

TOWN and AROUND

ISSUE 180 OCTOBER 2020

PRICELESS!

NEWS FROM
NW NORFOLK
FREE



Celebrating 15 years of publication

First word

Hello and welcome to our 180th edition. It's a bit of a milestone and suddenly we find ourselves fifteen years old!

There's certainly plenty to read this month, the pages are crammed full of news, views and super photos.

Our summery cover shot was taken by Ian Burt at Dersingham Open Gardens. Thank you Malcolm Harrowing for being on our cover with Rosie.



With more visitors to the area over the past few weeks the subject of traffic and parking is once again uppermost in people's minds. There's an interesting report from Old Hunstanton Parish Council on page 18 about traffic issues and Norfolk County Council is encouraging us all to complete the transport survey for the coastal area - see page 54.

Drove Orchards is a popular destination for shopping and eating, and on page 36 Andrew Jamieson writes about all the different businesses that are operating there now in addition to the heritage orchard. You might be surprised by the diversity and sheer number of them.

Congratulations to the Princess Theatre. While other towns and cities have shelved all ideas of pantomime this year, our dear Princess is staging Mother Goose with a welcome return of the multi-talented Mervyn Francis as Dame. It is probably the only pantomime in Norfolk this Christmas. How lucky are we?

The evenings are drawing in now and the clocks go back on 25th October at 2am. Dark nights and warming casseroles ahead....

Until next month when we start our 'sweet sixteenth' year,

Elaine

Elaine Bird, Editor,
Town and Around

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Support swells to re-instate a staffed TIC in Hunstanton



*Three former Mayors united in support of a staffed TIC
from left: Amanda Bosworth, Richard Bird and Carol Bower*

Over two thousand people have added their names to a petition calling for the re-instatement of Hunstanton Tourist Information Centre including three former Town Mayors.

The decision to close Hunstanton's staffed Tourist Information Centre (TIC) was made in June 2020 by a few members of Hunstanton Town Council (HTC) and the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk (BCKLWN).

In July 2020 a small unstaffed Tourist Information Point (TIP) was opened with a collection of

leaflets in the Coal Shed Gallery that is situated behind the camping shop in the car park. This angered traders, residents, visitors and the town's Civic Society who called for the decision to be reversed and a staffed resource to be opened as there had been no consultation or communication with the local community – despite the fact that popular services were provided by the TIC.

The Town Council's Annual Report for 2019/2020, posted online in May 2020 says: "Popular services have included the processing of parking permits

for residents, businesses and visitors to the town, and ticket sales for local attractions. The excellent and knowledgeable staff ensure that local businesses are promoted by holding menus from local restaurants, and helping with accommodation bookings for providers registered with Visit West Norfolk. Leaflets are stocked for hundreds of local attractions as well as bus timetables and 'Where to Go' guides".

Until recently Hunstanton TIC had been funded by the Borough Council that does continue to fund the tourism brief and a

manned King's Lynn TIC at the Old Gaol House.

Former Mayor, Independent Borough and County Councillor for Hunstanton Richard Bird said: "Hunstanton is the tourism jewel, not King's Lynn, and it is ridiculous that funding should continue away from the obvious tourism hub.

"It is my opinion that the Town Council should have stood up to the Borough over this issue."

A socially distanced queue formed to sign the petition

Hunstanton Civic Society launched a petition on the Green outside the former TIC on Saturday 5th September and there was a steady stream of people wishing to add their signatures to the cause.

Collecting signatures on the Green, Civic Society member Yvonne Bridger said: "The location of the facility isn't the issue – it's the staffing element that's crucial."

On Sunday 6th September, John Bridger reported: "We now have over 200 signatures online, many with comments attached.

"On the Green on Saturday we achieved 493 signatures, and we also have so far 322 signatures from customers of High Street Businesses.

"Altogether, we have over 1,000 supporters to date."

The online petition remains open at: <http://chnq.it/J5SB2qXL>

At the time of going to print the figures stand at:

1590 signatures collected
419 on change.org



*From left John Bridger, Amanda Bosworth and Yvonne Bridger
at the TIP*



*A queue formed to sign the petition on the Green
in front of the former home of the TIC*

A149 Coastal road blocked as a caravan and vehicle are seized

The exodus of a group of travellers caused traffic chaos on the coast road at the beginning of September.

Town and Around were at Hunstanton's Redgate roundabout around 10.30 on 3rd as Police Officers were escorting a large number of caravans from the town.

The group of travellers had arrived in Hunstanton yesterday afternoon and a number of local businesses chose to close their doors including several public houses.

Multiple police vehicles and a large number of officers were involved in the incident. One 12 year old onlooker reported seeing ten police vehicles and an ambulance, although it is unclear if the ambulance was involved in this or a separate call out.

The convoy took some time to move and by 11.30am T&A was leaving Hunstanton and caught up with the story. We noted that many of the traveller's vehicles had Irish number plates including one that was being towed by a local recovery firm bearing the orange 'Seized by Police' sticker and escorted by a police car.

Very slow progress was made along the A149 towards King's Lynn and T&A was caught up in the traffic chaos. Drivers trying to exit Heacham via Lamsey Lane faced a long wait and our journey time from Hunstanton to Snettisham was 58 minutes.



Road completely blocked just north of Snettisham roundabout

Adjacent to the quarry in Heacham just north of the Snettisham roundabout the traffic came to a standstill and the road was entirely blocked by police and travellers, some apparently heading towards Hunstanton.

The seized caravan was just in front of us and we observed youngsters coming out of it.

Traffic in all directions extended as far as the eye could see.

A Norfolk police spokesman said: "Police attended the Southend car park on Beach

Terrace Road in Hunstanton earlier this morning following reports of an unauthorised encampment. Officers, working alongside the landowner and the county council, engaged with the group and the convoy, made up of eight caravans and nine vehicles, left the site at approximately 10.30am. "Officers seized one caravan believed to have been stolen as well as another vehicle in connection with the encampment and enquiries are ongoing."

New NHS vaccine registry gives Norfolk people the chance to help beat COVID-19

People across Norfolk are being asked to play an important part in helping to find a vaccine for COVID-19 by signing up to a new NHS registry.

Anyone aged 18 years or over can sign up to the new NHS COVID-19 vaccine research registry to receive information about new COVID-19 vaccine trials which are expected to take place in the region over the coming months.

Joining the registry does not mean you are automatically signed up to a trial, it just means that you can be contacted to find out about what taking part in one would involve.

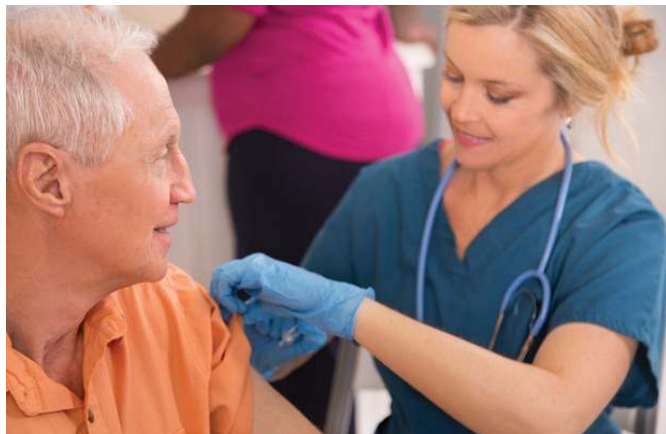
So far, over 20,000 people in the Eastern region have already signed up, but in order to make sure any vaccine works for everyone, researchers need people to take part from a wide variety of backgrounds, ages, and across as many counties as possible.

The more people who sign up, the quicker and easier it will be for researchers to find people who would like to take part in the vaccine trials. With the help of these volunteers, researchers will have the best chance of identifying an effective vaccine which could help protect the UK and world population against coronavirus as soon as possible.

The registry has been developed as part of the UK Government's Vaccine Taskforce, in partnership with the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), NHS Digital, and the Northern Ireland, Scottish and Welsh Governments.

Once signed up, you might be contacted by a member of the vaccine trial team who can provide more information and answer any questions you may have to help you decide whether or not to take part.

Dr Helen Macdonald, the NIHR Clinical Research Network Eastern's Chief Operating Officer, said: "We want to give as many people as possible the opportunity and information they need in order to make an informed choice about taking part in COVID-19 vaccine



research, and this registry is the best way to do this.

"Even if you are contacted, there is absolutely no obligation to take part. However, by doing so, you could help researchers find a vaccine to protect us all more quickly - which in turn could help the NHS and save lives."

Since the start of the pandemic, NHS teams around the region have been delivering research to help find treatments for patients with COVID-19. This includes contributing to findings from the NIHR-supported REMAP-CAP trial, which show that corticosteroids can significantly improve outcomes for severely ill patients with COVID-19.

To find out more about the NHS COVID-19 vaccine research registry, visit www.bepartofresearch.uk, or to sign up visit www.nhs.uk/researchcontact.

Local radio returns to West Norfolk

A man with a passion for radio has launched a new station for West Norfolk.

Heacham's Richard Dix has been involved in radio for around forty years starting with Hospital Radio in the 1980s. He said: "When we had careers advice at Smithdon I was told I should be a sound engineer, of course I ignored that and went into farming and later into computing and broadband."

"All the time I was doing these other things my interest in radio continued to grow, I worked as an engineer at radio stations in Slough, York and FunLand Radio in Atlanta and here I am now launching KL1."

"I'm partnered with YO1, a radio station based in York, and we have a massive database of music, 800GB, so we will not be offering a narrow sound, rather one that will appeal to our audience in West Norfolk and most importantly we will be bringing back local news."

Greatest Hits Radio replaced KLFM at the beginning of September and Mr Dix has told T&A that some of the people who were part of KLFM will be joining the KL1 team.

"It's a very exciting time", he said.

"The team will consist of local presenters who have a real interest and great knowledge of both West Norfolk and radio."

"We kick off with the Breakfast Show on 28th September at 8am and after that we'll be on air from 7am with specialist shows interspersed with local news and weather,



traffic updates and competitions with national news on the hour - all this with a great selection of music from the 60s to the present day.

"KL1 will be part of the community; we'll cover local events like Festival Too and will work with local charities and good causes."

"Something new is the 'Sunday Roast'

from 12-2, a show with more chat and a bit of a muddle and I'm keen on introducing a business show on a Sunday morning too."

You can listen to KL1 on smart speaker, Alexa, Google and phone app or on the website kl1radio.co.uk

Mr Dix plans to be able to broadcast on DAB via local masts from 2021.

'Donate' supports the Princess Theatre

Readers will have noticed the 'Donate' adverts that have been appearing in Town and Around. Organised by Richard Bird, funds are raised from the disposal of unwanted vehicles/MOT failures and the proceeds are donated to local charities and good causes. To date projects including Little Lights Baby and Toddler Group, Rollason Stage School and a school swimming pool fund have been supported.

Most recently a cheque for £250 was presented to the Princess Theatre.



Richard Bird presents a cheque to Gemma Tandy at the Princess Theatre

There was a time, not so long ago, when the Princess stood empty and the future looked bleak. London's West End theatre venues remain closed as a result of Covid-19 and sadly some of them will face the final curtain this year. Many theatres have cancelled their pantomime season for 2020 including the King's Lynn Corn Exchange and Norwich Theatre Royal. But not the Princess, where the show will go on with a Tony Peers production of Mother Goose - see page 10.

The Princess has resumed film screenings and live shows, all of which adhere to government guidelines and are socially distanced, but of course with fewer people at each performance the revenue has been reduced. However, the bills still have to be paid. The 'Support the Princess Theatre' fundraising initiative began in August to help the venue stay open and meet the challenges and uncertainty posed by the pandemic.

Local theatres are at the heart of communities and since the Princess re-opened in 2011, with a vision to become a thriving home of entertainment and a place to socialise, it has become the cultural hub of the town, and a venue that all local residents can be proud of.

The Princess Theatre has itself raised thousands for charities including the Air Ambulance, Save the Children, MacMillan, Breast Cancer, the St Edmund's Society, Help for Heroes, Children in Need and the Gurkha Trust, and now they need the support of the local community.

You can make a donation at:

<https://uk.gofundme.com/f/support-the-princess-theatre/donations>



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Panto at the Princess - oh yes it is!

We at the Princess Theatre are thrilled that we are able to continue with the family Christmas tradition of Pantomime in 2020 in a socially distanced way in partnership with Tom Rolfe Productions. We present to you a 5 person cast of 'Mother Goose' lasting approximately 90mins with no interval over a 2 week period.

The story of Mother Goose is possibly the oldest story to be turned into a pantomime. The Pantomime is about Mother Goose herself - not the Goose, who is usually called "Priscilla", but the part played by the pantomime Dame who is called "Mother Goose."



Mother Goose is a mysterious character - an old crone, almost like a kindly witch, a poor woman who befriends a magical goose that provides her with Golden Eggs. She is rich, but there is something she wants more than money- she wants to be young and beautiful.

The story tells of how Mother Goose is about to be thrown off her land because she cannot pay the Squire and his Bailiffs the rent. Along comes Priscilla the goose. Mother Goose loves her as a friend and doesn't know the good fairy has sent her to help Mother Goose. Priscilla lays golden eggs, and Mother Goose is rich. Along comes the Demon King. He has a bet with the fairy. He claims there is no-one on earth who is happy with what they have got- no one is content. They want more. The fairy Disagrees, and uses Mother Goose as an example of goodness. The Demon King tempts Mother Goose with the one thing she doesn't have - youth and beauty. He persuades her to give him Priscilla in exchange for a visit to the "Pool of Beauty". She gives him Priscilla, and enters the pool, emerging as (she thinks) a beautiful woman.

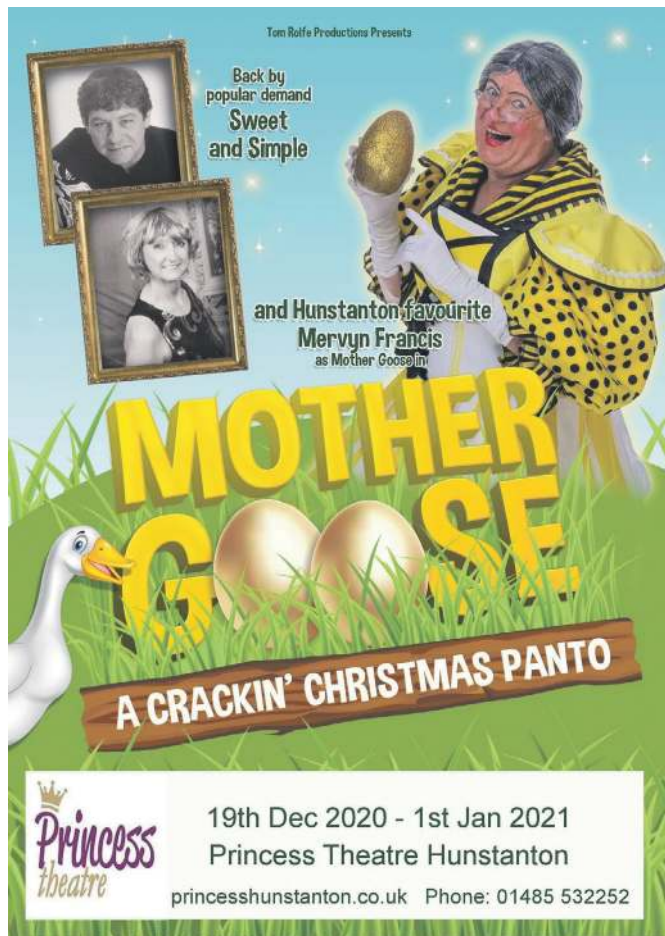
All her friends don't like her now - they want the old Mother Goose back. Too late she realises that beauty is NOT everything, and that she must get Priscilla back. After a lot of trouble by going to "Goose Court" in Gooseland to plead for Priscilla, she gets her back, and all ends happily ever after.

We are delighted to be welcoming back **Mervyn Francis** as Mother Goose, our resident dame for the last few years and this is his favourite pantomime. You are in for a real treat. **Hannah Kiss** who played Alice Fitzwarren in last year's Dick Whittington, **Lynn and Lee Carol** (**Sweet & Simple**) who were also with us last year as Captain and Mate in Dick Whittington and **Tom Shiels** as Billy Goose.

Performances run from **Saturday 19th December 2020 to Friday 1st January 2021** (there are also opportunities for schools' performances prior to 19th and the theatre can accommodate six class bubbles of 30 people - please contact Gemma at the Princess for more information.)

Ticket Prices - Adults £15.00, Children £12.50, Concessions £12.50, Family of 3 £40.00, Family of 4 £50.00 Groups of 10 or more - 1 in 10 goes free (but must be in your social bubbles)

Children's Group Price for 10 or more (Brownies, Scouts, Guides etc) - £10.00 per ticket (children and adults) **Please note: not available**



on Christmas Eve and Boxing Day Performances. Groups please email Gemma directly at gemma@princesshunstanton.co.uk for more details on how to book. All prices include booking fee.

A note from the Producer & Director Tom Rolfe:

'I am thrilled to be returning to The Princess Theatre in Hunstanton this Christmas after directing Dick Whittington last year. The Princess is such a perfect place for pantomime, its intimate, warm and welcoming auditorium provides the perfect platform for families to meet up and 'wrap up the year'. After what families have gone through this year I feel pantomime will be needed now more than ever and I'm so proud that we have managed to find a way to do this as safely as possible. There's no better tonic than laughter and we're going to make sure it is in good supply at the Princess Theatre, Hunstanton this December!'

Hunstanton Christmas Cracker - Sunday 29th November 2020

Light switch on by Father Christmas at 5pm.

Visit Father Christmas (social distancing) at the Princess Theatre from 2pm to 5pm when he will give each child a gift.

Come and meet Priscilla the Goose and other Panto characters from our socially distanced pantomime Mother Goose.

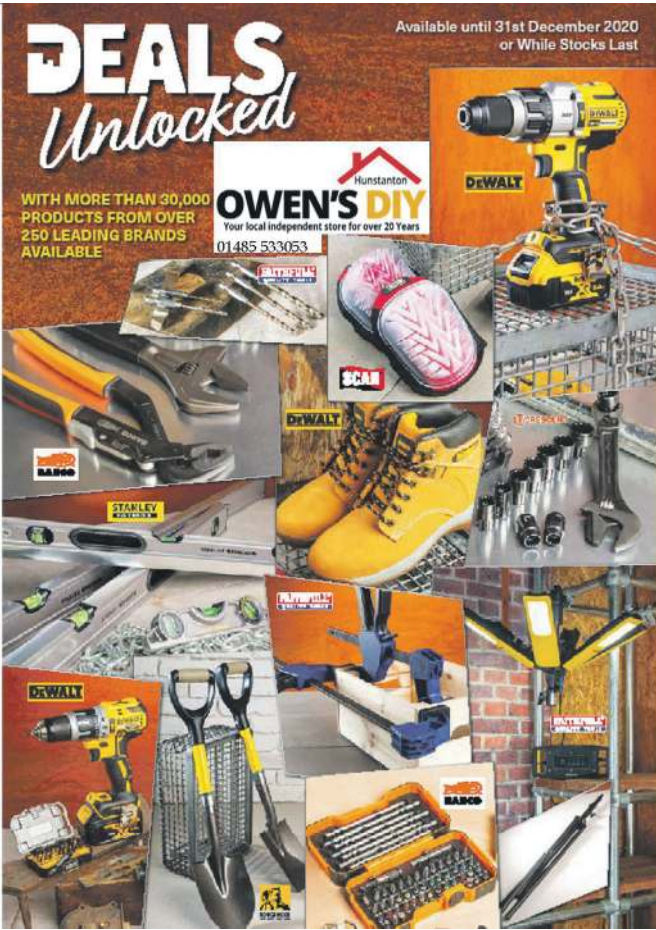
There will also be two roundabouts outside the theatre for children to ride on all day free of charge, kindly sponsored by Rainbow Park, Hunstanton.

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Team QEH skydive for Maternity Bereavement Suite appeal

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital in King's Lynn is fundraising to build a Maternity Bereavement Suite. In order to reach their target of £185,000, 40 members of Team QEH are taking fundraising into their own hands and taking part in a charity skydive. Aiming to raise a massive £40,000 to go towards the appeal, colleagues from across the Trust are excited to do their bit to make the suite a reality.

The campaign is incredibly important to the hospital and the wider community, ensuring families and loved ones are given a less clinical environment to say goodbye to their baby in.

The project would mean a redevelopment of an area currently attached to the Waterlily Birthing Unit in the hospital's maternity space.

Bereaved parents are currently cared for in a space where women can be heard labouring and celebrating the birth of their new-born. The new suite will be soundproofed and have a separate entrance from the main corridor, ensuring that families do not have to walk through the main Maternity Unit to access the space.

Professor Steve Barnett, Chairman, said: "Having a dedicated Bereavement Suite will make such a positive difference to the experience of our patients and their families who are going through their most difficult time after loss. We aim to significantly improve the environment, providing a welcoming, dedicated room where our patients and their families can spend time together with their babies and create precious memories."

With representation from Maternity, Clinical Support Services, Nursing, Admin



and our Executive Team, the group are hoping to boost fundraising in some other innovative ways including online raffles.

The appeal is currently at 18% of its overall target, having raised £34,800. The Trust is hopeful that the fantastic support of the local community will help them to achieve their goal.

You can donate on <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/QEH> - , by scanning the QR code opposite, or by sending a cheque made payable to 'Maternity Bereavement Suite Appeal' to Fundraising Executive, QEH, Gayton Road, King's Lynn PE30 4ET. If you would like more information about the appeal please contact the Fundraising Office on 01553 613373.



Mrs Hallifax's lace thank you

I was one of the many people who had to go into shielding at the beginning of the Covid-19 virus. Not being allowed out and not being able to help anyone, although I was able to stand at my front door and join all my neighbours in the street while clapping the NHS to say thank you.

I did this picture (right) to fill some of my time; it took me five weeks to produce. As the symbol for the NHS was the rainbow and everyone was displaying a lovely colourful picture in their house windows, I thought I would make one in lace and frame it.

I hope to donate this to my local hospital. It will be something of the past and in the future it will be part of our history. The loss of lives and the fight to survive and find a cure affected me greatly.



Crossword solution
Across: 1. Treason, 5. Slapped, 9. Depressed, 10. Totem, 11. Guinea, 12. Mistral, 14. Indy, 15. Ignominies, 19. Carbon copy, 20. Flee, 22. ID cards, 25. Equity, 27. Eland, 28. Instigate, 29. Salient, 30. Dunkers
Down: 1. Tide, 2. Expounder, 3. Seeing, 4. Nostalgic, 5. Sedum, 6. Artistic, 7. Peter, 8. Demolished, 13. Bitchiness, 16. Oppressed, 17. Ill at ease, 18. Portridge, 21. Bunion, 23. Crawl, 24. Shift, 26. Pens

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A Page from the Sage

Barrow Common

Looking through the papers I saw that the Barrow Common at the top of Brancaster is up for sale. This brought back some memories to me.

When I came out of the army in March 1962 after doing two years National Service I went back to work in a butchers shop but I did not stay there long. I next worked at Snettisham concrete products, I then took a job as a lorry driver for Moulham and Horn corn and feed merchants at Heacham; it was only a small five ton Bedford, my job was taking corn, feed, pig meal and pheasant feed to farms, smallholdings and game keepers all over West Norfolk and one day a week I would deliver to three or four drops around Docking then I would go down the Docking-Brancaster road then take the right fork to Field House Farm just before I got there I would pull up on the road side to have a view over the sea this was just an amazing view. On a good day you did not need binoculars I would try and stop just to the south of Barrow Common, on a clear day you could see Skegness, Boston and nearly always lots of boats and ships. It must be the best coastal view in Norfolk.

It says in the press that Barrow Common covers 80 acres and they who ever owns it are looking for £500,000 well the view must be worth that I think. Nowadays it is run as a nature reserve but I think the public can go over it I would think that a lot of local people have rights over it, Dersingham has two commons and a fen but it is tied up so much with Natural England that the villages have very few rights.

Hunstanton apartments

Now what about this planning application for the new apartments at Hunstanton?

A lot of people like myself thought that the apartments in Southend Road were going to be on the coach park; in the Eastern Daily Press a report says that a two-and-a-half story residential building is proposed laid round a private central court yard and parking court, with a wing extending further north along the street frontage of Southend Road.

An additional storey on the northern wing will not be apparent from the highway by virtue of the change in ground level; the old railway carpark is as flat as a pancake, it also says that the existing access from the south at Beach Terrace Road would be closed off, Beach Terrace is to the west of the car park and the access they are going to close is exit only. I was not confused before I started reading this but I am now!

Miracle Muck

Two months ago we had some travellers



by
Dick Melton
01485 535658

come into town, five horses and five wagons,

they only stayed one night on the green by the old Heacham Water Tower, the next day they had gone by ten thirty am, they left the area of grass clean and tidy except for a heap or two of horse muck, but someone in that area is a good gardener as after two days this muck had gone, where had it gone you can bet that knowledgeable person spread it round his or her roses.

When I was a small boy I lived in Station Road, East Winch. This was the main road to the station. Many horses and carts used that road carting coal, potatoes, and corn, my granny would go out in the road to see if the horse had left anything behind and if it had she would fetch a brush, dustpan and pail to pick it up, my granny had the best roses and runner beans in the village of East Winch.

When I was a young lad of about twelve years old I worked part time for a small holder (little higgler) in Dersingham. He had a large greenhouse and in the springtime when the sheep were back on the marsh I would go down there on a trade bike and fill two bags with sheep muck, I would take it back and put it into large tin bath (bungalow bath) fill the bath with water and then stir it up every day after about a month the water would have turned green so then I would get a watering can fill it with this green liquid and pour it on the tomatoes, this man grew the best tomatoes in Dersingham.

Blue Lagoon

I was very interested in a write up in the Lynn News about the August bank holiday week August 2nd to 8th 1948, my mother worked for the Eldorado Ice Cream Company on the promenade at Hunstanton in her little kiosk near the Kit-Kat cutting up the blocks of ice cream putting them between two wafers and selling them at sixpence each. My mother worked there till 1953, she would take me with her during the school holidays. When I was ten years old my mum would let me go in the Blue

Lagoon in the mornings and on the skating rink in the afternoon. I could already swim as my dad had taught me in the pits at Snettisham and the school would also take us for lessons in the Blue Lagoon - we would be taken one morning a week from Dersingham School.

I well remember the Hunstanton Holiday Beauty Queen contest in the Blue Lagoon. In the evening there would be a dance at the Kit-Kat and the winner would be crowned; they would have a well-known person to help the judges and crown the winner I remember one year it was Pete Murray the disc jockey, I also remember one year a lad from Hunstanton riding off the highest diving board on a bike but a cannot remember his name.

Bank Holiday visitors

On the first August bank holiday after the war, August 1945, 10,135 visitors came into Hunstanton by train, and in 1946 the Hunstanton to King's Lynn road was the second busiest road in the country. At the height of the holiday season, the busiest road being London to Brighton. In 1969 the seafront carparks at Hunstanton held over 104,000 during the summer season of 1969.

Hunstanton does okay in the summer seasons but nothing like the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, I think that when the trains stopped running in 1969 it stopped some people coming and then we have not had the coach parties from the Midlands and elsewhere. I don't like to say it but Hunstanton will never be like it was over fifty years ago.

Do you know this man?

I was asked about a gentleman by the name of John Alexander DaCosta Benn; he bought the Compasses Inn in Ringstead in 1955 and was the landlord till 1958 when he sold the inn. In 1957 he was an extra in the film 'Barnacle Bill', I have been told he was a bit of a character and I would like to know more about him, he passed away in 2002 aged about 91.

Kit-Kat site planning permission

Well now what do you all think about the new planning application that has been passed for a new 5/6 storey building of flats near the central promenade on the old Kit-Kat site? They are going to be over 60 feet high if you have seen the pictures in the press it looks like one big concrete and plastic monstrosity no bricks, no carrystone. Like many other buildings around the town, the people of Hunstanton should have a lot more say in the planning of new buildings in the Hunstanton not the Borough Council.

Huggins Lane

I was quite confused when I read in some council minutes for June 2020 about a lane called Huggins Lane or Huggins Road. With the help of the Hunstanton Town Clerk I found out it is the small area of land (about one acre in acreage) half way down Redgate Hill on your right towards the Heacham roundabout.

For many years this land was used for grazing horses on, then it just got left and it got over grown with trees and bushes, then of late it has been made quite tidy and you can see the grass again, it was at one time put forward to have affordable housing built on it but this was turned down and it is to be left as a buffer zone between Hunstanton and Heacham, but what puzzles me is where did the name Huggins Lane or Huggins Road come

from? I have always known it as the small field down Redgate Hill.

I have been doing a bit of research into Huggins Lane or Huggins Road and I have been told it could have come from the owner of the land. Also I think this area of land at one time could have been a chalk pit as there was one just the other side of the main road (A149). If anyone can help me on this project it would be most appreciated, I have just finished looking at some old and new maps and I am almost certain that this land Huggins Lane or Huggins Road is in the parish of Heacham.

Well that's your lot for this month, there has been some good sanfar and cockles about but now it is time for some mussels, just keep safe and keep on a troshin'.

The Boy Dick, Sunny Hunny

Hunstanton Eyecare blog

It's lovely to be communicating with you all again. Many of you probably know that my specialist subject is "Low Vision", I assess and assist those whose vision is not that great even with their specs, and some may be registered sight impaired. I have run the Low Vision Clinic at the Queen Elizabeth hospital for 10 years now, but the Covid Crisis has put a temporary stop to that. In a Low Vision Assessment the starting point is what you can see with spectacles, and then we look at how we might enhance that level of vision. I like to explain that spectacles just get things into focus at the back of the eye, on the retina, but if the retina is showing signs of wear, then specs alone may not be enough to achieve certain tasks, the most popular being reading. I would demonstrate many types of low vision aids and hopefully find suitable solutions to many everyday visual tasks.

I have expanded our selection of low vision aids, magnifiers etc at Hunstanton Eyecare, and have already welcomed new patients who benefitted from a Low Vision Assessment. So, if your optician has said "that's the best we can do", then why not ask Annette for a Low Vision consultation? Usually the results are pleasantly surprising! Keep safe and well.

Annette



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THE HUNSTANTON PANTOMIME

(In the Town Hall)

Following on from the fantastic success of our 2019 Pantomime 'Peter Pan Journey to Neverland' at the Town Hall Hunstanton we have, very sadly, had to take the decision to cancel our panto plans for 2020.

Tony Bischoff, Producer, said "We are very sorry to the 1200 plus audience who supported our show last year and were looking forward to more of the same at this year's Panto. Social Distancing, Government Guidelines and the uncertainty of another lockdown make it impossible for us to perform this year. The safety of our Cast, Crew and Audience will always be our No 1 priority".

We will be back in 2021 BIGGER AND BETTER than ever with our All New version of the timeless classic: Snow White "Journey into the Woods" Written by Elaine Verweymeren. All your favourite characters will be back to entertain you and we look forward to introducing to you our newest members of the cast. All of the Cast and Crew look forward to seeing you in 2021 when we hope that the world will be a safer place.

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Will your home and make it fit for the future

By Emma Langley, Solicitor, Hayes & Storr

Property is often the most valuable asset in someone's estate when they die. It is also a home and may need to remain a home for a surviving partner, spouse, or children. It can be difficult to balance the need to provide a home for loved ones or dependants with ensuring your assets ultimately pass to those who you wish to provide for.

Types of Property Ownership

There are many different ways in which a property can be held. This could be in your sole name, or jointly with others, or even in a Trust.

Property in joint names is held as either "Joint Tenants" or "Tenants in Common". If held as Joint Tenants, the property will pass to the surviving owner on death, regardless of the terms of your Will. The surviving owner of the property is then free to do as they wish with the property.

If held as Tenants in Common, each owner has a separate and distinct share and therefore their share can be left in accordance with the terms of their Will.

Blended Families

If you own a property with a partner and have children from a previous relationship, you may want your children to benefit from your assets, but would not want your partner to be made homeless in the event of your death.

Your Will can be structured to create a Trust on your death, ensuring your partner can remain living in the property for a period or the rest of their life. When that right ends or on your partner's death, your share of the property then passes to the beneficiaries named in your Will. Your partner's share would pass in accordance with the terms of their own Will.

This arrangement can be beneficial should your partner need care after your death, as only their share of the property is available to fund the care fees with your share protected for your beneficiaries. Careful thought needs to be given to how payment of outgoings, mortgages and Inheritance Tax are to be funded. Such an arrangement is often not possible if equity release is either in place or likely to be required.

Lifetime Gifting

Gifting a property during your lifetime to an individual or into a Trust may seem appealing for both Inheritance Tax and Care fee planning. However, such a gift also means relinquishing control of your asset and can risk your security.

The law in relation to gifting property, property Trusts, Inheritance Tax and care fees is extremely complex and depends on

your individual circumstances. Advice is therefore strongly recommended to ensure your wishes are achieved effectively, taking into account your individual circumstances.

If you would like further advice on this matter please contact Emma on 01328 850735. If you require advice on any other legal matter call 01328 863231 or email law@hayes-storr.com.

This article aims to supply general information, but it is not intended to constitute advice. Every effort is made to ensure that the law referred to is correct at the date of publication and to avoid any statement which may mislead. However no duty of care is assumed to any person and no liability is accepted for any omission or inaccuracy.



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Principals of Evergreen Equity Release Solutions have been advising in this area for many years and to many, are well known figures in the local community. The Principals have always lived and worked in the Kings Lynn area.

When the deal is done. If you need further assistance after matters have been completed, we will still be here to assist you in person, and not restrict contact by only being available at the end of a telephone.

Covid19 aware. Due to the current Pandemic, we can offer a remote service if required, or you can visit us at our Tuesday Market Place office which has been made suitable for social distancing.

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Myths. There's lots of Myths out there when it comes to Equity Release. These can do more harm than good. If you would like to have Equity Release fully explained to you, from a fully authorised adviser, then please call us for an initial discussion. It's completely free, as is any following meeting if you like what you hear. If you don't want any further contact after this, this will be a decision which we will respect. **We don't operate a Telesales department!**

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James Batchelor,
Principal of Evergreen Equity
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Thornham Village Hall & Playing Field

Thornham Village Hall Car Park

The exact date has still to be confirmed but, very shortly, the Village Hall Car Park will be controlled by a Pay and Display system operated by Creative Car Park Solutions.

There will be a camera which reads number plates on entry and exit to the car park. There will be a centrally located Pay & Display machine with the facility to pay by either Phone App. or Credit Card. The charges will be as follows:

First hour – free

1-2 hours –£2

2-3 hours – £3

3-4 hours – £4

Over 4 hours – £10

Free parking between 6pm – 10pm

No parking between 10pm – 6am

No return within 2 hours

The objective of the Trustees is to secure free parking for Hall and Deli users for a reasonable period of time, and to regulate the use of our car park, especially during the summer months, in line with recent Health and Safety concerns.

Any vehicle which overstays the above periods, without the required payment, will incur a penalty of £100 from Creative Car Park Solutions, the operators of the scheme.

The Trustees will put into place arrangements to cover special occasions such as Art Exhibitions, Makers' Mark, Fun Day, Weddings, and Cricket, so that community activities do not incur any unreasonable charges.

Christmas Shoebox Appeal

Stephen Andrews writes about this year's arrangements for the Shoebox appeal.

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions and in order to prevent the spread of the virus we will **NOT** be holding a **Coffee Morning** to raise funds for this year's appeal.

We know how many of you enjoy attending the coffee morning and buying items for the shoeboxes but we must be careful.

So if you are willing and able to fill a shoebox please do so. **FILL & WRAP (lids must be able to be removed for customs purposes).**

These will be needed by **9th NOVEMBER 2020 please.**

Please mark clearly on the **OUTSIDE** of the box if it's for a **BOY or a GIRL. Age 3-5; 6-9; 10-11.**

Sorry but we cannot accept loose items, FILLED AND WRAPPED SHOEBOXES ONLY.

Each box costs **£5.00** for transport, this can be paid for online if you wish, you will be given a barcode number which needs to go in your box

Alternatively please put the money/cheque in an envelope inside your box

I will be at St. Edmund's Church, HUNSTANTON on Tuesday 13th October & Saturday 17th October 10am -- 12 noon

to accept your **COMPLETED BOXES**

Many thanks Stephen Andrews & family. Phone 07833 345532.

Wild in Westminster & West Norfolk

Tourism is a vital part of North West Norfolk's economy worth around £500 million with tourism-related jobs making up a fifth of West Norfolk's employment.

2019 was record year for tourism in Norfolk and this was meant to be another year of growth.

But the Covid-19 lockdown has hit the sector hard. This has disproportionately affected young people who hold around a third of travel and tourism jobs, compared to just 12% of jobs across the wider economy.

Talking to businesses, I know the bold package of support the government put in place including furlough, grants, business rate holiday, Eat Out to Help Out, and the VAT cut have provided a lifeline and desperately needed cash flow.

But being able to trade from late summer hasn't mitigated for the time when firms had no income as 70% of business activity normally takes place from April-October.

The business rates holiday and cut in VAT have been warmly welcomed. However, they are due to end next year and the sector is calling for both to be extended and this month in Parliament I supported those calls.

As well as financial support, one of the best things we can do is continue to encourage people to support tourism in our coastal and rural areas.

I was pleased many people followed the Prime Minister's recommendation to take a holiday in Sunny Hunny. I certainly did - I had a lovely week travelling around the constituency in a retro Camper Van.

A few people expressed concerns that I am

encouraging visitors to come and enjoy our coastline, countryside, heritage, attractions, food and drink, and more. I understand and sympathise with their views about the risk of transmission as well as the effects on traffic and parking where longer-term solutions are needed and being considered. However, an important part of my role is to promote our area and given the importance for jobs and growth across North West Norfolk I will continue doing so. As before, I will stress the importance of visitors respecting local communities and following social distancing rules.

It has been encouraging to see local authorities and marketing organisations working together for the first time on the "Unexplored England" campaign. That aims to extend the season and encourage bookings for next year. Extending the year-round economy, developing off season experiences and reducing reliance on peak months are important for growth and productivity.

As well as encouraging visitors, we should help businesses by removing red tape and recognise the link between events and the tourism eco-system. For example, Deepdale Backpackers & Camping had to cancel 3 festivals and 2 large markets, losing £100,000 turnover directly, plus more from the musicians, artisans & producers they would have hosted. I support their call for the 28-day farmland rule to be waived or extended next year so businesses have more flexibility to take advantage of the home tourism market.

Finally, we need to look to the future and to



James Wild MP

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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www.jameswild.org.uk

@jamesowild

take further action to build a stronger, more sustainable, and resilient visitor economy.

A significant opportunity is to become one of the new Tourism Zones. Norfolk and Suffolk should be at the front of the queue. Much work has been done already by Visit the East of England working closely with local groups on a pitch focused on being most sustainable tourism destination, importantly with a strong sector skills offer for young people.

Combined with investment in improved infrastructure and connectivity that I am campaigning for, this is crucial in helping address the real challenges coastal areas face in terms of aspiration and retaining young people.

Old Hunstanton Parish Council

Just to repeat the Traffic goals, the Parish Council is working to achieve the following"

1. The establishment of a 20mph limit on Chapel Bank, (currently National Speed Limit 60mph), Church Road and the A149 within the village boundary.
2. The extending of the existing 30mph limit to the Holme side of the bridge.
3. The recording of parking violations and problems within the village especially during the summer. This will identify areas where parking restrictions are required to enable residents' easier access to their properties.

The PC can lobby the Highways Department for the above but they will require a Traffic Regulation Order, (TRO). This will cost the PC between £6000.00 - £10000.00 for an assessment to ascertain if, in the opinion of the Highways Department, that all, some or none of the above are viable. There will be no refund of that money if we lose.

We are, at present, engaging with neighbouring Parish Councils, under the umbrella of a Saxon Shore forum, to determine a unified approach to traffic and parking problems and other matters along the coastal strip. Supporting us in this venture are our County Councillor, Andrew Jamieson and Borough Councillor, Bob Lawton. Being holiday destinations as well as rural villages we have a lot in common and, hopefully, we can find solutions, through dialogue, that suit all our needs. A case in point are TRO's, mentioned in the previous paragraph, which are very expensive for Parish Councils' small precepts. If we can

combine our requests together in one TRO, it could reduce the cost substantially.

The Children's Playground is still under review. It requires essential maintenance highlighted by the report from ROSPA. It's not major, just a number of fixings require tightening which involves working at height.

We would like the residents of Old Hunstanton to engage with us and let us know how they feel about the above matters

Please contact the PC through the Clerk, email below, to give the PC your views on the above, or anything else you think we should know about, or do something about. Thank you all for helping the village through this pandemic and, hopefully in the same vein, continue until the virus is under control. You can contact me or any other councillor through the Clerk at clerk.oh@gmail.com

David Mcleod, Chairman of Old Hunstanton Parish Council

Just a reminder that the Parish Council have a defibrillator outside the village shop. A 999 call to the emergency services will provide the caller with the details of access to the equipment. We have also kindly been advised by the Hunstanton Golf Club and the RNLI Lifeboat station at Old Hunstanton beach that they have defibrillators available also.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the Parish Council meetings which are currently been held virtually via Zoom. Should you wish to attend please contact the Clerk for the Zoom link.

The dates for the next meetings for 2020 are 15th October, 19th November and 10th December.

Glynis Allen, Clerk to Old Hunstanton Parish Council.
Tel: 07917 757328

Is the climate emergency being taken seriously?

John Maiden

In public 'Question Time' at a recent 'Zoom' meeting of Hunstanton Town Council, I suggested that action should be taken to preserve all the wooded land, west of Redgate Hill, as a haven for wildlife. Several councillors voiced their support for the idea and agreed amongst themselves that the wooded land should continue to form a natural buffer between Hunstanton and Heacham.

I was not present at the next meeting, but I was disappointed when it came to my attention that some of the same councillors who had supported the 'buffer' idea, had expressed interest in the land being developed for housing! There could well be further debate on this apparent contradiction at a 'Zoom' meeting of the full Town Council on September 24th.

In preparation for this meeting, I decided to take a photograph of what appears to be a 'land grab' by Hopkins Homes, on either side of the Ringstead River, which, although a mere stream at this point, forms the parish boundary. The picture shows a well-worn track from the Hopkins housing estate, leading down to where trees have been felled and a large quantity of soil has already been deposited on both sides of the stream.

This prompted me to revisit some of the conditions imposed when an application to build 166 homes on the hill was being considered in 2015, including this one: "A Water Vole and Otter survey was carried out and whilst no signs of otters were recorded there was evidence of Water Voles along the Ringstead River. The survey recommends a mitigation method statement is secured to minimise disturbance during construction, particularly that phase of construction relating to the road over the river... In addition, a reptile survey was carried out that identified common lizards distributed across the site. The survey concluded that relocation of the lizards prior to construction was the



only viable option and they could be re-located to suitable habitat created to the south of the river."

Anyone who thinks the 'climate emergency' is being taken seriously in west Norfolk should consider the failure of the Local Planning Authority to enforce all the environmental conditions imposed in response to application 14/01022/FM on November 2nd 2015...

Borough Council News - Heacham, Sedgeford and Fring

Terry Parish, Leader of the Group of Independent Councillors (15)

Some good news, a draft Climate Change policy passed through the Environment and Community Panel and a Biodiversity Policy was unanimously approved at Full Council. The work still has to be done but at least a start has been made. The release of balloons and the use of plastic throwing rings on Council land should soon be facing further restrictions; it is essential that they are not released or used on any other land too. Locally, caravan site seasons are likely to be extended due to Government policy reflecting Covid Impact earlier in the year. A mixed blessing with winners and losers. At this moment in time I am unsure of the details.



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Parking and Traffic issues

Political comment by Richard Bird

This year's heavier than normal influx of visitors has resulted in parking and traffic problems and Town and Around has received many phone calls, letters and other communications about this subject.

When I was newly installed to the office of County Councillor, some 6 years ago now, I was confronted almost immediately with the dictate from above that there had to be a review on parking, most specifically RESIDENTS PARKING and the charges to be made for them. The argument was that the parking schemes throughout the county were running in deficit and that Gt Yarmouth was subsidising the whole county and that wasn't fair. The seaside resorts were chosen to be the guinea pigs, with Hunstanton, Cromer, Sheringham and others being put forward as potential financial contributors to this countywide scheme. I couldn't stop it, it was already on the books for review, however what I could, and did, do was to make the whole concept democratically led. To this end some may remember the demonstrations at the Hunstanton Town Hall and the outcome of the referendum 2/3 against the scheme and 1/3 for the scheme. I distinctly remember being hit across the head by a demonstrator opposed to the scheme with a rather large placard!

The purpose of reminding folks about this is that we appear to be worse off than we were. With parking matters there are a few tools in the armoury, not just the yellow lines but also the introduction of cycle routes that have timed clearway benefits. When the cycle routes were put forward they were quickly perceived as a drawback rather than a benefit by the local population although they would have had the desired outcome, to stop parking in residential areas between given times, generally 9am to 5pm or whatever was required, they were rejected out of hand. Equally, the residential parking areas, that were voted down by residents, were lambasted because people said that it didn't allow them to park directly outside their own homes although, in some cases, those



households had too many cars to be able to do this regardless. The £50 annual charge was argued as too expensive especially by those households with more than one car. Incidentally £50 per year works out at 14pence a day. The biggest response came from the B&B business owners who objected on the grounds that it could spoil their livelihood opportunities, an argument that has credibility but the amount of B&B's is by now quite small and there was a provision to allow guests to park close by, albeit at a small charge.

So where are we now? We have the Boro' allowing some car parks to be built on reducing this option, we have our M.P. suggesting that we should all have staycations, encouraging more visitors than ever, to our seaside resorts. The national press promoting our 'secret beaches' in N.W.Norfolk. The A149 should have had by now, after the Dukes accident, speed controls operating, but for whatever reason these have not been implemented. The results are horrifying with above all other things, motorbike noise that resembles a race track some of the time and traffic backed up for miles others. The residents of N.W.Norfolk have been subjected to an incredible life changing set of events that can only be perceived as detrimental to them.

At the moment we have the most pro-active young and vivacious local M.P. in James Wild. He in turn can rely on my replacement at NCC, Andrew Jamison, Cabinet Member for Finance who is really trying very hard to change things for the better. I would suggest that what we need is some joined up policies and outcomes, we need some actions rather than speculation. Don't get me wrong, I really support their ideas about: the rail link, the taming of the A149, the cycle and walkways recommendation, the college for training nurses and so much more but TALK IS CHEAP and residents' lives are being blighted.

Lastly on this subject about joined up politics, we have received a press release from Old Hunstanton Parish Council stating that they are working on 20mph speed restrictions and other pro-active traffic issues; when I suggested that Hunstanton might do a similar review, one HTC councillor stated that there was no need, and she knew of no traffic problems in Hunstanton. Give me strength!

How many residents would now oppose 'Residents Parking'? How many residents especially along Cliff Parade and Seagate Road would oppose a cycle lane along their roads?

Editor's note: Old Hunstanton Parish Council report is on page 18.



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CONSTRUCTION YOU CAN COUNT ON

ITEM OF INTEREST FROM THE HERITAGE CENTRE

Bench dedicated to Nurse Edith Cavell to be found at The Garden of Rest, St Edmund's Chapel Ruins

Edith Cavell was born in Swardston, Henstead, Norwich in 1866. Her father was the Vicar of that village, his name was Frederick and her mother was Louisa. Together with her siblings, a Brother and two Sisters, they were brought up as devout Christians.



She was educated at Norwich High School for Girls then went on to several Boarding Schools where she learnt French.

In 1887, 22-year old Edith began working as a Governess in families all over Europe.

At some time in her life she had visited an Austrian Hospital and was so impressed that she decided to train as a Nurse herself. At the age of 31 years she started training at The Royal London Hospital.

After a year, still a Student, she was awarded a Maidstone Medal for her work in a Typhoid epidemic for working 7.00 am to 9.00 pm every day and risking her life.

In 1907 she moved to Brussels to work as private nurse to a Doctor's family. He was not any Doctor, he was the Royal Family Surgeon, Dr Antoine Depage. After a few months the Doctor put her in charge of a new school, Berkendael Medical Institute in Brussels, as a Matron, training nurses in Florence Nightingale techniques. By 1912, Edith was providing nurses for 3 Hospitals, 25 communal schools and 13 kindergartens.

In 1914 she was giving 4 lectures a week to Doctors and Nurses alike, plus finding the time to care for a friend's daughter who was a morphine addict, and a runaway girl.

Then with War that had started,



and Germany having invaded Belgium, Edith returned to England and was safe with her family.

But not for long, as she decided to return to Belgium as she had a job to do. 'There were people to be cared for' she said.

She treated German and Austrian soldiers as well as Belgian and English soldiers, her Christian upbringing had taught her that all men were equal and their lives were precious.

During this time, she became involved in not only treating wounded soldiers, but smuggling allied soldiers, including Belgian and French men as well as English men into neutral Holland, and then back to England. She knew what she was doing and what the consequences would be if she was caught, and that she and the others were likely to be caught.

She would have seen this helping to get to England as part of their care, if she handed them over to the Germans they would be thrown into a camp and left to fend for themselves.

Her Bravery was mind-blowing. To shelter and treat these men, then take them to pick-up points right under the German noses, is gallantry of the first order. It is estimated she saved 175 soldiers and men of military age.

Eventually she was caught and she confessed to the Germans. She was tried, convicted and sentenced to death. The Germans later explained that if they had spared her because she was a woman many other women would be sabotaging their war effort knowing they wouldn't be executed for it.

They ordered her execution the next day to make sure no appeal

for clemency was successful.

The group that ran the Hospital / Evacuation building comprised of 27 'conspirators' and were all put on trial and convicted, only 5 were sentenced to death and only 2 actually executed.

The night before her execution by Firing Squad, a German Chaplain had sent a note to an Anglican Minister who remained in Belgium at his Church of England parish in Brussels. This note asked for him to come and see one of 'his' Parishioners who was dying. His name was Rev. Stirling Gahan.

When he came that evening and was told the truth about Edith he 'almost collapsed', but he went to see her anyway.

He gave her Communion, and she told him they had been very kind to her, "But this I would say, standing as I do in view of God and eternity. I realize that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone".

Rev. Gahan said she would be remembered as a Heroine and a Martyr. Edith replied, "Don't think of me like that, think of me as a Nurse who tried to do her duty".

The next day, October 12th 1915 at the age of 49, she was taken out to be put in front of a Firing Squad and even then she forgave the soldiers for what they were about to do.

The Execution took place and she was buried at Schaarbeek, on the outskirts of Brussels.

After the war ended her remains were brought back to England.

She was re-interred beside the walls of Norwich Cathedral, and she is honoured with a statue in St Martins Place, just off London's Trafalgar Square.

Her remains were transported in the same Luggage Van as that which carried Capt Fryatt, another executed Civilian, and the body of the Unknown Soldier – buried in Westminster Abbey.

More information and pictures are available to view in our files at the Heritage Centre, just ask a member of staff to retrieve from our Filing Cabinets.

We shall be writing about Capt Fryatt in a future article but in the meantime, there does not seem to be any knowledge about who organized and why we have the Edith Cavell bench in the Memorial Garden apart from her being from Norfolk. Can anyone enlighten us?

In case you are looking for the bench, it has been relocated to a safe place for repairs. It is in a bit of a state with broken pieces of wood to the back and the seat.



*Edith Cavell's grave
Norwich Cathedral*



*Edith Cavell Memorial
Researched and written
up by Tony Armstrong,
Heritage Centre
Volunteer.*

Civic Society news

CORONAVIRUS

We had opened up the Heritage Centre for just Saturdays and Sundays from 1.00pm to 5.00pm from Saturday, 15th August. However, this has been subject to the Society managing to obtain enough volunteers to 'man' the Centre which has not always been the case due to the fact that many of our volunteers are still shielding. As a result, we are having to reduce the opening times to be from 2.00pm to 4.00pm as of Saturday, 19th September. To repeat what was said last month, we have restructured the furniture in the Centre to provide a bit of a one-way system around the Centre. We are also displaying all sorts of signs to tell our volunteers and visitors what they have to do to keep any risks of transmission of the Covid-19 virus to a minimum. In addition, we have provided a screen in front of the re-sited Reception Desks and also hand sanitiser for use by everyone entering the Centre. We insist that face coverings are worn as with other similar venues. Finally, we are having to take a record of all who enter the Centre (group leaders and numbers, contact numbers and times in and out) for Track and Trace.

We heard that the Borough Council were offering grants provided by the Norfolk Strategic Fund to assist businesses in the Tourism Sector to recover from the impact of Covid-19 to reopen as safely as possible. This was in two stages, the first, a Business Adaptation Grant to help offset 50% of the cost of adapting our premises to allow us to open and the other, an Autumn & Winter Adaptation Grant to enable us to continue opening in the Autumn/Winter season. As we no longer have a heating system in the Heritage Centre, we applied for a 50% contribution towards the cost of installing an electric heating system plus some other items that would make it more comfortable for visitors to the centre to queue. We were very pleased to discover that we have been successful on both counts to the total value of £1,852.50 and we are very grateful to the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk Tourism Support Package project for this generous support.

We continue to be short of volunteers so if anyone out there can spare a couple of hours on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon, please contact Terry Ashworth on 01485 535292 or email – Thank you.

HERITAGE DAYS – 11th to 20th SEPTEMBER 2020

The nature of Hunstanton Lighthouse and Hunstanton Hall has not allowed us to set up visits to either of these popular places that we have arranged in previous years. We had hoped to organise a visit to the Infant School in James Street. This has also not been possible so we shall just have to wait for a vaccine in the next 12 months to allow these to all happen next year.

TALKS AND OUTINGS

Talks continue to be in abeyance for the time being. We have, however, made arrangements and tentatively booked the Town Hall for the 2020/2021 season of Talks. We just hope we are going to be able to utilise them. It has been suggested to us that in order for our members to get something for their subscriptions other than the knowledge that you are supporting all the hard work the Committee have been doing, we may try to bring our talks to be online. We are actively working on this and will let you know if and when we are able to bring you something of interest.

Sadly, our Outings are currently in abeyance but we shall see if there is something we can do to enable a group of us to visit some place of interest.

HELP! WE STILL WANT YOUR STORIES

Whilst our lives have been affected by this Pandemic and there are restrictions on what we can do as regards our Talks, the Committee have been discussing the possibilities of asking our members whether they have interesting stories to tell that can be recorded in a whole manner of different ways, some more direct than others. If you have done something interesting in your life, travelled widely, had an interesting job and have an interest that others might like to hear about, we would be delighted to hear from you. One of our Committee Members is a frustrated Interviewer and would love to talk to you to arrange to meet (socially distanced, of course) to discuss what and how we could put together a recording of an interview, perhaps enhanced with some slides or even video/film. Contact blunden@hunstantoncivicsociety.org.uk. We asked in the last Newsletter but so far, Margi Blunden's phone has been very quiet.

PETITION TO RE-INSTATE A STAFFED TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE IN HUNSTANTON FOR THE BENEFIT OF BUSINESSES, RESIDENTS AND VISITORS ALIKE

Yvonne Bridger, Hunstanton & District Civic Society

A live petition was launched on the Upper Green, Hunstanton, on Saturday September 5th.

The day began when Tony Armstrong, Amanda Bosworth and John Bridger and I went to set up the gazebo, tables, chairs, banners, placards etc at 10am.

The windy conditions made an interesting backdrop for the day's event!

There were so many people in the town and on The Green at 10am, that we started collecting signatures from 10am, rather than wait for an 11am start.

There was a superb turn-out for our petition, which had been well advertised in the local press, on the local radio stations and on social media. A change.org petition had also been launched

on the same day.

For the high turn-out on Saturday September 5th, we thank each and everyone (business owners, residents, visitors from all over the country) who came out to sign the petition and make known their views on the sudden and unexpected closure of the Tourist Information Centre, which happened earlier this year without any consultation with businesses or the local community.

We collected over 500 signatures of support on Saturday September 5th alone.

322 signatures of support had already been gathered in one of the High Street businesses.

More than 309 people have signed up on change.org as of the day of writing this note

(Wednesday September 9th).

The Hunstanton and District Civic Society Committee members met on Tuesday September 8th. The Tourist Information Centre was on the Agenda and was discussed. Data from the petitions will be collected in the week beginning Monday September 14th, at which time possible options for the next stage will be explored.

We will update you on further future developments via the local press, social media and through the November edition of Hunstanton Town and Around.

Once again, thank you for all of your messages of support and for making known your views on a situation which was presented to us by Hunstanton's Mayor as a 'fait accompli' via a Hunstanton

Town Council Zoom meeting held on June 18th 2020.

Your views are important. Your voices are important. Together we are the community.



Linking up

Andrew Jamieson, Norfolk County Councillor, North Coast & Cabinet Member for Finance

At the time of writing, the main news is the introduction of new restrictions limiting social gatherings indoors or outdoors to six people, with a very small number of exceptions. This "Rule of 6" is in response to increasing transmission rates nationally. Right now, rates remain low in Norfolk at 9.14 positive tests per 100,000 vs an all-England figure of 32 but there is absolutely no room for complacency. On the positive side, the control of the outbreak at Banham Poultry has meant that cases were limited to staff and immediate households. This was largely down to the speed with which tracing was undertaken and we are confident that future workplace issues can be dealt with as effectively by our Public Health team, led by Dr Louise Smith. However, I understand the Rule of 6 will be highly disruptive for some people's plans and for businesses generally. The other area of current concern is the difficulty of getting tested. Having had cause to make use of the excellent system in place in Hunstanton recently, with no delay to test or receipt of results, demand has subsequently ballooned: we are in process of sourcing additional Mobile Testing Units for Norfolk and I would hope that they will be in place by the time you read this.

We can now start to look back at how the Coronavirus pandemic has affected our daily lives from the perspective of visitor arrivals and associated issues of traffic management and environmental issues.

The sheer number of visitors made the



summer trying for many of us. Sympathetic though I am to the need for a post-lockdown sense of liberation, unlawful camping, parking, litter and traffic have been a source of considerable friction.

Those of you familiar with the Saxon Shore Parish Partnership will know that I have called for individual parishes to come forward with their individual solutions to specific issues that they, as a village, might have. I am putting this together under an umbrella grouping so that Norfolk County Councils' Highways team, Environment team and Public Health work in a single team towards a long-term solution (by long-term, I mean by the start of next season). We will thereby address parking, speeding and pedestrian access along the Coast, initially within the North Coast Division but ultimately across the whole of the AONB.

Problems have been greatly exacerbated by the proliferation of 'free parking' apps which

have highlighted where campervans might park overnight, or cars can be left during the day. This issue is also a major concern in Hunstanton, along Cliff Terrace for example. I have had many requests for assistance and, again, by the time you read this I hope that Norfolk County Council will have put a short term, if slightly irregular, initiative in place to stop this blight. However, once again a long-term solution will be brought forward: with the buy-in of local residents, I hope we can suffer less inconvenience next year.

By and large I hope that the County Council is being responsive, not only working to minimise outbreaks of Coronavirus as when it occurs but also to mitigate the effects on us all as much as we can. It is incredibly important that we remain flexible. One additional area of concern that I have, and this is more for the Borough than the County, is the need for officers to be attentive to the employment needs of our coastal area. Although, as of mid-September, we have not seen much sign yet, I see a tsunami of unemployment heading our way. A number of businesses have complained to me of obstructive and process-driven planning officers seemingly oblivious of the fact that they stand in the way of a series of job creation schemes. I hope that Councillors of all shades will insist that job creation is put ahead of largescale residential schemes when coming before planning committees. The needs of the community demand it.

HUNSTANTON FRIENDS

How It All Began

We started as an active Library Community. Friday's soon became very busy with our 'Just a Cuppa', 'Knit and Knatter' and 'Colour me Calm' groups. Then came the Pandemic and everything closed.

As the Library began to look at reopening, we realised we would not be able to hold our Groups for the foreseeable future. We were concerned how some of our regular members were coping in this strange new world, where all social activities no longer took place.

After some discussion we raised our concerns with a councillor who mentioned it to Hunstanton Town Council. Within days Hunstanton Town Council contacted us to say we were welcome to use Community Centre in Avenue Road.

The Aim of the Group

Strictly keeping to Social Distancing guidelines, we provide a welcoming safe space where anyone can pop in, bringing their own knitting, craft, colouring, games or just come for a cuppa and a chat. We meet every Friday 9.30-12.30 at Hunstanton Community Centre.

Colour me Calm

This has been an important activity. It has been proven that colouring can aid Mental Health. However, sometimes it helps to have a purpose, so we have been colouring postcards and bookmarks, putting a positive message on the back to give to organisations to pass on to the lonely. If you do not wish to participate, just colour for your own pleasure. Due to Covid-19, for the time being, we are asking you to bring your own materials.

Journalling for Wellbeing -

On the Last Friday of the month

Another activity associated with the colouring is to make yourself a journal. Bring a nice Notebook and Pens and Pencils. Help is available if you are new to this activity.

Knit and Knatter and extra

You can bring your own Knitting, Crochet, Cross Stitch, Embroidery, Sewing and any other craft and sit, craft, natter and have a cuppa among friends.

Book Swap

We will have a Book Swap Table, however if you wish any books returned to you, please put your name inside.

Games

You are welcome to bring your own Board or Card Games, we all like learning new activities.

Who we are

Dawn Davies, Chairperson 01485 779746 or 07729 952297 (WhatsApp) Dawn.daviesuk@hotmail.co.uk
Hilary Letch, Secretary 01485 533631 or 07985 217348
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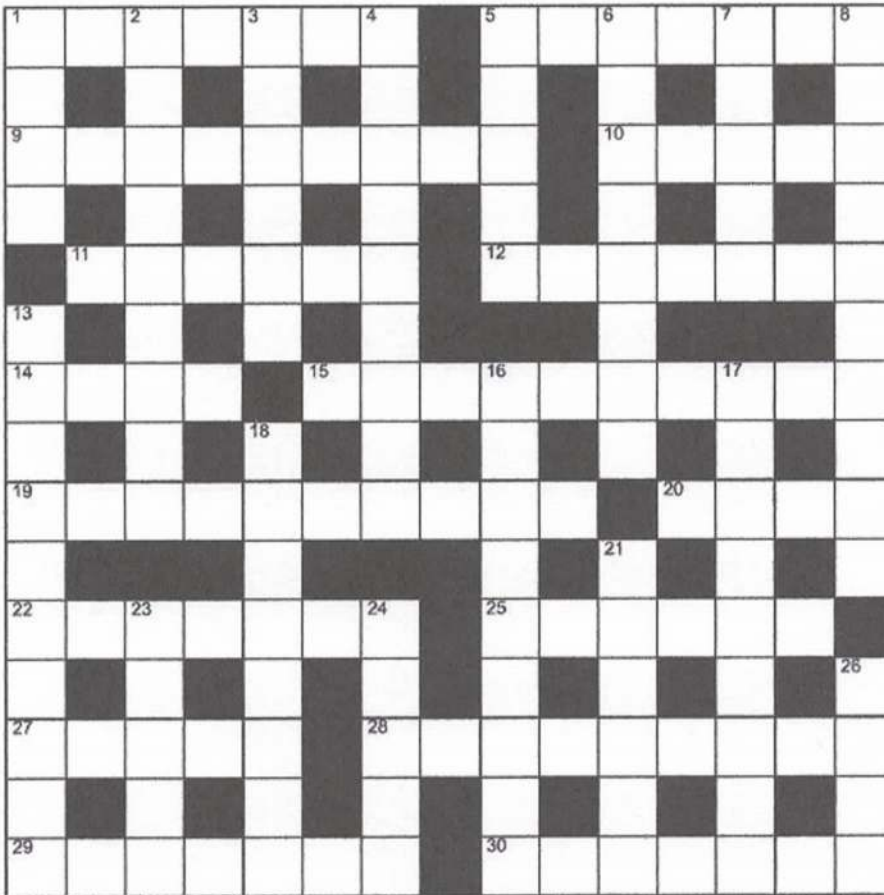
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David Elsey's Cryptic Crossword



Crossword solution on page 12

Crossword Clues Across

1. Trump leadership has justification for disloyalty (7)
5. Struck bargains in return for keeping very quiet (7)
9. Record deck's casing has earth on back of lid pushed down (9)
10. Wear medium-sized badge (5)
11. Republican coinage? (6)
12. Mike has running trial, finding second wind (7)
14. During day out a high-speed race is seen (4)
15. Disgraces, going on the rampage without top and skirt and taking drugs (10)
19. Just the same, engine part is working – understood? (6,4)
20. Run fast, save time (4)
22. Mind game used to establish who's who (2,5)
25. Players union is quite at liberty to take on young beginner (6)
27. Antelope, to begin with, never goes away from here (5)
28. Sitting in A & E, desperate to get into operation (9)
29. Unusual way to describe something striking (7)
30. Hobnobs, perhaps with the queen, surrounded by scores of high-flyers at court (7)

Crossword Clues Down

1. Broadcast drew a sudden surge (4)
2. Old Ezra is about to retire as a preacher (9)
3. Understanding carol written in early English (6)
4. Homesick after losing cat abroad (9)
5. Plant some borders, having turned over wet ground (5)
6. Painting first watercolour, at heart, I found aesthetically pleasing (8)
7. When away he might become exhausted (5)
8. Long after protest I take off and get knocked down (10)
13. Grouse – it appears just before jay overhead, causing mean behaviour (10)
16. Attacked after work and subdued (9)
17. Funny a joker can be inhibited (3,2,4)
18. Opening in grid injured bird (8)
21. Having started brightly, coalition is swelling (6)
23. Fawn isn't prepared to enter communal surroundings (5)
24. Husband's to search through boxes for move (5)
26. Takes down parking directions (4)

Ray Butchers Su Doku

Easy first...

...then the more challenging

5			4				6	
			7			9		2
7	6		8	1				
		8		3		7		
9		1				6		8
		6		5		4		
				2	7		8	9
1	2	3			6			
	9				1			

		1				8	5	
				2	3			
		6	4					
		5	1	7				8
		4				2		
1				8	5	9		
					6	1		
			3	4				
	7	8				4		



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CAPITAL GAINS TAX - MAKE HAY WHILE THE SUN SHINES?

By Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton

The Covid 19 crisis itself may still have a long way to go, but as the dust settles and the impact on the Treasury becomes more clear, it would appear that attention is starting to pass towards changes in capital taxation as a long-term means of at least stabilising the position, if not repairing the damage. This may involve some changes to Inheritance Tax (IHT), but some feel a fundamental review of Capital Gains Tax (CGT) is perhaps more likely.

CGT has changed many times since it was introduced in 1965. Asset values have been rebased twice (with the most recent rebasing going up to 1982 – so almost 40 years of inflation are now subject to tax), indexation allowances have been given, and then removed, and after various permutations in the past, the rate of tax payable is now partially linked to Income Tax rates, so the number of effective rates is practically infinite.

From 5 April 2020 there is an obligation for UK residents (enforced by penalties) to calculate and submit CGT returns within 30 days of the disposal of residential properties (other than those covered entirely by principal private residence relief and those which do not result in a tax liability), putting a degree of pressure on the need to undertake what can be extremely complicated calculations. Where a property has been held long term, it is worth having the base cost calculations done well before a sale takes place since historic information may need to be retrieved from archives, or professional valuations obtained, all of which can be problematic when many of the professionals involved are still working from home. If, therefore, you are planning to undertake such a transaction shortly and have not yet attended to this detail, please do contact us to assist you with the necessary computations and the 30-Day Return thereafter. Remember also that a gift of property can also give rise to a CGT liability, even where no money changes hands.

Most would agree that there are aspects of CGT which require reform, and, the Office of Tax Simplification (OTS) is currently reviewing the principles and practical operation of the tax. Without prejudging the outcome of the review, we know that it will look at rates of tax, annual allowances and whether CGT rather than Income Tax should really apply to short term gains. Some commentators have also queried whether it is appropriate for the current CGT uplift to be given where an asset is inherited but, for one reason or another, no IHT is paid. Conversely, one feels the review should address the absence of either a more recent rebasing date to simplify calculations – the pool of valuers who would have first-hand experience of market conditions in 1982 is rapidly dwindling. There is, however, no evidence that this latter point will be considered. Whatever the findings of the OTS review, it seems probable that any reforms to CGT will increase rather than reduce the relatively modest monies raised by the tax.

The CGT regime is still relatively benign and those wishing to transfer or sell assets under existing rules may be best advised to do so sooner rather than later. Currently, the transfer of business assets can normally be made in a way that enables any gain to be held over until subsequently realised by the donee – which could be a generation later, and in many respects a tax deferred for 30 years or more is a tax saved. Everything is pointing towards an announcement in the Budget this Autumn, so those who have transactions planned should give serious thought to progressing matters without delay. As always, professional advice is vital before any action is taken.

If, having read through the information provided above, you require advice, **please contact either myself or my assistant Nicola Tarry FCA on 01485 534800 or email if we can assist in any way.**

Mrs K H Gigg FCA



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

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Round the bend with Dean Baker

Diamonds Are A Girls Best Friend or Just When You Think

I like to think that Mrs B and I have reached the point where we know each other inside out. However, last week, when I received an urgent phone call from a customer I realised that my wife can still surprise me.

The customer's family had been to a black tie event to mark a big birthday. They had returned home in the early hours. My customer removed her diamond stud earring over the bathroom sink. The plug wasn't in the sink, the porcelain was shiny and the precious earring dropped down the plug hole.... Horror. A valuable family heirloom at the mercy of the Hunstanton drainage system.

They called me first thing the next morning.

"Don't use the sink", I advised.

Mrs B is manning the toaster.

"What's happened?"

"Someones Tiffany earring has shot down the plug hole!!"

I grab a piece of toast and head to the door. This is the kind of job I really enjoy and I can fix it. I just have to get there.

"Oh wait" chimes Mrs B "I know what to do! Throw the other earring down the plug too, then they'll find each other."

"What !!! Then, both earrings are lost"

"Oh, ...well if ever I lose something I always send its Mr or Mrs something else to find it!"

When I arrive at the house the bathroom has been cordoned off.

The first thing to do is turn off the water. Then place a bucket under the sink. I peer down the plug hole, flash my torch, nothing. This just means that the earring is out of sight. Most items end up in the U shaped pipe directly under the sink. If you are going to tackle this job you will need to remove the drain trap. This will have some water in it plus a bit of soap scum and this time.... the earring

This can be a fiddly procedure and of course you have to put sink back together. I would advise calling a plumber.

The customer is delighted. We look for the earrings in black and white family photographs while I

have a welcome mug of tea and slab of gingerbread, as a second breakfast.

Then its off to York Avenue to fit a gas cooker.

That evening Mrs B asks me what happened?

"Did you use my method?"

"No, I used science"

Oh, boring"

Until next month, all the best

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The Barking Bugle - Walks with Pupstar (No 3)

I was really excited the other day when my pawrents decided to take me and my sister, Miss Zsa Zsa Gapaw, for an eight and a half mile circular country walk in Harpley, an area we had not previously explored.

We began by driving to Great Massingham and parked outside the Dabbling Duck Pub. This is a beautiful village with a vast expanse of green grass, two ponds where you can see a myriad of ducks splashing about, a church and a village store. As you look at the Pub the walk starts along a footpath about thirty metres to the right and is signposted; there is even a dog poo bin near the start which is really handy.

First of all you walk through a field and when you get to the next one ignore the yellow path signs that lead you both to the left and right. Instead go straight through the middle of the second field before you come to a third. Turn right here and then turn left onto the concrete/tarmac path which leads you past a water tower. You will soon come across signs for the Peddars Way taking you both left and right – ignore these and keep following the blue sign for the circular path which is straight ahead. You can walk either side of a tall hedge.

After approximately 400 metres turn left and follow the blue circular sticker. This path leads you to a quiet road where you then turn left and walk about another 100 metres before turning right through some woods and fields. Keep walking straight for some time along quite a wide footpath. You may come across some humans on horseback here so make sure you keep your woofs to yourself and give them plenty of room to pass by!

Eventually you will come across another blue sticker to indicate the circular walk and here you will turn right. The path here goes past an orchard and is a little narrow and full of nettles so do take care, particularly if your humans are wearing shorts. My favourite part of the walk was when we emerged from this stretch of the path a few minutes later. The sun was out at the time and there are glorious views of the Norfolk countryside to be had here! I was totally gobsmacked! It was pawsome.

After a brief pause to admire these views and have a rest we continued, making a right turn past some fields. After a very short while you come across another blue sticker which is a bit faded directing you to the left. Take this left turn and carry on until you reach a road. Cross the road and then walk a little bit uphill through some woods and past more fields.

Keep going straight until you come across the blue sticker sign again and then turn right past a pig farm. It had been raining heavily the day before and when we reached a track it was very muddy and full of large puddles. You have to be very careful if it's wet because you can easily slip here as it is soft underpaw. Falling face down in the mud is not a good look and it will be quite humiliating for you if your humans return from the walk absolutely filthy! After all, we, as canines, are expected to come



back dirty all over.

Keep walking until the sign tells you to turn right where the path is much firmer. It won't be too long before you reach the sign for the Peddars Way which I described in my third paragraph. You then turn left past the water tower again and instead of turning right soon afterwards and heading back the way you came, we recommend you keep following the track until you come to a road. Turn right walking past some houses on your left and very soon you will arrive in the heart of Great Massingham. Turn right where you can take a breather and enjoy watching the numerous ducks having fun in one of the ponds. Or better still, you could visit the Dabbling Duck and enjoy some Pawsecco or a pint of 'Snuffle' which is beer served up only for us dogs. How good is that!

We really enjoyed this eight and a half mile walk which takes about three hours. You go through the village of Great Massingham and the outskirts of Harpley and Grimston. The scenery is glorious and when the sun is shining the countryside you encounter is beautiful. It is possible to take a doggy stroller but there are a few areas which can be tricky to negotiate so do be careful. Make sure you take plenty of water with you and please take any dog poo home with you, or deposit it in the poo bin near the start of your walk.

A map of the walk can be found at the Norfolk.Gov. website

If you enjoyed this walk check out 'Walks with Pupstar' at www.thebarkingbugle.co.uk where you will find details of many more exciting places to explore in Norfolk.

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Nature Notes with Roger

Season of flocks and spiralling thermals

The last few days have been good ones for watching flocks of birds. Last week it was a large gathering of gulls spread out on a field recently turned over ready for autumn sowing; and a few days ago it was a large flock of Goldfinches feeding on the seeded flowers along a field margin.

The gulls, maybe 400 in number, were nearly all Black-headed and Common but as I scanned with my binoculars a number of larger ones stood out, taller than the others and with thicker, heavier bills. These were Herring Gulls, traditionally associated with the sea shore and cliffs, but increasingly moving inland, especially in winter time to feed in agricultural fields. All these gulls were finding worms, grubs, beetles and other invertebrates which had been revealed as the soil was turned over. The birds were spread out evenly across the field, although I don't think they were aware of social distancing, and each one had enough area of ground to feed in without squabbling. There must be an in-built knowledge as to how many birds are the optimum number for the size of the field.

The Goldfinches, in a sizeable flock of around 150 birds, were feeding on Chicory seeds growing along a wide field margin near to Houghton Hall. Their collective name is a "charm" and these birds certainly charmed me. Unlike the gulls they were constantly on the move, and appeared quite wary, flitting into the neighbouring hedgerow or if disturbed flying up into the taller trees. This flock was made up almost entirely of juvenile birds with overall light brown plumage and lacking the bright colours of the adult except for a smart yellow wing flash. About one in ten, however, were adults with their red heads showing up clearly in the sunlight. While I was watching the flock my attention was drawn to a bird sitting up on a piece of farm machinery. This turned out to be a Kestrel and I guess it was eyeing up the Goldfinches as well. These birds of prey mostly feed on rodents and worms, but do occasionally take small birds where the element of surprise is



essential. In the end the mesmerising movement of the birds and my presence proved too much and the Kestrel flew off.

Across the field two Marsh Harriers were lazily flying low along the hedge border. They were aiming on the surprise tactic as well, hoping to find an unwary mouse or vole out in the open, although they are capable of taking much larger prey. Eventually one of the birds gave up and glided away across the adjoining field showing its wings held in a distinct shallow V and clear "fingers" where its primary flight feathers ended. Further along the track another raptor was soaring, and its flatter winged profile and forked tail told me it was a Red Kite. It is 30 years now since a number of these birds was released in the Chiltern Hills as part of a re-introduction programme, and the population has increased and spread considerably, such that it is possible to see one on almost any day out in Norfolk. This bird was spiralling upwards on a thermal of air and soon gained some considerable height with hardly a wing flap. Birds of prey will use these rising currents of air to gain height, and by moving from one to another can travel some distance without having to expend very much energy in

flapping their wings. Just the other day I was treated to a sight of seven Buzzards soaring effortlessly in a series of thermals on the higher ground near to Great Bircham.

Birds of prey will also use thermals to aid them on migration. Large birds such as these find long sustained flight quite difficult, especially over water where there are rarely updraughts of air. They will find the shortest crossing points, then rise in the thermals over the land to a great height before dropping out and gliding to the land on the other side. In this way they can gain the maximum distance with the minimum of effort and in the bargain use up as little energy resources as possible. Mass migrations occur at locations such as the Strait of Gibraltar at the western end of the Mediterranean Sea and the Bosphorus at the southern edge of the Black Sea in Turkey.

My final flock observation was of 50 or 60 Swallows twisting and turning, swooping low over a field which had been left fallow and thereby attracting many insects. The birds were no doubt feeding up before setting forth on their long migration to southern Africa, when they also would be relying on fair winds and favourable currents.

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How to achieve more income from your holiday let with less work

Pass the Keys, who started in 2015 in London are expanding fast, and have now arrived on the Norfolk Coast. Operated by local entrepreneur, Graham Middleton, this new kind of property management firm aims to help their clients boost their income through short-letting.

Short-letting, otherwise known as holiday letting, has seen a huge increase in Norfolk over recent years thanks to platforms like Airbnb, who have connected short-term guests with flexible hosts, and therefore made this income stream available to everyone for the first time.

All these guests create work, however, and lots of it. This is the problem that Graham and Pass the Keys are trying to solve.

Graham says: "We think that a single property can take as much as 10 hours each week to manage, and that is assuming that nothing goes wrong! Most people do not have this kind of time to spare, and hopefully, now this will not matter! We do everything, from creating the listing, and finding the guests, to checking them in, cleaning up after them and even providing Hotel quality linen! It has been great to Partner with Pass the Keys as they already have 5 years' experience, are the UK's

largest Airbnb professional co-host and have already learned how to deliver a high-quality service, in what is a very complex environment".

Graham has a thorough knowledge of the local area having lived and worked here all his life. Growing up in Snettisham, he attended Smithdon School and now lives with his wife and family in King's Lynn and serves the community as a local Borough Councillor. In previous positions he has played a key role in helping to grow the West Norfolk economy to assist in economic growth and in tourism expansion.

Graham continues "Having researched the holiday let market and second home management economy, I truly believe that the Pass The Keys model will provide a game changer for property owners. We have a model that truly offers a fully managed service which I strongly believe will meet and exceed owners' requirements."

To get in touch with Graham and his team you can call them on 01553 600925 email him on graham.middleton@passthekeys.co.uk or obtain a quotation on your property at www.passthekeys.co.uk/north-west-norfolk-coast



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Dersingham Open Gardens is a blooming success

Jane Jestice

Dersingham came alive over the weekend of 5th/6th September! We had our belated Open Gardens and a Village Yard Sale running on both days. The weather was perfect (we have already forgotten the gusts of wind on Saturday), and the village was buzzing with people marvelling at how wonderful the gardens look at this time of year and carrying bags bulging with treasures they found as they walked around.

Although we have no way of knowing how many people visited the yard sales, approximately 450 people bought programmes for the Open Gardens, and everyone said how lovely it was to feel life was almost normal again!

The event made a profit of approximately £3000 which will go to the church and Village Centre.

So thank you to everyone who made it possible and everyone who came and enjoyed an amazing weekend.

Photos: Ian Burt



Dave Doman in his garden in Dersingham



Jacky Rixon with her daughter Bev Rixon, walking around The Old Vicarage



Artist, Marty Griffin at his Open Studio in Ingoldisthorpe



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Thaxters plant of the month - Asters

by Wendy Warner

As we move into autumn the garden can start to look a little tired. The summer bedding, if you have left any in the ground, will have little flower and as the weather cools, leaves on deciduous shrubs and trees will be taking on the yellow, orange and red hues before falling. Asters are the perfect plant to give that much needed splash of bright colour.

There are various types of Asters that flower throughout the summer and autumn but the groups that come into their own now, are the ones known as Michaelmas daisies. In shades of blue, purple, pink and white, there are many different shapes and sizes. The masses of daisy-like flower, whatever colour the petals, have a yellow centre, which is a great pollen and nectar source for pollinating insects in the autumn. On a sunny day, asters are the perfect place to get great photographs of butterflies or bees as they are feasting on the nectar.

They lend themselves to cottage garden style planting but can look equally spectacular in contemporary situations. Asters combine particularly well with ornamental grasses, and along with rudbeckias, sedums and other autumn favourites can create a fantastic prairie planting scheme.

Asters prefer a position in full sun or partial shade in a good quality soil that is kept moist, but well drained. Some taller varieties will need plant supports or staking to protect them from the late summer storms and winds. It's advisable to do this earlier in the season so the plants can grow through the support system rather than having to clamber into the border and put in unsightly canes once they are established.

Being herbaceous perennials, asters should be cut back hard after flowering and will then die back below the ground with fresh new



growth will appear in the spring. Being later flowering, they will be one of the last perennials to show themselves through the ground in the spring, so don't think you've lost them if there is no sign of them when other perennials such as delphiniums begin to emerge.

The 'Island Series' (Tonga, Samoa, Barbados and Bahamas), of compact asters are perfect for the front of the border and can be used in containers. For the middle of the border try 'Little Carlow' with violet-blue flowers. The salmon-pink Aster 'Alma Pötschke' would look stunning at the back of the border as it will get to up to 1.5m tall.

If you don't get round to planting new asters this autumn, look out for small plants to purchase in the spring and they will get established throughout the summer to give a wonderful show next autumn. Just to confuse matters, asters are one of those plants that has recently had its botanical name changed to the unpronounceable *Symphotrichum*, although hopefully the growers will still refer to them as asters!

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Drove Orchards: the next Chapter

Things have changed a lot since the 65th anniversary of Drove Orchards two years ago but we continue to be guided by the same core principles. Our focus will always include delivering the highest quality farm produce but running alongside this is a belief that the countryside should be experienced by as many people as possible. Our open approach to visitors means that Drove Orchards is able to support a growing number of small businesses and collectively we have created a sustainable rural experience for the local community, as well as those visiting a working orchard for the first time.

Spring presented us with some real challenges this year, with many of our shops having to temporarily close during lockdown. However, the Drove Orchards Farm Shop was able to stay open and continued to serve our community whilst doing everything possible to remain safe. This included special opening times for vulnerable people, delivering produce to those who could not visit and acting as the pick up point for prescriptions from the Burnham Market Surgery. Despite the challenges, we are proud to say that the Farm Shop is now offering more than ever before, with a larger floor space and the addition of a first class butcher and cheese counter proving particularly popular.

Then came the summer and with it the arrival of an unprecedented number of visitors, desperate for some post-lockdown fresh air. As the shops and restaurants reopened on site, people seemed to appreciate being able to combine some much needed retail therapy with a stroll around the orchard, searching out some of the 130 apple varieties that are grown here. While we are sad not to hold our annual Apple Day this year, we are more than happy for people to indulge in a bit of 'off-road apple tasting' whilst enjoying a picnic in the Orchard.

It has proved a particularly busy time for our restaurants, with two new ventures opening this summer. These include Eric's Pizza: a Neapolitan style pizza restaurant created by the team behind the ever popular Eric's Fish and Chips. The pizzas are made using 24hr fermented dough, hand-stretched and topped with the best quality fresh ingredients before being cooked to perfection in a custom built wood-burning pizza oven.

August then saw the arrival of Mimms East Coast Gelato which is now serving up the most delicious ice-creams, cakes, teas and coffee from its new premises next to the Orchard. Both restaurants have proved unbelievably popular, with customers appreciating being able to make use of our large outdoor seating areas, many of which are covered.

Sharing a space with East Coast gelato is Hortico Nursery. Run by two highly regarded horticulturalists, this new plant nursery and garden centre stocks a comprehensive array of plants and gardening equipment. It is a paradise for keen gardeners but Hortico is also worth visiting simply to enjoy the peaceful show gardens that have been created.

Another great addition this year is Cider Barn Antiques, which is based in our old juicing barn and stocks a wonderful selection of antiques and vintage furniture. There's also Nippers of Norfolk, which specializes in children's clothes and toys and for those of you with

pets as unruly as ours, we have opened the Norfolk Dog Training School, which runs daily dog training classes in the orchard. Finally, for if like many of us your hair has got a little wild over lockdown, you'll be pleased to learn of the arrival of Barnett's, a salon where Charley and James cut men and women's hair with the professional aplomb that only a combined fifteen years' experience in the business can bring.

All of this is in addition to the 8 businesses that are long established at Drove, including old favourites such as Nelle DK, Joyful Living and Gurney's Fish. At a time when we are facing so many challenges economically and socially, at Drove we are proud to aim to provide local career opportunities for local people, whilst serving the local community. We hope you will come and visit us very soon and enjoy all that we have to offer.



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Hunstanton in Bloom 2020

With both Anglia in Bloom and Britain in Bloom competitions having to be cancelled this year new ways of sharing ideas and expertise had to be found.

Anglia in Bloom decided to hold a Virtual Campaign. Communities throughout the Anglia region were asked to submit photographs and descriptions of entries in a number of different categories. Hunstanton entered a number of these: The Esplanade Gardens (Local Authority Planting), Native Fruiting Hedge in Henry Le Strange Community Orchard (Conservation Project), Cliff Top Grassland (Conservation Project), Resident's Garden (Sustainable Planting), North Promenade Ceramic Tile Wall (Public Art), Rainbow Rock Bed (Public Art), Oasis Way Verge (Wildflower Display).

We will receive a certificate for all these entries but for the last category, Wildflower Display, we were voted winners and will receive a trophy. No new wildflower seed was sown this year and so the display was a result of seed set from previous years. Corn Chamomile, Corn Marigold, Common Poppy, Cornflower and numerous other species flowered. They attracted many insects including Common Blue, Small White, Small Skipper, Wall Brown and Meadow Brown butterflies.

Hunstanton in Bloom decided to hold its own Virtual Competition and invited people to send in photos of their creations in three categories: Tallest Sunflower, Miniature Container Garden and Fun with Flowerpots. Thank you to everyone who entered. The winners in each category were: Tallest Sunflower – Toby and Chloe Johnson (pictured right); Miniature Container Garden – Mercedes Ottoway (below right); Fun With Flowerpots – Patrick and Lesley Richardson (below). Winners and all entrants received a certificate and garden vouchers, sponsored by Hunstanton Town Council. Judging took place at the end of July but several of the sunflowers went on to even greater heights!

The Coronavirus pandemic created problems for the Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council Parks Department. Members of staff were deployed to other emergency duties and so time available to spend on the gardens was limited. However, they should be thanked for providing a great display of formal planting in the Esplanade Gardens and planters around the town. Thank you also to those adopt-a-bedders who were able to tend their flower beds during this time.

We now look forward to 2021 and will start making tentative plans for what we hope will be exciting Anglia and Britain in Bloom campaigns. If you would like to be involved or maybe join our Hunstanton in Bloom committee please contact one of these: Christine Earnshaw (Secretary) 2chrisearnshaw@gmail.com Carol Bower (Chairman) cldr.carol.bower@west-norfolk.gov.uk Adrian Winnington (Vice Chairman) cldr.winnington@hunstantontowncouncil.gov.uk



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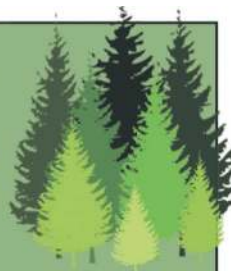
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FROM BRISBANE TO FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND IN FOUR DAYS:

By Robin Limb, agricultural consultant

In 1999, I was treated to a guided tour of the Queensland sugar industry by my hosts, the Australian Cane Farmers Association, all the way from Brisbane up to the sleepy town of Mossman in FNQ, where sugar cane farmer Ron Verri, and his wife Ramona, looked after me very well.

We sat in the sumptuous boardroom at Mossman sugar mill, which had its very own beer fridge, so we all had one - or two - while chatting away. This all came about because I had hosted members of the ACFA at British Sugar's central office the year before, and was offered a reciprocal visit. John Allison was in charge at the time, but he sadly died of cancer only a few years later.

Then it was announced that we were all going down to the bowls club. I said: "Are we going to play bowls?" to which the reply was: "No mate, it's the only place in town where you can get a decent beer." While in the club I was talking to big American guy, and after about half an hour, he pulled out of his wallet a proper silver dollar and gave it to me: "Son, I don't do this very often but I like you." I still have that silver dollar to this day.

The next day, Ron took me up in his private helicopter to view the local sugar cane 'paddocks' - what we call fields - and the seafood farm.

This was not a business trip - I was basically just a tourist with an interest in sugar cane production, and I paid my way there and back - £750 return flight from Heathrow airport. Jet lag finally kicked in three days after arrival, so I just laid back and went to sleep in the 'Ute' (utility vehicle) until we got to the MacKay sugar factory. I also travelled on the 'tilt train' which was far more reliable and impressive than the UK version.

I discovered that the average Australian doesn't like to waste time on long words. Going around the Racecourse mill in MacKay, I was puzzled looking at the 'Fugals', which are of course what us Brits call 'Centrifugals'. Most of the harvested sugar cane 'billets' - cut into about four-inch strips - are moved from farm to factory on a narrow-gauge railway network in what are known as 'canetainers'. Sugar degradation happens very quickly in high temperatures, so speed is of the essence.

The cane mills operate on crushing the harvested cane to extract the sugar juice. There are up to eight crushers in the 'mill train', each one passing the crop to the next, operating on steam-powered 1,000 newton-metres of pressure. The leftover 'bagasse' is used to fire the factory boilers. Cane diffusers do operate, but they are not commonplace.

90% of Australian sugar production is located to the east of the Great Dividing Range in Queensland. The rest is grown in northern New South Wales. On a train journey up to Cairns, all you see is wall-to-wall crops of sugar cane.

At the time, the sugar industry was

investing AUD25M in research, via three main R&D centres. BSES and CSIRO were the agricultural bit, and SRI was the industrial arm. Since then these have all been amalgamated into Sugar Research Australia.

Warren Males, senior economist with the Australian Sugar Board, explained the means of 'adjusting' cane sugar content - 'Commercial Cane Sugar' (CCS) - for payment purposes to growers. It's a bit like the UK beet tonnage adjustment for sugar percentage. I think I understood it at the time.

Australia was then producing about 30MT of cane, that equated to 5MT of sugar, 80% of which went for export. What impressed me most was that every cane grower I spoke to understood the workings of the world sugar market and price movements - probably because their livelihoods depended upon it.

“Australia is the biggest island on the planet, and has a land area 24 times that of the UK., but a population of just 30 million. It takes longer to fly from Sydney to Perth than it does go from London to New York.”

Being exposed to the vagaries of world markets does not make for a good night's sleep generally, and as such, Ozzy cane growers will never make a killing. At best, in the absence of crop-flattening cyclones, they will break even, and hopefully have something to show for it at the end of the day.

On a more positive note, Australia can produce some of the highest and most sustainable sugar yields in the world. Environmental restrictions on the use of nitrogen fertiliser and pesticides are some of the strictest in the world, aimed at protecting the fragile coral on the adjoining Great Barrier Reef.

All harvesting is fully mechanised, unlike some other cane producers, and the burning of cane prior to harvest is outlawed. So, all the trash is returned to the ground - known as 'trash blanketing'. This adds to soil organic matter content, avoids the use of herbicides, and smothers weed growth. There are only two makes of harvester in use - the Austoft (International Harvester), and the John Deere version.

Upon arrival in Bundaberg, I happened across a group of farmers who were all going to have a tour of the Maryborough iron and



steel foundry - so I jumped on the bus with them. It was fascinating to see the way that huge metal components were forged. At the time the company had a contract to supply the new tilting train. The factory manager was an ex-pat Scotsman. I asked him: "Why did you move to Australia?" He replied: "Have you any idea how cold and miserable it is in Scotland man?" He provided us with free sandwiches and beer at the time.

The biggest mistake I made, while sitting at the outdoor evening barbecue, was to roll my shirt sleeves up. Well, the next day my arms were plastered with mosquito bites. I had to rush to the chemists to get some anti-histamine cream and repellent spray.

After visiting the Bundaberg site, we were then treated to a tour of the rum distillery, which contained huge vats of cane sugar molasses destined for rum production. You can't buy 'Bundy' outside of Australia because they keep it only for domestic consumption, although I did manage to sneak a bottle out in my suitcase on the way home. I also purchased a branded Bundaberg Rum cotton shirt, that I still wear to this day.

I was amazed to see at a local market the size of their seafood - I suppose shrimps and prawns do grow bigger in warmer waters.

Cane sugar and beet sugar are virtually indistinguishable unless you are a bio-chemist. Arguments continue to rage as to which source is the most sustainable. There is no real geographical cross-over, as cane (80% of global production) is grown mainly in tropical regions, and beet (20% of global production) is produced mostly in northern temperate zones. China and the US do grow both, but the north-south divide still applies.

The Aussies are accustomed to extreme weather, that would put the average 'Whinging British Pommie' to shame. The climatic conditions in Australia can be extreme, with temperatures reaching into the low 50's Celsius at times, and drought is an ongoing problem. What they call their 'Winter', we would call our Summer.

The ongoing debate about sugar in our diets will continue, but without this natural and

renewable food ingredient, we would all notice the difference in our diets. Try making a cake with artificial sweetener - it might turn out slightly flat.

The crowning moment of my trip was when I was watching corporate videos on the 24th floor in the offices of the ACFA in Brisbane on a Friday afternoon. At about 4.00 pm the executives were all getting slightly edgy. "Hey Rob, I don't know about you mate, but we're all down to the bar around the corner - well I didn't need much persuading. All the beer glasses came out of the fridge because, as one guy commented: "Only pommies drink warm beer." Australians do know how to mix business with pleasure.

I must have struggled home lugging a tonne of literature, books, and company reports that still sit on my office shelf to this day.



Hunstanton Gardeners' Association

We have now cancelled the proposed talk on Thursday, 15th October 2020 for safety reasons. This should have been Tamara Bridge giving her talk From Sandringham to Chelsea. No AGM will take place on Thursday, 19th November 2020 either.

SNETTISHAM GARDENING CLUB

We are sorry to advise that we will not be holding any further meetings in 2020 due to the government restrictions on numbers allowed to meet in the Memorial Hall.

We are hoping to be able to hold a programme during 2021. All members who have paid for 2020 will have their Membership continued for 2021.

We will post any updated information in our local news publications and hope to have good news early in 2021. In the meantime thank you for your support and we look forward to more meetings.

Any further information can be obtained from Gail on 01485 541279 or Addie on 01485 544754 or e mail gardeningclubsnettisham@gmail.com



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Mudpies & Butterflies

with Louise Barby, Balanis Garden Design

"Delicious autumn! My very soul is wedded to it, and if I were a bird I would fly about the earth seeking the successive autumns" George Eliot

On the 25th October the clocks will go back and we'll have a little less time in the garden, all is not lost however. It is a good time to revise and renew our plans for the garden. Maybe you have had more time available this year in the garden and would love a project. Maybe you have had a lot less due to your essential job and wonder how to keep on top of the garden. Either way, take heart, it is achievable if we just put our mind to it.

In the flower garden

- Protect half hardy plants with fleece where possible.
- Plant spring bulbs now for an amazing colour injection from January onwards. Think about creating colour from early snowdrops in January right through to late alliums in May.
- Bareroot tree, shrubs and roses can now be purchased on line or at nurseries.
- Winter/spring bedding should be planted now while the soil is still warm.
- Move any trees and shrubs and plant hedges, October is an ideal month to do so.
- For free plants, lift and divide perennials that have died down or at least cut back.

In the vegetable garden

- Harvest as much as possible before the frosts, green tomatoes can be ripened on a windowsill or alongside and banana in the fruit bowl.
- Herbs can be divided and potted up inside to use throughout the winter.
- Plant Autumn garlic bulbs or try elephant garlic for something a little different.

In the fruit garden

- Divide large rhubarb plants for a good crop next year
- Plant bareroot fruit trees, remember some patio trees are fine in large pots if your space is limited or fan trained on a wall.

Traditional treatment

- Now is the last chance to sow lawn seed.
- This month, ensure mower blades are high or maybe stop mowing some areas
- You can feed your lawn now, ensure the feed is rich in potassium and low in nitrogen.

Eating well and being in the fresh air make a huge difference to our mental and physical health, so take an hour this weekend and get out in the garden, plan winter vegetable growing or your nearest open space and enjoy the start of Autumn.

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Hunstanton Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and Remembrance Sunday 2020

Simon Matthews AfCGI, MInstAM

Chairman, Hunstanton Branch, Royal British Legion

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation this meeting was held with only the The Chairman, Vice Chairman and President present.

This was to discuss how the branch are going to ensure that Hunstanton and District are informed of what will be happening for the Poppy Appeal and Remembrance this year.

The meeting decided that they would inform all branch members and the local towns people through email and Town and Around.

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation the Royal British Legion has decided that the Poppy Appeal for 2020 will go ahead this year but local branches have been restricted in their participation. As a branch we will not be sending out any boxes to the local businesses or collection points and we will not have any branch members collecting at supermarkets as we have done in the past.

The ordering and distribution of wreaths will be carried out by our branch and any organisation or individual who requiring a wreath will need to contact the branch at chairman.hunstanton@outlook.com. Wreaths will then be ordered and collection will be arranged.

Remembrance Sunday this year will follow the same format as VE and VJ Day. Unfortunately there will be no march through town, church service or any large gathering at the War Memorial.

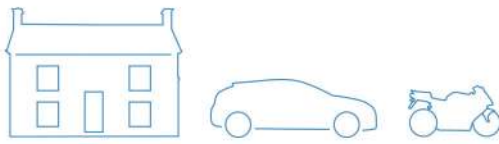
The Hunstanton Branch of the Royal British Legion will be conducting small act of Remembrance at 11.00 am until 11.30 am on the day. The branch will be following any government restrictions in place at that time. The Branch respectfully requests that other organisations attend the War Memorial to lay their wreath at alternative times and adhere any government guidelines in place.

Any members of the public wishing to attend any of the wreath laying must also adhere to any government guidelines in place.

Anyone wishing to make a donation to the Poppy Appeal the branch can accept cheques made payable to: 'The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal'. Cheques can be left at the United Service Club in a sealed envelope addressed to 'The Chairman RBL Hunstanton'.

If anyone requires any further information please contact the branch on the email above.





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DNS Computer Services

This month we wanted to revisit a topic which we have already covered in recent months. But due to a recent increase in certain scams, we feel it vital to reiterate the importance of being able to spot them. We are talking about email scams, over the past few weeks we have seen a dramatic rise in the number of email based scams doing the rounds.

If someone's email account is compromised, one of the most common methods which cyber criminals will use is to steal the persons contacts list, and send emails out to those people with requests for help, money, details etc....

They can look very legitimate, so it's important to be able to detect them.

There are a few basic checks you can make to tell if an email is genuine or not.

Firstly, look at the actual email address it has been sent from, quite often it will be a long, complicated and unrelated email address, created by the scammer, but using the correct name to try and fool you into responding.

If the address looks odd, you can ignore and delete the email straight away, as unfortunately, it will be a scam. At this stage it is important that you contact the person who the email was trying to imitate so that they can have their system security checked and their passwords changed.

Be careful when checking the email address, a common trick is that they create an email address just a character or two different to the real one; so look out for the details, a l instead of an I for example.

If the address IS in fact the correct one, it Still doesn't necessarily mean that the email is genuine, you must make additional checks to be sure.

The best way to do this, is to make contact with the person another way, ideally on the phone, or in person. So that you can be 100% sure you are talking to them.

Once you have established how credible the email is, you can then act appropriately, but not before.



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The best way to approach any email which demands anything from you, no matter how small, ie any Personal details, a payment, help with something or to sign in to something. Is to always double check before you act.

These days, it is actually quite likely that it is a scam, so if an email says it's from a company, call that company (from the number on their website) and verify that the email was in fact from them.

The bottom line, ALWAYS DOUBLE CHECK.

And never assume that an email is genuine unless you have verified it for yourself.

If there is any doubt about it, and you can't contact the person, don't act on it, and wait for them to contact you using a different method.

We hope this little recap will help combat the wave of scams we are seeing at the moment.

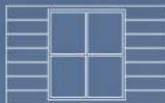
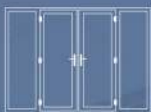
If you have any questions about cyber security or would like to know more about how you can protect yourself further against online scams, please contact Dan & Carrie at DNS Computer Services, Snettisham, 07554 018307, dan@dnscomputerservices.co.uk



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A Traveller's Tales - by a Wayfarer

20 All lives matter - or are some more equal than others?

The murder of George Floyd by a U.S. Police Officer has rightly appalled us and resonated around the world calling forth both condemnation of such a brutal act of public lynching as well as demands for action to address the roots of the problem.

Sadly, but understandably, what started as a peaceful demonstration soon developed into a violent confrontation with Police using pepper sprays and tear-gas as well as baton and shield charges against protesters - including television news reporters!

Again, sadly but understandably this led to the giving of a name to the protest - **BLM or Black Lives Matter**. I would go further in stating that **ALL LIVES MATTER!**

Whilst it is perhaps understandable that much of the anti-racism rhetoric appears to be aimed only at the Western 'white folk' who profited from the slave trade, an unpalatable truth is that the cancer goes deeper than that. The reality is that slavery - and racism - has been around since mankind has been on the earth - and it is much more about domination. From Bible times where Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery to the Midianites and later the Egyptians who enslaved the whole of the Israelite nation - as well as others - in order to get their temples and pyramids built, to the vast Roman empire, where nearly a third of the people were slaves.

The slave trade - as we know it - did not begin with white oppression, but with black tribal hatred resulting in one tribe attacking and enslaving another tribe and selling the captives to mostly Arabic traders who later found a ready market in the expanding white colonial systems, where the European traders, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, French as well as the British, cashed in on the lucrative existing business of those Arabic & African slave traders, to build their own empires. Descendants of former slaves have been horrified when they discovered the significant involvement and implication of their so-called 'black brothers' in this foul business.

More recent examples are of course Stalin, Hitler, Mao Tse Tung - and others - who have between them enslaved millions of their own citizens, many of whom were tortured, starved and murdered to satisfy the demonic power hunger of such evil men.

Sadly also, I have personally encountered folk in Côte d'Ivoire - including a Dean of a college in North of the country - who escaped in just what they stood up in from the barbaric attacks of different 'rebel' tribal groups who killed, raped, pillaged towns and villages in the North before the UN Peacekeeping troops pushed them back. This was 'Black on Black'. Then in Sicily my cousin who was a pastor of a Church in Messina showed me where Mafia gangsters had murdered people who had crossed them, and then left their bodies in the centre of one of the main streets to warn others off! Even the police dared not intervene. This was 'White on White'. At the time of the Mau Mau uprising, missionary friends of mine who were there specifically to help the Kenyan people were butchered - to make a statement! This was 'Black on White'. And who can erase from their minds the horrible pictures of 'Jihadi John' and other Isis terrorists beheading Westerners in order to establish their own so-called Caliphate? Again, 'Black on White'. I could go on at length with many interracial conflicts where certain ethnic groups have sought to dominate - or even eradicate - other ethnic groups.

So I return to my main case that ALL lives matter!

My own view is that Racism is about more than just colour. In many cases, colour has had little or nothing to do with it. At its most elemental it is simply 'US' versus 'THEM' - 'THEM' being everyone else who are different from, or do things different to, 'US'. It *might* be colour - but to a blind person that is not an issue.

It could be speech - *not* necessarily Indian or Caribbean, etc., but just as easily the 'Mummersetshire' yokel accent or the *Geordie* whose speech may sound like a different language, to a Southern counties 'posh upper-class' person. I could go on, but I hope you get the point.

Our God has created a world of incredible diversity and beauty in which everything and everyone is both dependent and interdependent upon everyone and everything else - and we start to interfere with or attempt to rearrange or ignore those differences at our peril.

In his first letter to the church in Corinth, St Paul sets out in Chapter 12 a very powerful and detailed argument concerning the differences and different roles of every part of the human body which is in fact reflected - or should be - in the 'body' of the Church. He points out - with much humour - that the body needs all these different parts to function properly. For example, he says that if the body was all eyes, we might be able to see a great deal - but without those ears to hear stuff or voices to tell of what we have seen and heard those eyes wouldn't be of any use! Because something or someone is different, doesn't per-se make that of no value. A dear friend of mine always used to say that when we point a finger of criticism at anyone, there are always three pointing straight back at us.

Years ago there was an ongoing correspondence to The editor of The Times newspaper on the subject of 'What is wrong with the world?' The correspondence was eventually drawn to a close by a very short letter which read:

"Dear Sir, What is wrong with the world? I AM, Yours faithfully, G K Chesterton"

Shakespeare, in his play 'Julius Caesar' wrote; *"The fault, dear Brutus, lies not in our stars but in ourselves."*

Before God, every one of us, every nation, every language, every colour, every 'religion', all stand on equal ground - and ALL are precious in His sight.

For the Christian - *"There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."* Galatians 3:28

Before we attempt to criticise or condemn anyone else, we need to make sure that deep within our own hearts there is no trace of anything that would also condemn us.

John Donne wrote *"Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."*

On the night before her execution by a German firing squad on 12th October 1915, Edith Cavell told her chaplain, *"Standing as I do in view of God and eternity, I realise that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone."*

Jesus said - *"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."*

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U3A - Learn, Laugh, Live

Along with so many groups, we have not been able to hold our monthly meetings in the community hall since Covid Lockdown was introduced in March and unfortunately it does not look as though we will be able to do so for some time yet. However, we have kept in touch with members through a Monthly Newsletter with contributions from members including light hearted quizzes to use the grey cells and raise a smile and articles from our various groups. These are available on our website U3asites.org.uk/hunstanton as are details of our many varied groups, some of which are currently operating online while some are taking place in a restricted form observing the current Covid safety requirements. Details can be found in the 'Groups' section.

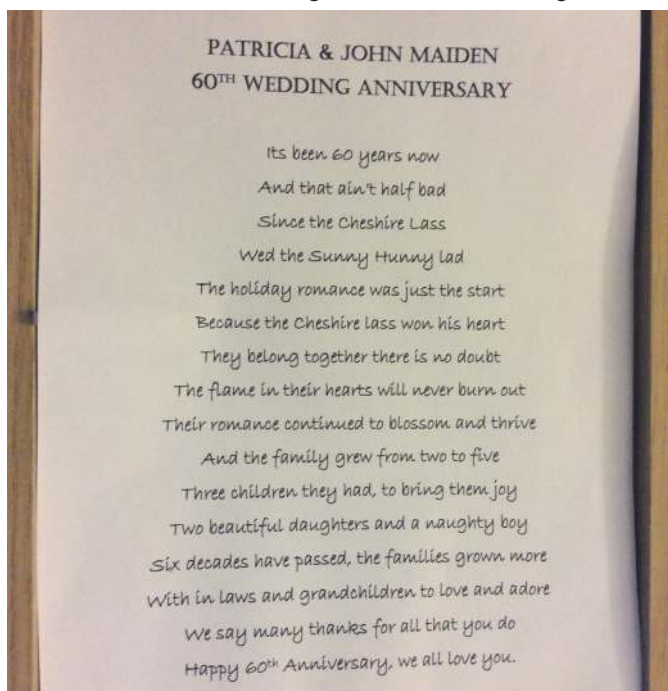
We are open to welcome new members and for enquiries, especially from anyone with an interest that could form a new group, on e mail address: publicity.u3ah@gmail.com when a member of our committee will contact you to discuss your interest.

John and Pat Maiden



Regular columnist in T&A, John Maiden, and his wife Patricia have recently celebrated their 60th Wedding anniversary.

Their son Nick wrote a poem about how the Cheshire lass Patricia met John while on holiday in Hunstanton and how their holiday romance blossomed into marriage and a wonderful life together.



RNLI OPENS JUST GIVING PAGE FOR OLD HUNSTANTON TO ENCOURAGE ONLINE DONATIONS

It has been a tough and busy summer for the RNLI at Old Hunstanton, with over 30 launches since 1st March.

Over 60 people have been rescued from incidents including a big increase of people on Brancaster Beach who walk out to the Wreck and get cut off by the tide. This represents a whopping 50% increase for the same period last year.

Due to Covid and social distancing, the Guild has unfortunately had to cancel several of the major fundraising days this year including the Golf Day at Hunstanton Golf Club and the Annual Flag Day street collection on August bank holiday weekend.

To try to make up for these lost events, a Just Giving page has been set up and we are asking you for your help. Please donate at: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/hunstanton-guild>

Thank you

Carrie Harvey

Keep up to date with local news between editions at:
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Frances Rayner is the new Community Development Manager at Alive West Norfolk

Francis writes: Born and raised in Downham Market I left for a period of time for work and then came back to raise my family. I love the diversity of our borough and the great community that we have and it was the absolute best decision to come back here. Since 2010 I have volunteered my time to help develop sporting opportunities within my community throwing myself into my Village Sport Coordinator role and coordinating The Downham Games. I am passionate about supporting others to find and enjoy physical activities because I know from my experience that it not only makes you feel good but can lead you to have so much fun and meet some great people. Six weeks into the role I have spoken to so many people across the Borough about facilities, volunteers and gaps in provision and at a time when we are cautiously starting up activities it's a great time to do this so when the time comes for us to do more we will be ready.

There is no greater time than now for us to increase our physical activity levels. With all of our events cancelled this year and mass participation activities still not back up and running we have decided we need something in West Norfolk to inspire and enthuse us all to get that bit fitter so our first event was National Fitness Day on the 23 September. An event open to everyone involving The Alive Active Mile!

I am looking for inspirational stories. Would anyone share with me how they already keep fit and why it is important to them? Photo/video and a share on social media to inspire others would be fantastic. Get in touch if you have a story to tell!

Frances.Rayner@alivewestnorfolk.co.uk

ART IN THE AGE OF COVID

Few global catastrophes since WW2 have threatened to affect our social mores more radically than the Coronavirus. In a matter of days we went from greeting family and friends with customary embraces and hand shaking to waving at them from a distance, or often simply not seeing them any more. During lockdown a stillness settled, and with that came lingering melancholy.

For a privileged few the ensuing peace and quiet worked well. Suddenly there was more time to get on with projects around the house, burgeoning spring and summer gardens could be enjoyed to the full, and the absence of traffic was a boon for walkers.

But for the vast majority it was a time of hardship, disorder and loneliness. And for many it is still a daily struggle to remain positive in what continue to be challenging times. Moreover, the prospect of light summer evenings giving way to dark winter ones is daunting in the extreme.

Like quite a few people I suspect I can find things in common with both these categories, for whilst I have enjoyed the gentler pace of lockdown, it has been devastating to be cut off from family and friends. Furthermore, the lack of certainty has meant that there was little to look forward to in the immediate future. At such difficult times one reaches out for help and stimulation, and I found both through recourse to art - in particular the study of a few celebrated 20th century paintings I did not like very much. It may seem odd to want to revisit things one doesn't care for at a time of crisis, but I wanted to understand why they stood outside my artistic comfort zone. I must confess though that my sudden interest in reevaluating a few paintings did not come about entirely of its own accord.

I credit the excellent Arts Society and its efforts to keep its members occupied during lockdown and beyond with encouraging us all to be critics of art as opposed to simply bystanders. Through recommending reading materials, cultural sources and superb lectures, they have raised awareness of art and provided an extraordinarily rich array of educational tools with which to view and appreciate many different art forms.

One of the things I learned from my private study is that one's appreciation of a work of art is greatly influenced by circumstances. This was never more evident than when I took another look at the 20th century American realist painter, Edward Hopper's "Sun in an Empty Room" of 1963.



Whilst I quite liked the colours, I had always found this painting pretentious in its rather obvious emptiness. But in the confinement of lockdown, with its emphasis on space and light and the subtle hint of infinite possibility, it suddenly made my spirits soar. The absence of any action no longer left me indifferent. On the contrary, the apparently empty room bathed in brightness with the big window suddenly became compelling. There seemed to be a suggestion that something interesting might be just around the corner, perhaps outside or even in the next room, and that was curiously exciting. To others this painting may still prove disquieting, even eerie and threatening in its sun flooded emptiness where action is apparently suspended. Or it may simply seem pointless and boring, because why after all would anyone bother to paint a picture of sunny nothingness. But for me the result of seeing it again and at such a time was a much-needed jolt of positivity at a low moment.

If ever we could benefit from seeking comfort in the field of creativity surely it would be now, faced as we are with the confusion of a destructive pandemic and its uncertain aftermath – one that has put the greatest strain on mental health services in the United Kingdom in living memory.

This autumn the Arts Society has risen to the challenge of social distancing and the impossibility of scheduling monthly meetings by planning an impressive selection of Zoom lectures that promise to delight and bring us together virtually as we await a return to normality whenever that may be. Interestingly, one of the more positive effects of the pandemic is that it is now considered as normal to attend a lecture, go to a gallery or museum, see a play or hear an opera live via Zoom as it once was to go to these events in person. It is a compromise we may well get used to.

Ann Boyer, Bircham



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Why is there a Cockatoo in this painting? To the left, just above the Virgin Mary's head, sits a Cockatoo

The Art Society North West Norfolk will be providing 'on line' lectures to its members from September, every month, until such time as we are all able to meet safely again in Sedgeford Village Hall.

Full details of membership and benefits can be found at www.theartsocietynwnorfolk.org.uk

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Snettisham 2021 Calendars for sale

Photographer Jon Clifton has produced a 2021 wall calendar for his home village of Snettisham. The calendar features a selection of images ranging from stunning beach sunsets to winter scenes on the common.

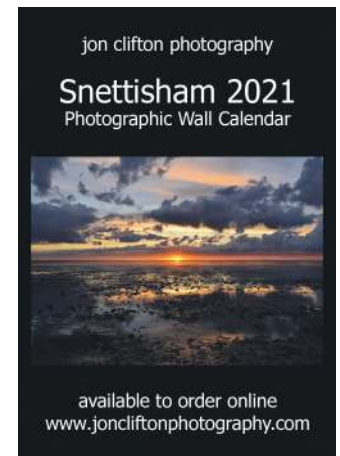
Jon says: "Every time I head out with my camera, I seem to find something new to photograph. The calendar has been created as a celebration of this beautiful village."

Since sales started in July, calendars have shipped across Europe and as far away as New York. Along with overseas sales, Jon has enjoyed delivering locally and talking to residents who share his love for Snettisham.

The calendar is A3 in size when opened and each one comes with a cardboard envelope for gift purposes. £10 includes free local

delivery to village residents or £11.99 includes 1st class postage.

Calendars are available to order online from:
www.joncliftonphotography.com



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 Hot meals are available from Monday to Saturday from 12.00 noon to 2.00pm with special offers available.

'2 Course Sunday Lunch' is served each Sunday for only £7.95.

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The Snooker room is open. Bingo held each Friday at 7.00pm.

Senior Strength Fitness Classes are on Mondays at 1.00pm.

www.hunstantonconservativeclub.co.uk



The Performing Arts in Lockdown

Rodney Slatford, Chairman, the Yorke Trust

Sam Mendes is doing it for theatre, Simon Rattle for music and Andrew Lloyd-Webber for the West End. We've clapped and banged for the NHS but unless financial assistance is forthcoming for the hundreds of freelance musicians out of work since March, most of whom fall between the cracks for government support, many talented and dedicated young people will give up. Theatres, concert halls, orchestras, choirs and festivals the length and breadth of the country are facing permanent closure. It's been a treat to have so much free online theatre, music and opera, but there's no substitute for live performance, whether it be a Symphony of a Thousand at the Norfolk Showground or a piano recital in my village of South Creake.

And to cap it all, we've had the BBC wrangling about singing Rule Britannia at the Last Night of the Proms lest it should offend anyone who misinterprets the words. Though to be fair, the televised concerts from an empty Albert Hall have been brilliant.

Singing is not yet permitted and although churches are open again, somehow a harvest festival service with a congregation humming 'We plough the fields and scatter' through a face covering doesn't warm the heart as a large congregation did twenty-five years ago when I first came to the village. In those days the church was bedecked with marrows, plaited loaves, potatoes, apples, jams, chutneys, and even sheaves of wheat gleaned from nearby fields, dressed by the village's long-since departed retired farm labourer Bob Keeley who was born within whispering distance of the porch. Elizabeth Sands played the organ and we all sang our hearts out.

This year Yorke Trust plans were well in hand for a new summer opera production of Handel's last oratorio Jephtha which would have lent itself ideally to performances in St Mary's with our brilliant young conductor Christopher McMullen-Laird at the helm, as he was for Purcell's Tempest last summer. On 29 February we held our first ever Come and Sing day when Chris took our community chorus through Mozart's Requiem, producing a more than creditable performance from scratch, with a number of non music-readers taking part. Our Old Chapel was bursting at the seams.

Then disaster struck not once, but twice. As with many other small organisations, we found ourselves in limbo, not knowing when we would be able to resume operations but hoping that by July things would be getting back to 'normal'. Not so. Jephtha had been put on hold until 2021, when I received an email asking me to call Conor Gricmanis who was to have led his ensemble Noxwode for the production. His news was devastating. Chris had died quite suddenly from a previously undiagnosed heart problem, after two days in hospital. He was just 36. He had won the hearts and minds of all of us who had got to know him. As a tribute we'll perform Mozart's Requiem at some future date in his memory; we have found a promising young conductor to take on the project. But at the moment, with everything so unpredictable, we can't yet fix a date.

Turning to more cheerful matters, although we have been closed

since mid-March, August saw our facilities well used, albeit within government guidelines. Caroline Emery ran her regular Bass Club course for young double bass players, although with a reduced class, and some students attending remotely by Zoom.

Another regular visitor Vanessa David, a London-based violin teacher, gave her students an opportunity to play to one another before taking important exams or diplomas. I dropped in to see how things were going and was amazed to find a performance of Strauss Metamorphosen for 24 solo strings in progress, albeit played by reduced numbers of students and staff. They hadn't played a note together since March, so the occasion was particularly uplifting. After that, pupils tackled movements from Tchaikovsky's violin concerto, the Sibelius concerto, and more. The value of these opportunities for the young musicians is inestimable.

Even so, it remains a fact that the future for music making in our country looks bleak. The North Norfolk Music Festival, having abandoned this year's exciting programme but encouraged by fine weather, promoted a few concerts at Burnham Norton church with audiences sitting in the open air, socially distanced. Nearer the coast The Maltings in Wells promoted informal concerts in the car park, but an ad hoc Schumann piano quintet on an electric keyboard was somewhat compromised by gusts of sea breeze which blew pages everywhere. It was a curious amalgam of fine artistry with fish and chips and gulls...

In various other parts of the country opera performances have taken place in the open air, though largely for those with fur coats and deep pockets. The Yorke Trust tried it once, using the magnificent west front of Houghton Hall as a backdrop. But the weather was against us. The wind got up, blew a lighting tripod into the harpsichord, and dislodged its lid. The singers couldn't hear the instrumentalists and the instrumentalists struggled even to hear themselves – everyone was freezing cold. With the imminent arrival of an audience, a generator was miraculously produced from somewhere and we de-camped across the meadow to St Martin's church where there was no mains electricity. Our indefatigable patron and host Lord Cholmondeley was spotted carrying huge candles from the house and somehow the production was salvaged with our baroque ensemble improvising while Jennifer Hamilton re-staged the action and explained the plot from the west gallery. Fire inspectors were, thankfully, nowhere to be seen.

Every cloud has a silver lining, however, and we have been extremely fortunate in receiving a grant to enable us to sustain operations. Trustees have also raised sufficient to have the Old Chapel redecorated while it isn't in use. It has survived 25 years with only an undercoat. Concerts that should have taken place this year are being re-scheduled for 2021. And there is thirteen bed accommodation available for hire, including over Christmas and New Year, details of which can be found on the Yorke Trust website at www.yorketrust.org



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Changing seasons

It's time to ring the changes with fresh additions from new labels for your autumn wardrobe, writes Allez Chic's Cheryl Daubney.

Despite being the most extraordinary of years, there is something comforting about the changing of the seasons and while we all love warm, sunny days, I must confess that the arrival of autumn/winter collections is probably my favourite moment in the fashion calendar.

There is something inordinately comforting about warming autumnal hues and fabulous fabrics to layer up in as the temperature plummets. This year in no exception and the arrival of several fantastic new labels to Allez Chic has heightened the excitement of unpacking the season's collections, ordered many months ago.

Fresh to Allez Chic is St Tropez, a chic collection of stylish clothing which suits all ages. Our advertisement in this month's Hunstanton Town & Around features the pretty Aileen Blouse from St Tropez, which drapes beautifully and flexes from day to night with smart trousers or a gorgeous skirt. There are a number of elegant and easy dresses in the collection, which are already flying out the door.

Also new in is Foil, a fabulous label with some stunning statement pieces which I have already fallen in love with. A vibrant orange shift top with a simple cuff sleeve is enough to lift the gloomiest day, and this zebra dress is something that wouldn't go amiss in the Duchess of Cambridge's wardrobe! One happy customer even found the perfect dress for a small wedding from the Foil range.

Just arriving in-store is Alice Collins, which some readers may previously have seen in a local store which sadly closed this year. We are delighted to be stocking this label which offers easy, everyday, inexpensive separates that flex perfectly for work or weekend. If you haven't yet tried this lovely brand, do pop in and have a look.

While many aspects of life are challenging at the moment, we are passionate about providing a relaxed and enjoyable retail experience, and we have so enjoyed catching-up with familiar faces and new customers who are looking for a calm and welcoming place to shop. Please do pay us a visit and tell your friends that there is plenty to discover at Allez Chic this month.

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I don't usually moan but.....

I have just have to say that there have been several local people who have mentioned my last month's report about the closure of the Tourist Information Centre in Hunstanton. They have thanked me for my comments -you are all very welcome. We have to be positive in that it may return so fingers crossed the petition will do some good.

This last month, yet again, we have people calling in regularly to ask for information and help, plus asking why we have not got a TIC... needless to say they get a full explanation and you can imagine their reaction 'fancy not having somewhere to get any help...' Luckily us girls do know a lot. By the way, the lovely little coal shed 'TIC', standing in for the TIC, is now achieving various acronyms and I am sure there are many in the town who can think of their own! We could start a competition perhaps?

Which brings me another sore point – many people (over 60) have tried to get their annual season parking ticket with the council which was usually easy to do at the TIC. Not now. Apparently there is a right rigmarole in trying to sort this out in having to produce documents etc. for proof and entitlement with a 'jobsworth' person not being at all helpful. I have not experienced this but am sure that it is so frustrating now not to be able to apply in person.

Guests have been brilliant with all the Covid 19 stuff going on. They have had paperwork with 'rules and regs' coming out of their ears, on the website and in the post before arrival. Then we hit mid-August and then a small minority (I think I might be a bit conservative on this number) seem to lose their brains and common sense. I won't go into details – so many. A few people have even admitted that their brains are left at home when they come on holiday. However, not everyone is like this as there are so many lovely holiday guests who visit us. I must not run them into the ground too much as all these people sustain our town and pay our wages. I know that with all walks of life, jobs and families, if you deal with 'the public', you do get to dislike more than a few! Thankfully our holiday season in Hunstanton has been very busy and helped to keep businesses going through tough times. It has been very hard for many. This leads me to...

Walking around the town at the moment – there are signs in the High Street about social distancing, etc. The pavement even has a few signs asking people to stick to the left like road traffic. I visited Cambridge a few weeks ago and the pavements plus the shopping arcades have a strict one way system which shoppers stick to for safety. Hand sanitising stations for in and out use plus shop assistants or employees checking that people are using them. So, why can't people read our signs and stick to their instructions? So many people blocking the pavement when you want to get past – whoops, there goes the social distancing. I find myself walking in the road. I try not to go into the town centre for these reasons and am happy to stick in our little 'work bubble' at the office with our meter high, safe 'spit screens'. We had them made this high for protection as we knew that those who come into the office would try to get around the blue screens in front to talk to us. How right we were to anticipate the public! They don't bother to read the signs on the blue screens which kindly ask them to stay behind.....which brings me back to my previous paragraph.

Moan over.....

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Just in time for Christmas



It may seem crazy to think to the end of the year, but home improvements could take longer than you think, warns West Norfolk Glass' managing director Geoff Parker.

2020 has been the most extraordinary year for many reasons and the fallout from COVID-19 and lockdown continues to rumble on across many aspects of life. But I bet you hadn't considered how it's affecting home improvements.

Lockdown created the most incredible pent-up demand across the property sector, with estate agents reporting an unprecedented 10-year high in activity during August, a traditionally quieter month for house sales.

The knock-on effect is that homeowners looking to improve property, coupled with those who have decided to reallocate their holiday budget on updating their house, have increased double glazing orders exponentially.

Now, why am I telling you this, you may ask. The reality is that high-quality double glazing windows and doors take time to manufacture and any company which promises a short lead time may not be offering the best quality products for your home. Be wary of standard units 'made to fit' your doors and windows, but perhaps not offering the best protection from the elements in the seasons ahead.

A question we are often asked at this time of year is, 'Can you fit them before Christmas?' The honest answer is, it depends, both on what you are looking for and how soon you ask us for a quote, but the reality is that lead times are growing due to increased demand.

As an approved Which? Trusted Trader, West Norfolk Glass is a high quality double glazing company and we don't believe in compromising these standards for a rush job which will not perform over the long-term. If a company promises you new windows and doors in a week, probe a little deeper about the type of glazing and units they are installing, where they come from and the guarantee they are offering against both the product and their work.

And, in all honesty, Christmas may be a lovely moment to achieve the perfect home, but as they say, aren't all good things worth waiting for? Please do give our team a call to discuss your home improvement plans – we are happy to advise and help you to achieve your vision for your home.



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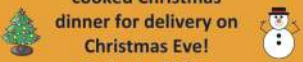
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Hunstanton and District Inner Wheel

Where would we be without technology? Some people would say 'a lot better off' and sometimes I would agree with them when computers don't work as happened to me recently when Zoom decided to exclude me from our Business Meeting.

Anyway we are alive and kicking, keeping in touch as best we can and trying to come up with different ways to stay connected.

You will recall from a previous article that we organised litter picking in various Norfolk locations. I believe 29 bags of rubbish were collected. This week a very successful trip to tidy a churchyard with permission to do so of course, resulted in the beginnings of a transformation which hopefully will be noticed and enjoyed by others. Below you will see some photos of our recent community service. Hopefully there may be other ideas forthcoming to keep us connected to members, friends and those who would like some help.

Be mindful that this dreaded virus is still about and stay safe.

Sue Trewin, Club Correspondent



At Night - brief report

Terry Parish

Mars is at opposition, closest approach on the 13th. Uranus is at opposition on the 31st. Both planets are consequentially quite close to each other in the sky, though binoculars will likely be needed to see Uranus. A Full Moon shares the sky with them at the beginning and end of the month. The second Full Moon is called a Blue Moon. The Draconids meteor shower peaks on the 7th, the Orionids on the 21st. Neither are major showers but viewing is favourable. On a October 25th at 2am put the clocks back an hour and enjoy darker nights.

Please complete the Transport survey

Norfolk County Council is currently reviewing the former Norfolk Coast transport strategy for the Norfolk Coast AONB and believe it is the right time to update it. To begin this work they need to produce a summary of issues and opportunities on a parish by parish basis across the area.

The County Council is asking for as many of you as possible to complete the following, quick, on-line survey (see link below) and for it to be shared as widely as you can in order that they can gauge a community response. (There is also an opportunity to win 1 of 5 prizes!):

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/NorfolkCoastAONBTransportSurvey/>

Hilary Jennings presents a cheque to the Stroke Association



Hilary Jennings (front right) & Martine Ley (front left), with other Coastal Stroke Group Volunteers

Hilary Jennings, a volunteer at the Hunstanton Stroke Group, spent time whilst shielding at home making masks. The sale of which raised £100! Hilary was delighted to be able to present a cheque for this amount to the group.

The Hunstanton Group meets every Tuesday at 10.30am at Hunstanton Methodist Church. Stroke Survivors and volunteers are welcomed with coffee and biscuits and enjoy to sit and chat, and take part in the activities on offer. The weekly programme offers an opportunity to join a variety of different groups, from Art and Crafts to keeping fit to music and a calmer space for relaxation. During the year outings and other events are offered. Fundraising is an ongoing necessity if the group is to continue, and to expand, the activities and events we are able to offer to Stroke Survivors.

Stroke Association Groups are not open at the moment, unfortunately, we do not as yet, have a definite re-opening date. During the lockdown and shielding months organisers and volunteers have been keeping in touch with members by phone and Zoom meetings on a regular basis to offer support to members. We are a caring community, always looking for extra help. If you have some spare time and maybe looking to become a volunteer and would like to do something really rewarding, please contact Gemma Smith, Stroke Association Support Coordinator - 01366 377803 Mobile: 07515 596953

York Avenue Premier Convenience Store Hunstanton

We would like to say a special thank you to our customers and local community for coming together to raise £1000 and appreciating all our efforts to keep our store open during the lockdown.

We were overjoyed with the unexpected turnout of our local residents and feel very fortunate to be a part of our community.

During the summer, we took a short family vacation to London with the money you raised.

Once again, thank you for your generosity!

Kumar, Jamuna, Udaesh and Ranjeeth





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Letters to the Editor

Healthcare

Our local healthcare centre/GPs surgery is run in a business partnership with VIDA healthcare which is a private company based in Harrogate in Yorkshire. This company is run by 5 Directors none of which in the company registration are shown as Doctors. They are however shareholders and receive an annual dividend.

The company had a turnover of 50 million last year. This company was previously known as Rycroft when it was a building enterprise and three of the current Directors have the surname Rycroft.

I was prompted to research this when I realised how many months have gone by since I last actually saw a Doctor for a consultation. Yes, you can sometimes get a phone call but to be honest I have normally been disappointed with the outcome and wishing I hadn't bothered. Perhaps this is why queues at the hospital A and E are long. With people craving personal attention.

I remain of the opinion that our Doctors, Nurses and Paramedics work hard for their money so I'm cynically surmising that the shortage of time for patients is down to reduced numbers of staff, which is driven by the requirement to pay dividends to shareholders. I can already hear the screams of Covid but this goes back well before the virus outbreak.

It was the Beveridge report in 1939 that prompted Aneurin Bevan the Minister of Health to launch the NHS in August 1948.

He gave the NHS 3 core principles

1. That it meets the need of everyone
2. That it be free at the point of use
3. That it be based on clinical need not on the ability to pay.

I worry that by allowing our healthcare to be partly the responsibility of a private profit seeking company we are abandoning the worthy principles of Aneurin Bevan.

If we allow private companies to meddle in our health we will shortly find we have different tiers of care dependent on your ability to pay or not.

Neil Tidbury (by e mail)

Smithdon photos in the September issue

A friend of mine rang me up about the Smithdon school trip to Switzerland to go skiing. The trip was organized by the sports teacher, Mr Gee and the cost was £40. A lot of children in the class could not go as £40 was a lot of money those days; a farm workers wage was only £12 a week.

Now to the picture. Mr Gee wanted them to get into training before they went but no one had any skis so Mr Gee made a pair out of two planks of wood with bits of tin on the front - they used floor mops a sticks and they had a rope tied around their waists and the boys and girls who were not going on the trip had to pull them round the playing field to get used to wearing skis. Before they went there was a fall of snow in Hunstanton so that made their training better and when they got there they were all issued with proper skis.

Dick Melton, Sunny Hunny

Planning issues

I was recently contacted by the Planning office asking me to comment on the planning application for the council's application for the development of the car park next to Seagate.

Hunstanton has been treated like a deaf, dumb mute, as whatever the locals tell the planning office we are totally ignored. Take a look around, the development on Cromer Road on a green field site and despite countless objections to the planning. Then we have the site at the top of Redgate Hill again countless objections and if my memory serves me correctly when the Redgate school was built they found a Neolithic site on top of Redgate Hill and that was not even mentioned even despite the recommendations (at the time of the schools build) that the whole Redgate area be surveyed with a mind to look for more Neolithic settlements.

We also have a third development waiting in the wings again on a green field site with no regard to the local objections.

Now let us look at the smaller developments, the site on the promenade developed by Mr Large (a Town Councillor) and despite a number

of objections from this was forced through. Then there is the old Kit Kat site which has just been given planning permission to build a 6/7 story development despite the local objections (over 30) and now we have the WNDC jumping on the band wagon by pushing for planning for the development on the much needed car parks.

All this does not give the average person a warm fuzzy feeling about the morals or agenda (hidden or otherwise) of our illustrious planning office.

My letter to the council reads:

Dear Mrs N Osler (Planning officer) (Application No: 19/01558/FM)

In response to your letter dated 30 July 2020 asking me if I wanted to speak to the planning committee on the 10th August via Zoom.

I am just wondering why this letter has been sent out as all the planning applications concerning the council or indeed if a council member is involved with the application it will get passed no matter how many objections there are to the application.

One good example is the monstrosity on the seafront that Councillor Mick Large owns, with over 31 objections mainly involving noise, smell and pollution and parking. This was still passed and guess what the hole area now stinks of rancid chip fat oil, his overflow pipe is emptied onto the public beach right in front of his shop and there are normally about 10 vehicles parked illegally next to his shop on the sea front.

The objections covered all these points, but the application was still pushed through!!

Now the WNDC want to turn the car parks into housing where are the numerous vehicles going to park in an already overcrowded Hunstanton.

I know Hunstanton is WNDC's cash cow but there are people like myself who actually have to live in Hunstanton and have a daily fight with frustrated tourists looking for parking, some who refuse to pay but most looking for a position near to the seafront so to sell off the car parks for housing without having a new parking system in place is extremely short-sighted beyond belief.

As there are already three new estates in the process of being constructed with no improvements in the infrastructure of Hunstanton I just wonder who will benefit from this mass sell-off of the towns parking facilities.

It has been estimated that 1 in 3 on the new builds in Hunstanton are 2nd homes so I ask the question again who is going to benefit from this new development.

I have always been told that when you talk about a problem try to come up with some answers to that problem to help the situation, so before you look at developing Hunstanton any more the A149 need to be looked at to improve the ebb and flow of the traffic to and from the North Norfolk coast also a park and ride system for Hunstanton to get the vehicles away from the town should be looked at.

When all this is in place then the WNDC can start to look at selling off the car parks in Hunstanton.

But I have no doubt that the powers that be will push through this planning application despite the overwhelming objection to the madness.

So, I will not be wasting my time in a Zoom conference call as this will be pass no matter what we the locals say.

S.A.Rake

Smokers Ballot Box

I write in response to Mr John Maiden's letter in the September issue of Town and around - Smokers Ballot Box covered up in Black plastic.

Indeed Mr Maiden is correct - the bin is 'currently covered up'. The reasons for this are due to COVID safety precautions to protect the health and well being of Hunstanton residents and visitors and the council staff who have to clean out the bin.

As a keen environmentalist I am sure that Mr Maiden is well aware that cigarette butt litter is one of the most common forms of litter in the world and a hazard to the environment and wildlife. During heavy rain cigarette butts are carried down drains and through stormwater pipes, ending up in harbours, rivers, beaches and oceans. Birds and other

marine life can mistake cigarette butts for food, resulting in digestive problems, and sometimes death.

Cigarette butts have been found inside the stomachs of a variety of birds, turtles and other marine animals.

I can assure Mr Maiden that as soon as it is safe to do so the cigarette ballot bin will be made available for smokers to safely deposit their butts.

In the meantime the environment panel at HTC welcomes any constructive ideas and suggestions from Mr Maiden, and if he wishes to attend the next environment panel meeting to have a full and complete understanding of our policies he will be given a very warm welcome.

Cllr. Amanda Knight

Proposed railway link

In reply to Neil Tidbury's letter, we should consider residents who need to travel for work, school, hospital - not only to King's Lynn but also to Cambridge, London and other destinations. We do not all own a car or wish to drive (with the problems of traffic jams, parking fees and congestion charges).

Local young people could continue to live in the area whilst developing their careers.

The A149 is not fit for purpose at present and when the proposed new houses are built, traffic and pollution will be even worse.

A railway line which serves the hospital as well as the town centre and the station would open up opportunities for us all.

Hunstanton resident (name and address supplied)

A recipe from the Prudent Pensioner

With an abundance of tomatoes and more time on my hands I have been trying out different recipes for Tomato soup, this one was very well received.

Tomato & Carrot soup. Makes approx. 700ml

1 med Shallot or small onion

Knob of Butter

Potato approx. 170g/6oz

Ripe Tomatoes approx. 230g/8oz

1 medium size stick of celery

Carrot approx. 115g/4oz.

1 Chicken stock cube dissolved in 500ml hot water.

Salt and Pepper to taste.

Peel potato and cut into small pieces. Peel carrot and cut into small pieces.

Peel shallot or onion and slice thinly.

Trim and discard ends of celery, clean stalk and slice fairly thinly.

Place butter in a saucepan over a low to medium heat, add onion slices stir to mix.

Cook for 1 minute stirring continuously.

Carefully add stock, potato, carrot and celery slices, mix well. Increase heat and bring to boiling point. Reduce heat, cover and leave simmering gently, stirring often, for 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, if you wish to remove skins from tomatoes, make a slit in each one and place them in a bowl and pour on boiling water, leave for a few minutes. Using a spoon dip each one in to a bowl of cold water, and remove skins. Add tomatoes to pan. Cover and leave simmering gently, (you may need to increase heat for a few seconds) stirring occasionally, until vegetables are fairly soft (approximately 5-10 minutes).

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

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

Add seasoning to taste. Reheat if required. Serve and enjoy.

For details of my books and more of my recipes and 'How to' Video clips

Visit the Prudent Pensioner's page on my website

www.doreenreedpoet.com

Email: pru.pensioner@btinternet.com

See more recipes on The Prudent Pensioner Facebook page.



News from Brancaster Primary School

By Alfie Willis-Bailey and Lacey-Jo Groom

After nearly half a year of being away, we have finally returned to school. Some of us did still come to school in the summer term, but not very many people. It was a bit worrying to come back after such a long time, and it is strange being back again. But now we are all getting used to it. It is good to see all our friends again, although we do miss last year's Y6s, who have all moved onto high school.

Due to the Coronavirus, we are social distancing as much as possible. We have to sit in the same places all the time (even for lunch), facing the front even when we have to talk to our shoulder partners. That's quite hard but we do our best. Some people are wearing face-masks – it's kind of weird seeing people we know in face masks, but some of them have cool patterns. We do a LOT of hand washing and sanitising! We have lots of new resources and we each have our own tray with our own equipment to use, as we are not allowed to share or to touch each other's things. All the children in KS2 have a new Chromebook each and our teacher, Mr Johnson, is showing us how to use them in lots of different ways. It's fun using them so much.

There are lots of new faces for us to get to know – as well as the new Reception children, we have also welcomed children who were at Sedgeford school with Mr Johnson. Good news – we still have Mr King as headteacher, and we are expecting Mr Lacey-Hastings to come and help out once a week even though he has left!

We have been keen to start learning properly again. KS2 have started a topic about how sound is made and changed – we had a lesson about vibrations and used tuning forks. When we put them in the water, the water made crazy ripples and some of the Y3/4s got splashed. We can't wait to find out more!

Thrift are learning about "This is Me!". The new children have settled in well and everyone else is glad to be back and learning again. Two more new children are starting next week so we look forward to welcoming them.

Half Term starts on October 21st (for the children) and school restarts on Monday 2nd November.

Glebe's fantastic four

Congratulations to Glebe House School Hunstanton pupils Mabel, Orla, Will and Archie for being selected for the Norfolk Hockey U14, U13 and U12 squads this season after completing the England Player Pathway Academy training sessions over the summer. As well as playing for the school teams all four are keen members of Pelicans Hockey Club in Kings Lynn.





Both of our churches are now open and celebrating public Mass on Sundays and weekdays Monday to Friday. Masks must be worn as per the government and Bishops guidelines regarding the Covid 19 virus. You can read the guidelines and any updated information about easing of restrictions etc on our parish website. The Sunday obligation remains suspended for the foreseeable future and people are advised not to go to Mass if they have any symptoms, however mild, or anyone who is shielding or vulnerable. The Sunday Masses are at 9am at Mountbatten Road, Dersingham and 11am at Sandringham Road, Hunstanton and there is a limit on the amount of people allowed in. Daily Masses are at 10am at Hunstanton Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and 10.15am at Dersingham Wednesday. There are quite a few changes to the way Mass will be celebrated and people should be guided by the stewards. Please see our parish website for further information and updates. Website: www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org

Email: parish@hunstantoncatholicparish.org

The Parish telephone number is 01485 534675.

If you require a Priest urgently please telephone V. Rev Canon Peter Rollings on 01553 772220 or email; parishpriest763@gmail.com

Christian Science Society Hunstanton

"It's time to look forward" the travel advert on the TV said. How true – to look forward to certainty, positivity and joy in this present time. In short, heaven, away from the daily doses of news that can seem negative and despondent. How can we find this heaven? Is it a holiday abroad or can it be a sense of security, hope and peace? This heaven, this Kingdom of Heaven, we already have, as "It is within" Jesus assures us. It doesn't come from observation, therefore we already have this concept of good within. We can obtain this heaven by holding onto what is good and positive in our thinking, since God is good and more powerful than anything else.

Further information on the worldwide Christian Science church can be found at www.christianscience.com. Due to the current situation, Hunstanton Church has temporarily suspended church services. Please check our Facebook page for information on the resumption of services. Christian Science services are currently available online. Please go to www.spirituality4.me to find live-streamed services around the UK, along with other online events, talks and webinars. An online shop is also available where you will find books, CDs and many other resources. Follow us on Facebook to find out more about our church.

From Hunstanton & the Saxon Shore

Dear Friends,

As I was walking to the Church service this morning I noticed that the leaves in the trees are changing and that there is a more autumnal feel in the air. How does that make you feel? Do you like the cooling of the temperatures and the nights starting to draw in? Perhaps you are already thinking back to the hotter summer days and light evenings.

I love this time of year, partly because the hedgerows are full of blackberries, rosehips, sloes and other autumnal treats. One of my greatest joys is picking blackberries and making jars of bramble jelly. The house smells wonderful and I have a whole stack of jewel coloured jelly waiting to be given away or enjoyed on toast. It is such a simple thing in many ways, well, so long as you know how to make the jams and jellies. When I consider what it is that I like about this process I think it may be the slowing down that I have to do in order to produce jars of this delightful stuff.

Slowing down, even in the odd situation that we all find ourselves in at the moment, isn't always easy is it? For me the time taken to pick the berries is time I spend in prayer for others. I have people I pray for regularly and then at times like this many other people come to mind and I pray for them too. It is surprising how many blackberries you can pick, how many people you can pray for and how long you can spend on this

job. I love it though because even if my arms are scratched and fingers discoloured I have something to show for it. The process of boiling up the berries, straining the juice, then making the jelly and bottling it, makes me take time away from my normal activities.

Taking time away from the normal routine events in life can be very helpful. We can't get away from life totally and I am not sure we should but it is good to slow down a little and look at things differently. As Christians we believe that God is with us all of the time, in the everyday events, in the times of hectic activity and when we slow down to take things more slowly. For me making jams, jellies and the odd jar of sloe gin helps me to appreciate the beautiful and bountiful place we live in. Setting time aside for bramble jelly making is necessary, due to the mess I usually make but it also helps me to reconnect with a harvest like activity.

This year most of the churches in the Benefice are hoping to hold a Harvest themed service on 4th October. Please see our website for further details of times and places. We will also be asking for people to bring specific foods for the Foodbank as our harvest offering. Sadly home made produce is not permitted but if you enjoying making jams or chutneys why not share them with your neighbours. I have certainly made more contact with the folk living near me and I think I won't be the only one to have done this so why not share your skills with them?

Whatever you think of the changing seasons, whether you can make a great chutney or not, why not take time out to thank God for His creation and give to those who need our support?

With my prayers for you all,

Rachael, Rev Rachael Dines

Now where did I put that blackberry picking tub...

Questions

I don't know if you're a fan of quiz shows or not. I quite like them. Sometimes if I'm feeling like a cerebral workout, I'll watch University Challenge and congratulate myself if I answer three questions in the whole half hour! My favourite at the moment is Pointless but there are so many on TV nowadays that you're sure to find one that suits you.

Jesus was asked many questions on all sorts of subjects. He was asked about fasting, the Sabbath, taxes, death, his authority and who would be the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. Question after question after question and Jesus had an answer for all of them.

But more important than the questions asked of Jesus are the questions asked by Jesus. In Matthew 16:13-16 Jesus asks his disciples "Who do people say I am?" His disciples tell him that some say Elijah, some say John the Baptist and some say Jeremiah or another prophet."

Then Jesus asks a more important question of Peter. He asks "Who do you say I am?" Peter replies "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus asks the same question of us today. It does not matter who everyone else thinks Jesus is what matters is who Jesus is to you. Is he just a man who lived hundreds of years ago, is he a man who preached repentance or a teacher who taught people about God or is he your Saviour? Do you know Jesus or do you just know about him?

So, who do you say Jesus is? Who is he to you? What does he mean to you? To many people today the name of Jesus Christ is just a swear word but does it have a deeper meaning for you? I hope you are able to declare, as Peter did, "You are the Christ, the Son on the living God."

A common question at the moment is 'When are things going to get back to normal?' Restrictions have been eased quite a bit from what they were but we certainly aren't anywhere near how things were before lockdown. The Salvation Army Community Shop at 60 Westgate Hunstanton is now back open as normal. We are open six days a week, Monday to Saturday 9.30am- 4pm and you can now buy the War Cry again. Michael is selling the War Cry every Friday morning in Hunstanton High Street but we are still not able to meet for worship due to the restrictions on numbers and what we are able to do if we do meet. Let's hope that soon changes.

In the meantime, if you need practical assistance or just a chat feel free to get in touch.

Alison Kirby, Corps Leader, Snettisham Salvation Army

Alison.Kirby@salvationarmy.org.uk

01485 579079 07775 717852

UNION CHURCH

HARVEST FESTIVAL: The question this year was – how can we celebrate in the way we normally would have done? Display of produce? No way – too risky. Auction of produce? No way – too risky to have a lot of people in one room, shouting at the top of their voices to outbid each other!

When preparing to do a Harvest Thanksgiving service on zoom, I found a piece based on the Harvest hymn “We plough the fields and scatter”. Although as was pointed out an alternative version is “We plough the fields with tractors”. If you have heard of it or look it up on the internet it is a good reworking with words relevant to today’s farming methods. It has been said often recently that life will be different from here on, but we can see in this hymn that though things do change, the seed is still “fed and watered by God’s almighty hand”. So we can still thank God for his provision of the variety of food that we can eat without actually having to see it in a display or an auction.

At Union, the proceeds of our auction would normally have gone to the 3 charities we support, which have mission work helping in countries much poorer than ours. And that is what matters in the end – so we will hold a ‘virtual’ auction where we imagine what we could have bought and make a donation as if there had been a real one. God will feed and water us with creativity as well as physical food in these times.

Janet Brown, Secretary

The God Who Loves You

By Gordon Tanner, a member of The Way CF Leadership team

As a light-hearted illustration, I used to have a picture of a white-haired old man standing on a cloud with a thunder bolt in his hand, and poised to throw it at the earth. That is how some people regard God. And it is so untrue.

The very essence of God is summed up in the simple verse “God is love”. As well as being the almighty creator of the world and of so awe-inspiring intelligence, He is love. That means He loves YOU. He wants the best for you. He may not like some of the things we do, but he loves us. He created us. He knows all our potential.

The saddest thing of all is that so many people have never known or lost sight of this truth.

Evolution has tried to tell us there is no creator thereby negating the concept of God’s love for us. In the process they negate all the principles that society was formed on. The loving family – a father, a mother and children – is the basic building block of society. With the concept of family destroyed what we do is our choice and we don’t have to answer to anyone if there is no God. And so society breaks down.

Each of us has a built in desire to be loved, to be needed. And each of us has a built in knowledge that there is something more than what we see on earth. For instance what happens after death?

A few years ago we ran a lunch-time club for pupils at Smithdon High School. After about 4 weeks the staff at the school commented to our team that the pupils who were going to the club were the ones who were worst behaved in class. Before a term was completed the teachers said that their behaviour was transformed. We were not doing anything revolutionary, we were just giving them some attention and sharing ideas with them. The staff at the school changed and some of our team left the area and the club stopped.

Since then The Way has run after-school clubs, first on our own and then with other churches involved. Early on in this time one young girl was noticed because she always turned up early and didn’t leave until the team had packed up and were leaving themselves. On enquiry this young lady said she loved the club because it was the only place where she felt someone loved her. What a comment on her home experiences!

The same bible that says “God is love” also says “parents love your children”. If only we lived by these simple standards this world would be a much nicer place.

A baby and toddler group for the whole family

Little Lights

Shining out God's love to families

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Diane walks for wildlife

AVeterinary Nurse from Ingoldisthorpe is tackling a Coastal walk from Holme Dunes to Snettisham beach to raise funds for the RSPCA wildlife centre at East Winch. The East Winch Wildlife Centre takes in thousands of wildlife casualties every year, and Diane Westwood has already taken in seals and hedgehogs this year. Just this week Diane took in a cormorant found wandering around Snettisham village.

The walk will pass by Holme, Old Hunstanton, Heacham and Snettisham, all locations where we have picked up sick and injured and abandoned seal pups that have gone on to the East Winch wildlife centre for veterinary care.

Diane says "Fundraising for animal charities has been hit hard by Covid 19. We are lucky to have such a dedicated team as the staff and volunteers at East Winch wildlife centre in our area and I urge readers to please consider donating a pound or two".

If you can help please donate via the just giving page www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Diane-Westwood or email dianewestwood@hotmail.com



Sweet Pea picked up on Snettisham beach in June. Now at East Winch wildlife centre.
Credit RSPB

An open letter to James Wild MP

I read your article in the September edition of Town & Around and I agree with you that: "I could not think of anywhere better to take my summer holiday than in a VW campervan in North West Norfolk." If only they were VW campervans!!!

I live on Cliff Parade Hunstanton and suffer, along with the rest of home owners on Cliff Parade, the misery of having these modern huge motor homes parked outside of our apartments and houses.

They can park for free from 08:00 am until 22:00pm (that is 14 hours) and from October 31st through to Easter the following year they can park there permanently.

Hunstanton residents have been complaining for years and want a ban on motor homes being allowed to park on Cliff Parade opposite residential properties.

Provision for motorhome parking is provided at Southend Road.

This is used by some but understandably with reluctance as they have to pay to park whereas Cliff Parade is free and with a sea view. The detrimental effect of residents living on Cliff Parade mental health also needs to be taken into consideration. These 'unwanted eyesores' parked outside of your home cause anxiety, stress, high blood pressure and depression. They have prevented sales of ground floor properties due to motor homes being parked opposite when conducting a viewing.

Most motorhomes do not financially support the town; they arrive pre-loaded with food and other necessities, park for free, distress local residents, increase the risk of misuse of road drains and early arrivals prevent the road sweeper cleaning the road.

The negatives far out-way any positives and the residents on Cliff Parade need our concerns and frustrations taken seriously.

A simple addition to the existing parking notice saying 'No Motor Homes or Caravans' is all that is needed.

Dave Stevens





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Happy Birthday T&A

This magazine is issue number 180 and it marks fifteen years of publication. Every month since the autumn of 2005, copies have been distributed both door to door and at collection points around the north-west corner of the county.

Covid-19

This year we have all felt the devastating effects of the coronavirus pandemic on our families and communities. The effects of lockdown and resulting disruption to businesses will take some time to quantify but in the meantime we wanted to tell you how we, at Town and Around, are making changes to the way we operate.

Deliveries in the Hunstantons

Our volunteer delivery team, some of whom have been with us since the beginning, have been out in all weathers and it is essential that we thank them publicly for all their effort over the years. Recently the delivery of magazines has been made difficult for a myriad of reasons, not least the worry of catching coronavirus by meeting up with people in the street and touching metal letterboxes together with other objects that have been cited as potential risks to health, plus some of the team have had to isolate for long periods.

Due to the situation apparently now developing into a second phase and with the threat of yet another lockdown before this year is out, we have taken the decision to suspend door-to-door deliveries from November 2020. We feel that we just cannot be responsible for the lives and welfare of our volunteers under the current circumstances.

Pick up points & subscriptions

The good news is that we will be continuing to produce the magazine and distributing it each month through our well-established outlets around the area. Additionally, we have taken space in Tesco and Sainsbury's via their preferred supplier and with Lidl directly.

Copies will be available, as they are now, just before the end of the month and if you are not sure about where you can get your copy, please call us on 01485 540620 or e mail editor@townandaround.net and we will tell you where your nearest pick up point is.

If you would prefer to have your copy delivered to your door each month, we do offer a subscription service. the cost is £20 per year for post and packing (there is no VAT), and details of how to order are in the advert above.

Paper

Town and Around has a good kitchen-table life, often remaining in the readers' homes for a month or more and being referred to throughout that period. We have taken this opportunity to review the tactile appeal and appearance of the paper we use. This month is the first issue with a new paper that is heavier, whiter, silkier to the touch and importantly, still recycled. It should be more resilient to extended wear and tear!

Advertising

Transparency about advertising costs is important to us. T&A charges exactly the same price to everyone for their adverts (it just appeals to our sense of fairness) and we publish the cost on page 2 of every edition.

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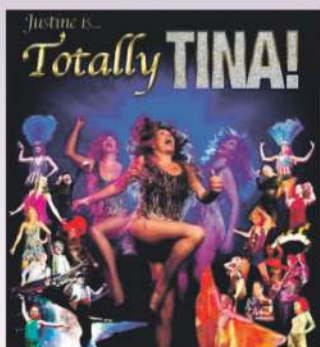
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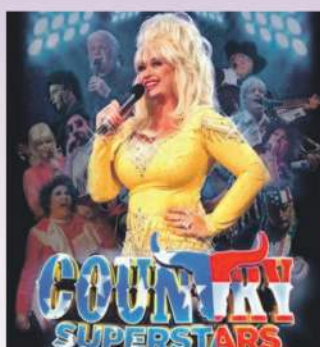

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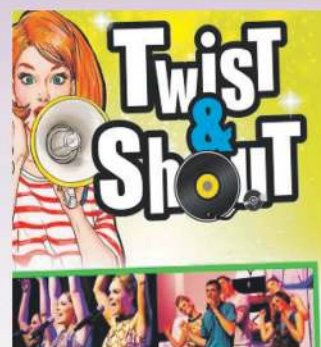
Saturday 3rd



Saturday 10th



Saturday 17th



Saturday 24th

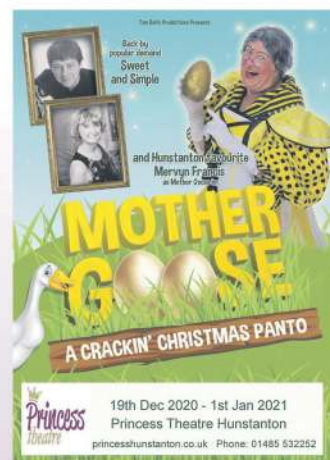
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