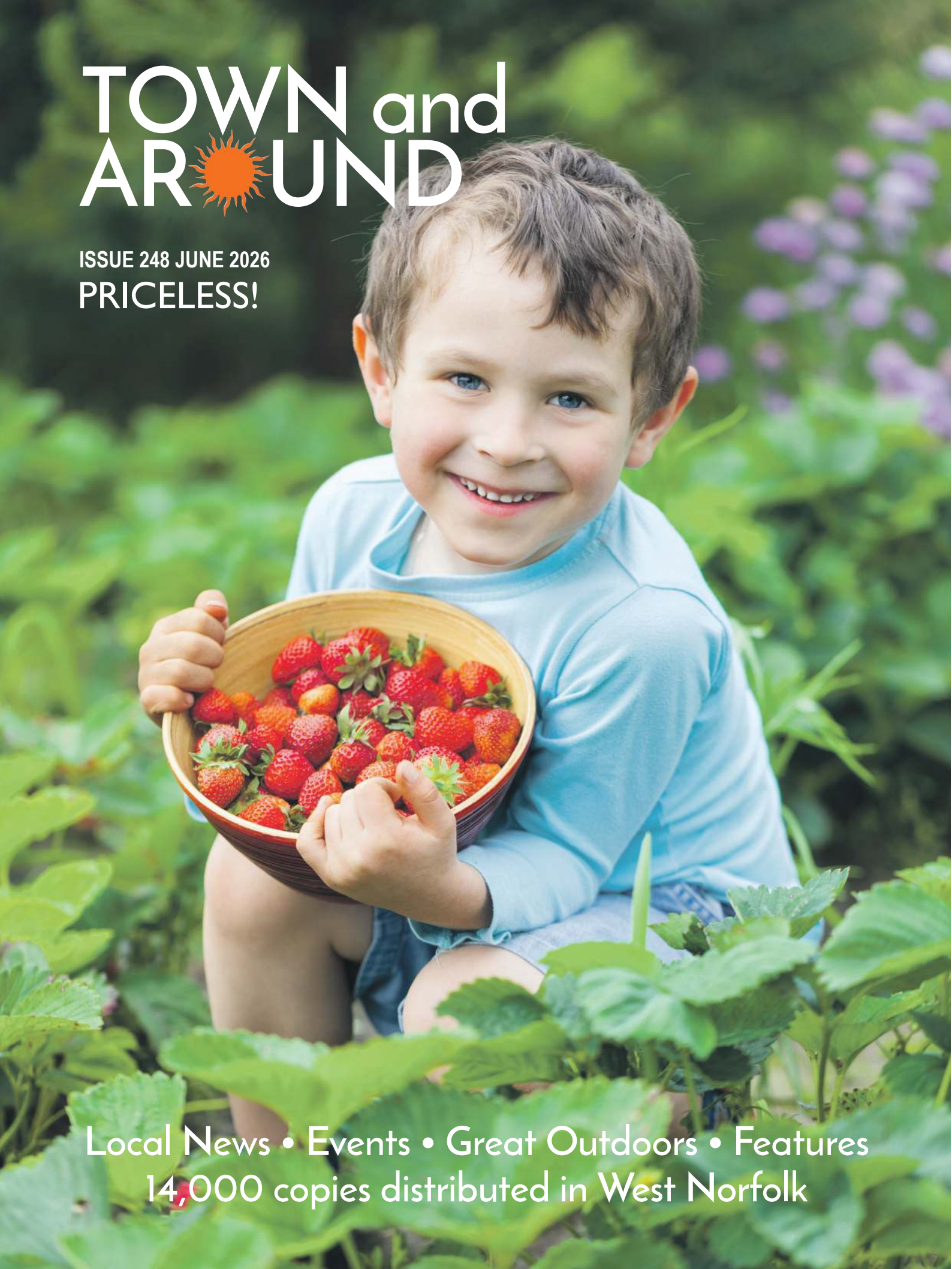


TOWN and AROUND



ISSUE 248 JUNE 2026
PRICELESS!

Local News • Events • Great Outdoors • Features
14,000 copies distributed in West Norfolk

First word

Hello and welcome to the June issue and the official start of summer. As the days reach their longest there is no better time to be out and about enjoying beautiful West Norfolk.

June is a great month to be in the garden; Wendy Warner celebrates the often overlooked Coreopsis on page 19 and if you are looking for further inspiration turn to the diary pages in the centre of this issue and you'll find details of open gardens around the area.

If you like boats and watersports, there are treats in store in Wells-next-the-Sea at the Maritime Heritage Festival and Flotilla, The Hanseatic Festival of Watersports in King's Lynn and Waterski racing in Hunstanton along with the summer season of Sandbank Seal Safaris from Hunstanton, and trips on the Baden Powell from King's Lynn.

Reports about the new Borough Mayor, who was elected on 14th May, and the recent County Council election results can be found on page 4.

It is said that age is just a number, and that seems to be true for two Norfolk gentlemen. A remarkable Snettisham 81-year-old has become a global social media sensation - one of his videos has had 54 million views.

Just a little younger than Ian, John Tabard at 79 recently competed in the Sunny Hunny Triathlon; his eighth event, each comprising of a



200m swim, 18km cycle run and 3.5km run. He says it gives him a purpose.

Dani Crawshaw has met both of them and her stories are on pages 8 and 46.

At the other end of the scale, the Brownies and Rainbows have been active too, and their news is on page 12.

Many readers will have very fond memories of the 'Page from the Sage' articles written by Dick Melton which appeared in this magazine for many years. Sadly our friend Dick died on 25th April, and his funeral is on 1st June at Mintlyn Crematorium at 10.45. Pat Richardson writes about Dick's life on page 35.

My thanks as always to all our wonderful advertisers who provide the income to print 14,000 copies. Please support them if you are able. If you have a business and you'd like more customers, do get in touch. We have a transparent policy when it comes to pricing and you'll find all the sizes and prices below in red.

Thanks also to everyone who has written articles and sent information for this issue. Whilst I haven't the space to mention all the interesting items in this welcome letter, may I suggest you make a coffee, settle into the garden, and dive into a good read about what's happening on our doorstep.

Until next month

Elaine

Elaine Bird, Editor,

Town and Around

The Perches, 18 Tapping Close, Snettisham PE31 7FF

T: 01485 540620 M: 07533 088196

E: editor@townandaround.net

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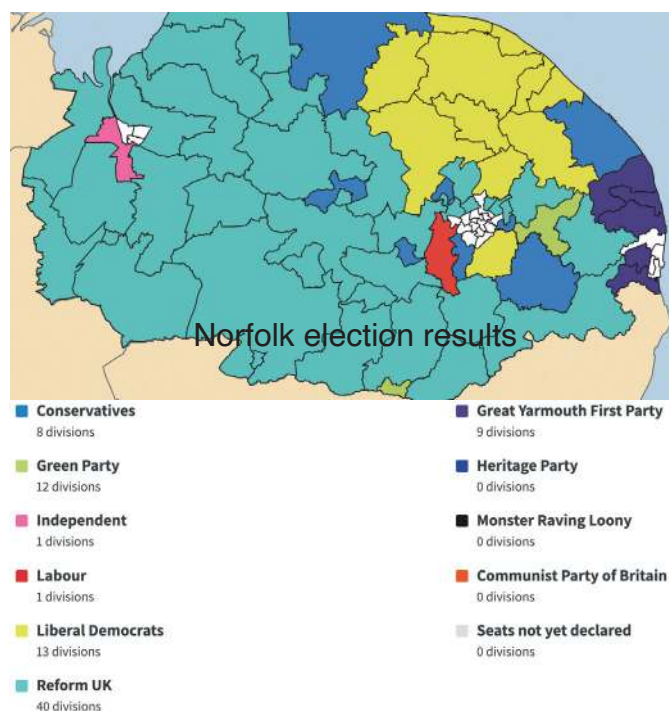
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Reform take all but two seats in West Norfolk



West Norfolk will be represented by mostly Reform UK councillors. A total of 77 candidates stood for election across the 14 divisions within West Norfolk - all but two of those seats won by Reform.

Independent Alexandra Kemp kept hold of Clenchwarton and King's Lynn South, just 12 votes between her and Reform's Gary Archdale. Liberal Democrat Rob Cowell still has his seat in Gaywood North and Central.

Miss Kemp, who's represented her ward for more than a decade, said she was "really pleased", adding, "It's important residents have an experienced councillor who knows local issues."

Cllr Kemp says she will continue to prioritise battling health inequalities, as well as the cost-of-living crisis.

On hearing the result Mr Cowell said, "Thank you so much to all the residents of Gaywood North & Central.

"I've so enjoyed being a Norfolk County Councillor and will continue my work on representing you all."

As it stands for Norfolk County Council, Reform UK narrowly missed out on gaining a majority (43 seats). The party has 40 councillors, there are 13 Liberal Democrats, 12 Greens, one Labour and one Independent.

A Reform UK spokesperson thanked local residents adding, "We intend to govern purely in the interests of people across this great county."

King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council Mayor Making 2026

Independent Councillor for The Clenchwarton Ward, Cllr Steve Bearshaw, 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 on 14th May. He will be supported in his year in office by his wife, Marisol and his charities for the year will be the Bridge for Heroes & The Purfleet Trust.

A twenty nine year career serving in the Royal Air Force has seen him posted to Germany, Scotland, West Midlands, Lincolnshire, Bristol and Norfolk, whilst countless detachments and Operational tours have taken him all across the world.

First elected in 1999 as a Conservative Borough Councillor for the Outwell and Upwell Ward Cllr Vivienne Spikings was elected as deputy Mayor and she will be supported by former councillor Mrs Avril Wright, whose strong background in music and community involvement will be invaluable in fundraising efforts and is greatly appreciated.

The Mayor's Cadets for 2026-2027 are: Sea Cadets: Able Cadet Harry Chapman, Army Cadets: Elizabeth West-Burnham, Air Cadets:



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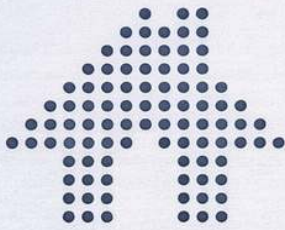
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Coffee with brew-tiful views!

Dani Crawshaw



Meet Sandy and Dave pulling along their coffee cart to Burnham Overy Staithe Harbour, and as they set up for the day, they tell me about their business.

And then the coffee machine powers up, the milk is steamed, and the first coffee of the day is served - and what a beautiful place to drink it.



"We've been running it for just over 4 years," says Sandy, "We both really love it, it's a very special place to work.

"Most of the time it doesn't feel like working, most of the time it feels like you're serving friends and lovely people."

As Sandy talks she takes out the handmade pottery cups, and tells me the business is very eco-conscious, "It's the centre of everything that we do. We don't do any take away cups at all.

"Instead of sitting in cafe, you can wander around here with your drink, and then bring your cup back when you're done.

"These have all been inspired by our beautiful setting here at Overy Staithe, and we have ten different potters who make cups for us, which you can buy too."

Dave brings out the homemade cakes - ginger and orange and Victoria Sponge. And even before they're ready to start serving, there's a queue forming.

"Morning, we'll be another ten minutes or so," Sandy tells them. The visitors are happy to wait.



Pam, who's on a walking holiday with her husband gives her verdict, "It's superb. What a brilliant find, what a great surprise. And the cup is beautiful."

Chloe, who's staying nearby, says, "It's lovely, really nice, something totally unique - what an amazing setting, can't beat it can you."

Norfolk Coffee Pedlar is open from around mid-March until September, from 10.15 in the morning until 5.

"It's not just getting out of bed in the

morning to do a job, we really look forward to it," Dave says.

"And yep it's hard work, we try to get out here seven days a week, the only thing that really stops us is the weather, other than that it is a big commitment for 6 months. But we absolutely love doing it.

"It's particularly rewarding when people don't know we're here," he continues.

"We can see them coming probably off the coastal path and we see their faces, and mouthing probably is that coffee, is that tea, maybe they have cake, and then they come up and we do - it's really lovely when that happens." More customers are served, and more compliments on the drinks and cakes are given.



"It's wonderful, makes it all worthwhile," Dave tells me, "We strive to make the best drinks that we possibly can, but it's nice to have that validated by people actually giving you direct feedback.

"Which is definitely better working in a office job which I was doing before."

The pair decided to reinvent their careers during Covid and wanted to find a way of investing in their community. Before I leave Sandy says, "It's a really special thing to do, we're extremely lucky."

I think the community and visitors are lucky to have them, what a fantastic pair.

I did have a cup of coffee (delicious) and got to enjoy the view - a hot drink with a difference for sure.



EQUITY RELEASE MADE SIMPLE



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

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

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

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

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

Many of you will still be very active in retirement, and still have plenty of plans ahead of you. If you no longer have a wage coming in, and maybe your private pension has not performed as you had hoped for, the question that could be asked is how you can fund your future plans?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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On a drive to raise mental health awareness

Dani Crawshaw



It can be a little bit bumpy at times," Harry tells me, "I have to hang on the seat with one hand and hang on to the corner of the windscreen - don't hang on to the door because that comes open, I learnt that very quickly!"

Harry Sear and Paul Harold have spent almost a month on a road trip in a 100 year old reclaimed Talbot car, called Lavinia, to raise money for Reclaim Life.

The charity, based in Leighton Buzzard in Bedfordshire, helps those in mental and emotional distress.

"We train people to become life coaches," continues Harry, "Then we give people 5 free sessions of life coaching, which is able to turn people's lives around."

"There is no other town in the country doing this, so we wanted to go out and explain to other communities, try to get them to set up

a group to help people with mental distress."

And they've been in Hunstanton, parked up on The Green.



In total they will have travelled almost 3 thousand miles, Harry smiles and says, "Paul is doing all the driving, he does all the

mechanics, and I do all the sitting - so it's a good partnership!"

The pair tell me it has a very distinctive klaxon hooter, which I ask to hear, "It gets people out of the way," jokes Paul.



"It's great, people smile, people overtake us," he continues, "They don't seem too bothered we're holding them up, they give us a little hoot - smiles per miles as we would say."

"Reclaim Life helps people with mental health issues, to which I suffer myself, depression. I've always found Lavinia has helped me, I sit in the workshop with her - she has this calming effect for me."

The charity's been up and running for 15 years, and Harry says it's helped thousands of people, "We literally reclaim lives, which is why we are called Reclaim Life, and once you've seen that you can't help but carry on - keep the charity going."

81 year old a global social media sensation

Dani Crawshaw



One of my videos has 54 million views, which I find astonishing really," Ian Smith tells me, as we chat in his kitchen where it all happens.

A few years ago Ian started posting online to promote his novel, but for the past 18 months has been recording messages of motivation and positivity.

"I went from sort of 50 followers to 10 thousand, and then it went haywire, and I have now got somewhere over 1.5 million followers, I'm still not quite sure why!"

"It's quite upsetting that so many people in the world need help," he

continues, "I just have a dream that if I could get to 10 million positive followers, that I might make a difference."

"I've always been quite positive, and I just feel that the world's got very negative."

The retired dentist now posts twice a day, we chat about where he gets inspiration from.

"Different things. You can have things like songs, such as The Impossible Dream, and you think where can I take that. Other things I read, I like the sentiment, but don't like the way it's put - so I adapt it."

"Sometimes it takes me ten minutes, sometimes a few hours. Other times I can be up until the early hours!"

"The reach is staggering. I do a live every Thursday for about half an hour, and people come join from all over the world, for some of them it's the middle of the night."

He goes on to tell me about today's theme, "I'm working on something along the lines of: all you need is one person in your life who says - you've got this, I believe in you."

I ask what that feels like to have hundreds of thousands of people listening to his words.

"I'm shocked more than anything that as an 81 year old I'm doing this. I mean let's be honest, TikTok's for kids - not for old people, so I feel quite surprised I suppose."

"It's all a mystery to me, but I love it, I love doing it and it's great fun."

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Death overseas: practical steps and immediate challenges

By Miranda Marshall, Director, Hayes + Storr

When someone dies abroad, the already sad and difficult situation becomes even more complex. In this first article, I look at the immediate practical steps and challenges that arise. In my next article I will cover legal complexities and estate administration.

There is a maze of legal and practical steps to overcome and every case is different. Different countries present their own specific issues to address. The key to managing involves understanding which country's laws apply, what documents are needed and how best to co-ordinate the process from England.

The first immediate practicality is registering the death. Local procedures vary widely. In some cases, the death must be registered at the town hall, while in others it is done through the hospital or police authority. The British Consulate can assist with the local process.

Once the death has been registered abroad

it is possible to apply for consular death registration through the British authorities. This involves sending the foreign death certificate and certified translation to the General Register Office, which can issue a United Kingdom record of the death.

A decision may need to be made whether to repatriate the body or to arrange for a burial or cremation abroad. Repatriation involves complex logistics, including obtaining permits for transport, coordinating both foreign and British funeral directors, and complying with customs and health requirements. Costs vary depending on distance and the level of consular assistance available. Some travel insurance policies include repatriation cover.

Even if the burial or cremation takes place abroad, you may still need translated copies of the death certificate, medical reports, and other documents for the estate administration. The translations must be by certified translators to be accepted by British



institutions. Only once these steps have been taken, the estate administration can start.

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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HOW 2025 WINTER FUEL PAYMENTS WILL BE RECOVERED: SCAM WARNING

By Mapus-Smith & Lemmon LLP incorporating Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton

Back in April HMRC began the recovery of Winter Fuel Payments (WFP) and is currently advising pensioners to be alert for scams.

Most people who were eligible to receive the 2025 WFP (and did not opt out) received it automatically last November/December.

The WFP Charge will apply (subject exceptions for those on certain benefits) where an individual's total income for 2025/26, before any allowances, exceeds £35,000.

The test is only applied to the recipient's income and not to household income. For example: Mr & Mrs Smith both received the 2025 WFP. Mr Smith's total income for 2025/26 was £22,000, and Mrs Smith's was £36,000. The WFP Charge will apply to Mrs Smith, but not to Mr Smith. He will therefore keep his WFP, but Mrs Smith will have her full WFP recovered through the tax system.

Where an individual is within Self Assessment (SA) the WFP Charge will be included and the payment recovered, through their Tax Return for 2025/26, due for submission by 31 October 2026 (if on paper) or by 31 January 2027 (online).

For online filers, HMRC intend to pre-populate the Return with the WFP Charge, but a taxpayer is responsible for checking that their Return includes the Charge. Those who file their Return on paper will need to include the Charge themselves.

If a person is not within SA, HMRC will include the 2025/26 WFP Charge in their 2026/27 PAYE Tax Code. For a typical WFP of £200, PAYE taxpayers with income above £35,000 will be paying about £17 a month extra in tax during the current tax year, 2026/27, to recover their payment.

More than 25,000 WFP scam referrals have been made to HMRC over the past 12 months, and they are warning that scammers may now use the WFP recovery process as a hook for texts, emails and 'phone calls to target this group.

Please therefore remain aware that HMRC will never contact people by text, email or 'phone to ask them to repay their WFP, or, to request bank details.

Do also remember that it is possible to opt out of receiving WFPs rather than having them recovered through the tax system and many people did this for the 2025 WFP. The Department of Work & Pensions (DWP) requires a separate opt-out for each year. To opt out of the WFP for 2026 you must contact the WFP Centre by 'phone (0800 731 0160) before 18 September 2026 or use the online opt-out form before 20 September 2026.

Unfortunately, if you opted out of receiving the 2025 WFP but now find that your 2025/26 total income was below £35,000, the deadline for opting back in had to be made by 31 March 2026. If relevant, however, it will be advisable to ensure one reviews one's annual income ahead of next tax year end in order to opt back in for the 2027 payment (if it still exists by then!).

If you require any advice on the matter of Winter Fuel Payments, please do contact Nicola Tarry FCA at Mapus-Smith & Lemmon LLP, Hunstanton office on 01485 534800 or ntarry@mapus.co.uk

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

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Farmyard Fun:

Snettisham Rainbows & Brownies Take Over the Farm!

Our recent trip to Snettisham Park Farm was nothing short of magical, proving once again that life is better on the farm.

A "Kidding" Good Start

The stars of the show arrived just before we did! We were incredibly lucky to meet some brand-new baby goats who had been born only moments before our group pulled up. Watching the tiny kids take their first shaky steps was a highlight that none of us will forget. It's not every day you get to see a "welcome to the world" moment!

The Great Lamb Race



Next up was the main event: bottle-feeding



the lambs. While it started out sweet and calm, those hungry lambs had other ideas! Once the milk was gone, the real challenge began. The girls had a hilarious time trying to "herd" the bouncy lambs back into their pens. Let's just say the lambs are much faster than they look, but our Rainbows and Brownies showed some impressive teamwork to get the job done.

From Hen House to Goat Grove



The girls got stuck into the daily chores, too, though it felt much more like play than work:

Egg-cellent Tasks: We headed to the hen house to collect fresh eggs. But the fun didn't stop there—the girls learned how to size them, finding out exactly which ones were "large" and which were "jumbo!"



The Snacking Goats: We visited the older goats, who were more than happy to munch on some snacks straight from our hands. They were definitely less shy than the newborns!



Between the sunshine, the fresh air, and the animal cuddles, it was a fantastic for everyone involved. A huge thank you to Snettisham Park Farm for hosting us and letting us get a real taste of farm life.

Girlguiding is the leading charity for girls and young women in the UK. We are dedicated to building confidence, raising aspirations, and providing a safe space for girls to discover their full potential.

We are always looking for new faces! Whether you are a young girl ready for adventure or an adult volunteer looking to give back, we would love to have you.

Get Involved: Sign up as a new member or volunteer at [Girlguiding UK](https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/) <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/>

The King's Lynn Norfolk Boat Trust

Baden Powell sets sail for the 2026 season! The historic fishing vessel, built in King's Lynn in 1900, is a gaff rigged cutter (for those in the know!). She was built at the yard of Walter Norfolk in The Friars on the River Nar – a bustling navigable river in those days. Now owned by the King's Lynn Norfolk Boat Trust, she offers trips out to Bulldog Bank at the mouth of the Great Ouse to see the abundant wildlife, particularly seals. Locals who have been out say they've seen Lynn and the river from a whole new and fascinating perspective.

To book trips, which operate dependant on tides, visit floatourboat.co.uk and go to the 'Book a Trip' page, scroll down, and available sailings and seats can be seen to choose from. Alternatively call 01553 772735 and leave a message.



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Fenland Family History Group

Tying the knot

Handfasting Marriage, or a hand-tying ceremony, is an ancient Celtic tradition where a couple's hands are bound together with cords or ribbons to symbolise their union and commitment. Often performed during modern humanist or spiritual weddings, this ritual is the origin of the phrase: 'Tying the Knot'.

We hold our monthly evening meetings at Wisbech St. Mary Sports & Community Centre, Beechings Close, Wisbech St Mary PE13 4SS. Our meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month except December & August. From 7 - 9 pm. Non-members always welcome. Our June 25th speaker is Nick Meekins on 'Wisbech Crime & Punishment'. Our July meeting is always a trip out to a place of interest. This year on July 23rd we will meeting at the Old Church at Church End Parson Drove. Please meet at the church door.

Our free research sessions are on the first Tuesday of the month - 10 - 12 noon Wisbech Library, with maybe a donation towards the hire of the room. We have a team of 8 or 10 researchers available to help you. On the second Monday of the month we meet in the restaurant at Baytree Garden Centre Hilgay near Downham Market 11- 2.30. For further information contact Bridget on 01945 587723. or bridget25hunter@btinternet.com

Tea with a pony returns

We're delighted to announce that our much-loved Tea with a Pony sessions are returning for the 2026 season! Sessions will run through until the beginning of October at The Magpie Centre in West Norfolk.

Tea with a Pony offers a relaxed, welcoming opportunity to meet our wonderful ponies up close, enjoy refreshments, and learn more about the work of Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) and The Magpie Centre. These sessions are designed to be inclusive, friendly and accessible, creating meaningful experiences for people of all ages.

The sessions are particularly popular with local community groups, dementia support groups, care homes, schools and children's groups, social clubs and wellbeing groups.

Spending time with ponies can be incredibly therapeutic. For some visitors, it brings back fond memories of horses from years gone by. For others, it's a rare opportunity to enjoy animal interaction in a calm and supportive setting. The combination of gentle pony interaction and tea and cake makes for a truly special outing.

Each session offers the chance to: meet our ponies, learn about their personalities and daily routines, discover the impact of RDA sessions at The Magpie Centre and enjoy tea, cake and good company.

If you're part of a local organisation and would like to arrange a group visit, we'd love to hear from you. Full details can be found on our website

For more information or to book please contact us:
The Magpie Centre, West Norfolk
Website: www.rda-westnorfolk.org.uk
Phone: 01553 810202

Dersingham Choir Presents "Echoes of Africa" Summer Concert

Dersingham Choir is delighted to present its Summer Concert, "Echoes of Africa", on Saturday 27 June 2026 at 3.00 pm, at St Nicholas' Church, Dersingham (PE31 6GZ), with doors opening at 2.30.

The "Echoes of Africa" programme features a vibrant selection of songs from southern Africa, alongside a lively medley from The Lion King. The concert also includes a varied and uplifting mix of operatic and popular favourites, offering something for everyone.

This event has always proved extremely popular, so this year's concert will take place in a new, larger venue to accommodate the choir's growing membership and increasing audience numbers.

Dersingham Choir will be led by its Musical Director, Jenny Williams, and accompanied by Matthew Preston on piano. The audience can expect a warm and welcoming atmosphere, with refreshments available and a raffle with prizes adding to the enjoyment of the afternoon. This promises to be an engaging and entertaining summer event for all ages.

Tickets are, £7 Adult / £3 Under 18 / Under 5 Free, and will be available on the door only, so please turn up in plenty of time to avoid disappointment.

For more information please contact Kate, the choir secretary, email secretaryDC2025@outlook.com or phone 07513 986858.



Sedgeford Craft Fayre

Jacqueline Sindle

The first of this year's 3 artisan craft fayres in Sedgeford took place on Sunday 26 April 2026. Sadly for us, the weekend weather was the best so far of the year which resulted in a slow start to our day. However, as the day progressed, footfall increased.

I would like to thank all the visitors for parting with their money and purchasing some of the lovely items on sale, buying raffle tickets which were in aid of Hillside Animal Sanctuary and I know that the refreshments available were very much enjoyed.

Thank you very much to Sally Ward and Pam Godard and their team of helpers for providing such good quality foods and service. Thank you to all shops and pubs who very kindly displayed our posters. Also a huge thank you to businesses who provided raffle prizes; these were Goldilocks Hair Salon - Hunstanton, Thaxters Garden Centre - Dersingham, Baigio's Coffee Shop - Dersingham, Tesco Heacham, Coach and Horses - Dersingham and Tesco Hunstanton.

A big thank you too to our lovely stall holders who also provided raffle prizes.

Sedgeford Village Hall and Sedgeford St Mary's Church each received £175 from the sale of refreshments and a grand total of £242.80 has been forwarded to Hillside Animal Sanctuary.

A huge thank you to everyone who helps behind the scenes and to our lovely stall holders without whom the Sedgeford Craft Fayres would not happen. I received lots of praise regarding the venue and quality of items on sale. Thank you.

We hope to see you on 23rd August when our chosen charity is Coastal Watch based in Brancaster. Watch local press for details and posters and facebook advertising. If you would like to join us in any capacity then please contact us at sedgefordcraftfayre@gmail.com or telephone 70944 576 767.

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De-Lightful Electrical news

Cooper & Elms acquires A E Wallis premises, strengthening local electrical retail provision

Local independent electrical retailer Cooper & Elms based in Tower Street, King's Lynn has announced the acquisition of the A E Wallis store, another established family run and respected electrical retailer with a strong history in North West Norfolk, upon the current owners retirement.

Cooper & Elms in purchasing the shop premises hope to take the electrical retail business from strength to strength, by extending their business from King's Lynn to Heacham.

As fellow Members of the Euronics buying group, customers of A E Wallis will continue to receive the same trusted local store service with the added benefit of an expanded product offering when Cooper & Elms take on the premises from June 1st 2026.

The Heacham store, which was established by John & Richard Wallis' father, Arthur E Wallis in 1939, will be rebranded to Cooper & Elms. There are however, no immediate changes planned to day-to-day operations, ensuring a smooth transition for customers. Wayne Martin of Appliance Care and Kev the Aerial Man who have assisted Richard for some years will remain alongside Cooper & Elms for continuity.

"A E Wallis have built an excellent reputation for quality products and customer service, we have likewise have built a strong reputation in King's Lynn and are relishing the challenge of extending our operations into Heacham and the surrounding area" said Ian Cooper, Director of Cooper & Elms.

"I am confident Cooper & Elms will deliver the same level of service and support that you have come to expect from A E Wallis for all these years, AE Wallis and Cooper & Elms, share the same customer focus and values, I am pleased that there will continue to be an electrical retail business for the people of Heacham and the surrounding area and confident that Cooper & Elms can thrive in our community" said Richard Wallis.

Although John's retirement will see the closure of the bike shop, with the agreement and co-operation of both Moulam & Horn in Pound Lane and Mr G in Cheney Crescent, the sales of spares and the repairs of cycles will thankfully continue in Heacham.

£460 raised at Memorial Concert

John Harris

Many thanks to all who contributed to the success of 'The Queen Elizabeth II Centenary Memorial Concert' held on 18th April at Hunstanton Town Hall.

After the deduction of some expenses (though not the full amount), I have been able to send a cheque for £460 to The Queen Elizabeth II Commonwealth Trust.

Kind regards to all readers.



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RESCUE : WOODEN : BOATS

Early summer update

Annual Maritime Heritage Festival & Flotilla: Saturday & Sunday June 20 & 21. Boats arriving during the morning of Friday 19 June.

Come along to enjoy the wonderful sight and stories of as many as possible of the still existing historic local wooden working boats over this special weekend at Wells-next-the-Sea.

They arrive on the morning tide on Friday June 19 to moor at Tugboat Yard East Quay on display with their histories. The Festival opens at 10.00 on Saturday June 20 and the spectacular Flotilla starts at 11.30am when the boats leave in procession led by former lifeboat Lucy Lavers down to the harbour mouth and back, so can be viewed from both the quay and the sea wall on both their way out and back. They return to Tugboat Yard to a sea shanty welcome. As well as the boats on display from 10am on Saturday and Sunday there will be merchandise stalls, knot demonstrations with the popular Andy McBride, food, drink and shanty bands: on Saturday: Nelson Shantymen 12.30; Sheringham Shantymen 15.00 and on Sunday: Blakeney Old Wild Rovers 11.00; Castaway Crew 13.00. We are also marking David Hewitt's 50 years this year as an outstanding local boatbuilder.

Lucy Lavers popular Heritage Tours You can join skipper Isaac on a 1.5hr tour or book the whole boat - a locally serving lifeboat and Dunkirk Little Ship - to celebrate your own special occasion (maximum 12 people) for 1.5 or 3.0 hrs. So far this year we've had birthdays, hen parties, special interest groups and more aboard. As well as the exhilarating experience of being aboard a unique historic wooden boat, the tours focus on 'heritage' (Lucy Lavers, lifeboats, Dunkirk, local wooden fishing boats, Wells Harbour) with Isaac as an "excellent skipper and narrator".

You can see the dates and times and book on our website www.rescuewoodenboats.com.

The Maritime Heritage Centre in Stiffkey tells the stories of these boats and their communities. It is open on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays 11.00 - 4.00 with new displays and merchandise. Lots to see and do; history of local fishing, boatbuilding and lifeboats, films, displays and artefacts, quiz, knots and more for children. And a special 50th anniversary display of David Hewitt, boatbuilder. And you can take a break, sit down with a cuppa and watch a film, and perhaps see some boatbuilding in action.

Sea Shanty Summer BBQ Thursday August 13 from 5.00 - 8.00pm at Stiffkey. Live shanty band and self-pay BBQ and bar.

Recruiting volunteers of all sorts...

We always are keen to recruit volunteers and fit with their skills, interests and time availability to join our friendly team to help with visitors at the Maritime Heritage Centre and boatyard, help on the stalls and help with sanding and painting boats each year

If you are interested or know anyone who might be, and would like to talk it through do get in touch with Wendy on wwp@wendypritchard.co.uk 07796 95961414

www.rescuewoodenboats.com charity no. 1144180



All Change at Phobbies

Dersingham Phobbies is a club organised and run by volunteers for people with a wide range of disabilities or who feel isolated. We meet every Thursday in Dersingham social club, and it was our AGM on May 7th.



Maggie (left) and Julie

After many years of volunteering for Phobbies, both Maggie Ponder, chair of the organising committee, and Julie Kittle, treasurer, stood down from their important roles. They were succeeded by Mark Shelton and Sarah Jeffreys respectively.

Maggie said, "I was really happy to find Phobbies 19 years ago but vowed that I would never run it. Phobbies closed during COVID lock down and we sadly lost valuable members of the committee, so after restrictions were lifted some new volunteers and I, along with Julie's help with finances, got it going again and I became the boss! Now is the time to step back and I am delighted that Mark and Sarah have agreed to take over the reins. It is a lovely club full of wonderful people and I intend to keep coming every week for as long as I am able. Currently it is thriving with 7 new members arriving in the last 6 months so it is a good time to hand over. I would like to thank everyone who has supported me these last 5 years."

Julie added, "I joined Phobbies for my Mum to attend a few years before COVID. When it was safe to re-open Maggie asked me if I would be Treasurer, having worked in a Bank. Even though my mother had to go into a home during COVID and has since sadly died, I agreed as I had enjoyed going with Mum so much. I have been in the role for about 5 years but now feel it's time to hand the reins to someone else. I will still go on Thursdays as it's a very friendly group with all sorts of activities and I'd miss everyone if I stopped."



Alec



Wayne

Phobbies activities have continued apace, with mask making being particularly popular. We always welcome new volunteers and anyone else who wants to attend no matter the reason why. Any help that you can give, whether it's a one off, a few times a year or more regular will be greatly appreciated and you will be made most welcome. We would most gratefully receive any craft activities anyone has that our less able club members can carry out.

Phobbies meets on Thursdays at Dersingham social club, Lynn Road from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm. Weekly subscription is £2; tea, coffee and biscuits are provided free but we bring a packed lunch. Anyone interested in joining can drop in on a Thursday or contact Mark Shelton tel. 07763 643498 or email mm.shelton@btinternet.com

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Giant vegetables

Our April speaker, Douglas Smith, gave a fascinating slide presentation on growing giant vegetables. The photograph shows him holding a giant tomato, the 2020 UK record at 6.85lb (3.016kg).



Earth Day 2026

Our Society was recently invited to have a stall at Nelson Academy in Downham Market, to be part of this year's Earth Day. This global event has been in existence for 56 years and is marked in or around 22 April each year. It is an environmental movement, with this year's theme being 'Our Power, Our Planet'. We were delighted with the amount of interest shown in both the Society and our Summer Show (see below).

Summer Show

This year's Show is on Saturday 4 July in Downham Market Town Hall. If you haven't done so already, do pick up one of the free orange Show booklets from local garden centres and other Downham Market outlets. There's still time for you to enter (closing date for entry forms Tuesday 30 June at 4pm) or just come along from 11am onwards and admire all the exhibits, and perhaps get inspired for next year! We will have a plant stall with plants grown by our members, an excellent raffle, and refreshments. Prize giving is at 3pm. There will also be an opportunity to talk to committee members and maybe join our Society there and then, as visitors to our Show have done in other years.

Further details

If you'd like further details about our Society or if you'd like to come along to see what we're all about (with no obligation to join), please contact our membership secretary, Judith, on 01366 501466 or email: jt.mazur@tiscali.co.uk. At only £10 per year, it is a real bargain.

OLD HUNSTANTON FLOWER FESTIVAL

Friday-Sunday 24th-26th July 2026
Caroline Richardson

Not long now until this year's Flower Festival so please make a note in your diary and alert all your friends. We are planning another amazing spectacle with the theme "A few of our favourite things!"

We now need your help.... Firstly, if you have any pre-loved books, clothes and bric a brac lying around please contact Simon Carter on simoncarter920@btinternet.com and he

can arrange to pick them up from you.

Secondly, this year we are planning to revamp the games marquee to provide more games for those young and old. To make this a success we need a couple more helpers during the weekend.

If you fancy helping your local community, please contact Simon Carter.

No previous experience needed and you



will get a free invite to the thank-you barbecue the following week!

A photograph of a young deer (fawn) standing in a grassy field. The deer has brown fur with white spots and is looking towards the left.

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Old Hunstanton Flower Festival

A close-up photograph of a single pink flower with many petals.

Friday - Sunday
24-26 July 2026
10am - 4pm

Marvel at the magnificent floral displays in the church: enjoy lunches, refreshments, stalls and games at the village hall

Join us for a hog roast with music on Saturday night, a fun dog show and a concert by the Hunstanton Concert Band on Sunday

For enquiries please contact Simon Carter on 07941 521860/simoncarter920@btinternet.com

Wendy Warner's plant of the month - Coreopsis

Often overlooked, the bright, cheery flowers of perennial Coreopsis will add months of colour to the summer garden. These bushy, hardy plants can be used in borders, containers, wildlife gardens, prairie-style plantings, coastal and gravel gardens and cottage gardens. Their flowers are typically shades of yellow, gold, orange, red or bi-coloured combinations, and come as mainly single or semi-double blooms dependent on variety. The flowers are nectar rich and attract bees, butterflies and other beneficial insects.

With our increasingly hot summers, coreopsis thrives well as it can tolerate dry spells. Newer cultivars have also been bred with improved winter hardiness, stronger colours and longer flowering times, often flowering from June until the first frosts in autumn. Hardy coreopsis will die down to the ground in winter and new shoots will emerge in early spring.

Coreopsis perform best when grown in full sun, a south-facing border or open sunny area, which encourages them to produce stronger stems and more flowers. They dislike having other plants growing close to them as this can cause them to make softer stems as they are trying to find the light and if it is damp can encourage mildew. They require well-drained soil, especially with the wetter winters we are getting and dislike heavy clay soil which with winter wet can cause the crown to rot.



Drainage on heavy soil can be improved by adding horticultural grit or compost to break up the soil. They prefer poorer soil rather than over-fed ground. It is always best to plant in Spring or early autumn so the plants can establish before extremes of weather conditions. New plantings will need to be watered in well but once established they should cope without much additional watering except during prolonged drought or when grown in containers. Regular

deadheading throughout the season will extend the flowering period, just snip off any faded blooms above fresh buds. Mature plants can be divided every few years in spring to create new plants and stop older specimens becoming woody.

There are too many varieties to mention all, and they can grow at different heights from 30cm to 90cm, so this will factor where you position them in the garden. Most mid-sized varieties 40-60cm tend to have about the same spread as height, so remember to allow enough space between plants when positioning them. Coreopsis verticillata 'Moonbeam' is one of the most widely grown varieties with numerous pale lemon-yellow flowers and delicate feathery foliage, growing to 50cm. Coreopsis grandiflora 'Mayfield Giant' is 90cm tall with plain golden yellow flowers. Coreopsis verticillata Sizzle and Spice 'Hot Paprika' has star shaped vibrant red blooms. There are numerous modern hybrids with bi-colour flowers Coreopsis Big Bang 'Sun Splash' has red petals, tipped gold, Coreopsis grandiflora 'Solar Moon' has semi-double creamy-yellow, red centred flowers and Coreopsis Li'l Bang 'Enchanted Eve Red' is shorter at 25-30cm and had red and yellow fringed flowers.

Needing little care, except a spot of deadheading, Coreopsis will bring months of sunshine to your summer garden!



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Hunstanton in Bloom

On 27th April Hunstanton In Bloom held its Annual Tea Party and Spring Launch in Hunstanton Town Hall. Approximately 50 people attended including committee members, volunteers, council staff and members of other organisations in the town. We were particularly pleased to welcome the (then) Deputy Mayor of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, Cllr Steve Bearshaw, with Dr Gillian Piggott, and also the Mayor of Hunstanton, Cllr Cynthia Easeman, with Gem.

The occasion was an opportunity to thank all the many people who work so hard to make Hunstanton such an attractive place for residents and visitors, all of which resulted in another Gold Award from Anglia In Bloom last year. Thanks were also given to two of our sponsors, Hunstanton Town Council and to Moss Bakery who once again provided all the refreshments for the occasion, something they have done for a number of years for the Tea Party and also for Judging Days; special thanks were expressed to Alyson who had worked through difficult circumstances to ensure the tea was provided for this event.



The Spring Launch was also an opportunity to look at some of the achievements of In Bloom through a visual presentation of the year. This illustrated the number of individuals and

groups making contributions including the Men's Shed, Northfield Allotments, Community Orchard, Adopt-a-Bedders, local schools, local businesses and care homes. Apart from being awarded overall Gold there were also Certificates of Nomination awarded for Hunstanton Town Centre, Moss Bakery and Redgate Roundabout.

In 2026 we will once again be entering the Coastal Category of the Anglia In Bloom campaign. There will also be the opportunity to enter a number of Special categories. Each year Anglia In Bloom decides on one or two extra specials for the year and this year it has chosen the 100th anniversary of Winnie the Pooh. Plans are already underway, with a lot of input from the Men's Shed, for displays in the raised bed on the Upper Green and in Boston Gardens. We look forward to welcoming Anglia In Bloom judges to Hunstanton in July.

We are always looking for new people with new ideas to join our Hunstanton in Bloom committee. Or if you would just like more information just get in touch with me or maybe visit the Anglia In Bloom website www.angliainbloom.co.uk

Adrian Winnington (Chairman, Hunstanton In Bloom)
adrianwinnington@gmail.com 07775643877

Ringstead Open Gardens

Sunday 7th June 2026

A wonderful blaze of colour, cakes and community spirit raising funds for St Andrew's Church. Make a day of it touring a variety of gardens bursting with dazzling displays of flowers, shrubs and trees to inspire and delight. The ever popular and delicious home cooked 2 course lunches will be served at Ringstead Village Hall from 12-2pm @ £17.50 per head. Tea, Coffees and Cakes will be served from 2pm til 5pm. With the added bonus of traditional Cake and Produce stalls, Tombola, Raffle, the unmissable Plant Stall, live music and our new bar 'The Potting Shed'!, it has all the makings of a fun day out for all ages.



St Andrew's Church itself plays host to a Flower Festival across 3 days from Sat 6th to Mon 8th (10am-5pm) and this year's theme is 'For the Beauty of the Earth'. Nearby, you can walk in Ringstead Downs and Chalk Pit and Courtyard Farm.

Gardens open from 11am to 5pm Sunday 7th. £7.50 entry covers all gardens - Under 12s are FREE

Lunches served from 12-2pm - Call 07771 434616 or email melanie.hutchinson@hlhlt.co.uk to pre-book

Tea, Coffee and Cakes 2-5pm

FREE Minibus round the village gardens

Flower Festival at St Andrews Ringstead - open 6th- 8th June 10-5pm

Facebook & Instagram @ringsteadopengardens

Old Hunstanton Open Gardens

Sunday June 14th 10am-4pm

Come and help us celebrate gardening,

and get some inspiration for your home. We have 10 gardens open this year, including two opening for the first time. Tickets are £5 and available from St Marys Church and the Village Hall. Entry to the Village Hall is FREE and the hall garden will be full of specialist nurseries selling a wide range of plants, and other gardening related items. Lunch and refreshments will be served in the Village Hall, accompanied by live music. Free parking at St Marys Church and a free shuttlebus between the church and village hall all day.



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For further information contact Carol Greening on greeningcarolderek@hotmail.com or 077634466325.

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Neigh-ce to meet you!

Dani Crawshaw



So Winnie is going to be two in May. For 6 months, she's been going into care homes and she's doing amazing," says Nicky Hill, who runs Miniature Dreams for Tiny Tots in King's Lynn.

Nicky takes Miniature Shetland ponies to visit care home residents, and into early learning settings too.

As Winnie shakes the flowers from her mane, Nicky laughs and adds, "She's still at that playful stage, and she does love a good old rub and scratch."



The beautiful Winnie (flowers put back!)

The pony's visiting residents at Norfolk Lodge Care Home in Hunstanton - many of whom have dementia.

And as we go inside, she's greeted with some looks of surprise but mainly lots of smiles.



As Winnie works the room Nicky introduces the pony, hands out a brush, and encourages residents to say hello.

I ask Geraldine Bird what she thinks of the visitor, "She's gorgeous," and laughs as she adds, "But I bet she's saying let me out on the grass!"



Geraldine with Winnie

Manager Leah Liboyi smiles as she watches the interactions, "Some of the residents had ponies or horses when they were younger so emotionally it's very good for



them, it sparks happy memories.

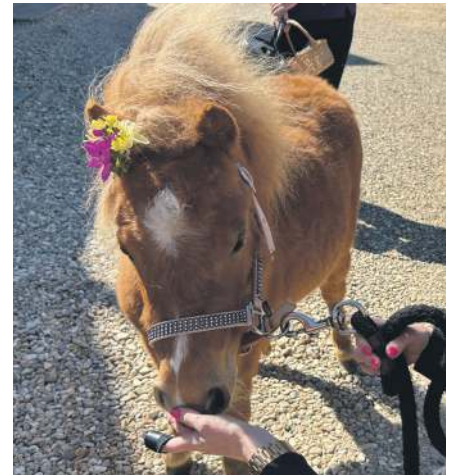
"When Nicky first came here, there was a resident who was on end of life who used to have horses. The pony came into her bedroom and saw her on her last few days, which was beautiful.

"You could see how grateful she was for that to happen."

"The care home I'm visiting today, was the first I came to 4 years ago," Nicky adds.

"It's just lovely to see the interaction, to see the residents' smiles, I get quite a lot of happy tears. Some talk about their past when they were children, about their memories.

"The feedback I get from all staff from all care homes is just mind blowing," she continues, "And yeah, I just love doing what I do."



Tulips for Tapping: another un-bulb-lievable year



The 20 acres were once again transformed by more than 9 million bulbs for two weeks in April - with the event attracting in excess of 40 thousand visitors. It has, once again, been a record breaking year - with just over 580 thousand pounds being raised.

A spokesperson for Tapping House says, "We'd like to say our final

thank you to the amazing volunteers who helped organise, support and run Tulips for Tapping 2026. They are the beating heart of our event and we couldn't do it without them."

The charity went on to thank Mark and Susanne Eves of Norfolk Tulips, who say they're delighted with the amount raised.

Field owner Susanne adds, "Thank you so much to everyone who visited and supported our event this year. It never ceases to amaze us the fabulous outfits and distances people travel to see the field."

The event has been running for six years, with every penny raised going directly to the charity.

Tapping House provides care for people with life limiting illnesses, and gives support to those most important to them

"This year, Tulips for Tapping raised £581,381.11 for our Hospice," the charity continues, "Providing around a month's worth of care for patients and families.

"It's been such a joy to see you all on the field and thank you to everyone who supported us, whether through your time and energy, your sponsorship, or your donation."



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All aboard one last time!



It's been charming visitors for decades, but last year Norton Hill Light Railway announced it was closing the attraction.

Angela Schumann and husband Michael opened their farm in Snettisham for three weekends every summer to raise money for local good causes.

Angela, who we spoke to about the decision said, "It is the end of an era, I feel very sad but also there is a sense of relief as it's a big



responsibility."

Michael added, "Steam engines have always fascinated me and I wanted to build a railway, I spent a lot of time researching it. And it has been wonderful. We've had people come here as young kids, then they come when they're married and they've got their own kids."

But the couple, to the delight of many, decided to open one last time for an afternoon in May. All the money raised being donated to the local St Mary's Church.

"People like travelling on trains, a lot of grandparents come with their grandchildren and I sometimes think the children are indulging the grandparents!" Michael continued.

"But the world moves on. We've done it for 35 years and I'm beginning to find it quite tiring, it's time.

"I'll miss it of course, it's socially great fun, we meet a lot of people but you have to accept reality as the years go on."

We shall miss it too.

For those of you who wanted to, we hope you managed to get in one last ride!



Michael Schumann (left)

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Hunstanton Bowls Club

As the May Day weekend sun shone Hunstanton Bowls Club threw open the doors and welcomed several new bowlers who had come along to give this ancient sport a try!

Our qualified coaches introduced and encouraged a number of prospective members to the world of bowling. It was very encouraging to see the new bowlers playing alongside the more experienced members and thoroughly enjoying the afternoon. We look forward to welcoming them back to the Friday evening club sessions when they can continue their bowling journey whilst forging new friendships in the clubhouse later!

If anyone out there would like to give bowling a try just come along on any Friday for a 6.00pm start....you will be warmly welcomed. Contact Dave (07508 134099) or Debra (07521 871689)

The County leagues for both the men and the ladies are now underway... with mixed but encouraging results so far. County and club competition draws have been made and we look forward to matching, if not improving on the success of last year when the ladies were County runners-up in the Top Club competition only narrowly losing to Norfolk Bowling Club in the final.

In June the weekend Friendly fixtures begin when we welcome visiting teams from Cambridgeshire and Leicestershire. These events are an opportunity to meet and socialise with bowlers from across the region and are always popular....it doesn't all have to be about competitions!

Work also continues by the members on the facilities and in player development to ensure that this year is a successful one for Hunstanton Bowls Club and that we can do justice to the first class green of which we are so justifiably proud!



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New and old faces at Hunstanton Eyecare & Audiology

As we continue to evolve into the Dipple & Conway company, we have a couple of staff changes. Optical Assistant Michelle, who often manned the reception desk left us at the end of February. Small in stature but mighty in getting things done oh so correctly! In her eight years with us she became a trustworthy and reliable colleague as well as a good friend. In May, Joanne joined us to take up the vacancy. She has worked for ACES (Anglia Community Eyecare Services), so has some knowledge of optical scanners and high-tech equipment, which will serve her very well in our world. In her own words – “I’m Joanne, born in London but loving living in Norfolk, I’ve been here about 15 years now. I enjoy crafts, watching films and going for days out. I applied for the position at Hunstanton Eyecare as it is a smaller company to where I previously worked. I am really happy here, everyone is friendly and I’m looking forward to a great future.”



The other news is the return of an old face, that of Mr Peter Barry as another Optometrist. I’m sure many of you will remember him, he was here when I joined the practice some eleven years ago, but he moved away as his daughter changed school and he was tasked with the school run! We will share Peter with our Swaffham branch from the middle of May.

Yet more news is that only last Thursday, we acquired more high-tech gadgets to examine your eyes, namely OPTOMAP. It scans an extremely wide field of view of the retina and compliments the OCT scanner that goes deeper but over a smaller area. You will be offered both when you book an appointment. I’ll go into more detail next month.

We look forward to seeing you soon

Annette

Hunstanton Lions news

On Friday 24th April 2026 Hunstanton Lions Club held their Annual Charity Golf Day at Heacham Manor Golf Club. It was very well supported with 16 teams taking part. The players were greeted with bacon rolls and coffee, then headed out into the sunshine to tee off. Players returned to the club house for a cooked lunch. After lunch we held a raffle and then auctioned off Golf Days donated to by neighbouring golf clubs. Local businesses sponsored a hole or provided raffle prizes. A special mention to Heacham Manor Golf Club for hosting the day and providing us with their excellent facilities and hospitality.

We were able to raise £2000, which will be used to support local good causes. Without the generous support of the players, sponsors and local businesses this event would not be the success it continues to be each year.

Northern Soul night for Tapping House Carol Greening

On Saturday 18th April DJ Darren Bloodworth (Biff) ran a Northern Soul Disco at Old Hunstanton Village Hall. A lively evening of music, dancing and socialising was enjoyed by everyone. All the profits raised of £725 were presented to Tapping House by Darren Bloodworth and Nell Bailey.



East Anglian Air Ambulance King's Lynn Fundraising Group

By Trevor Dane, Volunteer

On 3 and 4 May, King's Lynn Fundraising Group (KLFG) attended the Stradsett Park Vintage Rally organised by The National Vintage Tractor & Engine Club (East Anglia) (NVTECH-EA). The annual event raises money for charities with 50% of donations going to East Anglian Air Ambulance with the other 50% going to other local good causes. They have supported East Anglian Air Ambulance since 2006 and have raised an incredible £64,705 in this time. We would like to thank them for their support again this year.

KLFG supported the event with a fundraising and awareness stall, raising a fantastic £676.21. Thank you to everyone who generously supported East Anglian Air Ambulance over the two days.

We would like to thank Malcolm Duffey for raising £50.00 for East Anglian Air Ambulance by holding a coffee morning at his home.

Volunteering for East Anglian Air Ambulance

On Wednesday 3 June, I will be representing the charity at the West Norfolk Volunteer Fair at King's Lynn Town Hall, Saturday Market Place from 9.30am to 1.30pm. This year's event will take place during Volunteers' Week and Voluntary Norfolk's Festival of Volunteering 2026, offering a fantastic opportunity to connect with people who are actively looking to get involved with their local community. If you would like to find out more about volunteering with us then please come along for a chat.

East Anglian Air Ambulance simply couldn't do their work without the incredible support of volunteers. We are a dedicated, diverse, and flexible group of people who give their time and skills in so many different ways to help deliver the charity's lifesaving service – take it from me, it's brilliant to be a part of it.

Volunteering isn't just about giving - it's about gaining too! You'll be able to: Get hands on experience, learn new skills, meet amazing people, build confidence and have plenty of fun along the way! For further information about becoming a volunteer for East Anglian Air Ambulance please visit eaaa.org.uk/volunteering

East Anglian Air Ambulance recently launched an urgent appeal to raise £8.2 million to relocate, build a new Cambridge Air Base and protect lifesaving care across the region. Talk to us about how you can get involved, or make a donation at eaaa.org.uk/base

King's Lynn fundraising Group can be contacted by emailing myself or my colleague Terri: trevordane104@gmail.com or tfaye.100@gmail.com

East Anglian Air Ambulance general enquiries: 03450 669 999

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Paws, Smiles and Sunshine at the Hunstanton Fun Dog Show

Woofs and wagging tails from us, Ziggy Bear and Miss Zsa Zsa!

What a truly paw-some day we had at the Hunstanton Fun Dog Show! With glorious sunshine, happy humans and dogs of every shape and size strutting their stuff, the whole event was a fantastic celebration of our four-legged community.

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who came along to support the day. From tiny puppies making their first appearance in the ring to senior snoozers enjoying all the fuss and treats, every single dog helped make the event special. The laughter, cheers and friendly atmosphere made it one to remember.

A very special thank you goes to our wonderful judges — Rex, Alex and the amazing team from K9 Capers, and to Mark Williamson, Hunstanton Deputy Mayor, for their time, enthusiasm and expert eye in the judging ring. We also extend our thanks to Cynthia Eastman, Hunstanton Town Mayor, for joining us and supporting the event so warmly.



Of course, events like this cannot happen without the people working hard behind the scenes. Big tail wags go to Amanda in the Secretary's Tent, who somehow managed to keep everything running smoothly while answering a million questions with a smile. We also want to thank Steve and Norma, our "Litter Pickers Extraordinaires", who kept the show ground spotless throughout the day. True heroes armed with bin bags and determination! Finally, a big thank you to Steve for kindly supplying the sound equipment for the day.

And finally... huge congratulations to our Best in Show winner, the magnificent Odin, pictured proudly with his mum Kerys. With his stunning snowy-white coat, gentle nature and superstar presence in the ring, Odin truly captured everyone's hearts on the day. A very deserving winner indeed!

Congratulations also go to our Reserve Best in Show champion, the wonderful Ollie the rescue dog, with his mum Fran. Ollie proved



that rescue dogs really are something special, winning plenty of admirers with his happy personality and wagging tail.

Two fantastic dogs, two proud dog mums and very worthy winners all round!

From muddy paws to happy hearts, the Hunstanton Fun Dog Show was everything we hoped it would be and more. We are already sniffing around for ideas for next year. Until then, keep wagging!

Love and licks,

Ziggy Bear & Miss Zsa Zsa



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NEWS FROM BRANCASTER VILLAGE HALL (BVH)

Geoff Wingrove

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 25th July: Brancaster Summer Party. BBQ, live music, Pimms tent and much more at BVH and on the village playing field.

Saturday 22nd August: Disco bingo. A combination of disco and bingo. Further information about these and other activities can be found on our website at brancastervillagehall.communitybookings.co.uk or on Facebook and Instagram. For enquiries, please contact us at bvhsetup@gmail.com

FROM THE BRANCASTER PARISH ARCHIVE:

CAPTAIN RICHARD WOODGET AND THE CUTTY SARK

Britain has a very strong maritime history over the centuries and has produced several innovative vessels both for trade and for warfare. Today some of these historically important vessels have been saved and maintained as museum ships. These include HMS Victory, HMS Warrior and the Mary Rose at Portsmouth, together with HMS Cavalier at Chatham, to name just a few. These were significant warships in the Royal Navy over the last five hundred years and, in the case of the first three, amongst the most powerful afloat in their age. Preserved merchant ships include the SS Great Britain of 1843 at Bristol, the Discovery of 1901 at Dundee and the Cutty Sark of 1869 at Greenwich, all of which had interesting and influential careers.

In walking along the sailing club sea inlet at Burnham Overy Staithe the visitor is aware of a plaque on the end house on the corner of the access road. This states that Captain Richard Woodget, Captain of the Cutty Sark, lived there at the end of the 19th and start of the 20th centuries. This leads to the question of what the Cutty Sark was and why the sometime home of its Captain is recorded on the plaque.

The mid-19th century was a time of revolution in the maritime world, both in trade terms but also in warfare. Up to this point ships had been propelled by wind power driving sails mounted on masts. The development of steam powered ships fuelled by coal and using giant side paddles or stern-mounted propellers changed the nature of trade and how naval warfare was conducted. Ships were able to move in any direction quickly, without relying on wind direction or the absence of wind altogether and they could maintain a consistent speed for as long as the fuel lasted. The change of motive power also changed the roles of sailors.

This revolution did not happen overnight, as engines were not terribly efficient at first and the fuel supplies enabled only a short range: there was a period when ships had steam power and sails to cover the shortcomings. Steam power also came more slowly to merchant ships running cargos across the vast wastes of the world's oceans. One particularly lucrative trade in the mid-19th century was the tea trade between China and Britain. Tea was not as common as it is today and was much prized in those households that could afford this luxury. Getting tea to markets quickly ensured a healthy profit for ship owners, although the distances to be covered were enormous and involved going around the Cape of Good Hope at the tip of Africa.

Ship owners had vessels built that were designed specifically for the China tea trade. They were called clipper ships and were very fast, weatherly and carried large amounts of sail; they were crewed by a relatively small number of sailors. The Cutty Sark was such a ship, and she was ordered built by the John Willis shipping company for the China trade. The Cutty Sark was laid down at Scott and Hunter's shipyard on the River Leven in Dumbarton, but when this company became bankrupt, was completed by William Denny and Brothers in the same location. The ship was launched in 1869 and was 212.5 feet long with a draught of 21 feet and a displacement of nearly 1000 tons. The hull was very streamlined and built of teak on a wrought iron frame. The ship was capable of 17.5 knots when under full sail in favourable wind conditions and proved capable of covering 363 nautical miles (418 statute miles) in a 24-hour period.

The Cutty Sark carried a massive area of sail: 27 sails on three masts plus the bowsprit. Depending on the type of cargo carried, the ship needed to carry substantial extra ballast to keep the vessel stable at the high speeds reached. At the same time the crew numbers were kept as small as possible, but still able to manage the ship in bad weather conditions.



The name Cutty Sark comes from a Robert Burns' poem "Tam O'Shanter" written in 1791. A "sark" being a lady's undergarment or shift and the expression "cutty" meaning very short. This garment was worn in the poem by the witch Nannie Dee. The ship began its trading life sailing between Shanghai/Woosung in China and London in 1870, carrying tea from China and a variety of trade goods on the return journey. It spent seven years in the tea trade and made its fastest voyage in 1871, taking 107 days and also on this crossing covering the longest distance in 24 hours in its career.

The steady development of steam power and the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 gradually put paid to the clipper ship China tea trade. The increasing reliability and efficiency of steam engines enabled ships to transit the Suez Canal and reduce the distance between China and Britain by thousands of miles. Tea could, as a result, be carried to the British markets a great deal quicker than could be managed by the clipper ships and it gradually began to reduce in price as it became more widely available. However, before the trade ended, a famous race took place between two clippers in fierce competition for the tea trade. The ships, owned by different companies, were the Thermoplae and the Cutty Sark, and the race from China to Britain took place in 1872. The Cutty Sark took an early and substantial lead but then suffered a catastrophe when the rudder was seriously damaged. The ship's carpenter was able to mend the rudder, but the ship lost several days and arrived in London a week after the Thermoplae.

Following the end of the tea trade the Cutty Sark took a variety of cargos to ports across the world for several years. In 1883 a new opportunity presented itself that was suitable for clipper ships. This was the growing wool trade from Australia that was needed to feed the mills mainly in the Midlands and North of Britain. The Cutty Sark managed to travel between Australia and London in 1887/88 in 69 days proving it could still be extremely profitable. This trade lasted until 1894/95.

At this point we need to turn our attention to Captain Woodget who was born in 1845, the son of a farmer in Burnham Norton in Norfolk. As a young boy he must have spent time at Burnham Overy Staithe and Brancaster Staithe, both small cargo and fishing ports, and been enthralled about the sea and adventure that was offered. Woodget decided not to follow his father into farming and signed up to pursue a career in the merchant navy trade. He eventually trained as an officer, earning his Master's Certificate in 1868. He worked his way up the promotion ladder and was obviously very capable and efficient as he was appointed Captain in 1881. In 1885 Woodget was appointed to be Captain of the Cutty Sark, a post he retained until 1895; he was in charge of the ship, therefore, during the wool trade.

The Cutty Sark was sold by John Willis Company in 1896, the ship having ceased the Australian wool trade in 1894/95. Captain Woodget was appointed to another ship but decided to retire from the sea trade in 1896 after nearly forty years in the service. He came back to live in Burnham Overy Staithe and bought a small farm, so returning in the end to his father's trade. He lived at the Staithe until 1926 when he moved to Docking, where he died in 1928. He is buried in Burnham Norton church graveyard, overlooking the sea that had been such a part of his life. The Cutty Sark was sold to a Portuguese trading company and renamed the Ferreira, and resumed trade with Africa,

South America, America and Europe. In 1922 the ship was sold again and renamed Maria do Amparo but sold again shortly after to become a cadet training ship. In 1953 the vessel was again sold to a charitable organisation intent on preserving the ship as a museum, having raised substantial funds for the purpose. In 1954 the ship was moved to the dry dock at Greenwich which is where it can be viewed today. The ship has had two serious fires, which again have required substantial funds to repair, but it remains a living testament to a bygone age when sail ruled the seas and Captain Woodget lived in his house at Burnham Overy Staithe overlooking the sea with his memories of the Cutty Sark. *The pictures show Captain Woodget and the Cutty Sark.*

NATIONAL COASTWATCH BRANCASTER

I am sorry to say once again that, since my last report and in spite of many warnings, an adult and two children were caught out on the sandbank in front of the Golf Club by the morning tide. The HM Coastguard were informed by station Watchkeepers, but fortunately those involved were able to wade ashore, though one of the children had to sit on the adult's shoulders to stay safe. As summer approaches and the beach becomes busier, there is a constant need for vigilance about tidal conditions.

Congratulations to Kevin, who has passed his certification assessment; it is pleasing to report that there are now thirty-six certified Watchkeepers and three more in training.

The Brancaster Staithe Sea Shanty fundraising event is being held at the Jolly Sailors on Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st May: do come along and join in the fun!



The pictures show Watchkeepers outside the Brancaster station celebrating their fourth anniversary and Brancaster Coastwatch mascot Barney Bear being awarded his epaulettes and certificate at the end of his successful training by Station Manager John.

If you would like more information on National Coastwatch Brancaster, or to find out more about becoming a volunteer, please contact Richard Burrows, Deputy Station Manager, on 07535 612777. You can also find us on Facebook at [#nationalcoastwatchbrancaster](https://www.facebook.com/nationalcoastwatchbrancaster) or on our website, www.nci.org.uk/Brancaster for our webcam and up-to-date information on weather and tides.



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June events - see also <https://townandaround.net/whats-on/june>

Monday 1st

Dalegate Market Pop Up Shops, 28th May to 2nd Jun, 10am-4pm, Burnham Deepdale, four different Pop Up Shops
T: 01485 210305

Thursday 4th

Stanhoe and Barwick WI 2 pm at Stanhoe Reading Rooms PE31 8PS. Maggie Anderson about the charity Baby Basics. Members free, visitors £5

The Wolf Folk Club, Flitcham, 7.30 – 11 pm. All abilities welcome to sing, say, play or listen. T: 07803 725583

Fri 5th – Sun 7th

King's Lynn Beer Festival, 5-8 to 8pm. The Rathskeller, South Quay. Run by King's Vancouver 1114 Round Table

Saturday 6th

Music in the Hunstanton Bandstand, 2-4pm, Bomber County Pipes & Drums.

Sit, Step & Smile, 4-5pm, Dersingham. Complete beginners line dancing, with seating options available. Great music, gentle exercise and good company. T: 07968 354431

Live Music – Ellie Gowers, 7.30pm, Burnham Deepdale, Brick Barn stage. Performing her folk songs that are rooted in folklore and ecology. T: 01485 210256

Sat 6th - Sun 7th

Hunstanton Waterski Racing. Event is free to watch making it an ideal family fun day out. Refreshments available from the Hunstanton Waterski Club.

Sat 6th - Mon 8th

St Andrew's Church Ringstead Flower Festival: 'For the Beauty of the Earth' 10am-5pm see p20.

Sunday 7th

Glebe House School Car Boot, 7am-1pm, Hunstanton. One of Norfolk's largest Car Boot Sales every Sunday to 28th June 2026.
T: 07774 650606

Wereham Indoor Car Boot Sale, 8am-1pm, village hall. Food and refreshments on offer.

Ringstead Open Gardens 11am-5pm £7.50 entry covers all gardens. U12s are free. See p20

Lions Family Fun Day, The Walks, Tennyson Road King's Lynn 12-5pm, King's Lynn Lions Club.. T0345 833 5095

Music in the Hunstanton Bandstand, 2-4pm, live music with Stamford Brass Band.

Desperate Scousewives (play) at The Princess Theatre Hunstanton starring Crissy Rock from TV's Benidorm. 16yrs+

Monday 8th

The Arts Society NW Norfolk talk 2pm Sedgeford Village Hall. Mike Higginbottom on 'Temples of Sanitation'. See p58

Thursday 11th

Dalegate Market Pop Up Shops, 11th-16th See Monday 1st

Friday 12th

Run Sandringham 10k, 7pm, Sandringham.

Saturday 13th

Run Sandringham 24, 12pm. A 24 Hour Race around the Sandringham Estate

Manifest Summer Festival, 12pm, King's Lynn. Free family fun day with music, food, inflatables and games, organised by TKG Church. T: 01553 600036

Strawberry Fayre 2-4pm at St Cecilia's Catholic church

Dersingham PE31 6YE £5 at the door (children free)

Music in the Hunstanton Bandstand, 2-4pm, live music with King's Lynn Town Band.

Chillout Sunset Sessions, 5-9pm, Hunstanton Golden Lion Hotel. DJ Dan O'Dwyer spinning smooth sunset sounds while you sip, snack, and soak it all in. T: 01485 532688

Miss Demeanours Drag Bingo, 7.30-10.30pm, King's Lynn, Dukes Head Hotel. Drag Bingo UK is bringing chaos, camp glamour, and utterly unhinged bingo behaviour to the hotel!

Sunday 14th

Glebe House School Car Boot, 7am-1pm, See Sun 7th

Norfolk's Weekend Walkers Start time: 09.30 - 13.00 hours Fring 7.5 mile circular walk Meeting at Fring Road, Norfolk. Parking on road and at the Old Store cafe if we have refreshments afterwards.

Old Hunstanton Open Gardens 10am-4pm 10 gardens See p20

RAF Bircham Newton Open Day, 10am-4pm
T: 07807 098348

Boughton Open Gardens, 12-5pm, Boughton. £6 per person, U16 free. Dogs welcome on leads. Lunches and teas with homemade cakes available.
T: 01366 500429

Music in the Hunstanton Bandstand, 2-4pm, live music with Rhiannon Roe.

Hunstanton Methodist Church's 130th anniversary, 3-5pm. Display and a new book describing the history of the present church and the 'Tin Hut' which preceded it in 1989.
T: 01485 570232

Tuesday 16th

Knit & Natter, 10am-12pm, Old Hunstanton Village Hall.
T: 07536 022176

Trust Talks: Illustrating King's Lynn, 2.30-4pm, Marriott's Warehouse Trust. Izzy Wingham talks about a series of drawings of King's Lynn. 01553 818500

Curry & Quiz Night, 8pm, Hunstanton Golden Lion. £3 cash per quiz player, max 6 per team. T:01485 532688

Thursday 18th

Dalegate Market Pop Up Shops, 18th-23rd See Monday 1st

The Wolf Folk Club, Flitcham, 7.30 – 11 pm. All abilities sing, say, play or listen.
T: 07803 725583

Friday 19th

Massingham Historical Society talk by Ben Coulson at 7.30pm in Massingham Village Hall. 'Edward VII and Sandringham. Guests £3

Snettisham Coffee Morning, 10am-12pm, Memorial Hall. Everyone is welcome to join us for coffee and a chat with others from our community

Fri 19 - Sun 21st

Hunstanton Carnival 2026.
T: 01485 532402

Saturday 20th

North Wootton Village Market, 9am-2pm. Fresh local produce hand-crafted goods from over 20 local traders. T: 01553 886140

Wereham Craft Fair, 10am-2pm, Wereham Village Hall.
T: 01366 501330

Flix in the Stix Cinema screens 'Hamnet' (12) Tittleshall Village Hall High Street. PE32 2PJ. 7pm for 7.30pm start. £6 incl refreshments. 01328 700952

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Sat 20th - Sun 21st

Hanseatic Festival of Watersports, 20th-21st, River Great Ouse King's Lynn.

Maritime Heritage Festival and Flotilla Tugboat Yard, Wells-next-the-Sea. See page 26

Sunday 21st

Glebe House School Car Boot, 7am-1pm See Sun 7th

RAF Bircham Newton Open Day, 10am-4pm 07807 098348

Thursday 25th

A musical afternoon with Emily Blake in aid of EAAA. Hunstanton Town Hall 1-3pm £4 cash at the door. 07787 966000.

New Hunstanton WI open meeting at the Methodist Church Hall 2.15 Dr Eric Somerville about the suffragettes. Visitors £5. WI £4 07789 687893

Dalegate Market Pop Up Shops, 25th-30th See Monday 1st

Friday 26th

King's Lynn Samaritans - Quiz at Gaywood Church Rooms, PE30 4DZ. 7.00pm for 7.30 pm pat.gray222@gmail.com

Saturday 27th

Dersingham Choir's Summer Concert Echoes of Africa. p14

The Burnhams Market, 9.30am-2.30pm, Saint Mary's Westgate Church. T: 07790 323945

Hunstanton Craft Fair, 10am-4pm, Town Hall.

27th June - 11th July

Festival Too, King's Lynn. Free live music festival

Sunday 28th

Glebe House School Car Boot, 7am-1pm, Hunstanton. T: 07774 650606

Norfolk's Weekend Walkers 10.30 - 12.30 Heacham Circular 6 miles. Meet at West Norfolk Pub PE31 7AW.

Barton Bendish Open Gardens (PE33 9GF) St Mary's Church open. £6.00 (Children Free). Proceeds to St Andrew's Church Organ Restoration Fund. 01366 347549

Wells-next-the-Sea Open Gardens 11am-5pm in aid of St Nicholas Church. £5pp maps from the tourist information centre in Wells Maltings. Lovely selection of gardens and cakes and refreshments and a raffle. steve.barber5@btinternet.com



Scan here for more events and up to date information



Music in the Hunstanton Bandstand, 2-4pm, live music with Brass Band Concert.

An afternoon with YOUR Choir at King's Lynn corn Exchange 3pm. Supporting the teams who care for people affected by strokes and brain tumours. Info: 07480 824647.

Monday 29th

Wereham Village Cinema PE33 9AP- Downton Abbey - The Grand Finale 3.30pm. T: 01366 500218

Tuesday 30th

Snettisham Bingo Night, 6.30-9.30pm, Memorial Hall. Monthly family-friendly Bingo night at Snettisham Memorial Hall. Teas, Coffees and all other refreshments.

Dersingham Village Centre PE31 6LN presents 'Song Sung Blue' (12A) at 7.30pm. Entry £6, u16s £3 Bar.

Parkruns

Hunstanton Promenade parkruns start at 9am every Saturday from the Salad Bowl. T: 07804 927764

Sandringham parkrun Sandringham Royal Park Every Saturday at 8:40 for a 9:00 am start. First Timers Briefing 8:45 am. Start and finish on the vista near children's play area. Car parking for parkrun is free until 11:00 am. To volunteer or for further information contact: sandringham@parkrun.com 07913 439222

Saturday 27th is 5K Your Way at Sandringham for anyone affected by cancer. T: 07913 439222

Editor's note

There are many more events listed on the website which is updated regularly. see: www.townandaround.net

Please send details of your events in July by 12th June.

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Hunstanton Society

Our Secretary is now married! We are delighted that Jane Robson and John Hoffman got married recently and they were very lucky for having a bright sunny day for the wedding. Congratulations to them both. We do love a happy beginning and, of course, a happy ending!



Apart from organising their wedding, they have also been busy reorganising the rota system for our volunteers setting up a WhatsApp group to help manage it. The overhead railway seems to have been sorted now with its replacement Engine and a bit of tweaking of the system. It does seem to be behaving itself over the last few weeks! Thanks to Chris Evans and his friends at the King's Lynn Model Railway Club to whom we are very grateful.



GROUP VISITS – we seem to have been very busy with group visits with no less than 4 groups visiting over the last few weeks. They came from the King's Lynn Branch of PROBUS photo shown with David Elvidge Hunstanton Society member and also member of KL Probus, Andrew Murray, our Secretary, Jane Robson, KL Probus President, Bob Ward and our Treasurer, Phil Thomas. Another group was Year 1 Children from Glebe House School with their form teacher, Becky Playford. Then a group organised by Dragonfly Holidays from Birmingham and finally Syderstone History Group. If you know of any groups that might like to come and view all that we have at the Heritage Centre please do point them in our direction – we would be delighted to show them around. We always get very good reports back from our visitors.

That reminds me – we are always staggered at the numbers of visitors that live in Hunstanton come and have a look around and wonder how they had missed visiting previously, saying that they will definitely return to finish off their tour as there was too much to see! So, if you haven't visited, then make the effort and do come along. As a reminder, we are open Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Bank holidays between 2.00pm and 4.00pm.

Deepdale Open Farm Sunday is on 31st May. By visiting <https://deepdalefarm.co.uk/events> you will find out more about it. The event is free and we are sure will be a very interesting – you can take all the family as well!

Much loved Hunstanton character dies aged 86

A tribute to Dick Melton, family man, columnist, and prolific letter writer written by his friend Patrick Richardson



Dick Melton VE Day 2020

Dick, who died at the age of 86 on Saturday 25th April 2026, was very widely known and much respected for his work on behalf of the community in Hunstanton over several decades. Known as the Sage of Hunstanton, it is with great sadness that we learned of his death in his care home.

Born in Portsmouth on 7 July 1939, he moved to East Winch in Norfolk when he was only six months old to live with his grandparents until his dad found a house in Dersingham before moving to Hunstanton where he raised the family.

Dick would spend many an hour cockling on the beach at Hunstanton, the town he really loved. With his knowledge of the beach, he always knew where to find a good feed of cockles for tea. In his younger days between shifts working at the Kit Kat, he would do a bit of bait digging on the beach to sell to fishermen and being a big strong man Dick was quite successful at this and earned a useful amount of money for his back pocket. He would also do net fishing on the beach and rod fishing off the pier at a time when there were more fish to catch than there are today.

While working at the Kit Kat Dick did many outside catering jobs for them such as weddings, birthdays etc, in Norfolk and neighbouring counties. Doing silver service on one occasion he served the Queen Mother and when Dick said would you like more potatoes Ma'am, the Queen Mother replied 'please say that again because I love your Norfolk accent.' Once he worked on the catering for lunch at the gun dog trials at Wolferton, and he would say he had lunch with the Queen because Queen Elizabeth II came in and sat on a bale of straw to eat her lunch. He would say he met Royalty,

Lords and Ladies when doing catering.

Dick was never very interested in School. At the age of about 12 his dad, who worked at the village school in Dersingham, once said to the headmaster my boy Dick won't be coming in today sir, the Head replied I know I just saw him go driving by on a tractor. Dick would go home to lunch while at school and on one occasion he was walking back when his best mate shouted the binders are cutting the field of barley near the big wood, so Dick and his mate cut a stick each from the hedge and went rabbit catching instead of to school. The gamekeeper at the time said you are not allowed to take any rabbits, so Dick and his mate hid a half a dozen rabbits they had caught and went back for them later when the gamekeeper had gone home.



Dick (right) home on leave from the army

In the late 1950s Dick did his national service in Germany where he worked on the big guns so he was gunner Melton.

He also chauffeured for a Doctor Ford while doing his national service and later Dr Ford became a GP in Heacham. Afterwards he found a full-time job on a farm at Clenchwarton when he would cycle the 30-mile return journey every day until he saved enough money to buy a motor bike.

Dick was one of the last old characters living in Hunstanton. He was very knowledgeable about the town and the surrounding villages and it was his enthusiasm for life that really showed through in his long list of interesting tales that he told us every month in his Town & Around articles. He encouraged many who read them to look further into the topics he raised about the local and surrounding area. He put in a lot of effort with his writing and wrote articles for Dersingham Village Voice, along with letters to the Lynn News and the Eastern Daily Press. He made many friends from his



Edfest 2008, Dick is seated third from left

time working in the Kit Kat where he knew all the bands that would play there throughout the year, and during his time on the management committee and on the door of the United Services Club where he made people feel welcome as they arrived.

Dick finished his working life in the Arcades in Hunstanton. He would say he had many jobs in his lifetime, then he would add "I was never out of work".

He met Joy at the Vegas in Hunstanton where she worked. Dick would come in to buy a bag of chips and ask Joy to go out with him, but she wasn't sure and it took him 12 months of asking before she agreed. They married at Fakenham in 1966.



Dick and Joy in their garden

Dick loved his family dearly, especially his wife Joy. He leaves behind three daughters: Tracey, Julie and Wendy and one son, Paul and plus twelve grandchildren and eighteen great-grandchildren.

He had a very interesting and busy life, and he was an outstanding man.

I am sure you will just 'keep on a troshin' Dick.



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Fun and adventure ahead

Mayor opens revitalised Memorial Fields play area

An upgraded play area at Memorial Fields in Downham Market, was officially opened by West Norfolk's Mayor following works to modernise the much-loved community space.

The refreshed play area was opened on Tuesday 12 May and features a range of new, inclusive equipment designed to offer children of all ages a safe, exciting and accessible place to play. The project was part funded by the Government, with £50,000 from the Rural England Prosperity Fund, alongside a £12,500 contribution from the borough council's play area budget.

The Mayor, Cllr Andy Bullen, said: "This project has breathed new life into a space that means a great deal to local families. The upgraded play area is modern, inclusive and designed to be enjoyed by children for many years to come.

"I want to thank residents for their patience while the work was carried out. It is wonderful to see the community already making the most of the new play equipment. I am grateful for the support from the UK Government's Rural England Prosperity Fund and the contribution from our borough council's play area budget, which together made this possible.



"As I near the end of my Mayoral year, it is especially meaningful to open a project in my home town — something that will have a lasting, positive impact on the families of Downham Market."

King's Lynn Town Guides seek volunteers

King's Lynn Town Guides are looking for new volunteer guides to join their team and help bring the town's history to life.

Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to attend an open recruitment morning on 6 June from 10.00 am to 11.00 am at Marriott's Warehouse, where they can find out more about the role, although applications from those unable to attend will still be considered.

The session will include short presentations on what a Town Guide does, what is expected of them and how the training programme works.

Those interested in applying will be invited to submit an application form by 20th June, with shortlisted candidates being interviewed on 11th July, after having attended a walk with a current guide.



Being a Town Guide offers a unique opportunity to develop confidence, meet new people and share the stories of King's Lynn with visitors and the local community alike.

To register your interest, email: kingslynn-townguides@gmail.com

Hunstanton's Little Lights celebrates its 10th anniversary

Emma Steel

We are very happy to be celebrating our 10th Anniversary and to shine a (Little) Light on our thriving Baby and Toddler Group, which is held in Hunstanton Town Hall and run by a team of dedicated volunteers.

Little Lights was set up in 2016 by Suzie and Sam Abramian, and originally met in the Hunstanton Union Church before moving in 2021 to its present home. As new parents themselves, Suzie had the vision to open the group with Sam who was a minister at the Church, along with a team of invaluable volunteers. In 2020 Covid meant that groups were suspended, but with some creativity small groups of first-time mums were allowed to meet at the Community Centre with their newborns, each baby having their own toy box, which gave some support during isolation.

When Suzie and Sam retired from the group three years ago Kerry, one of our existing parents, took over the organisation of the group and continued to do an amazing job until she returned to her own career full time last September. Emma, with her little son William, now heads up the team, but Suzie and Sam's ethos for the group hasn't changed as we are still passionate about caring for local families.

Hunstanton Town Hall is spacious, safe and



a fun place for families to meet. The group meets on Thursday mornings during term time and there's always lots to keep the children entertained including crafts, soft play, circle time with singing, lots of toys and the all-important healthy snacks, whilst the adults all enjoy hot drinks and Christine's wonderful homemade brownies - all for £3.00 a child (£2.00 for siblings).

The volunteers all know from their own experience of being young parents how important Little Lights is to the community. It's a great place for everyone to meet and

friendships are made not just for the short term but often for life.

We would like to thank all the volunteers past and present over the last 10 years for all their dedication and commitment each week making the group the success it is today.

If you are interested in joining our team of happy volunteers, or would like to bring your baby or toddler to the group, please email: littlelightshunny@gmail.com or find us on Facebook @littlelightshunstanton, we look forward to meeting you!



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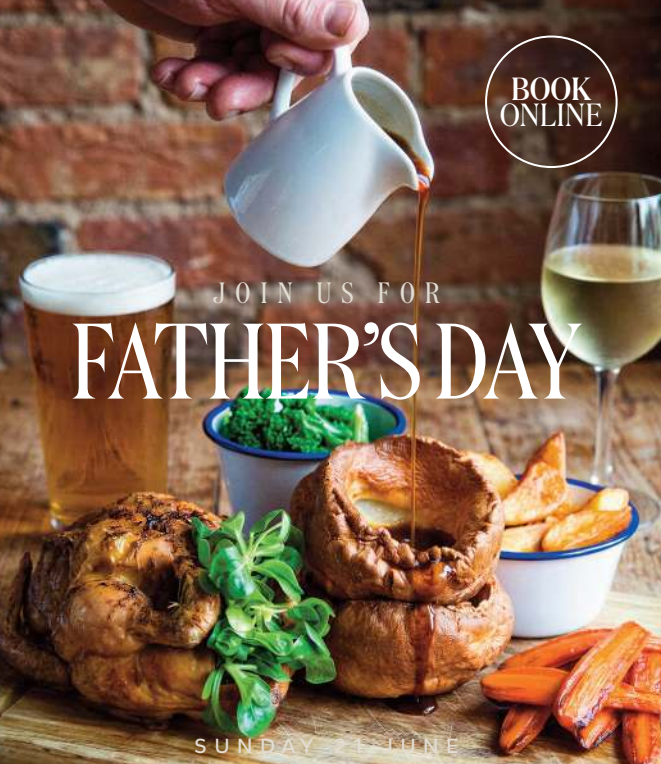


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Tackling Rural Poverty

Terry Jermy MP

As someone who has lived in South West Norfolk my entire life, I am acutely aware of the many inequalities that rural communities face. This was part of the reason why I stood to become a Member of Parliament; I wanted to highlight what the challenges were and put forward proposals for how to address them.

Last Summer, more than 40 rural and semi-rural Labour MPs and I launched the Labour Rural Research Group (LRRG), to ensure that rural voices are heard at the heart of government and to develop the research, evidence and policy solutions needed to tackle rural poverty, unlock rural potential, and deliver meaningful change across the countryside.

Recently, we worked to secure £53 million in Government funding for a heating oil financial support package.

Another key focus has been calling on the Government to develop a rural strategy to tackle rural poverty, following a landmark report that LRRG and I published, which warns that rural poverty is deeper and more widespread than official statistics suggest, with families across the countryside paying a structural 'rural penalty' just to reach a basic standard of living.

Drawing on evidence from councils, NHS bodies, charities, rural businesses and dedicated focus groups with residents, our report Rural Poverty in Britain finds a consistent pattern - rural households are expected to travel further,

pay more and rely on fewer alternatives, yet national funding and service models continue to assume urban density, economies of scale and proximity to services.

Research undertaken in rural areas and conducted exclusively for the report reinforced these findings. Rural poverty is experienced less as isolation from places, and more as isolation from systems. Transport unreliability, overstretched health services and thinning education pathways are seen as mutually reinforcing and negative pressures, creating a persistent sense that rural living demands more from households while offering fewer supports in return.

Communities like ours know the cost-of-living crisis hits differently in rural areas. That is because families already pay more for fuel, more for food and more for transport simply because of where they live. This 'rural penalty' isn't about lifestyle — it's about structural costs. If we're serious about fairness, we must deliver a Rural Strategy that recognises these pressures and ensures rural households are no longer paying more just to get by.

What our report makes clear is that we need coordinated, cross-government action to ensure our rural communities can thrive, which is why we are calling for a Rural Strategy to sit at the heart of national policymaking, not on the sidelines.

My LRRG colleagues and I have set out 24



recommendations that address the root causes rather than symptoms of hardship; going beyond isolated interventions or 'rural add-ons'. These address poverty across income, employment, education, health, housing, crime, connectivity and access to services. You can access the full report through my website; www.terryjermy.com

Rural Britain has huge untapped potential. With the right investment in connectivity, transport and local enterprise, South West Norfolk communities will have the opportunities to grow. Ignoring rural disadvantage isn't just unfair, it's economically short-sighted.

Separately, I would like to remind households that the Government's £53 million heating oil support package can be accessed. Already, two thirds of applications that have been completed have been awarded support.

To apply for support, please visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/heatingoil or call 0344 800 8020.

As always, should you or someone you know need support, please do email me: terry.jermy.mp@parliament.uk

Wild in Westminster and West Norfolk

James Wild MP has welcomed mobile coverage upgrades from VodafoneThree at sites in Thornham, Old Hunstanton and Hunstanton following his survey into local connectivity and his work pressing the provider on the issues residents raised.

At a follow-up meeting with VodafoneThree, James welcomed confirmation extra 4G capacity has been added at Thornham to help deal with peak-time demand, coverage has been strengthened at Old Hunstanton, and further 4G improvements have been delivered in Hunstanton.

VodafoneThree also confirmed that, as part of its £11 billion investment programme linked to the merger, 5G coverage across North West Norfolk is expected to improve significantly over the next two years, alongside further increases in both network capacity and overall coverage.

James's mobile survey, which received around 500 responses from Hunstanton, Old Hunstanton, Thornham and surrounding coastal villages, highlighted persistent problems with poor signal, unreliable calls and weak mobile speeds across the PE36 5 and PE36 6 postcode areas.

Residents described mobile coverage in some places as "non-existent" or "unreliable", while others said 4G and 5G service was "extremely poor" and that they were often forced to rely on wi-fi calling.

After James shared those findings with VodafoneThree, the company acknowledged

that its predicted coverage did not reflect residents' experience and subsequently committed to improvements at the three local sites.

Speaking after the meeting, James Wild MP said: "The responses to my survey made clear the problems residents were facing in Hunstanton, Old Hunstanton, Thornham and the surrounding villages, with reports of unreliable signal, poor call quality and people having to rely on Wi-Fi calling due to poor coverage.

"They also underlined the practical impact poor coverage can have on everyday life, particularly for older residents who said unreliable signal could leave them feeling vulnerable when out alone.

"That is not good enough, and residents are right to expect better. I took that evidence to VodafoneThree and pressed the company to act, so it is welcome that these upgrades are now in place.

"This is a positive step for local communities, but there is more to do, and I will continue monitoring coverage in these areas and pressing VodafoneThree to ensure the upgrades deliver meaningful improvements for residents and businesses."

Government Affairs Manager, Tom Sheppard, at VodafoneThree said: "It was great to catch up with James to discuss VodafoneThree's exciting investment plans for the area. VodafoneThree's £11 billion investment across the UK will deliver tangible connectivity benefits to all residents across North West Norfolk with

significant improvements to 5G coverage in the coming months.

"In addition to this, VodafoneThree have delivered eight upgrades in North West Norfolk since June as part of our innovative 'Multi-Operator Core Network' technology. This means customers' devices will automatically connect to the best coverage available, whether that's on the Vodafone or Three network, effectively giving them access to two networks at no extra cost. This will see customers in Hunstanton, amongst other areas, of VodafoneThree brands experience improved coverage, reliability, and speed when using 4G and 5G"

"We will be sure to keep James up to date with developments."

Improving mobile and broadband connectivity has been a long-standing priority for James in North West Norfolk, and alongside his survey he has continued pressing providers and government to respond to local concerns with more practical action.



james.wild.mp@parliament.uk

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Safety first for children

King's Lynn Rotarian Bob Foster

Every year the Norfolk Fire and Rescue services holds a safety learning week, called Crucial Crew, for year 6 children (10–11-year-olds) aimed at improving the safety of school children in Norfolk. The week was held from 27th April to 1st May at the Fire Station in King's Lynn. 1200 children attended from all over West Norfolk. It raises their awareness of situations which could be unsafe, and what to do to protect themselves and others.

Sarah Chalke, Prevention Coordinator for The Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service, said "Another very successful week which was enjoyed by the children. There were seven different scenarios presented provided by volunteers and staff from the Fire services, Norfolk Police, East Anglia Ambulance, RNLI and Coastguard, St Johns Ambulance, Cadent Gas Safety and NHS Emotional Wellbeing/Healthy Child. This teaches them to be aware of risks such as online abuse, water safety, fire in the home, gas escapes, injuries and how to do resuscitation, CPR and emotional health and handling stress. You can't tell what lives and injuries have been saved in future, but we are confident they have.

Fantastic contribution by everybody involved, we appreciate the time given freely, including by Rotary, who manage the day-to-day running of the event."

Bob Hindry, Rotary organiser commented "Really good seeing all the children absorbing the message how to avoid danger and to protect them and others. My thanks go to all the Rotarians who took part. Five Rotary Clubs come together to run the event smoothly from Hunstanton, King's Lynn, King's Lynn Trinity, King's Lynn Priory and Downham Market Clubs. They are always keen to help, and we get a lot of satisfaction from helping to run what is quite a complicated event."

Inspired people keen to be involved with their community and having fun doing so would be very welcome to join us at one of our meetings or events. Please contact www.kingslyntrinity.co.uk or Secretary Malcolm Wood on 07710 762588. You would be very welcome.



Recovery position



CPR

Pictured below the Team- Rotarians with Sarah Chalke, Prevention Coordinator for the Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service, and left of her, Bob Hindry organiser for Trinity Rotary.



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Home safety



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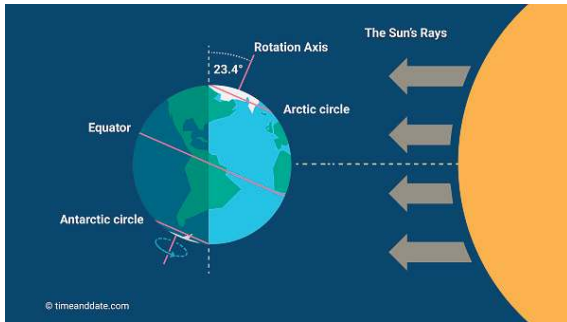
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Dark skies of West Norfolk

Terry Parish

At the time of writing, mid-May, we have had some welcome rain but not enough and the temperature varies between warm in the sunshine and cold out of it with winds sometimes bitter. A month later, 21st June, is the Summer Solstice, the longest day and shortest night. Winter starts drawing in on the 22nd! And, it is Midsummer's Day on the 24th.



The longest day.

Light nights so I will stick with the planets. I have mentioned Venus in the last couple of months and several people have stopped and asked me, 'What is that bright thing in the sky towards the west?' Readers of my articles would have told them.

This month, Venus moves even higher in the sky and doesn't set until midnight. Shining in the WNW with a magnitude of minus 4.0. On the 9th, the Evening Star is in conjunction with Jupiter which is 8 times fainter but, with a magnitude of minus 1.8, still brighter than any stars.

A planetary conjunction means that the two planets appear very close in the sky. However, Venus is between us and the Sun whereas Jupiter is far away on the other side. The closest 'approach' is at 10.30pm, after the news. Better still go out at 10pm and enjoy an hour outside in the, hopefully, warm evening.

Whilst in the garden, look above Venus and a little further towards the north. You should see the star Pollux and, further over, Castor. They the heads of the twins that form the constellation of Gemini.

Now look low to the horizon, well below Castor, and there will be a bright spark which is Mercury. To see it you may have to go down to the beaches or cliffs. It depends upon what blocks your horizon.

Mercury is brightest on the 1st (magnitude minus 0.5) and dims to +0.6 by the 16th. On that date, the Crescent Moon is immediately above the Messenger of the Gods. Strung on a line running towards the west at 45° to the horizon, you will find Jupiter and then Venus.

It shouldn't be surprising to see the planets in such a formation. They all orbit the Sun within the same plane called the Ecliptic and, as the Earth rotates, they all appear towards the east and set in the west. Draw an arc across the sky, from the (south) west horizon to the (north) east horizon, passing through prominent planets, and any other planets in view will be just above or below the line if not actually on it.

There are opportunities to find three more planets but in the early

hours. Saturn rises in the NE about 2am and should be visible as it rises higher between then and dawn. A magnitude of +0.8 means it won't be obvious but, once found, it will be easy to spot. The same cannot be said for Neptune which rises a little before Saturn so is always on its right. A magnitude of +7.8 means that a telescope is needed to spot this most distant planet.



*Taken by Cassini, Saturn orbiting spacecraft, 2013.
Earth can be seen through the rings if you look on line.
NASA / JPL-Caltech / Space Science Institute*

From about the 15th, Mars is back, rising in the NE about 3am. It will have the rising Sun following it so do not use optical instruments as, in your keenness to spot the red planet, you may take a look too long. If it is clear on the 29th, Mars will be found just below the Pleiades star cluster.

I went to a talk about Saturn's rings when they are seen edge on and was surprised to hear they are not of uniform thickness – average of about 10metres – but vary due to the influence of moonlets within them. There are several rings separated by gaps swept clear by moons embedded within the rings. There is also a ring outside of the main system and inclined at 27° to it. This is the Phoebe ring originating from debris from the moon of that name.

Though we call Saturn "the ringed planet", it would be more accurate to call it, "the planet with visible rings". Uranus and Neptune both have rings and so does Jupiter. Their rings are less extensive and made up of dark, dusty, material so space probes detected them first. Saturn's rings are made of highly reflective icy particles so can be seen, through telescopes, from Earth.

Snippets: The total number of confirmed exoplanets (planets orbiting other stars) now exceeds 6000 and there are over 10,000 more candidates. Most of these, if confirmed, will be Jupiter sized and orbiting close to their stars. The common method of detection is looking for a blip in a star's light output as it is eclipsed by the 'planet' which means large planets are easier to find.

In our Solar System, a small icy body within the Kuiper Belt (a doughnut shaped ring around the Sun beginning beyond Neptune) has been found to have a very, very, thin atmosphere. This has surprised scientists as it is considered too small to hold on to any gases. It is about 300 miles in diameter, one seventh the size of our Moon. It is assumed that either a comet crashed into it relatively recently, releasing gases, or there are cryovolcanic eruptions as seen on Pluto. Its elliptical orbit moves this icy body 34 to 44 astronomical units away from the Sun. Do the maths, multiply the numbers by 93 to get the distances in millions of miles.

Below is an image of Plutino 612533 2002 XV93 taken by the Hubble orbiting space telescope in 2005 though first discovered by the Palomar telescope in 2003. It is about 3,720,000,000 miles away. (3 billion, 720 million).



Look out for that conjunction of Venus and Jupiter, look forward to winter, and give a thought to that icy block, far, far, away.

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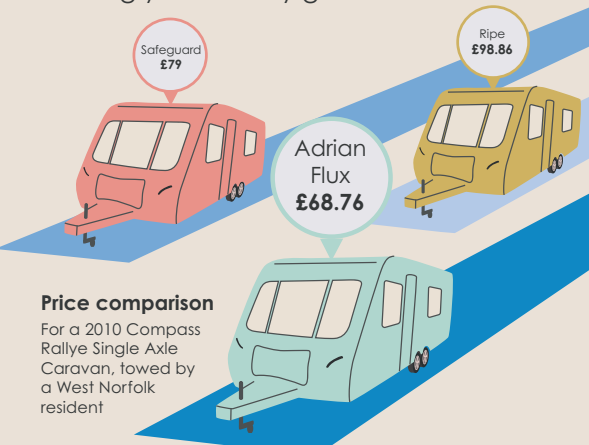
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Borough Council news

Cllr Terry Parish, Heacham Ward which includes Sedgeford and Fring

It was the Annual Parish Meeting of Heacham on 12th May and I intended to be there but a medical problem intervened. I sent in a report but it may have been too late or you weren't present anyway. Here it is, with some corrections / additions.

Several matters have been of interest in Heacham this year:

The development of 134 houses on land off Cheney Hill got reserved matters permission so it will go ahead. Confirmation that Marea Meadows will only ever be used as a pedestrian entrance was confirmed. Late news is that the road entrance, off Cheney Hill, will, subject to planning consent for a change of conditions, be completed soon. This is to facilitate a start on house construction. Heacham PC and myself have asked for roadworks to be preferably done during school holiday time and not, in any event, during pupil dropping off and collection times.

The sale of the land the beach huts sit on at North beach was effectively stopped by the panel I chair; questions asked at Full Council, and the effective protests of the public. Conditions for hut owners are now more favourable but long leases are still a matter to be pursued.

The high cost of car parking across the Borough is often criticised. In Heacham, parking fees rose hugely in 2025 as the concession won by me and Cllr Dark, some years before, to have lower charges than Hunstanton, was removed. In addition, the winter season relief of no charges ended. A member of the public negotiated a one-hour free parking concession for Heacham residents, and I pursued this with Cabinet Members and at Full Council. It still must be realised but it is coming. I am continuing to require the return of the previous winter season position.

Anglian Water has been playing games with planning officers. AW stated that there is insufficient capacity at Heacham Waste Water Treatment Works for any new development.

Following pressure from officers, AW now state that there is some capacity following a rejigging of the numbers. I continue to maintain that there isn't and await developments to this story.

A new Borough Local Plan is in the making, and I continue as a member of the Local Plan Task Group. A 'call for sites' is a public feature of this Plan and landowners across Heacham have thrown their sites into the hat for consideration. The Heacham Neighbourhood Plan needs updating and this is about to be in hand.

The County Council election. Well, I didn't win but thank you to all 985 who voted for me. There has been massive change across Norfolk just at the wrong time as these next two years are all about preparing to lose the County and gain 3 Unitary Councils. We are where we are and I will hold our new County Cllr to account as we move forward. Next year it is shadow unitary elections, and I will be standing for Heacham. Meanwhile, I remain one of your Borough Councillors and will continue to do my bit for Heacham, Sedgeford, and Fring.

As an aside, can I ask all who voted for Reform UK to ask about their policies on local matters. I didn't read any in the extensive leafletting.

Last word on this election. I apologise to everyone in Docking District who did not receive a campaign leaflet from me between 15th April and 22nd April which is, actually, everyone. The business I employed and paid to deliver around 6000 leaflets did not do so. They have denied this and I am taking what action I can. If you received a leaflet from me from the 25th April it will have only been within Heacham, Sedgeford, Fring, part of Docking and part of Snettisham. Those leaflets have a V2 in their corners and were delivered by me and friends.

Now for other news: Wild Ken Hill have asked for a string of conditions relating to their extensive planning permission, granted in April 2023, to be changed / lifted. Nothing too drastic,

it is about phasing the proposals over an extended time period and minor changes to several buildings. It is currently difficult for any organisation to meet rising costs and a realistic timetable for development seems to make sense.



When delivering leaflets to far flung Fring, I took a walk through the new café/shop. It was very busy but service at the tables seemed fast. I mention it because, several years ago, the proposed developments at Fring Estate were controversial and I met with residents and the owner several times. It seems that concerns were taken on board and the result is a useful one. At least, that's what recent feedback has been. Let me know if any issues remain.

The application for padel tennis courts at Heacham Manor Hotel will come before planning committee in June. The application was made in September 2025 and I read, in the Lynn News, criticism of the delay. Well, there was good reason for that – the original proposals would have had dire consequences on local residents due to noise and other disturbances. Amendments have gradually been made and batted back and forth by the agent and, primarily, Community Safety and Neighbourhood Nuisance (CSNN) the Borough Council department which tries to prevent harm to people's enjoyment of their homes.

The last statement from CSNN, made in April, is not particularly supportive of the current position. It acknowledges that, according to the applicant's commissioned report, additional noise levels will be just below the red line for noise impact but reminds everyone that the noise is able to be generated for 15 hours/day between 7am and 10pm, seven days per week. There will be noticeable audible impacts on residents. The planning committee needs to decide on hours of operation and other matters. I hope they apply some common sense, weigh up the loss of peace against commercial gain and, at the very least, provide some compromise.

Volunteers make a lasting difference at The Bridge for Heroes

The Bridge for Heroes is shining a spotlight on the incredible contribution made by its volunteers, whose dedication and compassion help keep the charity running day after day.

From welcoming veterans and their families into the Drop-In Centre to providing vital transport for those unable to travel independently, volunteers are at the heart of the organisation's work supporting members of the armed forces community.

The charity says volunteers make an enormous difference, not only in the practical support they provide, but also in creating a sense of community and connection for those who may otherwise feel isolated.

Volunteer driver Brian explained why giving his time means so much to him:

"Volunteering gives me a real sense of purpose and allows me to feel that I'm making a positive difference. Every week I help drive beneficiaries into the Drop-In Centre who

otherwise may not be able to attend. Knowing that this support improves people's lives is incredibly rewarding, and it also helps me stay connected with the armed forces community."

The Bridge for Heroes is currently appealing for more volunteers to join its team, particularly drivers who can help bring beneficiaries into the Drop In centre.

This essential transport service is made possible thanks to The Veterans Foundation grant project, "Project In Reach", which enables the charity to support veterans and their family members who, due to physical, psychological, or mental health issues, would otherwise be unable to access the Bridge Centre without escorted transport.

The charity says there are a variety of volunteer opportunities available for people wanting to give back to the armed forces community, whether they can offer a few hours a week or more regular support.

To find out more about volunteering opportunities or the support available through The Bridge for Heroes, contact- The Bridge for Heroes, 52A South Clough Lane, King's Lynn PE30 1SE
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Dani Crawshaw



I chat to John Tarbard just as he's crossed the finish line and is handed his medal. "I've got jelly legs, but I'm still here", the 79 year old smiles, "It must be about my eighth triathlon. When you get old, you've got to train, so it gives me a purpose."

113 people took part in the event - a 200m swim, 18km cycle ride and a 3.5 km run.



Near to Hunstanton's war memorial, a marshal is cheering the runners on the final

stretch of the race. And it is windy.

"This is the second one I've done one," Claire Smithee tells me afterwards, "The first one was here 3 years ago, today's a lot colder than my first time."

"I feel really good, kind of nervous this morning after not doing one for so long, but this is a really nice, friendly event."



I stop Andrew Millis for a chat, it's his third Sunny Hunny Tri, "I absolutely love it. It's brilliantly organised, loads of marshals, what's not to like - apart from the wind today!"

I ask how he'll be celebrating, "I don't eat anything before, so I'm looking forward to a nice big breakfast."

Ben Keeley came first in the race, with a time of 49:15, with George Munson coming fourth, in just over 52 minutes.

"A good PB," George tells me, "I'm happy, it went nicely, smooth - it was windy though. I've always been into running, and my mum started doing triathlons, so I thought I'd give

it a go."

Would he recommend them? "Definitely. It's good fun and challenges you in different ways."

Event organisers say, "Well, that's another year under our race belt. Thanks for everyone who took part and supported, especially with that wind."

The last person I chat to is Emma Law, who tells me she's exhausted, but pleased. She's been cheered on by her family, having not long had her third child (I'm doubly impressed).

"When you see or hear someone you know, or someone just cheer you on, it makes you want to go faster."

"I'm doing it for brain tumour research, I've got a close friend who's very poorly, and I feel it's the least I can do for him."

Emma, who came 40th overall, adds, "I take my hat off to everyone who's done the course."

As do I.



Youth Football comes to Dersingham

Judy Collingham

Once again over the early May Bank Holiday, the SCI (scievents.co.uk) Football Tournament took place on the Dersingham Sports Field to mark the end of the football season. Some 32 youth teams from near and far competed over two days in a fine spirit of healthy competition. "So good to see so many youngsters out enjoying their game and the wonderful spring weather rather than being on their devices" – a quote from one of the organisers. A sentiment which the Dersingham Sports Ground Association (DSGA) can heartily endorse.



The DSGA provided refreshments and from 8.30 till 4.30 on both days serving bacon breakfasts, then hot dogs and burgers; teas and coffees were on offer all day as were a range of soft drinks and



confectionery. Profit on the day was for the renovation of the Sports Pavilion for which the Association is fund raising. Parking was free but visitors were invited to make a contribution to our pavilion and were generous in their donations.

It was wonderful to see the Sports Ground so alive with the children and their supporters; it is surely what the ground is meant to be – a place of outdoor activity, comradeship and competition and we urgently need a pavilion fit for use by all genders and ages. The website of the DSGA is: www.dersinghamssportsground.co.uk and there is a donation page!

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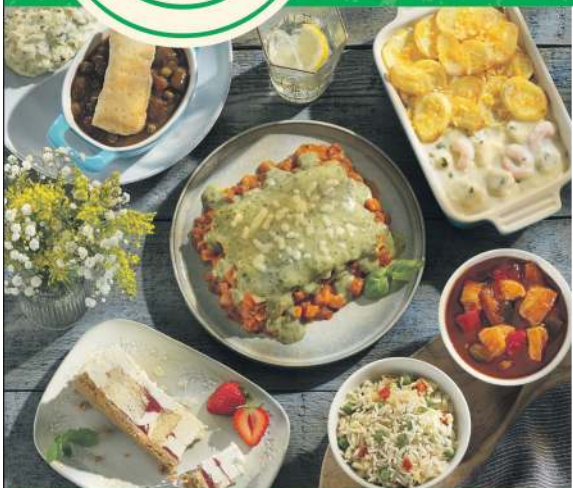
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QUESTION: The FIFA World Cup starts on 11th June with Mexico v South Africa. Which countries have lost their opening fixture at the finals but went on to win the Jules Rimet trophy?

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.

CLOSING DATE 15.06.2026.

Last month's question was Which country was the only team to go unbeaten in all their matches at the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa? The first name pulled out from the pile of many correct entries was Crystal Colwell.

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Sporting corner with Tim Keogh

Good start for local teams as new cricket season launches

Half a pint of quality real ale (or two!) whilst enjoying a game of traditional village cricket on a balmy sunny afternoon in scenic settings to the dulcet sound of leather on willow, what more could one want in life.

The cricket season is now very much upon us as all the local senior sides started their campaigns recently, striving for promotion from their respective Divisions in the Norfolk Cricket Alliance League.

In Division Two, Sandringham & Dersingham 1st XI opened up with a humdinger of a match at Beccles winning by just one wicket (hat-tricks for Lloyd Richmond and James Hurst, James Havers 56 runs). However, they were undone at home to Norwich 2nds, losing by 76 runs (Callum Lee 2 wickets).

In the same Division, Bircham also started the season well with a 48 run win at Great Witchingham 2nds (Hat-tricks for Peter Matthews and Liam Compton) but then lost at home to Beccles by 105 runs (Robert Preston 59).

In Division Three, Snettisham heartbreakingly just missed out on promotion last season due to complicated permutations higher up the cricket league pyramid system. They have certainly started this campaign with a vengeance. They added to a tense 10 run opening day victory at Great Melton 2nds (Aaron Herbert 102 not out, Damien Twiddy hat-trick) with a 7 wicket win at home to Hingham (hat-tricks for Kieran Herbert, Damien Twiddy and Danny Arnold) to jointly lead the table.

In Division Four, Thornham 1st XI - who also missed out on promotion by a whisper on the final day of last season - have posted two wins out of two thus far. They followed up on a swashbuckling 10 wicket home success over Diss 2nds (Chris Burgess hat-trick) with a tight 17 run win at Mellis (Finn Hewson 57) to also jointly top their division.

There was also an early local derby, as Thornham 2nds travelled to Snettisham 3rds in Division Four of the Norfolk Cricket League. In a game of few runs, Thornham managed to chase down the home side's



Thornham CC 2nd XI: Back Row: Oli Askew, Joe Oliver, Kev Williamson, Bradley Williams, Andy Arnold (C), Shaun Baker (WK), Sam Askew. Front Row: Niel Wynn, Micah Randall, Matthew Edgley, Matthew Rose

total of 69 in just under 13 overs. Sam Askew's impressive 7 wicket haul almost single handedly giving the first bragging rights of the season to Thornham.

It really is worth popping down to support your local club occasionally this season or to just enjoy the ambience of local village cricket with all four local clubs based in beautiful settings. Thornham's impressive new Pavillion is still under construction but is expected to be completed later on this year.

You can keep up to date with all the latest results on our weekly online sports update every Monday by visiting www.townandaround.net.

Local Lads run Manchester Marathon

Joe Gascoigne (24) from Sedgeford and Alfee Melton (23) from Heacham took part in the Manchester Marathon on Sunday, 19th April which attracted over 40,000 participants. You may have seen the duo out and about pounding the local streets in training.

Both performed admirably on the 26.2 mile course, completing it in 4 hours 26 minutes - and in the process, they raised over £1,800 for the Bobby Copping Foundation a mental health support charity very close to their heart.

Alfee, who is Dick 'The Sage' Melton's grandson, said: "the most physically and mentally challenging 20 weeks of my life but all for a great cause, we smashed it". He added poignantly, "I have plainly inherited good physical genes and will miss my grandad dearly".





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Sporting corner with Tim Keogh

Indoor Bowls Season reaches a conclusion in nailbiting decider

King's Lynn Town were losing 1-0 at home to Chorley in their penultimate game of the season as the clock ticked into injury time. They needed something urgently. Cometh the moment, cometh the man, up popped Carlton Ubaezuonu to salvage a point.



Ubaezuonu celebrates late goal at home to Chorley Credit: Ian Burt.

They then had to travel to promotion hopefuls Chester FC and get something from their final game. At one point Chester were out of the play off places due to results elsewhere. Lynn had to dig deep. They managed to hold on, grinding out another point and avoiding relegation by the finest of fine margins on goal difference. When manager, Paul Caddis, joined in March, his remit was simple - to keep the Linnets up. It may not have been pretty at times but he did it.



Chester FC action photo Credit: Charlie Stockton

Caddis has also been confirmed as the manager for the 2026/27 season where the expectation of the club and the Lynn faithful will very much be a challenge at the other end of the table. Club owners, Singapore based Turn Sports Investment, have said a lot without actually saying a lot, but they will need to put their hands in their pockets if they want a promotion challenge. Caddis has been there before with Hereford, but will need a decent budget.

One team Lynn will be facing will be Jimmy Dean's big spending and fancied Spalding Utd, who were promoted from the Southern Premier after an extra time 4-2 play off victory against Real Bedford. As Peterborough Sports were relegated, it at least means the fans still have a local derby to look forward to, with the Tulips playing on an artificial pitch a sure advantage.

With Kidderminster Harriers having been

promoted, the other additions to the Conference North next season are likely to be Morecambe and Brackley who were relegated from the Conference Premier plus Hebburn Town, Hednesford and Harborough Town.

Heacham FC also managed to avoid relegation on the final day of the season as they beat Walsham-le-Willows 5-3 in the Thurlow Nunn Premier Division. It was a proud moment for the club and spectators as manager Mark Hunter managed to turn the club's fortunes around with Heacham languishing in the relegation places when he joined back in October. Hunter said he wanted to add bit of experience to what is still a relatively young squad. If he gets the blend right Heacham could be a surprise package next season in what will be their third campaign at this level.

Heacham Reserves finished a respectable 5th in Division Three of the Anglian Combination League after promotion last season. They certainly put on some entertaining displays scoring over 60 goals in the process, although a similarly leaky defence proved to be their Achilles heel in their quest for back to back promotions.

In Division One, Dersingham Rovers could not quite maintain a promotion push after missing out on the last game of the season in 2025. They ended up in 6th place. The reserves had a fantastic late run in Division Four, as they climbed from mid table to secure 2nd spot and with it promotion.

In the same Division, Ingoldisthorpe FC were aiming to make an immediate return to Division Three after relegation last year. A new squad looked to be in contention in the first half of the season but their challenge petered out and they ended up in 7th place. The reserves finished a respectable 4th place in Division Two of the North West Norfolk League.

Dersingham Women FC have been performing admirably in Division Three of the Norfolk Women & Girls' League. Presently top of the pile with just two games remaining, they now face two of their biggest challengers for the title away - Bungay and Dereham - in their final fixtures later this month. With a minimum promotion looking to be on the cards, it is no mean feat for manager Georgie Archer and her charges in what has been their debut season at this level.

Heacham FC End of Season Awards:

U18s

Managers' Player - Jaden Poore
Players' Player - Wilfred Pooley
Top Goalscorer - Jaden Poore
Supporters' Player - Tyler Pooley
Double G Clothing Award - Stephen Larman

Reserves

Managers' Player - Ryan Mellor
Players' Player - George Rawlings
Top Goalscorer - Alfred Buhlemann
Supporters' Player - George Rawlings
Double G Clothing Award - George Rawlings

First Team

Nigel Askew Cup Managers' Player - Tom Harwood
Harry Hornsby Cup Players' Player - Jointly, Tommy Hunt and Tom Harwood
Top Goalscorer - Toby Hilliard
Dusty Miller Shield Supporters' Player - George Hutton
Double G Clothing Award - Jake Poore
David Page Cup Clubman of the Year - Gordon Chilvers
Chris Lewis Cup Club Young Player - Harvey Easton



Harvey Easton (left) with Dave Page Credit: Gareth Liddington



Manager Mark Hunter (left) with Toby Hilliard. Credit: Gareth Liddington



Tommy Hunt, Callum Robinson, Mark Hunter and Tom Harwood Credit: Gareth Liddington

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Sporting corner with Tim Keogh

Snooker

Hunstanton Snooker League, sponsored by Sportique Sport, held their end of season presentation evening on Tuesday, 5th May at Hunstanton's United Services Club.

The league has been going for over 70 years, with one trophy dating back to 1959. Secretary and treasurer, Geoff Hitchcock, believes the league may go even further back than that.

Over 50 players from across the ten teams in the league attended. A final end of season knock out competition was held where the best two players from each team went head to head in doubles matches in a one frame shoot out. In a fitting final, probably the top two performers across the season, Chris Drew and Richard Asker (Conservative Club 'A'), came up against the big hitters, John Pesci IV and Gary Hawkins (US Old Town). Hawkins certainly had his eye in as the latter pair prevailed to take the title. Conservative Club 'A' were crowned worthy league champions.

Outgoing chairman, Steve Jones, thanked Geoff for all his efforts, recognising and noting, "if it wasn't for Geoff there would simply be no league". Geoff first played in the league way back in 1963 and continues to participate.

The evening finished with a raffle and buffet, laid on by the United Services Club.



Champions Conservative Club 'A'
From left: Andrew Johnson, Tim Drew, Richard Hearn, Richard Asker, Chris Drew and Kevin Fleming



Conservative Club 'B'
From left: Keith Price, Callum Smith, Jordan Cribb, Paul Cribb, Darren Cook and Jamie Cook



Richard Asker action shot

Anyone looking to take up snooker or join a team for next season can contact Geoff by email at geoff.hitch54449@btinternet.com.

Roll of Honour

League Champions - Conservative Club 'A'
Runners Up - Massingham 'B'
James Campbell Cup Speed Snooker - John Pesci IV
Cawdron Singles - Gary Hawkins
Cafe Legge Pairs - Gary Hawkins & Jonny Merritt
Best Record - Chris Drew & Richard Asker (15 wins out of 18)
Highest Break - Tim Drew (58)
Highest Break (handicap) - Andy Freeland
Eddie Pandal Cup - Massingham 'A'
Billard & Woodhouse Memorial Shield - Conservative Club 'B'

Norfolk Coast Mighty Hike returns

Over 2,500 hikers took part in the Full Marathon and Half Marathon raising over £1m to help fund vital Macmillan information and support services for people living with cancer over the weekend of the 8th & 9th & 10th May.



The Norfolk event kick-starts the Macmillan Mighty Hike season, with twelve events planned across various stunning and scenic venues in the UK throughout the year, including the Jurassic Coast and Lake District.

Both marathons started at Cromer and weaved their way through the picturesque villages along the Norfolk Coast taking in the wonderful sea views and beautiful unspoiled countryside. The Half Marathon finished at Blakeney whilst the Full Marathon completed at Holkham Hall, with many runners praising the amazing food and pit stops along the route.

Walking the 13 or 26 mile courses, hikers faced a physically demanding challenge, most powered by personal reasons, determination and, most importantly, a shared commitment to support others.

Lauren McEvoy, Mighty Hike Team Manager at Macmillan Cancer Support, said, "the hike community is truly inspiring, it was incredible to see so many people come together on the Norfolk Coast, pushing themselves to support people living with cancer. We're so grateful to every single person and volunteer who took part".

The number of people living with cancer in the UK is at a record high,

almost 3.5 million, and still rising. Cancer is the biggest challenge many people will face and these hikes really do raise much needed funds allowing Macmillan Cancer Support to go that extra mile and do whatever it takes to help people living with cancer, whoever and wherever they are.

Since 2015, the hikes have raised over £85m. To take part in one of the remaining eleven Mighty Hikes please visit mightyhikes.macmillan.org.uk

Hunstanton Croquet Club news

Club afternoons got off to a fantastic start on 13 April, with a full house of 40 players—the maximum our five lawns can accommodate at one time. Attendance has remained strong since, no doubt helped by the run of dry weather. It's wonderful to see so many people enjoying such an inclusive sport.

Our 2026 intake on the Golf Croquet introductory course has made impressive progress, picking up skills remarkably quickly. They're a great group, and a pleasure to welcome to the club. The first couple of sessions were certainly chilly—albeit bright and dry—but all things considered, we've been fortunate. Just a couple of years ago, three out of four sessions took place in rain!

Pictured are some of the 'students' with their certificates.





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More croquet images



*Ian Lines
(with Fermoy Cup)*



*Ellie Lewis
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Sue Vanderloo



Kaz Burns

GLEBE HOUSE SCHOOL & NURSERY UPDATE

April was a wonderfully busy and rewarding month at Glebe House School, especially considering we have only had nine days in school. Despite the short month, pupils across all year groups have packed in a wide range of enriching experiences. From hands-on STEAM learning at Gresham's and the return of our much-loved Boarders at Home evening, to creative post-Easter celebrations, international links with France and inspiring charitable work through RotaKids, there has been plenty to celebrate. This update captures just some of the energy, creativity and community spirit that continue to define school life at Glebe House.

STEAM Day at Greshams DIV VI and VII



Pupils from Years 6 and 7 recently took part in an engaging and enjoyable STEAM day at the Dyson Building, Gresham's Senior Prep School. Throughout the day, they explored electrical circuits, soldered circuit boards and tested their skills in a laser challenge. Working in teams, pupils also designed scribble bots, built wind-powered cars and launched rockets. The hands-on activities encouraged problem-solving, teamwork and creativity, while giving pupils valuable practical experience in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics in a fun and

inspiring environment. We are truly grateful to Greshams School for this opportunity.

Boarders at Home Open Evening



With our Boarding numbers increasing, Mrs Fraulo was very keen to reintroduce the Boarders at Home Open Evening. An exciting evening took place with the Boarders welcoming their families (and pets!) to their 'home-from-home'. Following refreshments served by the Boarding Prefects each child spent time with their families proudly showing them their spaces, and introducing them to their routines. The Boarders were soon keen to get outside and take part in their evening activity, so the families enjoyed a drink in the Drawing Room before departing. It has been very exciting to see our Boarding facilities being very well used again.

Pre-Prep Easter Bonnet Competition



During the first week back after the Easter holidays, our Pre-Prep children and staff gathered in the Library for a colourful Easter Bonnet Parade, showcasing the imaginative creations pupils had made at home during the Easter holidays. Mr Eagle and Mrs Eagle joined in the fun by trying on bonnets and parading to enthusiastic cheers and applause from the children. The event highlighted the pupils' creativity and attention to detail. During

Monday's whole-school assembly, winners were announced, with Arthur W-C taking first place for a Humpty Dumpty-inspired bonnet, alongside several impressive runners-up.

Pre-Prep French Exchange Programme



Our Pre-Prep pupils and several of our older Nursery children aged 3-4 were full of excitement as they created colourful Easter cards for children at Ecole St. Louis in western France. Alongside drawings of bunnies, eggs and spring flowers, the children also recorded simple French songs and greetings as part of the schools' ongoing exchange programme.

The activities combined creativity with early language learning and helped foster a sense of connection with their French counterparts.

Glebe House looks forward to continuing the exchange following the Christmas cards our pupils were excited to receive earlier this year. It's been such a positive experience reintroducing this exchange programme to our youngest pupils, as the experience brings real-life meaning to their modern foreign language learning.

RotaKids Update

The school's Rotakids group has been busy raising funds and supporting charitable causes this term. A raffle to win a 1.5kg chocolate Easter egg raised an impressive £465.55, with proceeds helping to fund new cricket equipment for girls at the school. Pupils also raised £138.08 for Comic Relief on Red Nose Day. In addition, the Rotakids thanked families for their generous support of the Rotary Shoebox Scheme, which provides gifts and essential items to children and families in need, helping to bring comfort and joy to others. Rotakids were proud to have contributed 20 complete shoeboxes to the Shoebox Scheme.



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Variety is the spice of life!

Festival Director Verity Mitchell writes about the variety of plays at the One Act Drama Festival 3-5 July

One of the exciting things about Hunstanton's One-Act Drama Festival is the different types of short plays you'll see at each session. One moment you might be watching a poignant love story then the stage clears and your next short play will be a blood-curdling drama with a twist in the tale. With three plays being presented at each session, you might not know what you're going to get but we're sure you'll enjoy the variety on offer.

Our groups, many of whom are returning for the third, fourth or fifth time, enjoy the challenge of writing and performing a complete story in just 40 minutes and although they do this in competition with each other for the joy of it (and possibly to win an award or two!) it's performing live in front of you - the audience - that makes the whole weekend special for everyone.

If you haven't already got your ticket/s for this wonderful festival, you can buy in

advance either online via our website www.oneactdramafestival.com or in person from Hunstanton's independent bookshop 'by the book' on Hunstanton High Street.

Tickets remain at last year's prices; £7.50 per session, £5 to attend the Gala Awards Ceremony and just £20 for a season ticket which includes all four sessions and the awards ceremony.

As ever, keeping the Hunstanton One-Act Drama Festival going is only possible with your support and the support of our kind sponsors, so a big thank you to Hunstanton Town Council, Hunstanton Rotary and KL1 Radio for helping our small committee make it happen for 2026 and a huge thank you to YOU for being part of the audience for our talented drama groups!

You can find out more about the Festival, times, dates, groups and facilities at the Town Hall on our website www.oneactdramafestival.com and if you



have any questions or concerns, then please get in touch with us via email admin@oneactdramafestival.com



The June film for the King's Lynn Community Cinema Club, is Rental Family on Thursday 11th at 7.30pm in the accessible downstairs Screen 2 in the Majestic cinema.

The film is part subtitled as it is spoken in Japanese and English and has Brendan Fraser in the main role. The story is about an unsuccessful American actor Phillip in Tokyo who finds work at a rental agency playing stand-in friends and family members. The director, Hikari, spent years researching Japan's real-life rental agency industry. There are around 300 such agencies and her efforts

give the film an air of authenticity. During the course of the film Phillip finds purpose, belonging and beauty in human connection. This is a coming-of-age comedy drama.

KLCCC is open to anyone over 18 and costs £20 a season. There are 2 seasons a year each with 8 scheduled films that are free for members. Membership can be arranged by emailing communitycinemaclub@googlemail.com.

Alternatively, you can just come along to any film as a day member for £6 cash on the door. Full details of all the club's films and events at: www.klccc.uk and Facebook page.

G&S in Ludham

There will be a treat for G&S lovers when The Wandering Minstrels stage 'THE WORLD OF GILBERT AND SULLIVAN' in St. Catherine's Church, Ludham on Saturday 6 June 2026 at 7.30pm. It will be their third visit to Ludham. Artists taking part in this Gala concert are Helen Winter, Emma Stratton, Charles Mills, Bruce Graham and Tim Hurst-Brown, with Peter Hewitt at the piano. They will sing, act and dance their way through excerpts from "The Pirates of Penzance", "The Gondoliers", "Patience", "The Yeomen of the Guard", "The Mikado", "Ruddigore", "Princess Ida" and "HMS Pinafore".

Tickets are £14. Concert tickets can be obtained from Ludham Butchers on 01692 678226 or on the door. Refreshments will be available in the interval.

'The Wandering Minstrels' have been delighting audiences throughout East Anglia and the East Midlands for more than thirty years and have helped to raise almost half a million pounds for various charitable causes as a result of their popular Gilbert and Sullivan concerts. Their light-hearted evenings of excerpts from the Savoy Operas, beautifully sung and staged in period costume, are events to remember. This talented company has built up an enviable reputation as a leading G&S ensemble and they are much in demand. Don't miss what promises to be a fun-filled evening! (www.wanderingminstrels.org.uk)



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Art and Hygiene

Lesley Nadel

We often read images of cleanliness—hands being washed, floors scrubbed, laundry beaten out and hung to dry—as quiet proof that life is in order. It is an easy symbol: care, renewal, the small rituals that keep chaos at bay. Alongside it sits another familiar story, repeated so often it begins to feel like fact: that people in “times gone by” rarely bathed and simply endured a perpetual stink. But history is not one long, grim queue of unwashed bodies. It depends on when you look, and where.

In ancient Egypt, hygiene was more than practicality—it belonged to the realm of spirit as well as skin. Early soaps and scented oils were made not just to cleanse but to protect, and perfume could be part of the preparation for entering temples. The Greeks, too, wove washing into daily life; their art preserves the scene in passing, in painted vases and murals that treat bathing as routine and ritual as one. The Romans amplified this into a public culture of water: communal bathhouses where cleanliness, leisure and social life mixed—sometimes literally—while walls around them celebrated water’s place in the empire. Later, in the Middle Ages, the story turns quieter and more complicated. In monasteries, cleanliness could be a discipline—an outward sign of inward purity—so handwashing became a familiar ritual, and herbs and fresh linen helped keep bodies cared for. Yet even here there were contradictions: some early Christian saints treated dirty skin as a kind of virtue, proof of moral superiority over bodily concerns.

Bathing comes back into view in Japan as a major social institution in the 15th to 17th centuries as a major social institution. What had long mattered for religious and therapeutic reasons sharpened into something more direct: becoming clean. Japanese art records the practice with confidence—often women, often bathhouses—suggesting a culture comfortable

with the bath as both ordinary and communal.

At roughly the same time in Europe, bathing was far less straightforward. Warm water was argued over: did it open the pores and invite disease? Even when people wanted a full bath, the labour and fuel it demanded made it a luxury. Many settled for what was possible—sponging parts of the body or pouring water over themselves. Among the aristocracy, fine linen shirts were trusted to draw dirt from the skin, while herbs, salves and flowers did the work of masking, soothing and, when they could, cleansing. It is telling that so many painters lingered over the bath—Degas, Renoir and Vermeer among them—while soap itself is often absent. Whatever the practical reality, art repeatedly returns to bathing and ablation because it sits on the boundary between hygiene and purification. “Clean” is never only physical; it is moral, social, even political, shaped by ideas about class, contagion and belonging. When artists elevate soap, water and scrubbing into subjects worthy of attention, they make visible a cultural ideal: inward purity, elevated status, a promise of comfort—sometimes also a means of control. And they leave us with an uncomfortable question: what, and who, is a society trying to keep clean?

Victorian Britain then pushes that question to the foreground. Cleanliness—especially in the upper and aspiring middle classes—became an obsession, amplified by new germ theories, industrial grime and a moral urgency about what a “good” life should look like. Art, advertising and interiors embraced a sanitary aesthetic: bright, orderly rooms; airy spaces; the insistence of white in clothing and décor as a symbol of spiritual, moral and physical health. In high art and in the booming world of branding—Pears soap, most famously—soap was sold not simply as a product but as civilisation itself, with cleanliness equated to wealth, purity and

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 8th June



THE ARTS SOCIETY
North West Norfolk



Temples of Sanitation

Lecturer:
Mike Higginbottom

Sanitation was an immense problem in the 19th century with the burgeoning population. We look at the contribution of Joseph Bazalgette and the extraordinary engineering and the decorated buildings that were created.

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www.theartsocietynwnorfolk.org.uk
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respectability. Influencers such as John Ruskin helped popularise the idea that a clean environment reflected a healthy conscience. And, inevitably, the contrast was sharpened: middle-class “respectability” set against the supposed dirtiness and immorality of the poor. Hygiene became a language of social class—and a tool of social control.

The Arts Society North West Norfolk will be hosting a talk by Mike Higginbottom on ‘Temples of Sanitation’ on Monday 8th June 2026 at 2 pm at Sedgeford Village Hall. He explores the immense problem of sanitation in the 19th century with the burgeoning population, and looks at the contribution of Joseph Bazalgette and the extraordinary engineering and decorated buildings that were created. New members are welcome to join our friendly society.

www.artsocietynwnorfolk.org.uk

The Pickwick Papers

Sedgeford Village Hall...Saturday 18th July

Expect lots of mischief from a cast of larger-than-life characters in this hilarious adaptation of Charles Dickens’ classic, performed by Gloucester based Rain or Shine Theatre Company.

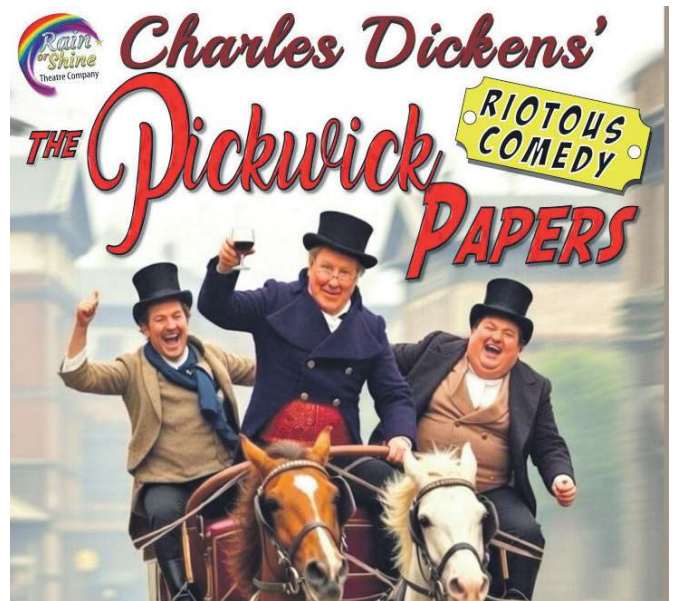
This will be the third year since Sedgeford first launched its annual outdoor theatre event. Parking is free and we have a whole playing field to fill! Gates will open at 6.00pm for a 7.30pm start on Saturday 18th July.

Expect fast-paced wit, multi-rolling mayhem, with mischief a-plenty from a cast of larger-than-life characters in this new and hilarious adaptation of Dickens’ raucous classic, *The Pickwick Papers*. Dickens has never been this delightfully unpredictable, taking audiences on a rollicking journey through confusing courtships, courtroom shenanigans, questionable duels and carriage rides which go badly wrong.

Come prepared with your fold up chairs (and blankets!) and buckle up for an uproarious adventure with The Pickwick Society - where the only certainty is that a thoroughly good time will be had by all!

Our resident pizza experts, Bordoli’s Pizzas, will be on-site and open for business and also taking pre-play and interval orders. As will the Three Stallions’ pop-up bar, who’ll be offering a range of summer cocktails, wines, beer and soft drinks.

Reservations can be paid for online at: Barclays: (account name -



Sedgeford Village), Acc. no: 40519138 - Sort code: 20/46/65 - Tickets are £18.00 adults and £8.00 children. Gates open at 6.00pm for 7.30pm start. P.S. Don’t forget the fold-up chairs!



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Summer at Westacre Theatre

Liz Brewer

Outdoor theatre at its absolute best

Tucked in the beautiful Norfolk countryside, beside a lake, beneath skies that seem wider here than anywhere else - Westacre Theatre has long been one of those places you feel lucky to know about. The company has just announced its most ambitious summer season yet and it is a season worth clearing your diary for.

The summer opens on 4th July with Oscar Wilde's *Lady Windermere's Fan* - a sparkling revival brimming with wit, charm, and irresistible comedic flair, brought to Westacre by touring company Dot Productions. Regular followers of Dot Productions will know them from their summer performances at Gooderstone Water Gardens, and following that venue's recent closure, Westacre is proud to be stepping in to make sure the show goes on. A new home for a beloved company, and a perfect opener for the season. Adults £18 | Under 21s £10.



Across three glorious Sunday afternoons in July and August, the lakeside comes alive with music. Bowjangles (19th July) bring a classical quartet with a twist; the irresistible DixieMix (26th July) deliver electrifying swing and Dixieland; and on 30th August, the much-loved Sheringham Shantymen round off the season with rich harmonies and maritime charm. Pack a picnic, bring the dog (well-behaved ones welcome), settle in, and let the afternoon take care of itself. All tickets £14 | Under 10s free.



The heart of the summer, though, belongs to two major productions running through August. Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors* gets the full Westacre treatment - bubbling with energy, this "a kaleidoscope of vintage charm," brings double the trouble, twice the jazz and total joy. Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* demonstrates the eternal battle between head and heart, under open Norfolk skies - romantic, urgent, and utterly transporting. Both productions run multiple dates from 6th August through to the end of the month. Adults £16 | Under 21s £10.

The new tent, the expanded stage, and why this summer matters



This season carries a particular weight of excitement and gratitude. Thanks to a wonderfully supportive community, generous grant funding, and a whole lot of fundraising, Westacre can confirm: Summer 2026 is officially on.

A brand-new tent has been ordered and will be in place for the season. The outdoor stage has also undergone a significant expansion - making room, among other things, for the incoming cohort of Bursary Award recipients: nine exceptionally talented young actors, selected from nearly fifty applicants across the UK. They will spend the summer at Westacre, training and performing in both *Sense and Sensibility* and *Comedy of Errors*. If you saw last summer's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, you'll already know what these young performers are capable of. This year promises to be even more extraordinary.

"We're incredibly excited to be working with them," Theatre Director, Sadie Grist says. "These are the future of theatre - and ones to watch."

But the fundraising journey isn't entirely over, and the theatre is refreshingly honest about that. While the tent is returning and the summer season is going ahead; it is not yet fully paid for. More than ever, we continue to rely on the generosity of our community. Every ticket purchased this summer makes a direct contribution to Westacre's future. It is, in every sense, community theatre - made possible by the people who come.

For the young ones

Parents, aunts, uncles, and anyone who believes children deserve proper cultural adventure: Westacre has you covered.

This summer, young people can make a play in a week (yes, really, it's just how they do things here). Older participants can sink their teeth into *Living with Lady Macbeth*, an edgy exploration of one of Shakespeare's most iconic characters. Younger ones get the gloriously messy joy of *Bugsy Malone*. There's also the Secret Art Club with Artist Emma Bennion, campfires and island crafting with qualified teacher and forest school leader Jess Craske. These are Wild! sessions! Finally, the irrepressible *Midsummer Mayhem* with Youth Leader, Director and Actress Camilla Falconbridge - fun-packed, imagination-building, confidence-boosting dramatic adventures for the youngest theatregoers.

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PERFORMANCE DATES
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18, 19, 20, 21, 22,
25, 26, 28
August 2:30pm
22, 29

Tickets | £16
£10 (under 21s)

Audience Reviews of Westacre Theatre
"How fortunate we are to have this calibre of performance in our great little theatre in the heart of the County."
"A super professional Theatre! A rare gem set in such a gorgeous setting."

What's On
westacretheatre.com
Find Us
River Road
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PE32 1UA
Get In Touch
admin@westacretheatre.com

When two sets of identical twins, separated at birth, clash in the sun-drenched streets of a Mediterranean island, the result is a dizzying whirlwind of mistaken identity, chaotic reunions, and gloriously ridiculous mayhem. Staged in the beautiful open air, this production is bubbling over with energy, toe-tapping swing numbers, and a kaleidoscope of vintage charm, it's a feast for the eyes and the ears.
Break out the picnics and prosecco and join us for a night of unparalleled silliness and summer magic. It's the ultimate "Comedy of Errors" - and you won't want to miss a single beat!

Registered Charity No: 1057296

What people are saying

Westacre's most recent in-house production, *God of Carnage*, has been drawing some extraordinary responses.

"Jaw-dropping moments...comedic timing, spot on... I felt like a scientist watching the collapse of human decency - it was magnificent." Reviewer Rhombus Rota

Others described it as "another not-to-be-missed show" and praised the way it laid bare "the gap between the social mask and our inner Neanderthal."

Audience members have been equally effusive: "Great show - so funny!" and "What a fantastic performance" are among the responses. One regular theatregoer perhaps put it best of all: "A super professional theatre - a rare gem in such a gorgeous setting."

Rare gem is right. Book now: Westacre Theatre is a registered charity, and every ticket you buy directly supports its work - the productions, the bursary programme, the young people's activities, and the continued existence of one of Norfolk's most special places.

The full summer programme is now live. Dates fill up. The lake is beautiful. The skies are enormous. There really is nowhere quite like it.

Book: www.westacretheatre.com

Location: Westacre Theatre, near Swaffham

What3Words: appear.vibes.laugh

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P.s Well-behaved dogs are welcome at Sunday picnic events.





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Saturday 6th June - Quiz Night

Saturday 13th June Karaoke Night with Mike Covey

For more information - see our Facebook page

Regular Events

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Tuesdays: Seated Yoga with Jackie Lee 12.45pm - 1.30pm.

Richard's Country Disco & Line Dancing 2.00pm - 4.00pm.

Cash Bingo starts at 7.30pm.

Wednesdays: Scrabble 10am, Whist Drive 7pm

Thursdays: New Strength and Balance Class 1.00pm.

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In the Limelight

Summer is arriving at the Princess Theatre, and June is shaping up to be one of our most exciting months yet, packed with comedy, live music, tributes and unforgettable nights. Whether you're looking for a laugh, a singalong, or a spectacular live performance, there's something for everyone in this month's line-up.

We kick things off from Wednesday 3rd to Friday 5th June with the outspoken and always entertaining Katie Hopkins: Free Range Tour, (few seats remaining) before rocking into the weekend with Whole Lotta Shakin' – The Shakin' Stevens Story on Saturday 6th June. The fun continues Sunday 7th June with the hilarious live play Desperate Scousewives starring Chrissy Rock.

Music lovers are in for a real treat throughout the month. Genesis Connected takes to the stage on Friday 12th June, followed by The Rozzers – A Tribute to Sting & The Police on Saturday 13th June, and the ever-popular Twist and Shout on Sunday 14th June. Later in the month, the incredible G4 bring their Phantoms of the Popera tour on Thursday 18th June, with Henry Cole on Tour arriving the following evening for a sold out show!

Soul and nostalgia also feature heavily this month, with Sugar Pie Honey Bunch, Four Tops Tribute on Sunday 21st June, followed by The Signatures – Northern Soul Live on Saturday 27th June.



The Signatures – Northern Soul

We round off the month in style on Sunday 28th June with Coldplace, the world-renowned tribute to Coldplay.

For those seeking something a little different, don't miss An Evening of Mediumship with Calvin Price on Thursday 11th June.

With more live plays appearing on the Princess Theatre stage this year and next, we're hoping to build even more excitement and interest in theatre productions here in Sunny Hunny. Time and time again we hear people say, "We'd love to see more plays at the Princess!" so we've listened and delivered.

From laugh-out-loud comedy and gripping mystery to musicals and drama, there's plenty to look forward to in the months ahead.



Desperate Scousewives - Cred Derek Lahiff

One familiar face appearing on the Princess stage this year is Chrissy Rock from TV's Benidorm, in this month's play, Desperate Scousewives.

Chrissy stars as Lily, in this hilarious hit Scouse stage comedy. Desperate Scousewives is an acclaimed series of plays told through the eyes of four unforgettable women. Susan, Vanessa and Lily rule the street with their big personalities, big voices and even bigger secrets, until newcomer Trisha arrives from Manchester and shakes up their tightly knit world. Packed with unforgettable one-liners, high heels, heartbreak and hilarity, this fast-paced comedy is bold, brassy and definitely not for the faint-hearted. Please note: Age 16+ on Sunday 7th June.



Anna H

As the days grow longer and the sunsets become even more beautiful, we're delighted to announce that live music is returning to the Sunset Wine Bar terrace this summer.

Starting on Tuesday 9th June, and continuing weekly through to the beginning of September, Jamm'in Joe will be bringing lively piano favourites to the terrace every Tuesday from 12pm–3pm. Expect feel-good tunes, singalong moments, and the perfect relaxed atmosphere for a summer afternoon by the sea. We're also thrilled to welcome back the ever-popular Soul at Sunset with DJ Zola every Wednesday evening from 6pm. Whether you want to unwind with soulful classics or enjoy a little midweek dancing, Zola's smooth summer soundtrack has become a firm favourite with locals and visitors alike.

The summer holidays will be upon us before you know it, and planning ahead for family days out and making special memories is all part of the fun. That's why we're so excited to share two fantastic family shows coming to the Princess Theatre this August, perfect for a fun-filled trip to Sunny Hunny.

Family fun takes centre stage this August at the Princess Theatre.

On Sunday 16th August at 2.30pm, we welcome The Dinosaur That Pooped – A Rock Show! When Danny and Dino's favourite band announce their final concert, the pair go on a madcap mission to get the last two tickets. Based on the bestselling books by Tom Fletcher and Dougie Poynter, this brand-new stage adventure is packed with laughs, songs and plenty of poo-filled chaos for the whole family.



Tom Gates – Epic Family Show

Then, on Sunday 23rd August at 2.30pm, comes Tom Gates Live on Stage! Inspired by Liz Pichon's bestselling books and TV series, this energetic new show brings Tom's hilarious world to life with catchy tunes, fun performances and all the humour fans love. A perfect treat for families and young theatre-goers alike.

There's nothing quite like getting together with friends for a great day by the sea and The Great British Seaside Summer Special has now become a much-loved Sunny Hunny tradition. Running every Wednesday from 29th July to 2nd September at 3pm, this feel-good variety show is the perfect addition to your summer plans. Why not make a full day of it? Plan ahead, book your tickets, explore everything Sunny Hunny has to offer, and if you fancy a cheeky 10% off some yummy fish and chips head over to Fishers of Hunstanton, show them your tickets for the Seaside Summer Special (same day) and they will honour your discount.

Whether you're visiting for the day or have lived here all your life, this is your chance to be part of a truly special seaside tradition filled with laughter, music and entertainment for all ages. Booking as a family? Don't forget — Under 5s go FREE!

Have a super June, come along, take your seat, and we look forward to seeing you soon at The Little Theatre with Big shows!



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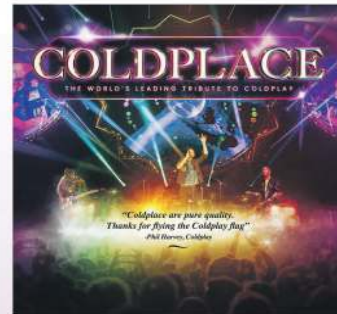
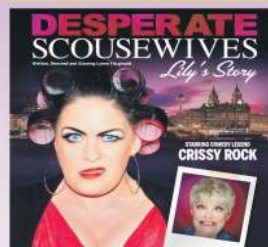
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SATURDAY	6TH	WHOLE LOTTA SHAKIN- THE SHAKIN STEVENS STORY
SUNDAY	7TH	DESPERATE SCOUSEWIVES—LIVE PLAY
THURSDAY	11TH	AN EVENING OF MEDIUMSHIP WITH CALVIN PRICE
FRIDAY	12TH	GENESIS CONNECTED
SATURDAY	13TH	THE ROZZERS – A TRIBUTE TO STING & THE POLICE
SUNDAY	14TH	TWIST AND SHOUT
THURSDAY	18TH	G4—PHANTOMS OF THE POPERA
FRIDAY	19TH	HENRY COLE ON TOUR—SOLD OUT
SUNDAY	21ST	SUGAR PIE HONEY BUNCH - FOUR TOPS
SATURDAY	27TH	THE SIGNATURES - Northern Soul Live
SUNDAY	28TH	COLDPLACE—Tribute to Coldplay



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