

TOWN and AROUND

ISSUE 229 NOVEMBER 2024

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Local News • Events • Great Outdoors • Features

First word



Welcome to your November magazine which is bursting with news, events, interesting articles and local advertising.

The number of events during November is staggering - pages 70-71 will fill your diaries.

Recently the Borough Council and Town Fund's consultation found that King's Lynn Heritage was valued most by people, and the Leader of the Borough commented: "It is absolutely vital

that we work with and listen to local people so that we can shape future decisions for the town that reflect people's needs and aspirations." How sad then that the County Council has put the Carnegie Library on a list of redundant assets - turn to page 42 to see more.

If you shop in the Hunstanton Tesco store you'll recognise the manager Gareth Rapkins. He is this month's 'In the Spotlight' and there's a Tesco hamper to be won - see page 56. For the Afternoon Tea competition you'll need to go to page 73.

My thanks, as always, to everyone who has sent articles and photographs for inclusion, plus our advertisers who provide the income to produce every issue. There are new advertisers again this month, please support them if you are able.

As I write this there are just sixty-eight days to Christmas, time to go to the RNLI shop to get some cards!

With best wishes for a great November,

Elaine

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Crash Bang Wallop, What a Soap Box Derby!

Tim Keogh

Thousands flocked to Hunstanton for the traditional Soap Box Derby on Sunday, 22nd September.



There were certainly spills, thrills and razzmatazz as the contrasting weather conditions meant a day of exciting racing lay ahead with dry conditions for the morning run and wet conditions for the second afternoon run.

Nearly 60 teams (a record) put their hand built karts to the test down the 500m course, some built months, even years, in advance, whilst others were, plainly, put together at the last moment. But that's part of the fun as the course is ultimately a leveller, to some extent. A tight bend to deal with at the start, followed by the choice of a jump or chicane, with a tricky turn into the finish, putting, not only the most experienced driver to the test, but the quality of kart too.

Wheels fell off, in fact a lot of things fell off, thank goodness for the bales of hay that prevented harm to the spectators (and, to be fair, the drivers), as the afternoon's wet conditions created mayhem. Fortunately there were no serious injuries, although a lot of the karts will now, unfortunately, be off to the breaker's yard.



Dave's dream is over for another year

Veteran driver, local man Dave Curtis, 78, was aiming to break his duck and win the event. His first run looked to be on course to lead the field, until he struck a bale on the chicane. Should have gone for the jump. His second run fell foul of the wet conditions as



King's Lynn Mayor Paul Bland and wife Marion brave the damp afternoon conditions

he slid to a halt on the run in. Better luck next year Dave.

With the deliberation of having to choose between the jump or chicane half way down proving crucial to race times, many made the wrong choice, much to the delight of the crowd!



Shoreline Bathrooms come a cropper on the chicane first time round

Frank Hartnell, who arranged the inaugural event in 1953 by challenging the children of St. Christopher's Children's Home to build and race their karts along the streets of Hunstanton, would have been both amazed and gobsmacked at the same time with the turnout and popularity of the event nowadays which he had, basically, thought up on a whim.



Soapbox racing is a form of gravity racing where motorless vehicles are propelled down a hill, preferably as fast as possible, depending on your agenda of course. How hard the push is at the start can be crucial but so is driver capability and the aero dynamics of the soapbox, with the creativity applied to some designs incredibly advanced, and some karts hurtling down the course and reaching speeds nearing 30mph.

It is all about the taking the part that counts.

Of course it is. Not going by some of the facial expressions of the racers as they hurtled down the course it wasn't - although these may have been mistaken for looks of fear. Across all teams, almost 100 racers took part in the main, veterans and junior events, with ages ranging from 11 to 78.



Charles le Strange Meakin determined not to give up on Birkin's Boys 2023 title easily

In the end, Team Apex Legend de-throned Birkin's Boys to win the coveted title, with a time of 30 seconds, pushing Team Eggy into second place. Nutty's Speed Shop won the veteran's division, whilst Ram Racing and Team Devil Juniors from Clacton-on-Sea won the u16's and u13's events respectively.



Winners Team Apex Legend with King's Lynn Mayor Paul Bland

Winner, Michael Andrew from Stoke Ferry, was overwhelmed with his victory. Having been a late replacement for previous winner Ed Neapolitano, he said a crash at 50mph last month and a puncture en route nearly scuppered his plans to even attend. But he made it. The 45 year old said, "thanks must go to my two young assistants, stepson Mason West and son Harvey, it was an amazing day with great camaraderie between the teams. I will most definitely be back to defend my title next year".

Whilst thanks must go to all the volunteers and sponsors who help organise the event, there was a poignancy to the day as race coordinator, Roger Partridge, who has been involved in running the Derby on behalf of the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk for the past six years and has been integral in organising the race since 2018, stood down from his role this year. He capped the end of his tenure with the final run down the course much to the delight of the crowd.

Images: Paul Easton

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Hunstanton Primary School celebrates high praise in latest Ofsted Inspection

Staff, students, and governors at Hunstanton Primary School are celebrating after receiving high praise from Ofsted following a recent inspection in July. The report, which was released at the start of the new term, confirmed that Hunstanton Primary continues to be rated as a 'good' school.



Mrs J Sullivan – Head teacher (L), Mrs J McGee-Butler – Chair of Governors (R) with the School Student Council, Head Boy and Girl and their deputies

Headteacher Jo Sullivan expressed her pride in the school's achievements, stating, "This recognition from Ofsted reflects the passion and dedication of our staff in creating a supportive and enriching environment where our pupils can thrive."

The inspection described Hunstanton Primary as a "welcoming and inclusive environment," highlighting that pupils are happy and enjoy their learning experience. The school's strong provision for students with special educational needs was particularly commended, ensuring all pupils receive the support they need.

Inspectors also praised the school's well-rounded curriculum, tailored to meet the diverse needs of all students and designed to help them achieve the school's motto: 'Succeed, Enjoy, Aspire.' Special recognition was given to the emphasis on teaching pupils about their local area, instilling a sense of pride in both Hunstanton and Norfolk.

The high expectations held by staff for their pupils were also noted.

The core subjects, Maths and Reading were identified as strengths of the school. The school's Maths leaders were commended for driving significant improvements, while in Reading, the inspector highlighted the focus on developing enthusiastic and fluent readers.

The wider curriculum also earned high praise, with Ofsted acknowledging the many opportunities available for pupils to explore their interests and talents. This includes a broad range of afterschool clubs, impressive sporting and arts programs, as well as leadership roles that empower pupils throughout the school.

Notably, the report recognised the strong sense of community that is embedded in Hunstanton Primary; a point that delighted both staff and governors. Headteacher Mrs Sullivan emphasised that this sense of community is more meaningful than any single-word rating, and she voiced her support for the government's plans to move away from such judgments in future Ofsted inspections.

Chair of Governors Jenny McGee-Butler echoed these sentiments, adding, "It's wonderful to see the inspectors highlighting the hard work and collaboration that makes our school so special. As governors, we look forward to supporting the school's continued success."

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Rotarians gift Dictionaries 4 Life

Michael Walker



For some years now the three Rotary Clubs in King's Lynn have donated copies of the excellent Usborne Illustrated Dictionaries to children in local primary schools.

The Rotary Club of King's Lynn normally provides some 300 of the dictionaries to Year 5 children. When the scheme started some ten years ago they were given to children in Year 6 but because they are so useful the teachers suggested Year 5 would be better as the children

would have them for two years before they transferred to secondary schools.

Recently dictionaries were presented to children at North Wootton Primary Academy by Michael Pellizzaro and Pip Rippengill on behalf of the Rotary Club.

Photograph: Year 5 pupils at North Wootton Primary Academy with Rotarians Michael Pellizzaro (far left) and Pip Rippengill (far right.)



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Wednesdays : Scrabble 10am, Whist Drive 7pm.

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Saturdays : 'Open the Box' draw at 1pm.



www.hunstantonconservativeclub.co.uk

It's a bullseye for the Norfolk Hospice

Over twenty players took part in a sponsored Darts Marathon in aid of the Norfolk Hospice at Hunstanton's Conservative Club and in early October a cheque for £700 was presented to Lindsey Atkin from the Hospice.



From left: Sal Valderas, Lindsey Atkin, Valerie Jubb and Bill Cunliffe

Lindsey spoke about the work of the Hospice and explained that their funding was made up of one third from the government and the remainder came from fundraising. "It's wonderful groups like you who enable us to do what we do every day, and we couldn't do it without you."

The darts marathon was held from 2pm-10pm on 21st September and the event was organised by Sal Valderas and Valerie Jubb.

During the marathon Pat Cox won the most games. "I knocked the



Some of the Darts Marathon players at the presentation

men out!" she said, "years ago I was captain of a ladies team in Kettering."

Following the event club committee member Bill Cunliffe suggested the compilation of a commemorative folder that includes the following statement: "Hunstanton Conservative Club is proud of its record of support for local worthwhile charities and therefore it should be placed on record our thanks to Sal and Val for all their efforts in making this event so enjoyable and successful."



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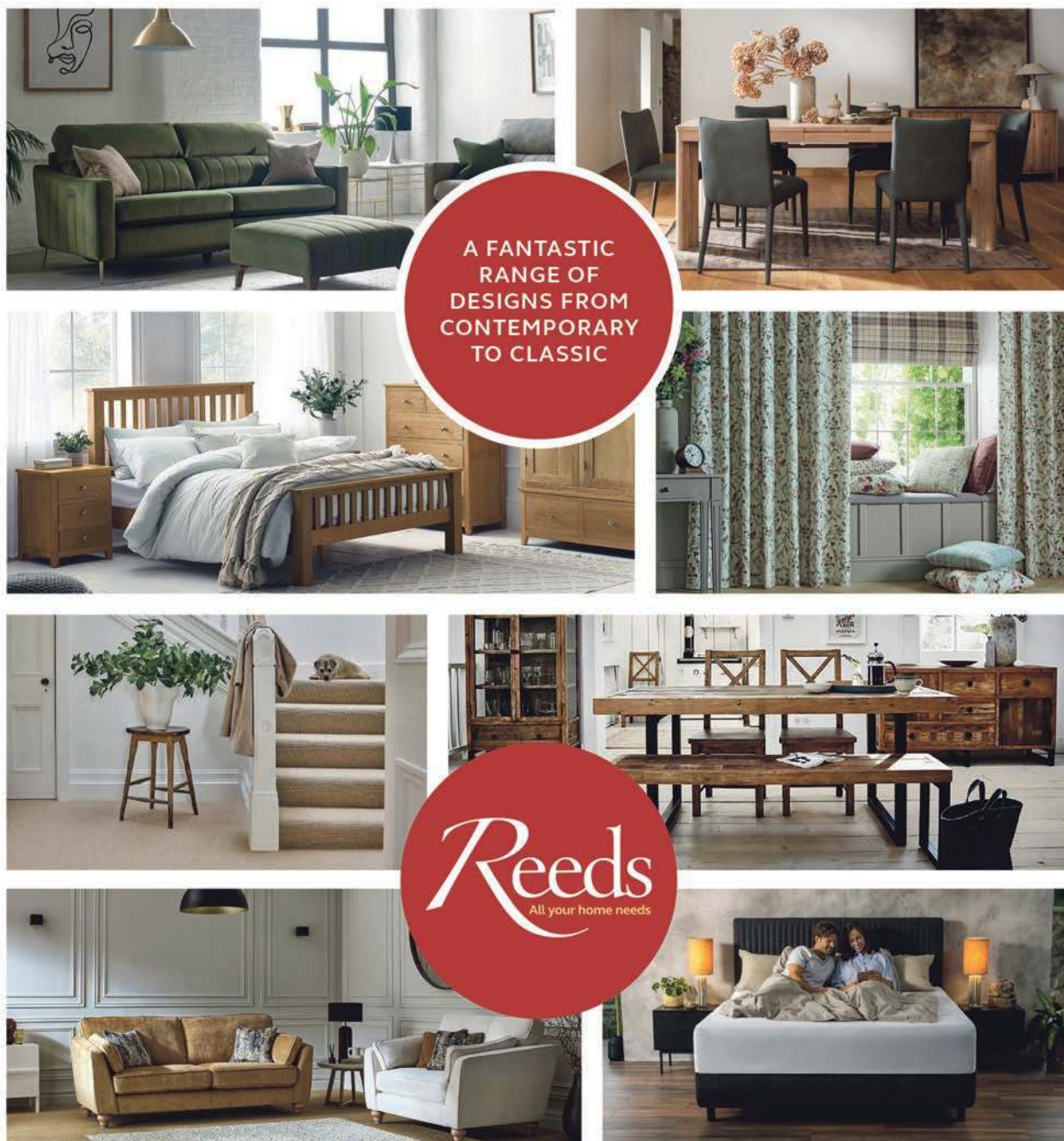


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Executor vs. Attorney: Understanding the Key Differences

By Yasmin Knock, Solicitor, Hayes + Storm.

When we start planning for the future, the terms “attorney” and “executor” frequently arise. It is often wrongly assumed that the role of attorney and executor are one and the same. Both are a position of trust and often can be the same people, which keeps matters straightforward. But if not, it helps to be clear about the distinct duties and obligations. Crucially, the best approach is to make these arrangements in the first place. This article breaks down the differences between attorneys and executors.

Attorneys

Giving someone ‘power of attorney’ means empowering them (via a legal document) to help you make decisions, or to make decisions on your behalf. These can be financial decisions, or even health and care decisions should you lose mental capacity.

An attorney is often under the impression that they can continue dealing with a person’s assets when that person dies. However, a power of attorney is only valid during your lifetime - when you pass away, your attorneys no longer have the authority to manage your affairs.

Executors

An executor is someone you appoint in

your will to carry out your wishes after your death. You can choose friends, family members, professional executors, or a combination (up to four).

It is the executor’s duty to administer your will. Executors cannot deal with your assets during your lifetime.

Executor’s duties can include

- Registering the person’s death and arranging the funeral
- Calculating and paying any inheritance tax if necessary
- Applying for probate
- Collecting and safeguarding the estate assets
- Settling any outstanding debts or liabilities from estate funds, as well as paying any tax on qualifying estate income
- Distributing the estate to your named beneficiaries

Unlike attorneys, an executor may only know about their appointment while you’re alive if you have discussed it with them directly. You can change who you have appointed as executor by updating your will.

For many estates, an executor will need to apply to the court for authority to deal with the estate’s assets. This is known as Probate in England and Wales. The executor can then use this authority to withdraw funds, sell property or transfer assets to beneficiaries.



Once the estate has been wound up, the executor’s duties are discharged.

Planning Ahead

In summary, an attorney acts while you are still alive and/or if you become mentally incapable of managing your own affairs, and protects your interests during your lifetime, whereas an executor’s role begins after your death and ensures your wishes are carried out in accordance with your Will.

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Musical Macmillan event hits all the right notes

Regular customers and visitors to the town filled Hunstanton Ski Cafe for the annual coffee morning on 27th September. They were greeted by an array of cakes and savories, a fully stacked tombola and David Young playing his Saxophone and Clarinet.

Describing his style now as 'easy listening' David plays 60's rock to ballads, Latin, show music and pop through several eras and customers in the Ski Cafe were invited to choose songs for him to play from his extensive playlist.



From left: Christine Vernon, Jean Raven, Jean-Marie Vernon, Roger Raven and Muriel Kent

Members of Hunstanton & District Rotary Club were there in force and regular Muriel Kent said how much she loves the friendly atmosphere at the cafe. And at an adjacent table, musician Jammin' Joe was thrilled with his tombola wins.



Michelle, Christine, Gill and Carole were enthusiastic about the cakes, while the Henman family from Bedfordshire who were holidaying at Searles, were tucking into a hearty breakfast.

From the Ski Cafe Thelma, Manager Alison and their team said there was a lovely turnout, a few hectic moments and very generous donations from customers.



And the notes? Well, Lady in Red was my favorite song, and the notes collected for Macmillan amounted to £630!

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LOCAL LADIES DANCE TO RAISE MONEY FOR ORPHANS

Local inspirational dance teacher, Peg Hunter, of Dersingham, who runs classes for adults in North Norfolk, raised £550 for the 54 children living at Saidia Children's Home in Gilgil, Kenya.



Peg Hunter at ballet awards night

Peg devoted a week to the fund raising and each of her classes was taught a new dance in an hour and invited to donate what they liked to the cause.

First was the Fit'n'dancin', then two ballet classes, the tap class and then the ballroom students at a tea dance.

Peg Hunter said 'The germ of the idea to do sponsored dance came from listening to Briony Bax, Chair of Saidia Charity, give a talk at Dersingham WI when she half-jokingly suggested we do 130 plies! I wasn't up for that - first aid certificate not that good - but it made me think that if I

asked everyone for their favourite step we could do each step 13 times.

When I got the list of steps I realised it would be quite boring so I moved the goal posts and put the steps into a dance which I then taught and the dancers performed all within an hour.

Fit 'n' dancin', ballet and tap had this format and all enjoyed the challenge (ballet was a particularly hard challenge). Ballroom and Latin dancers were asked to choose their favourite dance and tune for the next Tea Dance and wonderfully a lot of the tea dancers also joined in.

It was lovely to have a break from the routine classes (especially ballet as they are working towards exams). The dancers have all said they enjoyed the challenge. I personally think it was a lovely way to support such a good Charity.'

Briony Bax MBE, Chair of Saidia Children's Charity and a student of Peg Hunter and said:

'Peg is an amazing teacher. She is so encouraging, and her classes really help us who are more mature to relive the ballet classes of our youth. It keeps you fit, it works your brain, and you feel so good afterwards. Some of our members have even taken ballet exams very successfully. Peg is an inspiration, and I look forward to showing the children in Kenya the videos of the ladies dancing and I'm going to get the children in Kenya to do a dance back to the ladies in Norfolk when I go out there in November.'

If you are interested in finding organize a sponsored dance, go to



The Wednesday ballet class



A few of the children at Saidia Children's Home, Kenya

more about Peg Hunter's classes call 07930 556675, for more about Saidia Children's Charity or if your group would like to

www.saidiacharity.org or contact Briony Bax at friendsofsaidia@gmail.com

Visit to the Rotary Club of Warsaw October 2024

Michael Walker

Once a year Rotary clubs in Great Britain have a Scatter Week when members are encouraged to visit other clubs. For several years the Rotary Club of King's Lynn has been more adventurous than most and members have visited a number of European countries.

Recently members of the King's Lynn Club visited the Rotary Club of Warsaw. The photograph shows the trip organizer, Michael Pelletizer, and Jacey Paulo, the President of the Warsaw Club, exchanging banners.

The Rotary Club of Warsaw was founded in 1931 and ceased in 1939 at the start of WW2. It was re-formed in 1989, the first club to be re-started in Poland at the end of communist control.





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Effortless and ethical

Fashion trends come and go, but some fabrics have that unique staying power and remain a favourite of designers over the decades. And we are talking about corduroy.

Developed from the original fustian fabric, the corduroy we recognise today originated in 19th century Manchester, where its hard-wearing nature made it ideal for factory wear. Sometimes called the poor-man's velvet, it is a warm, versatile and elegant fabric and fans include Pablo Picasso, Woody Allen, Bob Dylan and the Beatles.

Corduroy is sustainable, eco-friendly and durable, it is made from natural fibres like organic cotton (because it's soft and supple) and is biodegradable. It can be recycled or repurposed, making it great choice for those who love sustainable fashion.

Focussing on vintage styling from the 40s to the 70s, the husband-and-wife team at Pretty Vacant is certified by the Global Organic Textile Standard or GOTS and the Soil Association, having been audited by GOTS for ethical production, organic and sustainable cotton fabrics and a duty of care to all employees including workers' rights.

Pretty Vacant's winter collection is simply stunning and includes, you guessed it, some fabulous corduroy pieces including the Forest Green Cord bomber jacket shown in the advert on this page, the ultimate combination of warmth and comfort, with a playful print lining and pockets. It is teamed with a go-everywhere dress with a long hemline, soft material and convenient pockets.



Allez Chic's Cheryl Daubney says; "As soon as I saw these corduroy pieces, I knew they would be a hit with local ladies; they are beautifully made, easy to wear and are real head-turners – just look at these super trousers (above) worn with a lovely boatneck jumper."

Visit Allez Chic's light and airy store in Castle Rising where Cheryl and her staff can help you find the perfect outfit.

The Bagladies of Thornham

The Bagladies of Thornham are busy working hard towards our Annual Winter Gift Fair on Saturday 7th December 2024 from 10.am - 4pm

Since we started in 2006 the total now raised stands at £97,450. So with your help our target of £100,000 is now looking achievable.

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

To place orders for our homemade Christmas cakes and Puddings, please order before 10th November 2024. These can be collected on the day.

Cakes - Carolyn carolynbarrett@hotmail.co.uk

Puddings - Angela morrisangelaf@gmail.com

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Affordable housing and new library proposed for Hunstanton

Hunstanton is set to benefit from the development of affordable housing and a new library, under proposals to be considered by Cabinet and the Regeneration and Development Panel at the borough council.

The Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk proposal would see 21 – 24 affordable housing units built alongside a new library, in co-operation with Norfolk County Council. The scheme would be built alongside the Hunstanton Bus Station where the county council are already planning improvements to the transport interchange as part of their Bus Service Improvement Plan.

Cllr Alistair Beales, Leader of the borough council, said: "The council has long held ambitions to develop affordable housing in the heart of Hunstanton. Now we have an opportunity to develop between 21 and 24 properties in a great location and build a new library for the town at the same time."

"Creating growth and prosperity across the whole borough is one of this council's priorities, alongside supporting our communities. This proposal delivers both."

Cllr Andrew Jamieson, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance at Norfolk County Council, said: "We are excited to bring a new, purpose-built library to the town that will be delivered in tandem with the borough council's housing plans."



"Norfolk County Council are already on track to create a new and improved Travel Hub in Hunstanton. This will improve the bus station, introduces bike storage, pedestrian crossing, better toilet facilities and a changing places toilet to the area. Work on the travel hub is due to start before the end of the year and completed in Spring 2025."

Cllr Jo Rust, Cabinet member for People and Communities, said: "I'm really glad to see more of the much needed affordable housing being proposed in the centre of Hunstanton, that, along with the new Library, will be a real benefit to the town and wider area."

"The report suggests that a mix of one and two bed flats could be built near the new library. Residents will start seeing

improvements in the area next year with the work being carried out by county with the travel hub. I look forward to seeing the detailed proposals at Cabinet."

The report will be presented to the Regeneration and Development Panel on 15 October and Cabinet on 17 October. Norfolk County Council will complete the travel hub next year (2025). If agreed by Cabinet a detailed design will be required and will be subject to planning approval.

Homes England provided a £9.8M grant in 2018 as part of their Accelerated Construction Programme to be used across seven sites in the borough, this is the last site to benefit from the funding.

Plans approved for St George's Guildhall

Transformational plans to preserve and enhance one of King's Lynn's most important heritage sites have been approved.



The proposals for the full renovation and refurbishment of St George's Guildhall, resulting in the site becoming a regional and national centre for arts, creativity, and theatre, were given the go-ahead by the Borough Council's planning committee on 7th October.

The plans for the Guildhall and Creative Hub would mean the venue's historic buildings and courtyards transformed into new spaces to offer both a heritage attraction and year-round performances.

It is envisaged that the project could bring multi-million pounds into West Norfolk's economy with estimates predicting that footfall and customer spend could help to generate around £30M into the local

economy. In addition, a large number of jobs would be created through the project, including during the construction and the ongoing



operation of the site.

An aim of the site is to be a place for the whole community, including low-cost tickets for local people and school visits, building on the work with schools that has already begun.

Councillor Simon Ring, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Business and Culture said: "The Guildhall is one of King's Lynn's best loved spaces, a true historical gem which can offer even more for local people and visitors alike through its sensitive redevelopment."

"The vision of these aspirational plans is the creation of a thriving and inspiring centre with the unique and important heritage of the Guildhall preserved and protected for future generations to enjoy."

"The Guildhall project represents a huge opportunity for our

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community through an engaging new offer, and through the footfall and investment it will bring into our area as a beacon for West Norfolk.”

Vicky Etheridge, Interim Chair of King’s Lynn Town Board said: “It is fantastic to see the Guildhall project take another step forward with planning permission granted.

“The Guildhall has significant untapped potential which can be unlocked through these exciting plans, resulting in an inspiring space for all.

“With the achievement of this latest milestone for the project, we are moving ever closer to realising our shared ambitions for this site.”

The proposals build on the Guildhall’s impressive heritage as the oldest working theatre in the country and the only theatre still working which can credibly claim to have hosted William Shakespeare.

Last year, the original floorboards the Bard is believed to have performed on, dating from the early 15th century, were discovered in a major historical find. And, more recently, archaeological work revealed a 600-year-old doorway which may once have led to William Shakespeare’s dressing room.

Further research, led by Creative Director Tim FitzHigham, is taking place to explore this exciting history, including the links with Robert Armin, Shakespeare’s comedian who was born in the town.

“It’s been a massive body of work the planning application involving over 223 supporting documents, many of them running to 1000 pages, all carefully prepared.

“The historic discoveries have shown, by reaching over 300 million people worldwide, the potential of the Guildhall: but the thing we should all be most proud of to date is the activity on site; working with thousands of children and young people, showing visual arts, cinema, plays, comedy, music and so much more both indoor and outdoor – this proves what an asset the Guildhall site could be in the long term.

“We all accept there is a very long way to go and several big challenges to overcome, but today a key milestone has been achieved with planning permission awarded.”

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The need to correct past mistakes

John Maiden

On June 11 this year, my Turnstone column in the Lynn news commemorated the 85th anniversary of the fire that destroyed the Pavilion, which had been added to the end of our elegant Victorian Pier in the early years of the twentieth century. Three months later, the Summer 2024 edition of "Piers" - the quarterly magazine of the National Piers Society - commented on the same story and included a link to my column in the Lynn News. This prompted me to send a few words to the editor of "Piers" pointing out that visitors to Hunstanton can find out more about our long-lost pier inside the Hunstanton Society's Heritage Centre, and by studying the borough council's very informative interpretation boards in the nearby Esplanade Gardens.

At this point, some Town & Around readers might be expecting me to expand on my home town's lost assets, two of which were created during the depression years of the twenties and thirties. I will simply point out that the present Labour Government is on record as wanting more people to make themselves available for work; so why not add swimming pools and boating lakes to the list of hospitals, homes and railway lines, which this country needs after years of Tory misrule?



Hunstanton's Boating Lake

in 1955/56, helping to build the new sea wall and north promenade, where one of my jobs was making test cubes of the concrete, mixed on site, to be sent off for testing. This is probably why I find it difficult to understand why so many buildings, including Lynn hospital, were put together with RAAC - Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete. It sounds too much like cement-based Aero chocolate to be of any practical use in the construction of flat-roofed buildings. In spite of the fact that RAAC and highly inflammable external cladding are quite easy to spot, it is shameful that it is taking so long to rectify past mistakes.

Talking of mistakes, over a year ago, in response to a Freedom of Information request, I received confirmation, from someone in the FOI department at the borough council, that the building which replaced Hunstanton Pier in 2003 fails to comply with the Covenant imposed by the le Strange Estate in 1955, intended to protect The Green from encroachment by permanent structures of any description. Last week I discovered that the person responsible for unearthing the relevant legal documents is no longer employed by the borough council.

Bearing in mind the length of time it can take central government to correct past mistakes, such as the Post Office scandal for example; I am wondering if I will live long enough to see steps taken to put right this wrong, which has already been recognised by at least one local county councillor...



Blue Lagoon in the 1950s

Taking part in building something really useful has to be worth more than just the wage packet received at the end of each week. In my own case, some of the most satisfying days of my working life were spent

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SEDGEFORD VILLAGE CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Jacqueline Sindle

On 24 November 2024 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Sedgeford Village Hall, Jarvie Close, PE36 5NG will be home to what is hoped will be the first of a tri-annual artisan craft fayre.

Our Christmas Fayre will have much to delight you including stained glass gifts, artwork, Norfolk Mead, textiles, sweet sensations, Meza Turk, slate work engraved whilst you wait, pottery, jewellery and much more.

If you'd like a Reiki session, book your appointment by emailing Finolasbeauty1@gmail.com

Refreshments available all day and free parking on site.

Why not come along and buy some unique items for family and friends.

SEDGEFORD CHRISTMAS FAYRE

SEDGEFORD VILLAGE HALL

JARVIE CLOSE, SEDGEFORD PE36 5NG

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Labour and a wealth tax

Jo Rust

It's been just 4 months since the Labour government were elected to run the country after 14 years of Conservative rule. Each new Conservative premier, and we saw a fair few come and go, acted as if the mistakes made by the outgoing PM were nothing to do with the new incumbent, despite them being a part of the same ruling government and, in many cases, sitting on the very cabinet which made those disastrous decisions! It would be comical if it hadn't had such a serious and negative impact on the lives of so many people.

The situation in the UK that has been picked up by the Labour party is dire, and actually far worse than they had been led to believe. Hence some of these "difficult decisions" that have been made. I for one don't feel that withdrawing the Winter Fuel Allowance from all pensioners apart from those in receipt of Pension Credits, was the right thing to do. I understand the reasons given for it and sympathise with the fact that things are far worse than realised, but still, not something that I would have voted for. I'd have far preferred to have seen a Wealth Tax imposed. If a 2% wealth tax was levied on individuals who own assets over the value of £10 million it would only affect 0.4% of the population of the UK. People like you and I, who are either Pay As You Earn (PAYE) or on a fixed income, don't have that ability to easily avoid paying our taxes. Yet those whose income comes from shares, assets or stocks often pay a far lower percentage of their income in tax than we do. If we all paid the same rates of tax it could raise £16.7 billion a year, according to Tax Justice UK. This sum massively outweighs the piddling £1.3 billion saved from cutting the Winter Fuel Allowance. Cutting the payment to pensioners who were just over the threshold for being able to claim Pension Credits is not a good look for a party which was established to provide a means for working class people to get more justice in politics.

Unfortunately, the Labour party are always going to be judged more harshly and to higher

standards than the Conservatives. We're used to those with vested interests supplying their mates in Parliament, who made important decisions, with sweeteners. We expect to see snouts at the trough. But it doesn't sit well with the party which is expected to focus on the needs of the majority, those who don't earn millions, or even hundreds of thousands. I fully accept the right of the trade unions to fund the party that they helped to set up. Trade unions represent the voice and the needs of millions of working or retired people. Money donated by the trade unions isn't going to see a mere few swell their coffers, but it will benefit those who are on the PAYE tax system which I started off by mentioning. These are the people, and those who are reliant on entitlements paid by the state in the way of social security payments, who are really struggling, so much so that there has been a near 50% increase in the reports of energy theft, said the BBC recently. This is people tampering with their meters or fuel source to avoid paying for their gas and electric use. It's dangerous and can lead to explosions and death, reportedly killing or badly injuring 280 people a year. It's not something I imagine anyone does lightly. This will be driven out of desperation. And fuel bills looks set to rise further.

So there's no quick fix for the Labour party, it'll take far longer than a few months to put right over a decade of austerity imposed by the very wealthy. But locally there is help and support available through our borough council and I'd urge anyone in need to get in touch. We have a Customer Information Centre (CIC) which can be contacted to signpost or provide advice (01553 616200). We also offer sessions called Beat Your Bills where we have advisors from both the borough council and other agencies available to offer ways in which you can cut your bills, access energy saving measures which will cut your fuel costs as well as cutting carbon emissions and partners from the Dept Work and Pensions who can give further and more in depth



benefit advice. Also on offer are the Food for Thought workshops which run for 12 weeks. They're currently being held at the Methodist Chapel Hall off London Road in King's Lynn every Tuesday from 9.30 until 11.30. There's no need to book and you can turn up at any point in the session. I recommend going at the start because it's then you see the ways that Jenny, the chef, demonstrates how you can cook tasty, nutritious and filling foods on a budget. There are always tastes of the food provided as well as blind taste tests which show you don't have to buy the branded foods to get the best tastes. These are also free and a warm, comfortable and welcoming environment where you get to meet other people. So they help overcome loneliness and isolation to, supporting our mental health and resilience, they're staffed by the Lily team who really look after all those in attendance, contributing to that welcoming feel. The Lily team also provide comprehensive advice, guidance and signposting to services which can help with the cost of living. While I realise that any new party taking over is going to have a huge hill to climb, it doesn't mean our local council doesn't supply services that can provide help and support. Please do get in touch, via your borough councillor, if need be. We're there to help.

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BETTY'S CLUB

Betty's Club is an important new community resource opening soon in a purpose-built space next door to The Burnhams Surgery in Burnham Market.

Betty's Club is being created especially for older people in the community with dementia or cognitive decline and their family carers, facilitated by award-winning dementia communication practitioner Sarah Reed. Our vision is to become a vibrant community-led, members club.

Every person with dementia or cognitive decline has a better life when they can socialise and have meaningful things to do, so we aim to offer a range of enjoyable activities chosen by members, with refreshments to enhance the experience.

Options include life storytelling, table and brain games, music, arts and crafts, writing and poetry, reminiscence, chair exercise and gardening. We will also offer counselling and workshops for carers.

Until Christmas, we are holding monthly events, giving people the opportunity to explore and comment on our plans. The next one is on the afternoon of Wednesday 13 November. If you are interested to come along, we'd be very pleased to meet you! Please phone Sarah Reed for further information: 07976 287952

North Wootton Christmas Fair Back for Eighth Year

The countdown is on! North Wootton Village Hall is preparing for its annual Christmas Fair.

Taking place on Saturday 30 November, this well-loved local event is now in its eighth year and is renowned for getting the festive season started.

Shoppers can browse a large 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 Jingle Elves and local singer Claire Scollay. Father Christmas's reindeer will also be present and can be visited free of charge.



Mia Else feeds one of the reindeer at the 2023 Christmas Fair

Antony Lamb, the village hall's Events Organiser, said: "We're really pleased to be able to put on the Christmas Fair again this year, having worked hard since January to make this a really special event full of festive cheer. And, of course, we will switch on the Christmas lights for the community to enjoy for the rest of the season too."

The raffle has been well supported by local businesses with high value prizes, and the village hall will be serving mulled wine, warm mince pies, and refreshments to enjoy while visitors soak up the Christmas atmosphere.

Free Medieval Festival

Norwich Castle and Norwich Cathedral team up to host a spectacular free Medieval Festival this half-term on Saturday 2 November, 10am-3pm.



Step into the sights and sounds of the medieval world with a spectacular family-friendly Medieval Festival; two authentic medieval camps outside the Castle and Cathedral will offer visitors of all ages the chance to experience hands-on crafts, costumed characters, combat skills, weaponry displays and more. A special trail featuring the Castle mice and their friends, Snap the Dragon and Flint the Fox, will help families navigate the route between the two venues.

At Norwich Castle Green, a 14th Century living-history camp created by the Norwich and Norfolk Medieval Association (NANMA) will offer visitors an exciting and immersive experience. Visitors will be able to practice skills used in making staves for longbows, arrow fletching and beeswax candle-making. There will be opportunities to practice soft-play sword combat, try on armour, and explore medieval beauty routines. Families will enjoy striking a coin to take home with them as well as finding out more about the medieval world including demonstrations of how illuminated manuscripts were made and net making.

The atmosphere will be enhanced by the sound of musical instruments played by medieval music specialists, Pearl in the Egg. And if you've been up to something naughty, a humorous pardoner character will be on hand selling mock paper pardons!

At Norwich Cathedral Upper Green, Norfolk-based Viking, Saxon and Norman re-enactment group Ordgar will recreate their award-winning 10-11th Century Saxon and Norman camp. Visitors can make clay pinch pots, create tablet braids, and take-home willow sprang weavings. There will be opportunities to craft leather coin pouches and key fobs with rune designs, try wood turning, and play traditional games like Nine Men's Morris and Hnefatafl. Visitors can also grind flour with a quern stone, try on helmets and shields for photos, and watch demonstrations of sharp weapons in action. And that's not all - sling making, bead decorating, and creating illuminated manuscripts using quills and paints will all be on offer.

King's Lynn and West Norfolk Mayor Councillor Paul Bland will be in attendance.

Mr Lamb continued "It's a great way to start your Christmas shopping with local independents, plus live music and entertainment, free-to-visit reindeer, and seasonal food and drink; it's a lovely way to welcome in the festive season."

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: northwoottonvillagehall.org.uk as well as on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), and Instagram.

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Norfolk Restaurant Week

Monday 4th - Friday 8th November and
Monday 11th - Friday 15th November

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Looking for somewhere in Hunstanton?



A convenient venue for all sorts of small meetings or events can be hard to find in Hunstanton but now a local businessman has the answer and is offering



his cosy café with a wonderful view of the sea.

Holger Levey said: "If you are looking for somewhere in the town to hold a meeting, coffee morning or afternoon tea, a birthday or other celebration, or maybe just meeting friends or like-minded people for networking why not hold it at the Sunset Café & Takeaway?"

"We can accommodate one-off or regular events during or outside normal business hours, so please pop in to have a chat or call me on 07540 302230

"Most Wednesdays we have a 'Charity Day' when a percentage of our takings on that day are donated to a particular charity – please pop in and support us."

Looking for somewhere in Hunstanton?

Maybe to hold a meeting, some networking, a coffee morning or afternoon tea, a birthday or other celebration, maybe just meeting friends or like minded people etc etc. Whatever the occasion, no matter whether a one off or a regular event....why not hold it at the perfect venue....right here?

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u3a Open Day



King's Lynn u3a is one of 1000 such organisations throughout the country open to all who are no longer in full time employment. The aim is to enjoy life with like-minded people. The King's Lynn u3a has many activity groups, including languages, sports, games, music, social events, and a monthly meeting with a speaker for the 550 members to enjoy.

This year's annual free open morning was held at Gaywood Community Centre on Friday 11th October. It was an opportunity for both members and visitors / potential members to learn what the many interest groups are offering and attracted 115 members and 33 visitors of whom 14 joined on the day and others stated their intention to join via the website.

New members are always welcome, for more information please go to our website at kingslynnu3a.org.uk

Changes coming to Norfolk's recycling centres in November

Norfolk residents and traders are set to benefit from an improved experience at recycling centres across the county thanks to changes coming in from November this year. The changes will help with service demand, reduce congestion and make sites safer whilst ensuring costs are covered for the disposal of waste.

Anyone wishing to visit a Norfolk recycling centre from Monday 18 November 2024, must book in advance. Bookings can be made up to seven days ahead either online via the council's website or by phoning the customer service centre. The new booking system will be live from Monday 11 November.

Slots are available every fifteen minutes and people can make a booking or cancel one right up until the time of the booking. People will be asked to give the registration number of the vehicle they will be using on the day. Business and trade waste customers will also be asked to provide their waste carriers licence number.

Everyone has to book to drop off waste at the recycling centre, including those arriving on foot or by bicycle. People do not have to book if they only want to visit the Re-use Shop but if they also want to leave waste in the same visit, then they need to book ahead.

In addition to the booking system, trade customers will also see a change to the way they pay to dispose of their waste from the 1 November.

Businesses will be charged based on the size of vehicle and the type of waste they bring, instead of the number of bags.

These changes are to make sure that the costs of disposal of trade waste at Norfolk recycling centres are fully covered, and to provide a fair and consistent price for traders based on the volume and type of waste in each vehicle.

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Fishers, Hunstanton, Norfolk

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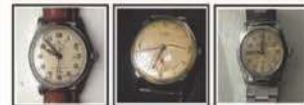
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It's All Black Magic!?

Esther Boehm

It was the fifth of November. Well probably wasn't but I'm using creative licence here because it's that time of year - Guy Fawkes - fireworks - etcetera etcetera - anyway Esther showed me the art of Raku. It's an ancient Japanese ceramic technique. You take your baby out of the bath water - oops - different story - you take your ceramic creation out of the 1000° C kiln. It's still glowing. Orange hot. And you place it in a good old fashioned metal dustbin with sawdust or newspaper - anything that can catch fire. Bizarre. Hmm. But what happens is a little bit of magic (well science really but that sounds so dull). Next you put a lid on it - the bin. It starves your artwork of oxygen. You wait a while. Let the fire go out. Then you lift a gungy black mess out of said bin.

The real magic happens when that blackness is washed off. First the white or whatever glaze colour has been used reveals itself. But that's not all. An incredible black crackle effect is created and it's different every time. And that's the black magic.

Come see for yourself when The Old Dairy is up and running. Meanwhile classes are still running at Studio @ 55. Come on by.

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Encouraging Individuality, Acceptance and Understanding

King's Lynn Festival Chorus to perform at St Nicholas' Chapel

Nick Torry

King's Lynn Festival Chorus opens its 2024/25 season on Saturday 23 November with Rutter's *Feel the spirit* and Fauré's *Requiem* in the year that marks the centenary of the composer's death.

Both works in the programme trace a journey from earthly vulnerability to the joy and promise of what may lie beyond. Fauré's celebrated *Requiem* dispels the terrors of the day of judgement to make way for celestial ecstasy. Far from the fire and brimstone of Verdi's or even Mozart's *Requiem*, Fauré himself described the work as being "dominated from beginning to end by a very human feeling of faith in eternal rest." The composer died on 4 November 1924 and KLFC is pleased to be marking this important anniversary.

By musical contrast and drawing on the colourful tradition of the American

spiritual, celebrated British composer John Rutter's *Feel the Spirit* is packed with vibrant rhythmic energy; whether by the melancholic siren call of 'Steal away' or the march to glory of 'Oh when the saints' the work is sure to move you physically if not spiritually!

With their Music Director, Ben Horden, on the podium, the chorus is pleased to be joined by the British Sinfonietta, who make a welcome return.

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Guides learn all they knead to know about bread

The Rev'd Canon Dr Paul Williams, Rector of Sandringham Church joined the 1st Sandringham Guides unit at Mr Bun the Baker's on Thursday 10th October. The guides, all aged between ten and fourteen, were accompanied by District Commissioner Catherine Leigh, unit helper Suzi Ludgater-Pimlott and young leader Tamzin, and together they had a masterclass in breadmaking from Peter Gohegan, aka Mr Bun.



This was the unit's second visit to Mr Bun's bakery and last year's visit was so popular there were many requests to return. They got to work quickly making their Turtle bread and Cob loaves before moving on to decorating buns and biscuits – and that involved plenty of chocolate, sweet icing, marshmallows and hundreds and thousands.



Meanwhile, having arrived at the bread making session straight from a day in London, the Rector was keen to tuck into a fresh cream éclair!

The Sandringham unit is currently without a leader and if anyone would like to step in to lead this lively group of girls, please go to <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/>



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AUTUMN BUDGET 2024 – WHAT NEXT? – (AND WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE CLICHÉ?)

By Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton

At the time of writing, the 2024 Autumn Budget has not yet been presented – by the time this article is published we will know what Rachel Reeves has planned for the next twelve months, and possibly for the next five years.

We already know that the gap between Government income and expenditure looks substantial, perhaps as much as a £22B – or even £25B according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies (although it is debatable whether this is wholly the fault of the previous administration). Election manifestos have ruled out closing the shortfall by increasing Income Tax, VAT or National Insurance, so one might reasonably expect to see changes to Capital Gains Tax (CGT), Inheritance Tax, Pension Relief and the taxation of Non-domiciled individuals, all of which would put the burden on “those with the broadest shoulders” in order to protect “working people”.

Further examination of these proposals is, however, showing that raising taxes on this scale is less straightforward than it looks. Treasury models are apparently suggesting that significant increases in the rate of CGT may in fact reduce the tax take rather than increase it, since CGT is only paid when assets are sold, and increasing the tax charge often simply leads to the asset sale being deferred.

Since this particular tax has seen about ten fundamental changes in the last thirty years, holding off the sale until a less punitive regime emerges is not a completely outrageous idea. Conversely, and as any accountant or solicitor will tell you, announcing a tax increase that will probably take place in the future is a surefire way to encourage those with potential gains to realise them “while stocks last”. Metaphorically, the Chancellor may find that an increased CGT rate will be confronted by the clatter of distant hooves and a row of swinging stable doors.

Similarly, the number of “broad shoulders” is limited and they are already bearing a considerable burden -1% of taxpayers are already paying nearly a third of the total Income Tax burden, with the top 10% carrying more than half. At these levels of wealth, taxpayers are relatively mobile and squeezing further may simply prompt them to live



in a more benign tax climate, taking both their income and their spending with them. Again, tax has been described as “plucking the goose to obtain the maximum number of feathers with the minimum amount of hissing,” but another goose related saying might also be held in mind.

So, what action can be taken now? It is probably too late to do anything too involved and there is always a danger in trying to second guess forthcoming legislation. It might however make sense to use the annual IHT allowances if such sums have not yet been gifted this year (£3,000 per individual, possibly £6,000 if the allowance was not used in 2023/24 and £250 for any recipient who has not had part of the larger amounts). These amounts are not large but nonetheless if family gifts are in prospect, there is a potential for a couple to save over £4800 in IHT. Otherwise, the best advice now, would be to compile a schedule of assets and liabilities, assess the impact of any Budget changes and consult your adviser after the Budget to look at strategic tax planning and the impact of any changes under the new regime. Additionally, if there are significant changes to IHT, it is likely every Will will need review and probably redrafting.

For some years now many accountants have been reminding their clients that “you’ve never had it so good” due to the historically benign level of Capital Taxes. There is a real danger that the next cliché will be “don’t say I didn’t warn you”.

If you require any tax advice, whether personal or business, please contact us at Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton on 01485 534800 or kate@kathryngigg.co.uk.

N.B. Article written in October 2024

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THE BARKING BUGLE NEWS

WALKING THE KING CHARLES III COASTAL PATH SNETTISHAM TO KING'S LYNN

The other week my two sisters, Miss Zsa Zsa and Clara, and I decided to check out the new section of the King Charles III Coastal path between Snettisham and King's Lynn, which opened earlier this year. After all, we are King Charles Spaniels, and it is named after us!! The three of us were very excited because we had never walked further than the Snettisham Bird Reserve before and we were wondering what lay beyond.



The path is well signposted from the Reserve, and we soon found ourselves passing the Wolferton Pumping Station and walking along some ploughed fields. It is very peaceful here and it was lovely to hear the different birdies singing away to their heart's content. We did come across a sign about shooting, so please be aware. We couldn't hear or see anyone about so decided to carry on. There is a steep bank on one side of the path with a wire fence in front of it. Unfortunately, we couldn't see the sea which we all love because of the bank. There is also a ditch on the other side of the long, straight path so you have to be very careful you don't fall in. There were a lot of nettles and thorns, and it is possible to pick up grass seeds which us doggies really do not like.

We didn't go all the way to King's Lynn, but we did walk a few miles before heading back. We wondered what the walk was like if you attempted it from the King's Lynn end, so being very energetic doggies we all took the woof mobile and headed straight there. The countryside is lovely here too but once again we found the path in places to be overgrown. We walked for a few miles before heading back home.

Although we didn't attempt the whole walk the countryside is really nice and it was very quiet and peaceful. We didn't meet any humans at either end. Overall, we think this is definitely a walk for really fit human beings and their equally fit furry friends. Unless the path gets cut back we wouldn't recommend it for small dogs like us. There isn't much shade so if you do attempt this, we would suggest that you take lots of water with you, and make sure you don't walk in the heat of the day. Doggies should always be kept on a lead for this walk. This section of the path is about 12 miles long and would take about four hours to complete. You can only access this path from Snettisham and King's Lynn - there are no links in between and no facilities. If you decide to try the whole walk please bark your news to us - we would love to hear how you got on!

PACT ANIMAL SANCTUARY COLLECTION

At the end of September we took part in a collection at Tesco in Hunstanton to raise money for PACT, an animal sanctuary close to our hearts that does so much to look after injured, abandoned and neglected animals. We managed to raise the grand sum of £385-80! Wow, how pawsome is that? I would like to thank all the

human volunteers and their well-behaved doggies, namely my sister Miss Zsa Zsa (Clara was having a long power nap at home at the time!), Jodie, Hero, Barley and Blossom. However, my biggest woofs of appreciation go to all those wonderful humans out there who donated so generously to the cause. Not only did we raise such a princely sum, we also had a large trolley full of yummy goodies that were bought for us. Thank you so much if you donated anything - it really does make such a difference! By the way, our next PACT collection will again be outside Tesco in Hunstanton just before Woofmas on Monday, 23rd December. Maybe see you there?

Woofs Ziggy Bear,

Senior Repawter at the Barking Bugle

Visit www.thebarkingbugle.co.uk

Copy date for the December issue of T&A is
12th November. Please don't be late!

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A VISION ACROSS A BAY

Michael de Whalley

Once upon a time (well actually about now) in a far-off land (more or less here) lay a Kingdom with a shore washed by the waters of a great shallow bay. Twice a day the tides would flow in and out refreshing the bay with an awe-inspiring expanse of water followed by exposing vast swaths of sand and mud. The shellfish of the bay supported an ancient fishing tradition, and the waters carried the ships of other Kingdoms bearing goods in and out of the local ports. The people loved the bay with its world-famous wildlife, incredible views and haunting beauty in all seasons. They also feared it as they knew when the sea was angry, or the rivers in flood, the waters of the bay could surge inland destroying all in their path.

One day rumours floated in of a man from the land on the other side of the bay who was preaching the virtues of a wall across the mouth of the bay. His dream was to harness the power of the cleansing tides to make clean, pollution free electricity, which is so valuable and desired by all. Furthermore, people would be able to travel over the wall to the other side if they wanted to. A great port would be built in the centre of the wall to ship in and out vast quantities of goods from the lands to the West of the bay and the rest of the world. The wall would tame the sea and rivers

to prevent flooding in the days and years to come. Above all, his visions first commandment was to preserve the great bay, its views, wildlife and environment!

Some of the people greeted the idea with enthusiasm, praised the man and the many benefits his scheme promised. Others feared that the man's words were false, his ideas flawed, and the benefits far outweighed by the drawbacks. There were people who felt that there was not enough yet known about the man's ideas or calculations of the consequences (good or bad) of the wall to be able to decide to support or fight his vision. Yet others, as in all lands and all times took little or no notice, did not pay any attention and could not care less, and let events wash over them (while naturally reserving the right to speak out afterwards if it all went wrong!). The ruling Council of the land chose not even to think about the man and his vision on the grounds that there was a lack of clarity to his scheme and that anyway, if he decided to actually build it, there would be plenty of time then to form a view!

Enter the wise citizens of the land who accepted that the details of the man's plans were lacking and noticed that the vision shifted a bit each time the man spoke to



people about it. Nevertheless, these citizens decided that it would be a wise thing to keep themselves informed, learn about other wall projects around the world, listen to what people who study bays have to say about walls and above all be questioning and curious about all pro and anti-wall statements. These wise citizens reasoned that unless individuals, organisations and rulers did these things they would never know what questions to ask or answers to understand as and when the time comes for them.

For this area, and its bay, the balance of risks against benefits represented by the wall (barrage, barrier, whatever) are no minor matters, even if at the moment they appear to be being treated as such. Wake up ye citizens!

News from the Woottons with Richard Coates

Another win for South Wootton!

West Norfolk Borough Council has some very good public open space teams that look after our parks and open spaces. They always lift some trophies in the annual Anglia in Bloom Awards and did so again this year. Just one village won an award and yes, you've guessed it, that village was South Wootton with its tireless South Wootton in Bloom Committee being awarded gold for its efforts in Wootton Park. But that wasn't all this year. One member was recognised with a special lifetime achievement award so well done to Nolan Mills!

If you've an interest in gardening and could donate a few hours to join this successful team, email me and I'll put you in touch.

North Wootton Referendum

It's taken a long time to make the North Wootton Neighbourhood Plan and it's now in its final stages. Local residents are to have their say on it in a referendum to be held on 14 November. Voting will take place in the Village Hall.

Grimston Road (again)

In October, an officer in Norfolk County Council legal department issued a formal notice saying that it proposed to make a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order, closing part of Grimston Road for three weeks but it could extend to two months! After some

telephone calls, it was discovered that the notice related to the original intention to close Grimston Road, which was based on another county council officer looking at the wrong planning permission. You'll remember the furore that proposal caused. Well it seems that when that was all corrected, nobody thought to tell the legal department which subsequently continued to issue the road closure order. I'm pleased to say that it is now being withdrawn but you've got to wonder if the county council could actually successfully organise a party in a brewery.

Bonfire Night

Those of you with pets or horses know what I'm going to say. If you who don't have pets or animals, you just don't know or appreciate the terror that many of them endure at this time of the year. If you have any choice, please don't have fireworks in your back garden in the Woottons but enjoy a much better display at one of the large organised events such as the free one in The Walks in Lynn.

Woottons' Rector

The Rector at the Church in the Woottons, the Revd. Canon James Nash, has retired and the Church is looking for a replacement so if you fancy being a man or woman of the cloth, now is your chance as the job will be advertised in the near future. I think there might be one or



two prerequisites though so don't expect to be able to walk into this one without some experience. The Parochial Church Council will meet in November to decide how deal with advertising the vacancy and the interviewing panel is likely to include two parish representatives, the Archdeacon of Lynn and the Bishop of Lynn. By the time everything has been sorted out, it could be well into next year before we have a new Rector but, in the meantime, there's a full team left in charge who will be looking after things so, whilst everything won't carry on as normal, at least everything will carry on. And which sunny clime is our Rector retiring to for his well earned rest? Well, North Wootton, of course!

To contact me on anything about The Woottons, email me at cllr.richard.coates@west-norfolk.gov.uk.



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Borough Council news

Terry Parish, Borough Councillor Heacham Ward which includes Sedgford and Fring

Local and Others

As I write the highways work at the Lavender traffic lights continues. After expressing concerns about lack of consultation and the road safety implications for the Lamsey Lane junction, I have had no reply from County Cllrs. However, a highways officer did respond: 'Regarding your request for temporary traffic lights at the Lamsey Lane junction, we have evaluated the situation and determined that installing temporary traffic lights at this location would likely increase congestion and lead to further delays on the A149.' 'Our intention is to maintain safety while minimizing disruption to traffic.'

I then queried if the Lamsey Lane junction improvements, scheduled for next year, were going ahead as the preferred solution a few months ago appeared to be traffic lights. Reply: 'The Lamsey Lane road improvement scheme is planned to start in September 2025 which is our best guess now as we are in the early stages of design. The project will enhance the junction layout, and to ensure safety and efficiency of the whole section of the A149.' So, we will have to wait to find out what, 'enhance the junction layout' means. On current performance I doubt that there will be any consultation offered.

The Cheney Hill development in Heacham: Last month I said it would be at planning committee on 7th October but to check for confirmation. No-one turned up to speak or listen which was a good job as I was told, well after my submission to the Heacham Newsletter and Town and Around, that there was a delay. This was due to a difficulty the developer has with completing a new ecological assessment. I asked for this several months ago as the officer request, on the planning portal, seemed to have been overlooked. I will continue to monitor what develops.

'From the 18th November you will need to book to visit a Norfolk recycling centre.' This is taken from a leaflet available from centres and it has also appeared in the press. Recycling centres are managed by Norfolk County Council. I consider

booking to be illogical, that it will lead to less recycling, likely lead to more fly tipping, and will not save money (if that is the excuse). In essence, it is a stupid idea. A member of the public asked James Wild to make enquiries and he did. The answer he got included, 'The Waste Reduction and Recycling team have advised me that the decision to introduce a booking system was made to make the service more efficient and reduce congestion in busy periods.' I use the Heacham recycling centre regularly and have done so for over 10 years and have never had to wait more than a few minutes and usually drive straight in. I attend at random times depending upon circumstances and whether I need to continue my journey elsewhere. The current system works efficiently and effectively, meets the needs of council taxpayers who pay for it, and does not need this nonsensical imposition. Apparently, many County Cllrs think the same so you may wonder why it has been imposed. Opposition members did call it out, I presume others just shrugged their shoulders and accepted nonsense so as not to upset their 'betters'.

I can only assume that the reason for the booking system is to reduce the number of people using the centres so that, after a review, the centres can be reduced in number and then some public will have to travel several miles to access one. Very green. The centres will also close on Wednesdays which will have an adverse impact on employees at them who are already on minimum wage. If they live locally they will have to cover shifts at other centres to make up their pay. Many people have complained to the County about these proposals. If you are annoyed, express it by contacting your County Cllr and writing to the NCC Leader and Chief Executive.

I have often referred to Neighbourhood Plans, the locally agreed (by referendum) policies and practice for new development within the designated boundary around the Plan area. Once agreed they are legal documents and planning officers and the planning committee have to ensure that planning applications do not infringe the policies

accepted by the public in the plan area, they are not things to consider and dismiss or interpret in a manner which negates their intentions. Neighbourhood Plans have frequently been written by a sub committee of a Parish Council with or without interested members of the public, otherwise a group separate from the local council has done the work. Many plans are several years old and writers of the plan may have gone their own ways. New Parish Cllrs, for example, may not be fully aware of the Neighbourhood Plan relating to their Parish and can, seemingly, ignore it when considering planning applications or pick out bits they like and dismiss others. It is then left for Borough Council planning officers to try and defend Neighbourhood Plans and this is difficult if the Parish Council doesn't. Neighbourhood Plans are the property of the public, they are agreed by referendum. If Parish Cllrs disagree with the plan pertinent to their area, they have to amend it and take it to referendum again, they cannot bend it or forget it to favour a planning application which, under the policies of the plan, should be refused. I suggest people who object to an application ensure that their Neighbourhood Plan is being adhered to. Conversely, I suggest anyone making an application ensures that it is not blocked by a false interpretation of policies. If there isn't a Neighbourhood Plan, start writing one.

The Borough

Several 'new' things have been announced in the press recently. The schemes for the Hunstanton library and travel hub have been revamped and now include affordable housing. The schemes – NCC but with Borough involvement – were announced several years ago and were intended to have a mixture of retail units and flats. Building regulations hindered that and now, it appears, there will be more housing. Proposals will be discussed and, agreed before this publication is out. I have asked that any affordable housing is conditioned for those people within or local to Hunstanton. We shall see what happens.

At planning committee, we accepted the plans for the revamp



of the Guild Hall in King's Lynn. Nothing wrong with the plans, a couple of minor concerns which will be sorted. I did ask about viability, a question asked of significant developments. It means, is there the money to pay for the plans? I was told this was not a planning matter, it was up to the applicant to find the money. The applicant is the Borough Council. When this scheme was first floated, under the fanfare of the Town Deal, it was going to cost about £12M. Most of this was the Town Deal contribution but there was an expected shortfall of £3M. The administration before mine enabled £3M to be set aside from Council funds 'just in case'; 'By the time it is needed, grants and funds will flow in from elsewhere.' (paraphrased). On becoming Leader, I said there would be no £3M and spent the next year brushing away attempts to sneak it back in. When I stopped being Leader, last May, the estimated cost of the Guildhall scheme had risen to £18M though some denied this. I have just been told it is £19M and more would not be surprising. This may be hearsay and I await figures that I have requested. A charity was established to raise funds but, by last May, it had, apparently, raised nothing. There is no sign of any major benefactors although this might change now there is planning permission. So, if lots of pennies fail to arrive, what next? Viability is always important.

The Borough Council is embarking on 'organisational transformation' to which end a consultant has been appointed for 3 months at a cost of 'no more than £46,800.' Perhaps we will get a movie, 'Transformers – Disputed Territory.'

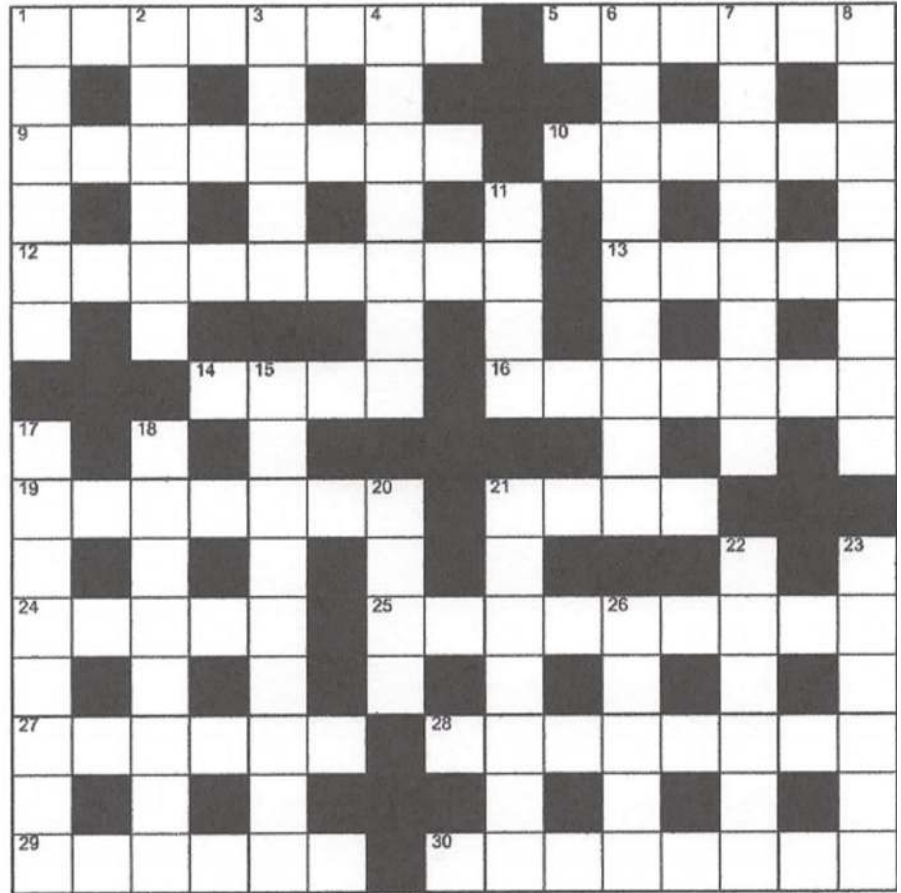
David Elsey's cryptic crossword

Across

1. See ma and gran as complex characters? (8)
5. Was up before break of day, but after late finish became worn down (6)
9. Ringing about social worker needing to take care of boy (8)
10. Understand colds in hospital department put pressure on team leader (6)
12. Bill is short of a word to describe this publication (9)
13. Well ... divide by five, or two? (5)
14. Rages when fine is issued by a copper (4)
16. Yes, ring doctor to get medical instrument (7)
19. Unusual piece – it might be Welsh (7)
21. Team scoring late after centre is dropped are level (4)
24. Spot near lake is place to stay (5)
25. Colour-wise, very naïve (4,5)
27. Spill the beans left over before getting down (6)
28. Segregate pears and eat nuts (8)
29. Spots first of runners and remains (6)
30. Musical piece that's no go in church (8)

Down

1. Inclined to keep book on rugger short (6)
2. Go for A-levels flat out and get through easily (6)
3. Jogged with Georgia in field (5)
4. When little they can be mischievous (7)
6. Her coarse knitting will be ideal for jumper, say (9)
7. Top dog, feet under the table – good to be home! (8)
8. Point to tree cuckoo left, stupid bird! (8)
11. Flower goddess (4)
15. Transport for a doctor at university cut (9)
17. One complains about disturbance in the centre of Greece (8)
18. Objects to troublesome people pinching



rhubarb (8)

20. Dog tag on soldier annoyed at first (4)
21. Greek painter and English composer expressing a concern about Spain (2,5)
22. Melody drummer needs to go over and put right (6)
23. Attachment woman has for returning old

flame (6)

26. Golf – a lot of hard work? (5)

THE CROSSWORD SOLUTION
IS ON PAGE 18



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News from Brancaster Village Hall (BVH)

Geoff Wingrove

It is pleasing to report the completion of the BVH redecoration and floor renovation. Many thanks go to the donors whose generous financing made this work possible: the hall really looks splendid. The Trustees are currently investigating the possibility of installing solar panels to reduce the hall's carbon footprint and save on electricity.

BVH remains very busy, with the regular groups meeting and the shop/Post Office and Bar 71 continually buzzing with activity. Of particular mention: the Brancaster Baby and Toddler Group are holding a special half-term event, with a great many activities.

Forthcoming events

BVH Race Night: Saturday 2nd November: the return of this popular event, which is great fun

Scottish Dancing: Monthly from 5th November onwards

Curry Night: Saturday 16th November. Table reservations can be made via email at bvhsetup@gmail.com

Winter Fair: Saturday 30th November, with a wide range of stalls and a performance by the Community Choir

Hotspot Lunch: Friday 6th December. Contact Babs Wade on 01485 522273 or email hotspotlunches@gmail.com to book your place

Bar 71 has the usual range of darts, pool, skittles and quiz nights and the shop/Post Office has a number of new services in banking, bill payments and obtaining foreign currency.

Full details of events and regular groups can be found on our website at www.brancastervillagehall.communitybookings.co.uk or on Facebook and Instagram. For enquiries, please contact us at bvhsetup@gmail.com

FROM THE BRANCASTER VILLAGE HALL ARCHIVE: THE WITCHFINDER GENERAL IN NORFOLK & EAST ANGLIA

This article is written at the time of Halloween, the night of the witches, on 31st October.

The period between 1642 and 1646 was a turbulent time in East Anglia. The Civil War began in 1642, and the country quickly divided between Royalists supporting Charles I and Parliamentarians opposed to the absolute rule of the King. Parliamentarians also tended to be fervent Puritans, a strict and austere sector of the Protestant faith.

East Anglia was a hotbed of parliamentary support and also inclined to be strongly Puritan in belief; Oliver Cromwell's home was in Huntingdonshire. Into this turbulent atmosphere, where suspicion and mistrust were rife right across the area, arrived a young man who had styled himself Witchfinder General – Matthew Hopkins.

The history of East Anglia was riddled with witchcraft, the manifestation of which was extremely violent and brutal: it is a legacy which the region has great difficulty in shaking off. Conditions were therefore ripe for a person such as Hopkins to roam the area causing untold misery and harm.

Matthew Hopkins was born in 1620 in Great Wenham, Suffolk, the son of a Puritan clergyman who was Vicar of St. John's Church in Great Wenham; Matthew was therefore steeped in the church and Puritanism. In 1640 Hopkins moved to Morningtree in Essex and quickly showed a gift for oratory. Here he came to suspect that there were witches in the towns and, on meeting John Stearne, took part in the prosecution of twenty-three women in Chelmsford, which resulted in four dying in prison and nineteen being hanged on conviction. At this point he gave himself the title of "Witchfinder General", although there was no such official appointment.

Following this success, Hopkins' and Stearne's reputations spread throughout the region, and they set about their self-appointed task of witchfinding with enthusiasm, visiting towns and villages for the next three years. They were accompanied by a number of assistants, who undertook the

examining of suspects under their direction. In this short period, it is estimated that Hopkins and Stearne convicted and executed about three hundred people, which represents about 60% of all people executed for witchcraft in the previous hundred and fifty years.

Often Hopkins and his team went where they were summoned, and they were paid handsomely for their work. The people they executed were accused by people in the town or village; Hopkins and his team took on the task of abstracting a confession from them that would secure a conviction. It should be said that the overwhelming number of witches convicted were women.

The methods that Hopkins and his team used to extract confessions were very brutal and verged on the illegal (torture was illegal at this time). A favourite was the swimming test, where the victim was trussed hand and foot and thrown into a pond. If they sank, they were innocent – but drowned – and if they floated, they were guilty. Other methods commonly used were sleep deprivation for days on end and pricking (usually with a retractable blade) to find areas of the body that did not bleed.

An eruption of witchcraft cases and trials took place across Norfolk between 1645 and 1646. There is recorded evidence of Hopkins working in King's Lynn and Yarmouth; nearly half of the prosecutions in Norfolk for witchcraft took place in the 1640s. The reasons for this were the breakdown of civil law and order as a result of the Civil War, the absence of men fighting in the war and the extreme poverty as the harvest was left to rot in the fields. These factors meant that suspicion and envy were rife and offered the opportunity both to settle disputes and also to get rid of people who were a drain on the parish because they were destitute. The confessions of convicted people followed a similar pattern, and there must be suspicions that the words were those of their accusers.

By 1646 the tide began to turn against Hopkins and his team: people began to speak out against him and his methods. In Norfolk he was questioned by Justices of the Assizes about his fees and use of torture; in early 1647 he parted company with his team and retired to Manningtree. Here he published his pamphlet/book "The Discovery of Witches" as a rebuttal to the questioning to which he had been subjected.

Matthew Hopkins died in 1647, probably from tuberculosis, and most likely without the slightest remorse for the harm he had done. It could well be that his religious mania comforted him as he passed away – a consolation that he had denied hundreds of others.

The exploits of Matthew Hopkins and his associate, John Stearne, were the subject of a Hammer film in 1968, "Witchfinder General", starring Vincent Price. It actually gave a reasonably accurate account of Hopkins' activities and methods, although the ending was more dramatic than the reality of Hopkins' fate. At a later stage the "Blackadder" TV series featured a similar character, played by Frank Finlay; although set in a slightly earlier period of history, the episode lampooned the methods used by Matthew Hopkins to identify witches.



The pictures show Matthew Hopkins, the Witchfinder General and the interrogation of a suspected witch.

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NATIONAL COASTWATCH INSTITUTION (NCI) BRANCASTER

With the onset of autumn, the beach and coast at Brancaster have been quieter, with no new incidents since the last report. However, the station staff at NCI Brancaster have been very busy during this period. Their attendance at the Brancaster Staithe Sea Shanty Festival and at the Emergency Services Festival in Hunstanton proved very productive, in both recruitment and financial terms. Five new members have been signed up to begin training, and the station is well on the way to meeting its target of 40 volunteer Watchkeepers. The Sea Shanty Festival also raised a significant sum for NCI Brancaster, and we are very grateful to the organisers.

There is a new banner flying over the Brancaster station, so that members of the public can know where to get help when needed. Our Watchkeepers have completed the VHF SRC radio course: we would like to thank Brancaster Parish Council for their generous financial support to enable this important training, along with Charlie Parfitt



for his excellent tuition. The station is hoping to build on its recent contacts with the RNLI to undertake joint training.

The Emergency Services Day was very exciting, with RNLI lifeboat crews from Hunstanton, Wells and Skegness taking part with their boats. The Sea Shanty Festival gave the Watchkeeper team the opportunity to prove their culinary skills, with lemon drizzle cake, gateaux and sausage rolls all great favourites. We thank our volunteers for their magnificent efforts in making these two



events so successful.

We are still looking for volunteers, so to find out more about NCI Brancaster, please contact Richard Burrows, Deputy Station Manager and Watchkeeper on 07535 612777. You can also find us on Facebook, if you search NCI Brancaster.

The two pictures show the team at the Emergency Services Day and doing some household chores in the village hall at the Brancaster Staithe Sea Shanty Festival.

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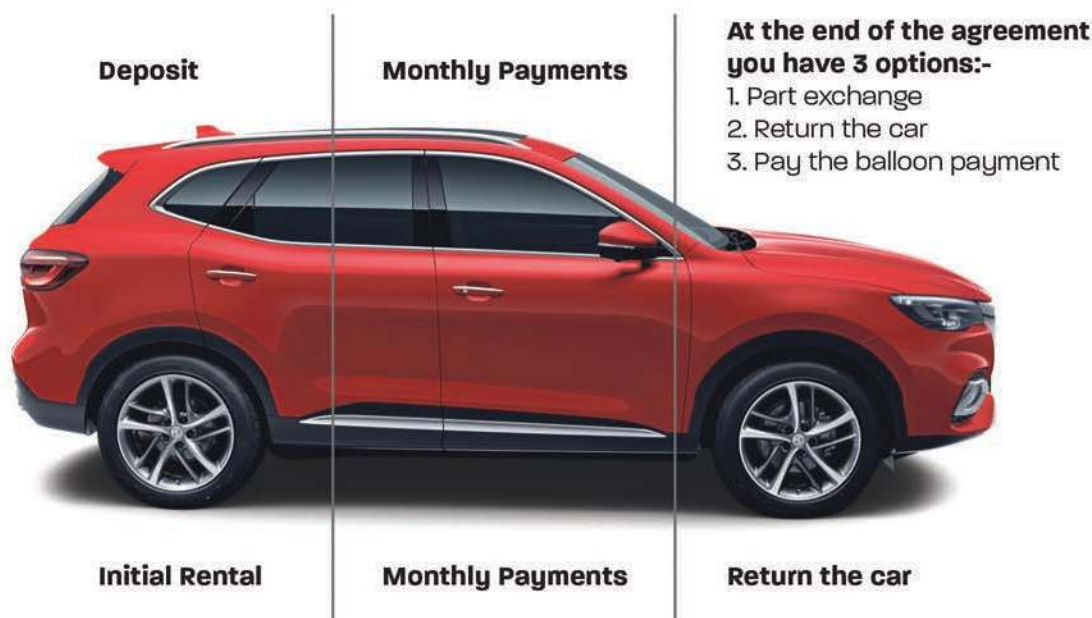
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Stop exploiting Lynn and start valuing what it best in the town

County Councillor Alexandra Kemp

It was outraged the Conservative County Cabinet put Lynn's historic Carnegie Library on a list of Redundant Assets, declared it surplus to requirements and voted to sell it on the open market if they cannot find a community group to buy or lease it.



I called the decision in to the County Scrutiny Committee.

I was disappointed Scrutiny did not refer the decision back, as it breached Council Strategy, risking loss of resident access to high quality heritage facilities and people feeling disconnected and disempowered if NCC take away a public space they value that was a gift to the town.

You can sum it up in one word. Exploitation. NCC has an Exploitation of Assets Policy. They see public buildings as assets to be exploited, not resources to benefit the community.

What Community group locally can afford to rent it on a full repairing lease? How much would residents be charged to access their own building?

Council reports state the Carnegie doesn't have disability access - but it has an excellent slope for scooters up to the front

door.



They said it doesn't have parking - but there are 30 free spaces opposite - and 10 more next to the Carnegie, which the Conservative Borough Council stopped the public using in 2016. They said you can't extend a grade listed building - but this happens everywhere. The Carnegie functions exceptionally and inclusively well as a Library. It is not and will never be redundant.



A multi-purpose home to over 40 community groups, ranging from Bounce and Rhyme to Women Talk Business, a Business and Careers Hub, Just a Cuppa, and disability groups, the Carnegie is 120 years old but the Council is spending taxpayers'

money on renovating Argos which officers say might last only 60 years.

A recent Borough Survey found residents think that it is Lynn's heritage that attracts people to the town, and we don't make enough of it.

The Carnegie stands in a parade of Lynn heritage monuments, with the Town's War Memorial and the Grade 1 Listed Greyfriars Tower.

Millions are spent on Norwich Castle, but County risks dereliction for Lynn's iconic Library - and the public deprived of free entry to their own building. The Carnegie was a gift to the town by Andrew Carnegie in 1904, on land owned by the Borough. Norfolk County Council acquired it under the 1974 local government reorganisation when it became the Library Authority.

The sorry situation symbolised the waste of money in the public sector. A previous Conservative Borough Council earmarked the Government Town Deal to fund the Library Move to concrete Argos, at a cost of £12.4 million, and now over-run to £14.2 million. The Conservative County Cabinet decided to foot the overspend without batting an eyelid. Whilst cutting the Minimum Income Guarantee to disabled residents.

The Business Plan for Argos Library is a money-making cash cow. NCC plans to rake in £44,000 a year from renting out spaces in the new library to businesses and community groups. (The Millennium Library in Norwich is only 10% library, the rest cafes and exhibition spaces). How long will NCC run Argos as a Library? First, NCC would only commit to run the new

library for just 10 years.



Argos building

I condemned this short-termism. NCC's Cabinet next decided to run Argos as a Library for 25 years, but said this would constrain them "should the need change". Does NCC think Lynn won't need a Library in 25 years? Will NCC try to wriggle out of funding the new library? Sell off as a business centre? Leave Lynn with no Library?

Andrew Carnegie the philanthropist, believed in the power of education and learning and books to transform lives.

Speaking to hundreds of residents in conversations across the Borough, about the Carnegie, "It's a beautiful building" is the feedback time and again. "Why do they want to move it?". Incomprehension, anger follow.

Most did not know about the consultation, those that did, said it was biased, with no option to say you wanted the Carnegie to stay a Library.

The Carnegie is a shining symbol of permanence, solidity, value for money, inspiration.

NCC needs to stop exploiting Lynn, start valuing what it best in the town, and guarantee the Carnegie's future as a Library.

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Sedgeford, Norfolk

Financing your car

Financing a car is likely to be the most significant expense in your budget after paying for your home, so it's important to understand the different schemes and how they work. Here, Ryan Albane, MG Sales Manager at Thurlow Nunn King's Lynn, explains some options.

1. PCP (Personal Contract Purchase):

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- Part-exchange: Use any equity you have built up to part-exchange for another car on a new deal.

2. HP (Hire Purchase):

- How it works: You pay an initial deposit, followed by fixed monthly payments over an agreed period (usually 1-5 years). Once the final payment is made, the car becomes yours.

3. PCH (Personal Contract Hire):

- How it works: This is a long-term rental agreement where you lease the car for a fixed term (2-4 years), making monthly payments. At the end of the agreement, you return the car with no option to buy.

4. BCH (Business Contract Hire):

- How it works: This is similar to PCH but tailored for businesses. Companies lease vehicles for a set period, paying monthly installments, and return them at the end of the contract. There's no option to buy.

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Nature Notes with Carrie Carey

Nestled among holly leaves or perched on a frosty tree stump, Robins are a familiar sight on Christmas cards, gift tags and wrapping paper. These red-breasted, cheery little birds embody the festive spirit and it's no wonder they take the top spot for the UK's most loved bird. But there's more to see and hear in winter than these perky garden favourites: visit Titchwell Marsh on a crisp winter day, and you're likely to see other seasonal guests like Bramblings, Redwings, and Chiffchaffs enjoying the shelter of the woodlands. Perched high in the Alder and Willow trees, Siskins and Redpolls enjoy a buffet of seeds while flitting acrobatically between branches.

The joy of watching birds is not limited to woodlands of course and further out on the reserve many other species add drama to the occasion. High overhead, magnificent reedbed raptors soar across reedbeds and saltmarsh, using those bracing winter winds to their advantage. Silhouetted against brooding landscapes they are a common sight and the best

time to see them in large numbers is as dusk falls and tired birds return to nighttime roosts. But these are not the only reedbed specialists at Titchwell. Stop along the West Bank Path and listen for Bearded Tits calling to each other from deep within the reedbeds. Like Bitterns, Bearded Tits are more likely to be heard than seen, so it's worth stopping here to listen for their metallic 'psching ching' call. The slightly jarring, discordant song limits itself to three or four notes at best, but once you've mastered the sound – it's never forgotten. An unexpected noise emanating from the wet edges of the reedbed signifies the presence of a Water Rail. This close relative of Coots and Moorhens makes a sound reminiscent of a lost pig crying out for its family. These birds are remarkably timid, retreating from view when startled. They don't mind foraging for snacks in icy water, so look for them on the fringes of the reedbeds or in the ditch alongside the West Bank Path. On the east side of the reserve lies another stretch of fresh



Freshmarsh Hides



Common Scoter



Sanderling

water fringed with tall, elegant reeds. This is a great place to watch ducks such as Wigeon, Goldeneye and colourful Teal. Or stop here for a spell and scan the horizon for views of raptors, skeins of geese and Little Egrets making their way to and from the reserve.

Grab your favourite cosy sweater and a warm coat, then make your way to the shoreline and experience a different kind of beauty. The soft muted colours of the sky and sea, coupled with sea mist or frost, create a striking and calm atmosphere. Many visitors love the contrast of the stark minimalist landscape which can be quite invigorating when accompanied by that lovely salty air. Winter beaches offer opportunities to observe migratory sea birds and sea ducks, including Long-tailed Ducks and rafts of

Scoters riding the waves. Along the shoreline, you'll spot those clockwork like Sanderling and if you're lucky Snow Bunting, bringing a touch of Arctic wilderness with them. But if bird watching doesn't appeal, then a walk along Titchwell's beach reveals a variety of shells, driftwood and other treasures that have been washed up by tides and northerly winds.

After a brisk winter walk through the reserve, warming up with a hot drink and mouthwatering goodies in the café is perfect for thawing out. And a little retail therapy in the shop is a fun way to re-energise spirits and round off the day....so don't forget to call in and treat yourself or stock up with original gift ideas for Christmas. Titchwell Marsh is a mosaic of different habitats all managed by a highly specialised team. Certainly, it's a well-known hotspot for avid birdwatchers, but it also attracts visitors with a casual interest in nature or anyone seeking a peaceful escape from the roar of the world. The great thing about the reserve is you don't need to be a bird enthusiast to enjoy this nature rich haven. Just soaking in the vast landscapes, enjoying the invigorating sea breeze, and finding some time for yourself in a quiet corner of the reserve, can lift anyone's spirits on a dreary winter day.

Images here and on our cover: Credit RSPB


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Wendy Warner's plant of the month - Cyclamen

Most Cyclamen are tuberous and have flowers of upswept shell-like petals above a dense mat of leaves which are often patterned. Growers now produce cyclamen throughout the year, but the cooler temperatures of the autumn and winter are most suited to them.

Mini, midi or patio cyclamen are ideal for autumn patio containers, decorative bowls, window boxes or hanging baskets. These come in a wide range of vibrant colours from white through pinks to purples and reds to burgundy. As well as these plain flowers, there are varieties that have bicoloured or fringed, frilly flowers. They remain compact and have a mass of flowers above dark green or patterned leaves and will flower throughout the autumn and into winter. This type of cyclamen is hardy down to about -5°C and dislikes winter wet more than the cold. Being a corm, they have a tendency to rot if they get over wet and water sits in their crown. The habit of the foliage will usually deflect water, but if it is possible to position them where they will not get driving rain, they will perform better. For this reason, they lend themselves to being used in window boxes, pots or hanging baskets where they would be protected by the overhanging eaves of the house. If frosts are forecast, I tend to pop a piece of fleece over any pots of cyclamen as although it won't cause permanent damage they can look rather sad following a frosty



night or two and take a while to perk up. They combine well with winter flowering pansies or violas, heathers or miniature conifers or shrubs, or create a real focal point in a bowl on their own. These cyclamen can also be used in porches or in a cool position indoors, such as unheated conservatory, if a smaller plant is required. Prolong flowering by feeding once a month and carefully removing dead flower stems by sharply pulling so the whole stem comes away at the corm.

The Verano series is a mini cyclamen which is early flowering and easy to grow with a huge array of colours including many with an 'eye' where the base of the petal is a darker colour. Look out for 'Donatello' varieties if you are wanting a mini cyclamen with a silver leaf.

The Indika cyclamen collection is distinguished by its unique two-tone colour

and midi size reaching approximately 28-30cm. There is a real contrast between the white base of the petals and the brightly coloured extremities. Amazingly the proportion of colour to white is dependent on the temperature and day length; from mid-autumn to early winter there will be an even proportion of white and colour, through spring, summer and early autumn the colour prevails and in the depths of winter and shorter days the white is most prominent with just the tips of the petals being coloured. Indikas are available in light pink, salmon, fuchsia, magenta and purple and will withstand temperatures slightly below freezing.

Large flowered Cyclamen persicum or 'Florist's Cyclamen' are only suitable as an indoor plant where they should be kept in a cool yet frost-free position, ideally with a minimum temperature of 5°C. They require a bright position, out of direct sunlight, with moderate humidity but avoiding draughts or hot dry air. Like their outside relations they do not like to be overwatered and it is recommended to water them from the bottom by sitting them in a saucer of water for an hour and then tipping away any water that is left. Look out for different indoor varieties including "merengue", "petticoat" and "fleur en vogue" which all have unusual shaped flowers.

Cyclamen will certainly give a pop of colour to your pots and containers.



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HUNSTANTON IN BLOOM

Christine Earnshaw

Following September's coverage of Anglia In Bloom we are very pleased to have received a GOLD award for the Coastal Town category. This means we have generally maintained our high standard. The Judges particularly singled out The Pier Bed and Esplanade Gardens, the tile walls for their community involvement, Boston Square for its sensory element and biodiversity. They were impressed by the Bug hotels there. The progress at the allotments, Biodiversity at the cliffs, the Community Orchard and of course the Men's Shed project which they said was truly impressive!



Another site that has not previously been mentioned is the impressive floral display at the top end of Westgate kindly donated by Moss Bakery. It was newly planted back in July but is now at its best

with beautiful blooms and colourful flowers. Bees have been seen investigating the 5* bug hotels that are part of this wonderful display. Paul Robinson of Moss Bakery has also donated a large number of rose bushes to the town.

However, the Judges are always looking for something new and have suggested they would like to see more intergenerational projects, ie old and young gardening or planting trees together. Could you take family photos where you are encouraging your grandchildren to get stuck in? Wielding a watering can or sewing sunflowers perhaps. Please come up with some photographic evidence for our next portfolio.

Did you manage to bag a few geraniums when the Esplanade Gardens were prepared for the winter flowering? I did and have planted up some pots in a sheltered spot where they will survive the winter. I'll finish by saying thank you to everyone who contributed to making our town look so good back in the summer.

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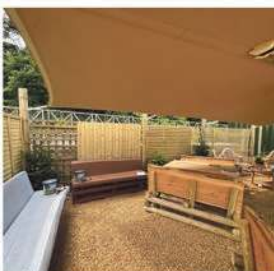
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The Enigma at Bawsey

By Russell Lyon

How many of us have when travelling along the A149 from Hunstanton to Kings Lynn have looked to their left and glanced at the familiar sight on the horizon of gothic ruins stark against the horizon. Like me, most of us will presume that it's the ruins of just another medieval castle but it's not. It's fascinating and it's not a castle. It only took a little research on the internet to discover that the forsaken bleak outline on the hill is in fact the remnants of the Church of St James at Bawsey and it must have had a reasonable settlement clustered around it. But why there and what has happened to reduce it to its current state?

We have to imagine what the countryside looked like in the distant past. About 8,000 years ago sea levels rose when the ice melted from the glaciers of the Ice Age and the freezing temperatures gradually gave way to a more temperate climate. It was the time when Dogger Bank became inundated and England was no longer connected to the rest of Europe. Gradually sea levels fell again over time but for many centuries sea going vessels were able to sail up the Babingley and Gaywood rivers and the Church of St James actually sat just above a headland of an estuary. It was surrounded by water and needed a causeway to reach it.

It's not easy to visualise the daily lives of the people who lived around the church. They may have been fishermen as well as traders and farmers as they lived close to the sea with farming as a secondary occupation. Life would have been a constant struggle against the elements and getting enough to eat and clothe themselves and their families. But equally if they could look down on our daily lives, they would surely find our lives just as incomprehensible and strange as we rush past in our metal boxes with the hospital wind turbine on the opposite side of the road. They did have religion for comfort and that must have been a great consolation to have faith in the afterlife as their present was so fraught with danger and hardship.

There has been archaeological digs and surveys done over time, most notably by Channel 4 Time Team in 1998 which found



evidence of the area being occupied since the Bronze Age and even back into the Neolithic. Vikings will have sailed their long boats up the Gaywood river. They came to raid the Anglo-Saxon settlement and church searching for gold and jewellery for which the Saxons were famed. Some may then have settled on that spur of land. Many ultimately lived among the people they found clustered in their houses around the church and became Christian. The ruins of the cruciform shaped church that we see on the horizon is a Norman construction but almost certainly it was built if not on the foundation of an earlier Saxon church but it's very close proximity as parts of the church have some notably Saxon features including grave stones.

What is left of the structure was built from Carstone, flint and lime mortar. Parts of the tower are the most obvious pieces of the building standing along with fragments of the nave and chancel. It was built in the Romanesque style with Norman tracery - a zigzag pattern can still be seen around the remaining doors and windows. It had originally very thick walls, round arches, sturdy pillars that supported barrel ceilings and vaults. The interior walls would have been decorated with scenes from the bible as most of the congregation would be illiterate and the depictions were necessary to explain the Christian faith.

It was thought that a female skeleton that was discovered by Time Team had suffered a horrific death having three sword cuts to the skull. Later microscopic analysis disproved this as it was realised that she may have undergone a form of brain surgery but did not survive. Other significant finds include a 15th Century tiled floor, Thetford ware pottery, a bronze age axe, iron age gold, roman coins and worked Neolithic flint tools.

There are many Norman churches dotted around the Norfolk country side and many are in relatively good condition and used for worship to the present time. So why did St James Church not live on like so many of the others? The answer seems to be partially as result of falling sea levels over the centuries when the chief livelihood of fishing could not be sustained and ships could no longer navigate up the Gaywood River. The church and the villagers became isolated over time and the population dwindled. By the 16th Century, the church was no longer in use although christenings and burials were last recorded in 1770. After this time parts of the building may have been used by local builders as a convenient quarry. To hasten the decline of the village the medieval dwellings were demolished by the landlord to make way for a more profitable enterprise - sheep farming.

What is left of the church is haunting, evocative and a bit eerie. Abandoned except for pigeons and crows. It will give you a better understanding of the people who once occupied the site if you take time to visit. It's worth the trouble and easy to find. Coming from Hunstanton on the A 149 turn left at the hospital round about into the B 1145. The road up to the church is on the first left and you can park at Church farm. From there it's only a short 5-minute walk to the ruins along a pot hole filled lane. Visit in sunshine if you must but you will get a much better flavour of the environment in the 12th Century when the church was built if it's windy and a bit wet. It will give you a better idea of what it must have been like for the people who once lived, worked and worshipped around the church on the hill.



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Hunstanton Society

We look forward to our November talk which will be in the afternoon of Wednesday, 20th November starting at 2.30pm and NOT our normal time of 7.30pm. This talk to be given by Dr Eric Somerville who returns after giving us another historical medical related talk this time on the subject of 'Quacks and Quackery'. Dr Somerville tells us "this is a light-hearted review of quacks and their fraudulent remedies through the ages, with examples right up to the present day. Samuel Johnson in the 1755 edition of his Dictionary of the English Language described a quack as a vain and boastful pretender to physic [medicine], one who proclaims his abilities in public places. This definition has not been bettered!" We look forward to another of his excellent talks.

As we wind down towards our closed period (we plan on closing on 15th November) we prepare for a number of events over the wind up to Christmas (just round the Corner!). One thing we are doing is organising the sale of Calendars which are now on sale in the Heritage Centre at £7.00 each. Please do pop in and buy however many you want. They make great presents at this time of year. Our calendar for 2025 includes a number of wonderful photos, mostly not seen before, that we have extracted from our archives. You can view them in the Heritage Centre. We have 100 calendars to sell but can obtain additional supplies at quite short notice if needed. All profits go to the Heritage Centre, of course.

Heritage Centre - Objects of Interest: Mauchline Ware Collection - Prepared by Phil Thomas

Following a recent substantial donation by Eleanor & Harvey Ladbroke, we were able to update our collection of Mauchline Ware. This is on display at the Heritage Centre.

Mauchline Ware is a form of souvenir ware made by several factories in Mauchline, Ayrshire, Scotland. These were aimed at for affluent Victorian purchasers seeking a souvenir with a local scene from their holidays.



The main period late Victorian, about 1880 to 1900 when Hunstanton was expanding as a fashionable resort. Sold in many resorts throughout the United Kingdom and beyond, the manufacturers produced tens of thousands of articles in hundreds of styles and in several different finishes. They generally used sycamore wood, which has a very close grain and a pleasing colour. Skilled craftsman applied transfers to the finished articles which were then heavily lacquered.

The heritage centre collection features local scenes, mainly hand-drawn, featuring the Sandringham Hotel, the Golden Lion Hotel, Hunstanton Pier and views from the Pier, the Convalescent Home, the beach, and Heacham Hall.

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A recipe from the Prudent Pensioner

I have had requests for recipes using a soupmaker. I have a Morphy Richards Compact soupmaker which has a capacity of 1litre. I made this recently and it was very well received.

If you don't have a soupmaker, perhaps it's time to put one on your Christmas list!

Courgette Parsnip & Carrot Soup

Makes approx. 900ml / 1½ pints

1 med. Onion
Potato approx. 230g/8oz
Carrots approx. 115g/4oz
A small parsnip
1 med. Courgette (one like a small marrow)
1 large or 2 small sticks of Celery
Chicken or vegetable stock cube
Salt and Pepper

Peel potato, parsnip and carrots and cut them into small pieces.

Peel onion and slice thinly.

Trim off and discard ends from celery, clean and slice fairly thinly.

Trim off and discard ends of courgette, clean and cut into small pieces.

Dissolve stock cube in 200ml hot water then top up to 400ml with cold water.

Place all prepared ingredients in soup maker; do not fill past max line.

Carefully put on lid, easing blades into vegetables until on securely.

Switch on and select preferred mode.

Wait for the soupmaker to do its stuff, and then season to taste, serve and enjoy,

"Less Waste more Soup" 30 easy, budget friendly recipes for nourishing soup is available in Kindle format from Amazon. The updated book "Less Waste more Soup" 45 easy, budget friendly recipes for nourishing soup is available from Ridouts Bakery in Heacham, Docking Farmers Market, By The Book in Hunstanton and Robert & Christine Bradbeer home shopping. Copies are available to borrow from Heacham Library & Hinckley Library See lots more recipes on The Prudent Pensioner Facebook page

Letter to the Editor

I would like to respond to James Wild MP's comments on the Winter Fuel Allowance debate.

I am a retired care worker living in my own mortgage-free home. I applaud the government's decision to end the WFA to all but those pensioners in receipt of Pension Credit - the majority of pensioners are among the wealthiest portion of our population. I don't need it.

The money saved should be used to benefit especially the younger generations who not only face the daily cost of living struggle but also fund my very generous pension through their taxes. I acknowledge that a much bigger effort must be made to encourage the 880000 pensioners who qualify for Pension Credit to make their claim, but come on, Mr Wild - have the courage to recognise the rightness of this policy.

Alan Smith



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Meet Norfolk's Newly Emerging Luxury Bed Specialist

When Harry was a young boy, he often visited his aunty in Hunstanton on many school holidays. Little did he think that over 30 years later, he'd settle nearby and establish his very own business.

Cheshire and Oldfield is quickly establishing as Norfolk's newest quality bed specialist. Opening their first shop in St Nicholas' Court, Dersingham, in October, Cheshire and Oldfield is a homage to and name inspired by his great aunt, Sylvia Cheshire, and great-grandmother, Ivy May.

Prioritising uncomplicated comfort and eco-conscious design, Cheshire and Oldfield are built upon an abundance of British bed-making know-how. Founder Harry Oldfield boasts over two decades of family heritage as the son of the founders of Wrought Iron and Brass Bed Co., based on Norfolk's Sandringham Estate. Having first-hand industry experience and recognising a gap in the market, Harry founded Cheshire and Oldfield to make quality British craftsmanship and organic natural materials more accessible without compromising on customers' needs and expectations.

"With Cheshire and Oldfield, we want to highlight the undeniable quality of British craftsmanship, whether with a wrought iron bed or popular divan base," says Harry. "It's important that customers prize longevity and sustainability to choose products that last a lifetime- whilst having a positive effect on our environment."

Inspired by and partly named for his fashion buyer great grandmother, these foundations are long-established, having taken root before the importance of sustainable living became apparent to most of us.



Ivy May Oldfield

"I often recall the fond memories of visiting Sylvia as a young boy, when she lived behind the water tower in Hunstanton- after retiring from her and uncle Ken's coal merchant business in Essex," says Harry. "Both Ivy May and Sylvia instilled a strong work ethic into my family- but it was Ivy May who encouraged us to look for long-lasting, high-quality products so you only buy once and buy right." An ethos that Cheshire and



Founder Harry Oldfield (second left) with parents Stephen and Amanda, and partner Adam at the launch of the showroom in October

Oldfield is continuing through its exclusive selection of bed manufacturers.

Their accessible divan styles offer a range of plush padded headboards, underbed storage, and natural fibre upholstery in shades of traditional grey to rich navy and sage green. Perfect for rooms on a smaller scale, such as a countryside cottage or guest bedroom, these storage options are practical and efficient, maximising space without compromising on style. While their metal and brass beds collection by Wrought Iron and Brass Bed Co. pays homage to Harry's heritage and the company founded by his mother - Amanda Oldfield.

Another name available for deluxe divans is Enchanted House Beds. Through their luxurious selection of eye-catching silhouettes, such as the striking Sandringham upholstered bedstead, Enchanted House prioritises organic natural fibres, including cotton and Dartmoor wool, for an elevated addition to your bedroom, rivalling the luxury of Savoir and Vispring- at a more attainable price point.



The Brancaster upholstered bedstead- handcrafted to order and available in a choice of fabrics, finished with a classic wool and horsehair sprung base. King size from £3,149.

When it comes to mattresses, Cheshire and Oldfield offer an indulgent range of British-made wool mattresses and bedding that provides cocooning support and unequalled comfort. From the Sandringham Wool Collection to those by Archibold Beckers, London- the brands on offer epitomise Cheshire and Oldfield's dedication to soothing and restoring slumber.



Cheshire and Oldfield are unique and like no other local bed retailer. Utilising over a decade of first-hand knowledge in bed and mattress design and know-how, Harry and his team demonstrate an exceptional understanding of the nuances of consumer needs to give trustworthy and reliable personalised service. Whether you need a bespoke design, under-bed storage, or a bed to suit your interior style, this new bed specialist provides functional, sleep-enhancing solutions.

Visit their newly opened store in St Nicholas' Court Dersingham and discover in person why Cheshire and Oldfield are quickly becoming North West Norfolk's most experienced bed specialists.

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The Writer - with Tim Keogh

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

I have been asked, how come you started writing articles for 'Town and Around', because it is coming up to two years now since I was first asked.

I make no apology for my writing, for my grammar, or my punctuation, and I have been asked on more than one occasion who on earth taught me English at school! Comments such as, 'they must be turning in their graves', are often made, and not always in jest, but of course writing for Town and Around, as an eighty-year-old, I know full well my teachers are long gone.

There were three men who were my English masters at school, and they were to have a huge impact on the rest of my life. The first was a delightful man 'Pom O'Malley' who was enormously encouraging, if despairing in my attempts to put together sentences in what were then described as composition, and not essays. I regularly scored around 13/30, or worse, for my miserable efforts.

The next was an elderly teacher called 'Kipper' Heron, whose son Mike Heron was a member of the Incredible String Band. I had been forced to repeat a year, due to miserably failing all my exams, and his classroom was just a vast library of bookcases from floor to ceiling all-round the room which was in one of the turrets in the 300-year-old building that was George Heriot's School in Edinburgh. He really gave me a love of the written word and,

consequently, I won a class prize, the only one I was to win in 14 years at the school.

By some miracle I was accepted into the Edinburgh University Dental School before I had formally applied. I was dating a lovely girl called Moira Stewart and her father, legendary Charles Stewart, was the secretary to the University.

He must have approved of me because I was awarded a place at the university. This was fantastic but I had returned to school as I didn't think my passes would have been good enough to be considered so I hadn't applied. My grades would have got me in, much to my teachers' surprise, but too late for the University intake.

This meant a further unnecessary year at school, during which I only had to attend English and French classes. My English teacher was Mr. 'Rook' Caw, and I simply didn't want to be there, so I spent the whole year with my head in my hands pretending to be asleep. What a horrible child I must have been.

It fortunately happened to be the year I was chosen to represent Edinburgh and then the Scottish Schoolboys rugby teams. One of the Edinburgh team was Ian Robertson who went on to play for Scotland and then had a wonderful career as a broadcaster.

At the end of the academic year when the final class exams came around, I was within a few days of leaving school, and one of the essay choices was 'For the Last Time'. I can still remember exactly where I was sitting in the school hall, and how emotional I felt, so the subject of 'For the Last Time' to me was a no brainer. I wrote about hearing parents and teachers saying, 'For the last time, I'm not going to tell you again'. Also, how I was doing my exams at Heriot's for the last time, and I was shortly to be walking out the gate 'For the last time'. This incidentally I did in



floods of tears and am still emotional about it today.

I also wrote about doing things in life 'for the last time', like going into work, and how very sadly you would do things 'for the last time' but not realise. Which today at my age is quite a thought.

For reasons I have never been able to fathom, I came top of the class and a visibly shaken Mr. Caw told me he had no idea that I could write like that, and I must keep it up. I owe him a huge debt of gratitude because he effectively introduced me to something I love.

What all of this means is, please don't blame me for my articles, blame him for he is the man who gave me the impetus to put pen to paper.

I look back now and realise quite how much writing I have done since then, and it is all down to him.

In Hong Kong from 1971, I became the rugby correspondent for the Hong Kong Standard newspaper under the pseudonym of Peter Stewart. I was actually paid for my efforts, and had I been caught, which was why I used another name, I would have been branded a professional and barred from playing rugby. Then after a year I suddenly had to change my name to Gordon Steven as people began to be suspicious because I was playing in every match I reported on, so I was in danger of being discovered.

Finally, I had a visit from a senior Hong Kong police officer which immediately put an end to my fun. The newspaper couldn't have noticed because I got paid for a whole year after returning to England!!

After leaving the army and settling here in Norfolk, I wrote and self-published six books for dentists on how to increase their NHS incomes. These books were written under the pseudonym of I McMunney. As you might imagine they did not find favour with the dental authorities because NHS dentists are not supposed to be in it for the money!

To continue this sorry tale, I spent about three seasons writing rugby reports and previews for my local paper until my criticisms of some players and committee meant my efforts were no longer welcome.

Shortly afterwards my wife Julie suggested I stopped talking and started writing something more relevant. Thus appeared my autobiography 'A Full Back Slower Than Your Average Prop', and the as yet unpublished novel 'The Man with Two Graves'. I hope this answers the question of how I came to be writing for 'Town and Around'.



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Sporting corner with Tim Keogh



Gareth Rapkins has been manager of Tesco in Hunstanton for seven years and is more excited about this year's Christmas launch than ever before. The Tesco Christmas magazine is due out at the end of November and is full of exciting offers and tasty food ideas.

Now a global giant, Tesco was founded by Jack Cohen in London in 1919, so the local store is relatively new in comparison having only opened in 2002. Many years ago, the site was in fact a gas works as the picture shows.



Hunstanton - L.N.E.R. Station & Sandringham Hotel - 1956

For your chance to win a Christmas Hamper kindly donated by Tesco, please answer the following question: In what year was the Tesco Clubcard Loyalty Programme first introduced?

Email your name, telephone number and answer to tim@townandaround.net no later than 30th November. The winner will be drawn randomly on the 1st December.

Full Name: Gareth James Rapkins

Age: 55

Star Sign: Gemini

Where born: Teddington, Middlesex

Where live: Friday Bridge, Wisbech

Occupation: Retail Store Manager

Family: Married to Debs for 24 years

A Cats or dogs person: Definitely dogs. I have four working cockers, Sky (5), Mae (12), Cassy (10) and Aofie (2)

Sports Team Support: Harlequins

Worst injury: I have been lucky really, maybe a broken finger playing rugby

Biggest Break: Being made a store manager for Tesco in Market Harborough

Funniest memory: Driving 243 miles to Carlisle for a dog training day and forgetting to put the dog in the car.

Hero/idol: Sir Clive Woodward

Hobbies/interests: Mainly outdoor pursuits - shooting, fishing, dog walking (or running in my dog's cases), although I did represent London Welsh in my younger days

Best memory: Fishing with my grandad and stepdad on a boating holiday along the River Thames in Oxford.

Favourite international meal/cuisine: Thai

Favourite drink: I love a pint of Guinness

Favourite band/singer: Nervana

Favourite film: Apocalypse Now and Gladiator

Favourite holiday destination: South Africa

Three items for a desert island: A record player, a knife and a picture of my wife and dogs

An interesting fact about yourself: I bred Royal pythons as a hobby. I had 110 at one time and, yes, I was bitten a couple of times

Worst habit: My mouth often engages before my brain which can be misunderstood

Pet hate in others: Lack of integrity

Biggest Achievement: Probably being Store Manager in Sunny Hunny

Best advice ever given: From my dad - work hard don't be late and be honest

Like to live forever: No, although Debs would probably say 'yes' as she would be intrigued to know what happens at the end of time.



Accessible Sailing Expands at Snettisham Sailing Club

Sailing is one of the very few sports in which able-bodied and sailors with a disability can participate on equal terms, but up till now there was no Accessible Sailing within 50 miles of Snettisham.

The ultimate aim of Snettisham Sailing Club is to use their expertise and enthusiasm to extend their facilities and to make sailing as accessible to as many people as possible. While the topography of the site means they will never be fully accessible they are making as many changes as they can to improve access. Accessible sailing is about inclusion and can accommodate a variety of needs, including physical disabilities, learning difficulties, hearing loss but it is more than that - it allows those who can no longer launch and recover their own boats to continue sailing and provides a communal activity and environment to address isolation for people of any age and background.

Commodore Adrian Tebbutt said, "we can



mix and match gentle cruising, hands-on sailing or formal training to suit individual needs, and welcome groups or single participants. Parents and carers are welcome to share the experience. All essential safety equipment is supplied - you just need suitable clothing for the weather".

The advantages of sailing are well documented - it helps people relax and reduces stress, it also helps with muscle strength and endurance, cardiovascular fitness, mental

wellness, increases agility and improves concentration, communication skills and spatial awareness.

The club has purchased two Hansa 303 Accessible dinghies for use on the lake, installed a new wheelchair accessible floating pontoon, complete with hoist, which will enable the transfer of wheelchair bound users to the Hansa dinghies and to the Wayfarer dinghy. They have also installed a level concrete pathway to allow easy wheelchair access to the pontoon. All of this work has been carried out by club volunteers. Adrian added, "our club members have a wide range of skills and are always willing to step in and help when called upon. This has a positive impact and makes the club a real community. All volunteers can make a difference, whether their volunteer work is a small act or a big commitment."

The project has been funded by grants totalling £26,750 from the UK Rural England

Prosperity Fund through the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, Norfolk Community Foundation 'Love Norfolk' Fund 2023, Hunstanton Rotary Club and Inner Wheel, AMA Waste Management and Recycling and the Alpkit Foundation together with many hours of volunteer contributions.

They have also been awarded a grant from the Sports Council Mobility Fund for 50% of the cost of a new specifically equipped Wayfarer dinghy to further support Sailability.

The other 50% of the cost has to be raised by crowdfunding - anyone wishing to donate and support the project should visit their Crowdfunder page at <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/snetbeachsailability>.

Further taster sessions are planned for potential users and groups on Friday afternoons in September and October ahead of a full programme of sessions which will run from April to October in 2025.

Over 30 people attended the event in September braving the windy conditions and lively waters. Alex, who has Down's Syndrome, was first to take the 'plunge'. Sailability at Rutland Water first gave Alex the confidence to try out sailing before his family discovered Snettisham Beach Sailing Club, where his proud mother, Wendy, believes the personal touch, patience and encouragement of the trainers helped Alex immensely. Wendy said, "To say the sailing community at the club has been very supportive is an understatement! They have been brilliant in so many ways. James and Jane who head up instruction have

been truly amazing, always assuming he can do and will do, so refreshing as a parent of a child with SEN especially as you spend your time fighting their corner. Here that's not necessary!



Wendy and Alex

Thanks to them, it's fantastic that he is now a qualified independent sailor and an Assistant Instructor. He is as proud as punch about being able to sail and be part of something so inspiring. This stands testament to what Sailability and the ongoing support provided by Adrian and his team can and are achieving".

Gary, who has limited mobility and had never been in a boat before today, said after his first sail, "thanks for the taster it was great, I think I will pick it up easily". Les, a stroke victim, said, "I never thought I would go sailing again. These facilities and the help from the club have made this possible again - fantastic!". Angie, Les' wife, said "Thank you for making my husbands wishes come true".

If you'd like to find out more information

about volunteering, Accessible Sailing or Snettisham

Beach Sailing Club please contact Adrian Tebbut at commodore.sbsc@gmail.com or visit their website at <https://www.snetbeach.co.uk>.

Adrian can also be contacted on 01553 631697 or 07530 046139



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It's not often you get an Eagle on the Golf Course

Tim Keogh

Falconry is an ancient art where birds of prey were used to hunt wild prey or quarry, to put food on the table. It is thought to have originated in the Far East as early as 1700 BC. Limited to the upper classes in the early days, gentry would go out with their birds 'hawking', with the day-to-day care and training carried out by a resident Falconer. Falconry declined in popularity with the invention of gunpowder, with a gun a lot easier to look after than a bird of prey.



Sadie, the Golden Eagle

Nowadays the sport has fallen foul of animal rights and whilst falconry in its traditional format still goes on, the sport has evolved into the hunting of radio-controlled dummy quarry, speed racing, show/display and for use in bird control.

Pete Stubbs is a local Falconer who is based in Wymondham and can often be seen with his flock across local spots. One such location is



Heacham Manor and Searles Golf Courses where Pete is quick to highlight that he is there for bird control purposes only, moving them along, particularly the Herring Gulls.

Initially inspired by the film *Kes*, Pete, 64, has been practicing Falconry for over 40 years and says he is lucky that a hobby has turned into a job.

One thing that strikes you immediately is the bond he has with his birds. There is a respect and trust between man and bird as Pete admits he does get attached to them. As well as bird control, he also competes. There are two key forms of competition, one where the bird is released and is timed flying between two gates usually 400m apart. The second involves the birds hunting a radio-controlled quarry - or lure - from height, as the speed of the dive is timed usually from around 150m high.

The birds can live up to 25 years and close up they are amazing creatures, alert to any movement as they perch on Pete's thick gauntlet. The highly intelligent creatures always acknowledging the handler as they happily preen and flap their wings. Pete has a number of birds, but today he is with a Baldrick Harris Hawk, a Gyr Falcon, a Saker crossed with a Gyr Falcon and, possibly the King or Queen of the bird kingdom, a Golden Eagle,



Gyr Falcon (male)

who is called Sadie and is nine years old. A truly amazing creature with piercing brown eyes, you certainly wouldn't mess with her. All his birds are GPS tracked should they fail to return, which is rare but does happen occasionally should they discover something of more interest than Pete! Fortunately, he has an excellent recall for the birds by the use of a simple whistling technique or use of a lure.

One funny story Pete did relay was when he lost a hawk up a tree. Having had to climb the tree to seek out, in this case, his prey, Pete managed to find him. However, loose roots meant the tree began to topple slowly into an adjacent river. Having found himself stranded, waist up to water with bird in tow, he overheard two ramblers passing say, "funny place to fly your bird".

Recently Pete has been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease, but it hasn't stopped him from flying his birds just yet. It is hoped his son, Jack, will take over the reins once he retires. So, if you see someone lurking alone on a piece of land or in the woods with a large bird nearby, that will probably be Pete.

She Sells Sea Shells on the Seashore

Tim Keogh

Beachwave Creations is tucked away in The Old Coal Shed in Hunstanton. The quirky little shop has a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, hidden away near the old train station and has been operating since June.

The shop is run by Tina Kelson who has always loved Norfolk. After working for many years in the corporate world she decided to re-locate to Hunstanton earlier this year. The name Beachwave Creations comes from her love of the coast and crafts.

On display you will find lots of unique and affordable handcrafted gifts, trinkets, crafts as well as exclusive artwork by local artists. Most of the products are sustainable, local and hand crafted with many products made from oyster shells sourced from Brancaster. The shells go through a thorough cleaning process before being prepared for decoration which is carried out in the shop in front of your very own eyes.

If you fancy trying your hand at decorating your own shells, workshops are held on a regular basis in a relaxed and informal environment over a tea or coffee. They are suitable for individuals or small groups, including SEN. They also cater for children's craft parties as well as adult "time out" get togethers where you can take your own tippie which can lead to some rather creative decorations!

It's not all oyster shells either. Different craft workshops are held on

a regular basis and Tina is always happy to discuss evening workshops and classes off site. Workshops currently include ribbon wreath making, resin pouring, mixed media art, with others planned.

When 'Town and Around' visited, Tina was making Christmas tags from oyster shell lids. These are already proving popular and can be personalised with a name and year. They are great to pop on a parcel, hang on the tree or to just keep as a keepsake for years to come.

Tina is keen to support the local community and work with other traders to keep Hunstanton's locals businesses flourishing. Recently, she is worked with a local Brownie group to support a shell decorating session.

So, if you are looking for gift ideas Tina is currently taking bookings for Halloween and Christmas workshops for adults and children. Beachwave Creations is well worth a visit and you will be assured of a warm welcome.

You can contact Tina by email at Tina.kelson@hotmail.com and by phone on 07732 372658. Or simply visit the website at www.beachwavecreations.co.uk (see advert on facing page).



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Heacham v Hunstanton rivalry re-ignited in local Derby

Tim Keogh

There is nothing quite like a derby to set the pulses running. Passions run high, loyalties are tested, seasons defined on the bragging rights purely on the outcomes of just two seasonal games. There are some huge ones about mind you, Fenerbache v Galatassary, the Milan derby, Celtic v Rangers, the superclásico between River Plate and Boca Juniors in Argentina, the Liverpool and Manchester derbies and the oldest of them all, England v Scotland, just to name but a few. Serious stuff when loyalties are at stake.

The origins of the term derby as a definition of a local rivalry are arguable, with most believing it relates to a horse race organised by the Earl of Derby, others to the city of Derby itself where everyone in the local area participated in a game, while some believe its origins actually come from Rugby League in 1906 when St. Helen's on the Southern end of the Knowsley Estate used to play Wigan from the Northern end every Easter in a 'local derby'.

When Hunstanton FC folded several years ago, the town had the unenviable accolade of being one of the largest in England without an adult football team. That was until this season when FC St. Edmunds Hunstanton were formed by local man, Nigel King. They play their matches on the Recreational Ground. This meant the re-emergence of the biggest rivalry in local football, Heacham versus Hunstanton.

Heacham Minors Development FC welcomed the newly formed Hunstanton team to their ground on Saturday, 12th October in Division Two of the North West Norfolk League.

Despite the early drizzly rain and overcast conditions over 60 spectators braved the wet conditions in anticipation of an entertaining affair. They were not left disappointed.

Heacham started as favourites against their, thus far, winless foes. Whilst Hunstanton relied on experience with elder statesman, Wes Auker, 43, in attack and Liam Crompton in goal to sure up their, to date, somewhat leaky defence, Heacham relied on youth and talent that have progressed through the Heacham Minors FC set up. Early dispatches were even as both sides tried to stamp an authority on the game. Unfortunately, Auker limped off early, before an incident in the 28th minute ignited the match and King's Lynn referee, Ray Venemore's involvement came to the fore. First, Hunstanton's James Stokes fell foul of the referee as he was harshly booked for a seemingly innocuous challenge and then sin-binned for backchat. Manager, Nigel King, was then subsequently sent off from the sidelines for his protestations. Refereeing is a tough job, but these types of incidents can change the dynamics of a game. Heacham were quick to take advantage, as Ryan Scrivens managed to find the net from a loose ball in the box. The frustrations of the away side began to take their toll as Ryan King then picked up a yellow card. Tom Raisbury scored a second for the home side, slotting in from the edge of the box as Heacham began to outpace the visitors down the flanks. Matt Skene then scored a third for the hosts on the stroke of half time seemingly putting the game to bed, before he too was booked for dissent.

Auker returned to the fray in the second half, this time at centre half. Brains ahead of brawn. It seemed to work, as Hunstanton began to play themselves back into the match, with Auker marshalling from the back. But there was no end product. The away side's task then became even harder as Aiden Sibbons was sent off for foul and abusive language



Heacham Minors Development FC

*Back row from left: Josh Howard, Tom Raisbury, Ashley Woodhouse, James Boyden (c), Oliver Johnston, Ryan Scrivens, James Davies, George Tuttle, Matt Skene, Tristan Guy
Front row: Sean Leys, James Kite, Jack Blake, Cameron Smeaton, Barry Chilvers, Alfie Sills, Reece Wells*



FC St. Edmunds Hunstanton

*Back row from left: Nigel King (Manager), Wesley Auker, Ryan King, Alfie Penn (c), Kyle Kenny, Liam Crompton, Nigel King (jnr), James Stokes
Front row: Louis Singleton, James Eastmead, Jamie Mitchell, Aiden Sibbons*

towards the referee. Heacham took advantage, hitting the post and bar in quick succession before George Tuttle added a fourth goal to kill the game off. Reece Wells was sent off late on for Heacham to tarnish their victory, but they ran out worthy 4-0 winners.

Heacham Minors Development have certainly benefited from the excellent youth set up at the club in recent years, with some of these players expected to go on and play at a higher level. Hunstanton remain winless and pointless, but can take heart from this performance, with captain Alfie Penn and James Eastmead in particular, excelling today.

The return match is eagerly anticipated as local bragging rights are important you know and, for the moment at least, Heacham hold them.
Images: Ian Burt

Rotary clubs donate dictionaries to local primary schools

Phil Davies

This picture shows Priory Rotary members David Mills and Paul Batterham presenting Usborne Illustrated Dictionaries 4 Life to schoolchildren at Holly Meadows primary school in Pott Row, King's Lynn. We have permission from the head teacher, Mrs Jennie Wildsmith Garton, to use it in the local press.

This is part of a co-ordinated programme by the three King's Lynn Rotary clubs to donate child-friendly dictionaries every year to all the local primary schools, covering about 300 pupils in Year 4 or 5.



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Walking Cricket comes to Norfolk

Tim Keogh

Walking Cricket has now become a staple of the Norfolk Cricket Board's offerings for people in Norfolk, giving people from all backgrounds and abilities the opportunity to play some fun, inclusive softball cricket.

All forms of walking sport have taken off in recent years, with football, netball and tennis experiencing a growth amongst the elder sports connoisseurs. As well as the health and fitness benefits, it also extends people's passion for sports they have played all their life. They are a great form of exercise and provide a sense of well-being particularly considering the post event camaraderie involved. Heacham Walking Football have been operating for a number of years and their training sessions are well attended. Recent results have shown the club are prospering on the pitch as a consequence.

Another form of walking sport has been launched locally in the form of Walking Cricket. Some counties are already well progressed in the form, particularly Yorkshire who have hosted a number of tournaments and are setting the pace in terms of advancing the sport. Norfolk has recently joined the foray, with sessions at Norwich and King's Lynn.

Whilst other forms of walking sport tend to be aimed at the over 50's, cricket is not and is open to anyone over the age of 18, mainly because it is slower paced and also allows

those recuperating from injury to participate. Organiser of the King's Lynn sessions, Joe Murfitt, welcomes new players to their well-attended sessions on a Friday afternoon at Alive Lynnsport in King's Lynn (11am to 12.30pm). Joe adds, "we are still in the early process of promoting the sport but already get on average 10 plus players each week, so please pop down and take a look". The sport is also not exposed to the cold weather elements throughout Winter as the sessions are indoors. There are two formats to Walking Cricket, playing as a team or in pairs.



Over at Norwich, Andy Boocock, is also as wax lyrical about the events which are even more popular with up to 16 players from a pool of around 25 attending their sessions every Wednesday (1pm to 2.30pm). Andy says, "everyone is welcome, from novices to those looking to revisit their cricketing youth, it's great fun and good exercise".

Participation numbers of the sport are rising rapidly whilst the indoor school at Lord's held



the inaugural inter county walking cricket festival recently. There is an organic purity and infectious positivity with the sport as it is open to people of all ages and abilities. In a funny way the most important player is the least talented as they represent what those involved cherish most, inclusivity. Walking Cricket's popularity is also in the ascendency because it provides a sense of communal engagement across all creed and class.

John Goode, 74, is a former teacher who lives in Hunstanton and attends both Walking Cricket and Walking football events regularly. He said, "I find both forms excellent for my fitness and wellbeing, and great for social interaction".

For more information about the sport or to attend one of these sessions you can contact Andy by email at Andy.boocock@norfolkcricket.co.uk or Joe at Joe.murfitt@Alivewestnorfolk.co.uk.

News from Hunstanton Croquet Club

Zena Penty

Following a busy summer hosting a number of national competitions, September saw the round-up of our in-house competitions, sessions for the more experienced players and the twice weekly fun club afternoons for all members. There are few better places to be on a pleasant sunny afternoon than the croquet club with other friendly supportive players followed by a cup of tea and chat – or even a G & T! That said most players are pretty hardy and can still be seen battling through the elements during more challenging weather.



The annual in-house Carpenter Cup and Kendal Cups (singles and doubles) are competitive tournaments but run in such a way that less experienced players can also compete, enjoy and learn – and even come away with trophies, as was this year's case!

As usual some lawns need to be closed nearing the end of the season for maintenance. Two out of the five lawns were closed towards the end of September. We want to take this opportunity to thank Jonny Ives, Groundkeeper for his expertise and mammoth efforts this year to keep the lawns in pristine condition – comparing with the best lawns in the country.

The club has acquired a few pre-loved croquet mallets to replenish their stock for use by potential new members early next season (beginning of April). Why not consider giving the game a try in 2025?



Carpenter Cup Winners (Singles) Janet Carpenter presenting to winner Ellie Lewis



Kendal Cup Winner (Singles) - Janet Kendal presenting to Colin Spencer



Kendal Cup Winners (Doubles) - Janet Kendal presenting to David Thirtle-Watts and Maria Crompton

King's Lynn parkrun holds 13th Anniversary run

King's Lynn parkrun held its 13th birthday parkrun in September, with 328 runners taking part, a small number of whom were at the very first run, held on the 10th September 2011.

That run saw only 61 runners present but over the intervening years the number taking part each week steadily increased, with 328 taking part in the birthday run and an incredible 12,969 runners now having participated at King's Lynn since that very first run.



Runners from the original 2011 run from left Arnold Benson, Jane Ashby, Fabia Pollard, Pauline Sparrow, Gary Walker, Matt Pyatt, Mick Ennis

The birthday anniversary run saw several individuals in fancy dress with many runners bringing cakes and snacks along for a post run



Runners gather at the end of the 2024 - 24 Hour Marathon

celebration. There are also a number of visitors present from far and wide, with one runner coming all the way from Thailand.

Parkrun, which is a 5K run and not a race, is a completely free event managed entirely by volunteers and is open to everyone regardless of age or ability. As well as running, parkrun also encourages those who only wish to walk the course to take part and has a special volunteer role of park walker!

King's Lynn parkrun takes place in The Walks at 9 am each Saturday and is open to all regardless of gender, age or ability. Running or walking with dogs and pushchairs is also permitted. Anyone wishing to take part should simply register by visiting: <http://www.parkrun.org.uk/> and then just turn up at The Walks Café at 8.45 am on any Saturday ready for the 9 am start.

Following parkrun, a 24-Hour Marathon running event was held, with runners encouraged to return to The Walks to run for an hour or longer, at any time during the 24-hour period, the culmination of which saw 147 runners taking part, covering over 1700 laps of the park.

This was the 9th year that the 24-hour event had taken place, the purpose being, on this occasion, in addition to allowing runners to achieve greater distances than they may have ever run before, to raise funds for improvements to The Walks, this year's run raising just over £400 for the reconstituted Friends of the Walks group.

Gary Walker, the King's Lynn parkrun Event Director said "The Walks is such an iconic setting for parkrun and is so well maintained that we felt it only right to do something that would help towards future improvements. The parkrun community once again rose to the challenge, with the majority of the 147 runners taking part over the 24-hour period completing far more laps of the Walks than they had originally intended.

The enthusiasm of those taking part was infectious with everyone pushing each other on, with runners of all standards of ability taking part throughout the day and night, contributing to the massive total of laps covered"

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Malcolm Senior

Sandringham parkrun held its Macmillan coffee morning on Saturday September 28th.



Councillor Stuart Dark MBE, the Chairman of Norfolk County Council was on hand to say a "Big Thank You" to all the volunteers for their continued support of parkrun and 5K Your way.





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West Acre Wild Run holds its second obstacle course 10K race

Gary Walker

A small core organising team gathered in West Acre on 6th October in almost perfect autumn weather conditions to greet runners to this year's West Acre Wild 10K, an event which follows a 'wilded' route through beautiful rolling West Norfolk countryside.

Local farmer Alex Birbeck, who is a keen advocate of rewilding and having already completed a large area of rewilding, once again hosted this most unusual of races, with its numerous obstacles, from a straw tunnel to a bale climbs for runners to negotiate, with the last stretch taking them through the well known and popular West Acre fords.

As the course, which starts and finishes at the The Stag village pub, follows a route along existing bridle and woodland paths and is more of a cross country than a road race, with the various obstacles on route making it unique in the local running event calendar.

This year saw an even greater take up for the event, with runners signing up from across the county and lots of club runners ranging from our local Ryston Runners and Gayton Runners to the Huffers and Puffers, together with a large group of runners with dogs, including a contingent from the Sandringham Barkrun Cairncross dog runners' group.

The small core event team responsible for the event management were supported by a large number of excellent volunteer marshals from the local running community, who helped to ensure no one got lost on the way round and all those attempting the obstacles did so safely.



Runners with dogs



King's Lynn Tri Club runners



In the end it all went very smoothly with some very good course times being achieved despite the undulating nature of the course and the obstacles.

The run finished with coffee and cakes at the finish, with all runners also receiving a very handsome West Acre Wild Stag medal.

This year's event raised £2,900 for the West Acre Theatre Crowd Funding campaign. Operating in a converted Chapel which serves as a flexible studio space seating 80, the theatre offers a year-round programme of in-house productions, visiting companies, concerts, workshops, cinema screenings and many other events. Anyone wishing to help save West Acre Theatre can find all the details at the following link <https://www.westacretheatre.com/crowdfundrsaveusfromextinction?>

Red Mount opened to the public for the summer after Covid closure

Gary Walker

This year saw the regular seasonal opening of the Red Mount finally return following closure during COVID.

A new and amazing group of volunteers supported this and from mid-May to the beginning of September, when the Chapel closed for the winter to protect the resident bat colony.

This year's season saw more than 2,500 visitors take advantage of the opportunity to view this unique and very special historical building located in the heart of the equally historical Walks Park.

Visitors came from both Kings Lynn and places far and wide including Milton Keynes, Bude, Nottingham, London, Ely, Manchester, Holland, Australia, New Zealand, to name just a few!

One local visitor said "I have lived in Lynn for 30 years and this is the first time I have been able to look inside the Red Mount. It's like a Tardis; much bigger inside and just amazing".

The Chapel will reopen again from May next year on Wednesdays and Sundays from 1pm to 4pm.

However, the Friends of The Walks group, which is responsible for opening the chapel, hope to recruit more volunteers for next year's season, allowing it to open on a more frequent basis.

Anyone who is interested in volunteering should email: enquirers24@gmail.com for more information.



MAGPIE CENTRE – AUTUMN NEWS

Caroline Dudley

After a busy summer, Tea with a Pony has closed for the winter, and is due to recommence in April 2025. This activity is designed for older people to meet, socialise and greet one of our ponies in the Magpie Centre's wheelchair-accessible sensory garden at Wallington Hall. It may be of particular interest to care home Activities Organisers, seeking new opportunities for their service users. Tea With a Pony takes place every Wednesday 2.00 pm to 3.00 pm from April to October and costs £6.00 per person. Book through the Magpie Centre on 01553 810202.

Next up is the Quiz Night with Hog Roast Supper (plus veggie option), at Stowbridge Village Hall, Downham Road, Stowbridge PE34 3PW, Saturday November 16. Doors open at 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm start. Bring your own drinks.

Teams of 4 – 8 people are usual, but singles and couples are welcome to make up teams on the night. To book places @ £12.50 each, call 07715 467866 or email magpiecentrewnrda@hotmail.co.uk. Price includes the Hog Roast or Vegetarian option, plus a mouthwatering selection of salads and home-made desserts. All profits to the Magpie Centre.

Looking towards the New Year don't forget to order a 2025 Magpie Centre calendar, which depicts our lovely horses and ponies in action. Priced at £9.99 each, these are available from the Magpie Centre, Wallington Hall, South Runcion, PE33 0EP. Tel: 01553 810202.

And lastly, the Magpie Centre is still on the hunt for two equines, preferably on loan, but possibly to purchase, to help cater for our increasing number of service users.

We need a 14.2 hh riding pony, plus a 15.2 hh riding or ride and drive horse. Must be well-behaved and sound in all three paces. If you know of anything suitable, please call the Magpie Centre on 01553 810202.

Autumn with the Hunstanton & District Festival of Arts

Well Autumn draws on as they say but there are still events to enjoy with the HDFA programme of Arts events for residents and visitors to the Town.

Our Christmas Market is on November 23rd with lots of seasonal goods on show just right to surprise friends and family with an original present. The Craft Fair will be open from 10 till 4pm with free entry to the public and seasonal refreshments throughout the day. We will open again next Easter please contact Dawn Davies at www.festival3bythesea.org for details of how to book a stall.

The Popular Christmas Tree Festival will be on December 6/7/8th this year at the Town Hall. Entries are welcome from all local community groups charities and schools. Artificial trees only please but the emphasis is on original ideas and designs and decorations. It will be open from 10 till 4 on most days with set up on the 5th and 6th till 12 noon when it will open to the public. Visitors to this colourful display will be asked to vote for their favourite tree in both Adult and Junior (under 16) categories. Please contact Chris Earnshaw on 01485 533367 for an entry form. Christmas drinks and mince pies will be on offer throughout the three days of opening. Entry is free.

Would you like to be part of the Hunstanton & District Festival of Arts Group? Then please come along to the Annual General Meeting where members and the Committee will be elected for 2025 or you can join as a Friend of the HDFA.

The AGM will be held at The Meeting Room, The Conservative Club, High Street Hunstanton at 3pm on November 20th, 2024. The Group would welcome new members to serve on the Committee or just help with the various Arts activities such as the Music Festival and workshops held throughout the year. We are not politically affiliated, and we are a registered charity. This year we introduced Bollywood Dance, Creative Writing and Stained-Glass Christmas ornament designs. We also worked on more Ceramic tiles for the Wall Art on the seafloor.

Further information from The Secretary at www.Festival3bythesea.org or come along on the day and find out all about us.

ALL SAINTS' FESTIVAL IN SHOULDHAM

Words & Music for All Saints' Day, November 1st, 7pm

All Saints' Church, Shouldham, is delighted to be marking the Feast Day of our church this November 1st with an atmospheric evening of poetry readings inspired by churchyards, followed by a harp concert by Norwich harpist Xenia Horne.

Taking its inspiration from the ancient origins of the autumn festivals of 'Allhallowtide', WORDS AND MUSIC FOR ALL SAINTS' DAY will begin (weather permitting) in the churchyard itself with a selection of poetry, read by a company of professional and non-professional actors, lit by lantern and candlelight. Curated by Professor Ros Ballaster of Mansfield College, Oxford, the selection includes Grey's Elegy in a Country Churchyard, We Are Seven by Wordsworth and A Night-Piece on Death by Thomas Parnell, among others.

After a warming drink and canapes inside the church, an atmospheric concert of music and songs on the harp by Norwich harpist Xenia Horne will form the second half of the evening. Altogether it should prove an inspiring evening celebrating our dearly loved parish church on its own Feast Day, and help raise funds to secure its future.

All Saints' Day is a day in the Christian calendar commemorating all the saints of the church who have attained heaven. It is celebrated on November 1st in the Western churches and is part of the three-day remembrance of the dead, beginning with Hallowe'en on October 31st, followed by All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day on November 2nd. In medieval England the festival was known as All Hallows, and so it's eve is still known as Hallowe'en. Shouldham's PCC is delighted to be reviving the celebration of this most ancient of traditions as part of our efforts to secure the future of the church building through our planned renovation project.

Has Shakespeare's dressing room door been discovered?



Archaeological work at St George's Guildhall, the UK's oldest working theatre, has revealed a 600-year-old doorway which may once have led to William Shakespeare's dressing room.

The Guildhall's Creative Director Tim FitzHigham had long been intrigued by a strange shape in a wall on the theatre's ground floor hidden behind two phases of plasterboards.

In collaboration with archaeologist Dr Jonathan Clarke, specialist plaster remover Paul Wooles, the Borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, and the National Trust, it was decided to investigate further.

The first notice board was removed, revealing a second notice board behind it, and then an 18th-century wall. As bricks from this wall were removed an extraordinary, much-earlier archway was revealed.

"It has got to be pre-1405 as the hall's medieval roof is held up above it," said Tim FitzHigham.

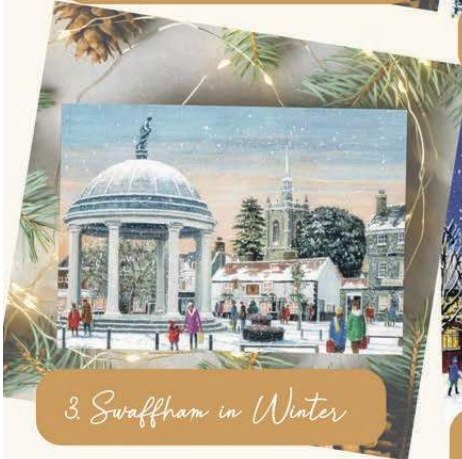
"This is another mind-boggling discovery at the Guildhall, we've got a door that would definitely have been here in the years we think Shakespeare played here and, in all likelihood, was the door to a room where the players changed and stored props."



1. King's Lynn in Winter



2 Sandringham in Winter



3. Swaffham in Winter



4. Downham Market in Winter

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Art and Medicine

Lesley Nadel, The Arts Society North West Norfolk

On Monday, 11th November 2024 at Sedgeford Village Hall at 2:00 pm, The Arts Society (North West Norfolk) accredited guest speaker will be Dr. James Grant MBE, telling us about Medical Gold – from Ancient Egypt to the Nobel Prize. A retired doctor, James will take us on a colourful and fascinating journey, traversing 4000 years of the use of gold in medicine, and will show how many artists have defined this relationship. His lectures are praised for their wit and insight – and superb images,

Now is a good time to join us as an annual member at the start of our 2024/2025 season. Nine monthly talks cover a wide range of subjects, there are trips and tours in the UK and abroad, interesting study days, regular newsletters and magazines, and a warm welcome from a very friendly society.

Leonardo da Vinci's famous series of pen and ink drawings, Vitruvian Man, c.1490, are world famous as works of art but they were intended as a series of scientific anatomical studies rather than 'art'. They produced a serious contribution to furthering the knowledge of neuroanatomy and neurophysiology. Leonardo, with other artists, looked beyond the conventional studies of landscapes, still lifes, portraits, etc. and from the old masters to the modern era have provided insights into science and healing.

A great medical painting is one by Rembrandt, newly arrived in Amsterdam and only twenty-five years old, 'The Anatomy lesson of Dr. Nicolaes Tulp' (1632), which was originally commissioned by the Surgeons

Guild. The scene depicts the Doctor, the official City Anatomist, explaining the muscles in the arm of a corpse, a hanged criminal, to a group of doctors, many of whom paid a fee to be included in the painting. The spectators are dressed for a social event because anatomy lessons in the 17th Century were exactly that. At the time this anatomical portrait was groundbreaking as convention never placed a full-length corpse in the centre of the image. In fact, the image is a work of anatomical fiction since a surgeon would begin in other parts of the body to prevent internal organ decay. Also, an important scientist like Dr. Tulp would not have been involved in such menial work as dissection, that being the role of the Preparator.

Goya's 'Self-portrait with Dr. Arrieta' (1820) is a work of gratitude to his doctor. Goya had been an ill man for several years and by 1793 he was completely deaf. After a further serious illness in 1819, he may have been expected to die, had it not been for the care and nursing of Dr. Arrieta, a plague specialist. Goya completed his work of Eugenia Garcia Arrieta, with the following inscription below the figures, 'In gratitude to his friend Arrieta: for the compassion and care with which he saved his life during the acute and dangerous illness he suffered towards the end of the year 1819 in his seventy-third year. He painted it in 1820.' This 'gift of life' enabled Goya to live another eight years.

Some 250 years later the artists' interest in depicting medical science had progressed from those of Rembrandt's Dr. Tulp. No longer dissection of a cadaver but an

anaesthetised patient in "The Gross Clinic", Thomas Eakins (1875). Eakins continued four years later with "The Agnew Clinic" where surgical gowns are depicted, the first sign of the awareness of hygiene. Controversially for the period, there are two women in the picture: the patient undergoing a mastectomy and the nurse, Mary Clymer. No less controversial are the series of 'Medicine Cabinets' by Damien Hirst, first created in 1988, where he lined up the various empty boxes from his grandmother's various prescriptions after her death. The cabinets seem to offer a cure for all ills, but in the end, as he points out, 'You can't arrest decay, but these medicine cabinets suggest you can'.

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The Arts Society King's Lynn

The Arts Society King's Lynn continues the 2024-2025 season on Thursday 14 November when they welcome James Butterick to speak about Oleksandr Bohomazov 1880-1930: The Lost Futurist of Ukraine. Having never left the Russian nor Soviet empires in his lifetime, this Kyiv-based artist can only have heard about the new tendencies in Western Art through magazines or publications. Nonetheless, Bohomazov managed to create masterpieces no less exceptional or ground-breaking than those of his European contemporaries.

A difficult, at times tragic life, shaped by a passionate love story on a background of major historical upheaval – Oleksander Bohomazov is an artist of revolutionary ideas and unique style. James Butterwick examines the legacy of the genius who many consider to be the national artist of the Ukraine and how his work is finally moving into the light.

James Butterwick began collecting and selling Russian and



Ukrainian Art in 1985 and has established himself as one of the world's leading experts. He moved to Moscow in 1994 where he took part in museum exhibitions and lecturing on Russian Art. In 2013, James began to travel to Ukraine and his focus changed in 2014 to Ukrainian Modernism. Since this date James has put on three exhibitions of the leading Ukrainian Futurist, Oleksandr Bohomazov as well as other exhibitions devoted to the subject. In 2015 James became the first gallery dealing in early 20th century Ukrainian and Russian Art to be invited to exhibit at TEFAF, Maastricht. His private gallery is in London. He speaks fluent Russian..

The lecture will take place in West Winch Village Hall where there is ample free parking available and starts at 2pm. TASKL meets once a month on the second Thursday from September to May and anyone is welcome to become a member. The annual subscription is just £55 or you can go along to individual talks as a guest for £10. Anyone interested in finding out more about TASKL can visit their website at www.theartsocietykingslynn.org.uk or to join the Society contact the membership secretary on 01366 328648 or via email at info@theartsocietykingslynn.org.uk.

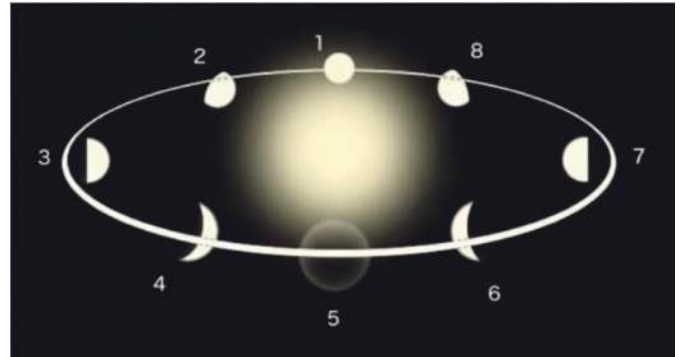


The Dark Skies of West Norfolk

Terry Parish

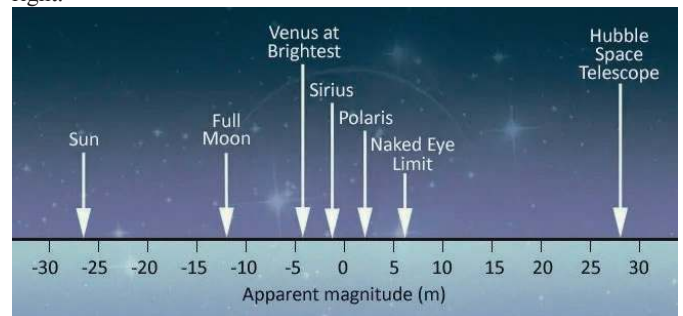
I am writing this even earlier in the preceding month than usual, 9th October, so I have not had a chance to miss the highlights of October yet. Did the comet dazzle our eyes? Were the several meteor showers an entrée for bonfire night? I do know that I did not see, again, the Aurora which was visible somewhere last night. Neither have I watched, yet, the new Solar System series on BBC 1. It looks like it should be good.

The reason for my early keyboard bashing is my forthcoming trip to London for New Scientist Live, a talk and exhibition event produced by the New Scientist monthly magazine. As a side show, I will visit my son and his family. There are four stages including a Universe Stage which is most relevant to this article. Talks are: The Bright Side of Supermassive Black Holes; Charge – Why Does Gravity Rule; Jewelled Island Universes; Our Accidental Universe; Signals from The Beginning of the Universe; The Cosmos in Verse; The Secrets of Gravity; What's the Weather in Space, and Fusion Energy – Closer Than You Think. I haven't decided which to attend yet and there are the other stages to consider. I will throw in anything interesting which can be summed up in a few lines next month.



The phases of Venus. The fuzzy object is the Sun. Earth is in front of position 5 where Venus is not seen. Internet

Venus will have a magnitude of -4.1, very bright. Jupiter is shining at magnitude of -2.8, bright but dim compared to Venus. It rises in the east around 5.30pm and sets in the west after midnight. It is easy to find, just look south about halfway up the sky and scan east or west depending on the time. The bright shiny thing is Jupiter, it will outshine any bright stars. Large binoculars, birding scopes and better will reveal the Galilean Moons. See earlier editions or search about them on the Internet. On the 16th and 17th, Jupiter lies to the left, then the right, of a Gibbous Moon. The bright orange star Aldebaran is also close whilst the Pleiades star cluster is a closed fist higher in the sky and to the right.

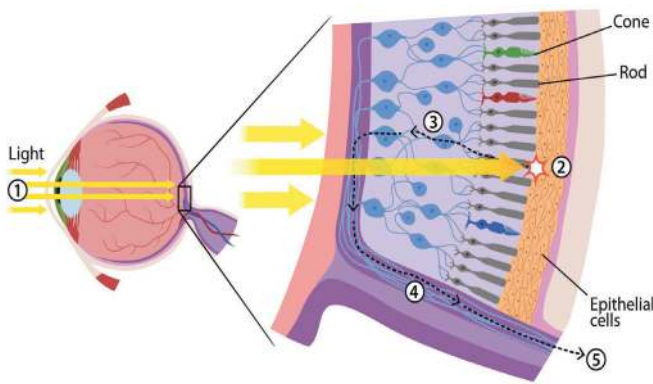


The brighter the object the more negative the magnitude, an historical logic. Internet

Mars is worth looking for as it rises around 9pm and will be high enough to clear most obstructions by 11pm. It has a magnitude of +0.1 at the beginning of the month, brightening to -0.5 by the end. A red dot visible to the naked eye and clear in steady binoculars. On the 20th, Mars is close to a Half Moon at 11pm. When you find it, think of all the activity going on, rovers roving, observation satellites observing. I lost count of the number of missions which have gone there and are proposed in the near future. Latest data analysis has shown much water will be available below ground. Energy and water would enable fuel to be made but growing food will be an issue as the regolith, soil, is toxic.

Uranus is at its closest to Earth on the 17th being a mere 2778 million km away. It will be at its brightest and just within naked eye visibility with a magnitude of 5.6. Clear, dark, skies will be necessary but the blue planet is visible all night and is high in the sky which lifts it above most of the atmospheric murk. To find Uranus use a 'phone app or look up on a website. Stellarium is an app which is still free.

Meteor showers continue with the Leonids starting on the 6th and impacting the atmosphere until the 30th. The peak is the night of the 17th/18th when the Moon is nearly full. Regular readers will know that patchy clouds can be an advantage, blocking out much of the moonlight and allowing meteor trails to be seen in the clear areas between. If you don't look you won't see, remember the rules about eye adjustment.



Light enters through the pupil which dilates, opens wider, in the dark. It falls on rod and cone cells on the retina. Rods work in dim light. Internet

Back to November that has the potential for dark skies and an early frost which will remove water vapour from the air and give it some clarity. Naked eyes and help from binoculars will be all you need to see some wonders in the night sky so wrap up and take a look. Your eyes need to adapt to darkness after leaving a brightly lit room and it takes about 5 minutes; if you sit in the dark inside, then you can keep warm whilst your pupils dilate and the rod cells in your retina come into their own. They work in dim light conditions and sensitise your eyes to faint objects in the sky – you will see more stars and meteors. Once outside, if you need to pop in for a comfort break use a red light torch to enter the unlit house or wear red tinted goggles. Both can be purchased online or you can adapt a torch with red 'cellophane' food wrap. Without either, you will have to adapt for 5 minutes again.

There are 5 planets to chase this month. Venus shines bright but low in the sky towards the SW all month, setting at 6pm at the beginning, just before 7pm at the end. Nights get darker earlier as the month proceeds so Venus will be seen first against the afterglow of sunset and then against a 'nigh' sky. Remember you are looking towards the sunset so only use binoculars or telescopes when the Sun has gone. It is worth using optical aids if you want to see what phase the goddess of love is displaying. Venus shows phases just like the Moon and which phase you see depends upon its position in its orbit and our position relative to that. The phase towards the end of the month is best described as gibbous as it will have 68% of its surface illuminated. And, whilst sending rockets into the sky or waving sparklers on the 5th, find the Crescent Moon and, to the right, will be the Evening Star, Venus.



Pleiades, the fuzzy patch popularly called the Seven Sisters

Whilst planet hunting, take the opportunity to find the Pleiades, the fuzzy patch popularly called the Seven Sisters. It is a cluster of around

1000 stars 440 light years away, well within our Milky Way. Its light set out towards us around the times of the first English settlement in North America and the defeat of the Spanish Armada. The brightest stars are blue white and, I am told, most people can see 6, some 11. Ask any children you have to hand how many they can see – without giving any clues.

Snippets from New Scientist: There is a blackhole that emits jets of gas and dust 23 million light years long or 220 Milky Way galaxies wide. Whether they are still there is a matter of conjecture as the light we see them by started its journey to us 6.3 billion years ago. Evolution is taking place on the International Space Station as bacteria get better a handling weightlessness and increased radiation. (My comment: The ISS is due to be deorbited and will burn up in the Earth's atmosphere, perhaps a bacterial rights activist will step in to save it). A 1.8km crater in India is likely a meteorite impact that occurred just 4000 years ago.

Keep watching the skies and step to one side if a meteor gets brighter and does not vanish.

Loss? Trauma? Can't Cope?
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Marie Jarvis
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Tapping Close, Snettisham

Hunstanton & District Rotary

Vanessa Sammut



Burnham Market Craft Fair was in danger of not taking place after almost half a century in 2023. But on Saturday 17th August 2024, this well-respected successful Norfolk Craft Fair went ahead after the Hunstanton and District Rotary Club stepped in to run the event at the eleventh hour.

This annual event first launched in 1976 and has traditionally been run by volunteers. So, after agreeing to take it over, Hunstanton & District Rotary Club were determined to carry on the tradition of the Craft Fair by inviting local craft artisans and make sure the local community benefited from any profits made.

The Craft Fair went ahead, using, as it always has, the beautiful

greens of Burnham Market village centre and was well attended by both local visitors and those from further afield. It was a tremendous success, with both visitors and exhibitors commenting that it was a wonderful opportunity for people to come together, support small businesses, and enjoy a day filled with unique handmade crafts, delicious food. In the end, over ninety traders participated, offering a wide variety of craft products, including jewellery, wood crafts, paintings, ceramics, plants and textiles.

Hunstanton and District Rotary Club had an enormous amount of help from past organisers as well as Burnham Market Parish Council, Beresfords Estate Agents and the volunteers on the day. Without them the event would not have been the success it undoubtedly was. Hunstanton and District Rotary have maintained the long tradition of the past organisers with all proceeds being shared with local charities and organisations. This year the principal beneficiaries are: Burnham Market Primary School, Car Community Scheme, Burnham Market new Christmas lights, Nelson Rural Scout Group, Betty's Club, Phoenix Ladies and Poppy Quilters.

Hunstanton and District Rotary Club are delighted to announce that the tradition of the Burnham Market Craft Fair will continue, and next year's date has already been announced as the 16th of August 2025.

If you would like to join us and support the Craft Fair in 2025, you can find out more about Rotary at www.hunstantonrotary.co.uk or you can email us at info@hunstantonrotary.co.uk



Diary of events November 24

Friday 1st

Friday Music Night with Darren Busby raising funds for the Critical Care Unit at the QEH. Snettisham Memorial Hall PE31 7LX
Doors 6pm, start 7pm. BYO drinks

Fincham Memorial Hall Quiz night - £2 per person, max 6 persons per team. 50/50 cash raffle. BYO refreshments and nibbles.
Starts at 7.30pm

United Services Club Hunstanton PE36 5HL: Diamond Paul's mixed bag disco. 8pm

Saturday 2nd

Sandringham parkrun Sandringham Royal Park. 9:00 am Start and finish on the vista near children's play area.
sandringham@parkrun.com

Hunstanton parkrun 9am Meet at 8.55 at the Salad Bowl

Smithdon & Brothercross Girlguiding Autumn Hall of Stalls at Union Church Hunstanton (opp Bus Station) 10am-1pm.

Hunstanton Clifftop Firework Display gates open 5pm, bonfire lit 5.45, firework/laser display 7.30pm. Advance purchase tickets only, available from the Princess Theatre Box Office. For more info, Hunstanton and District Round Table 615 Facebook page.

United Services Club Hunstanton PE36 5HL: Corrie Lewis Motown & more 8.30pm
Non-members £5

Sunday 3rd

Write Around the Corner talk on Tarot with Linda. 2.30pm Tickets £3 from by the book, Hunstanton High Street
01485 522349

Monday 4th

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

Wednesday 6th

Burnham Market Village Hall Community Cinema. 2.30pm The Little Stranger (2018) tickets £5 on the door or from Diana Walker on 01328 738604.

Thursday 7th

Stanhoe & Barwick WI The Work of Wells Community Supermarket, 2pm. Stanhoe Reading Room, Cross Lane PE31 8PS. Visitors £5, to include refreshments. Contact Valerie (01485 576261)

Wolf Folk Club at Fritcham Social Club at 8pm. Singaround of a wide variety of acoustic music. Free entry. Everyone welcome. More info on our Facebook page: The Wolf Club.

Friday 8th

Kings Lynn U3A Monthly Meeting at Gaywood Community Centre. 200 years of

the RNLI - A talk looking at the history and operations of the RNLI in Hunstanton.
Doors open 9.30am. Talk 10.30 £3. Refreshments.

Anmer Social Club FILM NIGHT:
VINDICATION SWIM

United Services Club Hunstanton PE36 5HL: Diamond Paul's mixed bag disco dance the night away. 8pm

Saturday 9th

Hunstanton parkrun 9am Meet at 8.55 in front of the Sailing Club for briefing

Sandringham parkrun Sandringham Royal Park. 9:00 am Start and finish on the vista near children's play area. To volunteer or for further information contact:
sandringham@parkrun.com

Film 'The Letter' at St Cecilia's Church, Dersingham PE31 6YE, starting at 11am. This will be followed by a simple lunch. Please come along and bring a friend, you will be very welcome.

Write Around the Corner come and meet Jules Acton, author of Oaklore - her book launch and signing.. 2pm Tickets £3 from by the book, Hunstanton High Street 01485 522349

Hunstanton Concert Band Concert of Remembrance at All Saints Church, Thornham. Retiring collection for RBL and All Saints Church. 6.30pm

United Services Club Hunstanton PE36 5HL Laurey Hayley Duo. Former members of the Rubbets 60s & more 8.30pm Non-members £5

Sunday 10th

Hunstanton Remembrance Service. Parade around the town centre from Town Hall at 10.30am. (Participants to arrive by 10.15) followed by a service at War Memorial, Esplanade Gardens. More Information: Town Clerk 01485 532402 or
clerk@hunstantontowncouncil.gov.uk

Monday 11th

The Arts Society North West Norfolk at Sedgeford Village Hall 2pm. A Lecture from Dr James Grant MBE on Medical Gold - from Ancient Egypt to the Nobel Prize.
www.theartsocietynwnorfolk.org.uk

Tuesday 12th

Wereham Village Hall. Grief Support for Carers and Relatives 2.15-3.45pm Spaces are limited to ensure a safe space is held for everyone, booking is essential: Annie Barber, 07469243052,
hello@iamanniebarber.com

Brancaster Camera Club 7pm in Brancaster Staithe Village Hall. Our topic for the evening will be 'Colours'. We are a small friendly club and we welcome anyone who would like to come along & join us. Contact Wendy Calow on 015543 674725 or Sue Till on 01485 210013.

Thursday 14th

Arts society King's Lynn talk by James Butterick about Oleksandr Bohomazov. West Winch Village Hall 2pm

Friday 15th

Anmer Social Club RACE NIGHT - Admission free - £2 per stake - Win only Club opens 7.00 p.m. Races start 7.30 p.m. Fully Licensed bar Plus Raffle

Fincham Memorial Hall Cash Bingo & Games Evening - £6 per book of 5 plus flyer, optional cash games of Sticky 13's and Stand Up Bingo £1 each. Doors open 7.30pm, Eyes Down 8pm. BYO refreshments and nibbles.

Massingham Historical Society presentation 'Massingham through the Ages' 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Members free, guests £3. Bar open.

Saturday 16th

Hunstanton parkrun 9am Meet at 8.55 in front of the Sailing Club for briefing Sandringham parkrun Sandringham Royal Park. 9:00 am Start and finish on the vista near children's play area. Car parking for parkrun is free until 11:00 am.
sandringham@parkrun.com

North Wootton Village Market 9am-2pm Find fresh, seasonal produce from local suppliers alongside hand-crafted products from local makers. PE30 3PT.

Christmas Craft Fair at the Village Hall, Kirkgate, Holme-next-the-Sea PE36 6HL. 10am-3pm. Homemade soup, sandwiches and cakes. All proceeds to At Mary's Church

Old Hunstanton Village Hall: Doors open at 6pm for a 6.30pm start. This popular annual quiz to raise money for flowers for next year's 50th anniversary festival. Tickets are £15 and include a meal. Bar & raffle. Tickets: julia55@hotmail.co.uk or The Village Shop

Monday 18th

King's Lynn Priory Rotary Club Senior Citizens Film Club at the Corn Exchange Cinema 10am coffee followed by film at 10.45. £4 per ticket 'Paddington in Peru' Booking essential Bharti.Patel@west-norfolk.gov.uk 07375375404.

Hunstanton u3a meeting, Community Centre PE36 5BW 2pm. Three's Company will be giving a humorous Anthology of Poetry and Prose called "Tarts, Toffs and Traitors!"
Call 07443 763679

Tuesday 19th

Old Hunstanton Village Hall: Knit and Natter Group. All levels of experience are very welcome. £3 includes cake and coffee. No need to book-just turn up with your knitting. For further information contact Gail Doherty on 07536 022176

Snettisham Memorial Hall PE31 7LX Bingo doors 6.30, Eyes Down 7.30pm

see also <https://townandaround.net/whats-on/november>

Wednesday 20th

King's Lynn Priory Rotary Club Senior Citizens Film Club at the Corn Exchange Cinema 10am coffee followed by film at 10.45. £4 per ticket 'Paddington in Peru' Booking essential Bharti.Patel@west-norfolk.gov.uk 07375375404.

Wednesday 20th

Hunstanton Society talk 2.30pm at the Heritage Centre, Dr Eric Somerville with a medical related talk on the subject of 'Quacks and Quackery'

Thursday 21st

Old Hunstanton Village Hall: IT help drop-in 10am-12noon. No need to make an appointment.

A musical afternoon of Country Music with Dinky David at Hunstanton Town Hall 1-3pm in aid of East Anglian Air Ambulance. Tickets £3 from Georgie's Café Hugh St, Hunstanton or cash at the door.

Wolf Folk Club at Flitcham Social Club at 8pm. Singaround of a wide variety of acoustic music. Free entry. Everyone welcome. More information on our FB page: The Wolf Club.

Friday 22nd

Country Music with Kevin Barry at Snettisham Memorial Hall PE31 7LX doors 6pm. £10pp incl rolls/cake. In aid of QEH King's Lynn Critical Care Unit. 07591 732033

Old Hunstanton Village Hall: Race Night Doors open at 6pm and the first race is 6.45pm Tickets are £20 and include a 2 course meal. Bar & charity raffle in aid of Tapping House. For tickets contact Gail Doherty on 07536 022176

United Services Club Hunstanton PE36 5HL: Diamond Paul's mixed bag disco come & have a great evening with Paul 8pm

Saturday 23rd

Hunstanton parkrun 9am Meet at 8.55 in front of the Sailing Club for briefing

Sandringham parkrun Sandringham Royal Park. 9:00 am Start and finish on the vista near children's play area. sandringham@parkrun.com

Winter Craft Fair at St Margaret's Church, Clenchwanton 10am - 2pm. Tea, Coffee and Cakes available. Free entry, Contact Debra 07565057216 to book a table.

Christmas Craft Fair at Wereham Village Hall PE33 9AP 10am-4pm. A great selection of quality handcrafted goods, lots of fabulous gift ideas too! Info: 01366 501330 or 07749 240606

King's Lynn Festival Chorus at St Nicholas' Chapel, King's Lynn 7pm Faure Requiem & Rutter's Feel the Spirit. Tickets from Corn Exchange Box Office 01553 764864 www.kingslynncornexchange.co.uk

Syderstone Village Cinema 7.30pm the holdovers (15) £4 at the door. Doors 7pm

United Services Club Hunstanton PE36 5HL DNA band. rock pop & soul 8.30pm Non-members £5

Sunday 24th

Sedgeford Village Christmas Fayre 10am-3pm at Sedgeford Village Hall, Jarvie Close, PE36 5NG. Free parking

Wereham Village Hall PE33 9AP Nelson's Shantymen Tickets £10 from Village Hall Office 01366 502214

Monday 25th

Old Hunstanton Village Hall: Christmas Bingo Doors open at 6.15pm for a 7pm start. Bar will be open, just turn up.

Tuesday 26th

Dersingham Village Centre Cinema 7.30pm. The Holdovers (15) £6 under 16s £3. Complimentary mince pies. Mulled Wine available.

Friday 29th

Anmer Social Club QUIZ NIGHT – Club opens 7.00 p.m. Quiz starts 7.30 p.m. Entry £3 per person. Licensed bar - Raffle

Fincham Memorial Hall Film Club – TBC, doors open 6.45pm, film starts 7.15pm. Bar is open for refreshments on arrival.

United Services Club Hunstanton PE36 5HL: Jammin Joe fun evening with lots of great tunes from Joe. 8pm

Saturday 30th

Hunstanton parkrun 9am Meet at 8.55 in front of the Sailing Club for briefing

5K Your Wy – Move Charity Sandringham Royal Park. 9:00 am For anyone affected by cancer, friends and healthcare professionals to come and walk, talk, run or simply have coffee and cake and be part of the lovely

parkrun community. For further information email: sandringhamgroup@5kyourway.org

North Wootton Christmas Fair 10am-5pm at North Wootton Village Hall with Christmas Trees, reindeer, elves, entertainment, food, drink and shopping.

Fincham Memorial Hall Christmas Fayre 11am-3pm – Free Entry, Stalls, Refreshments and Cakes.

United Services Club Hunstanton PE36 5HL: Travis Graham. Huge range of tunes from this talented singer 8pm. Non-members £5

Into December

3rd Lord's Taverners North Norfolk region Christmas shopping and festive lunch 11am-4.30pm at Briarfields, Main Road, Titchwell. £45pp. Info Kathy Chalk 07875 186954.

7th Christmas Wreath making workshop at Wereham Village Hall PE33 9AP £30pp all materials supplied. Booking essential Tickets: 01366 502214 or Angela on 07535 399883

7th Stanhoe & Barwick WI Gary Bocking, demonstrating Christmas floral decorations. Members only, but why not consider joining? 2pm. Stanhoe Reading Room Please contact Valerie (01485 576261) for further details.

7th Snettisham Christmas Fair 5-8pm Snettisham Market Square A wonderful Christmas fair held each year. Join us for the big light switch on at 5pm.. Father Christmas will be visiting, lots of interesting stalls to buy presents, hot food stalls, mulled wine & entertainment from YourChoir and KL1Radio.. FREE ENTRY! see you there!

Editor's note: Please send items for inclusion in the December edition by 12th November to editor@townandaround.net





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Hunstanton & District Inner Wheel

Coral Campbell

We are only a small group of ladies, but we do keep busy! On 24th September some of us gathered together at a member's home for Peace Day. We reflected on what peace meant to each one of us – war, conflict, domestic abuse, inner peace, to mention but a few. We had a very enlightening discussion and enjoyed coffee and friendship together.



October 2nd saw our usual meeting. We started the evening with a minute's silence in memory of one of our members - Jennie Martin - who has sadly died. Jennie was a faithful and supportive member of Inner Wheel for many years. We shall greatly miss her.

Our speaker was Kieran Gamble from the Purfleet Trust in King's Lynn and he explained the work the Trust does for King's Lynn and district – providing help and accommodation



Members with Kieran Gamble, Purfleet Trust

for the homeless, who find themselves in difficult situations due to eviction, debt, addiction or domestic problems. Another service provided is the Purfleet Pantry – Social Supermarket situated at the Southgates roundabout. It helps with food poverty, offering normal, everyday supermarket groceries at affordable prices.

The Purfleet Trust Christmas project this year is a Reverse Advent Calendar asking people to participate by putting aside an item each day from 1st to 25th November. Items could include toothpaste, deodorant, soup, tinned vegetables, UHT milk, rice and pasta, coffee and tea, cereal and more! If you would like to help in this project, please collect your items during November and drop them off at: Purfleet Pathways, 56/57 Bergen Way, North

Lynn Industrial Estate, King's Lynn PE30 2JG.

On October 8th we had a splendid day out at our District 8 Rally, which was held at The George Hotel in Swaffham. This is an important annual event in our Inner Wheel calendar as all members from all the Clubs in our District get together. It is a formal occasion.



The theme was heather. The table centres were heather plants and the décor was heather colours. This was because our District Chairman is called Heather and our Association President is also Heather – Heather Sheerin. Unfortunately, the Association President could not attend due to illness and Julie Ramsay, the International Service Chairman deputized and delivered Heather's speech on her behalf. It was lovely to catch up and share friendship with members from the other Clubs.

Lights, Camera, Action! Could your location be on the big screen?

Norfolk Screen was awarded a 2-year contract from Norfolk County Council earlier this year to represent the wonderful region of Norfolk as the official Film Office with the intention of helping to attract more Film and High-End TV to the region.

What we know is that large-scale TV or film productions generate an increase in business for a wide range of companies surrounding a filming location, from cafés to taxi companies, accommodation businesses and retail. They also provide opportunities for local film companies to loan equipment or hire out studio space, and for local freelance film professionals from make-up artists to camera and sound technicians to have the opportunity to work closer to home and Norfolk Screen wants to encourage productions to think Norfolk.

In order to ensure that Location Managers, Productions, filmmakers etc... can identify Norfolk as a go-to filming destination it requires an opportunity for the region to showcase its locations. These can range from coastal homes, farms, woods, fields, modern, historic, unique sites, private roads, warehouses, derelict (but safe) buildings, anything that can double for American / European locations etc.... Norfolk Screen receives requests for many different types of locations, and we believe the more we can showcase the better.

Craig Higgins, Development Director at Norfolk Screen noted that: "Numerous productions have shot in the region over the years, and it is exciting to be part of a pilot project to help increase more filming in the region as the inward investment can be massive. However, to ensure we are able to promote the region we need your help to ensure we are representing a variety of locations, and we would invite anyone in Norfolk who has a location to register on our directory". Register your location at: <https://www.norfolkscreen.co.uk/register-your-location>

The buzz of friendship

Alison Schultz, Secretary to Kings Lynn branch

It was a pleasure to get to know so many new faces at our social events this September as we celebrated Oddfellows Friendship Month.

The buzz you get from being in friendly company is indisputable, so thank you to everyone who came along to make this year's celebrations so enjoyable and uplifting.

We host social events and activities throughout the year in and around Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Area. If you missed our most recent taster events but would still like to give our group a try, we've have great events happening every Tuesday at Reffley Community Hall At 2pm During October address is Reffley community hall, Reffley Lane, Kings Lynn, PE30 3EQ. You're most welcome to join us.

We know that people can often feel anxious about the one-on-one nature of making new friends, but giving one of our group events a go definitely takes the pressure off this. They're hosted and you can join in as much or as little as you want by leading the conversation or by simply sitting back and listening. The important bit is that we're getting together.

I'm happy to send any interested readers a schedule of upcoming events. You can get in touch with me on alison.schultz@oddfellows.co.uk or 01553 776030. You can also find details at www.oddfellows.co.uk/events.

We look forward to meeting you soon.



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Armchair Sports Trivia sponsored by Berni Beans

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QUESTION: You are the referee in a football match - a player scores an own goal direct from a free kick, what do you do?:

A: Award the goal B: Give a corner kick C: Re-take the free kick

D: Book the player E: Have a drop ball at the spot where the free kick was taken

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

The Editor, Town & Around, 18 Tapping Close, Snettisham PE31 7FF
 Please note we do not accept entries by any social media channels or text message. **CLOSING DATE 15.11.2024.**

The answer to last month's question was Cliff Thorburn and James Mcburney from Downham Market was the lucky winner.

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Crystal Cave and Serenity news

Cystal Cave and Serenity welcomes Pauline Simpson to our team. Pauline has over 30 years experience as a spiritual medium offering readings, development and classes at spiritual churches and charity events. Readings are £45 for 45 minutes. If you would like to book a reading with Pauline or any of our therapies please call us on 01485 535321 or pop into Crystal Cave.

Anita Leleu has rejoined the team and will be offering Swedish Massage, Reflexology, Crystal Healing, Ear Reflexology, Thai Hot Herbal Massage, Hot Stone Massage and Ear Seeds.

Looking for Christmas gifts? We have a wide selection of unique and thoughtful gifts including crystals, jewellery, incense, candles, ornaments and health and wellness products. Gift vouchers available in store and online.

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Brancaster School news

We're almost at our first half term break of the year and we have done so much.



A few weeks ago we had our harvest festival at the church which was really well attended. Thrift Class wrote the service and the whole school did some beautiful art work for it. Our wonderful PFA also provided a delicious Harvest Supper. A big THANK YOU to those who helped.



In years 5 and 6 our science topic has been about Evolution and Inheritance. We've looked at how some animals have changed over time to adapt to their surroundings, such as Darwin's Finches which changed their beaks to adapt to the food they could get. We looked closely at this by using different "beaks" (kitchen tongs, clothes pegs and tweezers) and different sizes of seeds to see how many we could pick up. It was good fun and really demonstrated how they had to adapt in order to survive.

For the "inheritance" part we imagined what the children of The Mr Men and The Little Misses might be like.

Lower Key Stage 2 having been working on finding about the human body. We have carried out investigations to find out if people with longer arms can throw further, or if

people with longer leg bones can jump further. It's not as straightforward as you might think! We have also made working models to show how arm muscles work.

In Years 5 and 6 we've been reading Louis Sachar's book "Holes". Mr Johnson kept telling us to look out for connections as we read the story. Wow! He wasn't wrong. There were so many gasps when we found out how things were all joined together. It was really clever. Year 3 have just finished reading The Hedgehog by Dick King-Smith. It is about a family of hedgehogs trying to discover a way to cross roads safely. We thought it was really funny when the main character, Max, kept getting his words muddled. That's why it's called The Hedgehog and not The Hedgehog!

Last week we also dressed in yellow, joining others across the country to raise awareness on Mental Health issues. In the summer, we gained an award as an accredited Nurture School. Part of this is supporting each other in how we feel.

Half Term starts on Thursday 24th October and we start again on 4th November.



STOP PRESS!

Since the article (left) was submitted for publication in this edition, parents of children at the school received a letter on 14th October inviting them to a meeting on 17th October regarding a consultation on merging Brancaster Primary with Docking, with the closure of provision on the Brancaster site from 1st January 2025. It said, "the decline of pupil numbers at Brancaster, driven largely by a falling number of children in the area, means that we need to make a change in order to continue to secure children the education that they deserve."

Following the meeting a Save Brancaster CofE Primary School facebook page was set up and an online petition at Change.org is now live. The petition was started by Clare Dixon whose opening statement reads: "As a former pupil and a proud member of the Brancaster community, the news about the potential merger of Brancaster Church of England Primary School and Docking Primary School is deeply concerning. The Brancaster CofE Primary School has been a historical and prominent fixture in our community for over 150 years, shaping generations of children. This initiative of the Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust (DNEAT), which would relocate our students five miles away to Docking, threatens to deprive our children of the homegrown, community-centred education that is emblematic of Brancaster."

Both our beloved schools joined DNEAT only in January 2022. In a community that is so tightly knit, a move of this nature is devastating and disrupts not only the students' learning experience but the familiar rhythmic cadence of our village life. The geographical displacement induced by the proposed merger undeniably imposes an unnecessary burden on the families and children.

This issue surpasses mere inconvenience. It's about preserving the heart of our community, honoring the history and legacy of our school, and providing a stable, nurturing educational environment for our children. We urge DNEAT to rethink the proposed merger and consider the lasting repercussions on the pupils and the community at large. Let's all come together to voice our concerns and to protect our beloved school. Sign the petition to help preserve Brancaster CofE Primary School."

QR code for the petition:



GLEBE HOUSE SCHOOL & NURSERY UPDATE

September is always an exciting time at Glebe. We welcome new pupils and new families. Our children meet their new form tutor and move classes. We introduce new clubs to our co-curricular offering. And we try to maximise the outdoor space while the weather is still good. .

Out & About - Divisions V & VI – Art Trip to Houghton Hall



On Tuesday, 10th September, pupils from Divisions V and VI visited Houghton Hall & Gardens for the Antony Gormley: Time Horizon exhibition. Accompanied by Mrs Hipwell and Mrs Haslam, they explored 100 cast-iron sculptures spread across the grounds. The trip offered a unique opportunity for the children to reflect on the human form and their place on the planet. This cultural visit went on to influence their art lessons this term, where they created works inspired by the trip. It was a creative and inspiring start to the school year.

Division IV – Poetry Trip to Old Hunstanton Beach



On a sunny September day, Division IV visited Old Hunstanton Beach as part of their English poetry project. Led by Mrs. Bygraves and Ms. Maguire, the beach served as an inspiring setting for the children to write seaside-themed poems. They explored John Masefield's "Sea Fever," using its structure and rhythm to guide their own writing. This immersive experience sparked creativity and enhanced their understanding of poetry, making it a fantastic start to their project.

Division VIII – History Trip to Castle Acre

On 19th September, Division VIII embarked on an exciting trip to Castle Acre Priory and Castle to explore medieval society as part of their history studies. Led by Mrs. Haslam, the pupils examined the ruins, learning about the societal roles of workers, fighters and clergy. The well-preserved priory and castle provided a hands-on connection to the past, sparking real interest about medieval life. A highlight was walking through the medieval latrines, a unique glimpse into past everyday life.

Sporting Update

We have certainly kicked off our autumn sports

season with a bang! Since mid-September, our Prep pupils have been busy on the field, showcasing their skills in tag and contact rugby for the boys and hockey for the girls. With matches, tournaments and multi-school festivals lined up with other Prep schools across North Norfolk, it's been an action-packed start filled with teamwork, development and fun!



Friday Night Socials return!

The new school term has brought an exciting addition to Glebe House School's Friday Social—Crazy Golf! Divisions VII and VIII enjoyed a fabulous evening at Hunstanton seafront, where our Head Mr. Stewart triumphed as the first champion of the 150th Year Glebe Crazy Golf Open. The first round featured some great moments, including impressive hole-in-ones on the Aztec Course, as Mr. Stewart fended off challenges from two very focused Division VII boys. Round 2 was equally exciting with competition between Divisions V and VI, and the final rounds from Divisions III and IV and Pre-Prep are due to tee off early October! Exciting prizes, including a House Trophy and the coveted Golden Putter, are up for grabs as the inter-house friendly competition continues.



New Chair of Governors – Hannah Searle

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Hannah Searle as our new Chair of the Governing Body. Hannah, who has served as joint Vice Chair for the past year, is a dedicated parent of two children in both the Prep and Pre-Prep schools and having been raised in Hunstanton and now living in Heacham, she has a deep-rooted connection to the local community.

With extensive experience in the international education sector through a career in Marketing and Business Development spanning more than 20 years at Learning Resources, Hannah has already made significant contributions to the school, including revitalizing its website and social media presence. Her commitment and energy

have been invaluable in supporting our recent operations and shaping the school's future. We look forward to her leadership and thank her for her dedication to our school community and the wider Glebe House Trust.



Family Fun Day & Golf Classic 2024

On Sunday, September 22nd, we hosted our annual Family Fun Day & Golf Classic at Heacham Manor Golf Club, kicking off the school's 150th-anniversary celebrations. Organised by the Parents' Committee, the event drew a record number of attendees and raised over £2,000. Families enjoyed a two-course carvery lunch, followed by entertainment including live music from Goz Unplugged, 9-hole crazy golf, face painting, a bouncy castle and more. The day showcased Glebe's welcoming community, offering a wonderful start to the new school year for all families.

EYFS Autumn Family Fun Morning

Following the success of our Spring Early Years event, we were excited to introduce an Autumn date. On Saturday, 28th September, our Autumn EYFS Family Fun Morning hosted by our Pre-Prep and Nursery schools delivered excitement and fun for local families. The event, aimed at children aged 2-8, offered highlights including Ed Mackay's Mini Monsters, Hartbeeps' interactive sessions and engaging early maths activities with Numberblocks. Children enjoyed the outdoor play area, including our new HMS Crofts wooden boat, while some families explored our Outstanding nursery during their open morning. It was a fantastic morning and it is always a pleasure to open our doors to the local community!

Come and see us! Does your child start school in September 2025? Is your child looking for a new school? Would your child benefit from a new start?

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

Find out more about life at Glebe House School & Nursery. Contact Mrs Fraulo on 01485 532809 or email tjf@glebehouseschool.co.uk to book a visit.

Hunstanton Lifeboat Station news

Searles Leisure Resort of Hunstanton adopted us as their chosen cause in their 70th anniversary year.

And it teed-up some fantastic support for the charity that saves lives at sea, as we celebrated our 200th anniversary.

Searles laid on a golf day at Heacham Manor in late September, which raised £2,000 despite 50mph winds.



As players sat down for a presentation lunch after braving the storm Paul Searle, managing director of Searles Leisure Resort, said: "Thank you for turning up today, you need a round of applause for taking part."

"Your certificates will be in the post to say I survived the RNLI golf day at Heacham Manor."



3rd place for Bob and Steve pictured here with Paul Searle

The nearby lifeboat station fielded two teams, one of which - treasurer Bob McDonald and supporter Steve Webber - finished third after scoring of 35 on what was a testing day on the 15-hole links by anyone's standards.



Winners Ollie Searle and Paul Molton with Paul Searle

They were narrowly beaten by Ollie Searle and Paul Molton, who came home first with a score of 39, followed by Phil Hairsign and Paul Stuart on 36.



Paul Searle presented Bob McDonald with a cheque for £2000



After the presentations, Paul presented Bob with a cheque from the proceeds of the event.

"Thank you for coming along to support this fantastic event," Bob told competitors.

"What you have done today will help us to carry on saving lives at sea."



Vicky Searle, Stormy Stan and Paul Searle.
Picture: Kate Craven

All summer, our shop and visits volunteers ran a souvenir stall in the plaza at the leisure resort, which has raised more than £2,000 for the RNLI.

Our team went along to thank the members at the Members' End of Season event on

October 12, when they generously boosted our funds by a further £900.

"We're so grateful to everyone at Searles," said our visits and water safety officer Kate Craven.

"The money they and their kind guests have raised will help our lifesaving work."

We'll be returning again to Searles with a gift stall at their Christmas fair on Saturday, November 23.

On the events front, see next month's T&A for details of our Christmas Carol Service.

Back at the station, we're currently recruiting for a launch authority - a key volunteer who can deputise for our lifeboat operations manager overseeing operations and exercises - and a treasurer to help look after our finances.

More details on both roles, go online to <https://tinyurl.com/rcj3tkdy>.

Things tend to quieten down for us a little on the operational front over the winter as fewer people come to the coast and fewer still take part in water-based activities.

But our crew are still training, with one or both of our craft launching most Sunday mornings (apart from the first one of the month, when we catch up on jobs around the station).

If you'd like to find out more about our work and how you could join us, pop along or e-mail hunstanton@rnli.org.uk.

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Santa's Tea Party

Sunday 22nd December 2024, 3:00 -5:00pm

It's that time of year when Santa and his jolly elves bring festive joy to The Pavilion. We are thrilled to invite you and your little ones to our enchanting Santa's Tea Party event! Get ready for an unforgettable afternoon filled with delightful treats and holiday cheer!

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01485 536030 and secure an afternoon
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Behind the scenes

Welcome back to the next edition of Behind the Scenes. As we come into the penultimate month ending the year of 2024, we look through at what the theatre has in store over November, including Christmas events, and a nod to the 2024 Pantomime – *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, which begins Saturday December 7th, don't forget to book your tickets!

But first, 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 was arranged including a delicious display of home baked goods such as cakes, scones, and sausage rolls, paired with fun games such as a Grand Raffle and Guess Teddy's Birthday. It was great to be joined by those in the community that came in support, despite the rather rainy weather. Through the generous donations of the guests, and the theatre's contribution, a fantastic total of £1,000 was raised! Thank you to all who attended, helped, and donated.



Delicious baked goods displayed during the Macmillan Coffee Morning



Jenny

Towards the start of November, we have the return of the amazing *Dazzling Diamonds: Comedy Variety Drag Show*, they bring both brand new content, as well as the routines you know and love. It is bound to be as much fun as the last, with dazzling costumes, great dance routines, fab vocals, and hilarious comedy. Plus, you may recognise some of the cast members from our Cinderella pantomime a few years back! So, get out your tickets for an evening full of fun and laughter, here November 10th.

Starting to get into the Christmas season, towards the end of November we also have the return of another loved performance – *Buddy Holly & The Cricketers - Holly at Christmas*. This celebration of Buddy Holly, and the fantastic music of Rock 'n' Roll, with a sprinkle of festive cheer, makes for a perfect evening to begin your festivities. Featuring brilliant actor-musicians with West End credits, and the Buddy Holly hits you know and love, it's a show you don't want to miss – so come along to the Princess Theatre on the 23rd of November for *Buddy Holly & The Cricketers - Holly at Christmas*.



Buddy Holly & The Cricketers - Holly at Christmas

Even more exciting Christmas themed fun awaits on December 1st, with our VIP Santa Meet and Greet, alongside general festive activities we will hold throughout the day. We were lucky enough to receive an important letter at the end of September from the North Pole. Santa has confirmed his attendance at our theatre on December 1st, stating that Santa and Mrs C have their caravan booked ready, and are looking forward to joining us all in Sunny (but possibly cold) Hunny for the Meet and Greet! This will take place from 1.30pm – 4.30pm in our winter themed auditorium. Other things to look out for are our pantomime themed Snow White Wonderland Walkway, alongside Mulled Wine and Mince pies at the Sunset Wine Bar, and music on the Terrace! The afternoon will be concluded at 5pm with our Christmas tree lights switch on. We may have even more surprises such as a beautifully decorated pantomime themed tree from theatre volunteer Jenny, and a visit from some of this year's pantomime cast! So, make sure to note the 1st of December in your diary, and start the month of Christmas with lots of festive cheer!

As this edition comes to a close, I would like to say an extra big thank you to all, as this will be my last time writing our Behind the Scenes feature for the theatre. I will now be passing over the baton to the wonderful Anna Hallard for December's entry, and she is very much looking forward to discussing all things Christmas. Make sure to check the back What's on Page for more information on November's performances, and for the last time from me – break a leg!

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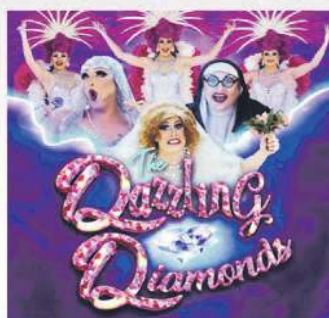
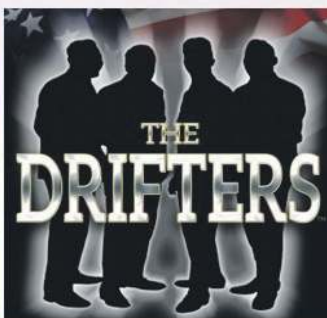
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Friday 1st

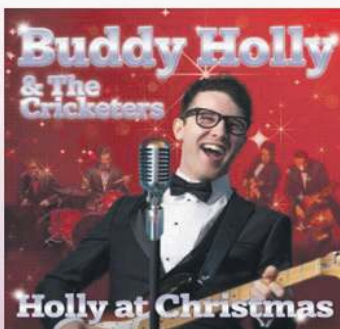
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