lyrical, acro and modern solos, duets, trios and larger groups.

Trophies were sponsored by a range of local businesses, families and individuals and an impressive bursary prize of £250 was won by Layla Kretchetov. This was generously donated by the famous showbiz fraternity, the Grand Order of Water Rats Serge Ganjou Award and was for the most promising performer. The event was also supported by the HDFA.

The adjudicator, Helen Ramsey, professional dancer and teacher, who trained at the prestigious Laine Theatre Arts dance school, spent the day giving written feedback to the dancers.

The festival was made possible through the dedication of Michelle and Lucy Rollason (principals of the Rollason Stage School) with a host of volunteers making it run smoothly.

Next Festival - 14th & 15th September

If anyone would like to join rollason stage school please email:

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Bursary winner Layla Kretchetov



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Hunstanton Lifeboat Station

We'll be hosting a special evening at the station on Friday, June 28 (6.30pm), to celebrate 200 years of saving lives at sea.

This year marks the bicentenary of both the birth of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and the founding of a lifeboat service at Hunstanton in 1824.

We'll be shining a light on the heroism of our forebears, who went to sea in wooden rowing boats towed across the beach by horses, with oilskins to protect them from the weather and just the stars to guide them at night.

We'll also be hearing from past and current crew about some of their memorable rescues and what it means to volunteer for the RNLI.

Today, we are one of the busiest lifeboat stations in Norfolk, operating both a fast inshore lifeboat and a search and rescue hovercraft.

While the kit we now have at our disposal would have been beyond the wildest dreams of those who went to sea centuries ago, some things have never changed.

One is the courage of our volunteers and the dedication of those who help them remain ready to launch 24/7, 365 days a year,

whenever someone needs us.

Another is the kindness of our supporters who give donations or remember us in their wills.

Stacey O'Donnell raised more than £3,500 for the RNLI by running her first-ever London Marathon.



She completed the 26-mile slog to thank our crew who rescued her three daughters Molly, Daisy and Zoe, after they became cut off by the tide and were left clinging to a buoy at Brancaster in September 2013.

Her daughters could easily have been robbed of their future by the sea.

A seven-year-old boy who dreams of being

in the crew also dropped in to see us recently. Johnathon Jarvis from Upwell, near Downham Market, is walking the 40 miles from his home to our station at the end of May to raise funds for the RNLI.



He was looking set to break his £750 target as T&A went to press.

Without people like them, we and stations like us all around the coast of the UK and Ireland would not be able to do what we do.

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

Stay Safe, Respect the Sea

Hunstanton Concert Band concert

St Mary's Church in Old Hunstanton was packed for a special anniversary performance by the Hunstanton Concert Band on 27th April.



The 30-strong band's programme included Ralph Vaughan Williams Sea Songs, film scores from Pirates of the Caribbean and Titanic, along with the Norfolk premier of a recent work called Ocean's Journey by Suffolk-based composer Jack Culpin.

Hunstanton Concert Band's links with the RNLI go back 25 years to its first-ever performance, which was at the naming ceremony for the then new Atlantic 75 Class lifeboat DJS Haverhill at Hunstanton lifeboat station in May, 1999.

Paula Cuthbertson, its director of music, said: 'There are many connections between the band and the RNLI, we have members who are in the sea cadets, people who support the RNLI, people who use the beaches.

'Having a back-up service like them here is brilliant, so we just wanted to say thank you.'

Derek Greening, chair of Hunstanton and West Norfolk Lifeboat Guild, addressed the audience before the finale.

He told how the lifesaving work of the station was a team effort which relied on many volunteers who were all one crew.

Afterwards, he said: 'I'm chuffed to bits with this, it's so good for people to be doing this for the RNLI, especially on our 200th anniversary.'

NATIONAL COASTWATCH INSTITUTION (NCI) BRANCASTER

The Brancaster station has now been fully fitted and offers an excellent base for the Coastwatch service: special thanks are due to members who have worked so hard to complete the fitout.

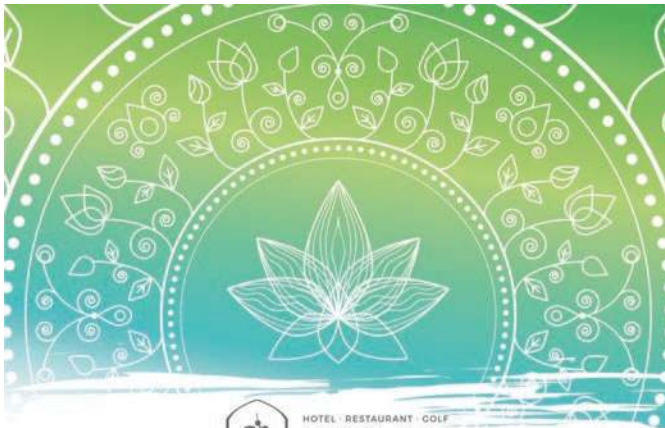
Of particular value is the enhanced oversight of the beach and coast offered by the brilliant CCTV system, which gives superb views and definition. We are immensely grateful to CTS Security Norfolk who have generously donated and installed this valuable addition to the service.

The weather station information service and the webcam will also prove invaluable aids to all beach and coast users. Moreover, the solar panels and heat pump will mean the station is largely self-sufficient for energy, as well as being warm and weatherproof.

The NCI Brancaster service is now two years old and, remarkably, has won a national award, as the station that has made an outstanding contribution to the NCI – a magnificent achievement in such a short time, and a testament to the hard work and commitment of the team led by Station Manager, John A, and Deputy Station Manager, Richard B. The pictures show the new station and its interior, with the new CCTV screen and Watchkeepers Frank D. and Ian C. on duty.

For further information about NCI Brancaster, please contact Richard Burrows, Deputy Station Manager and Watchkeeper, on 7535 612777.





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Hello Campers!

Tim Keogh

To the South of Heacham, sits a quaint plot of land run by the Island Camping Club. The idyllic scene, a small part of the Ken Hill Estate, is only a few yards from the beach and surrounded by natural wildlife, just as nature intended.

The plot was once surrounded by water – hence the ‘Island’ Camping Club – whilst, prior to the floods of 1953, winkle boats used the Heacham River which circumnavigates the campsite. Some of the old winkle boats have been converted into residences and still sit on the riverbank adjacent to the campsite.

The camping ground was provided by the gracious goodwill of the late Sir Stephen Lycett Green who spotted some campers, from his house. After asking them what they were doing on his land, he decided to allow them to camp there for as long as they wished and so the Island Camping Club began. In the early years, the club would donate to the Tapping House Hospice and the Hospital ‘Sweets and Tobacco’ fund, with money raised from the annual pitch fees paid by the club members. Sir Stephen made no charge to the campers for the use of the site. Records show a letter written by the late Alan Marshall, who recalls camping as early as 1912 with John Donnelly and Mac Lusher. There has been camping on the site ever since, only stopping for WW1 and WW2 and, more recently, Covid. Post WW2 the campsite had to be cleared of mines to make it safe. The members all worked together to build the washing and toilet facilities and put standpipes in place. In years gone by the families, mostly from King’s Lynn, would arrive by train and spend most of the summer holidays there. Local tradesmen would arrive at the gate to sell their wares and provisions to the campers. The early tents were American style bell tents.



Over the years the style of the tents has ‘evolved’ to withstand the East Coast weather conditions. The green and white square tents that you see today were created by John Stewart, a camp member for many years. Regular campers Sheila and Tony Howe, now in their 80s, have been camping on the site for over 60 years and were given their pitch by Alan Marshall [a former chair of the club] after they were married in 1962. There are

several members who are second and third generations of their families, who still camp on the same pitches as when they were children. Robert Donnelly, the grandson of John Donnelly, has the same pitch as his grandfather.



Once you walk through the entrance gate, what strikes you most is the sudden calm and peacefulness that surrounds you. The area is popular with bird watchers and Snettisham Nature Reserve is only a short way along the coast. The Coastal Path runs along the dunes



and is a lovely walk for dog owners and nature lovers. The club has an annual Sports Day in the summer when the members invite their friends and families for an afternoon of traditional races and a good time is had by all. They also invite the South Beach Owners from the beach bungalows.

The not-for-profit club have 36 generously spaced pitches, each costing £475 per season [April – September] which helps to pay the tenancy charged by the Ken Hill Estate and cover the running costs of the campsite. There are currently a few vacant pitches available. For more information on joining the campsite please contact the club secretary Mel Green at islandcampingclub@gmail.com



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QUESTION: The European Championships start on the 14th June, where Scotland face hosts, Germany, in the opening fixture.

In 1992, Denmark lifted the trophy even though they had failed to qualify. They were given a last minute call up to the tournament to replace which team?

ANSWERS TO: editor@townandaround.net or by post to:
The Editor, Town & Around, 18 Tapping Close, Snettisham PE31 7FF
Please note we do not accept entries by any social media channels or text message. CLOSING DATE 15.06.2024.

Last month's question was: Prior to Manchester City's Win in 2023, which was the only city to have produced two winners of the Champions League? The answer is Milan and Lorriane Elwood from Dersingham is the lucky winner.

Fours

Four ladies represented Hunstanton in Norfolk Bowls Association's Open Day at County Arts Bowls Club in Norwich on 29th April.

Pictured are Christine Abbott, Debra Wright, Sue Pheasant and Janet Kendal.



WE ARE IN THE TOP 10



6. Fishers, Hunstanton, Norfolk

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



www.fishershunstanton.co.uk

F Fishers of Hunstanton **@** fishersofhunstanton

Hunstanton Croquet Club Caroline Harper

At the time of writing, our hardy members have been braving all weathers to play - including 15 brand new players whose introduction to the wonderful summer game of croquet began with gale force winds and freezing cold showers. Undeterred and thus showing the perfect temperament for the brutal/beautiful game, they graduated with flying colours at the end of April. Well done to the 2024 cohort!



Our 'Come and Try' afternoon took place on Wednesday, 17th April. Although the forecast was dire, 26 lovely people braved the wind and cold to have a go. Fortunately, the rain held off and for the last half hour the wind dropped and the sun came out! We were lucky to have about 15 members who generously gave their time to mentor small groups. I don't want to risk offending anyone by missing out their name, but a special mention must go to Pat who kept the tea and coffee flowing to help thaw out the players.

By the time this goes to print, we will have hosted the first major tournament of the season for 3 days over the early May bank holiday. There will have been visitors from all over competing for the Robert Prichard AC (Association Croquet) trophy. Fingers crossed that it will have warmed up a bit by then!

With twenty-nine tournament days on the calendar, as well as four club sessions a week, we are looking forward to another packed season with something for all abilities - from complete beginners to experienced, skilled players. All are welcome.
hunstantoncroquetclub.co.uk

Capturing Cricket

Nick Bowman

I was staying in Sunny Hunny for the weekend and when I awoke on the Saturday morning the sun was beaming through the window, so an ideal day for an amateur photographer to go and take photographs of a cricket match. I try and pick locations where I can get nice un-cluttered backgrounds and have previously been to Holkham and Sandringham.



I did a quick "Google" to find out what matches were taking place locally and noted that Snettisham 1st XI were playing Denver. From memory the last time I had visited the Memorial Field overlooking St Mary's Church in Snettisham was in the late 1960's when my dad and I got the bus from King's Lynn as he was referring a football match hosted by Snettisham club. I recall this as no one from the opposing team was prepared to "run the line", so my dad nominated me. Not an easy job when you are 12/13 years old and no "VAR" to assist you.

On arrival I worked out the best place to stand so that the sun was not shining in my camera lens and instead lighting up the batters and wicketkeeper. Whilst I like to take a variety of compositions, I am mindful that a shot of the batter being bowled out with a stump or two knocked over and bails in the air is competition material.



Well, it was to be my lucky day. Local lad Danny Arnold was in devastating form with the ball taking five wickets – 4 by bowling out the batter and one batter being judged to be lbw. What was particularly helpful from my perspective was that all this action was at the end I was pointing my camera at; no player wandered in my line of sight that is most unusual; and my concentration and shutter button finger were spot on. Consequently, I was fortunate to capture the key action in all five instances.

In addition, I captured the action when several other wickets were taken by both teams and was made to feel very welcome by the Snettisham Captain. I have given Snettisham CC a copy of my best shots and invited to cover future matches.



If any other local amateur photographers are thinking about covering a cricket match, I would encourage you to do so. I am confident you will be made to feel welcome, and a copy of your best images would be well received.

Massingham 'A' Snooker Club Win Local Snooker Title

Tim Keogh

Massingham 'A' snooker club have won the Hunstanton Snooker League title for the first time in their history.



Massingham 'A' (L-R) Jason Fryett, Charlie Brown, Danny Chase, Luke Fryett and Neil West

Ten teams participate in this popular league with the season ending Presentation evening held on Tuesday, 23rd April, well attended by over 50 players and supporters.

The final tournament of the season was also exhibited with the top two players from each team competing in a team doubles knockout. It proved to be a fitting climax to the season as the final frame went down to the wire with a black ball finish, Daniel Coggins managing to sink the all important pressure shot ball in front a vociferous crowd to claim the title for Conservative Club 'C'.

Roll of Honour

Johnson Pairs - Andrew Johnson & Richard Asker

Witley Cup - United Services Old Town

James Campbell (Speed Snooker) - Callum Smith

Cawdon Singles - John Pesci Junior

Eddie Pandal Cup - United Services Old Town

Greene King IPA Cup - Conservative Club 'B'

Doubles Champions - Daniel Coggins & Steve Hipkin

League Champions - Massingham 'A'

Gary Hawkins' performances were the pick of the season's statistics, winning 15 of his 16 matches.

Homage was paid to organiser, Geoff Hitchcock, recognising the fact that the League - which has been going for over 50 years - would simply not survive without him.

Thanks also went to the United Services Club who hosted the Finals and Presentation evening, laying on a superb buffet for all the players and to League Sponsors, Sportique Sport in Hunstanton.

The new 2024/25 season commences in the Autumn and anyone interested in joining a team can contact Geoff by email at geoff.hitch54449@btinternet.com.

Pictured right Doubles Winners - Daniel Coggins & Steve Hipkin



Hunstanton Rotary Club Grant to Snettisham Beach Sailing Club

Snettisham Beach Sailing Club have received a grant of £1000 from Hunstanton Rotary Club towards the cost of purchasing two Hansa 303 accessible dinghies, due to arrive in May this month.

The Hansa 303 Wide is specifically designed for less able sailors with a lead filled daggerboard to provide stability and simple joystick control for steering. While it can be sailed singlehanded it is designed for up to two adult sailors so is ideal for training and coaching. It is a safe, forgiving boat for those who are less able or new to sailing to have a go in. Even for those more experienced sailors it can be great fun when the breeze is up!

The Hansa 303 is recognised by the International Sailing Federation as an international class. There is a national racing circuit, a European Championship and a World Championships held every two years.

It has a joystick control of steering, as well as the high boom and the helm and crew/coach are sat facing forwards. It can also be fitted with electric servo-assisted drives, making it suitable for people with high levels of disability.

While it is possible to sail it solo, the two sail rig and the twin seats means that the boat is ideal for two handed sailing and coaching.



The club will use these boats to introduce people of all ages with limited mobility to the joys and benefits of sailing. The boats can be sailed two handed or a coach can sit in the boat with the crew and let them run over the various aspects of control in a whilst on the water, and can take complete control of the

boat if necessary

This forms part of our long term commitment to becoming a Sailability centre available to the majority of those with disabilities wishing to access the water in our part of Norfolk. With it comes the attendant mental and physical health benefits that ensue - sailing helps with Muscle strength and endurance, Cardiovascular fitness, Mental wellness, Lowers stress levels, Increases agility, Improves concentration and Improves communication skills and Spatial awareness.

Commodore Adrian Tebbutt said "We are grateful to Hunstanton Rotary Club for their support with this project. Our Training Centre already works closely with Churchill Park Complex Needs School and these boats will allow more of their pupils access to the water. We have also been approached by individuals with mobility issues about what we can offer in terms of sailing and we will now be able to make this fantastic sport readily available to more people of all ages - it is never too late to learn to sail! The nearest Sailability centres are over 50 miles away and so we believe we are filling a gap in local provision."

The location is: Snettisham Beach Sailing Club 61-62 The Beach, Snettisham, PE31 7RB

What Three Words : vent.entire.snuggled



Angela Pickering owns Sew On and On in Hunstanton. Whilst the company have only been operating for two years, Angela has been involved with similar businesses since 1985. They have recently expanded by moving their workshop to Hunstanton, specialising in quilting, embroidery, curtains, fabric upholstery and anything sewing related.

Name: Angela Pickering

Age: 69

Star Sign: Scorpio

Career: Long arm quilter and anything to do with soft furnishing

Family: Husband, 2 sons, 7 grandchildren

Dogs or Cats Person: Cats

Sports Team Support: Mumbai Indians

Biggest Break: Meeting my husband when I was 15

Worst injury: Having my kneecap removed when I was 21

Idols: M.S. Dhoni and Jimmy Greaves

Hobbies: Sewing and cricket

Best Memory: Going on a short tour with Paul Rodgers and having tea with the Queen

Favourite Film: To Kill a Mockingbird

Favourite Cuisine: Fish and chips

Favourite Drink: Chai

Favourite Holiday Destination: India



Three items for a Desert Island: Sewing Machine and sundries, Kindle and Record player/records

Favourite Singer: Cliff Richard

Biggest Achievement: My family

Best advice given: Do as You Would be Done By

What change in the World: Have more people to be kind to people

Like to live forever: No

Sporting corner with Tim Keogh

Confidentiality

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

In the Armed Forces back in the 1970's, confidential reports were at that time an annual review of how you have performed during the past year. They had a huge influence on your future career and, so, are looked upon with great trepidation. To understand why, you need to realise that you had to read your confidential report in front of the senior officer who had written them about you! To be fair, they were then passed on to your reporting officer's senior, so they very quickly could be seen as a report on the judgement of your boss!

There are some classical quotes which go the rounds, and amongst my favourites were the young Cavalry Officer's confidential report, which read quite simply, 'I would not breed from this officer'.

The young Infantry Officer, 'his men will follow him anywhere - out of idle curiosity'. And, lastly, the somewhat worrying one for a Naval Officer, which said, 'this Officer could get lost in a puddle.'

Now, I had two occasions to be somewhat fearful when it came to confidential reports. The second time was in 1976 when the most Senior Corporal in the Royal Army Dental Corps was posted in to work for me. I had been told he needed one more decent confidential report, and he would get his Sergeants stripes.

Unfortunately, he was worse than useless and, in a job involving close contacts with patients - and, yes, despite being in the army we had hundreds of them - he had both body odour and bad breath as well as no skill in dealing with people. To add to that he was a hulk of a man, and a bully who had a reputation for using his fists.

The time came for me to see him about his confidential report. The only thing was that my office was somewhat isolated, and this meeting was after everyone else had left the building. This concerned me a great deal, as my report on him was finally going to kill any hopes of promotion.

In fact, my suggestion was that he joined another Corps where he wouldn't have to deal with people. In other words, I was telling him he had wasted all those years of his life. I sat on the other side of the desk and wondered if he might hit me, but instead he burst into tears. I have felt bad about it for years, but I would not have been doing my job if I had given him a good report.

That wasn't the end of it, however, because some months later I was sitting at a guest night in an Officers' mess next to a fellow dental officer, who told me he had given this poor Corporal two good reports to get rid of him because he was so useless! As you might imagine, I came very close to punching him!

The previous occasion had been in Hong Kong in 1972. My wife and I had to rent a flat independently because, under the archaic military system, we did not have enough 'points' to get a quarter - in other words an Army flat. I should add that almost no one in Hong Kong lived in a house and, in many cases, lived 20 floors up in a block of flats.

We finally discovered we had been allocated an Army flat and with great joy went to check it out. To our horror, in a beautiful place like Hong Kong, with views to die for, we were looking out on a cliff face, with no view whatsoever where even a stunted cat would have felt claustrophobic!

Compared to the flat that we were renting at the time, it was a disaster, but it had been graded Category 5 which was the level for a lowly Army Captain. In other words, there was nothing I could do about it.

Rugby was to come to my rescue because the next day I was due to play rugby for the Commander British Forces team against the Chief of Police's side in one of the important local matches that took place every season.

Before the game kicked off, the players were introduced to the Deputy Commander Land

Forces, Major General 'Bunny' Burnett. Now, the one very stringent rule is that you do not talk 'shop' outside working hours, and I broke it quite spectacularly. The General asked me how I was enjoying Hong Kong, and did I like my accommodation? Without thinking, I told him, I think in words of one syllable, that the flat we had been allocated was not only unsuitable but should be downgraded. Unfortunately for me, the Colonel running Army rugby in Hong Kong was in close attendance, hearing every word, and, obviously, not happy. All too late I realised that trouble was looming, because he and my Colonel shared a staff car to work.

It was about 11 o'clock on the Monday when the phone rang in my dental centre and the instruction was brief and to the point. I was in my Colonel's office half an hour later where there was an interview as they say, 'without coffee'. My confidential report a few months later was along the lines of 'blunt to the point of rudeness' and that was probably the nicest part.

Anyway, it was all worth it because shortly afterwards I heard the General had ordered the accommodation downgraded, and we ended up with the view you can see in the photograph!



Some months later, the General came on a formal inspection to my dental centre where I worked on my own for an Infantry battalion. The Commanding Officer accompanying General Burnett, said "I don't think you will know our dental officer Captain Smith", and the General grinned, and said "Oh yes I do, Ian and I are old friends". He then added, "are you happy with your accommodation!"

Norfolk Coast Mighty Hike raises over £700K for Macmillan Cancer Trust

The Norfolk Coast Mighty Hike took place over the weekend of the 11th & 12th May. On the Saturday, 1,360 participants took part in the Full Marathon, whilst 903 runners ran the Half Marathon on the Sunday. Starting near Cromer, the route weaves in and out of various picturesque fishing villages and beaches along the beautiful Norfolk Coastline, in parts taking in some tough shingle based terrain, before finishing at Holkham Hall, where runners and spectators alike could enjoy a well earned quaffable beverage of their choice. On a hot weekend, credit really did go to everyone involved, from the participants and volunteers through to the organisers.

Spokesperson for Mighty Hikes at Macmillan Cancer Support, Lauren Sanders, said, "Macmillan Cancer Support is incredibly grateful to the 2,263 people who took part in the breathtakingly beautiful, but physically challenging Norfolk Coast Mighty Hike at the weekend. So far, they've raised an incredible £771,000! We couldn't be more grateful for our amazing supporters".



Sonya Nelligan, who lives in South Creak and is the Safeguarding Officer for Thornham Cricket Club, completed the Half Marathon. She summed up the weekend well, saying, "it was an amazing experience and so much money raised for an incredible charity".

Mighty Hikes are a series of one day Half and Full Marathon fundraising hikes. Over 30,000 people are taking part in Macmillan Mighty Hikes around the Country this Summer, with two new hikes in Snowdonia and London. Every penny raised at a Mighty Hike will help Macmillan to provide vital support for people living with cancer, when they need it most. Last year, 450,000 miles were covered, raising an amazing £11.45 million.

Macmillan is almost entirely funded by generous public donations, and the vital funds raised through Mighty Hikes will help the charity to continue doing whatever it takes to support people living with cancer, through a range of physical, financial and emotional support.

There is already a waiting list for Norfolk Coast Mighty Hike 2025, although there are still some places available at a small number of other Macmillan Mighty Hikes this Summer. To sign up, you can visit mightyhikes.macmillan.org.uk.



NORFOLK ARTIST'S EXHIBITION AT WEST ACRE GALLERY

A one-woman exhibition at the West Acre gallery, near Swaffham, by Great Bircham's Susan Vaughan Williams who studied at St Martin's School of Art, runs from Saturday June 15 to Saturday June 22, inclusive, daily from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm.

Entitled 'Fractured Force – paintings to feed and fire curiosity', her work seeks to represent the fractured world we live in.

Admission is free, so to see Susan's colourful and exciting work, and enjoy a few light refreshments on the opening day, come along to the West Acre Gallery, Abbey Farm, River Road, West Acre, Norfolk PE32 1UA.

And for a sneak preview of her individual style, visit www.susanvaughanwilliams.co.uk.



Heacham Judo Club Celebrate their 40th Anniversary

Heacham Judo Club hosted a Judo competition across all age groups, classes and abilities on Saturday, 4th March, to celebrate their 40th Anniversary. This was followed by an evening presentation.

Judo is a martial art born in Japan and now more popularly known as an Olympic sport. A great means for getting and keeping fit, it also nurtures an inner confidence within, particularly as you progress through the belt levels from White up to Black Belt.

The day commenced in the morning with a training session overseen by the coaches who put participants through their paces. Guest coach, Nadia Swinkels, of Judoclub Middleharnis in Holland assisted in proceedings, having represented Holland's National Squad in the Junior World championship as well as being a two time Dutch Champion. In the afternoon, competition judo took place across all classes culminating in a Medal Ceremony. Nearly 50 participants took part in front of a similar sized audience and a full gallery. Lillie Edenborough fell awkwardly in her bout and had to go to hospital, but she will be back to fight another day. Harry Sands won gold in the most senior flagship event whilst Harry Bridgeland (Heacham JC) and Alexia Long (Flying Dragons JC) received special merit awards.

Shirley Tucker had more reason than most to celebrate the occasion as, not only did her father, Derek, set the club up in 1984, she has recently been awarded second Dan status.

Nathan Stockdale who helped organise the event was delighted with proceedings, "we



Action at the competition

had people from other judo clubs here, including from Middleharnis Judo Club in Holland, so it was a special day and fitting tribute for our 40th Anniversary".

Roll of Honour - Gold Medallists:

- Group 1 - Selena Angotzi (Sen Ryu JC)
- Group 2 - Theo Jakens (Flying Dragons JC)
- Group 3 - Jessie Jones (Flying Dragons JC)
- Group 4 - Francesco Angotzi (Sen Ryu JC)



Shirley & Jeff Tucker

- Group 5 - Eva Smith (Flying Dragons JC)
- Group 6 - Bas van de Waart (Middleharnis JC)
- Group 7 - Teagan Lynn (Flying Dragons JC)
- Group 8 - Jenson Bulmer Sen Ryu
- Group 9 - Olaf Zajackowski (Flying Dragons JC)
- Group 10 - Maico Okker (Middleharnis JC)
- Group 11 - Harry Sands (Heacham JC)

GLEBE HOUSE SCHOOL & NURSERY UPDATE

April signifies the start of the Summer Term, which not only brings summer uniforms and longer days (hopefully sunnier ones too!), but it's also one of the most exciting and event-packed terms! Here's how we spent our first two weeks...

Senior Prep Musical Performance: Bugsy Malone

"Do nothing. Act like everything is normal: Tutto coso sono buono." Fat Sam



There was absolutely NOTHING normal about our Senior Prep Musical Performance of 2024 - in fact the production was EXTRAORDINARY! From the acting and singing, to the costumes and makeup, to the props and live band. HUGE congratulations to the entire cast and crew of Glebe's presentation of Bugsy Malone the Musical. Incredible discipline, dedication and determination delivered the most amazing, enjoyable and inspiring experience for the rest



of the Glebe community, their family and friends to enjoy! We extend our thanks to Hunstanton & District's Mens Shed and Hunstanton Town Hall for their great support with our production.

Out & About

Division IV – Norwich Castle

Division IV had a fantastic day at Norwich Castle, enhancing their learning from earlier



in the year about the Celts and Romans in Britain. As well as learning how to be a Roman Soldier and a skilled Celtic craftsworker, they worked with a curator and archaeologist to investigate artefacts and asked searching questions.

Division VI – Gressenhall Workhouse and Farm



Division VI went back in time for a day to Victorian Gressenhall. Starting the day in the workhouse, they discovered what it was really like to be a poor Victorian school child and how different life would have been in the workhouse. They were also given hands-on



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work experience in the fields and laundry at the farm, which they embraced with much enthusiasm, at the same time as trying to solve the mystery of the stolen silver candlesticks.

We love to extend our learning beyond the classroom, and these two trips were enjoyed by all who went, and the children embraced the opportunities with great enthusiasm.

Parent Lunches and Coffee Mornings

We embrace the opportunity to invite our families into the school. We are a community-based school and working together with families is a priority.

The Reception children were so excited that it was their turn to invite their parents to have lunch with Pre Prep in the dining room. They were able to show their parents where they would normally sit, especially now that we are all at our House Tables and enjoyed getting the chance to clear the plates and serve their grown-ups their pudding.

We have also enjoyed hosting two informal coffee chats with our Head Adrian, offering our parents the chance to ask questions and learn more about the exciting improvements we are making to our timetables, co-curricular programmes and staffing provisions.

EYFS Family Fun Morning

April's EYFS Family Fun Morning was a fabulous morning (despite the bitterly cold

wind!). It was such a pleasure to see so many local young children enjoying the range of activities and experiences. There were interactive sessions with Hartbeeps, hands-on activities with Numberblocks, opportunities to touch a range of reptiles and mini beats with Mini Monsters and the chance to let off steam on the bouncing castle. Special thanks go to our sponsors Adrian Flux Insurance Services. We look forward to inviting you to our next event in September!

Wellness Afternoons: Organ Maker Visit



During a recent Wellness Afternoon session, Divisions I and II had a fabulous visit from David, who is an organ builder. He taught the children how a church organ makes its sounds and then they had a go at using model parts to

construct one of their own. Building was a wonderful challenge and the children had to work as a team to complete it. They were amazed at their results and loved to hear it make a tune.

Easter Cricket Camp

We thoroughly enjoyed hosting our first Cricket Camp post-pandemic. With 45 keen children from the local area joining us, we were able to run a fantastic day of cricket skill development concluding with actual games where our skills were put to practise. Sadly we lost the second day to weather, but well done to all the children who worked so hard. A huge thanks to all our coaches for kick-starting the enthusiasm for this year's cricket season! We look forward to arranging further sport specific courses in future. Watch this space!

Come and see us!

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

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Dictionaries 4 Life

Michael Walker

For some years now the three Rotary Clubs in King's Lynn have donated copies of the excellent Usborne Illustrated Dictionaries to children in local primary schools. The Rotary Club of King's Lynn normally provides some 300 of the dictionaries to Year 5 children. When the scheme started some ten years ago they were given to children in Year 6 but because they are so useful the teachers suggested Year 5 would be better as the children would have them for two years before they transferred to secondary schools. It is not always possible to do this and recently the Rotary Club of



Some of the Whitefriars Year 5 and Year 6 pupils with their dictionaries.

King's Lynn donated 109 dictionaries to Years 5 and 6 pupils at Whitefriars School in King's Lynn. They were presented in a special

assembly by Michael Pellizzaro and Michael Walker on behalf of the Rotary Club.

Borough Council Mayor Making 2024

Cllr Paul Bland 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 Making ceremony

At the ceremony, which took place on Thursday 16 May 2024, Cllr Andy Bullen was elected as the deputy Mayor.

Pictured on the left Cllr Paul Bland is a true Linnet having been born in King's Lynn and lived in west Norfolk his whole life. He has lived in South Wootton for over 50 years and has been a Parish Councillor there. He was elected in 2023 as an Independent Councillor for The Woottons Ward.

He will be supported in his year in office by his wife Marion as Mayoress.

Paul has worked extensively in the voluntary and charitable sector supporting organisations such as the Sea Cadets, as a director of Festival Too, a trustee of Trues Yard, West Norfolk Academy Trust, Linnets in the Community, and as a verifier for the Duke of Edinburgh's award. He also served as a Magistrate for 32 years.



Since being elected to the council in May 2019 as an Independent Councillor for North Downham Ward in Downham Market, Deputy Mayor Cllr Andy Bullen (pictured right above) has served on the Environment & Community Panel and the Bio-Diversity Task Group.

Brancaster School News

We have had a busy start to the term, preparing for our SATs and beginning our new topics. Our SATs are next week and we know everyone wishes us good luck but we have talked about it a lot and know the teachers are pleased with our work and that as long as we do our best, everyone will be proud. We want to do well to show how good we are, but we know that SATs don't show the best things about us, like



effort and compassion and courage.... and everyone says that we are wonderful individuals.

In Thrift Class as well as learning about travel and transport, we are studying plants and have planted lots of seeds and bulbs as well as our potatoes. Thank you to everyone who joined our gardening working party and got our raised beds ready.



We have set up a hospital corner in the Thrift as some of us have had to go to hospital. Thank you so much to the PFA and everyone who has sent toys and bandages and things in for us.

Year 6 have been to "Crucial Crew" which



teaches them how to be safe. This is one of our school rules (Ready, safe, respectful) but is really important for Year 6 before they go to Smithdon or Wells.

Our value for the term is compassion and it is good to see lots of our friends being compassionate – thinking of others and doing something to help.



We have got lots of trips planned for this term. Both classes have trips connected to their learning and we also are going to sing at the Norfolk Show. Thank you to Annette and the White Horse for a fund raising meal and art auction to raise money to send us on these trips. We can't wait! The whole school made a painting for the auction and we were so proud that there was a bidding war over it! We are now offering limited edition prints as it was so popular!

After half term, we will start Forest School sessions. Thanks to Docking School who invited us.

Half Term starts on 24th May and we come back on Monday 3rd June.





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Music in Brancaster and The Burnhams in June

May saw some great performances from both new performers and some of our favourite ones and June will be no exception.

A few years ago, we welcomed the very young Henriette Poos to give a harp recital at Burnham Thorpe. Henriette is a very expressive harpist enjoying success both as a soloist, being part of a chamber music group and working with some of the finest orchestras in the world. We are sure she will impress us again on her return on June 8th at 3pm to All Saints Church Burnham Sutton.

On June 15th at Brancaster church at 3pm the music of Mozart, de Falla and Ravel will

ring out from the expert hands of Ben Holland (violin) and Brenda Blewett (piano). Ben is professor of violin at Royal Northern College of Music and Brenda who retired from teaching accompaniment at Chethams, is now making a name for herself in her retirement in Norfolk. A lovely programme for a summer afternoon and tea and cakes after the performance too!

And now for something new..... described as having "superhuman virtuosity, a laughing recklessness and style you can't buy", it can only be The Wild Men of the Baroque.

Piers Adams (recorders) and David Wright

(harpsichord) bring all the energy and freedom into their duo recitals. With their astonishing larger than life range of virtuoso techniques and expressive colours, they walk where others fear to go. They charm their audiences with stories of the Baroque period, with a fascinating insight into both the instruments and composers of the Baroque period. What a perfect name for this world famous duo : The Wild Men of the Baroque will be at All Saints Church Burnham Sutton on June 29th at 3pm

All tickets are £20 and under 18s are free. More details and how to book on: musicintheburnhams.com

Saturday June 8th at 3.00 pm

All Saints Church Sutton cum Ulph
Burnham Market PE31 8HQ



Henriette Poos
(harp)

Programme includes music from
Baroque to modern

Saturday June 15th at 3.00pm

St Mary's Church Brancaster PE31 9AU



Brenda Blewett
(piano)

Benedict Holland
(violin)



Programme includes music by
Mozart, de Falla and Ravel

Saturday June 29th at 7.30 pm

All Saints Church Sutton cum Ulph
Burnham Market PE31 8HQ



Piers Adam (recorders)
David Wright (Harpsichord)
are

The Wild Men of the Baroque

Programme includes music from John Bull to Debussy

But What Does It Mean?

Lesley Nadel, The Arts Society North West Norfolk

The next lecture of the Arts Society North West Norfolk is on Monday 10th June, 2024 at Sedgeford Village Hall at 2:00 pm. The guest speaker will be Twigs Way who tells us about The Divine Sunflower in Art and Culture, casting its golden rays far and wide, worshipped by aesthetes, and cultivated by Impressionists – a history from classic myth to twentieth-century art. Our accredited lecturer is a garden historian, published author and researcher, fascinated by the past and intrigued by the role of flowers, gardens and landscape in art and culture of all kinds.

Art often asks questions and does not necessarily give the answers. Conceptual art is created to get a reaction, appearance is secondary, and ideas matter more than looks. We are now increasingly seeing this form of art in gardens at major flower shows, like the Chelsea Flower Show in May. The results can be powerful and provocative: the designer seeks to portray an idea, rather than a landscape design solution, by merging gardening with art installations. Gardens have always been a form of art, but conceptual gardens, in common with most art installations, will have a specific theme, a message, a narrative, often designed to demonstrate the tension between culture and nature. For example, the disruptive effect of homophobic abuse on our society and the experience of depression.

Cleve West, gold medals' winner at top flower shows, has said that 'conceptual gardens are probably the nearest we can get to art, in that they sidetrack nature to focus on a feeling or a theme without always relying on plants.' In 1979 Martha Schwartz created what was probably the first ever conceptual garden, The Bagel Garden, designed to question the lack of artistry in her profession, created in the belief that sustainability is linked to how our environment looks. Inspiration can come from anything - local history, cultural heritage. The intention is to get a reaction which is as much about the abstract artwork as the materials with which the garden is made. Also, the designer can push the boundaries to deliver a very personal message and make the viewer think and see things in a very different way. A conceptual garden has a voice and a message to deliver. It can be heavy with imagery which can be very compelling, as opposed to the beautifully landscaped garden with the perfect colour scheme, planned to perfection for each season but seemingly without a soul. Sometimes beauty is just not enough.

Gardens invite our opinions and criticisms, but art critics are not so forthcoming on the art of conceptual gardens. The late Brian Sewell said, "You dare not say anything about the garden, or the motor car, or their clothes. My advice is, for God's sake, stick to the status quo. Otherwise, no one will send you any Christmas cards". However, the critical art forum, 'Thinking Gardens', believes criticism and analysis are vital to help any art form evolve. Perhaps when visiting gardens, and even when on our own, we should begin to see them with our



Have you always wanted to learn more about the arts?

Then start now with our next talk at Sedgeford Village Hall at 2:00pm on Monday 10th June 2024

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minds as well as our eyes and perhaps then we will begin to understand what they mean.

'More Art for More People' – this is our aim and now is a good time to join us as an annual member for £45 (less when joining late in the year) and enjoy a range of benefits - nine monthly talks which cover a wide range of subjects, trips and tours in the UK and abroad, interesting in depth study days, regular newsletters and magazines, and a warm welcome from a very friendly society. www.theartssocietynorthwestnorfolk.org.uk



The Summer season for King's Lynn Cinema Club continues on June 13th when they will be marking the 50th Anniversary of the classic neo noir mystery 'Chinatown'. The film will be shown in St Georges Guildhall and starts at 7.30pm. Released in 1974 with an Oscar winning screenplay by Robert Towne, 'Chinatown' stars Jack Nicholson and Faye Dunaway. It was inspired by the California water wars, a series of disputes over southern California water at the beginning of the 20th century, by which Los Angeles interests secured water

rights in the Owens Valley.[4] The film features many elements of film noir, particularly a multi-layered story that is part mystery and part psychological drama and is often cited as one of the best films ever made. It received much acclaim from critics and at the 47th Academy Awards, it was nominated for 11 Oscars and won numerous Golden Globe awards.

Anyone wishing to become a member of KLCC will be able to see eight film screenings each season in the historic St George's Guildhall for the bargain membership fee of £17 - that works out at just £2.13 a film. This will be the fourteenth year the cinema club has been running and membership is open to anyone over 18. The club screens a wide variety of films usually including classics, international films, films not on general release, as well as some more

mainstream titles and always plenty of award winners. In addition, the club organises numerous social events including pre and post film meals, informal film related talks, quizzes, a Summer coach trip and there is always a group of members to join who enjoy a post film drink in Ferry lane Social Club where sometimes they even discuss the films! This year's coach trip will be in Saturday 29th June to Saffron Walden and include a screening of Jules.

To join the club you can find all details on the website www.klccc.uk, the Facebook page or by emailing communitycinemaclub@googlegmail.com.

If you don't want to sign up for the whole season you are still very welcome to come along to any film as a day member for £5 cash on the door.

West Norfolk Singers

Tim Keogh

Did you know that Heacham has had a choir for more than 41 years, having started up in 1983.

If you have a desire to sing, sing in the shower or car, or even just alone in the house to the radio, then this group could be for you, so why not come along and join the The West Norfolk Singers and have some fun.



The group recently performed at the Methodist Church in King's Lynn with a number of other choirs, with the money raised going towards a new borehole at Matjige High School in Zimbabwe.

Musical Director, Jean Hornbuckle has been with the group since 2019. Jean studied at the Royal Academy of Music, having worked with the Scottish Opera, English National Opera and companies in France and Holland as well as touring abroad with British groups. Jean has broadcasted and recorded both as a soloist and with the BBC singers and other professionals groups.

Loc-Mai Yuen is the accompanist, as a Classical pianist (qualified as LRAM), Loc-Mai has enjoyed sharing her music as recitalist, teacher, and accompanist over the years to choirs, operatic societies, vocalists and instrumentalists. Now based in King's Lynn, Loc-Mai also takes pleasure in playing on a regular basis as a pianist at National Trust properties, and for afternoon teas, taking pride in being a versatile and sensitive pianist. She is currently very much enjoying being accompanist to the West Norfolk Singers.

Rehearsals take place every Wednesday (7.15pm to 9.15pm) at Heacham Methodist Church and the group are inviting any budding singers, with or without experience, to pop down.

Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass singers are all welcome, as well as singers with no experience who possess a passion for music. There are no auditions or requirements to read music although a little knowledge of music helps.

Their wide ranging repertoire includes music from Mozart, Gilbert and Sullivan, medleys of songs from famous shows, calypsos and folk songs, hoping to appeal to all different musical tastes.

More recently the group learnt Andrew Lloyd Webber Melody, Walk them Bones, Peers and Fairies, Londonderry Air, Teddy Bears Picnic and Christmas carols and songs. Jean has a desire to add newer, more modern material to their repertoire and this term we are learning The Rhythm of life, Mamma Mia, Coconut Calypso, The Goslings and Two For The Price of One, to name but a few.

Last year they were invited to sing at the King's Coronation concert in Hunstanton Town Hall and sang at a number of other venues, with plans to perform at more concerts throughout 2024.

Anyone interested in taking part in some free taster sessions can contact Anne Davis by email at Anne.davis@outlook.com or by phone on 01485 571315.

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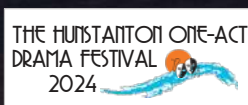
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The Greatest Show on ... the coast!

The Hunstanton One-Act Drama Festival returns to the Princess Theatre from Friday July 19th to Sunday July 21st and the annual event promises to be bigger than ever before.

The 2023 Festival broke all Box Office records and delivered eleven productions across the three days. 2024 currently has a potential 15 shows booked in which means three plays on Friday night and then four plays for each of the remaining sessions ending with the Awards Ceremony on the Sunday night.

Festival Director Stephen Hayter explained:

"I have been completely overwhelmed by this year's response and the number of groups who have asked to take part. Aside from the incredible audience numbers last year the organisers, entrants and all the Princess Theatre staff all seem to have had the most amazing time. It was such a fun and inclusive event that I can only put this fact down when accounting for the

unbelievable number of entrants. It's still early and there is always a possibility that as the event draws near groups will be forced to drop out, but right now we have the biggest Festival for twenty years".



Festival Director Stephen Hayter

The Festival committee are hoping that as many people as possible will take advantage of the season ticket which will get you entry to every single session. That's all the productions together with the Gala Award Ceremony on the Sunday night and is priced at only £20.00.

Deputy Festival Director Verity Mitchell explained:

"As a committee we have set

out to create a community where all the stakeholders (organisers, performers and audience) hold equal status and unite to fuel an incredible three day experience. We love it when audience members have seen all the productions that we have seen and we can discuss each one's merits".

The Festival opens on the evening of Friday July 19th and there are matinee and evening performances on Saturday July 20th and Sunday July 21st. Individual sessions are priced at £7.50 (£2.50 for the Sunday awards ceremony on its own) and the Box Office is already doing a brisk trade.

The Festival Running order currently looks like this :

Friday evening 19th July

Opening Ceremony
The Stretham Players
INTERVAL

The Angles Theatre
Holbeach Amateur Theatre
Society

Saturday matinee 20th July

Smithdon High School
Horncastle Theatre Company
INTERVAL
The Sutton Bridge Players
Wisbech Players

Saturday evening 20th July

Boston Playgoers
Horncastle Theatre Company
INTERVAL
ManNic Productions
Heckington Players

Sunday matinee 21st July

Wilburton Youth
Ratzoool Youth
INTERVAL
Heckington Players
Wilburton Adults

Sunday evening 21st July

Gala Award Ceremony

Behind the scenes

Hello and welcome back to the next edition of Behind The Scenes. This time we are heading into the month of June, where another month of exciting entertainment is to be expected at the Princess! In this edition we will be discussing a popular show that returns again this June – *Genesis Connected*.

But firstly, looking for a fun summer pantomime? Well on June 8th at 3pm we have Cinderella performing. A classic fairytale starring Hollyoaks & Waterloo Road's Ben-Ryan Davies as Prince Charming. Guaranteed to be a great weekend activity for all the family.



'Genesis Connected'

As mentioned, focusing on the show *Genesis Connected* here June 28th, I was able to speak with Chris Woods – who is the Keyboard player and co-founder of *Genesis Connected*. Firstly, I asked Chris about how the show was first put together. Chris expressed 'the idea came from myself and Pete (the singer) being huge fans of all of these artists which are linked to *Genesis*.' They had both previously performed within a different *Phil Collins* tribute band, but 'after several brainstorming conversations', they decided to start their own project, *Genesis Connected*. From here Chris stated, 'we recruited a few musicians, some whom we knew, and started the long journey of rehearsing, then rehearsing some more and getting things tight and authentic.' After a couple of years Chris explained that the number of shows per year began to grow, and Chris ended by saying 'we found our audience that follows us year after year.'

As established, Chris is a keyboard player within the band, and I wondered if there was a specific moment or song that was his favourite to perform and why. Chris first noted that 'this is a really hard question to answer, as the show has so many highs and huge hits

that get a different reaction from the audience.' However, he goes into details regarding two songs that stand out to him. Firstly, *The Living Years*, and Chris explained this is because of 'the pure emotion in the lyrics.' Continuing, he mentioned that although it is probably the simplest song for him to play on the keyboard, 'if you get lost in the emotion of the song, a tiny mistake could crop up'. He also explained that 'this song was very hard to perform for a while when our singer lost his father. I must admit, on a few occasions I shed a little tear for him whilst playing this song'. The second song which Chris mentioned was *Sledgehammer*; he expressed that it is 'such an iconic keyboard track' and that he can 'literally sometimes hear a gasp or scream of excitement when he hits the main brass riff at the start of the song'. Chris closed with 'towards the end of this song, I always have a big smile on my face, as our drummer plays the groove so well and rocks out towards the end.'

Next, I find it interesting to hear of the stories and moments which led someone down a specific path, and for Chris I wondered when and how did he first become interested in musicianship, and by extension, the music that this tribute act celebrates. Chris began 'my interest in music started young, playing on my Grandad Charlie's two-tier organ. Then moving onto keyboards and a sequencer. Before I knew it, I was writing music and songs, putting things together on a computer sequencer and things grew from there.' Chris continued, 'I grew up with a few conditions with my eyesight, which held me back in a lot of ways like sports and hobbies. So, while my friends were out playing football or tennis, I was going through my parents' record collection discovering *The Beatles*, 80's music and Soul and Motown etc. So, this minor visual disability truly helped me focus on what was to be my lifetime passion of music.' Linking back to the show, Chris noted that he first discovered the artists this act celebrates in the early 90s, 'firstly getting a *Phil Collins* album, then finding out he was in *Genesis*', from here Chris worked his way back in time exploring their music and projects.

Finally, I asked what we can expect from this show, whether it be the first time seeing this act, or returning. Chris explained that the



'Jemma'

audience can expect to hear the huge hits of all the artists that the performance pays tribute to: *Genesis*, *Peter Gabriel*, *Phil Collins* and *Mike & the Mechanics*, 'plus a tip of the hat to some earlier *Genesis* material.' Chris continued 'every year we tweak the show a little, so our wonderful repeat audience members get a slightly different set list'. Chris ended by saying 'hope to see you there'. So, get yourself tickets for the 28th of June, and join us to watch this brilliant performance.



'Chris Woods'

That will be all from me for this edition. Please visit the back 'What's On' page to see all the shows we have performing throughout June. As always, thank you for your continued support towards the theatre. But until next time, break a leg!

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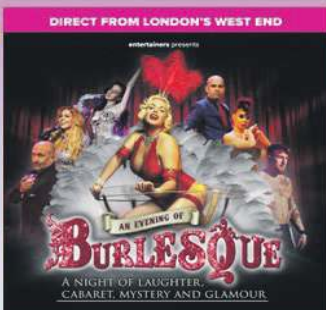
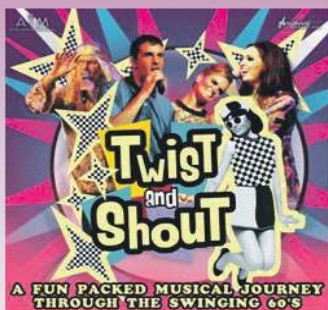
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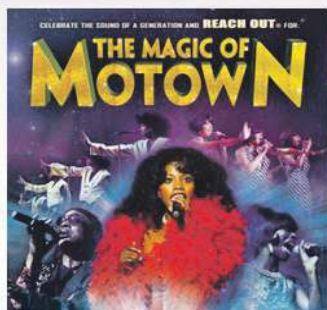


Saturday 1st

Saturday 8th 3pm

Saturday 8th 8pm

Saturday 15th

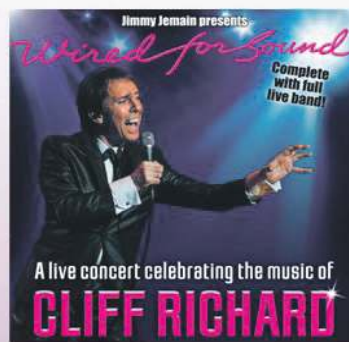
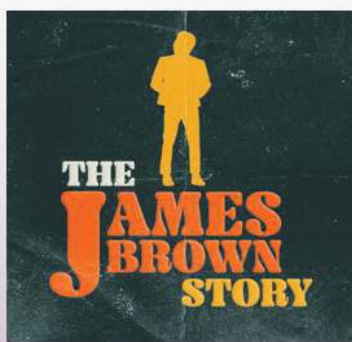


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Thursday 20th

Friday 21st

Saturday 22nd



Friday 28th

Saturday 29th

Sunday 30th

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