

TOWN and AROUND

A photograph of a baby with light brown hair, wearing a white cable-knit sweater and light-colored pants, crouching in a field of fallen autumn leaves. The baby is holding a small, dried leaf in their right hand. The background is a soft-focus field of yellow, orange, and red leaves.

ISSUE 217 NOVEMBER 2023

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Win tickets to
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Local News • Events • Great Outdoors • Features

First word



Thomas Hood wrote of November:

No sun — no moon!
 No morn — no noon —
 No dawn — no dusk — no proper
 time of day.
 No warmth, no cheerfulness, no
 healthful ease,
 No comfortable feel in any
 member —
 No shade, no shine, no butterflies,
 no bees,
 No fruits, no flowers, no leaves,
 no birds! —
 November!

However, in this issue of T&A you can find cheerfulness; just turn to the centre pages for a huge variety of events to inform and entertain you throughout the month.

Not one, but two competitions for you this month. On page 63 you'll find the Berni Beans afternoon tea competition and on page 74 you can win tickets to the chart-topping Mediaeval Baebes concert!

We have new advertisers this month, please support them and all our advertisers if you can; their adverts pay for the publication of the magazine. If you know anyone who needs to advertise, please point them this way.

My thanks to everyone who has provided editorial, it's been a pleasure to put this edition together. I hope you enjoy it.

Until next month,

Elaine

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1/2	194.18	161.82
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Turkish village representatives visit Snettisham to remember Gallipoli

Eric Langford

Thursday 5th October saw a group of some 40 people gathered at the Memorial Cross in the Snettisham Market Place to celebrate the link between Snettisham and Kucuk Anafarta, a small village on the narrow Gallipoli Peninsula. This annual occasion is organised by The Gallipoli & Dardanelle International Society based in the UK to remember the lost and fallen troops of both sides during the battles between the British and the Ottoman Empires in WW1.

Representatives from Kucuk Anafarta joined with representatives of the International Society and members of Snettisham Parish Council to lay wreaths in memory to the sacrifice made by Turkish troops and those troops of the 3rd and 4th Norfolk Regiments. Two RBL Standard Bearers, Thomas Foy, Deputy Kent County and Ted Barnett Snettisham RBL Branch escorted by local RBL branch members, Clive Killough and Eric Langford, were in attendance to present the salute.

The short service was led by Lt Emily Hague, Snettisham Salvation Army corps, accompanied by the Salvation Army Brass Band. It proved an emotional occasion with the hymns 'Eternal Father, strong to save' and 'Great is thy faithfulness', sung with vigour by those present around the Market Cross.

Three wreaths were laid, the first by Cllr Ralph Garwood on behalf of the Parish Council, the second by Suleyman Tass from the Gallipoli Association of Istanbul and Ahmet Tuzcuoglu, headman of the village of Kucuk Anafarta, with the third laid by John Crowe on behalf of The Gallipoli & Dardanelle International Society. Following the closing blessing from Lt Emily Hague those present were invited for refreshments at the Royal British Legion Hall, organised by the local WI and RBL ladies. Thanks were given to the ladies of the WI and RBL for organising the drinks and cake which were enjoyed by all.

There followed an exchange of gifts ceremony during which a boxed, scale model of the Kucuk Anafarta memorial was presented to the Parish Council along with selection of Turkish sweets/biscuits to be shared amongst those present. Cllr Ralph Garwood responded on behalf of the Parish Council with a gift of a Snettisham Norfolk Flag, copy of photographic book of Snettisham and a 2024 Norfolk illustrated calendar.

In thanking all for the success of the occasion, John Crowe, President of The Gallipoli & Dardanelle International Society, made a point of identifying Clare Smith, Clerk to the parish council for all her help in organising this event. In closing his poignant message was that the families of Kucuk Anafarta would continue to care for those fallen sons of British families as if they were their own!

It is understood that preliminary talks are in progress to explore possibilities for strengthening the links between Anafarta and Snettisham through a formal 'village twinning' agreement.



Representatives of the Parish Council, Kucak Anafarta, the Gallipoli Association, Snettisham Salvation Army and Royal British Legion at the Market Square



*Above Suleyman Tass and Ahmet Tuzcuoglu lay a wreath
Below: Standard Bearers and RBL members*



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The County Deal explained

By Cllr Andrew Jamieson, Deputy Leader, North Coast Division Member and Cabinet Member for Finance

A Devolution Deal for Norfolk is currently being negotiated by Norfolk County Council and government in Westminster.

Known as the County Deal, it will act as a catalyst for growth in Norfolk, creating jobs, increasing skills, attracting investment and contributing to better outcomes for residents.

What will it do?

It will enable Norfolk as a whole, through County and District Councils, to target funding towards our own economic priorities through a new investment fund.

This means the ability to invest locally in housing, employment sites and better local transport: the key drivers of better, healthier lives which leads inevitably to less healthcare demand.

The ability to invest in the skills that are needed locally and improve adult education.

The ability to build a strong business voice for Norfolk, align us with our neighbours who either have or are negotiating a similar level of devolution: known as Level 3.

Transport and connectivity

Negotiations still continue; however, an 'in principle deal' was signed last year. Under the terms of the current deal, we will get a consolidated transport budget of around £40 million pa, meaning that we can choose locally how to spend the money on transport and road maintenance rather than having to follow rules set by Government. It means we can influence strategic regional transport projects, like trunk roads and rail connectivity.

Housing and regeneration

Norfolk's County Deal provides £6.9 million to unlock housing developments on Brownfield sites. Brownfield sites are ones that were previously developed and are now abandoned. Here in the West of the County, NCC is working with the Borough to create a pipeline of projects ripe for regeneration; other Norfolk districts are doing the same. Currently we have to apply for regeneration funding via strict Treasury formulae: this is very expensive to do and, as most regeneration funding is funnelled through devolved Local Authorities that already have some sort of devolution deal (Cambridge for example), we are often left fighting for a relatively small pool of funds with the other 'non-devolved' counties. As the Brownfield Release Fund is designed to 'pump-prime' projects, central government will



agree to locally designed metrics, tailor-made to local need.

Adult Education

Decisions on where to spend the Adult Education Budget will also be made locally. At the moment, this comes directly from government to local adult education providers with no transparency on how it is spent. This is funding for training adults that can be targeted to where it's needed: healthcare workers, for example, or welders, engineers...

Investment

Central to the County Deal is £600 million new money for Norfolk over 30 years: guaranteed, un-ringfenced funding. There will be no need to bid for it. This will allow Norfolk to invest in what we need for people and for business: to do what is right for our County. Investment will be shaped in partnership and engagement with businesses, Districts and other key local partners, like the police.

Possible investment funding strands could include funding to local infrastructure priorities: broadband cold spots, for example, or a lack of commercial space. It could be used to support small businesses locally to innovate and grow. It could provide loans, or equity, to kick start private and public sector projects: stimulating entrepreneurs to develop businesses locally that create high value jobs.

While £600 million, or £20 million a year, is a useful pot, there are huge gearing opportunities: by using matched funding to attract other government or private investment.

It is also worth dwelling on the implications of not having a Norfolk Investment Fund. Previously external funding for these sorts of projects came via EU programmes or the Local Enterprise Partnership. With both these strands stopping, there is no guaranteed money locally. The reality will be short term competitive bidding with unsure outcomes and significant unfunded costs attached. This uncertain funding landscape will make it extremely hard to plan strategically over the long term. There will be no opportunity to leverage in other funding, particularly private funding; meanwhile new funding is often tied to areas with devolution deals: Norfolk faces the very real possibility of being left behind other parts of the UK.

It is very important to bear in mind that decision-making around the Investment and other Norfolk funds will be via an Investment Board involving District leaders and others, so that decisions will remain, as it does now, with the County Council with reference to District Councils.

No Mayor for Norfolk

But Level 3 Devolution does not come with a mayor: we think that local governance is confusing enough without increasing its layers from 3 to 4 (count 'em!). So the County Deal responds to central government's desire to have a single, recognisable point of contact without adding bureaucracy. This is done by electing the Leader of the Council as well as your local Councillor. No additional layers; no additional costs (we get money to set it up). I would, of course, hope you would vote for your Conservative councillor and also for the Conservative Leader: once the election of the two are held on the same date (currently from 2029) they would be running on the same manifesto, under a budget and policy programme agreed by County Council.

In short then, in exchange for voting directly for the Leader of Norfolk County Council, we will get a whole list of additional funding sources: just as current sources are drying up. When I said that negotiations are currently underway, that is because we are still finalising additional funding to that outlined above. We will raise Norfolk's national profile by building up a strong and coherent voice on the back of a strategy enabled by long term funding. Basically, Norfolk will be part of the conversation in the room, not just hanging around waiting to see what we are given.



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Hunstanton Lifeboat Station

One of the last days of the summer saw two shouts for Hunstanton's volunteer RNLI crew, who rescued three people.

Our inshore lifeboat Spirit of West Norfolk assisted a couple after their jet ski's engine failed off Heacham on Saturday, September 9.

Hours after they were towed to safety, our hovercraft Hunstanton Flyer was scrambled to assist a dog walker who had been cut off by the tide off the same beach.

No-one expects to find themselves in danger on a sunny day by the sea. We're there whenever someone does.

As well as being one of just four stations around the UK coastline which operates a search and rescue hovercraft, we also have a powerful Atlantic 85 inshore lifeboat which is one of the fastest in the RNLI's fleet.

Both require not only funding from our supporters, but an incredible effort by people who live in and around our town to keep them ready to help anyone in danger at sea or around our shoreline 24/7, 365 days a year.

They include Vic Dade, who has been awarded a long service medal after more than 40 years' devotion to the charity that saves lives at sea.

Vic, now 62, joined the crew at Hunstanton as a 17-year-old soon after the station reopened in 1979.

Since then he has crewed on both the station's inshore lifeboats and its hovercraft, which arrived in 2003.

He has continued his commitment as a plant operator, driving and maintaining the tractor used to launch and recover both vessels to the present day.

Forestry worker Vic, who lives near the station, was presented with his award by Hunstanton Lifeboat Operations Manager Rigil Kent at a crew meeting on Sunday, October 1.

"It's an absolutely massive achievement," Rigil said. "Thank you for everything you've done and continue to do for the station."

Vic said: "I originally joined as a tractor driver and it just progressed from there. I guess it's just become part of me."



Photo: Vic Dade (right) receives his RNLI long service medal from Hunstanton Lifeboat Operations Manager Rigil Kent.

Credit: RNLI/Chris Bishop

Could you help us launch or look after our craft, or even join the men and women who crew them?

Or have you got a few hours a week you could give to our station visits team who show people around the boathouse, or join the volunteers in our souvenir shop?

We train on Sunday mornings (8.30am - 12-noon...) at our station on Sea Lane.

Come and see us if you're interested in volunteering for the charity that saves lives at sea or would like to find out more about our work and how you could help us.

Stay Safe, Respect the Sea.

HUNSTANTON EVENTS UPDATE

Roger Partridge, Events Coordinator

The November highlight of the events calendar is a Stargazing evening at the Golden Lion on Saturday 11th November, starting at 7.00pm. Run by King's Lynn and District Astronomy Society, the evening takes the form of a presentation on the universe followed by a chance to go outside and look to the stars through telescopes on the top Green, weather permitting of course. The presentation is entitled, "A Journey Beyond Our Solar System to the Edge of the Universe," and is an engrossing hour or so in itself, giving an illuminating insight into our (tiny) place in the cosmos. The evening is free of charge and there is no need to book; please just turn up.

Recent events have been the Hansel and Gretel puppet show for children in the half term holiday and our spooky Halloween murder mystery, The Hauntings of Hunstanton, both from the Strange Fascination Theatre. Our apologies if anyone was startled by the sound of gun fire on murder mystery night, but the local police were informed and were keeping a police cell free for the murderer, if they could be identified! A report on both these events will be in December's edition.

The Hunstanton Rocks music weekend was a great success with the goth-rock quintet Wicca winning Battle of the Bands and Dead Horse and the Gliders taking the runners-up slots. Congratulations to Wicca, who now go on to play on the Festival Too stage next year. Chill Out Sunday was equally successful with three great bands- Vex, Bear Club and the Chebbs- entertaining the audience on the Green. Thanks go to Radio West Norfolk for their help with the Battle of the Bands event.

Work is continuing with next year's programme and the following dates can be confirmed: 1st January for a New Year's Day Health Walk; 27th April for a Mass Tai Chi event for World Tai Chi Day; 15/16 June for the East of England Flower Arranging Festival; and 22nd September for the Soap Box Derby. Watch out for further information on the events website at www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/hunstantonevents.



Judges from left: Ian Wells, Adrian Tebbutt and Eric Paterson



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Inheritance disputes between siblings

By Susanna Mayfield, Associate Solicitor, Hayes + Storr

Using a parent is never easy, and things can become even more distressing if quarrels arise between siblings about who should get what from their parents' estates.

Dying intestate

It is very important to leave a will and keep it under regular review. If someone dies without a will, their estate will be distributed according to the intestacy rules. The determination of how the estate will be distributed shall be determined upon which relatives are living at the time of death, which can be complicated.

Whilst we cannot detail the application of the intestacy rules in full here, the current rules dictate that a surviving spouse shall receive all personal property, the first £322,000 of assets and half of the remainder of the estate. Anything remaining after the spouse has taken their entitlement will be shared equally between their children. Even estranged children will receive an equal benefit.

Different amounts left to siblings

A parent may choose to leave one sibling more than another or disinherit a child. The English legal system is hailed for allowing individuals to leave their estate to whoever

they please.

However, if someone is financially dependent on the deceased and is not left sufficient benefit by their will, the court can order that reasonable financial provision is made for the claimant from the estate. Additionally, if a sibling has been promised an interest or a larger share of the estate but this promise is not reflected in a will, they may have an action in proprietary estoppel.

Will validity

If someone is unhappy with the share they have been left in a will and they are suspicious about its contents, they may consider challenging the will on a number of grounds including: improper execution, lack of testamentary capacity, want of knowledge, duress/coercion or undue influence. A sibling may, for example, claim that their brother or sister put undue pressure on their parent to draft the will in their favour.

Dispute resolution

Where a sibling wants to contest a will, going to court should be considered the last resort. Alternative dispute resolution (ADR) methods are available which are usually less costly, confrontational, and time-consuming than court proceedings.



How a solicitor can help

Our Dispute Resolution Team advises on all inheritance-related disputes, including between siblings. They can outline the grounds for potential claims, suggest an appropriate form of ADR and, if the case must go to court, they can collate evidence and provide advice and guidance throughout the court process.

If you need help to resolve a dispute, please contact Susanna Mayfield on 01328 863231 or email susanna.mayfield@hayes-storr.com. *This article is for general information only and does not constitute legal or professional advice. Please note that the law may have changed since this article was published.*

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To Follow

- Roast Turkey Crown, Pigs in Blankets, Homemade Bread Stuffing, Roasted Potatoes, Roasted Parsnips with Gravy & Seasonal Vegetables
- Seabass Fillets, Courgette Ribbons, Garlic Butter and New Potatoes, Roasted Lemon
- * Rump Steak served with Field Mushroom, Grilled Tomato, Beer Battered Onion Rings, Chips & Peas
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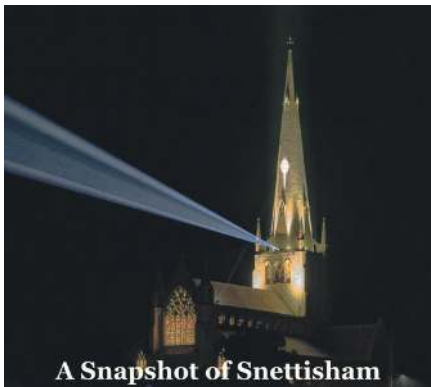
A snapshot of Snettisham

Richard Gibbs has always loved photography and is an Associate of the Royal Photographic Society. He has produced a stunning full colour book that, in his own words, is a snapshot of the village he now calls home.

A relative newcomer to Norfolk, Richard explains that it doesn't pretend to be the complete picture. For that you have to live here, and live here long. And even that may not be enough. One life-long resident, Andy Grange, a legend in his own right was asked by a passer-by whether he had lived his whole life in the village. "Not yet!" was his sharp reply.

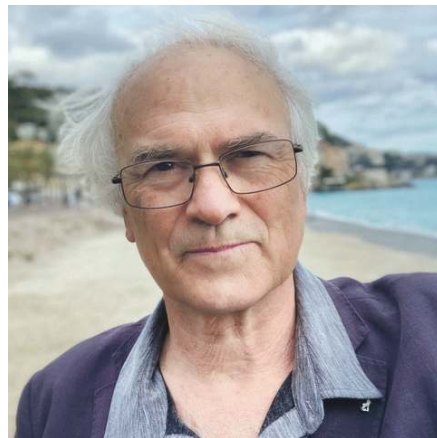
The snapshot he does present is a view of what you might find if you spend a little time here and the result is a delightful coffee table book for residents and visitors alike.

Richard had completed a workshop on natural light portraiture, and he wanted to practice - so the project began. His original intention was to make a book to work towards a Fellowship of the Royal Photographic Society, however, one day he met Dan Tansey, Snettisham's vicar, who was out delivering the Villager and a conversation started about Richard taking some photographs to add to



the heritage displays at the church. The 10th anniversary of the Friends of St Mary's offered the ideal opportunity for fundraising.

Proceeds after the cost of printing are being divided equally between The National Brain Appeal which is the charity that raises funds to advance treatment and research at The National Hospital for Neurology & Neurosurgery and the UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology, which helped Richard's wife in the early stages of her illness and The Friends of St Mary's Snettisham that



supports and protects the church building itself and the significant role it plays within the village and the wider community.

With a price tag of just £12 it makes an ideal Christmas gift, and you can find the book at St Mary's Church, Park Farm Visitor Centre, The Granary Café, the Grapes and from Richard Gibbs by mailing: richardpgibbs@aol.com M: 07730 893297.

STOP PRESS - FREE EVENT!

Rosemary Jewers

The 'Let's Give a Quilt Hug' launch takes place on Saturday 4th November between 10.00 am - 1.30 pm at Little Massingham Church.

Come to see the first completed quilts plus more being made! There also will be a chance to buy one or two craft items!

The Friends of St Andrew's Church Little Massingham - FOSALM - and Quilts 4 Care Leavers have joined forces to organise the stitching together of a Giant Quilt 'HUG' that will be large enough to wrap around the church!

FOSALM have been raising vital funds to help restore the church roof after thieves stole the lead. It is hoped this project will greatly boost those funds but will also help young adults who have been brought up in care. 'Quilts 4 Care Leavers' provide quilted hugs for these young adults who are leaving the care system and taking their first steps towards independent living.

This Giant HUG, made up from around 50 quilts will wrap around the church highlighting the need to raise money for the repairs. At the end of the project the quilts will be given to those leaving care.

When possible, the aim is to make the quilts from recycled cotton fabric. Volunteers are already helping, but more are needed. Can you help make this project a success by sewing a few blocks or perhaps donate and sponsor a quilt section? More details of how you can help at <https://fosalm.org>



Hunstanton Library

Liz Rogers, Library and Information Assistant

We're Going Green in October to encourage the community to continue working towards being more sustainable and support the climate action cause, with a display of relevant materials. Borrowing books from your local library is the ultimate form of sustainability – saving yourself money, shelf-space and being kinder to the planet. Once you've read and returned the books, they can be borrowed by someone else. If you don't already have your free Norfolk Library card, sign up – it's free - It's not just physical books; with your Norfolk Library card, you can borrow free ebooks, audiobooks and emagazines on the Libby and PressReader apps.

Our Household Support Scheme has restarted for the cooler months - Hot water bottles, fleece blankets, hot drinks (during staffed hours) are available to support those in need. We also have free Tricky Period bags and Toiletries To Go bags. Contact the Library for further info.

Get Online Week is run by the charity Good Things Foundation and has enabled us to help hundreds of thousands of people over the past 14 years – whether to get online or just brush up on your tech skills with our friendly volunteer. Book a session at Hunstanton Library on 01485 532280 or ask next time you visit us.

Writers Group?

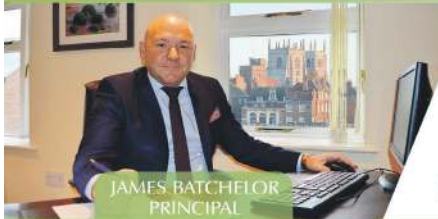
We wondered if there would be any interest if we started a Writers Group at the Library? Maybe you'd like to join or even run the Group? Anyway, we're trying to gauge the interest before we go further...let us know if you would like to be included!

On a lighter note, our Big American Read is a chance to enjoy authors from 'over the pond' as chosen for us by the American Library in Norwich, part of the Millenium Library.



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A blooming marvellous result for West Norfolk

West Norfolk won big at this year's annual Anglia in Bloom. The public open space teams at the borough council are celebrating with several trophies and certificates.



Six counties across East Anglia took part in the campaign, with 120 people attending the awards that took place in Huntingdon on 20 September. This year King's Lynn was judged virtually, with no in-person visit from the judges, and picked up a trophies for the Best Coronation Display in Tower Gardens, Mintlyn won Best Crematorium and Cemetery and Best Churchyard at the Minster. Gold Awards were given to the Public Open Space team for Tower Gardens and The Walks, The Wens also won gold for best pub/restaurant/shop frontage.

Elsewhere in King's Lynn, Goodwins Hall scooped a silver gilt certificate in the nursing or care home category, South Wootton Parish Council were celebrating a silver gilt certificate for The Green and gold for Wootton Park.

The public open space team also celebrated with a trophy for the best coastal award in Hunstanton. Elsewhere in the town there was another trophy for Northfield Allotments in best grow your own. Certificates were awarded for the wildflower verge planting



(conservation/biodiversity), Redgate Hill roundabout (sustainable planting), Boston Square Gardens (garden for special needs) and Esplanade Gardens (best local authority display).

Downham Market won a silver gilt certificate in the town category and The Gables in Dersingham won a silver gilt certificate too.

Cllr Bal Anota, Cabinet member for Property and Corporate Services, said: "This is a fantastic result for the many people who make a difference in our public open spaces. Council staff care passionately about our parks and green spaces so these are well deserved wins for them but there are also many volunteers and community groups that make a real difference in west Norfolk and they deserve recognition too."

"To win Anglia in Bloom you must involve your community, encourage biodiversity and raise the standards of the environment. These awards show that we are doing just that. I would like to thank our staff and many others who make west Norfolk such a great place to live."

Early Christmas presents for locals at North Wootton Christmas Fair

North Wootton Village Hall's annual Christmas Fair will take place on Saturday 2nd December and organisers promise some early Christmas presents.

There will be a craft market featuring an array of stalls selling Christmas decorations, gifts, and locally sourced and produced food and drink. Freshly cut, locally grown Christmas trees will be on sale, and there will be free live entertainment from The Ukulele Elves and local singer, Claire Scollay. Children and those young at heart can also visit Father Christmas' reindeer too!

Antony Lamb, the village hall's Events Organiser, said: "Christmas is traditionally a time of celebration, and we want the community to be able to come together without any financial barriers. Entry to the Christmas Fair is free and we are providing free entertainment on the day as well as a chance to see and feed real reindeer, and we will switch on festive lights and decorations for the village to enjoy for the rest of the season".

The raffle has been well supported by local businesses with high value prizes.

Antony continued "We hope this will be a Christmassy experience as well as a shopping event - we are now in our seventh year and really want to make it a day for the local community to soak up the festive atmosphere".

As in previous years, the Christmas Fair will culminate with the switching on of the village hall's Christmas lights. Parking is available at The Woottons Surgery, also on Priory Lane. All proceeds from the Christmas Fair go to North Wootton Village Hall, a Registered Charity, and used towards the upkeep and ongoing refurbishment of the hall.

The Christmas Fair takes place 10am - 5pm and more information can be found on the village hall's website: <https://northwoottonvillagehall.org.uk/> as well as on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), and Instagram.



Event Organiser Antony Lamb with The Ukulele Elves



King's Lynn Corn Exchange in association with Jordan Productions present

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as Sarah the Cook

Scott Cripps
as Idle Jack

Laura Pigott
as Dick Whittington

Andrew Piper
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Dick Whittington and his cat

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The Norfolk Writers' Exchange welcomes new members

Caroline Dudley

Autumn evenings are drawing in, and thoughts are turning towards indoor pursuits, so now's the time to embrace your creative writing ambitions.

Whether you want to scribble a story; write for radio; pen a poem or initiate a novel, the Norfolk Writers' Exchange is here for you.

We are a small, friendly group of writers, some of us published, others aspiring, based in West Norfolk, who meet every month in Pott Row, and would love to welcome some new members.

The Norfolk Writers' Exchange began in 2016 and our meetings provide a forum where writers can share their work in a supportive environment, overcome the dreaded 'writers' block' and share tips on how to negotiate the complicated world of publishing.

All this accompanied by tea/coffee and biscuits, plus the occasional cake and fizz!

Our first anthology, entitled 'Changing Tides', is an eclectic mix of poetry, short prose and extracts from longer works, published in November 2022, with profits being divided between West Norfolk Deaf Association and West Norfolk Riding for the Disabled Association.

Would you like to join us? To find out more, head over to our Facebook page The Norfolk Writers' Exchange, or call Sue on 07774 609357 for more details.



VOLUNTEER WITH CHILDREN

Steph Walsingham
Norfolk IV Service Manager

Looking for a fun volunteering opportunity that fits around your other commitments?

Want to help some of our most vulnerable children and inspire them towards better, brighter things?

For some children in care, most adults in their lives are social workers or other paid professionals. Please consider becoming an Independent Visitor, a volunteer who visits a child for a few hours each month to build a valuable and consistent relationship by spending time together doing fun activities.

Thorough training and support provided, as well as reimbursement of reasonable expenses.

To find out more about volunteering as an Independent Visitor with Coram Voice in Norfolk please email : norfolk@coramvoice.org.uk, or visit coramvoice.org.uk and select current vacancies.

Successful fundraising weekend



King's Lynn charity, The Purfleet Trust hosted a fundraising weekend at Norton Hill Light Railway this month to contribute to their ongoing work with homeless people and support their new social supermarket initiative.

The Norton Hill weekend was a traditional family fete with carousel, fete games, fairground rides, and food stalls. The main attraction was the light railway which proved to be a family favourite with queues throughout the weekend.

The event was held in collaboration with Trinity Rotary Club and all proceeds will be split between the two organisations.

Purfleet Trust CEO, Paula Hall said: "We had a wonderful weekend hosting at Norton Hill along with Kings Lynn Trinity Rotary Club and are so grateful to Mr and Mrs Schumann for opening up the railway to raise funds for vulnerable people in our community.

"The support at these events makes a real difference for people experiencing homelessness in West Norfolk not just through the funds raised but by us being able to spread the message about homelessness and how we can work together as community to support people on a pathway to a brighter future."

The fete is one of the trust's biggest fundraisers of the year.



Proceeds from the weekend will go towards Purfleet's Health and Wellbeing Centre which acts as their hub in King's Lynn and provides support to people experiencing homelessness. The trust offers housing support, workshops to build practical skills and confidence, counselling services, and much more.

Alongside their homelessness services, the trust has recently launched the Purfleet Pantry based in South Lynn which offers food, essentials and furniture at affordable prices to the public, in collaboration with the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk and the Norfolk Community Foundation.

www.purfleettrust.org.uk/purfleet-pantry

Find out more about all the work of the trust at purfleettrust.org.uk



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The Club is open Monday-Saturday 10am-11pm and Sunday 11am-10.30pm.

Meals served from Monday to Saturday each week, from 12 noon until 2.00 p.m.

A selection of special meals are available each day. Sundays - 2 course Roast Lunch £9.90 for Members.

November 8th Cream Teas from 3.00pm

November 20th Coffee / Brandy from 10.00am

November 26th Mulled Wine and Mince Pie served 3.00pm onwards

Yoga for U3A members on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Mondays : Strength and Balance Class 4.30pm.

Tuesdays: Cash Bingo starts at 7.30pm

Wednesdays : Scrabble 10am, Whist Drive 7pm.

Thursdays: Games evening from 7pm. includes, Darts, Table Tennis, Dominoes, Cards, Scrabble etc.

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

Saturdays : 'Open the Box' draw at 1pm

www.hunstantonconservativeclub.co.uk



Hunstanton Croquet Club

Caroline Harper

Events since last news include our annual Members' Day - a social day of fun games and a fabulous buffet lunch (including cheese scones which would win GBBO!); a morning spent resetting all 60 hoops under the guidance of David Thirtle-Watts (hard work - many thanks to all the members who turned up to help); HCC hosting a two day GC Championship series event; a coaching day delivered by our President, Simon Carter and David Thirtle-Watts - much appreciated by all the members who were lucky enough to get a place; a three day AC tournament (slightly overshadowed by the concerts at Sandringham) and culminating in our Club Doubles competition - a fabulous day eventually won by David Boxell and Jim Wilson in a gripping final against Colin Spencer and Mary Core.



Pictures here are of David and Jim - winners of the Club Doubles.



Some of the members who participated in the coaching sessions and HCC member Gren Perry who won the GC 'C' level competition at Ashby,



All of this in addition to our weekly club sessions on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays!

It's hard to believe, but by the time you read this, our season will be over - the last competitions played, the last club afternoons held, the presentation lunch eaten and enjoyed, the AGM held and the club put to bed for winter.



Members on 'Wear your brightest shirt day'



Charlie Mackenzie, winner, and competitors in the Carpenter Cup.



David Boxell, winner, and competitors in the Kendal Cup.

It has been a busy 7 months. Looking through our diary, at least 2000 people have walked through our gates to enjoy the facilities offered - three organised club afternoons every week for members, individuals booking lawns for their own games, tournaments hosted, a course for U3A members, evenings held for groups - that is an awful lot of cups of tea and coffee and many biscuits consumed! Thank you, Ellie, for keeping us fuelled!

Our thanks as always to Jonny for all his hard work keeping the lawns in such good condition and all the volunteers who put in so many hours behind the scenes - without them, the club would not function. You know who you are!

The committee remains active throughout the off season, so if you have any questions or are planning your diaries for next year and want to book a session for your organisation, do not hesitate to get in touch via the contact us page on our website hunstantoncroquetclub.co.uk or email me: Caroline.Harper.littlehumph@gmail.com

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE A MALLET TO SELL!!
(We have new members still looking to buy a mallet for next season)

Hunstanton Dickensian Christmas Market

Sunday
26th
November



Music & Fun from 12 noon – 6 pm
KL1 to kick the fun off with their live radio show
Dickensian & Victorian dressed
Stilt walkers and street entertainers
Victorian working animals & alpacas wandering around
Artisan/street food vendors on top Green
Fairground rides & carol singers
Christmas gifts & charity stalls around the town
The amazing Snow Globe



Christmas Food & Gift Fair in Town Hall
Pupils from local schools performing on stage
Visit Father Christmas at the Princess Theatre
Hunstanton Band playing 3 pm – 5 pm

Music & Fun at Princess Theatre Terrace - with the panto characters
Lantern Parade from St Edmunds Church 4.45 pm
Christmas Light Switch on 5 pm



NEWS FROM BRANCASTER VILLAGE HALL (BVH)

Geoff Wingrove

Now that autumn is well and truly with us, it is pleasing to note that BVH goes from strength to strength, with ever increasing activities and a fully functioning shop and Post Office.

BRANCASTER VILLAGE STORES AND POST OFFICE

The shop and Post Office are now open from 9.00am to 5.00 pm every day (though not currently Sundays for the Post Office). The shop has been refitted and now offers a wide range of goods that would be expected in a modern convenience store. You are sure of a warm welcome!

COMMUNITY HOT SPOT LUNCHES

The popular lunches continue on a monthly basis on Fridays, serving from 12.00pm until 3.00pm: the next two will be held on 24th November and 8th December. Ring Babs Wade on 01485 522273 to book your place.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Halloween Exhibition and Disco Saturday 28th October 4.00pm to 11.00pm: An exhibition of Halloween ghouls and ghosties and a children's disco. Entry free.

Winter Fair Saturday 25th November 10.00am to 3.00pm: Come along and enjoy a variety of stalls, with lots of gift ideas and tasty snacks: all proceeds to charity. The Community Choir will be performing from 2.00pm: admission free.

REGULAR GROUPS

All our regular groups will operate as usual on a weekly basis. The Scottish Dancing Group will be meeting monthly on Tuesdays, the next two sessions being on 21st November and 19th December.

BAR 71

A full programme of Darts, Skittles and Quiz Evenings will continue.

For full details of all events and activities, please visit our website: www.brancastervillagehall.co.uk and for enquiries: brancastervillagehallcommunitybookings.co.uk

FROM THE BRANCASTER VILLAGE HALL ARCHIVE: WORLD WAR II RADAR STATIONS

Late in 1934 the Tizard Committee was set up by the Government and employed radio expert Robert Watson-Watt to investigate the feasibility of using radio waves as a weapon, the so-called "death ray". Watson-Watt's team quickly discounted the death ray concept, but suggested that radio waves could be used for long range detection of objects. In 1935 a demonstration was arranged to show the detection possibilities of radio waves. A receiver was placed near a BBC shortwave transmitter and an aircraft instructed to fly around the area. An oscilloscope connected to the receiver showed the pattern of flight from the aircraft's reflection: the concept of radar detection had been discovered (as it had in Germany).

Watson-Watt's team then built a prototype pulsed transmitter and used it to track an aircraft flying past. Later in 1935, with further development, prototype radar masts were detecting aircraft at ranges out to 100 miles and the system was put into full production in 1937. The first radar stations erected covered the approaches to London. Following further tests the radar stations were developed into the world's first integrated ground-controlled interception network, capable of detecting attacking aircraft at long distances and controlling the interception of defenders. After these successful trials the Government approved dozens of Chain Home High radar masts (CH) to cover the south and east coasts. These were followed by the establishment of Chain Low (CL) stations which could detect aircraft at low levels. The CH stations could detect attacking aircraft forming up over France's west coast. The CH and CL played a crucial role in the Battle of Britain during 1940. The stations enabled the British defenders to intercept attackers at the correct height and distances as

they crossed the south or east coasts of the country.

One of the original Chain Low stations was constructed on Barrow Common above the Brancaster and Brancaster Staithe villages. This station was established in 1940 and built by J.F. Williamson Builders of Burnham Market. Initially this station had a bedstead aerial mounted on the roof of a blockhouse and capable of detecting aircraft up to 35 miles distant, with a field of vision from north-east to north-west. It was also linked to other radar stations along the North Norfolk coast.

The Barrow Common radar station was originally manned by the Army, and gave a panoramic view of the Wash and North Sea. The bedstead aerial proved very cumbersome, as it had to be turned by hand and was difficult to use in high winds, which was exhausting to operators. In 1942 the station was taken over by the RAF, and the bedstead aerial replaced by a lattice tower to the rear of the station blockhouse and probably 200 feet high. The station covered both air and surface threats, although the main danger was thought to be low flying aircraft. It was manned not only by RAF personnel but also by a number of naval ratings who were responsible for plotting ship movements and by army observers to keep an eye on the security of the coast. Altogether there were about 80 personnel based at the station, operating four watches of six hours. They were billeted at the nearby Valley Farm, just to the east of the station which still exists. It must have been a very chilly and isolated posting in the winter months.



Although the threat of invasion receded from the end of 1940 onwards, the radar station on Barrow Common continued to perform a critical role in guarding the sea approaches and tracking enemy aircraft. Increasingly, as the war went on, the Germans used single aircraft in hit-and-run raids on England which caused civilian casualties and damage over a wide area. Barrow Common was linked with other radar stations around the coast that tracked such raiders and, where possible, activated air defences. It is a testament to the service men and women who crewed the radar stations that they endured the long hours and considerable discomfort for most of the years that the war lasted.

The station buildings still exist today and consist of a large blockhouse which housed the radar equipment, screens and a rest area and a smaller generator building close by. The four concrete blocks that supported the lattice tower are also visible with a bit of exploration. The station closed in 1944 when the Allies landed in Normandy on the D-Day operation. One picture shows the main blockhouse where the screens were based, to the left of which is the dynamo house and to the rear the lattice tower. The other picture shows the panoramic view from the station over the Wash and the North Sea. There is a wealth of material online about the development of radar during the 1930s, and also about the Barrow Common radar station.

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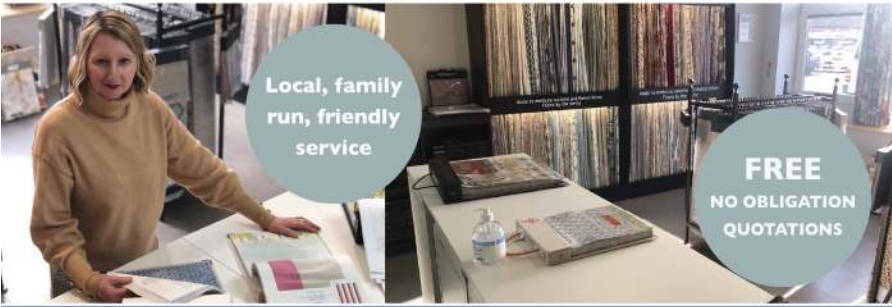
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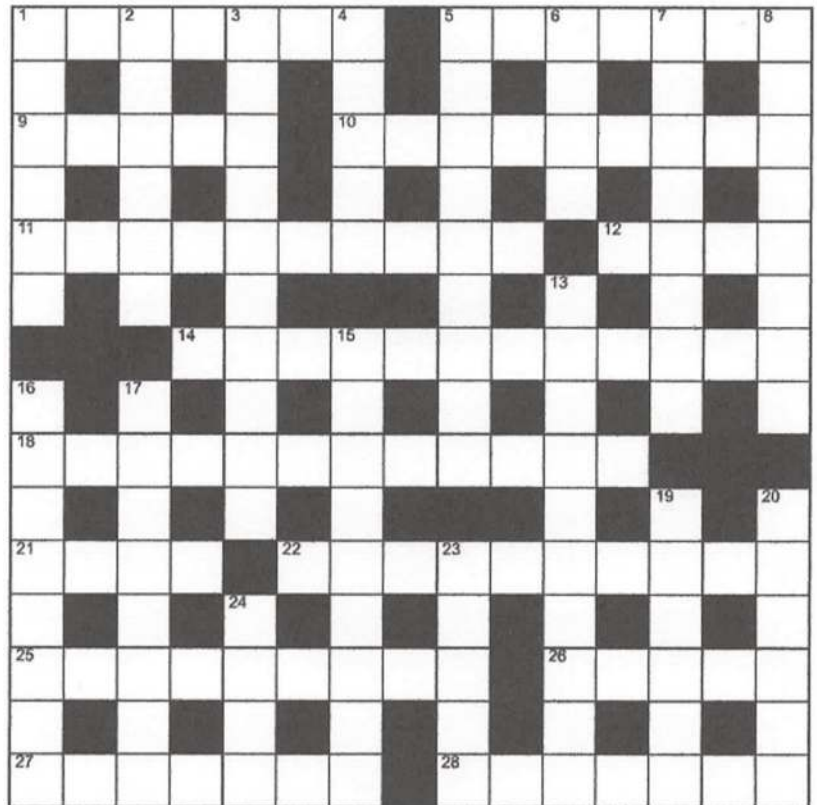
David Elsey's cryptic crossword

Across

1. Rose to a drink and biscuit (7)
5. One shows appreciation for 1500m runner coming from Cuba (7)
9. We mostly charge around with old gun (5)
10. Go on wheels: a cycle or small car (9)
11. Have appetite to wipe the floor with cleaner (10)
12. Motorists backing onto verges ultimately cause damage (4)
14. Enthusiasts condemn average beers (5,7)
18. Intimate massage Hamlet has a problem with? (6,3,3)
21. Cap provided by County (4)
22. Instructions for manual jobs (10)
25. Gym equipment that takes some beating (9)
26. I am mature in appearance (5)
27. Staff attending a little baby wriggling in water (7)
28. Arms folded, learns from ace (7)

Down

1. Suits – if about to wear put your shirt on, son (6)
2. Outcome that could kill game (6)
3. Obdurate male with a banner (4-6)
4. Operatic heroine is shorter than might be expected (5)
5. Lawman responsible for prisoner's appearance before bench ... (9)
6. ... occasionally had unreal vibes (4)
7. Strikes trigger anxiety within large corporations (8)
8. Humanitarian group with amazing record take over ship (3,5)
13. Injured by random lashes (10)
15. Having taken tour a German caught train (9)
16. Kitty holds up worn-out slow cooker (8)
17. Subdued and ruled over first settlers (8)
19. Where shot was taken, reportedly without success (2,4)
20. Further article on opening of silver mine (2,4)
23. A bunch of flowers and a letter from abroad (5)
24. Get lost in Soho, hotel being further up (4)



Crossword solution on page 26

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British made fashion with Hollywood glamour

Inspired by the Ritz Hotel, Irving Berlin's famous 1920s song 'Puttin' on the Ritz' celebrates dressing fashionably with a little of the glitz and glamour of Hollywood.

Every woman deserves to feel glamorous and the Autumn/Winter collection from Glitz has just arrived in store ahead of the upcoming party season. The brand has been established for 20 years and offers great fitting well priced styles in quality Special Occasion Wear and Smart Casual wear.

All their clothes are manufactured in the UK in a wide range of styles and sizes with an accent on beautiful prints and textures which take inspiration of up-to-date fashion trends and this season's collection features new prints and designs in fabulous styles designed to flatter all body shapes.

Many of the outfits are incredibly versatile. The three-piece suit of black evening trousers, sleeveless top and jacket shown in the advert (right) is a great example. The jacket has a chiffon style overlay with a little bit of sparkle and can be worn over a black dress, while the trousers can be teamed with a variety of different tops. And whilst the look may be Hollywood, the care label says wash at 40 degrees. What's not to love?

So as the song says, 'Why don't you go where fashion sits?' Head down to Allez Chic for special occasion wear with that little bit of glitz!

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Wendy Warner's plant of the month - Nandina

If you're wanting a small shrub for year-round interest Nandinas are a great choice. Although no relation to bamboo, they are commonly known as heavenly bamboo or sacred bamboo due to their leaf growth and upright, bamboo-like form.

Generally their delicate evergreen foliage has red or purple tints in spring turning pale green in summer. Sprays of tiny white flowers then appear followed by green berries which turn bright red in autumn as the leaves turn red and bronze. The leaves stay on the plant throughout the winter giving continued interest.

Dependent on the variety, mature plants will reach between 60cm and 2metres. They are low maintenance, just requiring light trimming of stray shoots and tidying of any dead leaves in spring. Position your Nandina in a well-drained, sunny spot in the garden sheltered from cold winds which can scorch fresh new leaf growth in spring. They prefer a slightly acidic soil so add a slow-release ericaceous feed when planting in the ground and use ericaceous compost if growing in a pot or container. Once established Nandinas are relatively drought tolerant.

Straight Nandina domestica is the largest variety and will grow to two metres in height. Nandina domestica 'Firepower' is a more dwarf form, reaching a maximum of one metre and has the softest habit of the smaller Nandinas, its leaves hanging down rather than



horizontally or vertically. In autumn as temperatures drop the yellow, orange and red leaves will intensify to rich claret. Nandina 'Gulf Stream' has purplish leaves on new growth in spring and bronze and red autumn foliage. Nandina 'Obsessed' has fiery red young foliage turning green through the summer then red again in autumn and winter and is one of the most compact reaching 60cm to 70cm in height.

A few more recent introductions are Nandina 'Twilight' which will reach a maximum height of 120cm and has copper and bright green spring growth variegated white and pink fading in summer and intensifying again as temperatures drop. Nandina 'Lemon and Lime' has emerging yellowy green foliage turning richer lime green and is definitely best grown in full sun to keep the colours bright. Nandina 'Blush Pink', as the name suggests, is bright pink in

spring turning fresh light green in summer through pinky-red in autumn to red crimson red in winter.

A group of different coloured Nandinas can look good planted together in a border or combine with other low growing plants such as mound forming grasses or underplant with spring flowering bulbs. Don't plant anything too close to your Nandinas otherwise you won't be able to appreciate their attractive form and also any plants shading them will inhibit the light which will intensify their rich autumn colours.



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Down: 1. Bettle, 2. Upshot, 3. Bull-headed, 4. Norma, 5. Constable, 6. Aura, 7. Paunches, 8. Red Cross, 13. Casualties, 15. Entourage, 16. Stockpot, 17. Resigned, 19. In vain, 20. As well, 23. Delta, 24. Shoo

Gold for Hunstanton in Anglia In Bloom 2023

Adrian Winnington

The hard work put in by borough council staff and Hunstanton In Bloom volunteers was once again rewarded with a Gold Award at the Anglia In Bloom Awards Day held at Huntingdon. Hunstanton also won the Best Coastal Award Trophy.



The Anglia In Bloom judges visited Hunstanton in July when they were given a tour around the town after a welcome at the Sailing Club. In their report the judges remarked on these areas of achievement: the Pier Beds and Esplanade Gardens; Boston Square Sensory Gardens; Northfield Allotments; Glebe School garden activities; the civic members and volunteers who look after the Wolf, St Edmunds Chapel and

Lighthouse beds; the work at Searles Leisure in conservation and planting; the way the Community Orchard has developed.

At the Awards Day Derek Cosbey, on behalf



of the Northfield Allotments, received the Anglia In Bloom Trophy for the Grow Your Own Special Award, very well-deserved for all the hard work put in at the allotments. Other Special Awards Certificates were awarded to Esplanade Gardens (Best Local Authority



Display), Boston Square sensory Garden (Best Garden for Special Needs), Redgate Roundabout (Sustainable Planting), and Verge Planting (Best Conservation/Biodiversity Project).

The judges were pleased to see the



involvement of a number of groups and businesses from the town, including, Hunstanton Rotary with their Coronation Bed on The Green, Hunstanton Men's Shed using their skills to make the large crown and the sock caterpillar, and Moss Bakery with their floral displays. Hunstanton In Bloom has a committee which organises the In Bloom entry each year. As we start planning for next year's In Bloom (the 60th Anniversary of Britain In Bloom) we would love to welcome new members to bring fresh ideas and expertise. If you think you would like to be involved, either as an individual or a representative of another group, please get in touch for further information.

adrianwinnington@btinternet.com
07775 643877

Hunstanton Community Orchard

Thank you to all those who responded to my request for help at the Community Orchard. Together we have tidied it up for the winter and I look forward to working with you all again. An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Community Orchard is being held on Monday 6th November at 2.00pm in the Town Hall Council Chamber. Everyone interested in developing the well-being of the Orchard will be made very welcome.

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Winter Gift Fair

The BagLadies of Thornham are busy working hard towards our Annual Winter Gift Fair on Saturday 2nd December 2023 from 10.am to 4.pm

We have a good selection of stalls offering unique gifts as well as our delicious jams, marmalades and refreshments.

You can pre order our homemade Christmas cakes or puddings by contacting:

carolynbarrett@hotmail.co.uk or Telephone 01485 525655
suewarham@googlemail.com or Telephone 01485 512546

Mudpies & Butterflies

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"Love and compassion are necessities not luxuries. Without them, humanity cannot survive" Dalai Lama

November is a time for reflection in the garden and in life too. We have shorter days and longer evenings spent indoors. Time to reflect on what your garden has done for you this year, all the successes, all the not so amazing results. But you gave it a go and learned from each experience. Much like life. If you didn't make time and regret it, take some time out this month. There's lots that can be achieved.

Take time with your wellies on, when the weather allows, to scan the garden and move things around that didn't work. Lift and divide large clumps of successful plants too. Doing so now, means very little after care, nature will provide sunlight and the rain to ensure your newly planted creations thrive in the spring.

Leaf Clearance: Continue to collect fallen leaves and add them to your compost pile. Leaves can also be used to create a leaf mold or used as mulch. If you have little space, simply pop in a black bag and hide behind the shed, they will still degrade.

Lawn Care: If the weather is mild, you may need to mow the lawn occasionally. However, raise the mower height to leave the grass slightly longer for better winter protection. Avoid mowing if the ground is waterlogged or frozen.

Bulb Planting: You can still plant spring-flowering bulbs like daffodils, tulips, and crocuses early in the month if the ground isn't frozen. Ensure they are planted at the recommended depth. Effort now, will pay huge dividends come spring.

Tree and Shrub Planting: November is a good time for planting trees and shrubs. Make sure to water them well and add a layer of mulch to protect their roots from freezing.

Pruning: Prune deciduous trees and shrubs while they are dormant. Remove any dead or damaged branches. Avoid heavy pruning, as it may stimulate new growth that could be damaged by frost.

Fruit Trees: Finish any pruning of fruit trees. Consider applying grease bands to prevent wingless female winter moths from laying eggs in your fruit trees.

Wildlife Support: Ensure that bird feeders and bird baths are kept clean and well-stocked to support local wildlife through the winter months.

Protect Tender Plants: If you have potted plants or tender perennials, move them to a sheltered location, such as a greenhouse or conservatory. Alternatively, wrap them in horticultural fleece to protect them from frost.

Garden Clean-Up: Remove any remaining spent annuals and cut back perennials. This will help prevent the spread of disease. Seed heads can of course be left where the plant is still upright, the bugs and birds will be happy to find them.

Garden Equipment Maintenance: Clean and store garden tools and equipment. Drain and store hoses to prevent freezing and damage.

Garden Planning: Spend time indoors planning and designing changes for next year's garden. Order seeds, plants, or bulbs for the spring if you haven't already.

Remember that Norfolk's climate can be milder compared to some other parts of the UK, but it's still essential to prepare your garden for the colder temperatures and the potential for frost and snow.

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Protecting the shingle ridge

A natural sand and shingle ridge runs parallel to the foreshore between South Hunstanton and Snettisham. This natural ridge is the primary means of reducing tidal flood risk to people, property and habitat located directly behind it.

Philippa Hulme, Area Flood and Coastal Risk Manager at The Environment Agency (EA), explained: "Since 1992 the shingle ridge has been growing wider and higher meaning that in some places, the top of the ridge is now around 8-10 metres further back and approximately 1 meter higher than it was 30 years ago."

Because of this, several properties that are already close to the ridge, have excavated into the side and top of the ridge. Philippa Hulme from EA added: "Although the ridge appears solid and immovable, it can be fragile and small alterations can have a large impact. Removal of material from the ridge increases the chance of it being overtopped and breached, increasing the flood risk to properties where excavation has occurred, alongside their neighbours."



EA officers are often in the area talking to local people living directly behind the ridge to help them understand the value of this natural sea defence.

The current management approach in this area involves annual beach recycling (moving material from the Snettisham Scalp northwards to 'top-up' the ridge) and intermittent beach recharge (bringing new material onto the beach). The Environment Agency has reluctantly concluded that the beach recharge will not be able to go ahead due to multiple constraints. However, their regular monitoring data shows that beach levels are stable and therefore a beach recharge is not currently needed.

The combination of the ridge growing and the small beach recharge proving undeliverable, has resulted in the Environment Agency reviewing how this frontage can be managed in the future and, in line with the Shoreline Management Plan and Wash East Coastal Management Strategy (which provide the strategic intent for managing this area of coastline). The first step in this is a technical review by renowned coastal engineers to assess whether the trigger levels identified in the Wash East Coastal Management Strategy (WECMS)



have been reached and whether a full review of the strategy is required.

Cllr Sandra Squire, Cabinet member for Environment and Coastal at the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk who have been supporting the EA, said: "The report will help the EA and its partners to identify what happens next. Beach levels in the area are currently stable and the annual beach recycling, carried out in early spring each year, will continue with funding in place for this."

In addition to this, the Environment Agency:

- have shared a leaflet, Living with the Shingle Ridge, to all properties and caravans directly behind the shingle ridge in Heacham and Snettisham to ensure all property owners are aware of the importance of the ridge and that permission must be sought from the Environment Agency to commence any work within 16m of the ridge. The Borough Council will also be sending an additional winter sea defences newsletter before the end of the year (2023) to these properties.
- have been increasing engagement and their enforcement presence with properties and caravans directly behind the ridge in Heacham and Snettisham.
- will be providing input on planning applications for properties directly behind the ridge.
- will be attending local stakeholder groups.

Residents who want to know more about the Shingle Ridge can contact the Environment Agency by email: ps0.eastanglia@environment-agency.gov.uk

Winter Warmers 2023-24

At Thornham Village Hall

Tickets are selling fast for Thornham Winter Warmers. The next two events, in November and December are:

17th November 2023 Julian Barnwell: 'Our Journey to Finding The Gloucester 1682 and Beyond.'

In 2007, Norfolk divers Julian and Lincoln Bramwell and their friend James Little found the wreck The Gloucester, a royal ship carrying James Stuart, Duke of York and heir to the throne, which ran

aground off the Norfolk coast in 1682. Julian will tell the story of the find, not made public until 2022, and will also detail future plans for what many call "Norfolk's Mary Rose."

8th December 2023 Professor Sir Paul Curran: 'University Matters'

Sir Paul will discuss the mismatch between the image and reality of UK higher education. A part-time Thornham resident, Sir Paul was President of City, University of London (2010-21), having served previously as VC of Bournemouth and Deputy VC of Southampton universities. A former academic at three other universities, a NASA research scientist and advisor to ESA, his research on Earth observation from space has focused on climate change.

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Conflict in the Middle East

Jo Rust

It's heart-breaking to have to write about the tragic events that have led to the loss of lives of thousands of people. The war between Israel and Palestine has been worsening for years. It's understandable that due to the centuries of persecution that Jews have gone through, the Jewish people should believe that the only way they can live safely is to have their own nation. Don't we all want a country we can call our own. Dividing British Palestine into two separate states, one for the Arabs – Palestine, and one for the Jews – Israel, seemed like a good idea at the time but the following decades long war between the Arabs and Israeli people has caused devastation for millions.

It's within my living history that the six-day war took place. The 1978 Camp David Accords seemed like the road to peace, marking the beginning of the end of the wider Arab Israeli conflict. But the PLO terrorist group wanted Gaza and The West Bank back from Israeli control and were prepared to take acts of terrorism to obtain it in order to have an independent state of Palestine. Hamas was another terrorist group who were determined

to take back the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands and were prepared to use war to do so. The Intifadas that followed were brutal and bloody for both sides.

I had hoped that the 1993 Oslo Accords which led to Palestinian civil and security self-rule was a step in the right direction. But extremists on both sides were determined to use violence to derail the peace that so many wanted. Wanting the total destruction of the other side leaves no room for negotiations and unless we can talk to the other side and accept their existence and their rights to exist and have their own state – Both Palestine and Israel, where are we heading? To a situation where peace isn't something the leaders believe is going to be achieved so they stop trying to solve the conflict it and instead just manage it by building checkpoints, exerting stifling control and controlling movements.

There has to be a political will for peace. Those who are suffering are human beings who deserve to live a life free from the violent conflict that is now a part of their daily lives. The world needs to stop and take a good look.



Both back, at how this situation came about, and forward to a solution that can work for both sides. Expecting the death and destruction of either side is not the way to achieve peace. Is a two-state solution possible? I don't know, but I desperately hope so.

Wild in Westminster and West Norfolk

The invitation for the 10th anniversary celebration of the "new" village hall at Thornham welcomed villagers, second homers, caravanners, and friends of Thornham. I thought that inclusive approach was spot on given the importance of tourism and the visitor economy locally.



Jeremy Cave, James Wild and John Warham at the celebration

Following the recent referendum in Burnham Market on a new neighbourhood plan there has been increased focus on second homes and furnished holiday lets. Over the last few years, constituents have raised concerns with me about the impact of such properties on local people's ability to rent or buy. Several measures have been introduced by the government to help strike a balance to have sustainable local communities and support tourism already and further changes are planned.

The newly approved Plan includes a principal residency test for new homes to be considered as part of planning applications. Such restrictions were used recently to help secure permission for a development in Hunstanton. Instead of a blanket approach across the county, it's important to recognise in different places different issues

will arise and local people's views should be listened to as part of fostering sustainable villages and coastal towns.

Everyone will remember the first time they picked up keys to their home they were renting or buying. Backing people's aspiration to get on the housing ladder is one of the Conservative Party's core principles – just think of the impact of the Right to Buy in spreading home ownership. In North West Norfolk, 64 per cent of households own their own home, around 20 per cent rent privately, and 15 per cent rent from a social landlord. But I know from constituents that in the challenging housing market there is a need for more homes to rent and buy for local people.

One scheme to help is First Homes – it offers discounts of 30 per cent on homes to local people and key workers. Planning authorities can include this as part of affordable housing – a proposed scheme in a local village includes First Homes for example - and after the discount the first sale must be at a price no higher than £250,000. Housing associations also play an important role and following the fire in Brancaster Staithe, Freebridge has plans for 12 new affordable dwellings on that site.

Of course, a healthy rented sector is a vital part of our housing mix and changes will give tenants a better deal while supporting landlords. Renting is often a stepping stone to buying and I would like to see a new Help to Buy ISA which topped up people's savings by 25 per cent up to £3,000 to help people build up a deposit.

Home building in parts of Norfolk, and across the country, has stalled due to issues over legacy EU rules. The government brought forward changes to deal with this issue but the Labour voted the plans down in the House of Lords despite claiming to support house-building.

Homes where people want to live, at prices they can afford, with the services to support them. That should be the focus of planners and developers with schemes judged against those objectives here and across the country.

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Campaigns Update

County Councillor Alexandra Kemp, Clenchwarton and King's Lynn South

Children's teeth in N.W.Norfolk

The stark reality in this cost of living crisis with soaring rents, fuel and household bills, is that some families cannot afford to buy toothpaste. Some children do not even have their own toothbrush, or have to share with other family members. When it is choice between a tin of beans to feed the family or a tube of toothpaste, the toothpaste is left behind.

The recent local NHS Report found 5 year olds in West Norfolk have the worst tooth decay in the East of England. So much more needs to be done in our area. Young children are being admitted to the QEH for tooth extractions, because we are not getting basic prevention right.

The Integrated Care Strategy's (ICS) Short Term Dental Strategy for Norfolk says the ICS should be consulting with Stakeholders, including councillors and residents. I have asked the ICS to set up an engagement group with local councillors about improving access to local dentistry.

I have asked Purfleet Pantry, and they have agreed to do a survey, asking parents who come into the food hub, if their children are registered with an NHS Dentist.

If parents can't afford the basics, the problem will get worse. So the County Council's Public Health Department, which is responsible for prevention needs to pull out all the stops and bring back the school dental service

I have spoken with 4 local primary schools who have reported that the County Dental Nurse visits just once a year and then only sees some children in the Reception class and or year six pupils. The question of other years or children appears to be missed out altogether. So what about all the other children, especially those that may come from deprived areas where they have little or no hope of getting to see an NHS dentist?

Why is there no education in prevention of tooth decay in schools? Public Health is no longer sending a health professional into schools to provide advice on brushing teeth, how to do so, why brushing is important, and the role of a healthy diet. The schools tell me they have asked for this service, but the County Council says it doesn't provide it. The service needs to be brought back now. I have asked Public Health again today.

The Borough Council is building speculative business units, as we speak on the Nar Ouse Way Business Park in South Lynn. Some of these units could be rented out to NHS Dentists by the Council.

The Nar Ouse Business Park would also be the ideal location for a Dental School, building on the success of the new School of Nursing at the College of West Anglia.

Lastly to start the process off, I gave £300 from my Councillor Allowance to Purfleet Pantry to purchase and distribute, free children's toothpaste and toothbrushes, to parents in the affordable food hub.

Wisbech Incinerator

The Wisbech (Medworth Ref: EN010110) Incinerator Planning Inquiry has now ended. The final decision is due to be made shortly by Claire Coutinho, the new Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero.

Please write to her at Claire.coutinho.mp@parliament.uk to say the facility isn't needed, would reduce recycling and carbon reduction and harm the environment and human health, by releasing microplastics and heavy metals into the air that have been shown to affect children's lungs and farm produce.

The Campaign for Rural England pointed out that the rapidly growing industry of plastic waste recycling will soon make the concept of incinerators redundant. I have brought Motions to both County and Borough Council against Medworth and spoke at the Planning Enquiry.

Night Shelter

King's Lynn Night Shelter on St John's Terrace is in its sixth year of supporting people who are hardest to reach, people in the most complex challenging circumstances, who can and do fall through the gaps of other support, because their needs do not fit into accepted categories or criteria.

Offering intensive, non-judgmental support, the Night Shelter is a place of care, guidance and safety and works with other agencies to help its guests move on to accommodation that is right for them.

It should have re-opened this October for the Winter. But unfortunately the Government did not grant West Norfolk's bid for transformational funding for the Night Shelter, which the Borough Council Housing Department supported early this July when I was Cabinet Member. The Night Shelter is transformationally-minded, as it has applied for Planning Permission to increase its bed capacity by 50%, can offer longer-term support, and is ambitious to stay open all year round.

The ball is now with the Borough Council in King's Court, to assist the Night Shelter, so it can re-open this November. The Borough Council Rough Sleeper Initiative funding could help.

Homelessness has increased 26% nationally, and here in Lynn we have already seen a person camped out in an empty shop doorway. What will happen when winter arrives?

Cllr Kemp's contact details are:

Email: alexandra.kemp.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

Landline: 01553 630329

Mobile: 07920 286636

Town and Around and the Tooth Fairy

Since Alexandra brought this dental challenge to our attention, we have been thinking about how to help with the supply and distribution of toothbrushes and toothpaste to children.

So far we have made a start by contacting various organisations to see what, if any help, they might give.

Our local contact with Rotary is John Crofts, a past president of Hunstanton & District Rotary club who are now looking to work with other Rotary clubs in West Norfolk to establish toothbrush/paste banks for distribution to schools together with information on dental hygiene and they would welcome non-Rotarians who are interested in helping with advice and support. Please contact johnpcrofts@gmail.com.

Hopefully John can use his connections within the education sector to establish if and when local schools could help.

We have gained the financial support from Hunstanton Charity Shop and are in discussions with NHS staff of the area. Baby Basics will be approached shortly together with the Food Banks.



If you feel that this programme is something you may be able to help with please contact Alexandra, John or Richard at Town and Around, richard@townandaround.net 01485 540620.

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Hunstanton Ski Café wins award

Hardworking staff at the popular Hunstanton Ski Café were thrilled to be recognised at the recent West Norfolk Food and Drink Awards organised by the Borough Council with King's Lynn newspapers. They won the Food and Drink Hero Award that was sponsored by the Tippy Teapot.



Peter Byrne, owner of the Ski Café said: "The staff are great, they work extremely hard throughout the year and we are so grateful to everyone that kindly took the time to vote for us."

The judges chose them as winners because all the food served at the café is home made and the portions are generous.



The venue is well-known for its live music with entertainment from David Young, Cecil Farayi, Jamm'in Joe, Jef Manhattan and DJ Zola over recent months.

This year Jam'in Joe will be providing the music for the special Christmas Menu events that are taking place on Wednesday 6th and Wednesday 13th December 4.30 till late, and Friday 22nd December 5.30 till late. The menu includes all the seasonal favourites with two-course and 3-course options at £35 and £40 respectively. Booking is essential - just call in and ask the staff for a booking form.

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Crystal Cave and Serenity news

Lauren Buckby

Crystal Cave and Serenity welcomes a new therapist to the team. Lina will be offering Kobido facial massage (Japanese face lift massage).

This Japanese facial massage produces a natural lifting effect, improves skin hydration and prevents and reduces wrinkles. Kobido facial massage brings great relaxation of the nervous system, thus effective in reducing the effects of stress on the body, headaches, insomnia and fatigue. The upper back and neck massage also alleviates muscle tension, opens the airways and soothes the shoulders.

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Lina will be at Serenity every Friday. Kobido facial massage appointments are £45 for 60 minutes. To book an appointment pop into Crystal Cave or call us on 01485 535321. Full list of therapies are available on our website.

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An update from Cllr Wendy Croucher on Hunstanton's Remembrance Day Event

Hunstanton Town Councils preparations for the Remembrance Day Service, to be held 12th November 2023, are well in hand.

Cllr. Wendy Croucher is currently interviewing relatives, friends of service people and their families for stories about the many conflicts that our country has been involved with. She has been offered memorabilia that will be displayed on the day, including some things from the Boer War.

Hunstanton Town Council wants to reflect that the Memorial Day Service is not just about the two great wars, it is about remembering all those who die in conflicts serving their country recently and in the past.

If you have any information about how war effected your family that you would like to share, Wendy would be grateful if you would get in contact with her via the office. She is interested in more recent conflicts especially, such as the Falklands War and to hear what happened when the service people came home?

Also, information about the people who supported the efforts. The munitions workers, the boot makers, those who kept the home fires burning.

Interviews are being recorded and will be shown at the exhibition, due to be held in the Town Hall after the service and will also be found on the Hunstanton Town Council's new YouTube channel Hunstanton Town Council - YouTube

Please contact the Clerk Jan Roomes if you can help on 01485 532402.



Copy date for the December edition is
12th November.
Please don't be late!

Hunstanton Eyecare blog

This month I'm reminiscing about my time at college, which overall I thoroughly enjoyed. Our days were a mixture of theory lectures and practical exercises to illustrate the point. On Monday afternoons, the last two hours of the day were generally in quite a stuffy lecture theatre, no air-conditioning in those days, and the subject was Visual Optics, a bit of a heavy subject for last thing. We learnt about accommodation, which isn't how to find the best place to stay in town, but the action of the eye when focusing on near objects. Our lecturer, Henri Obstfeld, was insistent on the correct spelling, and just so he made sure we got it, every time he said accommodation, he followed with "double C double M". However, being Dutch he had a lovely accent and it really came out as dooouble C dooouble M! To this day that phrase still rings when I hear that word.



The optics lab was quite fun. Tasks were designed to illustrate the workings of the eye, so this meant building a model eye. The eye is filled with fluid, so that was represented by a clear plastic tank of water, like a small fish tank holding about a gallon of water. This was mounted on a pair of metal rails along with lenses representing spectacles. All these components should slide easily along the rails so that we could see how to bring an image into focus. Of course, there's always one that doesn't work as it should and that was ours. Some WD40 would probably have been useful, but I thought just brute force would do it. Placing one hand on the back of the tank I pushed, heard a rather worrying sound as the side cracked and the water started trickling out. As everyone gasped and I froze not knowing quite what to do, the lecturer scurried over to grab the tank off the rails and into the nearest sink. Fortunately, not too much water escaped, but I wasn't popular for wrecking our experiment.

Our lecturers were all experts in their field. Mr Mo Jalie, now Professor Mo Jalie was the head, and has a brain like a computer. His subject was Optics and spectacle lens design, and although he explained the subject very well, he did get me a bit lost now and again with his complex calculations. One day the board was full of mathematical equations and he was scribbling away as he talked, then all of a sudden said "and Miss Taylor will give us the answer"! Oh panic, nudge to friend next to me, quick Julia get the calculator out! We managed, but I thought that was a bit of a rotten trick, as I was concentrating and not doing anything I shouldn't have.

After two years full-time at college we had to complete a "pre-registration" year. I had found a Saturday job at a local independent optician, and luckily he offered me a post to complete my pre-reg year. He was a dispensing optician himself and his experience and guidance certainly set me on the right track. One of our lecturers had said "when you leave here you will be as green as the form" he meant the NHS sight test form as it was then. How right he was, dealing with real live patients soon made you realise that you had to drop much of the technical jargon and learn to put your point across in a way that a patient will understand, a skill in itself.

We often bump into friends and former colleagues at the various optical trade shows, Optics is a relatively small world and paths often cross. I feel very fortunate to have a fulfilling career and would highly recommend it to anyone.

Annette

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News from the Woottons

Richard Coates

Trees - Edward Benefer Way

The first of the three new Wootton housing estates - Persimmons' Lavender Fields - has been busy selling some of its 120 houses for several months now. The second off the starting blocks is for Allison Homes' 450 houses off Edward Benefer Way and has recently started construction of the new roundabout which must be built first. The obvious thing would be to build the roundabout on Edward Benefer Way itself but this would have meant many months of traffic disruption and a high cost to the local economy. Instead, the plans called for it to be built just off the line of the existing road and the builders will bring it into use in two stages. This way there will be minimal traffic hold-ups but it has meant that a line of existing trees has had to be taken out to accommodate both the roundabout and the slip roads from it back to the existing main road. It's extra cost for the builder but much better for the local economy and saves local motorists many months of frustration. There will be many more new trees planted than have been taken out and a large nature conservation area with ponds and footpaths, even a dedicated dog walking trail.

Knights Hill Housing Estate

In the meantime, the developer for the estate near Knights Hill is eager to get started. As with the Allison Homes estate, he must first get a new roundabout built and still hasn't got planning permission finalised for the access road for his construction lorries, never mind the "reserved matters" for the up to 600 dwellings that are to be built. This is mainly because he chose to ignore the concerns of the parish councils (and your columnist) but when the Borough Councillors on the planning committee started to hear their objections, they all added their own and so the application was delayed to allow everyone to sit round the table and agree the way forward. A delay of the builder's own making. That meeting has now taken place and I'm pleased to say that a large measure of agreement has been achieved which just shows that if only the developer had been sensible in the first place and had sought out a meeting with the representatives of the local people, he could have saved himself several months' of delay (and so quite a bit of money). Other developers applying for planning permission might want to be open to the local parish council at an early stage instead of ignoring them because the parish council can exert some power in planning matters.

Many local people are aghast at the thought of over a thousand new houses being built in The Woottons - and rightly so - but recently we have news that on the other side of King's Lynn, West Winch is to have up to 4,000 new houses so perhaps The Woottons could have seen an even worse situation.

Highways Repair

Last month I told you about a footpath I'd managed to get re-opened. This month I can tell you about what must be my last success dealing

with the County Highways before we had a new County Councillor elected. Part of Avon Road in South Wootton had started to sink slightly. Not a lot but enough to stop the rain water going into a drain - it went into someone's front yard instead! As an active councillor, I was approached for help and although I'm a Borough Councillor and highways is a County matter, I'm not the kind of person to fob anyone off and instead I managed to get the County to agree to deal with it and September saw the County Council's wheels set in motion to repair that road. I've quite enjoyed my time as an unofficial stand-in county councillor so I hope the new official county councillor enjoys his duties as much as I've done.



Sniffing Gas

I seem to have a reputation locally for getting things done and that means that I get many and varied calls for advice and help. Once someone turned up at our house with abandoned gas bottles that teenagers had been sniffing. The police had earlier told me that sniffing gas wasn't illegal although it's hoped that will change in the autumn, but I've heard nothing so far.

Building without Planning Permission - North Wootton

I've certainly had quite a number of contacts about a builder who had cut down a lot of trees at a plot in North Wootton. On enquiry I found there was nothing wrong in doing that. If there's no tree preservation order you can do what you like with trees on your land. But the same builder was developing the land without having applied for planning permission. Well my official enquiries (and a visit from a planning enforcement officer) soon saw plans deposited followed shortly afterwards by objections by concerned local neighbours. The North Wootton Parish Council added theirs as well. As a ward Borough Councillor I get notified of all planning applications in my ward and I do look at all of them, using my local knowledge. I know the other local councillors don't go so far but I put in my local comments where I think they will help. Sometimes I'll be critical of a plan but sometimes I'll be positive. Or it might just be a helpful suggestion. In this particular case, I had to be critical. In fact, I had previously emailed the person who had drawn up the plans to check some details that were omitted but she had not responded so I had to use my scaled measurements to comment. Because of the local concerns, I decided to "call-in" the plans which means they go before the planning committee to be considered by the councillors rather than the planning staff. Inevitably this means the planning decision will take much longer but a better quality of drawing and answering my enquiries along with not trying to rush things and antagonising the local neighbours, might all have helped to speed things along.

Bonfire Night

Finally, this month's column and magazine will be published just before Bonfire Night so I'll finish with a plea for our pets to non-pet households in The Woottons. Not only do our dogs, cats, even rabbits not understand what these sudden bangs and whistles are all about but some of them are really terrified of them. I don't know why, but they are. So, if you can, please don't have anything in your own back garden as it will affect such a large number of pets and owners for such a large area around you. Instead, attend a large organised display. The Scouts & Guides have got a community event for everyone on the edge of North Wootton at their headquarters on Station Road on Saturday, 5th November. Best to book. 14thkingslynn/fireworks for details.

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Borough Council news

Cllr Terry Parish ward member for Heacham, Sedgeford and Fring and Leader of the Borough Council

Borough Councillor Report

Time passes, November 2023, around 7 years since the Cheney Hill developments raised their, largely, unwelcome heads. We shall have to see what people think of them now that they are emerging into the light. A meeting between the developers and the Parish Council is scheduled, at the time of writing, to take place on the 18th of October. I may have been there. All I can say, now, is that, thanks to the Heacham Neighbourhood Plan, the houses will be for primary residence, not second homes or holiday lets. Whether they are useful to people who live and work in Heacham or nearby remains to be seen.

Conversations continue, I hope, about homes being planned on the old school site in Sedgeford. They will have to be principal residences too and the desire is to have one's locals can afford. The County Council oversees that development, but I would like the Borough to have some influence.

My Borough work has been diverse, but trees seem to be a feature. I have arranged for the new arboricultural officer to make several stops in Heacham.

I visited Heacham Junior School, had a tour before school started, met with some staff, appreciated the start arrangements, and then spoke to all pupils at an assembly. They asked me very good, unrehearsed (an exemplar for the Borough Council), questions about me and my job and I emphasised that things happen to you, opportunities occur, that you would likely not think of. Consequently, the best way to be prepared is to learn all you can – and build up your skills. I was very impressed by the school as I was by the infant school at a visit last year.

I had a meeting with the Sandringham Estate about the traffic and other impacts of the Bank Holiday concerts. After discussion they asked me what I would like to happen at future events. I said, 'No four-day events; not on a Bank Holiday; more communications with local Parish Councils, and more discussion with the Borough. Whether these or some of them will come to pass we will have to see. The King's Lynn evening economy, apparently, 'saw the biggest drop in footfall since monitoring began, 15 years ago (excluding the pandemic) – some 70 to 80% fall between 8pm and midnight'. And, a respected Hunstanton trader said, 'This Bank Holiday was a disaster for Hunstanton – down on previous years due to the mismanagement of the traffic system'.

Borough Council News

A busy and diverse month for me. The importance of skill building; environmental matters, and a touch of finance were major themes.

Parish Councils

I met with several individual Parish

councils and also invited all Parish Council Chairpersons, or their representatives, to meet with me at the Town Hall. Around 50 attended for an agenda which included planning matters; vexatious actions by parishioners; Parish Council recruitment, and communication with the Borough. Both meetings concluded that they were worthwhile. Action points include providing better consultation over planning matters, some guidance on legal issues, and simpler ways of getting to the right people in the Borough. Recruitment of new Parish Councillors is of growing concern, and I urge anyone reading this to think about joining their council, if there is a vacancy, or volunteering to help out in the meantime. Look where it got me, or maybe not.

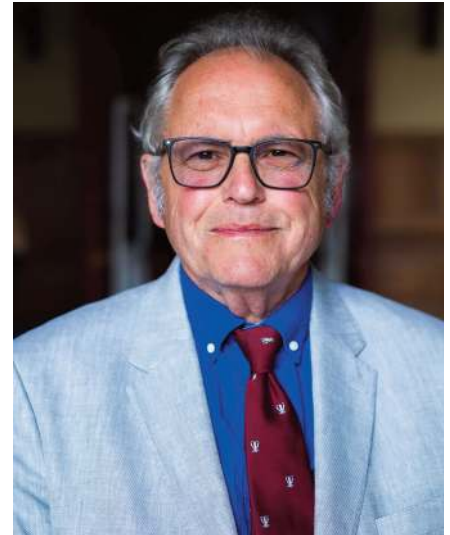
Education

Internal meetings included ones associated with BOOST, the programme which provides a 'catch up' for older school students and young adults. Funding from this originates with the Towns Fund but this element runs out next year. Other funds beckon and I will look for further funding opportunities into the future. BOOST dovetailed into a meeting with the College of West Anglia who exist to enable students to acquire skills and do it well. I congratulate their participation in World Skills UK.

I had a meeting with a Headteacher of a High School and followed this with an extensive tour of its facilities, meeting staff where possible and observing procedures. I was very impressed and am confident that knowledge and skills are being well imparted. I will follow this up by joining a meeting of all secondary HT's. I did attend such a meeting of primary HTs at the Town Hall. I heard an interesting presentation about raising the skill levels of teachers so that they are better prepared for career advancement. I also enjoyed the obvious rapport between headteachers and will ensure opportunities for these meetings, hosted by the Borough, continue. So, from dips into primary, secondary and college, I am confident that West Norfolk has the seeds by which improvements to all aspects of the community will be driven forward.

Finance

There is a bid into NCC to access some government underspend that has been offered (linked to the proposed devolution deal). We have submitted plans for a second phase of the nursing school based at the College. In addition, Health Education England are supportive of dentistry related training - dental hygiene, dental nurse training - and, maybe, these skill sets could come to Lynn. I am asking Council to support such opportunities as and when they become available and, to this end, an Independent Partnership motion



to Council was made in October (after time of writing of this article).

Environment

Environmental matters I have been involved in are: Environmental Agency reports into sea defences from Hunstanton to Wolverton, sea water pollution particularly, but not exclusively, at Heacham, and a briefing I asked for on Nutrient Neutrality.

I have been criticised for reporting the facts, provided by the EA, about sea defences. I did so to ensure clarity in what is their current position. It appears the pot was stirred and motions at County and, on the agenda (19th October), at this Council will request a different approach. By the time you read this I will have written to the appropriate people regarding financing for current protection against sea intrusion. Next year I will start the process of looking at the matter as it relates to planning and land availability to seek to provide some long-term security in case it is needed.

I had an interesting meeting of District Leaders held at Dereham. An item on the agenda, due to this Council's interest, was business rates and how they are distributed. How the pooled funds are allocated is decided by a vote of District Leaders. An option 1 was agreed two years ago which is estimated to return just £0.7m to West Norfolk from the £1.7m it garners. An option 3, which I asked for, would have returned us £1.114m for the year 2024/25. Option 3 would have also benefited all members of the pool except Norwich and NCC. Despite this, all districts, except us, voted to continue with option 1 as, 'It has worked well and/or it is the recommendation of our finance officer. Strange but true.

NCC, recognising that we lose out, may be more generous towards projects that come along. This may or may not be true, but projects are capital funds and likely lead to

more revenue being spent whereas business rates can be used for appropriate revenue funding (things that need doing rather than things someone would like to do).

The second significant agenda item at District Leaders was the proposed County Deal. The collective unanimity of DL's which was displayed about business rates dissolved. Suffice it to say that everyone seemed to 'agree' that the proposed County Deal did not have sufficient money; proposed governance arrangements, though improved, were not good/secure enough, and district leaders should have been involved from the start of the process. However, it remains the only deal on the table and, although others have delayed decisions (Suffolk for a year I believe), District Leaders agreed it should be seriously considered. I will be astonished if County Councillors do not recommend it at their council in December. All Borough Council members will have a chance to comment at our November Council but none, excluding those who are also County Cllrs, have a vote on the matter.

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November events - see also: www.townandaround.net

Wednesday 1st

Burnham Market Village Hall Community Cinema presents: Out Of Africa (1985). PG. Screening time 3pm. Bookings: Diana Walker on 01328 738604. Tickets are £5 on the door, cash only. Refreshments are available at all shows.

Thursday 2nd

Stanhoe and Barwick WI Binham Blue, a talk about Mrs Temple's famous cheeses. The Reading Room, Stanhoe. 2pm Visitors welcome. Our charge is £5, which includes refreshments. Please contact Valerie (01485 576261) for further details.

Friday 3rd

King's Lynn Festival: Carmen ENO on film. 1pm • St. George's Guildhall £6 (Kings Lynn Cinema Club members £5) Event supported by: King's Lynn Community Cinema Club. Carmen: must-see opera. Cert 12A Running time: 2h 45mins / 2015

Wash Barrier Proposals meeting at 6pm about a proposed scheme to construct a Tidal Barrier and Container Port across the Wash from North Norfolk to Lincolnshire at The Princess Theatre Hunstanton at 6pm. Doors open at 5.30pm

Fawkes in the Walks, King's Lynn. The area's biggest free firework display open from 6pm with bonfire lighting at 6.30pm and fireworks at 8pm. Most convenient car park is the St James' multi-storey.

King's Lynn Festival: Wounded Tigris: A River Journey Through the Cradle of Civilisation A Royal Geographical Society with IBG Lecture 7.30pm St. George's Guildhall £14 / £12 RGS members / 50% off for under 25's. Writer, broadcaster and explorer Leon McCarron shares stories from his incredible, beautiful and occasionally dangerous journey by boat along the full length of the river. He explains why it's crucial to save this extraordinary river, and what its survival, or destruction, could mean for us all.

Fincham Memorial Hall PE33 9EJ Live music with The Macranos. Doors 7.30pm. Licensed bar available. Entry £5

at the door.

United Services Club Hunstanton PE36 5HL Diamond Paul's Mixed Bag Disco. Come and dance the night away to anything you want 8pm

Saturday 4th



Smithdon and Brothercross Girlguiding Autumn Hall of Stalls 10am-1pm St Edmund's Church Hall, Hunstanton PE36 6BE Cakes, raffle, games, crafts, tombola, lucky dip bric-a-brac & books. Free admission

Hunstanton Cliff Top Fireworks Display PE36 5EN from 5pm. Musical firework and laser display organised by Hunstanton & District Round Table from 5pm. Book Tickets: <https://thelittleboxoffice.com/process/event/view/168138> More info: <https://www.facebook.com/Hunstanton615>

Anmer Social Club Guy Fawkes Bonfire and Fireworks Night. Club opens 6.00 p.m. Bonfire lit 6.30pm Fireworks at 7pm Hotdogs available £2.50 please order in advance call or text 07986139210 All children must be accompanied by an adult.

United Services Club Hunstanton PE36 5HL Mike Shelby R&R Elvis 8.30pm

Monday 6th

Anmer Social Club Bingo Night. Club opens at 7pm, Eyes Down at 7.30pm £6.50 for a book of 10 cards; £1.50 for a "Flyer Card" & £2 for a "Cash Accumulator" card. Fully licensed bar and Raffle – For info: anmer.club@outlook.com

Tuesday 7th

Classical Music Rocks, King's Lynn Town Hall PE30 5DQ 7.30pm Anthony Flaum (Tenor) & Siobhain Higgins (Piano) followed by drinks reception. £12 at the door. Free to under 21s

The Jolly Sailors Brancaster Staithe Jolly Charity Quiz 8pm. Teams of 6 £2pp for the Big C.

Wednesday 8th

The Phoenix Ladies meet at Burnham Market and Norton Village Hall Living in Mud Huts without modern facilities a talk by Patricia Aker Supporting Project Dukem feeding HIV/AIDS orphans in Ethiopia plus raffle. Contact Sue on 01328 730859 or email suisted@btinternet.com

Thursday 9th

The Arts Society King's Lynn talk at 2pm by Alik Braine 'Where Have All The Women Gone?' West Winch Village Hall. Ample free parking. info@theartsocietykingslynn.org.uk.

King's Lynn Community Cinema Club showing of Ruben Östlund's wickedly funny Palme d'Or winner "Triangle of Sadness" at St George's Guildhall starting at 7.30pm Cash on the door £5 communitycinemaclub@googlemail.com.

Friday 10th

Coffee/Brunch morning with stalls 10am-1pm at Snettisham Memorial Hall P31 7PB

King's Lynn Festival: Coffee Concert: Yuzhang Li (piano) 11am King's Lynn Town Hall £15 / Under 25s 50% off Beethoven Sonata in A major No.28 Op.101, Tchaikovsky Dumka Op.59, Rachmaninov Preludes Op.23, Nos 1-7. Prior to the concert enjoy coffee and cake, from 10.30am (included in the ticket price).

Anmer Social Club Film Night Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry 12A Club opens at 7pm, Film starts 7.30pm Admission £4 at the door. For further information email films@anmerclub.co.uk

Fincham Memorial Hall PE33 9EJ Quiz Night. 7.30pm. Entry £2 per person. 50/50 Raffle. Bring your own refreshments.

Come join the fun - all welcome. Up to 6 in a team, either bring your own team or help make up a team on the night.

United Services Club Hunstanton PE36 5HL Jammin Joe. Great tunes from 50s onwards 8pm

Saturday 11th

Snettisham Flea Market 9am-3pm at Snettisham Memorial Hall P31 7PB Entry 50p

Stargazing evening at the Golden Lion, Hunstanton starting at 7pm King's Lynn and District Astronomy Society presentation 'A Journey Beyond Our Solar System to the Edge of the Universe' followed by looking at the stars (weather permitting).

United Services Club Hunstanton PE36 5HL Leon & alex Mallett X Factor house finalists. All decades 8.30

Sat 11th - 24th Dec

Luminate Sandringham 4.30-8pm Tickets: luminate.live/sandringham-estate

Sunday 12th

Remembrance Sunday

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

Peacock's Tale will be performing the song about the Sedgeford airman Lancelot Percival Williamson featured in August's T&A - as part of the 9.30 am Remembrance service at Fring.

Monday 13th

The Arts Society talk at Sedgeford Village Hall 2pm. Sickert and the Camden Town Murder. Lecturer Steven Barrett. theartsocietyynwnorfolk.org.uk

Tuesday 14th

Murder between friends – by the book's Murder Mystery evening at Petals Tearoom at 5.30pm £23 contact Adrian 01485 522349 adrian@buyanotherbook.com

Brancaster Camera Club 7pm in Brancaster Staithe Village Hall. A presentation by Nick & Liz Akers who will talk about their Kenyan Safari & their holiday on the Isle of Harris & Lewis, & show photographs of their trips. We are looking forward to it and would welcome any visitors Contact: Wendy Calow on 01553 674725 or Sue till on 01485 210 013.

townandaround.net/whats-on/november

Wednesday 15th

Burnham Market Village Hall
Community Cinema presents:
The Good Liar (2023). (15)
Screening 7pm Bookings: Diana
Walker on 01328 738604. Tickets
are £5 on the door, cash only.
Refreshments are available at all
shows.

Friday 17th

Pink Footed Geese Sunrise walk
6.45-9.45am incl breakfast Book:
<https://www.rspb.org.uk/days-out/reserves/snettisham>

Winter Warmers at Thornham
Village Hall. Meal and talk.
Julian Barnwell: 'Our Journey to
Finding The Gloucester 1682 and
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Fincham Memorial Hall PE33
9EJ Bingo Night. Cash bingo
with raffle and other games. .
Doors open 7.30pm with eyes
down 8.00pm. Bring your own
nibbles & drink.

United Services Club Hunstanton
PE36 5HL It's Diamond Paul's
Disco 8pm

Friday 17th- Sunday 19th

Sandringham Christmas Craft,
Food and Gift Fair
<https://www.livingheritagecountryshows.com/sandringham-christmas/>

Saturday 18th

Christmas Market at Hunstanton
Town Hall 10am-4pm

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

United Services Club Hunstanton
PE36 5HL KCR Duo, fantastic
vocals, all eras 8.30pm

Sunday 19th

Pink Footed Geese Sunrise walk
6.45-9.45am incl breakfast Book:
<https://www.rspb.org.uk/days-out/reserves/snettisham>

Dersingham Christmas Fair
11am-5pm Dersingham Village
Centre PE31 6LN

SIKL Charity Literary Lunch
12.30-4pm Middleton Golf Club
PE32 1RY £36pp includes a 3-
course meal. Call: 01553 617494

Monday 20th

Hunstanton u3a at the
Community Centre, Avenue
Road, Hunstanton at 2.00 pm
The speaker will be Patricia Alker
telling us about the tribes of
Southern Ethiopia.
For further information please see
hunstantonu3a.org 07443 763679

Tuesday 21st

Snettisham Bingo Night,
Memorial Hall PE31 7LX Doors
6.30pm, eyes down 7.30pm

Wednesday 22nd

Pink Footed Geese Sunrise walk
6.45-9.45am incl breakfast Book:
<https://www.rspb.org.uk/days-out/reserves/snettisham>

Thursday 23rd

King's Lynn Festival: Film: My
Name is Alfred Hitchcock. 1pm
St. George's Guildhall £6 (Kings
Lynn Cinema Club members £5)
Event supported by: King's Lynn
Community Cinema Club.

New Hunstanton WI meeting at
Hunstanton Methodist Church
Hall, Austin Street at 2.15pm.
Christmas Craft with Peg
Hunter. Visitors welcome £5.00
to include tea and cake. Bring
and Buy - Christmas
Decorations & sundries.

King's Lynn Festival: The
Lodger: A Story of the London
Fog with live score by Minima.
7.30pm St. George's Guildhall
£15 / KLCCC members £12 /
Under 25's 50% off (online
booking fees apply) Made in
1926 for Michael Balcon's new
Gainsborough studios.

Friday 24th

Country Music – Kevin Barry at
Snettisham Memorial Hall PE31
7LX for the Critical Care Unit
QEH Charity. Doors 7pm £10pp
with rolls/cake, raffle. Info:
07591 732033

Fincham Memorial Hall PE33
9EJ Fincham Film for All
showing 'Oppenheimer' Entry
£3 at the door. Doors open 7pm
with licensed bar
available. Anmer Social Club
Quiz Night Club opens at 7pm,
Quiz at 7.30. Entry £2pp Bar -
Raffle

United Services Club
Hunstanton PE36 5HL A night
of mediumship with Jill
Simpson and Bex Tarrant 7pm

Saturday 25th

Winter Fair at Brancaster
Village Hall 10am-3pm. Stalls,
gifts, tasty snacks. Community
Choir performing from 2pm.
Admission free.

St Mary's Flitcham Christmas
Fayre at Flitcham Community
Centre PE31 6BP. 11-3pm.
Tombola, Raffle, Stalls,
Seasonal Food and Beverages

Mary Poppins (from by the
book) reads a Victorian story at
Hunstanton Library 2pm. FREE

Fincham Memorial Hall PE33
9EJ Race Night. Doors open
7pm. Races start 7.30pm.
Licensed bar available.

United Services Club
Hunstanton PE36 5HL Corrie
Lewis Mowtown 8.30pm

Sunday 26th

Hunstanton Dickensian
Christmas Market 12noon to
6pm with KL1 Live. Stilt
walkers, street entertainers and
much more (see p19)

King's Lynn Lights switch on
with free entertainment. Tuesday
Market Place

Monday 27th

Old Hunstanton Prize Bingo,
OH Village Hall PE36 6HS.
Doors open at 7pm.

Tuesday 28th

Dersingham Village Cinema
presents The Man who invented
Christmas (PG) at Dersingham
Village Centre. Doors 7pm
Entry £6, under 16s £3.

Wednesday 29th

Afternoon Tea at Beach View
Hunstanton PE36 6DL.
3-4.30pm

Saturday 2nd December

Winter Gift Fair at Thornham
Village Hall 10-4pm

Thursday 7th

King's Lynn Community
Cinema showing of The Old
Oak at St George's Guildhall,
King Street, King's Lynn at
7.30pm in aid of the King's
Lynn Night Shelter

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New Car? Get educated

Richard Bird

So, our trusty reliable but 'ugly as sin', Fiat on steroids 500L, has just gone over one hundred thousand miles. I convinced the boss to come with me to see what cars we might afford and consider.

We knew it had to be roomy, we distribute some magazines in it. We knew it had to be comfortable, we travel up to our son's farm in Orkney fairly regularly. We knew we needed economy, we enjoy 50/60 MPG in our current car with a road tax of, wait for it, £20 per year.

We went with some gusto to find out about a new vehicle. What an education; I have been buying new and used cars for about sixty years but felt like a foolish novice. Even the language has changed, I had no idea what the charming young salespeople were talking about and had to constantly ask for explanations for the acronyms that cropped up in practically every sentence.

Quickly establishing that all-electric cars would not do for us; the distance to Orkney and lack of fast charging facilities would be prohibitive for this type. We then briefly considered Hybrids but that became very confusing very quickly.

Our current workhorse car is Diesel, which was in favour by government when we bought it, hence the £20 yearly road tax. Now it's almost like we are spreading 'black death', with no new Diesels available that we could find. The miles per gallon available through the new petrol engines seem to have gone backwards, with quoted numbers being much less than on our petrol engine car, a small 1.1 litre 4 door saloon that regularly returns around 53mpg.

We were then confronted by the cost of road tax, what a minefield. The new rules introduced around 2017 employs the value of the car and their emissions to set the tax.

Blimey, I was amazed. The cost of road tax on the vehicles we saw varied from £185 to a staggering £570, that's over £10 per week, come on what's going on?

We spent a lovely afternoon in the sunshine visiting the various new and used car showrooms in our area, being well served by young keen salespeople who did their best to explain to an older person, the recent changes in model types with their appropriate benefits, however it was noticeable that when they could they were all more excited about our classic convertible 1999 car that we had chosen to drive in the glorious autumn sunshine.

Our vehicles are well serviced and are driven in the manner of 'Miss Daisy', the most important gauge to us shows the miles per gallon and we have had vehicles reaching two hundred thousand miles without issue in the past.

Anyway, after all that, we have decided to retain the vehicles we have until the marketplace sorts itself out or I stop driving in old age.



Memorial plate found at Norfolk Hospice Shop

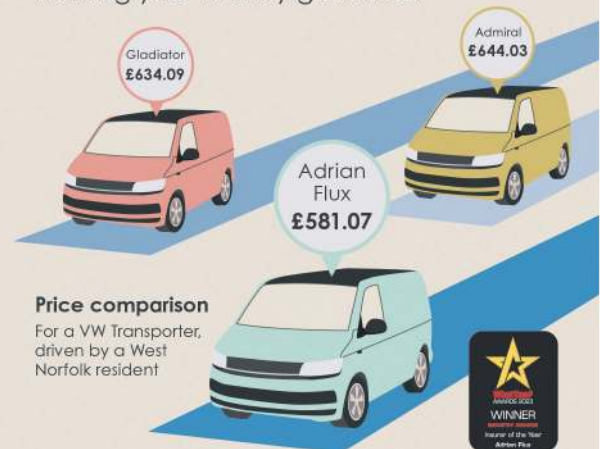
A memorial plate bearing the inscription: 'Given to Miss Beeton on her marriage in appreciation of her services as organist at the Union Chapel Hunstanton. June 1899' was handed in to the Hospice shop in King's Lynn and the sharp-eyed staff noted the link with Union Church. They contacted Dawn Davies, the Union Church Secretary and the plate was transferred to the Hunstanton Shop.

Dawn is pictured (left) holding the plate with Rita Caldicott at the Hunstanton shop. She said: "Thanks to the Your Hospice Shop, this unique piece of history has been added to our living memory at Union Church."



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Meet Dersingham's New Community First Responder

Residents of Dersingham and the immediate surrounding villages can feel safe in the knowledge that should they find themselves in a medical emergency this winter, help is just a few minutes away thanks to new Community First Responder, Glen Piggott.



Community First Responders (CFRs) are volunteers who are trained by the East of England Ambulance Service Trust (EAST) to attend certain types of emergency 999 calls in the area where they live or work, such as cardiac arrests, chest pains, breathing difficulties and patients who have fallen. They aim to reach a potential life-threatening emergency in the first vital minutes before the ambulance crew arrives.

"With the increasing winter demands on the ambulance service, being Dersingham's CFR means that I can help someone within my community with urgent medical assistance and if needed, can be on scene very quickly with a defibrillator," Glen said.

"Being there when someone needs help until an ambulance arrives gives you a very special kind of satisfaction," Glen continued. "Within the first week that I have been a CFR, I have already helped to treat one patient with a suspected heart attack and another patient suffering from severe breathing difficulties."

As well as volunteering as a CFR, Glen works at Fakenham-based MED-PTS Ambulance Services as the private ambulance company's Events Officer, so he and his team can be found most weekends at local events providing first aid and medical cover, such as at the Hunstanton Soap Box Derby earlier this year and at Fawkes in the Walks in King's Lynn this month.

EAST has over 1,200 active volunteers who support the service in patient-facing and non-patient-facing roles.

"We are especially keen to hear from anyone in the Hunstanton or Heacham area who would consider volunteering as a CFR," Glen said. Anyone can become a Community First Responder as long as they are physically fit, aged between 18-70, have a sympathetic and caring nature, agree to undertake regular training provided and have a full driving licence and access to a road-worthy car.

To find out about more, please visit – www.eastamb.nhs.uk/join-the-team/community-first-responders.

Community First Responders are completely self-funded and do not receive any funding from EAST, meaning that all their life-saving equipment needs to be fundraised. If any individual or organisation would like to know more about making a financial donation, they should contact Glen via glen.piggott@gmail.com

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On the turf with Charles Joyce

The first Sunday in October showed there is the real possibility of a champion revealing himself when Ace Impact won the Arc D'Triomphe from Westover. Still unbeaten the French star trained by Jean Claude Rouget did not make his appearance until late January this year. The possibility of him travelling to other countries will have the racing enthusiasts in Japan, Hong Kong, USA and Dubai resembling Pavlov's dog at the prospect of seeing the champion of Europe middle distance horses. The triumph of the French champion will have increased the value of his half-sister Adlon Rose by a factor of many. The mare was original bought for £10,000 by Marie Illegems a trained pharmacist for her breeding enterprise Hara Des Embruns near Nantes in France which she set up in 2009. We should spare a thought for Westover who has finished runner-up in the 3 most prestigious middle-distance races in Europe and possibly the world after finishing second to Desert Crown in the Epsom Derby, second to Humiddle-distance George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes and now the Arc D'Triomphe. He was also runner-up to Japanese star Equinox in Sheema Classic in Dubai and behind Emily Upjohn in the Coronation Cup. His trainer Ralph Beckett was seriously out of luck when Kinross ridden by Frankie Dettori was impeded in his run when second in the Group 1 Prix de la Foret. A few years ago the interference would have cost winner Kelina the race, but the rules have changed in France.

Hollie Doyle has fallen foul of British Horseracing Authority rules and was banned for a month for using a banned substance Dihydrocodeine, which is a painkiller treated to combat mild to severe pain. In February this year Hollie had treatment on a damaged elbow and was prescribed Dihydrocodeine which she stopped using shortly after the operation. In April she tested positive for the banned substance. She claimed in her defence that she had only used paracetamol and Ibuprofen throughout her recovery to deal with swelling. It seems that the contamination came from Ibuprofen she bought while abroad. The British Horseracing Authority accepted this explanation and that that it was an innocent act. After all, why would a non-expert expect Ibuprofen to have different substances in it in different countries. A lesson maybe to us all.

Nonetheless the BHA imposed the month ban due to it being a strict liability case.

In Ireland the Gambling Regulation Bill is causing concern in racing circles at the impact of the advertising ban on bookmakers until after a 9 o'clock watershed. Presented to the Oireachtas (Irish Parliament) last December the Bill is intended to introduce a Gambling Regulatory Authority in the Irish Republic for the purposes of licensing and regulating betting, gaming, certain lotteries and the sale or supply of products of services related to gambling; to provide for the funding of the Authority by means of an imposition of a charge on licensees; to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a register of persons who hold gambling licences in the State and a National Gambling Exclusion Register; to provide for the establishment of a Social Impact Fund to, among other matters, finance research into, raise awareness of, and eliminate or reduce, compulsive and excessive gambling; to provide for contributions to the Fund by certain licensees; to provide for the imposition of obligations on those licensees including obligations relating to advertising. A number of high profile trainers have expressed concerns about the advertising ban. Jessie Harrington who has trained multiple Group 1 and Classic winners as well as Cheltenham Gold Cup, Champion Hurdle and Champion Chase winners has gone on the record to say she has owners from across the globe who want to watch their horses run, and will not be able to do so if Sky Racing and Racing UK pull out of showing horse racing in Ireland due to the bookmaker advertising ban. The effects on racecourses is likely to be profound with over

€50 million from media rights at risk. Professor Lunn of the Economic and

Social Research Institute (ESRI) spoke on Irish national radio to discuss a new study that demonstrated that forms of gambling such as the National Lottery and scratch cards were more associated with problem gambling than was initially believed. Although the National Lottery is excluded from the Bill.

Back in the UK the Jockey Club are tinkering with the Grand National again. This time reducing the field size down from 40 runners to 34 runners. The minimum rating by the handicapper is to rise from 125 to 130 which puts the Grade 3 handicap in line with Grade 1 chases which are not handicaps. One good feature is that a closer scrutiny will be taken over horses that in their last 8 races who have made jumping errors in 4 or more of those races will need to be passed by a Grand National Review Panel before they are allowed to run in the race. The race is to run earlier in the day on account that the ground may dry out significantly by 5.15 in the afternoon. The time still has to be agreed with ITV the terrestrial broadcaster. The parade of runners before the start is to end. The runners will be required to begin with a standing start rather than come in moving, and the first fence will be moved 60 yards. This is to slow the runners down as most years a horse over jumps and either falls or makes a jumping error at the first fence which is believed to be down to speed. There are other changes such as foam and rubber toe boards on all fences along with investment in pop up irrigation.

Closer to home the Sandringham Estate hosted Robbie Williams among others over the August Bank Holiday. Organised by Heritage Live not unexpectedly a few teething problems happened which hopefully will be dealt with by the next time an event is held. Some of the stories coming back included £14 for a hot dog, water bottles being emptied doesn't inspire and no separate route for buses. Nonetheless it's long overdue this area is entertained by top acts. The roads around the estate are not what would be called the best in the country, but I can remember often travelling the road from Navan to Slane in Ireland to collect and pay for grassmeal nuts for my cattle and sheep from Mrs Macauley in Kentstown. It wasn't so much the potholes my transit van went into that caused concern it was the canyons that were similar to the big one in Arizona that really tested the suspension. The roads have improved since then due to European Union money coming into Ireland. At the time Henry Mountcharles had concerts at Slane Castle which at 1500 acres would fit in a corner of the Sandringham Estate. Rather than 20,000 concert goers as at Sandringham, Slane Castle entertained 80,000 with some of the biggest acts in the world.

Beginning with Thin Lizzy with legend Phil Lynott. Many bigger acts came later in the 1980s including the Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen, David Bowie, Queen, U2 all headlined Slane in the 1980s. One act that didn't headline was The Bangles. Every male from 15-50 with a pulse living in Ireland wanted a ticket to see the American band. There have been many all female groups before and since but none matched the appeal of the Bangles. Susanna Hoffs is the lead vocalist and star of the band but like the Saw Doctors who later played Slane I preferred Vicky who is the blonde guitarist. I was not present when the Saw Doctors did play Slane so don't know if they played the track, they became famous for which ends with I would love to bang the Bangles.

Back to racing as November comes in Venetia Williams is the trainer eyes turn to for winners. Since 2012, if anyone had bet on all her runners in November at Betfair Starting Price they would be over 113 points in front. In that time, she has only a single winner that started bigger than 20/1 bookmaker prices with the profit predominantly coming from her chasers. I am wary of her chasers at Cheltenham in November. Although the Ross on Wye trainer is famous for when the mud is flying. Her November record with chasers on heavy going could be improved and it's the less deep ground where she excels.

Venetia's winners usually come in Classes 1-4 and are aged 10 or younger. Although it is a bit strange her 9-year-olds could perform better. Pay special attention to her chasers coming back from a minimum of a 5 months off the track.

On the other side of the Atlantic the Breeders' Cup is to be run at Santa Anita. And on the first Tuesday in the month the Melbourne Cup is due to be run.

Willie Mullins' Vauban is the ante-post favourite. He's a top-class hurdler who ran 4th to Constitution Hill in the Champion Hurdle and won the Triumph Hurdle at Cheltenham last year. As short as 11/4 with some of the bigger bookmakers he last ran when winning the Ballyroan Stakes at Naas from Valiant King. The Joseph O'Brien trained runner

who was only a length and a half behind the favourite at Naas in August is as big as 50/1 to win at Melbourne. If he turns up, he could be a serious player. As could Serpentine who won the Elsom Derby during lockdown in 2020. Sold out of Aidan O'Brien's yard and shipped to Australia he has since been gelded. Someone clearly has a lot of money or is missing a bit of sense because a son of Galileo out of a Danehill Dancer mare that finished second to Snow Fairy in the Epsom Oaks must have been a highly rated potential stallion. At present he is 66/1.

The one that catches my eye is another Willie Mullins entry Absurde. The French import is due to miss a run in the Cesarewitch and again on Champions Day at Ascot. Presently 16/1 looks very fair for the Ebor winner. A good draw and a bit of luck going his way he will show how good he can be, always assuming he turns up on the day.

Whatever runs or wins anywhere remember the golden rule of punting. As always pay the bills first and under no circumstances bet if you cannot afford to lose, because even the best professional punters lose more often than they win.

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Breast of Friends Charity Fund Raisers Charity Ball raises £19,000 for QEH Breast Care Unit & Chemotherapy Unit

Once again, the Breast of Friends Charity Fund Raisers held another Charity ball the on 23 September 2023 at Briarfields Hotel Titchwell, this year managing to raise a fantastic £19,000. The beneficiaries of this amazing fund raising will be the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Breast Care Unit and Chemotherapy Unit, they will equally receive donations totalling £9,500 each.

The fundraising events this year have included a Race Night at Dersingham Social Club and the Charity Ball, the volunteers/friends are a team of fund raisers some of whom have either been through Breast Cancer treatment and Chemotherapy treatment at the QEH, the Breast of Friends team worked hard to organise the events, securing sponsorships and gathering in some great Raffle/Auction prizes from some very generous people and organisations from the local community and some nationally recognised businesses, the team are forever grateful to them for their generosity.

The Ball was attended by 170 people this year, all of whom were treated to a night of dining and entertainment, the attendees also showed their appreciation by supporting by the raffle and auction on the night which helped towards the total raised at the event, the entertainment on the night was provided by Kirsty Kerr solo singer, local band Goz Unplugged, DJ L.I.am/DJ Chris Osler Vibes Disco, Josh Maddocks Magician and photos by Sarah Mason Photography. A speech thanking everyone for their support was given by Jeanette Kidd on the night, she was able to thank the amazing team, who she referred to as the "Dream Team" without whom the evening would not have been a great success, Deborah Wright, Claire Ling, Joanne Hazell, Jimmy Hazell, Gail Ruffell, Jeanette Kidd and Paul Kidd.

Also, the QEH Consultant Oncoplastic Surgeon Amy Burger gave a speech thanking everyone for their support and outlined the sort of things the monies would be used for in the Breast Care Unit, including



*From L-R Elaine Rudd Specialist Breast Care Nurse QEH, Claire Ling, Gail Ruffell, Jeanette Kidd, Deborah Wright, Joanne Hazell, Amy Burger Consultant Oncoplastic Surgeon QEH.
Front L-R Jimmy Hazell & Paul Kidd.*

purchasing a patients first mastectomy bra following surgery and the new SCOUT radar localisation procedure for treating early-stage breast cancer. The Breast of Friends team are holding a Fourth Ball again at Briarfield's Titchwell in 2024 in an effort to raise more funds for both units at the QEH, the monies raised will assist in the ongoing support/treatment undertaken at both the units in providing care and support to the local community of West Norfolk and beyond in the neighbouring counties of North Cambridgeshire & South Lincolnshire.

Round the bend with Dean Baker

Draughts and what to do or its turned cold!

Draughts are usually a hot topic in the Autumn. One minute its shorts and sun cream and the next its – 'where's my vest?' This Autumn has been different, up until the day before yesterday it was sunny and hot, even for Summer, let alone October! Mrs B described the exceptionally warm start at start of October as "unnerving" and a junior Baker as 'Nuts'. However, the unusually warm weather has allowed us a few precious weeks without the central heating on.

But, it's time to go over the drill now there's a chill in the air, here we go - Number 1, your curtains have super powers, keep them drawn to hold the warm air in. If a window is particularly draughty, then consider fitting a blind as well, it will make a big difference.

Number 2, draught excluders. I'm certain that these are for sale in several charity shops in the Hunstanton area. Draught excluders are can also be found in shops such as Dunelm and The



Range. They are definitely worth buying because the stop draughts! Nothing more to say on that.

Number 3, close the door or as my Granny used to say: 'bung the wood in the hole!' A firmly closed door will keep a room warm. We have cats and dogs, and over the Summer it's easier to have the doors open, otherwise, aforementioned critters occupy much of your evening by asking

to be other side of the door from the side they happen to be at the time of asking ... in other words, don't do as we do and keep opening and closing the living room door for the pets. As I keep telling Mrs B, it makes the room cold, perhaps it's an inherited cold!

Number 4, last but not least, keep warm. Keep a fleece or blanket tucked by your armchair,

then if you feel tempted to turn the heating pull the blanket over your knees instead!

That's it. I'm in Hunstanton on Tuesdays for all things dripping and leaking.

Until next month, take care.

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Round the Bend



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Wash Barrier update

from Hunstanton Town Council

Wash Barrier Presentation Evening, Princess Theatre

3rd November 2023 @ 6 pm

The provisional plan for the evening is as follows: Doors open for members of the public from 5.30 pm.

The proposed development in the Wash is for a container port, hydroelectric scheme, and could also provide flood protection against global warming. The purpose of this meeting is to consider all aspects of this development.



Timings

6 pm Welcome & introduction to presentation by the Mayor & Chair of Hunstanton Town Council Cllr Michael Ruston followed by an outline of proposals and the nature of the evening by Cllr Robert Corby, Chair of HTC Environment Committee.

6.05 Leader of Borough council Cllr Terry Parish outlining the borough's response to the Wash Barrier

6.15 5 mins public question time

6.25 Judith Stout Eastern Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority will talk about their work in the Wash.

6.35 5 mins public question time

6.45 Andy Bullen, Independent Member of Kings Lynn Conservancy Board, Director of specialist port and maritime media company and North West Norfolk resident.

Andy is a speaker with maritime experience, looking at the need for a Wash port, the effect of the proposals on local ports (Wisbech, Lynn and Boston), the effects it will have for businesses and the environment

6.55 5 mins public question time

7pm Break for 15 minutes - return to seats at 7.15

7.20 Tim Jickells Oceanographer

7.30 5 mins public question time

7.40 Mike Jones NWT: Looking at the ecology of the Wash and its importance to wildlife and potential impact of the Wash Barrier

7.50 5 mins public question time

8pm James Sutcliffe Centre Port: Detailing the plans for the Wash Barrier.

8.10 5 mins public question time

8.20 Finish with final word from Cllr Robert Corby & Cllr Mike Ruston (any other questions if time allows) followed by coffee and biscuits.

Note: Luke Douglas Holme "The Coast Runner" and Burnham Overy Parish Councillor is a reserve speaker for the night.

Doors closed 8.30 pm.

A spokesperson for the Town Council said: "This is an information evening only, Hunstanton Town Council would like to stress this meeting is not a debate.

"Speakers will be allowed up to 10 minutes each to talk, this will then be followed by a 5-minute public question time.

"A question box will be available for members of the public, as they enter the Theatre, to post any questions to any representative of organisations present."

All enquiries to: The Town Clerk Jan Roomes on 01485 532402 clerk@hunstantontowncouncil.gov.uk

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The dark skies of West Norfolk

Terry Parish

Remember, remember, the 5th of November, gunpowder, treason and plot. Try to send a rocket up and imagine it carrying on into the starry sky or, at least, into the one above the clouds.



Fireworks. Internet

This is the month of Jupiter as the gas giant is closest to the Earth on the 1st. It is only 596 million kilometres away. Just 2 days later, a line drawn from the Sun, through Earth, would, if continued, also pass through Jupiter. The face of Jupiter is full on to us and the whole disc of the planet is illuminated by the Sun. Jupiter is at opposition and at its brightest with a magnitude of -2.9 .

Jupiter has been bright for the last month and, in the hazy, warm evenings experienced in October it still shone through. I saw it from the Tuesday Market Place in Lynn when nothing else was visible. Earlier, darker, and cooler nights this month mean it is a good time to turn your binoculars or telescopes on Jove. Decent binoculars held steady should reveal 3 or 4 points of light close to the planet. These will be the four Galilean Moons, those first recorded by Galileo Galilei in 1610. He saw them move and, individually, vanish around the planet and then reappear.



Jupiter & The 4 Galilean Moons - Ganymede, Io, Callisto, & Europa



Top image is as you might see them. They all orbit at different velocities so probably not. Internet

He had started experimenting with a spyglass, a simple telescope and found that the Moon was bumpy, Venus had phases and that the band of light known as the Milky Way had individual stars within it. All these observations turned established ideas about the Earth's place in the scheme of things – at the centre of a perfect system – upside down. Jupiter's Moons and the phases of Venus convinced Galileo that Copernicus was right and that the Earth and other planets revolved around the Sun. A view which leads him to being incarcerated by the Church and he had to say that his theories were incorrect. He was only pardoned in 1993.

The four moons are Io, Ganymede, Europa and Callisto. They have all been observed by spacecraft: Pioneer 11 in 1979; Voyager 1 in 1980; Voyager 2 in 1981, then Cassini in 2004 which orbited for 13 years and sent a probe, Huygens, to land on Titan in 2005. See them now for the first time or remind yourselves of the distant sparks which move. Io is the closest to Jupiter and orbits it in 1.8 days, its movement can easily be seen over a period of an hour. Europa's orbital period is



Galileo and his small aperture telescope. Internet, good photos in those days.

3.5 days, Ganymede's 7.2, and Callisto's 16.7. At times, you will only see three moons as one will be on the other side of Jupiter. If you are lucky, you may catch a moon just disappearing or appearing. Remember Galileo who made the same observations 413 years ago and wonder if Europa really does have simple life in its water ocean.

Uranus, Herschel's discovery in 1781, is at opposition on the 13th so is as bright as it gets this year being just 2,787 million km away – almost 5 times further than Jupiter! At magnitude 5.6 it should be visible to the unaided eye if it is clear, dark and you are around school age. Otherwise, good, steady, binoculars again, or a mounted telescope. You will find it somewhere between the Pleiades and Jupiter, The Pleiades, 7 Sisters, is an open star cluster you can see with your eyes as a fuzzy shape. Within it, good eyes will count up to 7 stars, binoculars reveal a resplendent cluster of many. An astronomy app will enable you to locate Uranus easily.

Saturn is still around but sets at 11.30am. Catch it around 8pm when it will be high enough and very dark. I gave some details last month. You will need a telescope to see the rings, though the planet will be relatively easy to see with your eyes as it has a magnitude of 0.8.

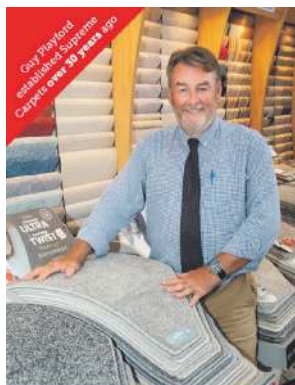
Get up after 3am but before sunrise and see Venus dazzling at magnitude – (minus) 4.3, far brighter than Jupiter. Look roughly east. You can find Venus at a more sensible hour, 9.45am, on the 9th. It will be butted up to the southern edge of the Crescent Moon before it slips behind it - gets occulted. A sight worth seeing through good binoculars or a small 'scope. Venus is, of course, far beyond the Moon, it will just look as if they are close. I suggest getting set up half an hour before and following Venus. Watch it disappear and pop up again about an hour later.

Meteors again, though, at the time of writing, I have yet to see any of the October ones. On the night / early morning of the 17th / 18th the Leonid shower reaches its maximum. There is an expectation of a good show from bits of Comet Tempel – Tuttle.

Whilst looking for the Pleiades find another small glowing patch of sky, the Hyades. It is just 153 light years away so light set out from it in 1870, the year in which India was connected to the UK by an undersea telegraph cable that came ashore at Porthcurno in Cornwall. The bright orange star Aldebaran lies in the same direction as the Hyades but is just 65 light years away so the starlight we see now started off when I was 8 (answers to the editor). All you see in the sky is history from seconds ago (the Moon), 8.3 minutes past (the Sun), hours before (the outer planets) to 16,000 years (distant stars in the Milky Way) and 2.5 million years back (the Andromeda Galaxy). Use binoculars and telescopes to go on a longer journey through time.

Short again because I am ever running out of time, and I wish I had a time machine so I could keep going back to finish what I have started.

We have early dark skies now. Let's hope for clear ones. Find a planet or two and chase a falling star.



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A huge 275 jobs being created in West Norfolk thanks to insurance brokers Adrian Flux and its sister company Bikesure

Adrian Flux and its motorbike arm Bikesure are providing another monumental jobs boost to West Norfolk by embarking on its latest recruitment drive.

The growing insurance brokers - who have offices in East Winch and North Lynn - have been enjoying record-breaking sales figures since introducing a flexible staff-led way of working to its phone-based staff in November 2021.



Adrian Flux's East Winch HQ

As a result of its continued growth plans, the companies are looking to recruit 275 members of staff this autumn and winter in preparation for an even busier 2024.

Gavin Hill, a manager at Adrian Flux, one of the UK's largest specialist motor insurance brokers, said: "As our name and offering continues to spread far and wide, it was inevitable we would gain more enquiries and customers than ever.

"With the growth of working from home, we have been able to continue to recruit nationally, which we started to do in 2021 for the first time in our 50-year history. It's been an exciting time, but the beating heart of our company remains here in Norfolk. Staff don't need to come into our office and can work remotely, but we find many enjoy the connection of working for a local brand they know that has proud family roots.

"Our offices remain open for those who like to work around others and while it doesn't suit all, we know it remains an appealing option for people - especially those who are training and want to enjoy the social nature of working for a company like ours."



Gavin Hill

Adrian Flux, which also has an office in Norwich, is recognised as one of the most desirable places to be employed after it picked up the Best Flexible Working Policy and Best Culture Transformation Initiative trophies at the UK Company Culture Awards 2023.

The pioneering approach of bosses handing almost complete flexibility over how many hours, and when, their employees work was hailed by judges for having a "tremendous impact on the organisation and its employees".



A member of staff working at the call centre in East Winch

A decrease in absence of over 50% has seen staff like Bikesure's Adam Green hailing the ability to split their working day/week to suit their needs - as long as their minimum number of allotted hours are completed - as beneficial for his work-life balance.

"With flexi hours, if I decide I'm having a bad morning I can switch off for half-an-hour and come back on the phone and work the rest of the day," Mr Green said.

"Or I can just choose to have the rest of the day off and make up the hours over the next couple of days. I feel like it benefits my mental health because purely when you have a 9-5 job or have specific hours that you're supposed to work, your mind takes over.

"Because I'm able to do my hobbies outside of work it means my whole anxiety levels are completely down. It definitely makes your personal life feel more free."

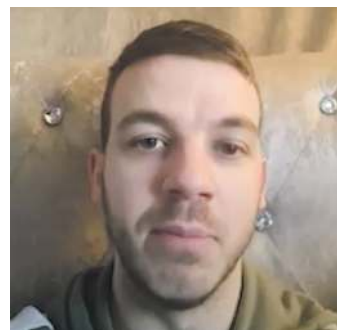
Flux and Bikesure, the largest parts of the Adrian Flux Insurance Group, now employ more than 1,250 people across all of its brands with Mr Hill hailing the introduction of flexible working as a "gamechanger" when it comes to retaining existing staff.

That growth has been mirrored with an increase in commercial revenue too. June and July 2023 hold first and second positions in Flux's 50-year history for its best-ever monthly sales performance - a record that has been consistently broken since flexible working was introduced.

Mr Hill added: "We are proud that our in-house idea to increase a flexible staff-controlled way of working has provided such happiness to our staff. It's been a gamechanger for us. That is as equally important to us as how attractive we look to potential recruits or the results we have achieved.

"Our tagline is 'Insurance for the Individual' but now our staff can operate within a job for the individual. Both should stand us in good stead for years to come as we look to expand further and become known across all parts of the UK."

Adrian Flux is actively recruiting. For more information or to apply for roles at Adrian Flux or Bikesure, please visit Adrian Flux's website.



Adam Green

Car parks in Hunstanton and King's Lynn have got the power

New electric car charging points have been installed in two car parks run by the borough council.

Central Car Park in Hunstanton and St James Multi-Storey in King's Lynn now have 50kw chargers. Up to two vehicles can be charged at a time in Hunstanton and up to six in King's Lynn.



The electricity will be paid for by the user via an app, using a BP pulse membership card, RF ID card, credit or debit card.

Cllr Michael de Whalley, Cabinet member for Climate Change and Biodiversity, said: "This is one of the steps the borough council is taking to help our residents towards the journey to net zero."

"Having declared a climate emergency, our organisation is looking to see how we can tackle climate change as well as how we can support residents and businesses to do the same. These new electric vehicle charging points in well-used car parks in the centre of Hunstanton and King's Lynn will certainly help."

These new 50kw electric vehicle chargers are in addition to the 7kW ones, which are designed for overnight charging or for extended use, that have already been introduced this year in the following borough council car parks based in Burnham Market, Hunstanton and King's Lynn.

To upgrade EV chargers in the area the borough council secured a grant of £195,000 from the government's Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) and a further contribution of nearly £90,000 from BP Pulse, as well as its own contribution of £73,500.



Charging time

Charging time is an important consideration when it comes to running an electric car. Charging speeds vary, from as little as 15 minutes using an ultra-rapid 350kW charger, to as much as 24 hours when relying on a domestic set-up.

The RAC says that you can use these values to calculate how long it will take to charge your EV:

Battery size (kWh) ÷ Charger power (kW) = Charging time (hours). BP Pulse data shows that, in 10 minutes, a 3kW slow charger can add up to two miles of range, a 7kW fast charger up to five miles, a 50kW rapid charger that's now installed at King's Lynn and Hunstanton up to 33 miles (100 miles in half an hour) and a 150kW ultra-fast forecourt charger up to 100 - but remember, the speed the energy can be transferred is limited by the vehicle's own on-board charger.

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The Barking Bugle

Seasonal Canine Illness

We've recently received a couple of repawts of dogs being very ill with Seasonal Canine Illness (SCI) so beware! SCI affects dogs shortly after walking in woodland and can be fatal if not treated early. The main symptoms are vomiting, diarrhoea and lethargy, and veterinary help should be sought immediately if these symptoms show after walking in woodland. The cause of SCI is unknown, although some research has linked it to harvest mites. After walks check for any sign of harvest mites and wash paws, legs and tummies. Personally we don't take any risks, and although we love running through the woods, we avoid them from August up until there have been a couple of good hard ground frosts.

Firework Night

Not long now till the worst night of the year for animals everywhere! To help cope with fireworks make sure you have gone out for a wee before the loud noises start and that your garden is safe and secure. Tell your human to close all windows and doors, draw the curtains and put some nice soothing classical music on (or turn the TV volume up, particularly if a 'Lassie' movie is on). We do like to listen to a bit of Bark, or should that be Bach, from time to time! If you are extremely nervous have a good woof to your vet who may be able to provide some medication to help you relax.

We are not total pawty-poopers though; we like to have a good time as much as anyone. There are alternatives to nasty explosive, toxic fireworks. Silent fireworks, or even better, drone and laser displays are really exciting and they don't cause pollution, noise, psychological distress or the death of animals.

Top Dog Walks in North Norfolk

Your Dog Magazine contacted us to ask which were our top 5 walks in North Norfolk. With so many totally pawsome walks to choose from, it was really hard. You can find our pick in the November issue of Your Dog Magazine.

The Cavalier Matters Calendar



We are super excited to see that next year's Cavalier Matters King Charles Spaniels Calendar is now out. In our opinion, even though we are a bit biased, this would be the pawfect Christmas gift for all you human doggy lovers out there! My boat race is featured on the February page - I am wearing my yellow and red crown to celebrate the coronation of that very famous human who now shares our name, King Charles. Further along you will find my sister, Ziggy Bear, who is the face of April. If you would like to purchase a copy of this pawsome Calendar please visit www.cavaliermatters.org

Cavalier Matters is a registered charity which helps promote the future health and welfare of the Cavalier. The wonderful humans who work for this charity can also give you lots of information about all things Cavalier. We are a very special breed even if I do woof so myself!

Be safe out there pals and have lots of fun!

Woofs Miss Zsa Zsa (Canine Editor)

For all the latest doggy news visit www.thebarkingbugle.co.uk

Brian Holmes

John Maiden



Not everyone spends their retirement serving the community in which they chose to enjoy the rest of their lives. Brian Holmes was exceptional in devoting so much of his time to promoting and enhancing the character and appearance of Hunstanton. On October 10th the Lynn News looked back to October 2012, and a three day exhibition in Hunstanton Town Hall, to celebrate the coming of the railway to the town in 1862. Filling such a large space with carefully presented memorabilia was something Brian took in his stride! If our local and national politicians had his knowledge and enthusiasm, we could be looking forward to spending a slice of HS2 money on a return of our railway!

Brian also put together a permanent exhibition for our first Heritage Centre (at 15 The Green) thereby paving the way for Andrew Murray and the Hunstanton Society to establish the current Heritage Centre. Brian would not want me to go on about his many achievements. I know this because of the lengthy introduction I once gave to his presentation on 'Boulton & Paul', when he said, with a wry smile: "Who is giving this talk - you or me?"

However, I must record his enthusiastic support for everything David Jones and Andrew Murray did to foster Hunstanton's very special relationship with the USAF 67th Special Operations Squadron. I leave the closing words to his son Jonathan: "Dad was a wonderful husband to Dianne; father to Jonathan, Julien and Jeremy. He welcomed his sons' wives into the family, treating them as his own daughters. He gained such joy from his grandchildren: Matthew, Sarah, Kit and Beth; then welcomed his 4 great grand daughters, giving him further joy in the last few years. He was such a creative person who had a real commitment towards the community. A life truly spent doing his best for others."



NB Completing the line-up at the Twinning Sign on Redgate Hill: front row L to R Canny Jones, Mayor Amanda Bosworth & Brian Holmes. David Jones was the photographer. Elaine Bird took the other photo...

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Hunstanton Society news

TALKS

Our first talk of the season took place on Wednesday, 20th September in the Heritage Centre and was given by Richard Waite. He provided an extraordinary selection of colour photos going back to 1963 covering a lot of the buildings that sadly no longer exist or have undergone major changes since. These were all taken by his parents over the years 1963 to 2000. Both Richard and his father were (and, in the case of Richard, still are) architects involved in work carried out on many of the buildings covered by the talk.

Our second Talk of the season was given on Wednesday, 18th October at 7.30pm by our Committee member, Bill Cunliffe, on 'My life as a Constable in the Met to Detective Inspector at Scotland Yard'. Then in November we have Dr Eric Somerville coming to tell us about A Brief History of Medicine to the Dawn of the 21st Century. Unusually this talk will be taking place on Wednesday, 15th November in the afternoon, starting at 2.30pm.

HERITAGE CENTRE

Visitor numbers have been improving slightly over recent weeks with some very generous donations.

Tony Armstrong has been preparing the front door and window ledges of the Heritage Centre for a fresh coat of paint and Pat Richardson is set to help with painting. As I write, the rain has started to pour down so won't be just yet!

We continue to catalogue the items we have accumulated over the years with a group of us meeting almost every week for a couple of hours. Thanks to the Team for their efforts during this time-consuming process. You may see some labels appearing on numerous items in the cabinets most of which contain an identification code of HUNHC which you will realise stands for Hunstanton Heritage Centre. This is registered with Collections Trust and if anyone finds an item marked with this, then it identifies it as coming from us and can therefore be repatriated. This is all part of our desire to become Accredited as a Museum with the Arts Council England.

HUNSTANTON & HEACHAM FLYERS 1930s – PART 1 by Committee Member Bill Cunliffe

Both Hunstanton and Heacham were part of the 1930s introduction of aircraft into the lives of the people living in those times.

Sir Alan Cobham in the early 1930s held air-shows which flew from Heacham and included flying displays of single seater planes, passenger planes (some carrying 10 or more passengers), and even a gyroscope.

When you see how basic these small 'flimsy' planes were, it's incredible to think some carried 10 passengers. The pilots of the planes have to be admired for their skill and bravery.

In order to embrace the new phenomenon, local dignitaries, leaders of Town Councils and business men all flocked to the air displays and took advantage of the chance to fly in the new innovation. It was clear even in those early aviation days that aircraft would revolutionise travel and would enable far off countries to become more accessible.

During the summer months of 1931 and 1932 there was a twice daily scheduled air service between Skegness and Hunstanton (return) using a field near South Beach for landing.

Such a service was operated under the name of Eastern Air Transport (EAT) by Michael Scott and Owen McLaren who were based at Skegness. The cost was £1 return fare and it is believed to have been the only regular UK internal air service operating.

The service was not without incident

An Unscheduled Landing

On 26th May 1932, Michael Scott was the pilot of the Eastern Air Transport Puss Moth plane with Lewis Tindall a passenger flying over The Wash when the engine suffered a con rod malfunction causing the engine to 'Blow Up' (This is probably not an aviation expression but it was referred to as such in press reports).

A forced landing was made on to a mud bank on The Wash, called Dogs Head Sand, 4 to 5 miles off Hunstanton. The two men waited a while to be rescued, but nobody came, and the tide was rapidly rising.

They decided to swim to the shore so they took off their clothes and started swimming. After about an hour, they could see they had made no progress swimming against the tide so they swam back to the beleaguered plane on Dogs Head Sand. Their plan was to light a fire burning their discarded clothing to hopefully attract the attention of rescuers.

'Plan A' had to be abandoned as when they got to the sand bank they could see the rising tide had washed their clothing away. In hindsight it might have been better to have put their clothing inside the plane, but that might be harsh given they were about to swim for safety and the plane would be underwater.

With no other option available 'Plan B' was to set fire to the plane!! Accordingly, they managed to find an oily rag in the plane, which they endeavoured to light by using the spark from the spark plug disconnected, and turning the planes propeller. By this time, the water was up to their waists and they were completely exhausted. Eventually suddenly the rag ignited so they threw the burning rag into the petrol tank and the plane burst into flames.

'Plan B' worked perfectly as the blaze was spotted by the trawler "Lizzie Anne" and they were picked up just in time. Their ingenuity and bravery had been rewarded.

The plane however was written off with the official report stating it was destroyed by fire. Two days later some of wreckage of the plane was salvaged including the engine (with broken con rod) but the plane was 'permanently withdrawn from service'.

PAULINE GOWER AND DOROTHY SPICER Air Trips Limited



When I was tasked (as a committee member of the Hunstanton Society History Group) to research two female pilots who ran air pleasure flights from Hunstanton in the mid 1930s, I had no idea of what I was letting myself in for.

The two women using feminine guile, good humour, intelligence and bravery, entered the previously totally male dominated world of aircraft flying and maintenance, and became accepted as equals by all their male colleagues.

Pauline was born on 22nd July 1910, the daughter of Robert Gower who was a Member of Parliament. Her father believed that his daughter should be well educated, unusual at that time, as women were expected to get married and be supported by their husbands. Pauline was clever, an excellent musician playing violin and even a banjo. Pauline wanted to be an aeroplane pilot but her father was so strongly against this, he refused to pay for her flying lessons. As so often throughout her life, she was determined to succeed, so she gave music lessons until she had enough money to pay for her lessons herself. Consequently, she took flying lessons and became fully qualified to be a commercial pilot. Whilst at The London Aeroplane Club at Stag Lane where she completed her training, she met a fellow pilot Dorothy Spicer.

Dorothy was born on 31st July 1908 and in 1929 qualified both as

a pilot and also as an aeroplane engineer. She was the first woman in Britain to gain a type 'D' Engineer's Licence authorising her to inspect, repair both engines and air frames and to certificate their air worthiness.

She met Pauline Gower at Flying School and they were an ideal partnership. Pauline was a great pilot, and Dorothy was a great mechanic who could also fly.



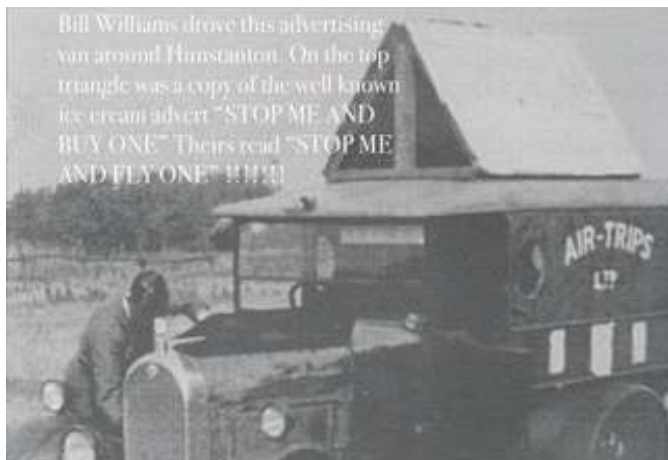
PAULINE GOWER



DOROTHY SPICER

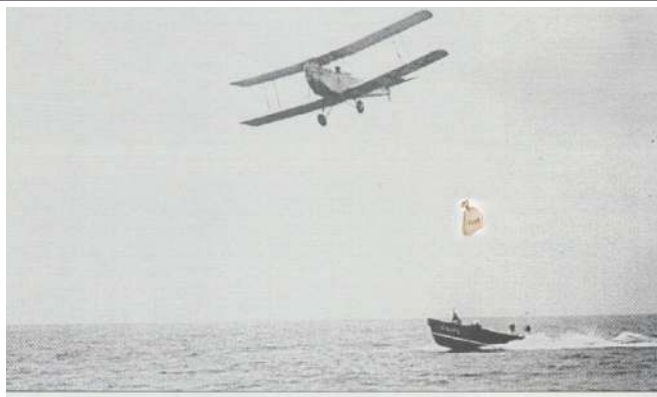
Dorothy Spicer, Pauline Gower and Air-Trips Ltd

Pauline and Dorothy tried their hands at flying with several Flying Circus's in early 1930s but travelling up and down the country was not only extremely tiring, they also were not making much money. They then decided to form Air-Trips Ltd., with just the two of them hiring an aeroplane and taking people on pleasure trips of short duration. Having tired of visiting numerous locations to fly, they made the decision that it made more sense to remain in one location to minimise travel and the costs that involved. They decided that a seaside resort would be the best location given that most resorts had a change of clientele every fortnight, and sometimes every week. Hunstanton fitted the bill and they secured a field suitable for taking off and landing, which was owned by the Searle family. So all they needed then was somewhere to live, and the answer lay in the field next-door, which had an abandoned gypsy type caravan. The caravan was moved to the 'airfield' and the ladies made it fit for living in as a static caravan.



The Searle family connection with Pauline and Dorothy was not just confined to the renting of the field, and the 'gift' of the caravan. Geoffrey Searle and Jack Tibbett operated a high powered speedboat called "The Tigress" on which they offered speed trips in The Wash. As an additional attraction to Air-Trips flights, the two passengers were given bags of flour and were encouraged to drop the flour bombs on to the Tigress which endeavoured to evade the bombs, not always successfully. This spectacle was also enjoyed by watchers on the beach. Amongst the photographs accompanying this record is one of the 'flour bombing' events. I'm ashamed to report I added the flour bag for effect.....sorry !!! (see top of next column)

During the first months of operating their flights from Hunstanton,



Pauline in 'KK' "bombs" the speedboat!

Pauline and Dorothy were approached by Brian (known as Billy) Williams who said Air-Trips Ltd. needed a display parachutist and general mechanic, and that he was that person. He was taken on and soon was an added attraction, performing parachute jumps in a theatrical manner. He did not always land in the intended location and on one occasion he found himself on the Hunstanton to Kings Lynn railway line, fortunately not when trains were on the line.

Not to be outdone, after "The Tigress" had been 'bombed', Billy Williams would drive a battered old car round the airfield and was a willing target for more flour bombs from Pauline's passengers as they landed.

Billy worked with Air-Trips for two summer seasons, and eventually years later he also qualified as a pilot. His last parachute jump at Hunstanton was on 16th September 1935.

The air-trips did not always go according to plan. On one occasion, Pauline was flying two passengers and on take-off the engine stalled and height was lost. Pauline realised they were going to crash so she managed to steer the plane to a nearby marsh field (known locally as the swamp). Crash landing in a marsh probably saved the lives of the passengers and it minimised the damage to the plane. Her actions were praised by all the experts.

Pauline and Dorothy were not just business associates, they were very good friends. When Dorothy got married, Pauline was matron of honour.

Although Pauline Gower and Dorothy Spicer only ran Air-Trips in Hunstanton for two years, they made a terrific impression on residents and holidaymakers alike. Their trips were a real attraction and the local holiday trades all benefited from their presence.

During my research I read a book called "A Harvest of Memories" it was written and published in 1995. The author was Michael Fahie, the son of Pauline Gower. It was a biography of his mother Pauline's life. I read with interest the chapters referring to his mother's exploits with Air-Trips Ltd, and so read the whole book.

The book chronicled mainly the life of Pauline, but also contained information of her good friend Dorothy.

They were without doubt heroines of their time, and Hunstanton should feel blessed that these women spent time here at an important time in their lives.

Next month Bill will tell us about Pauline Gower and Dorothy Spicer's life after Hunstanton as well as the involvement of Amy Johnson and her visit to Sunny Hunny.



Amy Johnson's plane in Hunstanton on her Daily Mail UK Tour

Hunstanton & District Rotary news

Hunstanton and District Rotarians celebrated their 47th Anniversary Charter Night at Heacham Manor on 27th September. They were joined by the District Governor Elect Ian Graham and guests including members of Inner Wheel, Mr and Mrs Schumann owners of Norton Hill Railway and representatives of the charities benefitting from the Railway weekend.



President Roger Raven (left) with Mr and Mrs Schumann

Following a delicious meal, the District Governor elect congratulated the club saying: "Hunstanton and District is clearly a vibrant club, and you are to be commended for the way in which you connect with your community." He went on to talk about his role and the essence of Rotary.

In response Immediate past-President Ian Greyson said: "Things are changing in Rotary and it is encouraging to hear that Rotary in Great Britain and Northern Ireland is on an interesting and exciting journey."



District Governor Elect Ian Graham, President of Hunstanton and District Inner Wheel, Coral Campbell and President of Hunstanton and District Rotary Roger Raven

President of Hunstanton and District Inner Wheel, Coral Campbell, said: "This evening we celebrated working together with Rotary over the past year at the Carnival and Norton Hill

and we are looking forward to doing it again in 2024."

President of Hunstanton and District Rotary Roger Raven thanked Michael and Angela Schumann for their: "kindness and generosity in hosting the Norton Hill Railway Weekend that has helped the club raise many thousands of pounds for local charities."

Presentations of cheques from the Railway weekend were made to:
The Magpie Centre – represented by Jan and Ainsley Calvert
Norfolk Autism Group – represented by Karan Mc Kerrow
The Norfolk Hospice – represented by Lindsey Atkin.

Hunstanton Guides - represented by Susanne Durston and Carol Smith.

Photos: Rotarian Adrian Evans



Presentation to the Magpie Centre



Presentation to Norfolk Autism Group



Presentation to The Norfolk Hospice



Presentation to Hunstanton Guides

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The Probus Posers

Reg Eaton

Every month at our convivial Probus luncheons, held at The Le Strange Arms hotel in Old Hunstanton, Reg Eaton, one of our members (being a semi-retired antique dealer) brings along a small selection of bygones for the members to do their best to identify, usually without success!

Readers of Town and Around can now have the same opportunity to test their knowledge or intuition in identifying the monthly Probus Posers from 3 photos and a short description of the item -



A. A beech tapered rounding plane to size what?

To find out more about Probus meetings and membership which are open to retired or semi-retired gentlemen please contact:
David Dickinson at
hunstanton.probus@outlook.com
(Answers are on the left)



B. A small boxwood slide rule with calculations on the reverse to measure what?



C. A brass depth gauge, for gauging what?

A. For rounding the ends of ladder rungs.
B. A hat gauge for the inside measurement.
C. For gauging high explosives in a brass shell.)



Hunstanton & District Inner Wheel

Hilary Farrell, club member

Last month, our Club President Coral wrote about the origins of our organisation and explained about our objectives. Our first objective is to promote true friendship and we have been able to celebrate the friendships that we have made by coming together for our District Rally.

Our District covers Norfolk, Suffolk, part of Essex and part of Cambridgeshire. The District Rally is the opportunity for all our Clubs in the District to meet up and to welcome our Association President. There are Inner Wheel Clubs all over Great Britain and Ireland and this year our Association President Anthea did not have far to travel as she is from an adjacent District in Essex. Last year our Association President travelled all the way from Wales for our rally, and next year it will be Scotland!

Our Rally took place near Woodbridge and our members Coral, Hilary and Val put on their best frocks and regalia to join the other 80 members for a lovely lunch. It was great to meet up with friends and enjoy a very sociable time together. One photo that I have submitted shows our three members representing Hunstanton and District. Another shows President Coral with District Chairman Deirdre and Association President Anthea, all looking resplendent with their



President Coral with District Chairman Deirdre and Association President Anthea

chains!

The third photo is a representation of our Club that is on a collage made over thirty years ago showing each club in the District. You might recognize St Edmund and the Wolf.

Friendship plays an important part in our Club and as well as our monthly meetings, we are getting together regularly for a coffee and a chat in each other's houses. You are most welcome to come and join us!



From left: Val, Coral and Hilary



West Norfolk patient Monica is the first recruit in chronic wound study

Monica, 87, was an NHS nurse for over forty years and had been fit and well her entire life, before developing health issues in recent years.

She suffered with swollen legs due to two leaky heart valves, which eventually developed into a leg ulcer that appeared just before the COVID pandemic in 2020.

Leg ulcers are long-lasting wounds that take more than two weeks to heal, although in a very small number of people, they never heal. It is estimated that around 1 in 50 people over the age of 80 have one.

Unfortunately, Monica's leg ulcer continued to progress, and she spent an entire year on antibiotics after a bout of sepsis. This was an awful time for her, due to the excruciating agony of dressing changes and the bad smell coming from the wound.

In February 2023, while Monica was receiving care from the Community Nursing Team at Norfolk Community Health and Care NHS Trust (NCH&C), she was invited to join the BISIL study, which had just opened.

The BISIL study is comparing the clinical and cost effectiveness of Biatain® Silicone dressings with other commonly used wound care products for chronic wounds.

Monica said: "They explained it all to me and I said yes, I will happily agree to that. I had no fears whatsoever and it was a positive experience all round."

She had weekly study visits over a period of four weeks from Laura Towers, a Community Research Nurse who is leading the study at NCH&C as Principal Investigator. Laura completed the study assessments alongside the Tissue Viability Nurse who carried out the wound care and dressing changes.

Monica reveals that she is starting to see an improvement and the wound is now half the size it was before.

She is very happy to have been involved in the study and, recognising the importance of research, said:

"How are things going to progress if people did not take part in these trials? People need to volunteer for studies to progress research.



"I would willingly do it again because I had no problems at all. It was very pleasant to meet the research team, which was quite stimulating for me."

Laura, who is the Principal Investigator for two leg ulcer studies at NCH&C, reflects on her role in the study: "It was really exciting to be the very first site to recruit a participant to this study and it was my first study as a Principal Investigator. I want to thank the Clinical Team for their support with identifying the first participant."

The BISIL study is funded by Coloplast A/S (Denmark) and aims to recruit 100 adults with a venous leg ulcer or diabetic foot ulcer, no deeper than 2cm. The study is a randomised controlled trial where half of the participants will use Biatain® Silicone and half will use the comparator for a duration of four weeks.

If you would like to find out more about NIHR research and how you can take part, visit www.bepartofresearch.uk.

A recipe from the Prudent Pensioner

I was pleased to be able to purchase very locally grown Butternut Squash. I chose 2 both weighing approximately just over 900g. I used half of one to make a Bacon & Butternut Squash Risotto (My easy recipe for this is on The Prudent Pensioner Facebook page) and the other half I made into soup.

Butternut Squash Soup

Makes approx... 900 ml fairly thick

A medium size onion

Approx 200g Carrots

Approx. 200g Potato

Approx. 200g of Butternut Squash flesh cut into cubes

Stock Cube (I used Chicken) dissolved in 500ml hot water.

Butter

Salt & pepper

Trim and peel carrots and cut into small pieces, peel onion and slice thinly, peel Potato and cut into small pieces.

Over a low heat put a little butter in a saucepan, add onion, carrot, potato and Squash and stir well. Carefully add stock and heat to boiling point, reduce heat, cover and simmer gently, stirring occasionally, for

15 minutes or so until carrots are soft. Strain off most of the liquid into a jug, put aside while you either put vegetables into a liquidiser or use a hand blender and whizz until pureed.

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

Season to taste. Reheat stirring gently. Turn off heat, serve and enjoy.



-oOo-

Due to increase costs I have needed to slightly increase the price of my book "Less Waste more Soup" 45 easy, budget friendly recipes for nourishing soup. It is available from Ridouts Bakery in Heacham, Docking Farmers Market, By The Book in Hunstanton and Hunstanton indoor market. It is available from Amazon. A search for Doreen Reed will find it (together with my books of light hearted poems & tales) Copies are available to borrow from Heacham Library & Hinckley Library

See lots more recipes on The Prudent Pensioner Facebook page
Email: pruden.pensioner@btinternet.com

Letters to the Editor

Men's Shed

I'd like to thank the gentlemen of the Hunstanton Men's Shed for their help.

I treated myself a new disabled scooter which was delivered to me in three boxes. I'm confined to a wheelchair; how am I supposed to put it together? A handyman would be unlikely to have the right experience in gears, battery connections and electric motors so I needed an engineer. But where to find one?

I contacted the Men's Shed to see if they could help and was delighted when three of their number came to my home and took the boxes away. Within little more than an hour, they had brought my new disabled scooter back fully assembled. They explained that they even made a couple of additions to help it run smoothly.

They refused to take any payment, but I made a contribution to their tea fund.

I am most grateful for their efforts.

Debbie le May, Hunstanton

Thank you, Norfolk!

We have had a second home in Hunstanton for 24 years, and it has been exactly that, a second home where we come to relax, where we entertain friends, where we buy in local shops and frequent local restaurants. It has not and never will be a commercial enterprise of a holiday let, but quite simply our refuge and joy.

You can therefore imagine how delighted we were when our son, Ed, and his fiancée, Claire, decided that they would get married in

Norfolk.

They chose the lovely St Mary's Church, Titchwell as the venue and were welcomed by the wonderful vicar, James, and the amazing church wardens, Susan and Jamie. They - and indeed we - have been welcomed by the congregation and feel part of the community now.

The wedding breakfast and evening party were at Titchwell Manor, which not only provided the perfect location, but delicious and beautifully presented food, and faultless service and attention to detail over the whole weekend.

The cake from Mr Bun in Hunstanton was a masterpiece, accompanied by a selection of their delicious cakes and pastries.

Apart from the weather, which was patchy to say the least, the day was perfect, so thank you Norfolk, our lovely and welcoming second home for making such a special day for our family and friends.

Carole Hawkins (Clarence Court Hunstanton)

Nature's Philosophy

Nocturnal birds in sibilant causerie

Forest creatures in distant revelry

While nature's blanket dims their rivalry

And stills the air to peaceful reverie

How brief is this tranquillity

As hostile meetings in darkened shrubbery

Remind, if only momentarily

That man alone enjoys in camaraderie

Victor Timmons



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The 10 best fish and chip shops in the UK



Fishers, Hunstanton

6. Fishers, Hunstanton, Norfolk

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



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Sporting corner with Tim Keogh



Rob Charles used to run the Spar store on York Avenue in Hunstanton (now a Premier store) from 1979 until 2000, whilst wife, Marianne, ran health food/greengrocer's store, Country Corner, on the High Street (now Mr Bun The Baker). The first few years of running the Spar proved difficult, until the 'Eight Til Late' concept came to their rescue. He is now retired and lives in Holme-next-the-Sea. Rob and Marianne will be celebrating their Diamond Wedding Anniversary next year.



Name: Rob Charles

Age: 80

Star Sign: Leo

Occupation: Retired Shopkeeper

Family: Wife Marianne, daughter Vanessa, son Damon.

A Cats or Dogs person: Not in a million years.

Sports Team Support: Team Ducati - Moto GP

Biggest Break: Choosing to be one of the first "Spar 8 Til Late" stores in 1984

Worst Injury: Severe concussion, 2-broken ribs, broken collar bone, racing a motorcycle at Cadwell Park.

Funniest Memory: Hoiking our bunks to a 45 degree angle to stop falling out, on a tramp steamer in the open Pacific between Prince Rupert and Vancouver, Canada.

Hero: Allen Millyard, for attempting and achieving incredible engineering feats, in a small backyard workshop.

Hobbies/Interests: Beekeeping, Winemaking, Motorcycling, Golf.

Best Memory: With Marianne, giving a "how we did it" speech to 150 retailers at a posh reception in London, having won "Small Retailer of the Year" award.

Favourite International Meal/Cuisine: Angels on Horseback followed by a 12oz Filet Mignon, medium rare. Marianne's varied cuisine takes some beating.

Favourite Drink: A Bordeaux Cabernet Sauvignon, especially with the Filet Mignon

Favourite Holiday Destination: Madeira

Three Items For a desert Island: Swiss Army Knife, Wine yeast, I'm sure I could find something to ferment, a fishing rod.

Favourite band/singer: Led Zeppelin, Janis Joplin

Pet hate: TV shows that tell you "And now, coming up after the break", or "In tonight's program". Don't blxxxx tell us, we will find out soon enough.

Biggest achievement in life: Managing to get to 80

Best advice ever given: The three rules in life given to Billy Conolly by his barber when he reached 60. The first was "never pass a toilet without using it", the second and third rules I shall have to omit, due to this being a family magazine.

What would you change in the world: ALL religions would be seen for what they really are.

Like to live forever: The only person who really wants to live to be a hundred, is the one who is 99.

Armchair Sports Trivia

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QUESTION: Which English football team could be cryptically termed as a "very large dark puddle"?

ANSWERS TO: editor@townandaround.net or by post to:

The Editor, Town and Around,

18 Tapping Close, Snettisham PE31 7FF

Please note we do not accept entries via any social media channels or text message

CLOSING DATE: 15th November 2023.

Last month's question was: Golf's Ryder Cup takes place in Italy for the first time this year. Who was the first left hander to participate in the Ryder Cup? The correct answer was Peter Dawson and Dan Willing from Walpole Cross Keys was the lucky winner.

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Henry Ford

Sporting corner with Tim Keogh

East Anglian Air Ambulance

Heacham Walking Football Club, Karen Eastwood and Dawn Hall have made considerable donations to the East Anglian Air Ambulance recently.

The football club donated £1,500 raised from various events throughout the season. A delegation from the squad went across to present the cheque whilst being given a tour of the Air Ambulance. Manager, Steve Watson, was delighted with his team's efforts in raising the funds, saying, "in April, one of our opponents suffered a heart attack pitch side. He is now recovering well due to the prompt attendance of the Air Ambulance and medical team from Norwich. It is amazing to think they rely purely on public donations, so we are proud to contribute".

Karen Eastwood and Dawn Hall finishing the Mud Run with Dawn's daughter-in-law Sarah and son, James



Karen Eastwood from the Bushel & Strike pub and Dawn Hall of the West Norfolk pub, both in Heacham, also raised £1,200 for the Air Ambulance by taking part in the annual Mud Run at Thetford Forest. Next up for these two is the intrepid Air Ambulance Trek 24.

East Anglian Air Ambulance is a charity providing life-saving critical care 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, by air and road. The Air Ambulance attends, on an average, eight cases a day, with each trip costing an estimated £3,750. For more information or to donate, please visit www.eaaa.org.uk.

Walking football is an excellent means for keeping fit and improving your general well being. Aimed at people over the age of 50, sessions take place every Monday from 5pm on Heacham FC's 3G pitch. Anyone interested in joining can contact Steve on 07931 383401.



Representatives of Heacham WFC with crew and staff of the Air Ambulance



Steve Watson and Mark Morrison with the cheque



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The joys of shopping in Berlin!

Ian Smith is an ex-international rugby union player and well travelled Army dentist. He has already released one book about his rugby playing career and is due to release a second about his life. Now retired and living in Snettisham, Ian has been giving Town & Around's Tim Keogh insights into his fascinating exploits.

In early 1977 the Army in its infinite wisdom decided to post me to West Berlin. At that point I probably had something in common with the reader, in that I did not realise that West Berlin was some 200 miles inside East Germany and of course surrounded by Russian troops. I also had no idea about all the compensations of living cheek by jowl with the French and the Americans.

You see, Berlin was split into four separate parts. The Western part had three sectors - the French, American and British - and then, behind the infamous Berlin Wall, was the Russian sector. We had free access to all four sectors, and, indeed, going between the British, French and American Sectors could be done without even realising it had happened. But there was only one way into the Russian Sector and that was through the wall, in uniform, at Checkpoint Charlie.

We were able to go shopping in both our allies' sectors, which meant we had access to the French Economat, with all its wonderful foods, and the American PX where, quite frequently, we were able to buy the most enormous bottles of Gin, Bourbon and Vodka. I don't know how many litres they contained, but they needed a handle to lift them, and they were so plentiful and so cheap, that many people used them as door stops!

The other amazing thing was that we had our own currency and our own rations. The history of both goes back to the end of the 2nd World War and its immediate aftermath. Our currency, known as British Armed Forces Special Vouchers (BAFSV), was entirely paper money as can be seen in the photograph. We even had 10p notes. The main drawback was that you could only spend this money in the NAAFI, our British Supermarket for military personnel - a rather poor third to our French and American cousins, but I understand as necessary because of corruption after the end of the 2nd World War.

FRIS [Families Ration Issue System] was the food rations we were forced to eat. I say 'forced to eat' with tongue in cheek because we were in the ridiculous position where friends of mine were feeding their understandably contented dog on fillet steak because it cost next to nothing.

The reason we had FRIS was because of the Berlin Airlift shortly after the war when the Russians tried to starve the Allies out of Berlin, in what became known as the Berlin Airlift.

This forced the Allies to keep a permanent stock of food in case it happened again. However, such stocks had to be rotated which meant in the British Sector had the happy consequence of FRIS. This allowed the rotating stocks to be sold on a ration basis at cheaper than retail prices to all the service families. Each married quarter had a ration book which contained huge shopping lists and two aluminium "FRIS Bins". Orders were placed twice weekly in advance for delivery on the same day of the following week. The order was delivered in one FRIS Bin whilst the empty bin was left on the doorstep containing the next "shopping list" and taken away for use with the next delivery. At the end of each month the FRIS bill was deducted from your salary. The scheme covered canned and fresh meat, dairy, baked, frozen goods, fruit and veg as well as various grocery items.

The other strange thing was the fact that there were two Local Berlin/German Currencies - the Oest Mark and the West Mark. The Oest Mark could only be used in East Berlin, and it was worthless in West Berlin. However if you wanted to go into East Berlin and, if you could access East Marks in West Berlin, then the exchange rate was 4 Oest Marks to 1 West Mark.

The problem was that to do this was totally illegal, and if you were caught then expulsion from Berlin in disgrace was immediate! For this reason very few military personnel would ever run that risk.

Having said that, at a particular underground station, the exchange could be made, and several mornings a week, queues of British Officer's wives, planning a trip into the East, could be seen furtively

joining the queue. My wife returned after one such trip telling me she felt a lot safer when she saw the General's wife in the queue in front of her!

This exchange rate meant that a visit into the East to the opera meant affording the very best seats so it was all well worthwhile, and also the best of what was pretty appalling food on your visit. However it has to be said, we were still hemmed in to a small area by the Berlin Wall and that was pretty claustrophobic.



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Sporting corner with Tim Keogh

Snettisham Cricket Club 1st XI's season reached a pulsating season finale. Leading their opponents, Swaffham CC, by a slender four points in the league, they simply needed to avoid defeat against their visitors to secure the Norfolk Cricket Alliance (NCL) Division 5 title.

Despite a positive start by the home side (42/2), it was the weather that ultimately determined their fate as the game was abandoned and the match declared a draw. Ryan Twiddy finished the season as the top run scorer, with Daniel Coggin the leading wicket taker. Not to be outdone, the Sunday 1st XI also won the Mid Norfolk League Cup, beating Aylsham St. Giles CC in the final by 58 runs.

The area's most senior sides, Bircham CC 1sts and Sandringham CC 1sts, both finished the season in safety - the former 8th In Division Two with the latter a creditable 3rd in Division Three.

In the Norfolk Cricket League (NCL), Thornham CC 1st XI, ended the season well, 4th in Division One West. Castle Rising CC 1st XI were 6th in the same Division, whilst Snettisham CC 2nd XI came 7th.

Castle Rising 2nd XI were the regions other big winners, securing the Division 4 West title.

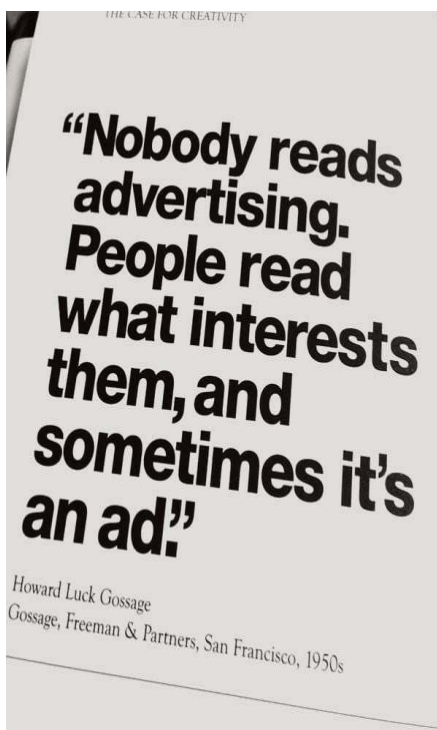
Snettisham Women 1st XI came third in the Norfolk Cricket Board (NCB) Women's Cricket League, whilst the Women's softball team topped their Division in the NCB Softball League. Manager, Michelle Knott, is encouraging any juniors or ladies interested in playing softball or cricket next season to contact her on 07837 778119.



Snettisham 1st XI cricket team

Back row: Aaron Herbert, Daniel Coggin, Damien Twiddy, Kieran Herbert, Adam Daniels, Ryan Twiddy, Harry Daniels

Front Row: Jamie Wing, Lewis Jeavons, Gary Forder, Daniel Arnold, Jack Cotton



MATCHES		TABLES			
RANK	TEAM	P	PTS	W	L
1	Swardeston CC Womens 1st XI	8	111	6	0
2	Topcroft CC Womens 1st XI	8	92	5	1
3	Snettisham CC Womens 1st XI	8	76	3	4
4	Sheringham CC Womens 1st XI	8	75	3	4
5	Hethersett & Tas-Valley CC Womens 1st XI	8	67	4	3
6	Great Melton CC Womens 1st XI	8	64	3	4
7	Brooke CC, Norfolk Womens 1st XI	7	38	3	0
8	Brisley CC Womens 1st XI	7	36	0	6
9	Downham Stow CC Womens 1st XI	8	35	0	5



NORFOLK CRICKET ALLIANCE

DIVISION FIVE - 2023.

Norfolk Cricket Alliance

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SHARE  

POS	TEAM	P	Pts	
1	Snettisham CC - 1st XI	18	356	>
2	Swaffham CC - 1st XI	18	353	>

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Burnham Market Nursery School's 50th celebrations

Elisa Bray

We are celebrating our nursery's anniversary throughout the year and on Saturday 16th September we hosted an event in the nursery garden, inviting along many members of the community including staff and families past and present.

The sun shone for us as our visitors arrived to look through almost 400 photos from the past 50 years. Cake, ice cream, sweets, stalls and facepainting were available for all to enjoy.

It was everything we had hoped it would be, offering the chance for many to reminisce and share their memories of nursery, formerly known as Burnham Market Playgroup.

Also, it is very reassuring knowing that we continue to run nursery in the way that it was originally set up, being a place that children can make friends and learn in a nurturing environment. Tales from 50 years ago sound very much like those we experience today!

Amongst our VIP guests were Carla Phillips, founder of Playgroup, and Joan Rumbles who worked there 50 years ago. Each of them was presented with a bunch of flowers from the children.

This is not the end of our celebrating, either! We still have two discos to plan, one for children, and one for grown-ups! We are decorating a tree at Fakenham Christmas Tree festival, and have a Grand Draw and Quiz Night to organise!

Some photos supplied by Cat Scoles Photography



James Wild MP visits Docking Primary Academy

As part of his continued focus on improving education in North West Norfolk, James Wild MP visited Docking Church of England Primary Academy and Nursery to learn more about the school's values, meet pupils, and answer questions from the new School Council.

Docking Primary Academy is part the Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust (DNEAT) and the St. Mary Federation together with Brancaster Church of England Primary Academy. Its values are courage, curiosity, confidence, collaboration and compassion.

Whilst speaking to the School Council, James was asked inquisitive questions on topics ranging from his day-to-day duties as MP for North West Norfolk, the environment, funding for school trips, and if MPs ever get lost in the House of Parliament. In response, James talked about his work in both Parliament and North West Norfolk to improve the local area and opportunities for local people. James also told the pupils that MPs try to avoid getting lost as they may miss votes if they did so.

During James' tour of the school, he met teachers from each class and spoke about efforts to promote good attendance, focus on literacy, school funding, and supporting children with special educational needs. As a village school, the Academy prides itself on being an integral part of the community, with long-serving members of staff. As part of the school's safeguarding commitments, each pupil chooses a teacher as a 'trusted adult' to share concerns or issues with.

Speaking after the visit, James Wild MP said: "It was a pleasure to

visit Docking Primary School and to talk to the School Council about the role MPs play and to hear the pupils' ideas about improving their school. The teachers and staff play a vital role in helping the children to realise their potential in a friendly and welcoming village school."



Hunstanton Primary School

Welcome to the Autumn edition of Hunstanton Primary School's newsletter. We have had a very busy start to the new academic year with lots of sporting events, a rock star dressing up day and educational visits for Year 4 and 6. Our new pupils from Reception and across the school are starting to settle in nicely and we are looking forward to our upcoming Harvest festivals and Christmas events.

At the beginning of a new academic year, it is a chance for the whole school to vote for who they would like to have represent the school and elect the Head Boy and Girl and their deputies.

Congratulations to Brogan and Maisy who are this year's Head Boy and Girl and Toby and Pheobe have been voted to be their deputies. We look forward to what the year will bring to your new roles.

At the end of September Years 2 to 6 celebrated in rocker style the relaunch of our maths platform Times Tables Rockstars. Those year groups were invited to dress up for the day in their best Rock Star attire. The children look sensational and there were some AWESOME outfits. The children got to battle with each other within their classroom on their iPads for the Battle of the Bands with their times table knowledge. Congratulations to our Year 6 class (Stingrays) who were the highest scoring group. A tremendous day of fun was most certainly had.

The weather has definitely become autumnal but that hasn't stopped us from already taking the children on some educational school trips. This term Year 4 have been studying everything about The Romans. A perfect experience was delivered to them as they visited Caistor Roman Town (also known as Venta Icenorum), which was the largest Roman town in East Anglia. The children had a wonderful day making Roman flags and banners and were introduced to the Roman Town using real archaeological finds, plus other materials which helped them imagine what the Town looked like in the Roman period. Our Year 6 children had their annual trip to Gressenhall in October. With impressive Victorian workhouse buildings, a working farm with rare breed animals and cart-rides, an extensive social history and rural life displays and recreations of traditional shops and homes. This coincided beautifully with their current WW2 curriculum.

September is traditionally known for the month when Macmillan Cake Sales and Coffee mornings are organised. This year was no different as we hosted our own Cake Sale one afternoon. A huge thank you to Mrs Wood for orchestrating this event and the Year 6 pupils who helped to serve the cakes. Also thank you to those parents/guardians/family members who donated, made or brought cakes for us to sell. An amazing £350 was raised and we are so proud that we can contribute to this very worthwhile cause.

Talking of raising funds, we received £400 from the Community Grants within Tesco's so thank you to those of you who put many blue coins in our pot. This will help us with our library fund and to update our books. If you run an organisation or know anyone that would like to donate and help the school to update our resources, please do get in touch with us.

This half term has been filled with more sporting events. The children across the school have enjoyed lots of exercise!!! Year 1 participated in an Active Kids Day at Lynnsport where they got to compete and join in lots of different sporting games and activities, the Year 3 & 4 children from the newly established hockey club that is run by Headteacher Mrs Sullivan, took part and did extremely well in the Quick Sticks Tournament, also held at Lynnsport. Selected Year 5 & 6 pupils competed in the Football Croydon Cup at Glebe House School and were placed 2nd in the tournament – well done!

At the time of writing this some members of our Running Club were about to compete in the WNSSP Cross Country race and lots of other sporting events are scheduled for the upcoming weeks.

We have introduced many After School Clubs this term including as already mentioned our hockey and running clubs. We have also had children learning archery supplied by Premier Education, a board games club by Miss Lees-Martin, times tables with Mrs Ball-Rye and a newly formed Christmas Choir lead by Mr Todd and Mrs Tandy. We have been



asked by various organisations to perform at select Christmas lunches and other events, so we might see you out and about this festive season.

A reminder that you can keep up to date with all our activities and highlights by following our Facebook page. Follow us @HunstantonPrimary.

If you are new to the area or considering transferring your child to our school, we invite you to book a tour to see what we have to offer. If you have a child starting school in September 2024, reception class applications opened on 25 September 2023 and will close on 15 January 2024. You must make your applications via the Norfolk County Council website.

Contact us on 01485 533373 or email office@hunstanton.norfolk.sch.uk to schedule your visit.

County Council working with schools to understand impact of Government funding error

Norfolk County Council is working with schools to help them understand the impact of a Central Government mistake over school funding figures.

On 6th October, the Department for Education (DfE) published next year's revised provisional funding allocations for mainstream schools, correcting an error the DfE made in calculations published in July. The DfE has apologised for the error.

The updated figures are £5.6 million less for Norfolk than the Government had announced, and this means that all mainstream schools will not receive the level of funding they would have anticipated based upon the July announcement.

Councillor Penny Carpenter, Norfolk County Council's cabinet member for children's services, said: "I sympathise with schools placed in this unfortunate position by the Government's error in July. We will work with schools and academy trusts to help them fully understand the details of the announcement and its impact."

"Although school funding has increased this year, I fully appreciate the challenges schools are continuing to face around their budgets and I have written to the DfE to express my frustration."

The council was already holding sessions with schools to discuss the next year's budgets, as part of what is known as the Fair Funding consultation. It is planning extra sessions in the coming weeks, to help schools understand the consultation and the impact.

Brancaster School news

It's been a very busy half term in Samphire Class. In September we had some new children join the school, in addition to the new children who came to us from Thrift Class. They have all settled in very well.

Unfortunately we've already had to say goodbye to three children as they have moved away from the area because of parents' jobs.

In our History Learning we have been looking at the Romans and had a visit from some volunteers from the Norfolk Archaeological Trust. They came in for an afternoon and told us all about Roman foods that they brought to us when they invaded Britain over 2000 years ago. We also looked at the games children would have played and had a go at some ourselves.

We were also introduced to Roman Clothing and talked about how the more decorations there were on a toga (that's a big piece of material that Romans wrapped themselves in) the more important you were. We also had fun trying to wear one - it's trickier than it looks.

We have another Roman Day coming up after half term when we will visit Norwich Castle.

Also we've been very busy - along with Thrift Class - in preparing for our Harvest Festival at the church. Unfortunately Mr Johnson and some of the other children were ill, and off school on the day, but everyone worked together, and collaborated to make it a success. Collaboration is one of our school values - and we showed heaps of this! Also courage which is our value for the half term.

Thank you also, to the PFA, led by Jess Letzer, who provided some yummy food after the service. Everyone said how good it was.

We are really lucky to have such a generous amount of support from the PFA. Not only did they organise the food, but they made a donation to the Norfolk Archaeological Trust when they visited and they are



paying for our day in Norwich at the end of October.

Half Term is the last week in October and the schools library service should be reorganising and restocking our library over half term. We can't wait to see what it looks like. If anyone wants to donate towards our new books, please contact the school by email (office@brancaster.norfolk.sch.uk) and, if you leave a phone number, someone will call you back. (This is just a temporary measure until our new secretary gets her paperwork through and can start.)

GLEBE HOUSE SCHOOL & NURSERY UPDATE

Hannah Searle

September means one thing...Back to School! And what an exciting new year we had in store for our families. Have a read to find out more!

forward to sharing more of what Mr Stewart brings to our school in the coming issues.

New Headmaster



We were very excited to welcome Mr Adrian Stewart as our new Head on the 1st September. You will have had the chance to 'meet' Adrian in last month's issue. Mr Stewart has had an exciting first month, getting to know all our pupils, families and of course his team of dedicated staff. He has been busy making subtle changes throughout the school and introducing fun new opportunities such as the Friday night socials for all our children to get involved in. We look

New Minibus



We were thrilled to introduce our brand-new Glebe House School minibus just in time for the start of the academic year. The gleaming new minibus will transport pupils in style thanks to generous sponsorships from three local businesses: Day Secure, Eric's Fish and Chips and Heacham Manor Hotel & Golf Club. Their support will enable the children to travel comfortably on educational trips, residential outings and to away sports matches. The bus also provides convenient daily transport for pupils across north-west Norfolk. The children are already loving their daily rides on the minibus!

New Reception class and new pupils



As with every school year, we welcomed a new class of boys and girls into Reception. The class of 13 has settled in quickly, getting to know their new school, their teachers and their daily routines. The children have enjoyed their new experiences so far, including weekly swimming lessons, forest school afternoons, French classes with Mr Whitehill and whole school assemblies. We also had the pleasure of welcoming several other new children into Divisions I and VI.

New Heads of House

On the final day of the summer term our new Heads and Deputy Head of School were announced. This year Savannah and Jemima

share the Head of School role and are ably supported by Matthew as Deputy Head of School. They are already playing an important role in representing the school within the local community whilst being role models and providing support to the younger children within the school.



Out and About

Div VIII were the first to go on a school trip this year. They spent a day exploring the Priory and Castle at Castle Acre, looking for evidence of the Medieval structure of society, to support the development of their Common Entrance essay writing skills back in the classroom. As well as engaging in some empathetic role play such as silent walking around the cloisters, the class also took the opportunity to undertake a sketch or two for Mrs Hipwell, as part of their art studies into Medieval architecture.



Division V enjoyed a spontaneous outing, when they took full advantage of the last of the summer sunshine and strolled down to the beach to begin their poetry topic. The children gathered some beautiful figurative language, alliterative phrases and powerful vocabulary, and after breathing in that wonderful salty sea air (and participating in an impromptu litter pick), returned to the classroom to begin

Let us share the Glebe House School Difference:

Join Us for an Open House!

Step into our world of learning, where creativity, curiosity and excellence create a transformative educational experience.

We welcome you to take a tour through our classrooms and around our outdoor spaces to see the daily routine here at Glebe. Explore our facilities, designed to create a well-rounded education encompassing academics, arts and sports. Experience the camaraderie among our pupils and discover how our nurturing environment empowers each child to thrive, both academically and personally.

Join us for an informal gathering with the Headmaster and Senior Leadership Team in the Drawing Room, as we enjoy the company of current families, sharing their experiences and happy tales of Glebe life.

We look forward to welcoming you to Glebe House School

- Friday 6th Oct 2023
- Wednesday 22nd Nov 2023



To register your interest, please contact Mrs Fraulo at: tjf@glebehouseschool.co.uk or call 01485 532 809
Glebe House School & Nursery, Cromer Road, Hunstanton, Norfolk PE36 6HW | www.glebehouseschool.co.uk

writing their poems. Oh we do like to be beside the seaside!

Charity Afternoon Teas

As many of you will know, September is a month people regularly support the Macmillan Cancer Support. At Glebe we held a series of Charity Afternoon Teas, where parents were invited to meet with Mr Stewart and the Senior Leadership Team whilst enjoying a cup of tea and a piece of homemade cake, courtesy of our fabulous on-site catering team, with fellow parents and carers. These were a series of lovely afternoons made all the better by the money we raised for charity.

Family Fun Golf Day



September saw the first main social event in our calendar. Our annual Family Fun Golf Day at Heacham Manor Golf Club was a great success! Over 30 golfers took part in a Texas Scramble competition on the 18-hole course whilst a further 50 or more adults and children enjoyed the Fun Day with a bouncy castle, face painting, games, live music from Goz Unplugged and more! A two-course meal was followed by Prize Giving and the Raffle. Special thanks to our sponsors: Adrian Flux Insurance, Bespoke Norfolk Group and Stephenson Smart and of course, congratulations to the "Weapons of Grass Destruction," this year's winning team!

Come and see us!

We hope you have enjoyed catching up with our first news from the new school year! If you would like to find out more about life at Glebe House School & Nursery, please don't hesitate to contact us. We have our next Open House on Wednesday 22nd November, why not register to visit? We would love to meet you!

Did you know we offer wraparound care from 8am to 6pm? And that we provide school transport from many convenient locations?

Please contact Mrs Fraulo on 01485 532809 or email tjf@glebehouseschool.co.uk to register your interest!

Polling station review

The Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk is conducting a review of its polling districts and polling places.

The Acting Returning Officer is required to make representations to the Council, which must include information as to the location of polling stations within the existing and/or proposed polling places.

The Borough Council welcomes views or comments from any elector and any persons or bodies with expertise in access to premises or facilities for persons with any type of disability. Comments may relate to existing polling districts and polling places or any proposed

polling districts or polling places.

The Acting Returning Officer's current and new proposals for the polling districts and suitability of polling stations has been published and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices and on the Council's website www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/PollingDistrictReview

Representations should be made in writing to:

Electoral Services, King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 1EX.

You can also send representations via e-mail to:

elections@west-norfolk.gov.uk

The deadline for making representations is Friday 24 November 2023.

The learning of everyday life

Edwin Salter

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

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

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

Vast amounts of time are spent with screens, some useful but much

trivial or quite unreal. The dreadful consequences of Covid included many small children strangely backward because abandoned to screens, and teenagers with no inclination to any practicality or useful cooperation.

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

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

These are skills that improve with practice and can resist ageing. Thought and usefulness add interest, bring a sense of personal worth,

King's Lynn Runners take part in Commemorative Somme Poppy Run

Gary Walker

A combined group from King's Lynn park run and members of the Globe Trotters running group, made the pilgrimage to the Somme area of France, to take part in what has become the annual Somme Poppy Run.

The run follows a route through what was, at the time, 'no man's land' separating the British Army from the Germans and which was the scene of so much death and destruction, through the long period of the battle, which started on the 1st July 1916 and was only expected to last a few days. In the end it lasted until November, having suffered thousands of casualties but for very little ground.

The group, who meet each Saturday for parkrun in the Walks and Sunday mornings for the Globe Trotters, took little persuading to take part, although the nature of the terrain did take them a little by surprise. Far from being the flat French countryside that many expected, it is quite undulating and tackling the steeper slopes in the extremely hot summer conditions was not easy.

The thought of running up the hills was, however, tempered by the memory of the British soldiers, tackling the same slopes in very similar weather conditions, each of whom would have been loaded with over 60 lbs of equipment and who, all of the time, were being shot at.

The run finished at the magnificent Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, which contains the names of over 72,000 British and Commonwealth soldiers from the battle who have no known grave.

The group laid a wreath on behalf of King's Lynn parkrun, to commemorate those who

died in the battle, several of whom were from the town. The group organiser, Gary Walker, said "it was fitting that we should commemorate those who fought and died for us on the Somme, in particular those from this area who answered the call to arms but who were never to return."

The run was also part of a fund-raising event for the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund. Anyone wishing to donate can do so at the following link:

www.justgiving.com/page/gary-walker-1688996729491





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'Twas months before Christmas, when
all through the shop; things started appearing that
looked slightly odd.

"It's far too early!" people would say;
to the cashiers at the till, as they started to pay.
"Maybe" they reply, with a glint in their eye; as they
take payment for goods and wave you good-bye,
But now is the time to start to think; about what you
will eat and what you will drink,

Because when you sit down at Christmas and stare;
at the table before you that looks rather bare,
You'll think back to the time when you thought
it's too early; to think about Christmas
and ordering a turkey.



(OK, I'm aware that that doesn't rhyme; but it's the
best I could do, given the time)

So next time you visit, don't stand there and mutter;
those words that I know you're wanting to utter,
Instead think of what you'll want for your dinner;
and you'll be the one who comes out a winner.
As you sit there and eat, you'll be the one knowing;
that it's all on the table because of this poem.

So now, I feel, I can say this alright,
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"



**Our Butchers, Deli and Shop Floor will be taking
Christmas orders from the end of September.**

**We also have a large selection of locally
produced beers, wines and spirits.**

MEDIAEVAL BÆBES

The Mediaeval Baebes announce 'The Procession' Christmas Concert Sunday 10th December, St Nicholas' Chapel, Kings Lynn



Credit RACHEL LE FAYE

With uplifting vocals and a torch lit procession, The Mediaeval Baebes will wind their way magically towards St Nicholas Chapel in Kings Lynn, on Sunday 10th December.

Set to enchant the audience right from the very start, families, musicians and reenactors are invited to enhance the procession in whatever way they enjoy. Bring a drum, a lantern, or dress up and frolic, as this immersive experience sets the tone for the magical evening to come. Join in the pomp and pageantry, or just experience the torch lit spectacle before it culminates in a grand entrance into the beautiful and historic church.

Lush, ethereal harmonies and dazzling array of exotic and period instruments will see the Mediaeval Baebes weaving their magic and exalting the true spirit of Christmas once again.

Joyous music from this classical chart-topping choir will showcase well-known Christmas carols and traditional folk songs, alongside tracks from their latest seasonal album 'MydWynter.' And, with captivating storytelling uncovering origins and folklore hidden in the lyrics, the spirited choral music will also include innovative settings of ancient and romantic poetry too.

The Mediaeval Baebes are one of the most successful female-led, early music and folk ensembles in Europe. Over the years, the



Credit Karla Da Silva

Mediaeval Baebes have released eleven studio albums and won an Ivor Novella Award for their performance on the BBC serialization 'The Virgin Queen.' They have also received two Emmy nominations and a Royal Television Society award as the featured artist alongside composer Martin Phipps, for the TV theme tune of ITV's hit show 'Victoria.'

In 2023 The Mediaeval Baebes collaboration with Orbital's 'Ringa Ringa' enjoyed number 6 status in the album charts. And, their unique siren call was invited to collaborate with TikTok lockdown sensation The Wellermen, as part of their 'Explorations' remix album.

Come join the Mediaeval Baebes and be immersed in glorious merriment. Tickets are now available from www.mediaevalbaebes.com at a cost of £27.50 each and £12.50 for a child.

Win tickets

Town and Around has two pairs of tickets to give away to this fabulous event. All you need to do is tell us why you'd like to go to the concert in no more than 40 words.

Email: editor@townandaround.net or send by post to: Town and Around, 18 Tapping Close, Snettisham PE31 7FF. Please note we do not accept entries by voicemail, text or any social media channel. There is no cash alternative. The closing date is 24th November 2023.



CHRISTMAS IS COMING...

On Saturday November 18th there will be a Christmas Market in the Town Hall where every kind of Christmas Treat will be on sale at reasonable prices. Handmade soaps and sweet-smelling oils are always popular at this time of year along with clever handmade Christmas Decorations and the ever-popular beautiful handmade dolls by Marion. This might be the last chance to buy these as she says she is retiring this year. Seasonal Refreshments will be available from the Bearded Kitchen.

Christmas Tree Festival

On December 1 – 3rd the enchanting Christmas Tree Festival will take place in the Town Hall.

Here all local groups are invited to enter a decorated Christmas Tree for display in the Hall and the public visitors vote for their favourites. There are both Childrens and Seniors categories. Past winners have included a Hedgehog tree and one in the shape of a dog from the local RSPCA charity shop. The more unusual design the better although traditional trees can win too! There is a cash prize for the 2 winners.

Groups, schools, and charities should contact Christine Earnshaw at 2chrisharnshaw@gmail.com for entry forms and details. There is no charge for entering this event.

-oOo-

The Hunstanton and District Festival of Arts is a non-profit organisation and a registered charity funded by Kings Lynn Borough Council and assisted by Hunstanton Town Council.

If you would like to be a volunteer and part of the fun contact www.festival3.com for more information.



KLCCC CHARITY SCREENING DEC 7th 2023

King's Lynn Community Cinema Club, who launched their new Winter season in November, shall be holding an additional special charity screening on Thursday 7th December in aid of King's Lynn's Night Shelter. They will be screening the new Ken Loach film "The Old Oak" at St George's Guildhall, King Street, starting at 7.30pm. KLCCC has screened the two previous Loach films in recent years as fund raisers. Club chairman Ian Barton explained "As a community club we try to engage with as many other local groups as we can and we organise several charity events each year. In recent years we have raised money for the Purfleet Trust, the Foodbank, Fairstead Community Shop, the Refugee Council, KL Pride and, of course, the Night Shelter."

"The Old Oak" is the third film in Loach's latest trilogy of issue led films following the acclaimed "I, Daniel Blake" and "Sorry I missed You". This time he looks at the fallout after a group of Syrian refugee families arrive in a deprived ex mining community. Set in 2016 in a Northeast England the future for the last remaining pub, The Old Oak, is in doubt. Many locals have left the village in search of work after the mine closed, the houses are cheap and available, thus making it an ideal location for Syrian refugees. A friendship develops between the decent pub landlord and a young female refugee and with the help of an aid worker they devise a plan to bring the two divided communities together. As with many of Ken Loach's movies there is a clear moral framework throughout the film but it is resolutely upbeat and once again much needed. It has been widely reported that this will probably be the veteran director's last film so perhaps his final message for us is one of hope.

The Cinema Club is covering all costs of the screening, so every penny that is donated on the night will go towards the essential work done by King's Lynn Night Shelter every Winter. Having been turned down for grants by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and West Norfolk Council the Shelter has already had to delay its reopening this Autumn and is facing a massive shortfall in funds. It requires £270,000 per year to run the Shelter. Homelessness charity 'Greater Change' says rough sleeping has increased by 169 per cent since 2010, in part due to "drastic cuts" to benefits made by the government. When the night shelter was set up, around 42 people were rough sleeping in the borough each night.

Lucy McKitterick, shelter manager, said "It is only four months since King's Lynn reached the national news following the death from hypothermia of a rough sleeper in the garden at St John's Church in The Walks. This is not the time for Lynn to lose its night shelter – and we warmly welcome our community's support." They have recently set up a crowd funding page to meet the costs of opening the Shelter for the Winter. "Much of our funding for the winter, including other grants, and income from housing benefit, is dependent on our being operational. We are needing help to open, so that other money can come in."

Entry to the KLCCC screening of "The Old Oak" will be by cash collection on the door and a minimum donation of £5 per person is suggested. If you are unable to come along to the film screening but would still like to support the Night Shelter, see www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/klnightshelter or donate directly to them at St John's House in Blackfriars Road.

Full details of all the Community Cinema Club's films and events can be found on the club website www.klccc.uk or Facebook page.



by the book

November Events

Murder between friends- join us for another Murder Mystery Evening at Petals Tearoom, Dersingham, on

Tuesday 14th November at 5.30pm £23

Mary Poppins at the Library reads a Victorian story at Hunstanton Library Saturday 25th November at 2pm free

Dickens at the Bookshop- come and meet Dickenisan characters and join in the fun as part of Hunstanton Christmas Market

Sunday 26th November from noon

Contact Adrian at the shop - 9 High Street Hunstanton,

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King's Lynn Community Cinema Club will be kicking off their Winter season of eight films showing at St George's Guildhall starting at 7.30pm. The first screening will be on Thursday 9th November when they will showing Ruben Östlund's wickedly funny Palme d'Or winner "Triangle of Sadness". The social hierarchy is turned upside down, revealing the tawdry relationship between power and beauty. Celebrity model couple, Carl (Harris Dickinson) and Yaya (Charlbi Dean), are invited on a luxury cruise for the uber-rich, helmed by an unhinged boat captain (Woody Harrelson). What first appeared hugely instagrammable ends catastrophically, leaving the survivors stranded on a desert island and fighting for their survival.

Anyone wishing to join KLCC for this season of eight films, membership is now available for just £17. This gives free entry to all screenings and access to a range of social events including meals out, trips, film related talks, quizzes and many others. This can be paid in cash on the door at the November film or BACs payments for membership can be arranged by simply emailing communitycinemaclub@googlemail.com. Anyone over 18 is welcome to become a member. Alternatively you can just come along to any film as a day member for £5. Please note only cash payments can be made on the door Full details of all the club's films and events can be found on the club website and Facebook page.



LIFE IS NOT ALL "RAINBOWS AND UNICORNS"

Lesley Nadel

On Monday 13th November 2023, at 2pm in Sedgeford Village Hall, Steven Barrett, an accredited Arts Society lecturer, will be giving an illustrated talk on Sickert and the Camden Town Murder of 1907. He tells us how this charismatic British artist of the early twentieth century was drawn to shocking and notorious subjects, especially this particularly sensational murder. Do come as our guest for £5 to see if you like our meetings. You can join as an annual member for £45 and enjoy a range of benefits – nine monthly lectures, trips and tours in the UK and abroad, special interest days, regular newsletters and magazines, and a warm welcome from a friendly society. www.theartsocietynorthwestnorfolk.org.uk

The macabre and the shocking can hold a fascination for us humans. The history of macabre is in the roots of spiritualism, mortality and demons. For artists it was the preoccupation with dark and morbid themes, from medieval cautionary tales to contemporary interventions. We humans may have an obsession, a passionate interest, for the scary, or just like gazing at something disturbing. Scary paintings can be beautiful and moving, illustrating the dark side of humanity.

Artists have always depicted the shocking in art with themes of death, violence and the supernatural. Dark art was used in medieval Europe to explore the effects of plagues such as the bubonic plague in 1347, with images of the macabre decorating chapels and halls, manuscripts and illuminated texts, and serving as visual allegories to communicate the inevitability of death and to caution against immortality. In European Renaissance art it was used to challenge the zealotry of religious ideology. The grandfather of surrealism, Hieronymus Bosch, is renowned for his landmark depictions of biblical evils, demons, human vice, and life after death. His famous triptych The Temptation of St Anthony (c.1500) is a scary depiction of the dark narratives of evil temptation and the lure of the devil, full of ghost-like figures, demons, and tortured souls.

Imagery, often disturbing, is used in many modern art creations, from the 1850s to the 1970s, to confront the uneasy and awkward truths of society. The artist William-Adolphe Bouguereau painted many pleasing paintings of nude youths and angels in pastel landscapes, but his painting inspired by Dante's Inferno of Dante and Virgil (1860) is completely macabre, particularly when paired with its backstory, notwithstanding the beautiful depiction of the fighters' bodies. The famous and very popular surrealist painter, Salvador Dali, incorporated many horrid and cruel details in his paintings, as close examination of The Face of War will reveal. It encapsulates the ugliness of war with a disembodied head set against a desert backdrop, serpents attacking an emaciated corpse, and paints used to represent war and peace. Much of Dali's artwork found its seed in premonitions of future wars and humanity has not disappointed in its relentless desire for conflict.

There are several famous artists known for scary paintings: from Theodore Gericault (1794 – 1824), who was so obsessed with mortality that he kept dismembered body parts in his studio. His painting, Severed Heads, depicts decaying heads as 'mortality in its darkest hour'; to Andy Warhol (1928 – 1987) and his painting Electric Chair, a scary viewing to send shivers down the spine, based on a press photo of the death chamber at Sing Sing State Penitentiary in New York. He provided a stark and affecting metaphor for death, which is hauntingly grim in view of the fact that political controversy regarding the death penalty in America at that time was particularly high. 'The opus is death exhibiting death' could be said of them all.

We look forward to seeing you on Monday 13th November 2023 at Sedgeford Village Hall at 2 pm. Ample parking. Tea and biscuits after the talk. Stay and chat to the lecturer.

www.theartsocietynorthwestnorfolk.org.uk



We meet at Sedgeford Village Hall at 2pm.

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



Next talk:
Monday 13th November 2023

Sickert and the Camden Town Murder

Lecturer:
Steven Barrett

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Rick Wakeman at the Princess



After studying piano privately for 12 years, Rick gained a scholarship to the Royal College of Music where he studied piano, clarinet and orchestration. In March 2012 Prince Charles presented him with his Fellowship of the RCM. He was also made a Professor at the London College of Music.

As a much sought after session musician in the late sixties and early seventies, Rick played on more than 2000 records including such hits as Cat Steven's Morning Has Broken, David Bowie's Space Oddity and Life on Mars and worked with a real eclectic mixture of other notable artistes such as Donovan, Cilla Black, Marc Bolan, Black Sabbath, Lou Reed, Mary Hopkin, Dana, Al Stewart, Elton John and John Williams.

He joined YES in August of 1971 and has been in and out of that band on quite a few occasions. Both as a solo artist and with YES he has sold more than 50,000,000 albums, although he says that only a clairvoyant would be able to tell you where the royalties went!

During the pandemic he recorded the highly acclaimed prog rock album, his first for many years, entitled The Red Planet which achieved a top 20 chart position and continues to be a best seller.

He followed this up in 2023 with A Gallery of the Imagination, another top 20 album.

For the first time in years, Rick is not doing a Christmas tour, instead he's performing a few one-man shows in selected places, including the Princess Theatre Hunstanton on Thursday 7th December.

The one man show will be different from the one man piano show as he will be using keyboards which enable him to perform pieces that can't be achieved on the piano.

The ludicrous stories will of course still be a major part of the show. Life is rarely dull for Rick or those around him!

The show for this extraordinarily talented musician is bound to be a sell out. Get your tickets now at: <https://thelittleboxoffice.com...>

The Arts Society King's Lynn

The Arts Society King's Lynn, TASKL, will be holding their next talk on Thursday 9th November at 2pm when the topic will be 'Where Have All The Women Gone?' In this talk speaker Alik Braine will be reintroducing many of the celebrated women artists from Western Art. From Marcia in antiquity, Sofonisba Anguissola in the Renaissance to Eva Gonzalès in the nineteenth century there were many female artists who managed to break the norm of western European society by making a name and a living for themselves in a world of men. Yet, despite achieving fame and recognition in their own time and being celebrated for their talent and skill, they were subsequently erased from the mainstream narrative of art history. Finally their work is beginning to be more widely recognised and studied.

The speaker Alik worked for National Gallery for 20 years and now teaches for Christie's Education, the Wallace Collection, and at Camberwell College of Art. She is also a practicing artist who regularly exhibits her photographic work internationally.

This month in addition to their talk on Wednesday 1st November TASKL will also be having another fun quiz organised by popular local quizmaster Jeff Hoyle. This is being held at The Warehouse Taproom, Garage Lane, Setchey PE33 0BE where there is ample free parking from 10.30am. The cost will be £5 per person payable in cash on the day and this includes a donation to True's Yard Museum.

Refreshments will be available to purchase and the restaurant will be open afterwards for those wishing to stay for lunch. Teams will be of up to 6 people which can be allocated on the day.

TASKL meets once a month on the second Thursday from September to May at West Winch Village Hall where there is ample free parking. Anyone can become a member for just £52 a year or can go along to individual lectures as a guest for £10. Anyone interested in finding out more about TASKL can visit their website at www.theartsocietykingslynn.org.uk or to join the Society contact the membership secretary on 01366 328648 or via email at info@theartsocietykingslynn.org.uk.



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Behind the scenes

Welcome back to the penultimate edition of Behind the Scenes, for the end of 2023 (I can't quite believe I'm writing that!). This edition we have a recap on some of the things that have happened previously and a look at what is to come from the theatre throughout November, with a nod to our 2023 Panto – *Jack and the Beanstalk*.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

Firstly, towards the end of September, the theatre took part in the annual national Macmillan Coffee Morning, organised by Jenny and the fellow theatre volunteers and helpers. A wonderful morning of delicious home baked goods and fun games was held, and many of the community came in support. Through the generous donations of the guests, and the theatre's contribution, we raised a fantastic total of £1,000! Thank you to all who attended, helped, and donated.

At the start of November, we have the brilliant Dazzling Diamonds performing. You may recognise Luke Attwood and Brandon Nicholson, 2 of the stars from our 2022 Pantomime Cinderella, who played the amazing Ugly Sisters. The Dazzling Diamonds features Miss Lola Lush, Miss Alexis and Bailey La Creame, come and join them in their brand-new comedy variety drag show! We were able to catch up with the 3 stars and ask them some questions regarding their performance this November, and beyond.

I first asked what is one of the things they all enjoy most about performing on stage. They note "when we are on stage together, we are genuinely having so much fun." This enjoyment then echoes throughout the audience and the Dazzling Diamonds "love seeing the audience getting involved when they are laughing, singing along, clapping and dancing the night away." They end with "being able to watch a room full of strangers come together to have a good time is what we enjoy most!" And I would suggest that this atmosphere of shared enjoyment - is arguably one of the best things about watching live theatre.

Next, I asked how the show was created. They express that it started locally in 2020 at a village hall. They continue "the three of us girls used to perform out in Cyprus together and some of our friends and families couldn't fly abroad to see us, so we decided to put on a little show for them." From here the show moved "from strength to strength" with it selling out within a month of being on sale. However, they explain "COVID put a halt to us doing more shows and was not a good time for many, but we decided to utilise the long period of time with nothing to do, to focus and put everything into creating the show we have today!"

I was interested to learn what was one of their favourite segments within the show. Each answered individually with their own personal response. Firstly, Lola states "the Finale, because it's a really special moment, filled with lots of emotion and it's lovely to see the reaction

of the audience." Continuing Alexis explains their love for Tina Turner and their excitement once Tina was added to the set list and notes "as a dancer, it is my time to let loose and go full out!" Finally, Bailey explains "as a live singer, I get the chance to sing some absolute bangers", within the show Bailey's favourite song "to belt is Cher, Turn Back Time" they continue that this is because "I really take on the character of Cher with her accent and (I'm) dressed head to toe as the icon."



Jemma



The Dazzling Diamonds

Lastly, we conclude with what you can expect from the performance on November 5th! They express "at a Dazzling Diamond show, you can expect side splitting comedy routines, sensational dance routines, (and) spectacular live vocals." They "ask audiences to come in with an open mind" and end with the message to "let loose and just enjoy yourself and we promise you will leave with a smile on your face", so grab your tickets for this great show.

Throughout November we have many acts that give a nod to the Christmas season. See Beauty and the Big Beast!, the hilarious adult panto by the Market Theatre Company, here Nov 11th! The Tennessee Country Christmas Show on Nov 19th, which features tributes to all your favourite country music stars. Buddy Holly & The Cricketers – Holly at Christmas performs on 25th for a night of rock and roll celebrations. And finally, the commence of our Panto – Jack and the Beanstalk - from December 2nd – get ready for fun audience participation, fantastic costumes, and lots of laughs!

On November 26th, we have our Christmas event at the theatre. Santa will be coming to Hunstanton for his last stop before heading back to the North Pole, and from 1.30pm – 4.30pm he will be at the Princess ready to meet you in our winter decorated auditorium. Come along for a festive afternoon, with music, mince pies, and mulled wine at the Sunset Wine Bar. Alongside this we have a few surprises, and even an opportunity to see our wonderful panto cast. The evening ends with our light switch on at 5pm, a magical day for all to enjoy.

That concludes this edition of Behind the Scenes, thank you all for reading. We hope you enjoy the start of the festive events and look forward to seeing you again soon. But until next time, break a leg!

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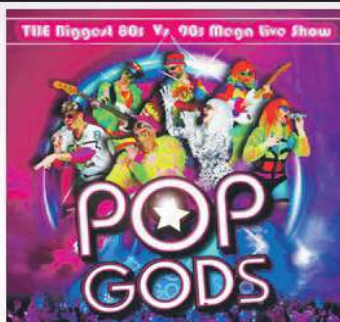
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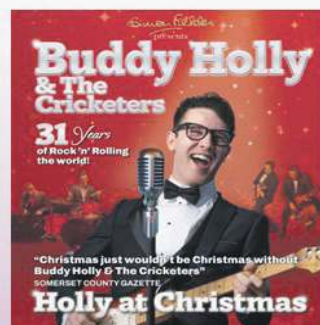
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