

TOWN and AROUND

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PRICELESS!



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First word



I write this as we are enjoying some late summer weather and local entertainment. The outdoor theatre at Sedgeford and the films shown in Hunstanton and King's Lynn were wonderful, and moving into September the live entertainment continues with the Deepdale Festival (page 49) and so much more - a guide can be found on pages 74-76. Don't forget Hunstanton's Soap Box Derby on 22nd - I took the cover photo at the 2023 event.

Night skies are getting darker earlier as Earth's orbit and its axis combine to tilt the northern hemisphere away from the sun explains Terry Parish on page 44. He encourages readers to sit outside in the dark and enjoy the meteor season.

Thanks to everyone who has provided information, articles and images for this very full edition.

Thanks also to our advertisers; there are new ones again this month, please support them if you can.

Best wishes for a positive and happy year to everyone who is starting or going back to school, college or university this month, remember what Henry Ford said: "Nothing is particularly hard if you break it down into small jobs."

Until next month, enjoy September and all that it has to offer.

Elaine

Elaine Bird, Editor,
Town and Around
The Perches, 18 Tapping Close, Snettisham PE31 7FF
T: 01485 540620
M: 07533 088196
E: editor@townandaround.net

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'Last branch standing' celebrates 40th birthday

This is the story of Nationwide in Hunstanton

A party was held at the Nationwide in Greevegate on 31st July. It was a double celebration in that the branch had been open for 40 years and Branch Manager, Gary Hubbard, had completed 40 years of service on 30th July.

In the 1980s there were many small, local building societies. The Northampton based Anglia Building Society was expanding, and it decided that Hunstanton was the place to be.

When the Hunstanton branch opened its doors in 1984, things were very different; Margaret Thatcher was Prime Minister, Frankie goes to Hollywood and Wham were in the charts, The Bill hit our TV screens for the first time, and the average house price was £31,076.

The Anglia merged with Nationwide in 1987 and for a while the name above the door was Nationwide Anglia. It became Nationwide a few years later but throughout the changes, the venue at 18 Greevegate has remained.

New recruit Gary Hubbard, fresh from college, started work on 30th July 1984 and in his 40 years he's worked at twelve locations across East Anglia, some on more than one occasion. He moved to Hunstanton for the second time in March 2023 and manages the team of Lisa Reed, Kieran Raines and Chrissy Gotts.



From left: Kieran Raines, Chrissy Gotts, Gary Hubbard, Mayor of Hunstanton Michael Ruston and Lisa Reed

Gary said: "We may look different from when we first opened but our warm and friendly welcome is still the same.

"I am proud to be the Branch Manager of Nationwide in Hunstanton where we are the 'last branch standing' as all other financial institutions have deserted the town.

"Also, we have just extended again our branch promise that everywhere we have a branch, we'll still be there until at least the start of 2028."

The branch opening times are: Monday 9-4:30, Wednesday 10-4:30, Thursday 9-4:30, and Saturday 9-12 noon.

Hunstanton RNLI made One Moment for One Crew picture with minutes to spare



It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words, and here a picture taken by former Lifeboat crew member Pete Naylor does just that.

We've reported over recent months the 200th Anniversary of the RNLI. Founded in 1824, the institution had asked all the RNLI

stations to take a photo on 1.8.24 at 18:24.

Hunstanton Lifeboat Station's preparations for the 'One Moment for One Crew' picture on Hunstanton beach included wellies carefully arranged to spell out the number 200 on the sand, the Lifeboat and Hovercraft in position and crew dressed in their formal

uniforms.

With only 10 minutes to go, pagers sounded so the assembled crew ran back to the boathouse to get into their dry suits, and the wellies were cleared to make way for a launch.

A spokesperson at the station said: "Two minutes later, the 'shout' was cancelled. With nine minutes remaining, the wellies were hurriedly re-deployed, while more than 50 volunteers lined up as the drone buzzed skywards."

Anjie Rook, RNLI Associate Director, who is overseeing the charity's 200th anniversary programme, said: "We have encouraged anyone who has some form of involvement with the RNLI to participate in this special One Moment for One Crew photographic event, to capture a record of everyone who, at this moment in time, is playing some part in the RNLI's lifesaving work, continuing its legacy and securing its future.

"One Moment for One Crew is very much about celebrating the people of today's RNLI and, we hope, inspiring those future generations who will take the RNLI into its third century of lifesaving."

Photo: Pete Naylor/RNLI

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Green light for Guildhall plans

A transformational project that will bring multi-million pounds into West Norfolk's economy and create national and international interest in King's Lynn has been endorsed.

The Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk's Cabinet, the King's Lynn Town Board and the charity that will oversee the day to day running of the complex have all expressed strong support for the development of plans for the full renovation and refurbishment of the historic Guildhall.

The Guildhall redevelopment will bring major benefits for the borough, with estimates predicting that footfall and customer spend could help to generate around £30M into the local economy. In addition, a large number of jobs will be created through the project, including during the construction and the ongoing operation of the site.

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

Now, the plans for the Guildhall site, which will include the creation of spaces for creative industries will move to RIBA stage 4 design (technical design and procurement) with progress also underscored by the recent submission of the planning application for the project.

Councillor Simon Ring, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Business and Culture said: "The Guildhall has the potential to be one of West Norfolk's most popular visitor attractions with huge economic benefits for our area. The project will support the creation of new creative businesses and an exciting cultural venue for a whole range of activities, events and performances which will create a variety of jobs within the community.

"This is a project that will benefit everyone in West Norfolk, and it represents an opportunity for businesses working in tourism, hospitality, and retail which could benefit hugely from footfall generated by a revitalised Guildhall.

"In addition, the redevelopment of the Guildhall could act as a platform for the promotion of the rest of our wonderful heritage assets in West Norfolk."

At the heart of the plans for the Guildhall site is developing the venue's Shakespeare connections, with the original floorboards the Bard is believed to have performed on discovered, in 2023, to date from the early 15th century. Further research is taking place to explore this exciting history, including the links with Robert Armin, Shakespeare's comedian who was born in the town.

More discoveries, led by Creative Director Tim FitzHigham, who was recently asked to speak at The International Shakespeare Conference at the Shakespeare Institute, are expected to be revealed as the work moves forward.

Vicky Etheridge, Interim Chair of King's Lynn Town Board said: "The Guildhall offers a huge opportunity not just for King's Lynn but our whole area and the Town Board is pleased to support the development of the next stage of plans.



"Realising the aspirations for this project will result in an exciting and engaging space for local people and visitors alike. We expect the impact of the redevelopment of the Guildhall to be huge, and it could truly be a transformational catalyst for the town and West Norfolk."

Natalie Evans, Baroness Evans of Bowes Park, Chair of Trustees of the St George's Guildhall and Creative Hub Charity said: "The Guildhall is an iconic venue with enormous potential to bring cultural, educational and economic benefits to Lynn and West Norfolk. We are delighted by the Council's renewed commitment to the regeneration of the site. Through close partnership working, we are laying the ground to ensure that, as a charity, we are in a position to maximise the opportunity for local people and attract visitors from around the world."



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Campaign for West Winch Bypass, before development on the A10

Cllr Alexandra Kemp

Is the worst planning decision, since the South Lynn Incinerator, about to happen right here in West Norfolk? Can you help stop it?

The Borough has scheduled Hopkins's 1100- home Application for decision by the Planning Committee, on Wed 28 August 10.30 am in Lynn Town Hall.

But with no Govt funding yet on the table for the £64 million Govt share of the £84 million West Winch Bypass ("Housing Access Road"), to take through traffic and HGV's off the already chronically congested A10.

The Bypass Outline Business Case for the road, is still stuck with the Department for Transport and Govt has paused major road projects.

Highways Safety is a Material Planning Reason to defer the Application.

County's Outline Business Case for the bypass says development will increase accidents at junctions along the A10 in West Winch, increase dangerous detours through North Runcton, Setchey and Saddlebow, as cars seek to avoid the congested A10.

It is unwise and undemocratic for the Borough to decide Hopkins Application, before the Planning Inspectorate has the chance to review the public's comments on the West Winch Local Plan Modifications (the consultation started on 7 August for 8 weeks) and make necessary changes.

This Local Plan is clearly damaging to the safe and efficient circulation of the highway network, not only for West Winch but for the



whole of West Norfolk. Modifications 115 and 116 permit 300 houses in the A10 with no highway intervention, 800 more if Hopkins build a narrow access from the Winch Public House to the A47 (not the bypass) so potentially all 1100, before the proper strategic highway infrastructure, the bypass, is built.

So I have written to the Secretaries of State for Transport and Business, and told them the Borough's Local Plan is not legally sound, effective, justified or positively prepared and is unfit for purpose, because the major development for West Norfolk has no funding for essential highway infrastructure. Without the bypass in place first, the development will be heavily car-dependent, environmentally unsustainable and against national policy. 1100 homes in a rat-run.

The Sustainable Transport Plan couldn't implement an Active Travel friendly

environment, through West Winch on this high-accident, highly congested, worst-performing stretch of the A10, with its dangerous bends, poor sightlines and sub-standard width.

Something must be done. Please attend the Borough Planning Committee.

Have your say today on the Local Plan by filling in the consultation form at

https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20079/planning_policy_and_local_plan/951/local_plan_review_2016-2036_examination

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Local Plan 2021-2040 Main Modifications Part 1 Consultation, Planning Policy Team BCKLWN

Kings Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn PE30 1EX

An update from Jo Rust

Such a lot has happened since I last wrote an article for Town and Around, not least a general election and a change in government with a Labour MP in South West Norfolk. A big welcome to Terry Jermy, the replacement for Liz Truss.

With any new government, there comes new or different ways of doing things and I think many of us will welcome those differences. One of the main causes of concern around here is over the fate of our hospital. Back in 2019 Boris Johnson made an uncoded promise to fund 40 new hospitals. Our Queen Elizabeth Hospital wasn't on that list, despite being made of RAAC concrete, being propped up with wooden and metal props and being over 10 years past its replacement date. It should have been included on that list rather than some of the hospitals which were, but weren't in the same poor condition as ours. It wasn't until May last year that we made it onto that list. It had taken over 2 years of campaigning every week outside the hospital, numerous trips to parliament to lobby MPs, thousands of letters to a variety of different ministers for health and a lots of stunts and rallies by the campaign group, as well as support from the Borough and County Council and constituency MP before the announcement was made. Unfortunately, despite all our hopes, that announcement didn't come with any money. No funds had been released to pay for the relocating of the helipad, the building of the new multi storey car park and certainly not the hospital itself.

So, now we have a new government and quite sensibly it's looking at the figures, and what a dire state they are despite the Conservative Party claiming to be the party of low taxes and fiscal responsibility! However, a review of the New Hospital Programme is absolutely the sensible thing to do and, I have been told, is being supported by the hospital itself. Despite the fact that the new government is looking

at the overall New Hospital Programme West Strething, the Secretary of State for Health, has publicly stated that he is prioritizing the RAAC hospitals. I believe that we can trust that the party which founded the NHS and which has consistently valued it and the workers who run it, will commit to rebuilding our hospital as we so desperately need.

It's a perfect time to fully reevaluate the current option too. The plans we currently have could be re-examined with a view to a full and comprehensive options appraisal of an off-site option. If this really isn't possible then at least the public will know in an open and transparent way. The timeline has already been pushed so far back, purely because they last government failed to release funding in the time that it was needed.

As a campaign group we have already been contacted by the new local Labour MP who has arranged to meet us. This really is a welcome approach as the previous SWN MP only spoke up for the QEH once she had lost her role as PM.

We have already committed to recommencing our campaign in October if we haven't had a decision by then. We will hold whichever government is in power to account for any failure to deliver the vital infrastructure that our county wide health system needs. Without the QEH, the whole of Norfolk's health will be adversely affected. We've always said "watch this space" and that is what we'll be doing.



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Wild in Westminster and West Norfolk

There have been some warm days this summer and when it is hot in the Houses of Parliament the coolest place is the Commons chamber. That was fortunate as the Chancellor chose to make her first statement when the weather was at its warmest.

Without overdoing the heat metaphor, the temperature was heightened as this was a transparent attempt to lay the ground for tax rises in next month's Budget. Despite saying during the election campaign that "you don't need to win an election" to find out the state of public finances given the independent oversight in place, apparently there is a £20 billion spending "black hole" no one knew about.

Independent commentators have said this isn't really credible. Indeed, over £10 billion of the supposed black hole was a result of the Chancellor's decisions on public sector pay. It is important pay supports the retention and recruitment of teachers, police, and NHS staff but a 22 per cent pay rise for junior doctors including a period when they were on strike was surprising.

Since the election the Chancellor has announced £24 billion of new spending commitments. That is not the action of someone who was worried about the public finances.

However, the Chancellor certainly made



unpopular decisions. Thousands of pensioners on very modest incomes will have the Winter Fuel Payment taken away from them. I struggle to understand how a Labour government considers that fair – will its new MPs be prepared to vote to take up to £300 from pensioners?

Many families will be incredibly frustrated that a cap on social care costs the last Conservative government had put in place has been cancelled. Road and rail projects have been stopped.

However, I am continuing to press for the A10 West Winch Housing Access Road and Ely Junction upgrades to proceed. I've also

just have had a positive response regarding progress on the Smithdon High School rebuild and the feasibility study ahead of moving to next stage and planning and procurement.

The biggest concern is around the QEH. During the election campaign Labour "committed to delivering the new hospitals programme including modernising the QEH at King's Lynn to address its potentially dangerous RAAC." No ifs, no buts.

Yet, instead of getting on with it, the Chancellor confirmed a review of the programme. This will only cause further delay and damaging uncertainty for NHS staff and patients. Ministers simply need to act on the expert report from 2 years ago which set out the compelling case for a new hospital to address the RAAC issue. That is why the last government made QEH a priority for rebuild.

When I challenged the Health Secretary to honour Labour's pledge he said dealing with RAAC was top of his priorities. It must be and I will continue to press the new Labour government to stick to the promises they made to our local community.

The general election result was clear but the least the public can expect is for the new government to be held to account to honour the pledges it made in the campaign. I'll be playing my part to do that.



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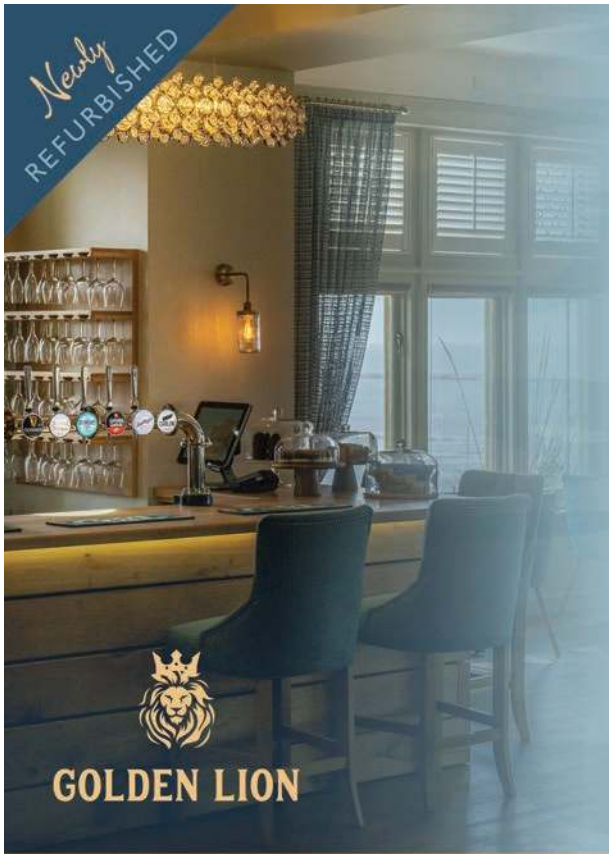
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How will a potential bankruptcy be treated in my divorce?

By Robert Colwell, Family Solicitor & Director, Hayes + Storr

If you are contemplating a divorce, and you have financial worries about the finances of your ex-partner, taking legal advice as soon as possible is important. Bankruptcy can have a real impact on the outcome of a divorce and how matrimonial assets are split, especially the question of timing.

How is bankruptcy factored into a divorce?

When someone is declared bankrupt, a trustee in bankruptcy is appointed and their job is to gather the insolvent person's assets and use them to settle their debts. You could find that you are competing with your ex-partner's creditors and in conflict with the trustee in bankruptcy over what should happen with particular assets. The trustee in bankruptcy would have no rights over assets you legally own in your sole name and would only be in control of your ex-partner's assets. Joint assets such as bank accounts, investments and even a share of your jointly owned property can be at risk. If the majority of the matrimonial assets are in your ex-partner's name, or in joint names, then a bankruptcy could significantly diminish the pool of assets available to divide between you.

What will happen to our home?

A lot depends on whose name the property is in. If it is in your sole name, then it is likely not to be captured by the bankruptcy process and will remain out of reach of the trustee in bankruptcy. If it is in joint names with your ex-partner, the trustee in bankruptcy will typically only gain control of your ex-partner's share. The trustee may look to have a jointly owned family home sold, for example in circumstances where you would be unable to buy out your ex-partner's share.

If it is in your ex-partner's sole name, it's likely that the trustee will seek to sell it and use the proceeds to discharge your ex-partner's debts. This could mean that you would not get anything from the family home

once all creditors are paid. However, there are exceptional situations where the family court will consider delaying a sale of the family home, such as:

- where you have young children living in the home, who would face significant disruption if made to move; or
- where you are able to demonstrate to the court that you would face exceptional hardship if forced to leave the home.



Key considerations

- Timing is critical - when to separate, divorce and apply for bankruptcy should be carefully considered in advance of any decisions being taken.
- Expert legal advice - is needed as both divorce and bankruptcy are complex legal matters, and a solicitor will help you to better understand your rights and options.
- Transparency is best - open communication with your ex-partner and legal advisors is always a good idea, as early discussions allow for a more realistic approach, particularly when it comes to your family home.

How we can help

For further information, please contact Robert Colwell in the family law team at Hayes + Storr on 01328 863231 or email rob.colwell@hayes-storr.com.

This article is for general information only and does not constitute legal or professional advice. Please note that the law may have changed since this article was published.

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LATEST! . . ABOLITION OF THE FURNISHED HOLIDAY LETTINGS TAX REGIME

By Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton

In a slightly surprising development on 29 July 2024, given the change of Government in the meantime, the details of forthcoming reforms to the tax treatment of Furnished Holiday Lettings (FHL) income, originally proposed by the Conservatives in the Spring Budget, have now been published, presumably for inclusion in the No 2 Finance Act 2024.

What this means for FHL owners:

From 6 April 2025 the FHL income of individuals, corporates, and trusts who operate, or sell, Furnished Holiday Lettings (FHLs) accommodation will form part of the person's UK or overseas property business and will be treated in line with all other property income and gains.

The current rules that provide beneficial tax treatment and require separate reporting requirements for FHLs are being abolished, so there will no longer be:

- exemption from the finance cost restriction rules which gave full tax deductibility for loan interest (N.B. Unlike when the finance cost restriction rules for residential landlords were brought in bit by bit over 4 years, there does not appear to be any phased approach being proposed for FHL Landlords. This is likely to have a material impact on those with significant finance on their FHL properties.)
- more beneficial Capital Allowances rules on fixtures & furniture
- access to reliefs from taxes on chargeable gains including gift holdover relief, business asset disposal relief (10% tax rate) and rollover relief
- inclusion of FHL income as relevant UK earnings for pension purposes.

The operative date will be 6 April 2025 for Income Tax purposes and 1 April 2025 for Corporation Tax.

Transitional rules:

Last week's announcement is helpful in that it sets out the transitional rules which will apply to formerly qualifying FHLs after



2024/25, as follows:

- former FHL properties will no longer be eligible for the more beneficial Capital Allowances treatment but will instead be eligible for 'replacement of domestic items relief', in line with other property businesses.
- where an existing FHL business has a brought forward Capital Allowances pool of expenditure, it can continue to claim writing-down allowances on that pool.
- in future, former FHL properties will be part of the person's UK or overseas property business as appropriate — that property business will then include the amalgamated profits and losses of all the properties in that business, and so, effectively, the restriction of loss offset between FHLs, and other properties will disappear. This new treatment may, in itself, cause additional problems for owners who have previously enjoyed flexible profit sharing in respect of their FHL income.
- where there are brought forward FHL losses these can be carried forward and be available for set off against future years' profits of either the UK or overseas property business as appropriate
- the CGT benefits of roll-over relief, business asset disposal relief and gift relief, will cease
- in relation to Business Asset Disposal Relief, where the FHL conditions are satisfied in relation to an FHL business that ceased prior to 5 April 2025, relief may continue to apply to a disposal that occurs within the normal 3-year period following cessation, assuming all other eligibility conditions are satisfied.
- there is also an anti-forestalling rule — this will prevent the obtaining of a tax advantage through the use of unconditional contracts to obtain Capital Gains relief under the current FHL rules — this rule applies from 6 March 2024.

It is most regrettable that the FHL regime is being lost –the abolition takes no account of the impact on the local economy and the report even states that "other impacts have been considered and none have been identified". However, the transitional provisions offer some help in reducing the financial impact of the changes and are probably rather better than we feared.

If you require any tax advice regarding your Furnished Holiday Let & Property business in planning for these changes, please contact us at Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton on 01485 534800 or kate@kathryngigg.co.uk

N.B. Article written in July 2024.

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

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News from the Woottons

Richard Coates

New County Councillor?

Borough Councillors Michael de Whalley and Simon Ring are the two voters from the County Council Freebridge Division who have formally asked that an election be held to fill the vacancy left by the recent death of the previous county councillor John Crofts. You'll remember that he had held the seat for less than a year after the death of the previous incumbent Nick Daubney. Why am I talking about "Freebridge" in News from The Woottons? Well Freebridge is 75% made up of The Woottons ward, plus the villages of Grimston, Pott Row and Roydon. Castle Rising is already included in The Woottons.

Michael de Whalley has previously contested this seat a year ago for the Green Party when he got 24% of the voters cast, up from the 20% he got in 2021. So, does it mean that Simon Ring will be standing for election? We won't know who is standing until after nominations close on 15 August and that's after the deadline for Town and Around articles but I have heard that Jason Law is standing for the local Conservatives. There's usually a Labour candidate and, as the Lib/Dems took the seat last time, we can probably expect they'll stand a candidate again this time.

Assuming that there's more than one candidate so that an election has to be held, it will be on Thursday 12 September at the usual polling stations.

Independent Living Project

That independent living project I mentioned last month has got off

to a good start. You'll remember it's got a site next to the new doctors' surgery on the edge of South Wootton and it expects to apply for planning permission around the end of August but, as that could take some time to come through, I don't expect to be able to tell you any more until the end of the year.

House on the Green

At last this old pub has been given planning permission to be completely renovated and also extended a little. The owner now needs to prepare a plan for the proposed marketing of the restored public house as that is one of the many planning conditions to build the five new houses. Note: he doesn't actually need to do the work, just prepare a plan to do it! But that must be done before any of the houses can be occupied.

Those five houses have shot up but there's a lot of work needed inside these 4 bed, 3 bathroom houses (yes two en-suites seems to be the standard these days!). At an asking price of £550,000, four of them have already been sold and they should be ready for occupation from around later this year.

New 5 Bedroom houses

Meanwhile, Allison Homes have released details of some of its large houses at its Edward Benefer Way estate, including a 5 bedroom home on its first phase at a similar price of £575,000. Again, this has two en-suites but two downstairs toilets (making a total of five all told!). It doesn't have a separate study like the North Wootton houses but some of the room sizes seem a bit larger. It will be interesting to

compare quality of finish in due course because Allison Homes hopes to have its first show homes completed by November although the first houses for sale won't be ready until next Spring. If you can't stretch to half a million pounds and you must have 5 bedrooms in a new house, you could go to Persimmon's Lavender Fields estate off Nursery Lane, South Wootton where you can still have your 5 bedrooms but for only £465,000. You'll have smaller rooms and you'll not get that second ensuite but it does give you a choice! What will there be on the new estate at Knights Hill? No details have been released yet but work on the new roundabout is proceeding and I'm hoping it will be finished before the winter's rains start and bring mud to Grimston Road.

New Street Names

There might only be the temporary access road to build the new roundabout at the Grimston Road estate but the Council is way ahead on some things such as naming the new roads. More than a score of them and among the nondescript Cherry Grove and Robin Avenue there are a few gems such as Edwin Seaman Close, Frederick Knight Drive and Fernley Close. Edwin Seaman lived at Rising Lodge as a farmer and dairyman. He had a dairy on the site and his family were the last occupiers before it became a hotel. Frederick Knight lived there in 1845 followed by his son Fernley. Then there are some names that many of us can relate to: Rising Field Road, Hare Gardens, Deers Row, Red Kite Way and Peacock Drive.

West Winch housing

If you think that The Woottons has more than its fair share of new housing estates, let me tell you about West Winch to the south of King's Lynn where there are plans for over 4,000 new houses. A special planning committee meeting has been called on 28 August to consider that. All Council and committee meetings are open to the public to hear what's said; details are on the Council's website. Or you can watch from home on the Council's You Tube channel either live or it's available after the event. Always some



interesting viewing if you've heard about something the Council or a Committee has discussed that's of interest to you, even months after the event.

Large Load

There was an exceptionally large load that travelled through South Wootton in August and an identical load is scheduled for Sunday 15 September. It's a 184 tonne transformer and it's due to leave King's Lynn docks at 9.30 a.m. for Norwich, arriving at 2.00 p.m. Because of its very heavy weight, it has to travel on an exceptionally long trailer that distributes the weight across 16 axles and that makes for a very long trailer and it has to be pulled by a powerful tractor unit, itself quite big. Needless to say, it won't be going round any tight corners and many road signs and street furniture will be removed so that it can get by. If you want to watch the sight as it proceeds slowly along Edward Benefer Way and up Grimston Road, South Wootton, under police escort, pick your spot of the most street furniture (traffic lights? roundabouts?) and take the kids to see this rare sight. Don't plan to drive to Norwich that Sunday morning!

Peacocks

South Wootton Parish Council's informal referendum about peacocks that are common in parts of the Oak Avenue estate has now closed but the results will not be revealed until the Parish Council meeting on 10 September (7.00 p.m. in the Parish Meeting Room, Church Lane). However, when I looked at the comments made by people on the Woottons Community Facebook page, I counted 9 people for the peacocks and 2 against them. Will that reflect the Council's referendum count? Turn up to the meeting to find out!

There's always something interesting happening in The Woottons. If you know of things that I haven't heard about, please tell me at cllr.richard.coates@west-norfolk.gov.uk.

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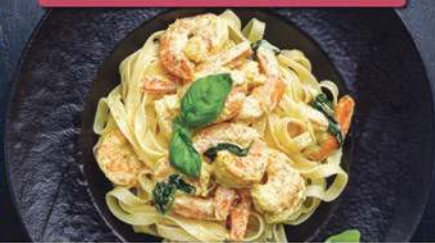
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As impressive as our results are, at Springwood our focus is on life after Sixth Form. Strong results mean that our leavers are able to secure places at top rated universities, such as Oxford and Cambridge and level 6 & 7 degree apprenticeships at national companies, including BAE and Jaguar Land Rover. Increasingly, our students are looking beyond our shores to international universities, including Linnaeus University in Sweden and Harvard in the USA.

Results and destinations of this sort do not happen by accident. At Springwood, our motto is 'Big Enough to Challenge; Small Enough to Care' and this underpins everything we do. Our competitive and challenging academic ethos is balanced by the expert guidance of subject specialist teachers and a pastoral system which is focused on ensuring that each student benefits from personalised, one-to-one mentoring and advice. Support of this sort, coupled with clear channels of communication between home and school, ensures that students at Springwood have clear goals and understand what they must do in order to achieve them.

However, we know that 6th Form is about more than just academic success. We aim to ensure that our students leave Springwood as well rounded individuals who are prepared for the next stage in their journey. The key to this is our structured work experience and enrichment programme. Duke of Edinburgh Gold, Latin and Classics and Level 3 Sports Leaders are just some of the many enrichment



opportunities open to students. And in keeping with our international outlook, we offer a range of educational experiences abroad. This year our students have travelled to Italy, Vietnam, the USA and Thailand!

Open Evening

Join us at our open evening on the 10th October where you will have the opportunity to hear from the Sixth Form Team, chat to our specialist subject teachers and, even more importantly, talk to our students. Talks and tours will take place at 5.30pm, 6.15pm or 7.00pm. Book online via our website.

For a sneak preview of everything that we have to offer, head to our website at www.springwoodhighschool.co.uk, or email us at admissions@springwoodhighschool.co.uk.



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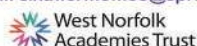
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Smithdon High School Goes From Strength to Strength

Following receiving their best ever results in Summer 2023, Smithdon High School was visited by Ofsted in November 2023, who recognised the school's progress and awarded a 'Good' judgement in all areas, noting that "pupils are benefiting from the improvements made since the school's previous inspection."

The Knowledge-rich Curriculum was acknowledged as being "well-crafted" and "ambitious" and daily routines introduced to ensure consistent approaches to teaching and learning for all students in all lessons have aided students' success. The daily "Spotlight" focus brings the whole school community together to celebrate those group and individual achievements, while also encouraging students to reflect "The Smithdon Seven" by showing they are **prepared** for learning, can demonstrate their **self-belief, ambition, responsibility, respect** and **pride** and are part of the **community**. The Smithdon Seven along with the school's values to Work Hard, Be Kind and Smile, help students to meet the "high expectations" of behaviour standards held by all within the school.

Headteacher, Amanda Gibbins, confirmed that following Ofsted's visit the school has responded to the areas identified for improvement by further developing the types, frequency and student responses to assessment and feedback to address misconceptions. "Our focus from the start of the year was also to increase the positive relationships by rewarding students for their successes however small - and by the end of the 23-24 year over 185,000 reward points were issued compared to 116,138 in July 2023. These include R1s and R2s in lessons, R3 postcards from teachers for extra effort, and Headteacher R4 letters for special recognition of acts of kindness or success in school and the wider community."

Finally leaving memories of Covid-teaching behind, Mrs Gibbins added "I am so excited that we have been able to announce plans for several trips abroad in the next few years in addition to our regular curriculum and rewards day trips, and our annual Yr8 Weekend in



Paris. With a visit to Lake Garda and a football tour to Holland in 2025, followed by an Art trip to New York in 2027 and plans for a German Market Weekend in between, the world awaits Smithdon's students!"

Ofsted noted that Smithdon's co-curricular offer "goes beyond the traditional offer of sport" including a wealth of performing and creative arts, curriculum and alternative clubs that are well-attended by all abilities of students. Our students also engage in a fantastic careers programme, attending talks, workshops and Work Experience placements before visiting colleges, sixth form establishments and universities to plan for their amazing futures.

Come to our Open Evening and tours to see what more Smithdon can offer your child. If you are interested in supporting Smithdon on its journey in any way, please get in touch.

<https://www.smithdonhigh.org.uk/>



SMITHDON HIGH SCHOOL HUNSTANTON

Open Evening: 3 October 2024 - 6pm to 8pm

Daily Tours: 7 October to 24 October 2024

Please register your interest for all activities on our website at Admissions 2025



Work hard, be kind and smile

The good, the bad, and the far from beautiful

By John Maiden

Let me start by congratulating the Council for placing Roger Partridge in charge of events staged on The Green and elsewhere in our Victorian seaside town. His experience and enthusiasm make him the ideal person for the task, especially when it comes to providing events suitable for a town that has always promoted itself as the ideal resort for family holidays.



There is not enough time or space to run through all the activities outlined in the booklet entitled '2024 - Hunstanton Summer Activities'. Instead, I will simply express my thanks to Roger for booking the band that livened up a 'not so sunny' Sunday afternoon on August 4th. The 'DNA Rock Band' covered well known music associated with legendary groups from AC/DC to ZZ Top, to name just two. For someone who has followed the history of Rock from the 1950's to the present



day, DNA ticked all the boxes.

This takes me from the good news to the bad. The photos, kindly taken by Victoria, clearly show how the Covenant imposed by Bernard le Strange in June 1955, intended to keep The Green free from the erection of 'permanent buildings' of any description, is still being ignored by West Norfolk Council; in spite of the facts revealed on September 1st 2023, in a belated response to my Freedom of Information request submitted much earlier in the year.

Sadly, this saga is being dragged out,

presumably in an attempt to continue with an obvious cover-up, until I am no longer around to expose the guilty parties. However, regardless of my health, come next June there should be a party on The Green to honour Bernard le Strange for his brave attempt to keep Henry le Strange's vision on track. This autumn it might also be worth planting a few more trees on The Green, but properly protected this time, unlike the sole survivor from the three Holm Oaks planted in 2012, as illustrated by young Max Maiden (left), clad in his usual Norwich City kit.

Finally, Norfolk County Council must be held to account for failing to remedy the dangerous condition of the ornamental grass green where it was not properly reinstated 25 years ago, after the Highways Department installed a new footpath, which runs from the Princess Theatre to the pedestrian crossing linking the upper and lower Greens; both of which the County Council has twice refused to protect by rejecting Civic Society applications to register the whole of The Green as a Town Green. The 'Fields in Trust' registration of The Green as a 'QE II Field' in 2012 seems to have made no impact on all those who continue to get away with ignoring the legally binding Covenant of 1955...

Photos by Victoria Maiden

Looking forward to a new chapter

Sandra Hohol

This will be my last report to Town and Around. I know I have written similar a while back but this time is third time lucky!

Classic Cottages now owns Norfolk Holiday Homes. In the next month or so I will be leaving but lovely newcomer Fiona is based in the office managing bookings and guests, and Amanda who is Area Manager and will oversee new holiday home owners. I know that I have made the right decision and hope that they will continue writing about the business, guests and properties.

The office will remain with business as usual and will receive a well-

deserved makeover later in the year. New clients, properties and guests are very welcome as always. The same friendly, helpful and independent service will still continue. Classic Cottages may be a larger company but they are family run, very experienced and helpful, so service will be the same as Norfolk Holiday Homes. I have been working with and showing Fiona the ropes but she has had many years of working in the industry so is no stranger to holiday letting and all it entails.

Staff from other offices at Classic Cottages have been visiting over the last few weeks and will continue to do so in order to watch and learn. Any new ideas and improvements will only be a bonus. Better media marketing opportunities will be a huge advantage to owners which is considerably more than I could ever do.

I have met thousands of people since 1979. Individuals or couples who just fancy a quick break in Norfolk plus families which have grown over the years – and still keep returning to this beautiful coastline. One family in particular is seen on our office window enjoying the beach at Old Hunstanton with their grandchildren. I think their grandma was expecting their daughter over 33 years ago when she first booked and now daughter is bringing her own children who are in the photo! I have owners whom I have known for The majority of guests have been delightful but there have been those who weren't! Our objectives are to have satisfied customers, but some you just cannot please, as everyone in this industry knows full well! Those situations I will not miss, but I will remember the lovely guests and owners who have been a big part of my working life - some who have kindly asked me to stay in touch. I will miss the friendly chat from everyone but this will be different chapter and I am looking forward to it!

So, besides my new chapter starting, Classic Cottages will begin their new journey in Norfolk too.

I wish them well!

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The Small Festival with a Big Heart

King's Lynn Literature Festivals (kllitfests.com) September 27/28/29th
Dee High

Have you ever been to a Literature Festival? It's not as dry as you might think. All the drama you view on your screens or listen to has been written for you by people such as those appearing at our Festival at King's Lynn Town Hall this September.



Many of you will have picked up a holiday read. As we head into Autumn and the nights draw in you will probably feel ready to read more and are perplexed by the choice on offer. Coming to our Literature Festival will help you to better judge a book beyond its cover.

Some of the writers have specialised in mystery and suspense, for example Bridget Walsh in her Victorian Gothic page turner *The Tumbler*, with Minnie the heroine turning detective in the theatre world. Do you recall 'Apple Tree Yard' starring Emily Watson, adapted and shown on BBC 1? Louise Doughty wrote this and *Platform Seven* which was also filmed for ITVX last year. Jill Dawson's 'Crime Writer' novel about Patricia

Highsmith is in development as a mini-series, she has set up a mentoring scheme for writers called 'Gold Dust'. Christopher Bigsby has written many radio and television plays. Rachel Hore writes romantic fiction; her books have been in the Sunday Times Top Ten bestseller lists. She teaches Creative Writing and publishing at UEA. Sarah May has written darkly comic novels including her latest, *Becky*. Lisa St Aubin de Teran will have some surprising tales to tell of her real life in 'Better Broken than New', following a lifetime of novel writing.

We have a session devoted to the intriguing art of taking factual events and weaving fiction around them. This will call on the talent of those skilled at critiquing such as the very capable D.J. Taylor (often heard on radio 4) he is a mine of information on all things literary as well as a novelist and biographer.

Vernon Bogdanor is Britain's foremost constitutional historian and has a book on the political shapers of the last century being published this month, his insightful views will be tested in discussion with Simon Lewis of the popular podcast 'When it Hits the Fan'.

If you tend towards the more lyrical there are several world class poets, including witty Wendy Cope; Rory Waterman and John Greening. Others newer to the scene include Ramona Herdman, a graduate of the UEA Creative Writing MA.

The festival bookstall will have books by all the writers, and they will be happy to sign your purchases. Refreshments are available at each session. Select the sessions that capture



your interest; or buy a weekend ticket for all 6 and discover something new.

Tickets: Kings Lynn, Corn Exchange
<https://www.kingslynncornexchange.co.uk/theatre/whats-on/event/kl-literature-festival-2024/>

Some of you may feel that you too 'have a book inside you' and contemplate tackling this long-held dream, especially as winter approaches. Several of the authors will reveal some of the secrets about how they achieved their idea of seeing their work in print and on bookshelves. You can meet publishers and self-published authors who have tackled this seemingly insurmountable task. Our programme offers a chance to experience a wide variety of books and styles, presented and discussed by their authors in a friendly setting. Find out more, listen to writers debating and talk to them yourselves, ask them questions and join the discussion or just observe others doing so. Our overall aim is to convey the essential joy of the written and spoken word. We are known as 'The Small Festival with a Big Heart', come and discover why.

A new D I Keane novel by Ken Ward

Straw, Blood and Bones is Ken Ward's fifth novel in his DI Keane series and it sees the King's Lynn based DI embroiled in a murder investigation that exposes the dark underbelly of the local farming community and a dangerous web of drugs and greed.

Set in Sutton Bridge the story straddles the Norfolk and Lincolnshire border and as the case progresses it becomes complicated when trusted

allies show how easily money corrupts.

Born in 1960, Ken began writing seriously in 2008 after joining a local writer's group. Ken's first novel, *One Good Shot*, was published in 2010, and this was followed by *Tower of Silence*, *Knife of Honour* and *Time for Revenge*.

Straw, Blood and Bones was published in July and on 28th September Ken will be in Hunstanton signing copies (see advert on the facing page). He may also tell you a little about his next book that is coming in 2025!

Town and Around has two copies of *Straw, Blood and Bones* to give away in a competition. All you have to do is answer the following question:

In *Time for Revenge* where is the place where DI Keane likes to walk and think?

Send your answer with your name and address to:
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Please note we do not accept entries by telephone, text or social media.



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by the book
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The rich colours of autumn beckon..

The cosy season brings to mind warm, rich, earthy and golden shades. It stretches from almost vibrant reds and oranges through to deepest sea blues and softest apricot.

Marble have embraced the season with an autumn collection that combines these shades perfectly, and Cheryl at Allez Chic has picked out some super examples for the ladies of West Norfolk that are arriving in store now.

The shacket in the advert is a cotton rich, three colour check longline oversized jacquard knit with flattering forward seam hip pockets and button front, chest pockets and cuff detail.

Trends change but the shacket, a cross between a shirt and a jacket, has been around since the 1940s and is clearly here to stay as they are perfect for the crossover seasons of autumn and spring.



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You can be sure of a warm welcome at Allez Chic; we have free parking, and our customer service is second to none. If you haven't already signed up to our Smart Buyers' Facebook group now is the time - you'll be the first to hear about new arrivals and special events.

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Stunning new facility opens at Heacham Manor

The Wellness Centre at Heacham Manor is a brand-new space offering guests and locals the opportunity to reach their fitness goals and relaxation needs.

The quiet, more intimate space is absolutely perfect for both those who may be reluctant to brave the larger gyms, and those wishing to exercise on the latest cardio and strength equipment and follow up with a session in the beautiful Thermal Suite that incorporates a steam room, sauna and jacuzzi.



There are four treatment rooms that have been designed to be the perfect backdrop for holistic wellness practitioners and a studio for small exercise and relaxation classes. Full showers, toilets and lockers are in the changing rooms.

Leisure Manager James Hassall and his team offer a one-to-one gym induction to ensure everyone gets the full benefit from the strength equipment, treadmills, rowing and

step machines. The gym is of course equipped with mirrors so users can check their positioning and movement.



James Hassall

The Wellness Centre offers a holistic approach to fitness and relaxation. It is a sanctuary where clients are invited to discover the art of wellbeing, and practitioners offer a range of services including Reiki, massage therapy, reflexology and other disciplines.



This wonderful facility is open to everyone over the age of eighteen; for guests of Heacham Manor it is included in their stay, and local people are warmly invited to become a Gym and Thermal Suite member for £35 per month, with a discounted rate of £30 for members of Searles and Heacham Manor Golf Clubs. Benefits of membership also include discounts on food and drinks at the Pavilion.



The opening of the Wellness centre is just the latest development at Heacham Manor. Marketing Manager Carolyn Johnson said: "No 82 restaurant is proving to be popular with locals as are our Sunset Live events and we are continuing to invest in new and improved facilities that will be open to the community - there will be more to report in the coming months in Town and Around!"

Membership enquiries:
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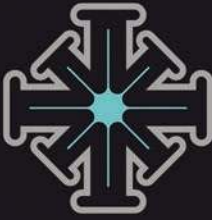
We believe in a holistic approach to fitness and relaxation. Our carefully curated amenities are designed to support you on your journey to become your best self, ensuring every visit leaves you feeling better than before. Paired with Heacham Manor's peaceful grounds The Wellness Centre is a tranquil destination to achieve your personal physical and mental health goals.

Open 7:30am - 8:00pm daily.

We have a limited number of Gym and Thermal Suite Memberships available at £35 per month.

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Introducing Aqua Jet



After 20 years working for a Norfolk business, local man Michael Mulvaney has started up his own business, Aqua Jet Drainage Solutions, servicing the King's Lynn and West Norfolk area. They offer low cost drainage services to both residential and business properties and can help with drain and toilet unblocking, high pressure jetting, innovative 'No Dig' repairs, drain camera surveys, pipe tracing and diagrams and new homeowner surveys.

So if you have noticed your drains smell nasty, your water takes a while to drain away after you pull the plug, or more obviously, if your toilet or drain covers are overflowing then please give Aqua Jet Drainage Solutions a call on 01553 611621, 07398660743 or email info@aquajetdrainage.com.

Talk at Little Massingham Church

Rosemary Jewers

The Friends of St Andrew's Church Little Massingham will be holding an early evening talk highlighting one of 25 new national landscapes recovery projects. The West Norfolk Nature Network stretches across 40,000 acres and several villages including Great and Little Massingham.



The talk covers how anyone can become involved through Wild East, a movement of mass participation in nature recovery.

The talk will be given by Oliver Birkbeck on Thursday, the 12th of September, arrive from 6.00 pm talk starts at 6.30 pm.

There will be a retiring collection all donations for Little Massingham Church roof.

More at FOSALM.org

'Love Your Market Town' grants

The 'Love Your Market Town' fund is offering grants of up to £2,000 to groups and businesses in Breckland and West Norfolk who want to increase visitors to their area.

The scheme is supported by Norfolk County Council, Breckland Council and the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk.

Councillor Fabian Eagle, cabinet member for economic growth at Norfolk County Council, said: "I am really passionate about our market towns and how important they are to our local economy. This scheme, based on a successful pilot last year, asks local businesses and groups to develop new ideas to give local residents a great reason to visit their town centres."

Applications are welcome from any local groups or business with a brand-new idea to boost footfall.

Last year, the fund received a diverse range of applications and supported a number of successful projects. Among them was a collective of knitting groups from Swaffham who came together to produce a distinctive display that decorated the town's Buttercross landmark. The fund also supported a food festival, outdoor cinema screening and a local pride event.

Councillor Simon Ring, deputy leader of the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk, said:

"We are excited to be funding the Love Your Market Town initiative again this year so that we can back the very best ideas to generate footfall and increase activity in our local market towns."

The fund is open to groups in Attleborough, Dereham, Swaffham, Thetford and Watton in Breckland. In West Norfolk, ideas are welcomed from Downham Market, Hunstanton and King's Lynn.

Businesses and community groups have until 5pm on Friday 13 September 2024 to submit their expressions of interest. A series of sessions will be held in Autumn 2024, where shortlisted local groups or businesses will be invited to present their ideas to a panel of judges.

For more information and to submit an expression of interest, visit norfolk.gov.uk/loveyourmarkettown

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Borough Council news

Terry Parish

Borough Councillor Heacham Ward which includes Sedgford and Fring

I will start with something good. I went to the outside presentation of 'The Importance of Being Earnest' at Sedgford Village Hall attended by 160ish people. It was both an excellent performance by the Rain and Shine Theatre Company and excellent organisation by the village hall committee and their volunteers. Sedgford is becoming, has become, a centre for an entertaining programme of drama and music. I hesitate to say all this because it will be necessary to book tickets earlier.



Back from the imaginary to the real world, planning enforcement. This the procedure by which planning decisions contrary to someone's (applicant, landowner) wishes are, if necessary, enforced. That is, made to happen. If people were honest and right minded there would be no need for enforcement as people would accept the decision that has been made. However, it seems that people, too many people, just carry on regardless and ignore the planning decision. Much officer time and resources then must be expended to coax the malcontents to do the right thing. This will involve letters, emails, visits to the site, and legal actions including injunctions and court appearances. A huge drag on public finances and officer time which can take months. In the meantime, whatever the problem is, continues and the other side of the coin, the members of the public the enforcement action is created to protect, must put up with whatever poor situation and bad behaviour persists.

Unfortunately, a very bad example of denying planning enforcement is happening now within the planning saga called Fenway Heacham. A small book would have to be written to place it all in context as it all began maybe 6 years ago. How it will pan out and when is anyone's guess. Many people are involved in pursuing the matter.

This is not the only bit of nonsense in Heacham, there is another dispute of long standing at South Beach and a problem which may be persisting on the A149 near Lidl. Other matters arise from time to time,

and it would not be an exaggeration to say that Heacham generates very significant work for the enforcement component of the planning department of the Borough Council.

The Borough Council Local Plan is out for consultation on its Major Modifications as suggested by Planning Inspectors during their examination of it earlier in the year. Details are available on the Local Plan Examination webpage, and you have until 2nd October to comment.

You will find large sections of the plan, originally consulted upon, crossed out and large sections in red which are new policies or interpretations of policies. I attended part of the inspection process in my capacity as the then Leader. I instructed officers not to kowtow to inspectors to an extent which would weaken the control Neighbourhood Plans have, so far, exercised about development outside development boundaries.

My reading of the consultation on Major Modifications suggest that they have, indeed, thrown in the towel and jumped after it. Read the deleted (lined through) current sections 4.1.21, 22, and 23, Neighbourhood Plans policy, and compare that to words within Major Modifications 5, New Spatial Strategy, Housing Supply, and the new policy on Neighbourhood Plans, the new Policy on Windfall Development, and the new policy on Residential Development on Windfall Sites. There is much more, but I point you in those directions. I recommend that anyone, Parish Council or individual, who does not want to let the dogs loose on development which will extend boundaries (and why are they called such if, suddenly, they are not), makes objections to these proposed changes.

If it wasn't enough to do objecting to local proposed changes brought about by outside interference (inspectors), we will soon see what the government proposes to change in the National Planning Policy Framework. Those will be revealed to local planning authority authorities for consultation soon. Proposed changes will not be good news for anyone outside London, and consultation will be, send out some papers, ask people to comment, then ignore what you don't like. A bit like all such consultations unless sufficient fuss is made. I urge you to take an interest and, if so moved, make a fuss. Write to your MP, put a letter in the paper, object to your councillors.

On another matter. I had a 'phone call about why the road gutters were not swept after the weeds had been killed. I then lost the number, so my apologies to whomever it was. I haven't found the answer yet. The issue really is why do we have to have weeds in the gutters killed. They should not be allowed to grow there in the first place. The action should be, remove weeds physically then regularly sweep gutters to prevent the build-up of soil.

Time moves on and it will be Autumn when your read this. Storm clouds approach.



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The end of an era and a local family business

Johnson's Gift Shops Ltd 1963-2024

After sixty-one years the Johnson's Gift Shops are to close in November. Here, the family write about the history of their business.



Andrew, Stephen, Elaine and Joyce Johnson

The late Basil Johnson (1929- 2019) started Johnson's Gift Shops in 1963 with £100 he'd earned running a kiosk outside the Blue Lagoon swimming pool on Hunstanton seafront. He ran the kiosk for five years whilst also taking on 5-7 Marine Arcade in 1964. During this time two kiosks were washed away during high tides. In 1965 the company expanded and took on 3-4 Marine Arcade, selling beach goods, gifts, toys and clothing.

In 1968 Basil's son Andrew joined the business and became a partner. Soon after this they purchased 40 Westgate where they sold wool, gifts and top brand toys. With the expansion of the business Basil's son James and Andrew's fiancé Elaine, also joined the team and the limited company 'Johnson's Gift Shops' began. With Basil at the helm, his wife Joyce doing the banking, son James taking care of the accounts, Elaine running the wool shop and Andrew in charge of buying and running the seafront shops it was a real family business. Still selling traditional beach goods and gifts Andrew later began printing t-shirts and hats. Over the years Johnson's has been a go to shop for the latest crazes including the Hippy Bell, the Clackers and more recently, loom bands, fidget spinners and friendship bracelets.

In January 1978 the seafront shops were badly damaged by a tidal surge that washed away the pier and flooded large parts of Hunstanton and Heacham. With help from fantastic staff and friends the shop was back open for the main season and further expansion began. With three shops in Hunstanton and further shops in Fakenham and Swaffham.

In 1994 Basil and Joyce retired leaving their shares to grandson Stephen who still runs the company today. By the late nineties with summers busy in Hunstanton, to keep staff all year round, Johnson's took on short lease shops in Thetford over the Christmas period and a shop in Sheringham which Stephen ran for five years.



*Above: Stephen, Andrew and Toby Johnson at the seafront shop
Below: Andrew with his 99-year-old mother Mrs Joyce Johnson*



In 2006 James left the family business to begin his own accountancy firm, James Johnson Accountancy. With the decline in the wool trade the decision was made to close the town shop and rent it out to WH Brown, leaving Elaine, Andrew and Stephen to run the sea front shop and enjoy more family time during the winter.

In 2018 Andrew retired and Stephen took over the company. With Elaine also retiring last year it was time for Stephen's son Toby to join the business.

Having been trading on the seafront in Hunstanton for 61 years and hoping to continue with the fourth generation of the family next year we were devastated to hear that our lease would no longer be renewed.

Our last day of trading will be Sunday 3rd November when we'd like to invite all past and present employees to come and celebrate our family's achievement by raising a glass with us at 3pm.

We'd like to thank all of our customers, staff and friends for their help and support over the last 60 years!

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Wendy Warner's plant of the month - Euphorbias

Garden Euphorbias, also known as 'Flowering Spurge,' are a great addition to the garden as many are evergreen and they come with very attractive foliage and some striking and unusual flowers. The Euphorbias mentioned in detail here are all shrubby varieties, but there are other herbaceous and groundcover types that will die down to the ground in the late autumn and re-emerge in spring. The evergreen varieties have a shrubby framework of branches creating a permanent structure and tend to grow as quite a uniform mound reaching approximately 40-60cm.

They prefer a well-drained, light soil in full sun and dislike cold, waterlogged soil and are considered drought tolerant once established. Don't overfeed Euphorbias as this can cause soft, tall and floppy growth. They are relatively easy to grow and add colour, structure and texture to mixed planting schemes, making them a great companion to perennials and shrubs.

There are so many wonderful varieties of Euphorbia, all very different in their colours. "Ascot Rainbow" has gold and green variegated foliage, tinged pink in colder weather, with flowerheads of green bracts with central red flowers from late spring to mid-summer. "Galaxy Glow" (pictured top right) has unusual new pinkish growth along with the flowers starting green and slowly



grow through a range of pinks which contrasts beautifully with the mid-green foliage.



"Glacier Blue" (above) is probably my favourite as overall it has an unusual, striking, greyish appearance. Individually the narrow blue-green leaves are each strongly edged in

creamy-white and it has large clusters of cream flowers with a green eye in spring and summer. This variety will really stand out if positioned in front of dark green or burgundy leaved plants.

"Ruby Glow" is another stunning variety with new leaves emerging bright red, darkening with age to maroon and dark purple highlighting the zingy lime green flowers from March to July. "Black Pearl" has lime green flowers with a black eye over mid-green leaves. Larger than most, Euphorbia x pasteurii "Honey Pot" will reach 100cm x 150cm and has yellow-green foliage with a bold central stripe with red tints in the winter. The heads of long-lasting, small yellow-green and orange flowers appear in late spring and are honey-scented.

All euphorbias contain a milky sap which with contact can cause eye and skin irritations. It is therefore advisable to wear gloves when handling these plants and not to position them where people or pets are likely to brush past them.

As well as these garden varieties there are many more types of Euphorbia grown for both the garden and as houseplants including Euphorbia milii, commonly known as "Crown of Thorns" and a widely recognised Christmas houseplant, Euphorbia pulcherrima, the Poinsettia!



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SNETTISHAM GARDENING CLUB

We would like to take the opportunity of thanking all those who participated in our Open Show on 13th July. It was great to see some non-members joined us and of course the Junior Section was excellent once again, such imagination and talent we have coming along. We were also very pleased to welcome so many visitors and perhaps the show will encourage more of you to join the club or just take part next year.

We are also pleased to say our members who constructed a Garden at Sandringham Flower Show won a Large Gold and Best Exhibit trophy in the small Garden section and congratulate and thank them for their achievement.

At our meeting on Wednesday 25th September we will welcome Nick Grounds NAFAS Demonstrator who will show us how to make arrangements using materials from our gardens. You are welcome to join us. Meetings start at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall, Old Church Road Snettisham.

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



A special flower bed had been designed and planted by the partnership of the Men's Shed and the In Bloom team as part of the town's celebration of the In Bloom anniversary. It celebrated In Bloom along with 60s Flower Power Fashion, 60s best decade of music and 60s friends holidaying in campervans!

The Hunstanton and District Festival of Arts also played their part having held tile painting workshops; the resulting tiles had been installed on the walls of the Esplanade Gardens toilets.

Anglia in Bloom



Judges Philip Peacock and Kim O'Brian were in Hunstanton on 23rd July for the 60th anniversary edition of the competition. They were escorted around the town by Hunstanton in Bloom's Carol Bower and Head of Open Spaces and the Borough Council Chris Durham.

Prior to their arrival the Borough's Open Spaces Team, volunteers and Hunstanton's Men's Shed members were putting the final touches



to displays and ensuring everything looked spic and span.

At the sponsored beds in the Esplanade Gardens Rotarians Christine and Jean-Marie Vernon joined Gwyneth Atkinson, Graham Wells and Sandra and Ken Sach from the adopt-a-bed team for some last minute dead-heading.

Sandra and Ken had earlier been presented with a certificate of recognition for all their achievements in the 2024 Anglia in Bloom Campaign.



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"In nature, nothing is perfect and everything is perfect. Trees can be contorted, bent in weird ways, and they're still beautiful." – Alice Walker

September marks the transition from summer to autumn in the UK, providing a perfect time for gardeners to prepare for the colder months ahead while enjoying the last blooms of the season. Here's a comprehensive guide to gardening tasks, key plants that look good, and design tips for this month.

Just remember, nature is perfectly imperfect, do not worry if your garden is not symmetrical, or a tree grows slightly away from the prevailing wind. Embrace your garden/patio or balcony and it's natural, evolving beauty.

Key Gardening Tasks

Vegetables: Continue harvesting beans, tomatoes, courgettes, and cucumbers.

Fruits: Pick apples, pears, and plums before they become over-ripe.

Bulbs: Plant spring-flowering bulbs such as daffodils, crocus, and tulips.

Perennials: Plant hardy perennials and divide overcrowded ones.

Mowing: Continue to mow the lawn but raise the cutting height.

Scarifying: Remove moss and thatch with a scarifier.

Aerating: Spike the lawn to improve drainage and aeration.

Weeding and Mulching

Keep on top of weeds to prevent them from seeding.

Apply mulch to borders to retain moisture and suppress weeds.

Trim hedges and shrubs to maintain their shape.

Deadhead faded flowers to encourage new blooms and tidy up the garden, but not too much, remember wildlife enjoy the fallen leaves and seed heads.

Key Plants that Look Good in September

Asters (Michaelmas Daisies)

These perennials offer a burst of late-season color in shades of purple, pink, and white.

Sedum (Stonecrop)

Sedums have fleshy leaves and clusters of star-shaped flowers that bloom in late summer and autumn, attracting bees and butterflies.

Chrysanthemums

These flowers come in various colors and shapes, adding vibrant hues to the garden.

Rudbeckia (Black-Eyed Susan) Known for their bright yellow petals and dark centres, or autumnal tones, rudbeckias bring a sunny appearance to the autumn garden.

Dahlias

With a wide variety of colours and forms, dahlias continue to bloom until the first frosts.

Hydrangeas

Hydrangeas, especially the paniculata and arborescens types, provide large, showy blooms that change colour as they mature.

Heuchera (Coral Bells)

These plants are grown for their colourful foliage, which can be burgundy, purple, lime green, or silver.

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Nature notes with Carrie Carey

Seabirds

It is ostensibly insignificant silhouetted against the vast blue sky. In fact, you would hardly notice it at all. High overhead it dances in a vortex of air, then hovers momentarily before being caught by the next breath of wind and moving on. A streak of shimmering yellow dances beneath etching the sky with its calligraphy script. Once released into the wild, it can cover vast distances potentially soaring up to five miles above the earth. Barely visible, this creature usually travels solo, but occasionally you may see them in greater numbers. Through cityscapes, over heathlands and forests, across rivers and concrete jungles they tumble and cavort until their migration brings them to the sea. Their natural buoyancy allows them to float carefree, unaware of the danger they present to marine life. With their vivid colours and frayed edges, helium balloons resemble jellyfish or squid and are readily gulped down by hungry marine mammals and seabirds. Oceanic pollutants, alongside climate change, loss of habitat and overfishing are all taking their toll on sealife.



Tern and chicks

As an island nation, the UK holds significant importance for seabirds with over eight million birds of various species nesting along our coastlines. And while boisterous Gulls may appear to dominate coastal territories, 25 species of seabirds breed here. Charismatic Puffins with their distinctive clown-like features, slender necked Gannets whose striking blue eyes give them an intense gaze and graceful Little Terns are among the species facing growing pressure from many sides. Some species such as Guillemot,



Ringo parent and chick

Sandwich Terns and Great Cormorant have stable populations. Others have increased, often linked to action taken by conservationists to reduce predation, protect breeding sites and limit human disturbance. Seabirds tend to reproduce very slowly; some species do not breed until they are several years old. Typically, adult pairs lay just a few eggs each year or may decide not to breed at all. Safe, undisturbed and protected nest sites are crucial to enable populations to recover which is why you will find areas of beach on our reserves earmarked for nesting Ringed Plovers. These birds nest on open stretches of shore between the high tide mark and the top of the beach. Nests are little more than a shallow dent in sand or shingle and egg markings make them almost indistinguishable from small pebbles. This may fool some predators, but it also puts them at risk from beach goers oblivious to their presence. This year, despite a particularly challenging start, Ringed Plovers at Titchwell Marsh reserve experienced a successful breeding season. Conservation management teamed with public support has seen a number of breeding pairs fledge young chicks.

Beaches are not only important nesting sites but also home to diverse ecosystems like rock pools, dunes, and strandlines. This belt of organic matter accumulates along the high tide mark. It is a cradle for biodiversity providing food and shelter for a unique

community of inhabitants. It rarely freezes so affords ideal conditions for some species to live here all year round. Ragged lines of seaweed, deposited by high tides and left to decompose, attract Pipits, Gulls and wading birds which feed on small invertebrates living among the flora. For coastal reserves such as RSPB Titchwell Marsh, it's a wonderful place to watch seabirds foraging through piles of mermaid's tresses or swooping down on unsuspecting prey.

The strandline is also the final resting point for human debris discarded by the tide. It's here that empty beer cans, food packets and bottle tops mix with Wrack and Sea Spaghetti and where the sinister remnants of party balloons lie functionless without form. But it's not all unwelcome news! The impact of debris on our shorelines and marine wildlife means that more of us are becoming 'plastic conscious'. We're using less, recycling more and making our views as consumers well known. We've drastically reduced the use of one-time plastics, said no to plastic straws, banned the use of microbeads and are choosing reusable coffee cups. What started as a drop in the ocean has turned into a wave of societal change which is fantastic news for seascapes and marine life. It's definitely something to celebrate, but let's leave the balloons behind at this party!



Titchwell beach west



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Glorious arrangements on display in 14th Century Norfolk church

From Iceland to Australia and Jamaica to Germany the world of flowers displayed at St Mary's Church, Old Hunstanton was a sight to behold.

A team of twenty-seven arrangers co-ordinated by Gary Bocking completed twenty-nine displays in the beautiful, ancient church between Wednesday and early Friday morning with a small contingent putting the final touches to the arrangements before the doors opened to the public at 10am.



Gary and Sarah Bocking

Nearly 2,000 visitors passed through the doors, and many exclaimed over the abundance and quality of the arrangements.



Over at the Village Hall (via free shuttle bus) visitors were able to buy bric a brac, pre-loved clothes and books and freshly baked cakes. Much fun was to be had at the tombola and the kitchen provided delicious lunches and teas.

The hog roast was a sell-out, with 2nd Sunset playing to 200 enthusiastic dancers. On Sunday afternoon the dog show provided much entertainment for dog lovers and in the evening we were treated to some rousing music by Hunstanton Brass Band at Songs of Praise.

Mike Tuffs praised the efforts of the seventy-plus volunteers at the annual helpers' sausage sizzle and, to those who were unable to be there, and to all the visitors: a huge thank you! The Festival doesn't happen without you.

Funds raised from the Open Gardens, The Quiz, the visit to the Stud and the Flower Festival are shared between the Village Hall and St Mary's Church.

Next year's Flower Festival will be our 50th Show so, if you have any memories or photos of earlier Festivals, please contact Caroline Richardson on 07740 178372 or carolinerichardson01@googlemail.com



Flower Festival at Hunstanton Methodist Church

Taking Anniversaries as their theme, the first flower festival at the church in Austin Street was a delight and the nine creators involved found an interesting and diverse collection of subjects to represent in flowers; everything from Noddy to the RNLI and hymn writers to Abba.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar - 55 years



Allied landings
1944 - 80th

The festival ran from Friday 26th to Sunday 28th July culminating in a Songs of Praise that complemented the hymns that had been depicted in arrangements. All profits went to the RSPCA and RNLI.



Sabine Baring Gould death 100 years



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The Barking Bugle - Summer News



We would like to woof huge thanks to all the humans and furry friends who took part in the annual fun dog show at the Old Hunstanton Flower Festival at the end of July. Big barks also go to Fran Woodbine and Kate Williams for doing the judging and making it such a pawsome event. As we always say here at the Barking Bugle, it doesn't matter whether you win a rosette or not because you all go home with the best dog in any case! However, the most important thing to repawt is that as a result of the show, the grand some of £150- was raised for Quackhouse, a small, independent place of rescue located in Hunstanton, who take in injured and abandoned ducks and ducklings, as well as other wild birds. Tracy and her daughters, Trinity and Sasha, look after and rehabilitate them with the intention of releasing these beautiful animals back into the wild when the time is right. It all started a few years ago when a single duckling was found drowning and abandoned in a pool. Quackhouse is non profit and rely on the generosity of others to fund the rehabilitation process. I think you'll all agree that this is such a wonderful cause!

Recently my sister, Miss Zsa Zsa, and I had a great time exploring Bunting's Field which is adjacent to Snettisham village. We were there at the official opening of the 10 acre field which is now free to responsible members of the public and their four legged friends. Dogs are allowed off lead but please be aware that this is not an enclosed field and there are busy roads nearby. There is no on site parking but it is easy to reach on foot from the village. Make sure your human picks up any mess their pooch may leave behind and pops it into the bags and bins provided. Many thanks to our pals at Wild Ken Hill for making this possible. Have fun if you go and please feel free to drop us a woof or two about your experience if you have the time!

Woofs Ziggy Bear,

Senior Repawter The Barking Bugle

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BRANCASTER VILLAGE HALL (BVH)

Geoff Wingrove

Once again, I can report that BVH continues to go from strength to strength with increasing support from the community and hard work from volunteers; the summer programme has been extremely full and successful to date. All the regular groups are flourishing, and much use is made of the tennis, pickleball and pétanque facilities.

BVH has also been host to a hugely successful Open Studio/Artists residency run by Lillian and James: they have had such a warm welcome that the residency has been extended for another year. Besides the Art Exhibition, the Bank Holiday “Bash” and cash bingo, the highlight of the year so far has been the Summer Party. Although the weather was not always kind, the afternoon/evening was very enjoyable for all the community, with great music, food and the ever-popular Pimms tent.

Bar 71 continues to host skittles, darts and quiz nights, together with a Norfolk Super League darts match in early September. The Brancaster Stores/Post Office continues to increase its range of goods and services, and you are sure of a warm welcome there.

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

FROM THE BRANCASTER VILLAGE HALL ARCHIVE: THE SANDRINGHAM COMPANY MYSTERY PART 1: THE PRE-WAR YEARS

This is a story about an event which became a “cause célèbre” for many years after the end on the First World War. However, in order to understand this event and the reason it stirred so much interest, we need to go back into the 19th century and the history of Sandringham House and estate and its links with the Royal Family.

Victoria and Albert were becoming increasingly concerned – even alarmed – about their eldest son Edward, Prince of Wales, known by the family as Bertie. He had become very interested in ladies and surrounded himself with company his parents felt was leading him astray. Edward spent a period attached to an army unit which was based in Ireland; here he spent three days with an actress, which soon became known to Victoria and Albert. On Edward’s return from Ireland Albert visited him in Cambridge to remonstrate with him about his behaviour, then died just two weeks later. Victoria always blamed Edward for Albert’s death and became even more alarmed at Edward’s increasingly louche life in London, surrounded by what she regarded as disreputable influences.

Prior Albert’s death, he and Victoria had decided that Edward should marry. He was sent to Germany, ostensibly on a royal visit, but actually to meet Princess Alexandra of Denmark, who they thought would be an ideal bride; it was also agreed that they should look for a house away from the attractions of London. In 1862 Victoria purchased Sandringham, which came with 8000 acres; Edward and Alexandra married the following year, and Sandringham became their country home.

The Sandringham site has been occupied since Elizabethan times, but a new house was built in 1771; it was substantially remodelled during the early part of the 19th century. Edward decided to rebuild the house completely between 1870 and 1900 in a Jacobean style, and also to develop the estate: the reconstruction resulted in a much larger building more appropriate for a royal household.

Victoria’s reason for purchasing Sandringham had been to keep Edward away from London as far as possible. In this she failed, as Edward continued his rather dissolute life and took a number of mistresses, some of whom stayed at Sandringham as guests of him and Alexandra. Edward established Sandringham as one of the finest shooting venues in the country and every year prodigious numbers of birds, mainly pheasants and partridges, were killed.

Edward became king – Edward VII – on the death of Victoria in 1901. Tensions were increasing on the continent, particularly with rivalry between Germany and France, the gradual disintegration of the

Austro-Hungarian Empire and the rivalry concerning overseas colonies. Germany was in effect ruled by the Kaiser, Wilhelm II, who was somewhat erratic in his behaviour and judgement. Strangely, most of the European royal families were related: indeed, Wilhelm was a grandson of Victoria’s and Albert’s nephew.



In 1906 Edward felt that the Sandringham estate should show some leadership in supporting the regular army; he asked his head agent, Frank Beck, to investigate establishing a volunteer company and act as its senior officer. There was some enthusiasm for this idea and Frank Beck soon had 100 volunteer recruits from the estate doing regular drills and training exercises.

In 1908 the government minister Haldane introduced far-ranging reforms of the army, a major part of which was the creation of territorial units based on the county regiments of the regular army. The Sandringham Company of volunteers was subsumed into the territorial force and became a company in the 5th Battalion of the Norfolk Regiment. Training and drills continued, along with summer exercises, becoming much more serious as tensions increased on the continent. Captain Frank Beck was the company commander, and the other officers and NCOs reflected the roles of men on the Sandringham estate.

Edward and Alexandra took a keen interest in the Sandringham Company and would review it whilst it was together with the rest of the 5th Battalion. Edward died in 1910; his eldest son, George, was crowned George V and continued to support the Sandringham Company.

Members of the territorial force were aged between 17 and 35 years old. They signed up for four years’ service and were expected to attend a number of drills and parades – 40 in the first year – lasting at least an hour. Each battalion had eight companies totalling 1009 men, and each county regiment was allowed to recruit three territorial brigades initially: this was substantially increased as the war went on. In order to avoid confusion, territorial battalions were given numbers as fresh ones were raised, becoming 1/5, 2/5, 3/5 etc. As we are concerned here with the first battalion, all references will be made to 1/5 from this point. Members of the force were paid a small remuneration for signing up – a shilling a day for privates; territorial units underwent training which included exercises with those of the regular army. The photos show Sandringham in 1910 and the Sandringham Company in 1906.



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The Snettisham Memorial Pavilion Fund

Mackenzie Large

I spoke to Edward Stanton, Chairman of The Snettisham Memorial Pavilion Fund, who explained the project.

The Snettisham Memorial Pavilion is a much-loved pavilion that sits in the middle of the village. It has been there for 74 years, built originally by returning veterans, youths of the village and tradesmen that gave their time for free in honour of the 15 men of the village that did not come back from World War Two. The funds were raised through public subscription; local people and local businesses, effectively like a 'DIY Big Build' before the BBC even thought of it!

The Pavilion became a living monument: for the last 74 years those 15 men have been remembered in every village sporting activity, fete, car boot sale and in every village national celebration.



Q: Why does the Pavilion need refurbishment?

A: Unfortunately, whilst the Pavilion is still much-loved, it is no longer fit for purpose. Since it was built, there has not been any significant investment in it. As things like safeguarding have moved on, the adjacent village school and youth sports clubs cannot effectively use it, for example because of the issues around mixing boys and girls adults and children. The building does not have adequate insulation, meaning it is too hot in summer and too cold in winter, so is environmentally unfriendly and costly to run. The away-visitor changing room is not up to the standards set by Sport England or the English Football Association so it effectively has only one, limiting use of the field. The building has few useable toilets and poor shower facilities that are no longer deemed appropriate for use. There is no proper disability access for spectators or participants and groundworks surveys have identified asbestos in the roof. So, although the building is much-loved and central to village life, it is no longer fit for purpose.

Q: What has been done so far?

A: A decision was taken that something needed doing rapidly because without significant capital investment, there was only one outcome: less sports and less people being able to use the Pavilion now and in the future.

A plan was designed by an award-winning architect from the village and went to the PARISH COUNCIL and the borough planners for consideration. Because it is a major building, in a central location, the conservation officer from the borough was involved and made recommendations. Views from local people were taken on board around the original features and facade of the building. The building is rare: it is one of 63 consecrated war memorial buildings on the national register to have year-round community use. Statutory consultees were involved including Sport England, the English Cricket Board and the English Football Association, who all agreed that the plans will fulfil the purpose of having room for multiple sports and mixed-sex sports, having changing rooms and toilet facilities that meet safeguarding and disability requirements and will be environmentally friendly.

Both the PARISH COUNCIL and Memorial Hall Trustees expressed their formal support for the plan in the planning process and outside of it but noted the significant amount of fundraising needed, and neither had the skillset or the time to do it. This is where the Committee came in - a group of individuals from the village who volunteered to raise the funds.

Since the project began in November 2021 the committee has raised £313,000, which equals a rate of around £10,000 a month! We believe this success is due to the rationale of the plan and the support from independent consultees. We also have the local MP James Wild as an active advocate, we have had support from the Mayor of King's Lynn, and the Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk, Lady Dannatt MBE, is the patron of the fund. Every time we get a funding application approved, it is a testament that others with expertise and funding feel we are doing the right thing!

We have had groundworks surveys completed and have achieved planning permission in perpetuity.

Q: Tell us about the Plans

A: With the building's perimeter, you are restricted from extending backwards. Extending the sides or the front would affect the features of the building, including the consecrated stone which was blessed by the Bishop of Norwich when it was opened in 1950. The only way to radically increase the size is to extend upwards. To minimise the intrusion, we are changing the pitch of the roof, but will be reusing the original tiles. The additional loft space will provide a kitchen space, a communal space, additional toilets and also includes a lift for disabled access, whilst freeing up much-needed space downstairs to provide 4 changing-rooms, two changing rooms for adult match officials and modern showers and toilets for teams.

The environment is being considered in every decision. It will have the most up-to-date standard of insulation, solar heating, ground-source heat pumps, LED lights and low-use water systems. If we can buy and deliver local, that cuts down the impact of the build, as does recycling and reusing materials like the roof tiles. The entire building will be Disability Discrimination Act compliant. The whole idea is to make the space as flexible as possible.

In the Pavilion, we have a Roll of Honour for the people who built the original building. However, we have not yet got the life stories of the 15 men who did not return from war. We are looking to do a permanent exhibition of the history of the Pavilion upstairs.

The 75th anniversary of the building is next summer, which coincides with the 80th anniversary of the end of World War Two. There will be national celebrations and we think that there could not be anything better than to have our refreshed Memorial Pavilion open for this celebration.

This will be a pavilion fit for everyone. Anyone who runs a club out of the Pavilion has a constitutional right to sit on the board of the operating committee, The Memorial Hall Trust.

Q: Tell us about the financial and other support

A: The Parish Council have put in £50,000 into the project out of 'reserve' funds, which does not affect their other projects or the precept. If we reach our goal of £500,000, it will mean that, for every £1 our village has put into the project, we have gained £10 from elsewhere. This £10 would not have come if it was not an ambitious project, that had passed scrutiny and planning permission, and that delivers major long-term outcomes.

Support from the community serves as a strong signal to potential funders. We have had support over the course of the project, from the initial launch where around 100 villagers turned up, to the 370+ signatures on our change.org petition, to the 100 who attended the Town Hall Dinner and 250 local residents who attended our barn dance this year. Even the primary school children raised an awesome £713 recently by doing a sponsored walk.

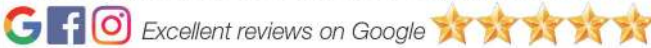
Although we are focused on significant funding pots, anything that any community group does not only allows us to evidence community support on our funding applications, but also provides a psychological boost to the fundraising team. Even just letters of support help!

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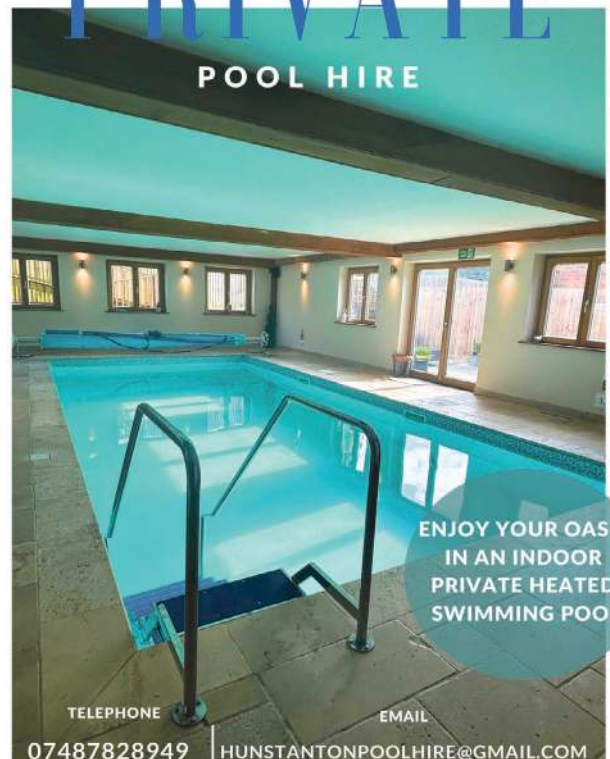
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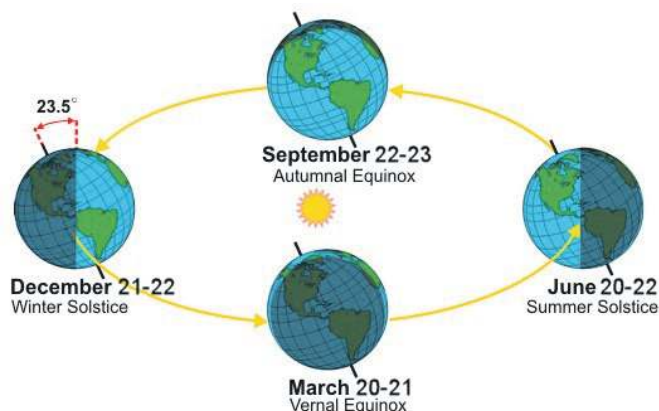
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The dark skies of West Norfolk

Terry Parish

Night skies are getting darker earlier and longer as Earth's orbit and its axis combine to tilt the northern hemisphere away from the Sun. The Sun appears lower in the sky and sets earlier and rises later. The 22nd is the Autumnal Equinox when day and night are of equal length. From the 23rd until 21st December nights draw in. All good news if the clouds stay away, and artificial lighting is off or controlled. Dark skies rank with wildflowers as an environmental gain.

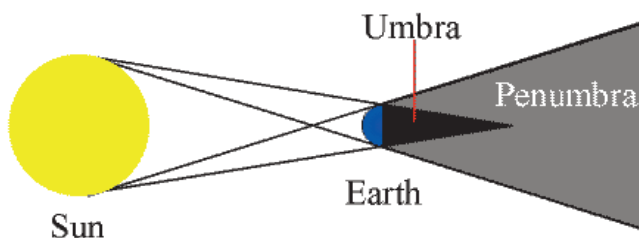


Enough slight rant. I am writing this the day after the Perseid peak. I saw only 8 plus 2 the night before. I did only stay out until about 12.45am but, in previous years, I have counted over 100 before then. Perhaps I should have made more of the previous night which was clear. Last night, following the hottest day of the year, had high thin cloud with a clear patch right overhead. Of those 8, 6 were very bright if short lived. With a clear sky they may have been spectacular. Anyway, I saw some, tick the box. It is an occasion a bit like Christmas but with no need for a tree.

I sometimes comment on wildlife experienced whilst looking up in the early hours and have had a hedgehog at my feet and a Perseid over my head. Last night didn't quite reach that dizzy height of environmental immersion but a hog or hogs were in the hedge, I heard one. So, whilst peering into the undergrowth with my red torch, I expect the sky was full of wonder. Note, a red torch, essential for astronomical observations as red light doesn't spoil night vision. Buy one on-line, multiple red LEDs are your best bet as red film can get scratched.

If you missed the Perseids, this is the meteor season and the Aurigids peak on the 1st, and the Southern Taurids start on the 10th. Sit outside in the dark on any clear night and look up. Give it 30 mins to let your eyes sensitise and be patient.

The Moon will enter the Earth's shadow at 2.45am on the 18th and a partial lunar eclipse will occur. It won't be dramatic as all that will be seen is a slight darkening of one limb and only 8% of the Moon will be obscured by 3.45am. The Moon will be within the half shadow of the Penumbra. However, it is a supermoon too (the Moon is full and a tad closer than average) and Saturn will be close.



The Moon seems set to be Chinese as that country is steadily achieving much with rover missions and robotic returns to Earth of lunar samples (Chang'e 6). They are also pressing ahead with a mission, Chang'e 7, to further investigate water availability, essential for a long-term human presence, whereas NASA has abandoned a

similar mission due to cost (VIPER, Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover). The Chinese want a lunar base by 2030 and, I am sure, will achieve it.

Saturn is at opposition on the 8th which means it is at its closest this



year and, consequently, at its brightest. It will be visible from about 9pm when it will be 110 above the SE horizon. By 1am it will be at its highest, 300 above the southern horizon, then it will sink towards the west, and be lost about 5am. The rings will be tilted towards us, but the planet will cut off a section behind it. So, if you have a telescope (including a birding 'scope) you will see the rings as a C on its back with Saturn between the 'horns'. Note that 'closest' is a relative term, Saturn will still be 805 million miles away.

The ringed planet will be visible all night long at magnitude of +0.6 all month. It will follow the ecliptic from SE to the SW and at a relatively low position in the sky as described above. It will appear as a yellowish dot which, once seen, is never forgot. On the 16th, at 10pm, it will be to the left of the Full Moon, on the 17th, to the right. Of it

Jupiter rises in the SE around 10.30pm. It is very bright with a magnitude of -2.4. Most of us will have to wait an hour or so for the gas giant to clear buildings and trees. Well worth a view through good binoculars or a small telescope. Count the Galilean Moons (4 if none are behind the planet). Note how they move even in one evening's observations and think of Galileo and how he challenged the Earth centric view of the Solar System.

Neptune is at opposition on the 20th but with a magnitude of +7.7 is only visible through a telescope. Use a 'phone app or website to locate it. Uranus is a tad easier to see, magnitude +5.7, but will still need good binoculars.

What of the rocky planets? Mars is an early morning object, rising in the SE about 11.30pm following Jupiter along the ecliptic. A magnitude of +0.6 makes it easy to see once you have found it. A red dot which NASA has just revealed has free water deep underground. Data from their Insight Lander, which has been recording Marsquakes for 4 years, has been analysed and indicates reservoirs of water miles below the surface.

Low in the east, difficult to see for most of us, Mercury will be potentially visible during the first two weeks. On the 5th it is at greatest elongation, as far from the Sun as it will appear. It has a magnitude of -0.2 but my experience is that it will be appear as a bright spark before dawn, rising at 4.45am.

That leaves Venus which will be, at magnitude -3.9, the brightest planet in the sky. However, it is very low in the west and will remain just above the horizon all month. Look for it after the Sun has set, scanning the horizon with binoculars (WHEN THE SUN HAS GONE). It doesn't set until 8pm and the Moon is close on the 5th.

There is a comet in the offing, Comet Tsuchinshan – ATLAS. On the 28th it will be very low in the ESE when it will be closest to the Sun on its narrow elliptical orbit. I doubt many will see it but contain your disappointment as it will brighten and move into our evening sky in October. Commentators will likely paint a picture of it as a heavenly herald. They are usually associated with disasters and the budget is

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due about then.

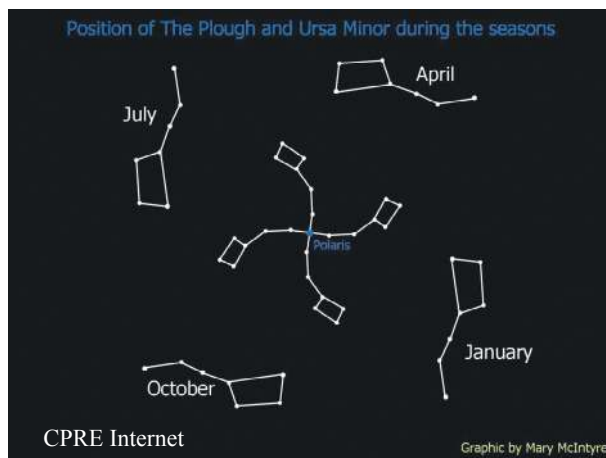
Look again for The Summer Triangle and the Square of Pegasus,



both asterisms, patterns of stars, as is the Plough currently rising in the NW and the location of one of my bright Perseids.

I am conscious that I have said little about the brighter stars in recent months. I will address this as nights darken in the hope that clouds will clear.

Find the planets again as the season changes and look forward to sparkling nights, I hope.





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NATIONAL COASTWATCH INSTITUTION (NCI) BRANCASTER

The summer weather has finally arrived and Brancaster beach and coast have been packed with hundreds of visitors: this is a time when the Coastwatch station is very busy. Watchkeepers have dealt with an overturned yacht at Brancaster Staithe, which turned out to have been abandoned; the station has also dealt with a lost child, demonstrating the crucial role it plays as the prime source of assistance for the public, and also as a collection point for straying children. This incident ended well, with a member of the public bringing the child to the station to be reunited with anxious parents.

This year is the 30th anniversary of the NCI, and a commemorative flag is currently travelling around all 60 NCI stations in England and Wales: Brancaster station flew the flag in mid-August.

NCI Brancaster has been selected as the nominated charity for Hunstanton Tennis Week and had an interactive stall on site to show visitors what the service does; it will also be serving refreshments at the Brancaster Staithe Shanty Festival on 14th and 15th September. The festival, which will be held at



New platform decking

Brancaster Staithe Village Hall, has attracted 17 groups this year.

It is pleasing to report that Kim, who featured in a recent photograph, has completed her training and is now a Certified Watchkeeper: many congratulations to her. There has been one new starter, and we wish Richard C every success in his training.



Watchkeeper Richard T is pictured here, monitoring the station's video screens; the second photo shows the station's new platform decking being constructed.

For further information about NCI Brancaster, please contact Richard Burrows, Deputy Station Manager and Watchkeeper on 07535 612777. You can also find us on Facebook, if you search NCI Brancaster.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Across: 1. Decant, 4. Falstaff, 10. Lampooned, 11. Ensue, 12. Iron, 13. Thundering, 15. Elitism, 16. Extras, 19. Reacts, 21. Rapport, 23. Diminuendo, 25. Tsar, 27. Grime, 28. Polonaise, 29. Overture, 30. Opuses
Down: 1. Dulcimer, 2. Composite, 3. Neon, 5. Andante, 6. Stereotype, 7. Assai, 8. Fledge, 9. Anthem, 14. Disconcert, 17. Acoustics, 18. Starters, 20. Sleeper, 21. Riddle, 22. Adagio, 24. Maine, 26. Snip



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Runcton Holme & Watlington 2nd Scout Group

Laura Leadbitter (Group Secretary) 07557196214

I last wrote when we had the North West Norfolk district camp coming up... WOW what a weekend in Sandringham that was. We had several Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Young Leaders taking part - a range of exciting activities had been arranged - from climbing, caving, axe throwing, grass sledging, crazy golf, kart racing, canoeing, to the classic camp fire with camp fire songs, and so much more. The feed-back and the glowing faces when the Young People returned to HQ and started talking about their experiences was overwhelmingly positive, and maybe a little tired. However, we did find that we need to update our camping equipment (Mainly the tents!) so look out for a fundraising BINGO coming soon!



There were Scouts from all age groups from across the county attending. It was lovely to meet and mix with other scouts - it as brilliant to see everyone making new friends, challenging themselves, working together, trying out new activities and learning new skills.



A huge thanks to the camp planning team and all the leaders and helpers that made the weekend possible. Especially Skip & Mrs Skip from our group - behind the scenes pre-camp organisation, weeks before the date, was truly tremendous.

In May we took part in the Watlington Church flower festival by creating a display of paper flowers, each section helped to make the display from recycled materials including old maps and the odd page or two of this newsletter! After the flower festival our display was donated to a local care home for their residents to enjoy.



In June we helped with a Litter Pick organised by Runcton Holme Parish Council - we donned out high-viz and grabbed our grabbers and collected lots and lots of rubbish!

At the Royal Norfolk Show we had two of our group nominated as "Diamonds" WELL DONE to Lily (scouts) and Ryan (young leader) - well deserved, they have made a real difference to themselves and our group by positively pushing themselves, bypassing their fears and encouraging the rest of the group to be just as amazing.

In July we had the NWN District Scouts Expedition Challenge Badge Weekend - a two-day hiking event of 12km each day. Sleeping in tents in Terrington HQ overnight, using compasses and the route map to find their way round. I am tired just thinking about it! Good work to those who took part - it was a rather wet July weekend and our group was exceptional.

"Outdoor in '24" is encouraging all Scout sections, from Squirrels to Network, to get outside throughout 2024. Each week each section has been doing a selection of things outside of the HQ hut, for example the Beavers completing their bicycle badges, the Cubs learning how to cross a railway track and the Scouts have been tomahawk throwing.

Our last evening of the summer before we break for the school holidays all sections met on Wednesday 17th July - the sun shone - we had a camp-fire, singing and s'mores. All parents, family and friends were welcome. We also said farewell to Gavin "Bagheera" our Cub section assistant leader - a big thank you to him for stepping up as a Cub Leader a few years ago.

During the summer holidays we are hoping to get together for a fundraising event (BINGO) and possibly an overnight camp at HQ.

We also have our AGM approaching and if anyone can spare about 10 hours a year to help behind the scenes as a trustee, a fundraiser, grass cutter or more please get in contact - we'd love to have some fresh ideas and new faces.

Lastly do you think you can help us - we need leader assistants to ensure our group can continue in September - can you see yourself



in a uniform helping Young People to discover new things? No special skills needed. We can create a rota so that it is not every week that you attend a session. There is a DBS check and some online training - which we can support you with. Beavers meet on a Tuesday 6pm to 7:15pm, Cubs meet on a Wednesday 6:30pm - 8pm and Scouts meet on a Monday 6:30pm to 8:30pm.



Wanted Adult Section Assistants

We do not have enough Section Assistants or Section Leader Assistants to keep the group open...

BEAVERS cubs SCOUTS

Are you able to help us?

Are you available on Monday or a Tuesday or a Wednesday Evening for a few hours - it does not have to be every week we can work out a rota.

You do not need any particular skills. There is a DBS check and some online training to complete - we can support you with this.

Please contact
Andy Nicol (Group Scout Leader) 07460870285
or Laura Leadbitter (Secretary) 07557196214

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Deepdale Festival 2024

Thursday 26th to Sunday 29th September

www.deepdalefestival.co.uk

In late September, Deepdale Camping & Rooms will be welcoming incredible artists and festival goers to the lovely surroundings of Burnham Deepdale for their annual music festival with a heart of folk – Deepdale Festival 2024

For anyone who has attended the festival previously, it won't come as a surprise that Chris Haycock has put together another fantastic line-up, including artists you really don't expect to find playing sets on an organic farm in the beautiful Norfolk countryside.

"There are a serious number of bucket list bands on the programme this year, artists who I've wanted to bring to Deepdale for a while. I love this job! The programme is almost complete, all the headliners are confirmed, just a few more local artists to book," said Chris Haycock, Festival Director

For four days at the end of September, Deepdale Camping & Rooms, Dalegate Market and Deepdale Farm become the festival site. The Brick Barn & Courtyard Stage run by Tim, and the Orchard run by Jo draw in hundreds of folk fans. Festival goers are at Deepdale for the music, bands they know and others that are new to them, they trust Chris and the Deepdale team to entertain them with a great selection.

On Thursday, the opening evening, Man The Lifeboats, great friends of Deepdale, will be headlining the Brick Barn stage. Evangeline Gentle, The Tin Heart Troubadours and The Browns complete the opening line-up.

Friday is the first full day of live music, Track Dogs, Bonfire Radicals, Christina Alden & Alex Patterson, and Kathryn Williams & Withered Hand headline. Music rotates throughout the day on The Orchard, Brick Barn and Courtyard Stage, 12 hours of incredible talent.

Saturday is another amazing day of live music. Skinny Lister, Granny's Attic, Lady Nade, and George Samsone & Matt Quinn are our headliners. And all three stages welcome local and national artists throughout the day.

Sunday, the final day of Deepdale Festival, welcomes Norfolk band Brown Horse as the closing act of the weekend, with The Henry Girls, Hawksley Workman, Polly Paulusma, Sarah McQuaid and Annie Dressner amongst many other superb artists. And Alton Wahlberg returns with his AWMTV programme of artists on Sunday morning in The Orchard.

Refreshments are provided by the team from Moongazer Ale, with food by The Wood Fired Food Co, Currylicious, Crafty Burger Company, The Nest, and Deepdale Café.



Hawksley Workman



Lucy Grubb



Erin Tasker



George Samsone & Matt Quinn

There is currently a waiting list for accommodation on site. But for locals and those staying elsewhere there are limited day tickets available for the whole festival or individual days.

Full programme & ticket information can be found on the Deepdale Festival website – www.deepdalefestival.co.uk

The Deepdale crew look forward to this very special festival, and look forward to seeing artists and music fans for a brilliant weekend.



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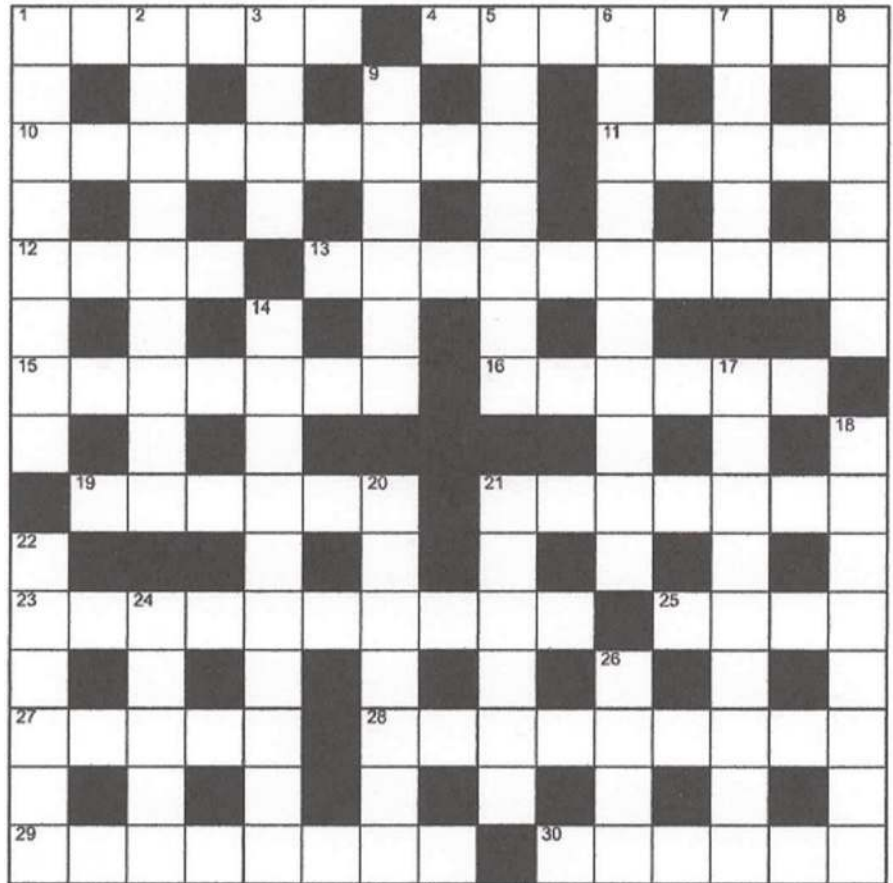
David Elsey's cryptic crossword

Across

1. Sing in harmony, missing interval to move to another place (6)
4. Make a fuss about last comic opera (8)
10. Made fun of light opera, initially done badly (9)
11. Apply for small part in Carmen, coming first – result! (5)
12. Heavy Metal – smooth? That's almost a paradox (4)
13. Tremendous work by Wagner repressed – and in his own country! (10)
15. With Handel it is mainly about wanting the best (7)
16. They are added to score for bit-players (6)
19. Cares madly about Tchaikovsky overture and conducts oneself (6)
21. Style of music not right for harmony? (7)
23. Duo in Med in concert notably getting quieter (10)
25. Sarti's Italian was lacking when performing for great potentate (4)
27. Britten opera Peter's sacrificed for electronic dance music ... (5)
28. ... lose piano arrangement for dance music (9)
29. One of 18 about to attend Open University (8)
30. Works with a number of old piano exercises (6)

Down

1. Old instrument that's been hammered (8)
2. Perhaps Mozart, to a large extent, accepted it being made up of distinct parts (9)
3. Latest musician one tips to become a shining light (4)
5. Neat and tidy, but rather slow (though quicker than 22) (7)
6. Model music producer needs cymbals to be heard (10)
7. Extremely musical lass aimed to enthrall (5)
8. Rear shelf has Prokofiev's 6th on it (6)
9. Article on The Mikado's opening song that



- provokes a powerful response (6)
14. Rattle record playing? Sure thing! (10)
17. Randomly applied stucco is a significant feature of any concert hall (9)
18. Preludes to get your teeth into? (8)
20. One is out to get unexpected hit record (7)
21. Strain emanating from instrument's not loud, but right (6)

22. A soldier engages in song and dance when instruction is "At ease" (6)
24. Outstanding English organist and composer (5)
26. Soprano gets a leg up after being cut (4)

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION
ON PAGE 46**

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Hunstanton Society

TALKS

We have almost organised a programme for our 2024/25 season. Just a couple of spaces to fill.

Our first Talk is taking place on Wednesday, 18th September 2024 at 7.30pm in the Heritage Centre. This will be a talk given by Ms Jill Bennett recently retired reporter for BBC Radio Norfolk who she had been with since 1980. In June this year she was awarded Honorary Freeman of the Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk. We are not sure exactly what she has decided to talk to us about but is likely to include some of the highlights of her long and interesting career.

HERITAGE CENTRE

Attendances at the Heritage Centre have been reasonably good of recent although we still experience the odd day when almost no one visits us which is very depressing for those volunteers on duty. Thankfully, it seems that the quality of our visitors has made for an interesting time for our volunteers, with quite a number enjoying discussions about people and places around Hunstanton. This is particularly relevant for our History Group who have been able to carry out research into various items of interest (see below)

We have now installed the laptop anchored to the worksurface in the Heritage Centre. This contains a complete listing of all the items catalogued. You and our visitors will be able to type in a reference to items of interest and come up with a full description, giving location and photo of each item.

HISTORY GROUP

This group continues to meet monthly, even throughout the summer with meetings on 20th June and 11th July. The next meeting will be

on 22nd August. The subjects discussed and researched during these meetings have included

1. Indexing of Hunstanton Newsletters/Town & Around for articles of interest. Advancing well with 4 members carrying out the work.
2. Work for a book or exhibition on people living in Hunstanton around 1910.
3. Research into James Willoughby, owner of the Temperance Hotel probably located at 8 Le Strange Terrace although another one called Roberts also recorded.
4. Some history about Peter John Warren whose name appears on the Hunstanton Cenotaph. He was air crew of a Wellington Bomber at the Battle of Heligoland and awarded some war medals that we have now been given.
5. Donation from a Hunstanton resident of some Mauchline Ware.
6. Research work into The Homestead, Sandringham Road.
7. Question as to whether the Golden Lion Hotel was, in its early days, actually called the New Inn or was it simply a 'new inn'?
8. 2 visitors came into the Heritage Centre in July asking about the WW2 Army Camp located on the estate beside the Lighthouse and whether we had any photos or other information. To date we have been unable to help.

If anyone has any information they would like to contribute please contact the Group's Secretary, Hazel Denslow, on 01485 297097.

HERITAGE OPEN DAY EVENTS

Fridays 6th and 13th September - Opportunities to visit the dungeon and climb the Hunstanton lighthouse tower. Parties of 10 at half hourly intervals from 10.30 through to 14.00 Not suitable for children under 8 years, people with limited mobility or pets.

Tuesday 10th September - Guided walking tours of the grounds of Hunstanton Hall starting at St Mary's Church, Old Hunstanton at 10.00 and 12.00 noon.

Wednesday 11th September - Guided walking tour around the fruit farm at Drove Orchards at 11.00 and 14.00

All these tours MUST be pre-booked by sending an e-mail to andrew.murray1942@gmail.com

Visit www.heritageopendays.org.uk for further details.

Coastal Stroke Support and Carers Group

Emma Shears

The Coastal/support and carers group based in Hunstanton aims to provide activities that improve the rehabilitation of strokes survivors and the welfare of their carers. The activities include art and craft sessions, where members are able to develop their artistic skills with the aid of local artists and teachers: classes include painting, flower arranging, mosaics, making cards and so much more.

Exercise is a good way of improving mobility and we provide regular gentle exercise classes to achieve this goal.

On a simple social level, you can also come along and meet others in a similar situation, have a cup of tea or coffee and a natter if you wish. We are a friendly group and you will be most welcome.

We meet at the Methodist Church, Austin Street, Hunstanton every Tuesday between 10:30 and 12:30. We would love to see you there.

If you have some spare time and may be looking to become a volunteer and would like to do something really rewarding, please come along and have a taster session at our group; you never know, it might be the thing for you.

Contact information.

Gemma Smith: Tel 01366 377803

Stroke Helpline: Tel 0300 3033 100

Website: stroke.org.uk

Hunstanton Voices

Hunstanton Voices, under the direction of the brilliant Liz Dark, ended the summer term with 'Musical Mayhem', a roof raising concert, which travelled from 'All That Jazz' through 'Rhythm of Life' to 'Aquarius' and many more. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and were able to donate

£250 to the Coastal Stroke Support and Carers' Group as a result.

The choir will be holding an open evening on Monday 23 September from 7pm. We meet at The Way Christian Fellowship, Downs Close, Hunstanton, PE36 5HU. All are welcome, no need to read music, no auditions, just come along and sing. We look forward to seeing you.

Enquiries to noelnewd@yahoo.co.uk



From left Susan Collins and Noelene Wood-Davies, with Emma Shears, treasurer of the Coastal Stroke Support and Carers' Group being presented with the cheque by Keith Fox.

Copy date for the October issue of Town and Around is Thursday 12th September. Please don't be late!

Hunstanton Croquet Club

Caroline Harper

The month has flown by and I have just realised that the deadline for publication in September is fast approaching and I have not drafted anything for this month's news from HCC!

The good reason for that is that July has been so packed with activity that I've hardly drawn breath. Right in the middle of our season, we have been hosting tournaments and visiting groups as well as resetting all the hoops to ensure that our lawns maintain their excellent condition.

As always, there is a dedicated core of extremely hard-working members who turn out regularly to keep the club running smoothly, but it has been very gratifying to see them joined by an increasing number of newer members who have been getting involved. You know who you are! You are the future of the club and it is great that you are picking up the baton and learning the ropes. (Ugh - ghastly mixed metaphors there!).

Events have included: - The annual visit from Hunstanton Golf Club Ladies - 24 of you this year and you are becoming so proficient that you need hardly any instruction! We have also hosted top players at the GC 0+ tournament; held our internal Green Shutters doubles competition; the hoop resetting mentioned above; the open GC singles and doubles invitation weekend and to finish off the month, our Members' Day when we enjoyed a picnic lunch together and played fun games. And the icing on the cake has been good weather! Some of the winners below:- Colin Spencer; Gren Perry; Hazel Denslow and Gerry Byrne; Thelma Betts and Peter Rule.







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Sporting corner with Tim Keogh

Hunstanton hosts UK Water Ski Racing National Championship

Hunstanton Water Ski Club hosted Rounds 4 & 5 of the UK Water Ski Racing National Championships over the weekend of the 27th & 28th July. Top skiers from across the country and abroad attended the graded racing in F1, F2 & F3 categories for Men, Women and Senior Opens as well as the amazing U8's, U12's and U15's Junior classes. F1 racing is the top level in Water Ski competition, where the boats can reach speeds of up to 100mph.

The weather provided perfect conditions for some exhilarating performances as the calm seas facilitated faster racing, much to the joy of the hundreds of spectators lined along Hunstanton's Southern promenade.

The most popular event, the F2 class, had seven participants, with skiers racing around a circular course for an energy sapping 35 minutes, plus one lap (the final lap enabling the skiers to manage their final ski run in).

Results:



Open Category - Ben Diaz



Ladies - Samantha Clark



Seniors - Nick Butler



Formula 1 - James Allen (UK)



U12's - Luca Manchett
(with proud mum Kim)



Formula 2 - Daryl Tindall (UK)



Formula 3 - Jordan King (USA)



U15's - Darcy Manchett
Former Ladies World Champion, Kim Lumley Manchett, was in attendance and was impressed with the standard of skiing on display. With three of her daughters racing, she was even more delighted when Luca won in the U12's class and Darcy in the U15's on both the Saturday and Sunday.

Commodore, Ashley Cooper, was amazed with proceedings, saying simply, "Thank you to all the volunteers and the committee members for their help in



The next generation - Darcy, Luca and Evie Manchett



Darcy Manchett
U15s

organising the weekend and, of course, to the wonderful supporters who turned out in their masses to follow the event. We were fortuitously blessed with ideal racing conditions and are already looking forward to next year's event".

On Saturday, 10th August,

there was a 'Fun Day for All' with various water sports themed activities laid on and throughout the day culminating in a performance by 2nd Sunset in the evening with sand dancing under a beautiful sunset.

The Club, which has been in existence since the 1960's, also provides a number of other facilities, including jet skiing and paddle boarding equipment, at their South promenade base in Hunstanton. They welcome members and non members alike where people can join the club for as little as £20 a year, which also gives you access to the wonderful club bar and its beautiful sunset views across the Wash. This is open on weekend evenings throughout the Summer. For more information about joining, please email hunstantonskiclub@gmail.com or just pop down to the Clubhouse.

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Photography

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King's Lynn Runners Commemorate the WW1 Battle of the Somme

A group from King's Lynn parkrun once again made the pilgrimage to the Somme area of France, to take part in what has become the annual 'Somme Poppy Run'.

The run, organised by local parkrun director Gary Walker, follows a route through what was, at the time, 'no man's land', separating the British Army from the Germans, who had already occupied the area for 2 years and who were well dug in, with bunkers 30 feet deep in places.



Runners gather for the briefing

The British, who had taken over the front line from the French just 9 months before planned a devastating 6 day bombardment, intended to destroy the German front line, making the battle a walk over for our forces, many of whom were 'Pals Battalions' made up of individuals who had been recruited together from local communities from across the country.

This was to be their baptism of fire but at 7.30am 1st Jul 1916 when the battle started, they were to find the German defences, which were stronger than anyone on the British side had imagined, were far from destroyed. The attacking troops were met with a withering hail of fire as they left their trenches to cross no man's land.

The day was to end with over 60,000 casualties on our side, of which over 19,000 were fatalities, the highest loss of life ever experienced by the British Army on a single day.

The battle, which it was thought would only last a few days didn't officially end until 18 November, by when the army had suffered thousands of casualties for very little ground gained.

The group, who meet each Saturday for parkrun in The Walks and Sunday mornings as part of the Globe Trotters running group, took little persuading to take part, although the nature of the terrain did take them a little by surprise. Far from being the flat French countryside

that many expected, it is quite undulating and tackling the steeper slopes was quite challenging.

The thought of running up the hills was, however, tempered by the memory of the British soldiers, tackling the same slopes, on a hot summer morning, each of whom would have been loaded with over 60 lbs of equipment, under fire from well positioned German machine guns.

The run finished at the magnificent Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, which contains the names of over 72,000 British and Commonwealth soldiers from the battle who have no known grave where the group laid a wreath commemorating those who died in the battle, several of whom were from the town.

The group organiser, Gary Walker, said "it was fitting that we should commemorate those who fought and died during the battle, in particular those from West Norfolk who answered the call to arms never to return."

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

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/gary-walker-1714757392193>



Somme Poppy Run 2024 – Thiepval shows:
 Back Row L/R - Grace Munson/Judith Berry/Owen Jary/Tammy Mounsey/David Grimes/Matt Austin/Elaine Lumley/Oakley Took/Julie Williamson/Michelle Futter /Christine Mooney/George Munson/Justin Walker/Gary Walker
 Front Row L/R - Lucy McDowie/George Mooney/Salina Cumbridge/Leo Munson
 Missing from the picture Dave Cumbridge

WEREHAM SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB – SINGLES COMPETITION

Karen Williams



The final of the Wereham Short Mat Bowls Singles Competition took place on Thursday, 1st August, at Wereham Village Hall. The winner was Mrs Joan Murphy, runner-up was Mr Geoff Smith.

Wereham Short Mat Bowls Club meet at Wereham Village Hall on Mondays, 7:30-9:30pm, and on Thursdays, 2-4pm. New members are welcome (charge per session is £2.50, including tea or coffee and a biscuit bar). For more information please contact Philip Pease on 01366 501330.

TRIPLE TRIPLES

Janet Kendal



In the Norfolk Bowls Association Ladies Coronation Triples competition, Hunstanton Bowls Club (Cromer Road), entered 3 Triples who all won through to the quarter-finals and semi-finals with Sue Pheasant, Lynn Humphreys and Debra Wright going forward to the final.



Steve Watson is player manager of Heacham Walking Football FC. Over 20 players turn out for training on Heacham FC's 3G pitch at 5pm every Monday (all over 50's welcome). Recently, Steve has had some serious health issues, resulting in him having a pacemaker being fitted at Papworth Hospital. He still turns out occasionally for the team.

Name: Stephen Paul Watson

Age: 64

Where born: Luton

Where live: Heacham

Star Sign: Libra

Occupation: Retired, but I was a train driver for 43 years in London.

Family: Wife, Julie, and son, Matthew, and two daughters, Sarah and Kirsty.

A Cats or dogs person: Dogs - we have three, Diesel, Turbo and Loco (all train related names!)

Sports Team Support: Chelsea

Biggest Break: Meeting Julie

Worst injury: I have been lucky really, except for the recent health scare and prolapsed discs.

Funniest memory: We did a calendar for the Railway Children charity, the voice for street children worldwide. This involved me driving a train naked and the look on the passengers as I passed through a station were unforgettable.



Hero/idol: José Mourinho

Hobbies/interests: Snooker and football, obviously walking football nowadays.

Best memory: The birth of my children.

Favourite food/cuisine: A good curry or a homemade shepherd's pie.

Favourite drink: Used to be lager but my tablets mean, alas, no more.

Non-alcoholic beer for me nowadays.

Favourite film: Blazing Saddles

Favourite holiday destination: Maldives and the Las Vegas.

Three items for a desert island: A hat, sun cream and non-alcoholic beer.

Favourite band/singer: ELO, Queen and George Ezra.

Worst habit: Biting my nails.

Pet hate: Dishonesty.

Biggest achievement in life: Becoming a train driver, becoming a family man and winning in Vegas. Moving to Heacham and meeting the Walking Football lot and the kindness they have all shown in raising money for various local causes.

Best advice ever received: Don't eat yellow snow.

What would you change in the world: Peace & Harmony, because we are a long time dead!

Like to live forever: No, well maybe.

Sporting corner with Tim Keogh

Rocking Horse

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



I suspect that when many of you see the words 'Rocking Horse' you immediately think of the nursery and small children. Rocking horses were very much in vogue when I was young, and so I never gave the words a second thought, until the Army sent me to Berlin in the mid-seventies.

If I could just remind you that at that time Berlin was a four-power city, well inside East Germany. The Russians occupied the east of the city and the British, French, and Americans each had a sector in the west. It was quite a strange environment being surrounded by walls and barbed wire.

My job was in the British Military Hospital as one of a team of three dentists, and it was not long after I arrived that I discovered the words 'Rocking Horse' and also 'Trial Canter' had a more sinister meaning. Technically the garrison in West Berlin was on permanent alert in case the Russians tried something silly. The Berlin airlift after the second world war being a prime example when they tried to starve the Allied garrison into submission.

In order to keep us on the alert we occasionally had vehicles driving around the British sector, normally at night with loudspeakers screaming 'Trial Canter', and all the British military had to drop everything and get into combat kit and report to their barracks at the double.

These moments were quite exciting but never really came to much, until one night in the dead of winter with snow thick on the ground, the loudspeakers shouted 'Rocking Horse, Rocking Horse', klaxons blared out, the racket was enough to wake the dead. Troops were called into their respective garrisons in response to a 'notional Soviet attack' all over Berlin.

That effectively meant all the British, French and American troops, but the small problem for me was that I had been partying. When I finally reported into the dental centre which, thankfully, was only 200 yards from my house, I was ordered to see my Commanding Officer.

It was then I discovered the Brigade Medical officer was missing, believed in a bar somewhere down town. The Colonel told me that until he turned up, my job was to be the Berlin Brigade Medical Officer. Despite my protests that I knew nothing about being a military doctor, I was ordered to the brigade medical centre which I found locked! This was somewhat of a surprise because the RAMC staff should have been there as we obviously had all been called out!

Eventually I was forced to kick the door down, because I had been told I would hear by phone what the purpose of the exercise was to be. After about an hour, probably going on 11.30pm, when the medical centre staff had drifted in, the phone rang with news that was catastrophic for me.

This Berlin wide exercise was based on the British Military Hospital's ability to cope with American casualties. We were told there were many casualties in a lorry that had overturned in the Grunewald Forest. My commanding officer then told me in the continuing absence of the brigade medical officer, who would definitely not be putting in

an appearance, it would fall on me with my medical training, to ensure the casualties were properly diagnosed, prior to being sent to the British Military Hospital after whatever emergency treatment was required to keep them alive.

He had to be kidding because I had managed to get out of any resuscitation training, and medical emergency training for several years, so I literally hadn't a clue what to do. The medical sergeant assigned to me was very encouraging and said he would be in my ear and tell me what was required. I had become the doctor effectively responsible for making the diagnosis and decisions about who was recoverable, and who was beyond help due to the limited emergency care at the scene. Quite a responsibility even although the casualties were fake, especially as I was about to find out.

As it happened, the phone rang at about 12.30 and we leapt into an ambulance and sped off to the Grunewald forest. The temperature was well below freezing, and when we turned up at the map reference, again my sergeant had to do the map reading, we were told we were too early, the American truck hadn't yet been laid on its side, and the casualties mocked up! There was no heating in the ambulance, and I sat shivering, but mainly through fear, because the Americans told us that CBS were there to film the whole thing for American television! From my perspective I was facing ruination being exposed as incompetent.

Shortly after two o'clock we swooped into action, and determined to look as if I was keen to get on with it, I jumped out of the ambulance which was still moving slowly into place, and promptly slipped on the ice and slid under the front wheels. Fortunately, I was able to extricate myself before becoming another casualty.

The whole thing was incredibly realistic with the overturned vehicle, and probably about 12-15 casualties lying on the ground. Thanks to my sergeant we managed to ensure the living were transferred to other ambulances and those playing dead or beyond recovery were solemnly accounted for, all of this under the close scrutiny of film cameras!

We were about to return to the ambulance congratulating ourselves on a job well done, when we heard a groan and realised, that we hadn't looked on the other side of the lorry! There were another ten or so casualties there, who were understandably about to suffer from frostbite as well as their fake injuries to contend with!

When we finally returned to the British Military Hospital, we discovered that the casualty medical officer responsible for keeping the injured alive hadn't turned up so another of the three dental officers was involved in diagnosis, resuscitation and treatment!

What was even more farcical was the British Military Hospital had only one surgeon, and only one active operating theatre, and so the third dental officer was administering the anaesthetic and resuscitating the casualties. As a consequence, many of the injured men in the field had to see three dentists before they got to be treated by a doctor! What a night!

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Sporting corner with Tim Keogh

All Local Junior Football Teams Gearing Up For The New Season

Who was the best footballer ever to play the beautiful game? - Pele, Cruyff, Beckenbauer, Best, Maradona, Messi or Ronaldo to name but a few. With the increase in popularity of the Women's game, Bronze, Kerr and Morgan are now also well-known names. Interestingly, every single one of the above comes from a different country where they were all undoubtedly exposed to their own unique experience when starting out, be it playing street football or talent spotted, they would ultimately have been signed up by a professional club in their youth. These days youngsters can be signed up from a young age with youth academies at most professional clubs all the way through to grass roots football. With the latter it is the dedication and devotion of the managers and volunteers who have made Britain's youth football infrastructure and talent spotting one of the best in the world. West Norfolk is no different with all local clubs having some form of junior set up.

With the Junior football season starting in September, youngsters across the region are eagerly anticipating and preparing for the new challenge. Expectations are high after some notable successes last season, with Redgate Rangers U14's winning the double, Dersingham Rangers U16's winning the League Cup, and their U8's and U13's looking to defend league titles at the next level.



Last season's Redgate Rangers U13's

Old Hunstanton based, Redgate Rangers, have two age groups for the 2024/25 season, with the newly formed U7's participating in the Mid Norfolk Youth League, training on Wednesday evenings, whilst the U14's will be hoping to emulate on their 'double' success of last

season by also competing in the prestigious Norfolk County Cup this year. Training is on Thursday evenings. The club are also kindly seeking new sponsorships for kits, tracksuits, match balls and help with ground maintenance. For more information, you can contact manager, Danny Lincoln, on 07411235024 or by emailing redgaterangers@hotmail.co.uk.

Dersingham Rangers have expanded their youth set up with a new U9's side and two girls teams (U13's and U15's), with the latter competing in the Cambridge League. There are high expectations for the U15's who have recruited well. All other teams, from the Minikickers (2 to 6 year olds), covering all age groups, right the way through up to the U16's, will compete in either the Norwich Combined League or the Mid Norfolk League. Any players who would like to join can contact Chairman, Gary English, on 07786986985, who can pass details onto the relevant coaches of the age group required.



Last season's Docking Rangers U8's & U11's

Docking Rangers have a number of afternoon and evening sessions organised throughout the week for both girls and boys. The Club are looking forward to the new season, with some great coaches and volunteers looking to improve on the successes of last season. For more information, you can contact Jason Brown on 07867527706 or email him at jasonb.24@outlook.com.

Heacham Minors FC will also be looking to build on a successful season last year across all age groups. Their proven set up is already reaping dividends with players having progressed through the ranks and available for selection to Heacham FC first team. With over 13 teams, the local club covers all age groups for both boys and girls, with a newly formed Development team introduced to cater for the transition of Over 16's players into adult football. Heacham U18's have also started the season well with convincing and impressive wins in the Thurlow Nunn U18's League. For more information, please contact Nathan Stockdale by email at Nathan.heachamfc@yahoo.com or by visiting their Facebook page (Heacham Minors Football Club).

Good luck to all local players and teams this season. Believe to dream.

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QUESTION: Who was the last English manager to win English football's top Division?

ANSWERS TO: editor@townandaround.net or by post to: The Editor, Town & Around, 18 Tapping Close, Snettisham PE31 7FF Please note we do not accept entries by any social media channels or text message. CLOSING DATE 15.09.2024.

The answer to last month's question was Peterborough United and Tony Goddard in North Wootton was the lucky winner.

Heacham FC secure partnership with Searles Leisure Resort and Heacham Manor Hotel

Heacham FC welcomed local rivals Dereham Town in the Thurlow Nunn Premier Division on Tuesday, 13th August.

Pre-match, Heacham FC announced a key sponsorship deal with Searles Leisure Resort and Heacham Manor Hotel, who will be sponsoring all first team games this season. The company was represented at the match by Paul Searle, Carolyn Johnson and Damian Skelton.

Heacham FC Chairman, Chris Dear, is extremely proud and delighted at the same time with the alliance, saying, "Searles Leisure Resort and Heacham Manor Hotel are well established leading businesses in the local area so we are really pleased to commence a partnership with them".

Paul Searle said, "Searles & Heacham Manor are thrilled to be Heacham FC's 1st team match day sponsors for this season. We have been following their excellent progress over the recent seasons and very much admire the work the management of the club and the team have achieved. Our business operates in Heacham and we are therefore very privileged to be able to support the local club and community in this way. Come on The Magpies".

On the pitch, both teams fielded slightly weakened teams due to suspensions and injuries. Dereham, who have ex Norwich City striker, Grant Holt, in their midst started the brighter, with the home side again relying mostly on counter attacks. In fact, it was the composed Holt, playing at centre back, who kept any initial Heacham skirmishes at bay.



Grant Holt in action

The first key incident in the match didn't arise until the 18th minute when Ely based referee, Rhys Taylor, awarded a penalty to the visitors for handball. However, after consulting with his assistant, he correctly rescinded the decision. As a consequence, the already vociferous away fans then turned on the officials and, in the 25th minute, the game was temporarily halted due to the increasing abuse, with a particular homophobic comment forcing the referee to take action. Fortunately, the guilty party was pinpointed, politely asked to leave the grounds, which they wisely did, before the match could continue. There is no place for this kind of behaviour at any level in any sport and credit must go to all the



officials, both on and off the pitch, for dealing with the matter effectively.



Referee Rhys Taylor during the match

Refereeing is a thankless and difficult job. Even when they get most of the decisions right, they are subject to criticism from the penalised teams and supporters. Whilst no referee is infallible, today's officials got the key decisions right and should not be exposed to the abuse which the away supporters subjected them to this evening. It also has to be noted that the home fan's behaviour was impeccable.

As the game resumed it looked to be petering out into a stalemate as the break neared before the game suddenly exploded into life. Firstly, Holt, who else, managed to glance a goal bound effort into the net as Heacham keeper, Aaron Watson, was left stranded, giving the visitors the lead. Heacham responded immediately from the resulting kick off when Joe Jackson broke away and curled in an equaliser from the edge of the box, much to the delight of the home support.



Heacham goal scorer, Joe Jackson

The second half began much like the first as both teams tried to play football but seemingly cancelled each other out. In the 65th minute, Holt was booked for back chat to the referee and subsequently sinned binned, giving the home side belief. However, they failed to build upon their numerical advantage. The away team's strength in depth on the flanks was starting to reap dividends and so it proved as, in the 75th minute, a mix up in the Heacham defence freed up James Moore to score with ease to make it 2-1 to Dereham. Now with the momentum, the away side soon added to their tally when Mac Gee slotted in to make it 3-1 minutes later. Heacham manager, Paul Hunt, introduced changes late on but the damage had been done.

Whilst early results may infer it could be a long season for The Magpies, patience might just be a virtue as Hunt continues to gel old, new and young whilst challenged by key injuries and suspensions. Positivity must also be taken from the impressive performances of Ben Dear, Jack Prentice and Toby Hilliard who are going to prove key this season. Harvey Pightling, 16, who was handed his first start at this level, looks to be an exciting and talented prospect possessing a composed old head on young shoulders. Hunt is remaining positive, saying, "we have certainly had a baptism of fire to start the season. However, despite an awful injury list, I and the team remain positive that we will turn the corner".



The sponsors named the ever lively Nathan Davies as the home side's man of the match. The attendance was an impressive 274.
Images: Ian Burt

Match Report - Snettisham Ladies CC v Downham Stow Ladies CC

Tim Keogh

Snettisham Ladies Cricket Club fell just short in a classic encounter against League leaders, Downham Stow Ladies, in the Shell UK Norfolk Women's Cricket League.

In what proved to be a humdinger of a match, Snettisham may feel aggrieved they didn't see through a game they never looked like losing.

Putting the visitors into bat, Snettisham bagged an early wicket, as Tracy Reynolds bowled opener, Andrea Hoskins, to show their intent. However, the league leaders soon settled and Chloe Lacy and Esther Broad propelled the visitors score on, although two further wickets from Reynolds along with a wicket apiece for Bonny Parsons and Julie Fielder and some tight fielding, restricted Downham Stow to a modest yet competitive 111.

At the turn, the home side came out all guns blazing, with Brittany Rose and Bonnie Parsons combining well. Julie Fielder's sublime 28 appeared to single handedly swing the match in Snettisham's favour before she was cruelly dispatched by a slower ball. Snettisham possess batting ability in depth and continued to chase down their target with Michelle Knott leading the way with a quick fire 11. However, after a drink's break, a regalanised Downham Stow meant Snettisham's run chase seemed to falter as the required run rate slowly increased. Snettisham were seemingly still in charge, requiring just 18 runs off the final four overs. In the end, Snettisham fell agonisingly three runs short of their target.

An upbeat yet obviously disappointed captain, Michelle Knott, said, "it was a superb game and we did have control but sadly lost a



couple of big hitters at crucial times and couldn't quite get the runs in at the end. It was a good day though and shows just how much all the teams have improved since the league began".



Downham Stow CC Ladies team



*Snettisham CC Ladies
Bonnie Parsons, Julie Fielder, Kirstie Smith,
Cori Houlston, Maryanne Chapman
Sitting on bench- Brittany Hay, Michelle
Knott, Tracy Reynolds.
Mascot: Harper Waters (3)*

A recent win over Sprowston has secured a very creditable second place in the division, which is no mean feat given they are a relatively new club.

All photos courtesy of Andrew Hunt

Thornham CC Host County Match

Thornham Cricket Club welcomed Norfolk Seniors CC to their picturesque ground recently. Norfolk were hosting their Yorkshire Over 60's counterparts in the National 60+ League Cup North.

Norfolk started the 45 over match well with some tight bowling, however, Yorkshire's opening partnership of 68 paved the way for them to push the run rate up in the latter part of the innings. This they certainly did, posting an, albeit rather modest, target of 211. Andrew Short's two wickets the pick of the home side's bowling figures.

Norfolk's response started in earnest if a little slowly. Whilst they possess batting ability in depth, opener, Robin Yates, was run out and Douglas Young had to retire injured, both thwarting Norfolk's run chase. Some excellent bowling from Yorkshire, particularly Michael Kenyon with a hat-trick, ultimately meant Norfolk fell 49 runs short of their target.

Yorkshire top the division whilst Norfolk's chances of progressing are now over for another season having also lost to Lancashire and Warwickshire recently. However, they are fairing better in the league where they are presently second.

Captain, Graham Taylor, thanked their wonderful hosts, saying, "it was great to play at this wonderful setting, I have to praise the quality of the wicket too and we hope to return here next season".



*From left standing: Andrew Short, Douglas Young, Andy Gregory,
James Johnston, Robin Yates, Chris Baines
Kneeling : Ed Taylor, Alan Lithins, Graham Taylor (Capt.), Ben
Collinson, Mark Spillet*

Tapping House Celebrate New Shop in Burnham Market

The Norfolk Hospice Tapping House is excited to announce another addition to its retail portfolio in Norfolk. The much-loved local charity has become part of the community in Burnham Market.

Tapping House's new shop on Overy Road opened at the end of August and is now trading 7 days a week. It will offer the same range of high-quality goods customers of Tapping House's eight other shops in the county are used to. All sales will help fund the care and support of people with life-limiting conditions and their families.

Sally Chandler, Tapping House's Regional Retail Manager, said: "As a charity serving families in across Norfolk and North Cambridgeshire, we're delighted to be opening in this beautiful village.

"Shoppers can expect a boutique shop, right here on their high street. Our focus will be on clothing accessories and bric-a-brac and we already have a great range of stock ready to go." The Norfolk Hospice Tapping House have eight other shops in Hunstanton, Snettisham, Fakenham, Swaffham, Downham Market, Wisbech and two in Kings Lynn. The Hospice also trades to the wider UK via an ebay shop.

The shop would be pleased to receive donations of the following clean and good-quality goods to sell: clothing, bric-a-brac, toys, jewellery, DVDs/CDs/Vinyl, retro and vintage clothes and small electrical items. These can be dropped off anytime between 9am and 5pm Monday to Saturday and between 10 and 4pm Sunday.

Tapping House also needs donations of good-quality furniture and can collect it free of charge if you are unable to transport it yourself. Contact its retail team via the website www.norfolkospice.org.uk/forms/furniturecollection or on 01553 767752 for more information.

To put into context the difference just a small donation to the shop can make to the vital work Tapping House does, here are some examples of what your donation could pay for:

- A tea set worth £10 could fund a mobile phone for a month for the Tapping House Rapid Response Team
- A nice wedding hat or jacket worth £25 could pay for the laundry for one day on our IPU
- An item of good-quality furniture or prom dress worth £39 could pay for our Hospice at Home fleet to operate, enabling visits and patient collection.

In the past financial year The Norfolk Hospice Tapping House shops generated an impressive profit of over £630,000, all of which went towards helping patients live life to the end and make the most of



precious time with their families.

Anyone interested in more information on volunteering at the Burnham Market shop should email volunteers@norfolkospice.org.uk or call Hannah Henson, Volunteer Services Co-ordinator on 01485 601 700

DONATE

Donate your old car or other vehicle
With/without MOT | Running or not
Monies raised go to:



All correct paperwork completed
No charge for vehicle collection
Call: Richard Bird 07860 476 198

Magpie Centre news

Following the Charity Ride held at the Magpie Centre, home of West Norfolk Riding for the Disabled Association in the grounds of Wallington Hall on June 30, we are delighted to report that the event attracted 70 riders and raised £1122 for WNRDA.

Said Ellie Head, Chairwoman of Hoofbeats, who organised the ride: 'Two of the riders are registered disabled and we were happy to support the Magpie Centre and all the good work it does. We are already looking forward to another successful ride next year!'

And moving from four feet to two, Stephen Riley-Elliot, whose child rides at the Magpie Centre put in a huge effort to accomplish a 50 km Ultra Marathon (Boudicca Way 50K) on July 20, boosting the Centre's funds by a further £1175 in sponsorship.

An aspect of the Centre's work, which is gaining momentum is for home-schooled children, many of whom are on the autistic spectrum to take up riding. The benefits are not only physical but include increased confidence and enhanced communication skills.

If you wish to explore this option, please call the Magpie Centre office on 01553 810202 to request an application form. Once this has been completed and returned, the participant will have an assessment, which lasts about half an hour and is free of charge. If all goes well, the participant will be slotted into a class (maximum 4 riders) of riders of similar ability for regular lessons.

And lastly, our Chairwoman, Bernadette Ford will be standing down, for personal reasons, at the end of September and we are seeking to appoint her successor. Knowledge of horses and/or of people living with disability, although desirable is not essential. More important is

the ability to lead a team including staff, volunteers and the board of trustees. This role might suit a newly retired person with management experience. For more details and an informal chat, please call the Centre on 01553 810 202.

-o-o-

Michelle Alflatt, representing West Norfolk RDA, based at the Magpie Centre, gained first place and an impressive 68.09%, riding Simba, a piebald cob at the National Riding for the Disabled Dressage Championships, held at Hartpury College, Glos on July 12 -14.

Junior rider Jessa Seekings, riding Buddy, also put in a good performance to place third in her class.



THE SUN SETS ON THE SEA .. AND THE 2024 HUNSTANTON ONE-ACT DRAMA FESTIVAL

Sunday July 21st saw the final night of this year's Hunstanton One-Act Drama Festival. Over the three days of the event, thirteen local amateur theatre groups had brought their one-act plays to the coast and presented them to the adjudicators. Both adult and youth productions using established scripts or showcasing original works written especially for the Festival. Outgoing Festival Director, Stephen Hayter, gave an overview.

"What can I say? It was everything we hoped for and so much more. Our friends from Norfolk, Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire all converged at the Princess Theatre, Hunstanton for three days of magic. After the incredible audience numbers in 2023 we didn't believe we could improve on ticket sales and yet 2024 has seen another increase of around 22%. It is like a dream come true."

With so many groups keen to take part, organisers had to run four productions on both the Saturday night and Sunday afternoon. These marathon sessions proved not for the faint-hearted with audiences leaving the theatre after 11pm on the Saturday night. Deputy Festival Director, Verity Mitchell, elaborated.

"I think some of our audience members felt like they were watching a performance from the late, great, Ken Dodd but I think they managed to stay awake. I just hope no-one missed their bus home. After asking the audience how they felt we have decided that three productions per session will be our limit going forward."



(The late) Henry L'Estrange cut the ribbon opening the festival

Tired theatre goers were finally sent home on Sunday night at 9pm after King's Lynn and West Norfolk's Borough Mayor, Councillor Paul Bland, distributed the silverware. In his parting words he paid tribute to the organising committee and acknowledged how prestigious the Festival had become in the Town and surrounding area. He also confirmed that next year the Festival will be seeking a Council grant of just £1 thanks to the larger audiences and support from Brian Hallard and the Princess Theatre, combined with advertising revenue for the massive full colour Festival programme. Stephen Hayter again: "Right from the opening ceremony, when we were visited by (the late) Henry L'Estrange, to welcoming the Borough Mayor for the prizegiving, everything fell into place beautifully. The standard of the productions was universally excellent and even the weather was warm and sunny. The feedback from the participating performers and audience members has been so generous and kind. I really think everyone had a great time."

Verity Mitchell will be at the helm next year and, in the last words of the Festival, she promised no major changes as she dedicated herself to more of the same over the next three years.

The planning has already begun for the 2025 Festival although no dates have been announced yet. When they are decided you will see it here in Town and Around first!

Silverware was awarded as follows:

The Judith Cup for the best supporting male actor: Ashey Hornigold as Harry in *Rambles on Radio* - Sutton Bridge Players.

The HDFA Cup for the best supporting female actor: Gemma Crossland as Faye in *The Ladybirds* - Wilburton Theatre Company.

The Jim Farr Cup for the best male actor (youth): Parker as Thomas in *Bye Baby Bunting* - Wilburton Youth Theatre Company.



The Ann Munzer Cup for the best female actor (youth): Kira C playing all parts in *Teechers* - Smithdon High School.

The Mudie Cup for the best male actor (adult): David O'Brien as Roger Salt in *Wise Men No Fools* - Heckington Players.

The Hathaway Cup for the best female actor (adult): Cheryl Valley as Pauline in *Visiting Hour* - Horncastle Theatre Group

The John Seaman Cup for the best original script (youth): Hush - Ratz Young Company

The N.O.D.A. Cup for the best original script (adult): *Wise Men nor Fools* - Heckington Players.

The Princess Theatre Cup for the best technical presentation: *Life and Limbs* - Heckington Players.

The Williamson Cup for the best youth production: *Bye Baby Bunting* - Wilburton Youth Theatre Company.

The Stagecoach Cup for the best adult production: *Wise Men Nor Fools* - Heckington Players.

The Shakespeare Cup for the Festival Director's Award: Glen Barker as Peter Pepper in *Wise Men Nor Fools* - Heckington Players.

The Ann McKimm shield for the ad-hoc play reading: Ren Shilcock
The Barry Starr Trophy for the Audience Choice Award: *Rambles on Radio* by the Sutton Bridge Players.

Singing stopped the rain in Snettisham!

When Your Choir sang a 1977 song by Bill Withers at the Snettisham Fete on Saturday 3rd August, the clouds parted, and the sun shone.



After days of wall-to-wall sunshine there were high hopes for good weather for the event, but early rain did not deter the villagers who filled the field.

Your Choir were booked to sing at 2pm. Normally the choir performs in their snazzy T-shirts, but rainproof wear was the order of the day, however, as soon as the choir started singing *Lovely Day* the clouds parted and sunshine bathed the field that was full of stalls, games, food vendors, classic cars and more with KL1 Radio providing the music and commentary, Ken Sach the first aid cover, and the Snettisham Events Team organising it all.

Your Choir's Gemma Tandy said: "It really did turn out to be a lovely day."

And the world's alright with me...

Try Your Choir in September 2024

We're very excited to welcome you to one of our 7 weekly choir sessions. Choose your desired choir session by visiting the link below and find the date that suits you best. If the date you are after isn't available, please do get in touch (via info@yourchoir.co.uk) and we will do our best to accommodate.

<https://www.yourchoir.co.uk/book-online>



Saving some of the best for last!

On September 7th in Overy Village Hall at 7.30pm The Victoria String Quartet, our resident string quartet has a new team member. Benedict Holland, David Green (violins) and David Bradbury ('cello) are joined by the Japanese viola player Kimi Makino. Kimi comes with an impressive career to date from early beginnings in Japan to winning prizes internationally. We look forward to meeting her.

On this occasion the quartet will be joined by the cellist Leo Popplewell for the sublime String Quintet by Schubert. Completed just four months before his death in 1828, it is regarded as one of the greatest of all pieces of chamber music and it seems as if Schubert was coming to terms with the end of his life.

It is described by Benjamin Britten: "Schubert's final year is the most miraculous year in the history of music."

The recital will also include Boccherini's String Quartet and Puccini's Crisantemi.

The Arts Society King's Lynn

The Arts Society King's Lynn starts the 2024-2025 season on Thursday 12th September when they welcome Gavin Plumley to speak about "Bruegel, the Seasons and the World." In 1565,



Pieter Bruegel the Elder was commissioned to create a series of paintings for a dining room in Antwerp. The images, charting the course of a year, changed the way we view the world through art. Landscape had previously been a decorative backdrop to dramas both sacred and profane. But in Bruegel's hands the landscape and our interaction with it became the focus. Looking at paintings such as The Return of the Herd, Hunters in the Snow and

The Gloomy Day, this lecture explores how Bruegel pioneered a whole new way of thinking about the environment and our individual places within a shifting cosmos.

Gavin Plumley is a writer and broadcaster, appearing on BBC Radio 3, BBC Radio 4 and contributing to newspapers, magazines and opera and concert programmes worldwide. He lectures widely about the culture of Central Europe during the 19th and 20th centuries. Recent talks include the Royal Opera House, the National Gallery, the National Trust, the National Theatre, the British Museum, the V&A, the Southbank Centre, the Tate and the Neue Galerie, New York. His first book, A Home for All Seasons, was published in June 2022 and he is currently working on his second book.

The lecture will take place in West Winch Village Hall where there is ample free parking available and starts at 2pm. TASKL meets once a month on the second Thursday from September to May and



anyone is welcome to become a member. The annual subscription is just £55 or you can go along to individual talks as a guest for £10. Anyone interested in finding out more about TASKL can visit their website at www.theartsocietykingslynn.org.uk or to join the Society contact the membership secretary on 01366 328648 or via email at info@theartsocietykingslynn.org.uk.

Irina Andrievsky, the Russian pianist too is well known to Music in the Burnhams' audiences. Her most usual role is accompanying Joo Yeon Sir (which she will do on October 5th at Brancaster) but her playing of Rachmaninov was so impressive we just had to ask her to return.

On Saturday September 14th at Brancaster church at 7.30pm we welcome Irina to play Chopin, Liszt Copland and indeed Rachmaninov: The Variations on a theme by Corelli and his Preludes. Prepare for some pianistic wizardry as well as deep felt national emotion.

The month concludes with true magic in the form of Red Priest.

Recently described in the New York Times as "the wildly virtuosic little band", they have been at the cutting edge of baroque music performance for over a quarter of a century. Although based in the UK, where they are long established favourites among promoters and public alike, Red Priest has crossed the Atlantic over 50 times for coast-to-coast tours that have included USA, Mexico, Cuba and Canada. The group has performed in almost every European country as well as Israel China Japan Australia.....the list is endless.

We therefore feel very privileged to be able to welcome them to Overy Village Hall at 7.30pm on September 28th

A month not to be missed!

More details on musicintheburnhams.com or 07989 177079
BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT.

Life Fest 200 raises £2,000 for Hunstanton RNLI

A Norfolk pub staged a sell-out concert on 20 July to celebrate 200 years of saving lives at sea.

Tribute band the Very Beautiful South headlined Life Fest 200 at the Queen Victoria at Snettisham, near Hunstanton, to raise funds for Hunstanton RNLI.

The bill for the show also included Jammin' Joe, Chrissie Blake, Neil Reeve and The Scots.

More than 300 attended the event in the pub's beer garden, with tickets sold out weeks in advance.

Before the headliners took to the stage Jeff Lenton, one of the launch authorities at Hunstanton RNLI, thanked all who had helped put on the event, the crowd who turned out to support it and the performers who came to entertain them.

Volunteers from the station were in attendance to lend a hand, while Stormy Stan was also paged to help push the boat out behind the bar.

Landlord and landlady Darren and Ann-Marie Wing, who run the 'Queen Vic' have adopted the RNLI as their chosen charity for the year, to mark the 200th anniversary of both the institution and the founding of a lifeboat service at Hunstanton.

The couple, who took on the pub two years ago, expect the gig to raise £2,000 towards the RNLI's lifesaving work.

Ann-Marie said: "It's their 200th anniversary and to us that's a massive thing, so we just went



from there."

Dave Taylor, one of the pub's regulars, helped organise the event along with friend and fellow 'Queen Vic' customer Steve Webber.

"We've been doing monthly quiz nights for Hunstanton RNLI," said Dave. "I said a band I know might be up for coming and doing a set and it just escalated into what we have here tonight."

Derek Greening, chair of the Hunstanton and West Norfolk Lifeboat Guild, said: "Darren and Ann-Marie have put a lot of effort into this, along with Dave and Steve, all their helpers and of course the performers."

"The RNLI will make good use of the money they've raised and we're thrilled everyone had a great evening."

Local businesses rallied round to support the event.

Tim Murrell supplied and ran the PA. Haulier Lynn Star provided a trailer for the stage, while Grange Dentists in Snettisham supplied the wristbands, the village's Co-Op store donated water for the helpers and Huws Gray Snettisham supplied high-vis jackets for event staff.

Photo Credit Chris Bishop RNLI

Hunstanton Lifeboat Station

We'll be pushing the boat out on Saturday, August 31st and we'd love to see you there.

Our friends at the Golden Lion are hosting a beer festival, while there will be live music along with a tug o' war and other activities for the young and not-so-young from 12-noon until 8pm.

This year marks both the 200th anniversary of the RNLI and the founding of a lifeboat service at Hunstanton, so we thought we'd see out the summer with a special celebration.

Last month saw the amazing Lifefest at the Queen Vic at Snettisham (see page 63) and the Rock Choir perform on the Green, both raising vital funds for us.



Credit: RNLI/Chris Bishop

Our friends from the South Essex Caravan Club and other supporters also came to the station with gratefully received donations - without which we would not be able to carry out our lifesaving work.

And while our 200th anniversary photo-shoot was almost abandoned to make way for a 'shout', we just made the line-up for the picture after the crew were stood down.

The station's much-loved sandcastle competition went ahead under stormy skies, with more than 100 youngsters showing off their skills. (See page 72).

Back at the boathouse, crew training goes



Credit: RNLI/Ryan Darby

on constantly to ensure we're ready to respond 24/7, 365 days a year.

We usually launch on exercise on Sunday mornings. It's become a minor tourist attraction in recent summers, with both regular supporters and people visiting the coast coming along to see us.

There's usually someone on hand to explain what's going on - from the technical side of our lifeboat or hovercraft, to the workings of our 'bendy', the powerful tractor which our plant drivers use to launch and recover our craft.

The volunteers who do all this are all ordinary people from your town, who do extraordinary things when their pagers go off.

They're the woman wearing an RNLI top in front of you in the queue at Tesco, who's

catching up on her Sunday shop after flying the hovercraft on a demanding training sortie.

Or the guy filling his car up at the next pump at the garage first thing in the morning with a Lifeboat Crew sticker in his windscreen, who's just come in from an early hours shout.

There's the postie who swops her Royal Mail van for our tractor when she's needed to launch the lifeboat.

And then there's the chef, the forester, the architect, the businessmen, the consumer executive, the fishery officers, the computer programmer, the theatre technician, the farm workers, the teachers, the firefighters, the leisure centre boss, the student, the design technician, the company directors, the builders, the plumber, the gardener, the financier, the estate trustee and too many more to mention.

But they're only half the story. For it takes a vast effort by many more people to keep a busy lifeboat station ship-shape.

There are the volunteers who staff our souvenir shop and the Hunstanton and West Norfolk Lifeboat Guild, who both raise vital funds for us.

And then there are our education and visits team, who show people around the station and give talks to schools and other groups to spread vital water safety messages.

We're all one crew, whatever we do. And we all volunteer to face the storm together. Could you join us..?

If you'd like to find out more about the ways you could help our lifesaving work, pop in on a Sunday morning (9am - 12-noon) or you can e-mail hunstanton@rnli.org.uk.

**Stay Safe, Respect the Sea
Hunstanton RNLI**

Donation to the RNLI

Michael Walker

On Sunday 21 July a number of members of the Rotary Club of King's Lynn visited the RNLI Lifeboat Station in Hunstanton and presented a cheque for £450 to Kate Craven, Visits Officer and Water Safety Lead. A few weeks earlier Kate and Jackie Merralls had given a most interesting talk to the Club.

There are nearly 40 volunteers at the Hunstanton RNLI station which deals with some 40 calls for assistance each year, the majority of which are from kite surfers. The station has both a lifeboat and a hovercraft, one of only seven used by the RNLI. It is important because of the shallow-water rescues the crews sometimes have to deal with. The RNLI celebrates its 200th anniversary this year. It currently has some 458 lifeboats in the fleet, 163 of which can be used in all weathers.

£200 of the £450 donated was raised by Immediate Past President, Mel Robson, the proceeds of a garden party held at her home in Downham Market.

Photograph (from left to right): Kathy Britton, Kate Craven, Mel Robson and Paul Robson.



The Probus Club of King's Lynn

Are you retired or about to retire from work, and concerned about missing that daily contact with your work colleagues? If so, why not consider joining the Probus Club of King's Lynn?

Probus stands for **P**rofessional and **B**usinessmen, and the King's Lynn Club was founded in 1978 for the purpose of providing the friendship enjoyed at members' former workplaces.

We are a diverse group of men from all working backgrounds and we meet every Wednesday morning, at The Swan Public House, South Wootton at 10am for coffee and biscuits, - why not join us for a friendly chat over a free coffee and biscuits.

On the 3rd Wednesday in the month, we meet at the Knights Hill Hotel for lunch, at 12.30pm, often with a speaker from a local business or organisation.

We have an annual President's Lunch, a Christmas Lunch and a Strawberry Tea, all of which are also attended by our Ladies and friends. We organise trips to various sights and events throughout the year, local and away.

The Joining Fee is £15 and the Annual Subscription is only £15.

If this is of interest to you, please do not hesitate to contact either Ivan Jordan on 01553 670228 or Bob Ward on 01553 617374 for further details. We would be pleased to hear from you as we are currently recruiting new members.



Hunstanton & District Inner Wheel Club

Coral Campbell

Members are all enjoying their summer break and the good weather. Our meetings start again in September which is the beginning of our IW year. However, during the summer, some of us have been busy. At our last meeting in June, which was our AGM, members made decisions regarding local charities they would like to support by donating the money that they have raised throughout the year. They voted and it was unanimously agreed that cheques should be given to Baby Basics in Dersingham and The Purfleet Trust in Kings Lynn. In August our Treasurer Sandra Ellison and I visited both charities and presented the cheques on behalf of our Club.

Maggi Anderson, who is in charge of Baby Basics in Dersingham is always grateful for our contributions. Hunstanton Inner Wheel has been supporting this charity for several years. As you are aware, Baby Basics support mothers in need providing them with Moses baskets and essential baby items for a newborn up to 6 months. Maggi told us that they are extremely busy and the need is greater than ever. They have provided help for more than 700 referrals in the area this year already. Maggi and her helpers are an amazing group of volunteers providing such a necessary service for the community.

Next, we visited The Purfleet Trust in Kings Lynn where we met Keiran who explained

what they offer to the homeless. The Trust has 30 years' experience tackling homelessness in Kings Lynn and West Norfolk. Friendly staff offer a safe and welcoming space with availability to computer and phone access, warm and clean clothing, healthy breakfasts and lunches and a postal address. A variety of workshops are offered as well as access to an on-site gym, laundry and shower facilities. Health and well-being is a key focus of the Trust and to help achieve this there are regular visits from a nurse and a hairdresser. They have a Housing Team who will help in finding clients accommodation or tenancies. Advice is always at hand. The Health and Wellbeing Centre is based at Austin Fields.

Just to give you some idea of the volume of support given by The Health and Wellbeing Centre in a year are some statistics – 41,445 coffees and teas served to clients, 4,678 lunches served, 1,650 pairs of socks given out, 780 showers taken and 197 people moved into accommodation and they had a total of 7,338 attending the Centre in a year.

In addition they have The Purfleet Pantry which is on the Southgates roundabout and it offers fresh and frozen foods, daily essentials and furniture.

Here is a quote from a grateful client illustrating how The Purfleet Trust can change lives and sums up the valuable work they do in our community.



Presentation to Kieran at the Purfleet Trust

"After a relationship went badly wrong, I found myself in the back of my car with nowhere to live. I was introduced to The Purfleet Trust and from that day my life changed."

As I have mentioned, we start our new year on the 4th September. Our meetings are once a month and are held at the Le Strange Arms Hotel in Old Hunstanton. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 5.30pm. We have a meal together and usually a speaker or activity. If you would like to come along and meet us, you would be very welcome. We are a women's group offering friendship.

Rotary Club award

Phil Davies

King's Lynn Priory Rotary has achieved a Bronze Award from ShelterBox, in recognition for raising a total of £2,537.50 in Rotary year 2023/2024.

Fiona Turner, Rotary Engagement Officer, said "Thank you again for your continued support of our vital work to ensure that no-one is left without shelter after disaster. It's only thanks to generous individuals and clubs such as yourselves that we can make the necessary commitment to supporting communities as they recover and rebuild their lives."



Presentation to Little Miracles

Phil Davies

Here's a photo of our (Kings Lynn Priory Satellite) presentation to Little Miracles. £900 was raised at a garden party, and Priory decided to round this up to £1200. The money will help fund a day out for Little Miracles children and families.



Little Miracles supports families that have children with additional needs, disabilities and life-limiting conditions from birth to 25.

Rotary Charity Golf Day

Michael Walker

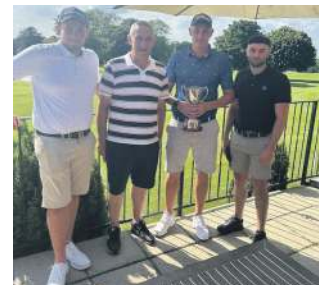
This year's Charity Golf Day organised by the Rotary Club of King's Lynn was held at Middleton Hall Golf Club on Friday 19 July – the hottest day of the year so far. It is the Club's main fund-raising event of the year and over £7000 has been raised.

In the last Rotary year (July 2023- June 2024) the Club donated some £8775 to good causes. The following charities benefited from our donations: Guide Dogs for the Blind, Fairstead Community Shop, Shelterbox, the Royal British Legion, Kids out, Baby Basics, King's Lynn Night Shelter, King's Lynn Food Bank, West Norfolk Carers, King's Lynn Samaritans, Hunstanton RNLI, and Festival Too.

At Christmas time the Club organised a party for 40 Young Carers, took 18 bereaved children, linked to the charity Nelson's Journey, to the pantomime at the Corn Exchange and gave Christmas parcels to a number of older people in need. In addition, some 300 Illustrated Dictionaries were provided for children in local primary schools. Two Rotary competitions were organised for pupils in secondary schools: Youth Speaks; and Young Musician; and prizes for Community Service were provided for sixth formers at both King Edward VII Academy and Springwood High School.

The Annual Golf Day is organised by Steve Roberts and Geoff Cheney on behalf of the Rotary Club. This year 21 teams took part and the winners were from B J Plant Hire. The club is very grateful to all those local companies which sponsored the event.

Photograph: The winning team from B J Plant Hire: Lee Button; Ben Button; Carl Button; and Lewis Gonzales.



Glebe House School & Nursery update

July sees the end to our school year. With term finishing at the end of the first week, this update consists of the celebratory events our pupils and families enjoyed as they brought the year to an end. And then we rest, until September 2nd when we begin anew, refreshed and ready!

Division VIII Leavers 2024

Following their end of year and Common Entrance exams, our Division VIII children embarked on their action packed Leavers' Programme, something many of them had been looking forward to since joining us in Reception!

Over their last three weeks, the Year 8 children took part in a breadth of activities from an international residential trip to Amsterdam to a visit to the Royal Norfolk Show, from an adventure day on the waters with the Coastal Exploration Company to a 20-mile circular walk. Coupled with school-based leadership commitments and ending with a formal Leavers' Dinner at Titchwell Manor Hotel, Restaurant and Bar, our Leavers made incredible memories in their last weeks as pupils at Glebe House School.

We wish each of our 2024 Leavers every success and happiness at their new senior school and look forward to welcoming them back as Old Aquilians!

Summer Show

Our penultimate day of the year saw the return of our Summer Spectacular! All the children from Reception to Division VIII took part in this celebration of music, voice and performance!



From Pre-Prep Ballet's Toy Story to a solo performance on the trumpet, from the Roller Disco to Senior Prep's Buggy Malone Melody, it was a wonderful afternoon full of colour, applause and joy!



End of Year Collections' Assembly

End of term Collections is always a special occasion as we celebrate attainment, effort, commitment and community spirit. End of year Collections was even more special as Prefect Roles for next year were announced, our Prefects received their Year 8 ties, and the House Flag was awarded and raised!



Congratulations to all the pupils who were formally awarded or acknowledged and a

huge well done to all our pupils on a fabulous year.



Speech Day and Prize Giving

We take every opportunity to celebrate our children and bring our community together. The end of the Academic Year is marked with an Old Aquilian Service followed by the Speech Day and Prize Giving to showcase all our children have achieved. Few events carry the weight of tradition, expectation and emotion of this day, no more poignantly displayed than when "Eagles Wings" is sung together in the church with great emotion.

Thanks for the work of the year is given by Chair of the Governing Body Phil Haslam and our Head Adrian Stewart, but the entire day is carried by our Division VIII leavers - from readings to speeches. We celebrate all the children, but (rightly) our hearts are with those who are sharing their last Speech Day with us. Our Division VIII's get an opportunity to speak about their time at school, the roles they have fulfilled as leaders, and what it means to be a Glebe pupil. We get to thank and recognise them for all they have added to the Glebe story. We close by welcoming them as Old Aquilians - a role performed this year by 2022/2023 Head and Deputy of School, Jacob Hancock and Lily Hawkins.



School Games Mark Gold Award

We are proud to share that we have been awarded the GOLD School Games Mark in recognition for our commitment to the development of sporting competition across Glebe House School and into the local community. It represents the excellent PE and

games provision already in place and enables us to further develop and improve our action plan for future progress. Congratulations to the whole Sports Team on this accomplishment.



**Looking ahead to a year of
celebration – Glebe's
150th Anniversary!**

And so, as we end one school year, our attentions naturally turn to the next and it will be one full of celebration! 2024/25 will be a year of celebrating and looking forward with

incredible excitement and enthusiasm to the new things to come. We look forward to sharing this with you through our future updates.

Open House - come and see us!

Does your child start school in September 2025? Is your child looking for a new school? Would your child benefit from a new start?

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

Our first Open House is on Friday 11th October from 8.30am-11.30am. Contact Mrs Fraulo on 01485 532809 or email tjf@glebehouseschool.co.uk to register or to book a visit at an alternative time.

**Open
House**
Friday
11th Oct

**A Place Where
Happy Children Thrive**

**GLEBE HOUSE
SCHOOL AND NURSERY
150 YEARS**

Co-Curricular Provision | Daily Transport | Music & Performance | Sport & Swimming

Registration for Reception 2025 now open!

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CAR BOOT SALES 2024

**Hunstanton and District Men's Shed Glebe House
School Hunstanton. 2 Cromer Road, Hunstanton
PE36 6HW**

One of Norfolk's largest Car Boot Sales are on every Sunday Morning from Bank Holiday Sunday August 25th September 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, & finish on 29th.

Sellers from 6am to 1pm, Buyers from 7am to 1pm,
On the playing field at the Glebe House School, Hunstanton.

(weather permitting)

Teas, Coffee, Snacks, and Ice Cream will be available, also access to toilets, come along and support your local car boot sales and pick up a bargain or three!

Sellers pitch fees remain at £5 for any size van/car, and donations at the entrance are much appreciated which go towards School Charities and the Hunstanton and District Men's Shed.

**Contact Chris on 07774 650606
chrisHDMS7@gmail.com**

Brancaster School news

Term finished in July and we are all enjoying a well-earned break.

Before term ended, KS 2 had their trips to Norwich Cathedral and to Ken Hill, thoroughly enjoying both. At Norwich cathedral, they had a science and music day, investigating the organ and constructing and playing the WOOFYT.



Rotary art prizes



We provided the artwork for the Sea Service at St Mary's church, Burnham Deepdale, which some of us attended. Thank you to Mrs Parkinson for helping us. And thank you for all the art work you have inspired. The Rotary Club came to school and presented the prizes to the winners in their art competition.

Samphire Class put on a performance of the opera, Carmen. The children managed the difficult songs very well and the acting was



superb. Well done to all the children and to Mr Johnson and Ms Talbot for their hard work teaching them.

Our Year 5 children had their taster day at Smithdon and all came back having had a fantastic time and having shown off themselves and our school in the best possible light.

Our wonderful Year 6 children had their traditional end of school treat, with a trip to Pleasurewood Hills. They joined with Docking Year 6s for this and all had a wonderful experience.

We also had a shared disco with Docking which the children loved. There were some very glittery children afterwards!

And Thrift Class had their reward trip to the playground at the village hall. Well done to all for showing our school values in action.

School restarts on September 4th.

Swings and arrows at West Norfolk Sports Festival

Archery, Lacrosse and Pickleball were just some of the many activities on offer when a Hunstanton secondary school invited children from neighbouring primaries to its annual sports event.

Hosted and organised by Smithdon High School, the Smithdon Primary School Sports Festival saw over 250 Year 3 and 4 pupils take part in a host of diverse sporting pursuits, which also featured Netball, Basketball, Cricket, Rounders, Football and Rugby, as well as Dance and Obstacle Courses.

All the sessions were planned and delivered by Smithdon's Sports Leaders, overseen by Jamie Tilley, Head of PE at the school, which is part of the West Norfolk Academies Trust.

"It was all down to our amazing Year 10 Sports Leaders who put on a show and delivered an amazing sports festival for our primary school cluster," said Mr Tilley.

"Sixty-five Year 10 Sports Leaders were involved on the day. They all worked very hard weeks prior to the Sports Festival, planning their sessions to deliver on the day.

Primary schools taking part in the Sports Festival included Hunstanton, Dersingham, Docking, Sandringham, West Newton, and Flitcham, along with fellow WNAT members Heacham Junior and Snettisham Primary.

"It was a pleasure to host so many pupils from our cluster primary schools, supported by their teachers," added Smithdon Headteacher Amanda Gibbins.

"This year's leadership group was fantastic and were praised by the primary staff for their professionalism and engagement with the younger children."



Thank you, you're TEE-rific!

The Bridge for Heroes were delighted to receive a generous donation of £1000 from Hunstanton and District Lions Club, following the Lions' annual charity golf tournament on 10 May, hosted by Heacham Manor Golf Club, Gerry Desroches, Golf Tournament Organiser, put together a well-attended event.



The tournament teed off with refreshments, giving staff from The Bridge the opportunity to meet and greet the golfers over bacon baps and coffee. The sun shone as teams of four took to the green for their 'friendly' rounds of golf, before returning to the club house for a light lunch.

After lunch, an auction of donated prizes was held, resulting in a significant sum for The Bridge for Heroes. Kerry Allison, Charity Coordinator, was honoured to help present prizes on the day and took the opportunity to thank all participants and to share details of the services and support offered by The Bridge to the Armed Forces community.



Members of Hunstanton Lions visited The Bridge Drop-In Centre to present the cheque, and took time to meet with beneficiaries, seeing first-hand the impact the service has on the lives of veterans. Helen Taylor, Chief Executive at The Bridge, said 'donations are essential to our cause, as are relationships with the wider community. We thank Hunstanton Lions for their support, comradeship, and for making a difference to our Armed Forces community.'

Old Hunstanton Village Hall

We have some interesting events planned at Old Hunstanton Village Hall this autumn.

Sunday 13th October 4pm- doors open at 3.30pm

'A History and Tales Talk of Old Hunstanton' by Nick Torry, with Cheese & Wine included. Come and find out more about our village, and stories from its past.

Tickets are £10. Please contact Gail Doherty on 07536 022176

Saturday 26th October doors open at 6.30pm and the fun starts at 7pm - Murder Mystery Evening 'The Gathering Dark'

Following the popular event earlier this year, the team from 'by the book, Hunstanton' return to present us with a gothic murderous mystery to solve. The evening includes Chilli followed by dessert. Costumes are encouraged!

Tickets are £25. Please contact Gail Doherty on 07536 022176

Monday 7th October Prize Bingo Night 7pm with doors open at 6.15pm

Come and try your luck and see if you can win one of the prizes

We will continue to start at this earlier time for the foreseeable future

PLEASE CAN YOU HELP?

Karen Williams

The Wreham Village Hall Trustees and Friends of Wreham Village Hall are currently raising funds in order to provide a defibrillator within the Village Hall. This will be an invaluable asset for the whole community. All donations, however great or small, would



make such a difference, so if you would like to help this project happen by making a monetary donation, or providing a prize for upcoming fundraising events, please call the Village Hall on 01366 502214 or email karen.villagehallwreham@gmail.com

As part of our fundraising for the defibrillator, we are also holding a raffle for a fabulous Pimm's and Goodies Hamper. The draw will take place during The Village Hall Quiz Night on Saturday, 7th September.

With your help we can reach our target very soon and make this very worthwhile project a reality.

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Hunstanton Eyecare update

We have come to the end of our 50th Anniversary celebrations with the Prize Draw to win 50% off a complete new pair of spectacles. On the 31st July, Mrs Press was sitting in

reception while her husband had his eye test, so she kindly obliged to draw our five lucky winners. Although the anniversary offers have finished, we will continue our £50 “all in deal” as it was so popular. Older frames are discontinued by frame manufacturers, so it means we cannot obtain replacement parts if they are broken, these frames will go into our £50 deal with single vision plastic lenses, a great solution for the extra reading pair or spare distance ones. If you wish to add Transitions material or anti-reflection coatings you can for a small upgrade fee.

The main news for this month is that our Optometrist, Francis Donaghy, is leaving us at the end of the month. Francis joined us in 2017 and has been a much-valued friend and colleague. He is based at our Cromer branch but comes to us on Thursdays. Francis is going to use his extended clinical skills in the field of cataract surgery and we wish him all the best in this new area of his career.

Annette



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Rosemary Meyer is the Head of the Private Client Department and can help with Family, Litigation, Wills and Probate matters.

Within her department are Deborah Slow and Suzanne Curl

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Didn't We Have a Lovely Day at the Heacham Carnival ... ?

Esther Boehm



The Save Our Studio (S.O.S.) campaign group were delighted to have a stall at the Heacham Carnival. It provided the opportunity to show examples of the work people have made at Studio @ 55 — clay modelling, pottery, armature sculpture, soapstone carving and lino-cut.

We received fabulous support from the Carnival visitors. They really liked what was on display. Adults and children alike loved designing their own rocks using Sharpies. It became clear to us that parents are looking for a creative venue for their children. They were delighted to hear that our plans for The Old Dairy include such activities.

"I have always wanted to provide accessible workshops not

only for adults but also for children. I have held a series of workshops at the Heacham Infant and Nursery School. The children were captivated by the themes of the workshops and they produced wonderful works of art. The Old Dairy would provide the perfect environment to develop the creativity that exists here in our village." Esther Boehm

One thing that stood out to our S.O.S. group is that local residents really need a venue in the heart of Heacham where they can meet and be creative with encouragement not judgment.

"The impact of transforming The Old Dairy into an Art and Community Hub in the heart of Heacham is not to be underestimated. Since the pandemic, people have become

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Esther Boehm • 55 High Street, Heacham, PE31 7DW
www.studioat55.com • eb@estherboehm.com
T 01485 570 506 • M 07538 986 235

more aware than ever of their need to look after their mental health. The interest in taking up a creative practice has increased tenfold. The Old Dairy is perfectly placed to provide this. Esther has already made such an impact. She has opened doors, broadened horizons - helped people discover abilities they never knew they had. She provides a safe supportive environment where people come together and forge new friendships." Sarah Jane Featherstone

So far we have received just over 750 signatures but we still need more. We need to demonstrate to the Parish Council that an Art and Community Hub at The Old Dairy is exactly what is needed for Heacham and this part of West Norfolk — bringing

people of all ages and abilities together — Encouraging Individuality, Acceptance and Understanding.

There are several ways you can help keep both Studio @ 55 and The Old Dairy. You can:

1. Sign the petition
2. Donate funds
3. Donate services

Visit <https://www.studioat55.com> to find out more.

Email:

save.our.studio.55@gmail.com

Facebook: Save Our Studio @ 55 S.O.S. Group (Esther Boehm, Michelle Louise Carter, Sarah Jane Featherstone, Sophia Heathcote, Maureen Laughton and Ann McCullagh)

Encouraging Individuality, Acceptance and Understanding

Bucket loads of fun at Hunstanton RNLI sandcastle showdown

More than 100 young supporters dug in for the charity that saves lives at sea on Old Hunstanton Beach.

When the signal came to start, teams had just 45 minutes to show off their skills.

This year's contenders included Olympic-themed entries, along with sea creatures and RNLI-inspired creations.

Judges from the Hunstanton and West Norfolk Lifeboat Guild, which organised the event, admitted they were up against it.

'It's a tough call,' one confided as buckets and spades set to work under stormy skies. 'It's going to be very close.'

Back at the boathouse, weather experts from the station visits team reckoned the rain might just hold off.

Talking of stormy, station mascot Stormy Stan was greeted with cheers after he hitched a ride on the beach ice cream man's vintage Land Rover to help hand out the prizes.



Winners in the aged two to seven and aged eight and above categories, along with second and third-placed were awarded vouchers to spend at the station's souvenir shop.



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September events diary - see also <https://>

Sunday 1st

Wereham Indoor Car Boot Sale PE33 9AP
£5 per table plus Village Yard Sales
8am-1pm.

Mini Meet 10am-3pm in the Tuesday Market
Place, King's Lynn. Approx 150 cars on
display.

Monday 2nd

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

Thursday 5th

Stanhoe and Barwick WI. 2pm. Stanhoe
Reading Room, Cross Lane PE31 8PS. Gill
Southgate, “Life with my Guide Dog”.
Visitors £5, to include refreshments. Please
contact Valerie (01485 576261) for info

Friday 6th

Heritage Open Days – opportunities to visit
the dungeon and climb the Hunstanton
lighthouse tower. MUST be pre-booked by
sending an e-mail to:
andrew.murray1942@gmail.com Visit
www.heritageopendays.org.uk for further
details.

Quiz night and charity raffle in aid of The
Purfleet Trust at Ferry Lane Social Club,
King's Lynn PE30 1HN. Teams of up to 6.
£5pp. Booking essential:
dersinghampaul@gmail.com

Anmer Social Club FILM NIGHT - THE
FALL GUY - 12A - Starring Ryan Gosling
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j7jPnwVGdZ8>

The club opens 7pm. – Film starts 7.30.
Admission £4 at the door.
For further information email
enquiries@anmerclub.co.uk

Wereham Village Hall Feelgood Friday
Soundbath, doors open at 7pm with the
soundbath starting at 7.30pm. To book
please go to robynwren.co.uk/soundbaths

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

Saturday 7th

Sandringham parkrun Sandringham Royal
Park 9am. Start and finish on the vista near
children's play area. Car parking for parkrun
is free until 11am. To volunteer or for further
information contact:
sandringham@parkrun.com

Saturday 7th

Ingoldisthorpe Sports Sports & Social Club.
Eyes Down for Bingo Night, Doors Open
7.00pm includes mix of Cash & other prizes
to be won. Look out on the FB page

Wereham Village Hall Quiz Night 7pm £6pp
incl hot dog supper. BYO drinks Book:
01366 502214/500766
villagehallereham@gmail.com

Music in the Burnhams present The Victoria
String Quartet who will be joined by the
cellist Leo Popplewell for the sublime String
Quintet by Schubert. 7.30pm at Burnham
Overy Village Hall. More details on
musicintheburnhams.com or 07989 177079

Sat 7th-Sun 8th

King's Lynn parkrun are holding their
annual 24 Hour Marathon in The Walks
King's Lynn. Start at 9am Saturday. Run
laps of The Walks at a time and distance of
your choosing. Registration at the Walks
Café throughout the 24-hour period.
Donations in aid of Friends of the Walks.

Sandringham Game and Country Fair.
<https://www.livingheritagecountryshows.co.uk/sandringham-game-country/>

Sunday 8th

Heritage Open Day at Lynn Museum 10am-
4pm Free. A fun family trail will also be
available. 01553 775001
lynn.museum@norfolk.gov.uk

Classic Car Day in the Tuesday Market
Place, King's Lynn 10am-4pm. Over 200
cars to see.

Hunstanton Bandstand 2-4pm John Barker

Monday 9th

Stained Glass workshop 10am-4pm
Hunstanton Town Hall. Booking essential:
<https://www.festival3bythesea.org/>

Battle of Britain Service of Commemoration
– 10:45am Tower Gardens, King's Lynn. All
welcome.

Tuesday 10th

Heritage Open Days – Guided walking tours
of the grounds of Hunstanton Hall starting at
St Mary's Church, Old Hunstanton at 10.00
and 12.00 noon. MUST be pre-booked:
andrew.murray1942@gmail.com Visit
www.heritageopendays.org.uk

Brancaster Camera Club at Brancaster
Staithe Village Hall 7pm. If you have an
interest in photography or are on holiday in
the area we will be pleased to see you.
Admission is £3 Contact: Sue Till on 01485
210013 or Wendy Calow on 01553 674725

Wednesday 11th

Heritage Open Days – Guided walking tour
around the fruit farm at Drove Orchards at
11.00 and 14.00 MUST be pre-booked by
sending an e-mail to
andrew.murray1942@gmail.com Visit
www.heritageopendays.org.uk for further
details.

Burnham Market and Norton Village Hall
Phoenix Ladies – the magic and mystery of
fingerprints with Dr Sue Jeckelle, forensic
scientist. Open meeting.
www.burnhammarketandnortonvillagehall.org.uk

Thursday 12th

Freebridge Lynn division of Norfolk County
Council by-election.

Talk at Little Massingham Church by Oliver
Birbeck. Doors 6pm, talk at 6.30pm ‘Wild
East’ More at FOSLAM.org

Fashion Show and Shopping Event at
Wereham Village Hall PE33 9AP Doors 7pm
for 7.30 start. £5 incl welcome drink. Raffle.
Tickets Angela 07535 399883

Friday 13th

Heritage Open Days – opportunities to visit
the dungeon and climb the Hunstanton
lighthouse tower. MUST be pre-booked by
sending an e-mail to:
andrew.murray1942@gmail.com Visit
www.heritageopendays.org.uk for info

Kings Lynn U3A Monthly Meeting at
Gaywood Community Centre. Talk by
Rosalind Ridley - The Humour of Gilbert
and Sullivan. Doors open 9.30am - Talk
10am £3, Refreshments

Ingoldisthorpe Sports & Social Club. Drag
Night sees the Return of the extremely funny
‘Fanny Burns’. Comedian & Singer. Tickets
only Members £10.00 Non Members £15.00.
Hurry tickets selling fast. See FB page.

Saturday 14th

Sandringham parkrun Sandringham Royal
Park 9am. Start and finish on the vista near
children's play area. Car parking for parkrun
is free until 11am. To volunteer or for further
information contact:
sandringham@parkrun.com

Wereham Village Hall Macmillan Coffee
Morning 10.30am-12.30pm with stalls and
raffle.

Music in the Burnhams present Irina
Andrievsky, the Russian pianist at
Brancaster church at 7.30pm. More details
on musicintheburnhams.com or 07989
177079

/townandaround.net/whats-on/september

Sunday 15th

West Norfolk Food & Drink Festival.
Hunstanton town centre 9am-2pm with 30+
Norfolk food and drink producers. More
info: <https://norfolk-deli.co.uk/pages/wnfd>

RAF Bircham Newton Heritage Centre,
PE31 6RH open from 10am until 4pm.
Parking and entrance Free, and disabled
access and toilets available.

Special Pet Service at St Mary's Anmer
3pm. If the weather is fine bring chairs and
rugs as it will be outside. All well-behaved
pets welcome.

Monday 16th

Senior Citizens Film Club supported by the
Rotary Club of King's Lynn Priory at the
Corn Exchange. Coffee 10am, Film 'Thelma
– Death wish on a Zimmer frame at 10.45
£4. Booking essential: Bharti.Patel@west-norfolk.gov.uk 07375375404

Hunstanton u3a at the Community Centre,
Avenue Road 2pm. Briony Bax will be
talking about the power of Poetry and
reading extracts of her work.
You will be most welcome to join us. For
further information please see
our website hunstantonu3a.org Telephone
07443763679

Tuesday 17th

Snettisham Memorial Hall Bingo Doors
6.30pm Eyes Down 7.30pm

Wednesday 18th

Senior Citizens Film Club supported by the
Rotary Club of King's Lynn Priory at the
Corn Exchange. Coffee 10am, Film 'Thelma
– Death wish on a Zimmer frame at 10.45
£4. Booking essential: Bharti.Patel@west-norfolk.gov.uk 07375375404

Fincham Memorial Hall– Fincham History
Group presents 'Little known treasures in
Norfolk churches' by John Vigar – 2pm

Burnham Market Village Hall Community
Cinema 2.30pm Phantom Thread (2017)
with Daniel Day-Lewis. Reynolds and Cyril
are at the centre of British fashion in 1950s
London, dressing royalty, movie stars etc.
His tailored existence soon gets disrupted by
Alma, his muse and lover. £5 on the door or
contact Diana Walker on 01328 738604.

Hunstanton Society Talk by Jill Bennett
(retired reporter for BBC Radio Norfolk) at
7.30pm in the Heritage Centre, Hunstanton.

Thursday 19th

Tech help at Old Hunstanton Village Hall 2-
4pm www.norfolk.gov.uk/techskillsforlife

Thursday 19th

A musical afternoon of 50s, 60s, & Country
Music at Hunstanton Town Hall in aid of
East Anglian Air Ambulance. 2-5pm Tickets
£3 from Georgie's Café or cash at the door.
Refreshments for sale.

Friday 20th

Massingham Historical Society meets at the
Village Hall 7.30pm. David Wood: What's
beneath our feet in Massingham. Photos of
magnetometry results. Members Free.
Guests £3. Bar open.

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

Charity music night for QEH 7-10.30pm at
Snettisham Memorial Hall. Doors open 6pm
Tickets £11 Hog Roast included

Saturday 21st

Sandringham parkrun Sandringham Royal
Park 9am. Start and finish on the vista near
children's play area. Car parking for parkrun
is free until 11am. To volunteer or for further
information contact:
sandringham@parkrun.com

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

Ingoldisthorpe FC presents Race-Night.
£1.00 per race including fun & games.
Doors open 7.00pm first race 8.00pm.
Lookout on our FB page

Sunday 22nd

Hunstanton Soap Box Derby 11am-5pm
Come and see the thrills and spills at
Hunstanton's own wacky races! Music on
the Green from Vex.

Astro Brain Tumour Fund Family Walk at
Holkham Hall 10am-4pm Adults £5,
children free. www.astrofund.org.uk

Anmer Social Club ANMER MUSIC FEST
- 2.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.
Entertainment with Roger Williams, Peter
Appleyard and Alvy Parker. Admission £8
- under 14s - £5 Limited tickets available
from the club bar. Street food and Gourmet
burgers available all afternoon from The
Crafty Burger Company. For further
information call or text 07899872351

Tuesday 24th

Village Cinema at Dersingham Village
Centre at 7.30pm 'A Call to Spy' with Linus
Roche, Sarah Megan Thomas, Stana Katic
and Radhika Apte. £6, under 16s £3.
Licensed Bar

Wednesday 25th

Ingoldisthorpe Sports & Social Club. Open
Mic night - whatever your talent singing,
playing musical instrument, comedy, poetry,
you will be supported by musicians from
2nd Sunset, or become a member of the
audience & watch our local talent grow.
Doors open 7.00pm see our FB page

Snettisham Gardening Club, The Memorial
Hall, Old Church Road 7.30pm. NAFAS
demonstrator Nick Grounds on making
arrangements using garden materials. Info:
Gail on 01485 541279 or Addie on 01485
544754.

The DaVinci Michelangelo Experience at
the Princess Theatre. A multi media
presentation of the works and inventions of
these 2 giants of imagination. 7.30-9.45.
Box Office 01485 532252

Thursday 26th

New Hunstanton WI Speaker Kate Craven:
'The work of the RNLI' The RNLI is
celebrating its 200th anniversary this year so
a good time to hear all about this marvellous
service. Visitors welcome to this meeting at
the Methodist Church Hall, Austin St,
Hunstanton PE36 6AJ, £5 including
refreshments. More information:
24wisec@gmail.com

Thur 26th – Sun 29th

Deepdale Festival 2024 Four days of
fabulous live music, food and more Full
details at www.deepdalefestival.co.uk

Friday 27th

Lynn Museum Coffee Morning and Corn
Dollies. 10.30-11.30am Exploring harvest
traditions and making corn dollies. 01553
775001 lynn.museum@norfolk.gov.uk.

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

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

Fri 27th – Sun 29th

King's Lynn Literature Festival at King's
Lynn Town Hall Full details at:
kllitfests.com
Tickets available via the corn Exchange.

Saturday 28th

5K Your Way – Move Charity. Sandringham
Royal Park 9am. For anyone affected by
cancer, friends and healthcare professionals.
To come and walk, talk, run or simply have
coffee and cake and be part of the lovely
parkrun community. For further information
email: sandringhamgroup@5kyourway.org

Saturday 28th

Ingoldisthorpe Sports & Social Club.
10am-noon for the annual Macmillan
Coffee Morning.

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

Free Tai Chi taster session on
Hunstanton Green from 10 to 12 noon.
10 to 11 am standing tai chi & 11 to 12
noon seated. Suitable for all. Donations
appreciated for the local RNLI. Allan
Howlings on Mob. 07960 229 726

Author book signing at 'by the book',
Hunstanton High Street 11am.

Syderstone Village Screen 7.30pm The
Fall Guy 12A Starring Ryan Gosling and
Emily Blunt.

Music in the Burnhams present Red
Priest. The New York Times : "the wildly
virtuosic little band". . Burnham Overy
Village Hall at 7.30pm. More details on
musicintheburnhams.com or 07989
177079

Sunday 29th

RAF Bircham Newton Heritage Centre,
PE31 6RH open from 10am until 4pm.
Parking and entrance Free, and disabled
access and toilets available.

the **purfeet** trust

QUIZ NIGHT
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Friday Music Night
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Nov 1ST

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07375375404.

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21st November - 19th December

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Behind the scenes

Welcome back to the next edition of Behind The Scenes. This time, we are speaking about the month of September, when we have some great shows. We will hear from *The Opera Boys*, as well as Nate Simpson from *The Marvin Gaye Songbook*, so keep on reading to learn more.

But first, on Tuesday the 3rd of September, we have the award-winning film – *Hard Miles*, directed by R.J. Daniel Hanna, with a great cast including Matthew Modine. Based on a true story, where a team of students from a medium-security correctional school in Colorado, come together with Coach Greg Townsend, to bike from Denver to the Grand Canyon! As mentioned, this film has won many awards at various film festivals, so make sure you don't miss this uplifting story.



The Opera Boys

We sent some questions off to *The Opera Boys*, to learn a little more about them before their performance here in September. With four members: Rob, Nathan, Will & Michael, I first asked them how they all met and their journey in creating *The Opera Boys*. They expressed, with a hint to the comedy you can also expect within their show, "we've been performing together for over 10 years now and still don't like each other (only kidding!)." They continued to explain that they first formed the group, as they had worked in similar circles for a while, and shared "a mutual love of all things opera". They added, "we like to perform serious music but make it as accessible as possible and deliver it with as much fun and enjoyment as we can."

Regarding this specific show 'A Night at the Musicals', they have been performing it for a few years, and they mentioned, that they absolutely love it. Continuing, they noted this show includes, "a whole range of musical

theatre songs both old and new - but we do still manage to sneak a bit of Opera in too, since it was technically the "musical theatre" of its day!"

Next, I asked them about their favourite songs to perform as a group, to which they replied that some particular favourites are from *Les Misérables* and *Phantom of the Opera*, but if they were to choose one, currently it would be their version of 'Defying Gravity' from *Wicked*, which they described as beautiful, noting, "it goes down so well every time!"

Linking to music arrangements, I next wondered about the complexities around creating and performing a 4-part harmony. The group stated, "we've all been singing for our entire lives, and we're all musicians as well, so for us creating four-part harmony comes fairly easily - but we do still work hard at it." They explained some arrangements may be done as a group, or by one member and then shared within. But this creative process, as they described, is "really very enjoyable", saying, "it's great to be able to put that to the test when we first perform new material for an audience."

As you may know *The Opera Boys* have performed here a number of times, and so I lastly asked what can Hunstanton expect to see at their show. They replied that, "the show has been updated again this year with brand new arrangements, new songs, new musicals - and of course some of the old favourites." So, expect a brilliant mix of musicals, great fun, and "a rollercoaster of emotions", here on the 15th of September!

Also, we sent some questions to Nate Simpson, who performs as Tribute to Marvin Gaye in *The Marvin Gaye Songbook*, a brilliant show from producers *Entertainers*, here on the 28th of September. I first asked Nate to speak on the epic journey they have had through music. Nate began by saying, "I'm a recording artiste that has performed all over the world, on line-ups that have included the likes of stars, Corrine Bailey Rae, Beverly Knight, Jamie Cullum, Jessie J, Jacob Collier, Boy George, and many more." Nate has also had experience in the West End, within shows such as *Motown the Musical*, *Get Up Stand Up the Bob Marley Musical*, and Nate "even did a stint in Paris as Simba in, the world famous, Disney's *The Lion King*".



Jemma



The Marvin Gaye Songbook

Focusing on *The Marvin Gaye Songbook*, Nate explained, "touring *The Marvin Gaye Songbook* with the all-star band of musicians and singers we have has been one of the greatest honours and highlights of my career thus far." When I asked Nate about performing Marvin's music and Motown, Nate expressed, "Motown music, and more specifically, Marvin's music, is feel-good. It's infectious. You can't help but want to dance, sing, clap your hands and stomp your feet, but it's also impactful and changed the world of music forever." Nate concluded by noting this is the first time *The Marvin Gaye Songbook* has been to our theatre, and that they are super excited. Nate ended by saying "we are ready to bring an unforgettable and magical night to the theatre!"

Towards the end of the month, on Friday the 27th of September the theatre will hold its annual Macmillan Coffee Morning. Expect fun activities and tasty food, as the community comes together in support, organised by Jenny and fellow theatre volunteers.

That concludes this edition of Behind The Scenes, please take a look at the back what's on page to see the full list of what's on this month. Thank you for your support as always, and we hope to see you soon. But until next time, break a leg!

Karen Richardson

I ran a half marathon in 2 hr 5 min and raised £2,175 for Breast of Friends. It was so lovely as people stopped in their cars give me money, so many people, friends, family, work colleagues, and people who didn't know me too.

I was also a model in the fashion show for Little Lifts, who provide gift boxes for chemotherapy and radiotherapy patients, and this raised £6,000. I'm just saying thank you to everyone; I was so touched by all the support I have had.





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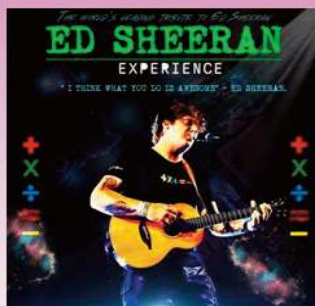
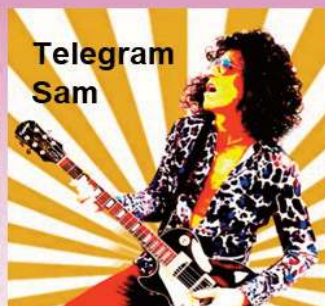
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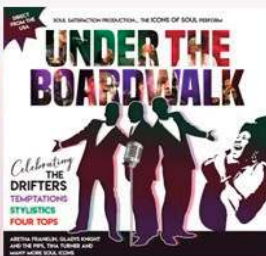
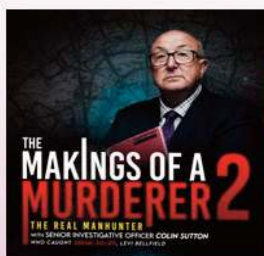
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Thursday 19th

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