

TOWN and AROUND

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PRICELESS!

Local News • Events • Great Outdoors • Features
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Celebrating 20 years 2005-2025

First word



September is widely regarded as the month of change and new beginnings as the transition from summer to autumn and the start of the new academic year combine.

I remember my children's first day of school and the sense of excitement tinged with a little trepidation. We wish everyone a happy and positive start to their school, college, apprenticeship or University experience.

It's been a busy summer, and the magazine is full of news,

views and events for the month ahead, in fact I couldn't squeeze everything in this issue. However, everything will be published on our website, including the updates from Glebe House School, East Anglian Air Ambulance, and Sandringham parkrun plus VJ day news and super reports by Dani Crawshaw about the recent Burnham Market Craft Fair and the local Honey Show.

The website has undergone quite a transformation over the past month or so, with many more interviews, reports and quite a number of videos. Tim Keogh's weekly sports update is also published there each Monday. Why not take a look?

The diary of events can be found on pages 61-62, and again there's even more on the website – we've got a QR code to make it easier if you have a smartphone.

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Our cover photo is of Roger Thompson, the winner of the Classic Car Show at the Snettisham Fayre, with his lovely Triumph Roadster - there's more about the Fayre on the website including a video of Your Choir singing in Italian!

My thanks as always to everyone who has contributed to this issue and all our advertisers.

With very best wishes for the month ahead - and may all your new beginnings be joyful,

Elaine

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Sept 27th - Music Night 'The Riffits' Duo playing 60's, 70's & 80's Hits

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End of an era: it's been a great 'at-track-tion' but Norton Hill Light Railway to close

It will be an emotional farewell after decades of entertaining and raising money for good causes

Dani Crawshaw.

dani.crawshaw@townandaround.net

As we get out of the car we hear a whistle and see the steam, and the miniature train passes us with the passengers happily smiling and waving. And already it's easy to see why this has been charming visitors for decades.

"There is something inherently lovely about steam," says Tom Smith, who's a driver and a guard, and has been coming here for 30 years. "The first time was when I was 3 or 4 riding the trains, I've then been helping since I was 13 and now I'm 33. For a lot of us who help out we've literally grown up with it, it's been lovely."



"For a lot of the children this will be the first time they've seen steam, and there is nothing like seeing the face of a child who sees it for the first time, it's pure delight when they realise 'oh wow - Thomas is actually real!'"



Volunteer Gabriel Sterling with Tom Smith

We wait for the barriers to lift, step across the tracks, and make our way to queue for a ride. "We've sold 200 tickets in the first hour," Angela Schumann says. Her and husband Michael open their farm in Snettisham for three weekends every summer to raise money for local good causes. Angela goes on to tell me this is the final year, "It is the end of an era, I feel very sad but also there is a sense of relief as it's a big responsibility. I do love seeing people though - a few tears will be shed."

We board the carriages as our driver, Greg Howell, empties the ash and refuels. "Steam has got so much spirit about it, it's all out in the open so you can see how it works. I've travelled the world photographing steam trains, trying to capture it before it all disappears," he says, adding, "It gets hot upfront, it's actually very intense because it's a fairly small boiler and things can happen

very quickly - you can suddenly run out of water, out of steam."



Angela Schumann (left) with friend

Then with a whistle we're off along the 1km track through the countryside and tunnels, waving to whoever we see along the way. On board with us is 7 year old Amelie and her family from Nottingham. "It's fun," she says, "I love the whistle and you get to spot things." We see some teddy bears on a hill having a picnic. Mum Victoria says they've been coming for the last 4 years, "It's a lovely day out and we have really good time, what a shame it's ending."

As we get back the queue's even longer and I'm introduced to owner Michael who's sitting on a bench nearby. "Steam engines have always fascinated me and I wanted to build a railway, I spent a lot of time researching it. And it has been wonderful. We've had people come here as young kids, then they come when they're married and they've got their own kids."

"People like travelling on trains, a lot of grandparents come with their grandchildren and I sometimes think the children are indulging the grandparents! So I always say to

the older generation, you don't have to bring children to justify having a ride!"

"But the world moves on," he adds, "We've done it for 35 years and I'm beginning to find it quite tiring, it's time. I'll miss it of course, it's socially great fun, we meet a lot of people but you have to accept reality as the years go on."

I chat to more passengers who also express their sadness that it's coming to an end, phrases like 'we love it' and 'what a shame' coming up often. This weekend the money raised is going to the Purfleet Trust, West Norfolk's homelessness charity. Chairman Ray Johnson says, "It's been wonderful being part of this event, we are so grateful to Mike and Angela. We'll just have to do something similar somewhere else, sadly we won't have the trains though - which is a big pull."

What a privilege it's been to get to come to the farm before this iconic community event does close and introduce my one year old to steam trains, even though at first she wasn't too keen on the loud whistles!

After eating some homemade cake, enjoying some live music and playing some of the games at the fete, we see Tom again who's having a well deserved break. "It's hard work - but we're so happy and enjoying it. It's rare in the world to be doing that and to help raise money for good causes too." Norton Hill Light Railway is going 'out on a high' he says, "Doing exactly what it's done forever, being loved and being somewhere where people can come and enjoy steam engines safely and happily."

"We've all loved our time here," he goes on to tell me, "It's because of the incredible kindness of Mike and Angie that we've been able to do this for so many years."

A sentiment that I'm sure is shared by many.



Michael Schumann (left) with one of the drivers



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BarbersRide 2025 is a roaring success

Dani Crawshaw

dani.crawshaw@townandaround.net

There's a deep rumble and then the riders come around the corner. They've been on the road since 8 in the morning - 10 hours and 220 miles. So when they're finally on their feet the man who co-founded the event has some important things to say.



"Well done everyone - fish and chips are there, ice cream there, beers there - and tea and coffee over there."

Richard Finney goes on to tell me, "It's been mixed weather and we've had two break downs and my bike isn't running that well, but the spirit's been superb."



Since 2017 BarbersRide has raised almost 200 thousand pounds for charity, recently it's been supporting Make-A-Wish, which helps grant wishes for children with critical illnesses across the UK. "It's just such a brilliant charity," Richard adds, "Every year the ride has got bigger and better, and there is an incredible camaraderie."

Despite telling me he feels 'shattered' he's all smiles, as are all the riders who're gathered outside Captain Fawcett - a barbershop museum in King's Lynn, which is sponsoring today's ride and is owned by Richard.

He and Xavier Berrell co-founded this event, wanting to combine their love of biking and barbering with raising money.

It's Kayleigh Wood's first long ride and says, "It was absolutely brilliant, I settled in more and more as the day went on, got soaked through twice but dry again now and am feeling happy!"

I ask how it feels driving as a pack, "You're just one big family - all your favourite people are there, everyone understands each other - it's such a buzz, such a buzz. To get out for a group ride is amazing, but for a good cause too is something special."



Kayleigh Wood

Xavier says he's 'desperate for a drink', but stops to tell me, "It's been a long day but it's been wonderful, few bits of rain, lots of sunshine and we all got here safe - that's fantastic." He tells me riding together is, "Oh, a magical thing, when you roll together you move as one."



Richard Finney and Xavier Berrell, co-founders of BarbersRide

The ride is over 6 days, making its way to Southampton and ending in Southport. Barry who took part last year says at the end, "Your body aches, and when you stand up you get a bit wobbly, you do need a few days out." But adds it's all worth it, "It's super fun and great to raise money, and here I am in the sunshine with a beer in hand, life's good!"

Before the group started the journey Trudi a volunteer from Make-A-Wish thanked them saying, "Enjoy your trip, ride safe and carry on being the legends that you are."



Images: Ian Burt

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The right to protest

Jo Rust

On Saturday 9th August there were two demonstrations that took place in King's Lynn.

The first one was outside Barclays Bank by a group called Peterborough Palestinian Solidarity Campaign calling for the divestment of funds from companies that support the Israeli occupation of Palestine as well as an end to the occupation and a ceasefire.

The second one was a women's march demanding equality for all because 50 years after the Equal Pay Act and the Sex Discrimination Act, women still face injustice, discrimination and sexual violence and inequality.

An individual's right to freedom of expression and of assembly are protected by articles 10 and 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which is enshrined in our UK laws.

The women's march was one which was being carried out all over the UK because many women feel that our rights are being rolled back. Some UK politicians, such as Nigel Farage and Kemi Badenoch, are in favour of restricting reproductive rights. Indeed, there was a vote in Parliament recently and our own MP, James Wild, voted against the decriminalisation of abortions for women in relation to their own pregnancies. This vote endorsed a New Clause One amendment to the Crime and Policing Bill and ends the threat of a criminal investigation and prosecution of women who choose to terminate their pregnancy. Access to terminations is already difficult enough for women, in King's Lynn a woman would have to travel to Norwich to access a medical termination and yet NHS maternity services are in crisis. Black, Asian and women with disabilities face inequalities in maternity care, including higher rates of maternal mortality and morbidity as well as poorer experiences during labour and delivery.

Yet social media influencers including Andrew Tate are radicalising boys and young men towards violence against women and girls and espousing the idea that it's our bodies, but their choice. Every 3 days a woman in the UK is killed by a man, just because she's female. So, the right to protest against this is vital to our freedoms.

In London on Saturday 9th there was a peaceful protest taking place against the occupation and war in Palestine and over 500 people, members of the now proscribed, Palestine Action Group, were arrested. This is more that were arrested in the poll tax riots. Some of those who experienced arrest were women in their 80s! Hardly a threat to the public.

Our annual Pride Parade is taking place on Saturday 16th August in King's Lynn. This celebration started as a protest against police brutality against the LGBT community in the USA. We now face laws which make it hard for Trans people to live their full and true lives; separating them from spaces which they've previously felt safe and welcomed in. Yet the nonsense of this is, that men (yes, yes, I know, not all men) have always invaded spaces that were meant to be safe for women. A man doesn't have to put on feminine clothing and identify as a woman to be able to do that. Hence one of the demands on Saturday being for more refuges, as 1 in 4 women who escape domestic abuse and seek to escape a perpetrator, are turned away. With only 2.6% of nearly 70,000 rapes in 2024 being prosecuted. This persecution of trans people does not make it a safer world for women, only an end of the violence by men will do that. Trans people are not our enemy. Immigrants are not our enemy, women are not our enemy. Perhaps look at those who are making the laws and creating the divisions to figure out who is the real enemy.



Campaigns

Alexandra Kemp

West Lynn Ferry Reopens After 7 Months

Monday 11 August was a day of great rejoicing in the Borough. Our vital transport service, King's Lynn's 800 year old Ferry, re-opened at 7 am in Ferry Square West Lynn, with a crowd of passengers queuing up to cross the Ouse for the first time in 7 months. The West Lynn Ferry is King's Lynn. It's in our DNA. The message to everyone is, come back to the Ferry, leave your car at home.



As County and Borough Councillor for West Lynn, I have fought tooth and nail for the Ferry repairs. The repairs are a short-term fix, so we continue to fight for the permanent wholesale replacement of the landing stages to put the Ferry on a firm footing for the long term. I would like to thank Borough and County officers for their joint working to repair the Ferry. The Borough has appointed a firm to do another feasibility study for the new landing stage.

Alexandra's Landline: 01553 630329 Mobile: 07920 286636

From John Harris

Extremely belatedly, for which I apologise, I wish to express sincere thanks to the many people - entertainers, capacity audience, stage and front of house helpers and generous donors of raffle prizes, who worked so well together to make a success of the Victory Gala held in Hunstanton Town Hall in May.

As a result the amazing sum of £1,550 was raised and after the deduction of some expenses (though not the full amount) I have been able to send a cheque for £1,345 to the Royal British Legion.

At Heacham Methodist Fellowship on Tuesday 23rd September at 2.30pm David Llewellyn will speak about Hospital Radio Lynn. All are welcome and refreshments will be served.

u3a Hunstanton

Our meeting on Monday 15th at the Community Hall, Avenue Road, Hunstanton at 2.00 pm will include a Special General Meeting to vote on amending Trustee Serving Periods, followed by our speaker Kate Craven who will be talking about the RNLI - a very important part of Hunstanton community. Did you know 50% of people who get into difficulty off our coast had not intended to get wet!!

We look forward to seeing you then.

For further information please see our website www.hunstantonu3a.org

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The role of a Health and Welfare Lasting Power of Attorney in hospital decisions

By Emma Langley, Director, Hayes + Storr

Being appointed under a Health and Welfare Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) gives you legal authority to make personal welfare decisions for someone who has lost mental capacity. However, many attorneys are unsure how this power applies, particularly in a hospital setting.

What does a Health and Welfare Attorney do?

A Health and Welfare LPA allows the donor (the person who made the LPA) to appoint one or more people to make decisions about their health, care, and daily welfare if they can no longer decide for themselves. This includes medical treatment and care arrangements.

Attorneys must always act in the donor's best interests, taking into account their known wishes and values.

Using an LPA in hospital

If the donor is admitted to hospital and loses capacity, your role as attorney becomes active. Present the LPA to hospital staff and request that it be recorded on the hospital's system to ensure your authority is recognised.

If there is more than one attorney, your ability to act depends on how you were appointed. Joint and several attorneys can act independently. If appointed jointly, all attorneys must agree on every decision.

Making medical decisions

If the LPA includes authority over life-

sustaining treatment, you may be asked to consent to or refuse specific treatments, medications or surgery. You should be involved in care discussions and ensure decisions reflect what the donor would have wanted.

Doctors must involve you in decision-making when you hold this authority, but they may challenge decisions if they believe it conflicts with their duty to act in the patient's best interests.

Discharge from hospital and ongoing care

As attorney, you'll be involved in decisions about whether your loved one can return home or needs a care home. You will be expected to work with medical and social care teams to ensure the ongoing care plan reflects your loved one's needs, preferences, and best interests.

If you disagree with the hospital's discharge arrangements, you have the right to challenge them.

When disagreements arise

You may face disagreements with professionals or family members, particularly around discharge arrangements or if others disagree with your decisions. These issues may raise legal concerns, such as deprivation of liberty or challenges to your authority.

Seeking legal advice can help you assert



your position, ensure decisions are lawful, and uphold your loved one's rights and wishes.

How we can help

Our team can advise on your role as attorney, ensure the LPA is recognised by professionals, and assist with disputes or Court of Protection applications. To speak to our Private Client team, email: law@hayes-storr.com or call 01328 863231.

This article is for general information only and does not constitute legal advice. The law may have changed since publication.

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Tour de Tapping raises over £4500 for Tapping House Hospice



Eleven cyclists, led by organisers Phil Davies and Jonathan Holmes of Lynn's Priory Rotary, completed the 120 mile Tour de Tapping cycle ride visiting all the hospice's charity shops round West Norfolk on July 8th.



Other Priory members with friends and partners cycled around 40 miles visiting some of the shops.



Hunstanton & District Rotary provided welcome refreshments at the 80 mile mark at the hospice shop in Hunstanton, leaving us in good spirits to tackle the final 40 miles back to the finish at Tapping House in Hillington.

The amount raised on Just Giving has reached over £4,500 including Gift Aid, with more donations still coming in. Thanks to all who took part, and we look forward to repeating this in 2026.

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Borough Council news

Cllr Terry Parish, Heacham Ward which includes Sedgeford and Fring

Local matters first. The two Cheney Hill reserved matters applications were passed so 122 houses will be built on the fields between Cheney Hill and Marea Meadows. A significant loss of green space rich in butterflies and feeding birds. It was inevitable since the granting of outline permissions up to 9 years ago. One concession was won, a condition to ensure that no motorised vehicles will be able to use the 3m wide pedestrian and cycle pathway which connects the new development to Marea Meadows.

An emergency access off Malthouse Crescent vanished between inception and final approval so the 122 houses are in an effective cul-de-sac with one entrance onto Cheney Hill. Officers ignored the case that traffic has increased since highways approved the access 9 years ago or that more cars will use Cheney Hill / Lamsey Lane when the new traffic lights appear at the junction with the A149 in the autumn.

Purchasers of the new houses will, besides their mortgages, have an additional financial cost as they will have to pay an annual fee to a management company. This company will maintain the green spaces and the unadopted shared 'roadways' Though the central spine road will be adopted by highways, the routes leading to most houses won't be and will be for both cars and pedestrians. Removing footpaths is common on new estates, it reduces costs and frees up some land.

I hope that is the last I have to say on these developments which have been hanging around for over a decade. There is a construction management plan to minimise nuisance and disruption to existing communities. Please tell me if problems occur and also report issues to planning enforcement at the Borough.

Sedgeford School is another developing saga and it is questionable if it will go ahead, at least in the manner proposed. Amongst the objectors for this development of 8 flats and 12 houses, is Anglian water. They are objecting to all proposed new developments in the catchment area of Heacham Waste Water Treatment Works which, with developments already in the pipeline, has reached capacity. Any additional loading may result in environmental damage, i.e. untreated sewage in The Wash.

Readers should monitor new planning proposals in their area. For example, it is now no secret that a new, 104 room, hotel is proposed for Hunstanton. So, 104 toilets flushing into Heacham (treatment works). If 20 at Sedgeford will potentially cause problems then 104 certainly will and Anglian Water should object. The hotel site is on a Borough Council owned car park and the Borough will make a lot of money from its sale. Hunstanton Town Council, I am told, is overjoyed at the thought of a new hotel. I think I am right in stating that Heacham will not be overjoyed at any new contamination of the sea off its beaches. The outlet from the treatment works joins the Heacham River by the South Beach car park. The combined flow enters the sea below the concrete 'pier' with the beacon on it. A separate sewage overload relief pipe enters the sea between North Beach and the beginning of Hunstanton.

The rolling average of sea water quality at Heacham has been poor for the last few years. This year shows improvement which questions the oft made assertion that seabirds cause much of the pollution. They are not wearing nappies and are still there in the same numbers. And though water quality is said to have improved, bacterial loading on

Heacham cockle beds is very high and they have been closed. The public have also been advised not to collect and consume cockles.

Consequently, the cleanliness of Heacham's sea is not something to dabble with and if proposed new developments are going to cause significant risk of contamination then there should be none until treatment capacity improves. Anglian Water's business plan is to upgrade the sewage works between 2030 and 2035. Development needs to be put on hold and I think that Hunstanton, a town, should have its own sewage treatment works which would take about half the burden from the Heacham facility.

Interested parties should also note that removing Heacham Beaches from the list of designated bathing waters is under consideration. If it happens, then monitoring of water quality will cease and any risk of bathing passes to the public. Contamination will likely go unnoticed.

Other waters are of significant concern, swimming pool provision in West Norfolk, in particular St James in King's Lynn and the Oasis Centre in Hunstanton. Following consultation, it has been decided to investigate replacing St James's pool with a new one at Lynnsport. Council agreed to spend £1.5 million on further consultancy to determine indicative designs and a business case. The overall cost of the Lynnsport project is estimated at £46million. Proposals for the Oasis Centre redevelopment are on hold until after repair work on Hunstanton. Promenade has been determined and Hunstanton Masterplan completed. Essential repair and maintenance will continue at Oasis.

There have been press articles about house prices falling after the introduction of the doubling of council tax for second homes.

No-one seems to have applauded that result, I do. House prices in second home hotspots are grossly inflated which may benefit estate agents, currently whingeing, but makes it all but impossible for locals to purchase properties to actually live in and work from. Second homes are hardly a necessity, having a home is, so, whatever can be done to help people get a proper home should be accepted.

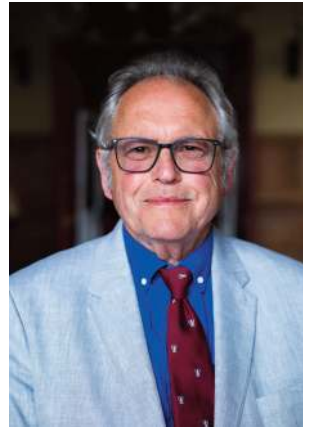
In addition, there is a financial gain to councils, County, BCKLWN and Parish's. Based on 2,806 second homes, in this tax year County will receive an extra £4.9 million, the Borough at least £429,000, Parish Councils £225,000, and the police £925,000. (Numbers may differ if County is fairer to the Borough in the distribution of this income). The Borough's share is ringfenced to support housing need.

Government does not fund local services adequately and councils have to garner money from wherever they can. That's why government allowed a second home levy to be made and why I started that ball rolling in 2023. Council agreed this July to continue the levy on second homes and empty homes.

Note the number, 2806 second homes. If all those were available as first homes, then nearly 3000 new homes would not have to be built with all the loss of land and resources such building requires. It is not possible or even reasonable to imagine all such second homes becoming available. Many are not suitable in any case. However, it is possible to prevent new build homes from becoming second homes and many Parish Councils have done this through policies in their Neighbourhood Plans. (For example, Sedgeford, Heacham.)

Why should acres of fields be ripped up if a significant proportion of houses built on them become second homes or holiday lets? The housing crisis used to justify government demands to build ever more houses is supposed to be about supplying homes for those who need them to live in, not play in. The same applies to all the infill housing which takes away gaps between properties and removes smaller green spaces.

It is unfortunate that such policies are not retrospective and apply only to new applications not yet awarded outline permission. Heacham has fallen foul of this with the Cheney Hill development. These houses can be sold as second or holiday homes. Hopefully the extra management costs (see above) and the inconvenient single access will persuade such purchasers to spend their money elsewhere.



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Wild in Westminster and West Norfolk

What a busy summer with so many events - the carnival, live music, theatre, and many more attracted lots of people - for me the Wild West Fest was a favourite. As Parliament returns from the summer recess and those memories fade, it is timely to look back at the year so far and what is to come.

Since January I have received around 1100 emails a month from constituents around North West Norfolk. While I aim to respond to everyone promptly, I prioritise cases depending on their urgency. With my dedicated team I have dealt with 4690 individual casework issues - with subjects as varied as pensions, road safety, blue badges, special educational needs support, and helping businesses with rates issues.

Top of my list is still the new QEH. I recently met the Executive Director and was assured progress on approval of business cases and plans is on track. It is frustrating how many layers of sign off are needed but with £1.5 billion in place for the scheme it is important to get value for money. Contractors have been appointed to begin work on the new multi-storey car park early next year - a key project which will allow the new hospital to be built on the existing main car park. Hopefully, Town and Around readers had the chance to join the public sessions showing the exciting designs - if not do visit newqeh.org.uk

Earlier in the year the results of my survey on mobile and broadband in Hunstanton and around the coast underlined the challenges many people face around connectivity. Over half of respondents reported a lack of useable mobile signal indoors and 51% rated broadband speeds at lower than 6 out of 10. Since getting the results I have been using them to press providers and government to deliver improvements in coverage and speeds including through the Shared Rural Network and Project Gigabit.

Hunstanton is experiencing a large amount of development which puts pressure onto services, including NHS dentistry - doubly so when the NHS failed to spend £7.8 million allocated for services in Norfolk and Waveney. I've urged the government to return that funding and use it in areas of highest need. I've also been campaigning in Parliament

for a new dental training school at the UEA, as well as supporting efforts to introduce dental therapist courses at the College of West Anglia.

Over the summer I enjoyed visiting a number of local hospitality businesses. This is a key period to help manage during what can be slower winter months. Sadly, over 90,000 jobs have been lost in the sector nationally and I have regularly challenged ministers over the damaging impact of the national insurance increases, as well as a near doubling of business rates. The Government needs to back businesses, not tax them so highly.

I've also been active in Westminster and locally raising strong concerns about plans to impose 6,700 acres of solar farms on our area. The cumulative impact of this infrastructure needs to be properly considered in the planning system.

Looking ahead, the major event looming large is the Autumn budget. It looks likely there will be further tax rises due to weak growth and the high levels of borrowing and spending the government has embarked on. That is likely to lead to a doom loop where lower growth leads to higher taxes and more borrowing - which further undermines confidence and growth.

I'll continue on my campaigns for the new QEH, improved transport and digital connectivity, backing local businesses, protecting the environment, making our communities safer, and attracting investment to boost the wider area.

If you think I can help with an issue please get in touch. While I cannot promise success every time, my commitment is to do my best to help constituents and campaign for our area.



At the Wild West Norfolk Festival in July



What a finale to the 2025 series!

Another year has flown by, and we come to the last two concerts of the 2025 series. Of course, we have things happening in the Autumn and Winter but officially the concerts finish in September.

The classical guitarist, Craig Ogden is one of the most exciting artists of his generation. He has been called "a worthy successor to Julian Bream" and we are so fortunate that he is coming to Music in the Burnhams.

As well as giving his recital at St Mary's Church Brancaster on Friday September 19th at 7.30pm he is entertaining the pupils at Burnham Market Primary school in the afternoon. Craig is a great communicator not just through his music but with his anecdotes too.

His programme spans many centuries from J S Bach and Scarlatti through Rodrigo, Villa-Lobos to Gershwin. Meet him after the recital when he is happy to talk to the audience and sign programmes.

On Saturday September 27th at 7.30pm we return to All Saints Church Burnham Thorpe where it all started, and we shall be celebrating with musicians who have been with us since the start.

The Victoria String Quartet with Leon Bosch (double bass) and pianist Peter Hewitt are well known to Music in the Burnhams audiences and we felt it only fitting to conclude the 2025 series with a flourish. A performance of Beethoven's fine third piano concerto will certainly do that.

All details and booking online at www.musicintheburnhams.com or ring 07989 177079.

Tickets for both concerts are £25 each. Under 18s come free.



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Hunstanton students win Cambridge writing contest

Writers from Smithdon High School had their analytical skills tested in a prestigious essay-writing competition held by Cambridge University, when they pipped entrants from across the region to take both first and second prizes.

The Year 9 students were among the finalists of the Cambridge Writing Prize, which is part of the Cambridge Festival of Reading and Writing, and is open to schools across Norfolk, and Cambridge.

"We have been fortunate to participate in this competition since its launch in 2018," said Amanda Wright, Head of English at Smithdon.

"Organised by Cambridge University, this prestigious event allows students to study texts previously shortlisted by the BBC Short Story Competition. Universal themes such as identity, family, and anxiety are ideas students explore as they study texts such as 'Ghillie's Mum' by Lynda Clark, 'Scrimshaw' by Eley Williams, and 'The Sweet Sop' by Ingrid Persaud."

The whole of Year 9 took part in the annual contest, focusing on 'The Sweet Sop', and each producing a 500- to 750-word essay giving a personal perspective on the piece.

"It is a story about relationships, forgiveness, and – perhaps the most relatable aspect – a penchant for chocolate," explained Mrs Wright. "Victor, the narrative's protagonist, bonds with his terminally ill, estranged father, Reggie, over chocolate."

"Students read and interrogated the text before writing an essay about individual perspective."

Around 80 students from a range of different schools came together at Cambridge University for the Prize Giving, which also featured a competitive scavenger hunt in the grounds of Robinson College, and a buffet lunch, as well as a university-style lecture by Professor Raphael



Lyne at Lady Mitchell Hall on Shakespeare's 'Sonnet 116'.

Alex da Costa, Chair of the Faculty of English, was on hand to make the presentations, which included overall winner Brayden May, and runner-up Hadleigh Clay – both Smithdon students.

"Brayden's essay was commended for its insightful analysis of the subtleties of the text," continued Mrs Wright. "The Selection Committee called his writing 'perceptive, interesting and incisive' and Hadleigh's essay was awarded for it being 'perceptive, well articulated, and coherent'."

"The opportunity to participate in this competition is unparalleled,"

Pictured above from left: Brayden May, Alex da Costa and Hadleigh Clay

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Barking Bugle news

By The Barking Bugle Team of Canine Repawter



What a bark-tastic day was had by all at this year's Barking Bugle Dog Show at the Old Hunstanton Village Hall as part of the blooming marvellous Old Hunstanton Flower Festival!

Let me tell you – the competition was fierce with sniff-tacular entries from all over the village (and beyond!). Our humans had their work cut out trying to pick winners from such a pawsitively dazzling line-up.

Here are the fur-bulous results:-

Prettiest Girl – The elegant and oh-so-graceful Lucy with her human Hilary. A true beauty, inside and out!

Most Handsome Dog – Ruggedly charming Rufus with Amy. That fur! That stance! A real head-turner.

Most Appealing Eyes – Coco and her human Eve melted hearts with just one look. Those puppy eyes should be licensed!

Waggiest Tail – No contest here – Arlo with Hermoine wagged like he meant it. We think his tail has its own postcode.

Best Rescue – Brave and beautiful Dolly, with Isla proudly by her side, showing everyone just how amazing rescues are.

Dog the Judge Would Most Like to Take Home – Waffle and Henry. What can we say? Waffle lived up to his name – sweet, warm and impossible to resist!

As for the judge – yes, my mum – she had the hardest job of all, because let's face it, every dog there was a winner. From bouncy puppies to wise old snufflers, every paw made the day more special.

Thank you to every dog and human who came, sniffed, barked and beamed. Your support made the event a real howling success – and remember, no matter what the result, you always go home with the best dog in the world.

Until next time – keep wagging - Woofs Miss Zsa Zsa
(www.thebarkingbugle.co.uk)

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EQUITY RELEASE MADE SIMPLE



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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IHT CHANGES – THE GIFT TO JOURNALISTS THAT KEEPS ON GIVING!

By Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton

Even now, nearly a year after Rachel Reeves' Autumn Budget, Inheritance Tax remains in the news, with new angles emerging on a regular basis. In late July a report from the Office for National Statistics hit the headlines, telling us that farms were closing at record rates with a net reduction of over 3,000 such businesses in the year to March 2025. The report attributed the reduction in numbers to the impact of the Autumn Budget and has led to renewed calls for a rethink. Without wishing to reduce the gravity of the situation, it seems unlikely that a sector with less than 100,000 businesses can actually have shrunk by 3% in a single quarter without the impact being felt in the market for agricultural land (which is little changed) or a visible increase in farm "dispersal" sales. It is also unclear why the IHT changes, which affect all family businesses, should only have led to a reduction in the number of farms. It is, however, possible that the ONS statistics, which are largely derived from VAT and PAYE registrations and deregistration's may have picked up a period of rapid reorganisation ahead of and after the Budget as family businesses consolidate multiple registrations under common ownership or pass on businesses to the next generation in response to the Budget announcements. The next quarterly figures may tell a different story, but of course the damage to the Governments reputation lies on the headlines which are,

indeed, derived from government produced statistics.

A few days previously HMRC released a series of papers summarising the points raised in the post Budget consultation and outlining the draft legislative changes. Again, these will affect ALL businesses, not just farms, a point which has largely escaped public awareness so far.

These show virtually no movement in the position outlined in the Budget, other than that the £1m allowance will be index linked, but only after 2030 (at which point index linking theoretically should resume for other IHT bands). It is also confirmed that effectively the £1m nil rate band will "refresh" after seven years.

The paper reiterates the logic behind the changes- "to raise revenue to ensure the sustainability of the public finances and to fund public services, whilst continuing to support farms and businesses by targeting the reliefs to make them fairer."

It also goes on to justify the changes by stating "In 2021 to 2022 (the most recent data available), 40% of the total Exchequer cost of agricultural property relief went to the top 7% of claims. This means just 117 estates benefited from £219 million in tax foregone". However, it misses the point that there is very little difference in size between a farm in the top 7% and one in the next 20% - smallholdings and "hobby farms" under 100

acres will generally escape the tax but family farms (and by extension family businesses in other sectors), will bear the brunt of the liability.

Putting all this together, the widely publicised criticisms of these changes remain entirely valid. This legislation will catch the family farm and the larger privately owned business but not the "lifestyle" farmer; although 73% of claims by number will escape tax that only represents about 20% of the acreage passing. It is also worth mentioning that the figures given and used above relate only to business reliefs. For many, pension pots will also need to be included in the IHT calculations and the effect of this, whilst not quantified, will be significant.

It is disappointing that the Treasury continue to produce figures which are selectively quoted to give a deeply misleading impression. These IHT changes will have a huge impact on those wishing to pass on family farms & businesses and anyone with a substantial pension pot. It therefore has to be wise to take advice from a qualified professional as soon as possible.

If you require any tax advice, please contact either Kate or Nic at Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton on 01485 534800 or kate@kathryngigg.co.uk.

N.B. Article written August 2025

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Hunstanton Primary celebrates

Towards the end of the summer term, parents, friends and invited guests joined school staff and children to celebrate the school's 50th birthday.

With every birthday there must be cake, and this one was baked by nineteen-year-old Elliot Nicol, a former student, and cut by the headteacher Mrs Johanna Sullivan.



The day's events included some splendid singing (especially 'Let's go fly a kite') led by Musical Director Mike Tandy, dance displays from all the year groups, the burying of a time capsule, a display of old school photos, games and a barbecue. This last manned by cake maker Elliot and Salv Marziano.

Bike Revival: Young People Gain Skills at Boost Maintenance Workshop

Collaborating with Black Cat Cycles, Boost successfully hosted a hands-on bicycle maintenance activity when attendees were guided through the process of rebuilding and making second-hand bicycles roadworthy.

Training covered key maintenance tasks including replacing inner tubes, realigning brakes, changing chains, replacing gear cables, and addressing other essential maintenance tasks. With expert guidance, each participant refurbished a donated bicycle that they got to keep. Along with a brand-new helmet and bike lock, ensuring their safety and security for their commute.

Cllr Jo Rust, Cabinet Member for People and Communities at the Borough Council said: "As an avid cyclist, I'm thrilled to see this workshop making a difference. Participants leave with hands-on experience and a reliable means of transport—essential for unlocking new educational and job opportunities."

"I would encourage anyone aged 16-30 who is not in education, employment, or training to explore Boost and the diverse range of tailored training and support they offer."

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Wendy Warner's plant of the month - Alliums

As we move into Autumn it's the time to think ahead to next Spring as now is the time to plant Alliums in bulb form. This is by far the most successful, and economical, way to introduce them into your garden.

Alliums never seem to lose their popularity with many featuring in the show gardens at the Chelsea Flower Show again this year. Being set at the end of May, makes it ideal for the natural flowering time of these wonderful ornamental onions. Alliums are particularly versatile in their uses in all styles of gardening including cottage gardens, contemporary settings or formal displays and can be grown in borders or containers.

Their bold rounded flower heads mainly in shades of purple, pink or white make an impressive display followed by attractive seed heads. As well as looking spectacular in the border, they attract bees, butterflies and other pollinators and serve as excellent cut flowers too.

Alliums are grown from dry bulbs and should be planted in early to mid-autumn with most flowering in May or June depending on weather conditions, although *Allium sphaerocephalon*, known as drumsticks featuring attractive small, deep maroon heads with a green base on 50cm long stems, is blooming in my garden as I write this in late July.

Alliums grow well in borders and dependent on their heights can be positioned at the back, middle or front. They are best grown in groups



of at least five or six to give an impact. They give structural interest and if they don't die off, their dried flower heads can be left through the autumn and winter. (Or they can be taken off and dried to use indoors.) Plant them amongst other leafy plants as their own leaves turn yellow and die down at flowering time so other plants will hide this.

Taller varieties will benefit from a relatively sheltered site to avoid flower spikes getting blown over and damaged.

It is advisable not to plant them in areas

which are regularly cultivated as there is risk of damage to the bulbs if digging when there is nothing visible above the surface of the soil.

Alliums require a sunny location in free-draining soil. Although hardy, waterlogging can cause bulbs to rot. If you have heavy soil, work some compost into the planting hole and add a layer of sand or grit at the bottom of the hole. Bulbs should be planted roughly two to three times the height of the bulb. They can be planted in pots or containers in a multi-purpose compost but remember the dying leaf problem mentioned above when positioning them.

One of the most popular and widely recognised is *Allium* "Purple Sensation" growing 60-80cm tall with 5-10cm globe flowers. *Allium cristophii* has huge heads measuring about 20cm made up of up to 80 small star-shaped flowers on 50cm stems. Alliums "Mount Everest" (white) and Summer Drummer (purple) will reach heights of 120-150cm. More delicate are "Graceful Beauty" with sparkling white flowers with purple anthers, "Rosy Dream" with lilac flowers, "Eros" which is a pinkish-lilac and the unique *Allium caeruleum* with its blue flowers. Unlike other alliums, as it doesn't have a round flower head, *Allium sicutum*, the honey lily, (also known as *Nectaroscordum*) has large nodding umbels of creamy, pinky-red with a green base.

Why not add a few Alliums to your garden this autumn, they can be purchased from garden centres from late August onwards as dry bulbs.



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Downham Market and District Horticultural Society

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Downham Market & District Horticultural Society are delighted to report one of their most successful ever Summer Shows. This annual event was held on Saturday 12 July at Downham Market Town Hall. We were impressed, as were our judges, with the high standard of exhibits and were very happy to welcome a record number of people through the doors. Despite the long hot dry spell, we still had a good number of lovely plant and flower arrangements, plus many other outstanding exhibits. Our photography section had the most ever entries this year, including a new black and white category which was very popular. Although the judges could not give a place to every entry, each one was a worthy winner in our book! The photo shows two beautiful Flower exhibits awarded 1st and 2nd place, with some equally impressive artwork behind.

A big thank you to everyone who came along, whether or not they entered anything, who supported our ever-popular raffle, and

bought plants grown by our members. Everyone enjoyed the WI refreshments and were grateful for a nice sit down, so many thanks to the WI for providing all the catering.

So much planning and hard work behind the scenes goes into our Summer Show. We spend several hours on the Friday evening setting up the Town Hall ready for 7am on the Saturday, when entries start arriving. Many thanks to the Town Hall staff for their willing and much-appreciated help.

Our next Summer Show is on SATURDAY 4 JULY 2026 – please note this date in your diary. Don't forget it isn't just for growers of flowers, fruit and vegetables – we have many other classes: floral art; preserves; baking; crafts; art; and photography, so there really is something for everyone.

The 2026 programmes should be available by Easter in local shops, garden centres and Downham Market Library – look out for them nearer the time, and get planning NOW!

If you wish to join our friendly Society, or



just find out more, Judith, our membership secretary, would be delighted to hear from you. Contact Judith on 01366 501466 or email jt.mazur@tiscali.co.uk



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Anglia In Bloom Judges visit Sunny Hunny

Adrian Winnington

On 25th July the judges, David White, Kerry Maguire and Nigel Bloxham, visited Hunstanton. They were welcomed at the Sailing Club on the North Prom on a beautiful sunny day; very fortunate as the previous day had been wet and windy.



The Judges and Guides: Luke Daniel Photography

After a short presentation illustrating what goes on for Hunstanton In Bloom throughout the year the judges set off on their tour of the town. Their guides for the day were Adrian Winnington, Chair of Hunstanton In Bloom, and Chris Durham, Operations Manager, Public Open Spaces. They were also accompanied by B.Cllr. Paul Bland, the Borough portfolio holder for Open Spaces.

The tour began at the Waterfall Bed on the North Prom. This has been covered in recycled coloured glass to represent the water and has coastal plants to survive the unfavourable conditions. The bed and surrounding areas is maintained by the local Payback Team which has worked hard to show the bed at its best. The next stop was to view the tiles projects beneath the beach huts on the North Prom and on the toilet block above; so many residents and visitors have contributed to these over the last few years under the sponsorship of the HDFA, the skills of local potter, Kate Dunbar, and support from Hunstanton Men's Shed.

The judges then moved into the Esplanade Gardens where they were able to meet the town Mayor, Cllr. Cynthia Easeman with Gem, representatives of many of the groups working with Hunstanton In Bloom and also members of the Borough Council Grounds Maintenance Team. They were able to view the beautiful formal beds, many of which are looked after by the town's Adopt-a-bedders, and also the beds of roses donated and looked after by Moss Bakery.

Moving on to Boston Square the judges were able to see how the gardens were in transition from a sensory garden to a refuge for wildlife within the town. The giant insects created by the Men's Shed and the bug hotels were just some of the evidence of children's activities at the annual bug hunt in the gardens. This is the 30th Anniversary Year of Anglia In Bloom and to celebrate this people are able to pick up a leaflet from the Esplanade Gardens or Boston Square to try and find 30 listed plants. At St Edmunds Chapel ruins and the Wolf garden the Judges were able to hear about the legend of St Edmund and the Wolf, and meet two more of the adopt-a-bedders.

Arriving at the Men's Shed the members were able to show the excellent facilities they have created there and describe some of the many projects they have been an integral part of within the town. One of these was the building of "The Fenman" locomotive which the judges were able to see in the raised bed on the Upper Green, surrounded by colourful bedding representing the sea, sand, cliffs and sky, all commemorating 200 years of rail travel. Walking along the High Street and through the town centre the judges were met by a blaze of colour from the borough council tower planters, post planters and hanging baskets, as well as individual planters outside businesses and the Heritage Centre. The party next stopped off at the top corner of Westgate and were met by another array of colour from the great display of summer perennials planted in their containers by Moss Bakery, and were also impressed by their "Sunny Hunny Express" and the bug hotels.



A Certificate of Recognition was presented to all the Adopt-a-bedders: Luke Daniel Photography

The judges were then driven to Searles Leisure Resort where they were met by Andrew Searle and some of the gardening team who showed the judges their recently created Upcycled Perennial Garden and gave them a tour of the site. On the way to the Community Orchard a stop was made to view the Coal Shed Railway Bed, looked after by the Hunstanton Society, as a reminder of Hunstanton's Station



Judges at Westgate Corner: Adrian Winnington

and railway. At the Community Orchard the judges were able to talk to volunteers and view the orchard which is managed for people, horticulture and wildlife. They were also able to hear how Smithdon High School students have visited the orchard during the year to learn about and assist with pruning and planting.

Finally, after approximately three and a half hours viewing just some of what Hunstanton In Bloom has been doing this year, the judges arrived back at the Sailing Club where they were able to enjoy an excellent buffet, provided by the team at Moss Bakery.

The results of the judging won't be known until the Anglia In Bloom Awards Day on 4th September but everyone involved, in whatever way, can be proud of what they have done to make the day go well and, in the longer term, to enhance the environment of our town for residents, visitors and for wildlife.



*The Hunstanton In Bloom Team
Luke Daniel Photography*



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Sandringham Flower Show

Visitors to the Sandringham Flower Show were delighted to see the King and Queen in attendance on Wednesday 23rd July.



King Charles and Queen Camilla toured some of the two hundred or so trade stands, and enjoyed the musical performances from the Springwood High School and a military band.



*Above Springwood Head of Music, Robin Norman meets the King
Below: Springwood musicians entertain the crowds*



The Royal couple also met members of local gardening and horticultural clubs and charity supporters, including members of Medical Detection Dogs, of which The Queen is the Patron.

Since 1977 profits from the show totalling £825,000 to date have been donated to local charities.



Dersingham staff (from left) Donna White, headteacher Zoe Warren & Anita Booth



All images: Ian Burt

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Snettisham Gardening Club

Our meeting in the Memorial Hall 24th September will be our members' Autumn Show and Auction. Visitors and guests are welcome to join us to see what members have been able to grow in this strange growing year!. As well as the show and auction, we share a plate and a drink at this particular meeting which will start as usual at 7.30pm

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Hunstanton Webcams Launches 2026 Calendars - available now!

Hunstanton Webcams is proud to announce the launch of its much-anticipated 2026 calendars, now available to purchase online. Following an overwhelming response to its public photography competition earlier this year, the team has produced not one, but two stunning calendars: a General Hunstanton Calendar and a special edition Sunset Calendar, celebrating the town's iconic coastal sunsets.

The project invited the public to submit their best photographs of Hunstanton. The competition attracted hundreds of entries from talented amateur photographers, all showcasing the natural beauty and charm of the West Norfolk resort.

To ensure a fair and creative process, the entries were judged anonymously, with the final selections chosen purely for their photographic brilliance and visual impact. A panel of judges handpicked the winning images, which are now proudly featured



Both calendars are now available to purchase in either Slim, A4 or A3 sizes via the Hunstanton Webcams online shop at: <https://hunstanton.webcam/calendars>

in the two 2026 editions. Glen Piggott, owner of Hunstanton Webcams, shared his excitement about the launch: "The response to our calendar competition was incredible - far beyond what we expected. It shows how much people love

Hunstanton and enjoy capturing its beauty.

We're thrilled to showcase the work of our amazing winners and give something back to the community at the same time." As part of Hunstanton Webcams' commitment to the local area, £2

from every calendar sold will be donated to a local charity, helping to support community projects and causes that matter to the people of Hunstanton.

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

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High time Hunstanton had a new swimming pool

John Maiden

Recently, when visiting Hunstanton Heritage Centre, someone asked me when Hunstanton last had a new public swimming pool or lido. The question might have been prompted by this year's heatwaves and the very real prospect of more to come, due to mankind's failure to slow down man-made global warming.

The indoor teaching pool at Smithdon has not been used for sometime and is due for demolition very soon, as the original school buildings are being taken back to the 1950's with a brutalist makeover. The Oasis leisure centre used to include a very small outdoor pool, but this was filled in to make way for plastic skating during the first decade of this century.

This kind of decision is made in the name of progress, while wiser people see pictures of The Blue Lagoon in the Heritage Centre and ask why the decision-makers only intend to carry out repairs to the Oasis, while planning to spend serious money on new swimming pools in Lynn.

This brings me to my answer, which is that Hunstanton has not had a new public swimming pool since 1928. It only became known as The Blue Lagoon after a film with this name was released in the 1940's. This open-air pool, filled with circulating, chlorinated sea water, was opened by Miss Mercedes Gleitze. In spite of her Swiss name,

Mercedes was the first English woman to swim the English Channel.



A year after opening the swimming pool she returned to Hunstanton, but only after swimming across The Wash from the Lincolnshire coast. Due to strong currents Mercedes missed the pier (as many of us still do) and landed at Heacham instead. From





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there she was transported by car to an official civic reception on the pier.

It looks as if our town will have to wait for a new swimming pool until after local government has had another shake-up. If it turns out like 1974 we will not see much money coming our way, with most of the small amount we do get destined for repairing our seriously neglected sea defences...

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Snettisham and the Peasants Revolt

or Deadly Deeds in Snettisham

Russell Lyon

In the middle Medieval period, the English countryside was a fairly settled stable environment. Everybody knew their position in society from the lords in their moated castles, the landowners in their manor houses, the priests in their churches and below them all, were the people who did all the work – the peasants. It was the Feudal System and that was how it worked. This was as true in Snettisham as elsewhere – a village of a few hundred God fearing souls who all went to St Mary's church on the hill.

The present St Marys was built from 1300 to 1340 on the site of the original church and the medieval village had grown around it. The church as we see it now is not as large as it was originally. The chancel partially collapsed in the 16th century and was never restored to how it was



built. The north transept is also much reduced.

Everything in the countryside changed in 1349 when the Black Death arrived from the Continent and the disease wiped out at least a third and in some places half of the population. There was fewer craftsman and farm labourers. Those people that survived became aware of their earning power as fields lay fallow, crops

unharvested and fields unploughed. The village that was Snettisham like many medieval villages that was originally around the church virtually disappeared.

The common folk that survived felt more able to complain and tried to make changes to their lifestyle and living standards. They demanded more freedom of movement, to move away from an indentured life dependent on those who owned the land. They wanted to be able to choose where to work. And maybe just maybe they might get better pay and conditions and fairer treatment from another landlord. Many landowners sought to minimise their sudden lack of labour by allowing foreign workers to come to England and there was a violent upsurge against foreigners – to expel them at least and many were killed. Somehow this suddenly seems rather familiar in this day and age.

Wat Tyler was the leader of the Peasants Revolt in 1381 which originated in Kent and quickly spread up to Norfolk and Suffolk as the news of the unrest spread.

John Spayne a shoe maker from Kings Lynn became a leader of the malcontents in Norfolk. His intention along with his band of followers was to hunt down and kill Flemish weavers who had settled in the area. Spayne had - depending on different sources 30 or 300 armed horsemen in his retinue. They swept into Snettisham and demanded feed for their horses. Simon Wylmot was wounded on the shoulder by a dagger and decided it was wiser to give the rebels what they demanded which was 15 quarters and 3 bushes of malt. If he did not the insurgents threatened as well as violence that they would lead a crowd to his house and strip it of

all his possessions. Simon thought he would die or at the least be made destitute and gave the desperate men what they demanded for their horses.

The rebels found a weaver called Randuphus Panton and he was beheaded when he was found in the village. It was dreadful anarchy and mob rule where the whole social framework was torn apart. The authorities to begin with could not contain the anger and fury of the countryside but the discontent would not last after the leaders over reached themselves. Wat Tyler when confronting the King Richard 2nd despite being at the head of thousands of followers was killed by one of Richard's squires when he appeared to threaten the king.

The followers of Tyler having lost their leader melted away but the insurrection carried on throughout the rest of East Anglia. It was eventually repressed by Henry Despenser the Bishop of Norwich at the Battle of North Walsham where the leader of the revolt in Norfolk, Geoffrey Litster was captured and executed. Once the Kings's men had the upper hand, Richard revoked all the concessions and grants that had been forced on him. He was supposed to say that: "rustics you were and rustics you are still. You will remain in bondage, not as before but incomparably harsher." Severe retribution followed with most of the ringleaders hunted down and executed. Many people of on both sides died horrible deaths but there was no doubt that the Great Revolt hastened the end of the Feudal system which had suppressed so many people for so long.

Below: St Mary's, August 2025. Credit T&A





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Hunstanton EyeCare news

Well, what a week it has been! I'm writing this on the Friday 8th August, and it was this week that we changed over to the new computer system used by Dipple & Conway, our new owners. On top of that, on Monday, John came over from the Norwich branch to label all our frames so they would be recognised by the aforementioned system. I think we have over 600 frames, so there must be something for everyone in that lot! Unfortunately, the practice did look a bit of a mess for a while with frames everywhere. I must thank those lovely folks visiting us this week for their understanding and patience during this adjustment phase, I promise by the time you read this we will be much more organised, and tidy!



The new computer system is designed to make us paperless, and if you're like me and not a tech wizard then it's a bit scary, although Ben Conway keeps telling us we're going to love it!!!! Although there were plenty of times when the "computer said no" I have to say that the support team on the end of the phone were wonderful and had the patience of a saint. I'm sure he must have inwardly sighed when he heard "hello it's Annette in Sunny Hunny again". To be fair, we have survived the week and I think my lovely staff will turn up next week, so things are looking positive.

One rather nice addition to the practice is a mini fridge, full of a selection of flavoured water, still and sparkling, there's even Rhubarb and Pomegranate, but also Apple and plain if you are not so adventurous. The idea is that we can offer you refreshment while you are with us, especially nice if we get another heatwave. Unfortunately, we're not licenced to supply a G&T!

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Next week we should take delivery of more frames, I believe we are to get "Tom Ford", a high-quality luxury frame brand, and "Etnia" which is for those with smaller facial features but again lovely quality. Both these brands are new to us so it will be interesting to see what you think of them.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Annette



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Hunstanton Bridge Club

21 year old entrepreneur opens second office in Dersingham

At just 21, Luke Bell, a former Smithdon High School student, heads up a company that employs around fifteen people and runs ten vans. And you can't miss the vans; they are all pink.

Town and Around went to meet Luke and some of his team at their open day on Saturday (2nd August).

A Dersingham lad, Luke explained that he is a third-generation roofer, "before he retired, my Grandad worked at Sandringham Estate for thirty years.

"We've been growing the company for the past few years, and I still live locally, so it seemed the right place to be; people can come in, see who you are, and talk to you face to face.

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"In the office we also have a showroom where people can see the roof tile options, wall cladding and the different surfaces for driveways and gardens."

People attending the open day enjoyed drinks and canapes and were able to see demonstrations of how a driveway can look with different surfaces on the screen. Some had brought photos of their properties, these images were loaded into the system and in minutes they could see all the options for improvement.

Above: Luke with company mascot Bella, who accompanies him everywhere.

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From donations to dignity:

the values of the West Norfolk Children's Clothing Bank

Elaine Bird

For two years the Children's Clothing Bank, which is based at the Snettisham Salvation Army, has been providing clothes and accessories to families in need.



From left: Lieutenant Emily Hague, Val Barlow, David Barlow and Anthea Langford

First approached by Maggie Anderson and her team at Baby Basics West Norfolk after a different organisation folded, the group supplies clothes for children aged 6 months to 5 years, for families that are referred by Health Visitors, Social Workers and other health professionals.

They never meet the families that need help or know their names as it is a completely confidential service. Since opening in 2023, the service has been able to honour 160 referrals.

I visited in late July and climbing the winding staircase to the room above the church, I didn't expect to see the neat boxes of as-new clothes carefully folded and packed and ready to wear together with racks of coats and jackets.

Reaching the 'store' I met Lieutenant Emily Hague – Snettisham Corps and her small team of volunteers as they were fulfilling a referral request.

"We have a request form", says volunteer Anthea Langford, "this one has been filled in by the Health Visitor and it is for a two-year-old, they tick the boxes for the things that are

needed and we put it all together in a large bag which will be collected later on and taken to the family."

Emily and Anthea are there with Val and David Barlow and they show me the bags that are ready. "Typically we help one family a week", says Emily, "and it's a lot of work to do; we're lucky to have people who come on a Sunday to the service who take donated clothes home to launder, and they bring them back the following Sunday.



"It is so important for us to make sure there is some dignity; everything is clean, perfect and packed with love.

"What we really need now is somebody to help us with the administration and promotion; as far as I know we are the only people operating this service in the West Norfolk and adjoining bit of Cambridgeshire area and we want people to know about us." (If anyone would like to volunteer, the telephone number is at the end of this article).

Tim Green from the East of England Salvation Army said: "Families with children are being dragged into poverty by rising costs and face barriers to a decent standard of living and our church is finding ways to support families struggling to provide the essentials for their children with dignity and compassion."

Emily "My own personal drive is based on my officer's covenant that includes my calling from God: 'To love and serve him supremely all my days, to live to win souls and make



their salvation the first purpose of my life, to care for the poor, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, love the unloved, and befriend those who have no friends, to maintain the doctrines and principles of The Salvation Army, and, by God's grace, to prove myself a worthy officer.' 1 John 4:19 sums it all up for me, we love because he first loved us."

The Clothing Bank is asking for clean clothes including bodysuits and sleepsuits, vests, pants, socks, T-shirts, jumpers, skirts, shorts, trousers etc plus waterproof clothes, jackets and coats.

Donations for The West Norfolk Children's Clothing Bank can be taken to The Salvation Army at Snettisham Co-op, St Mary's Church Snettisham, The Salvation Army Community Shop in Hunstanton, and Morrison's Kings Lynn.

The Clothing Bank's telephone number is: 07774 619460.

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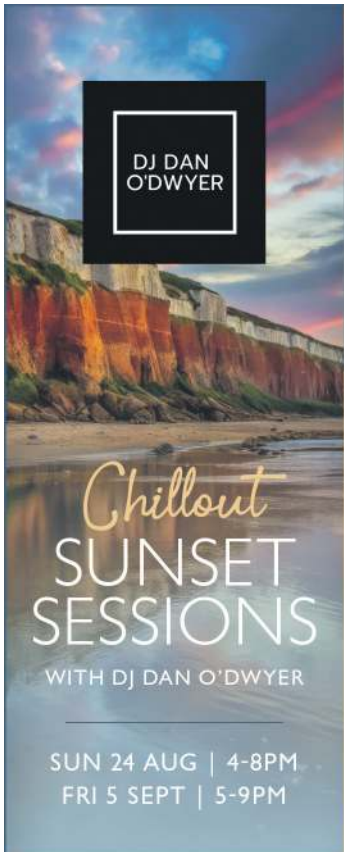
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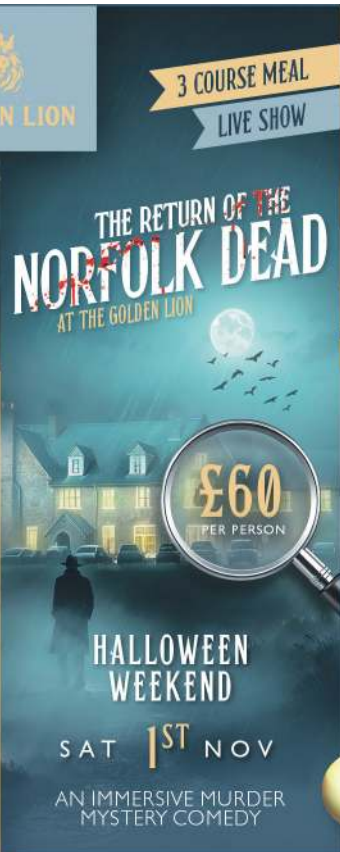
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Docking Hare Fair

Kate Jennison

With 20 plus stalls of artisan talent, the annual Docking Hare Fair is definitely worth a visit. Whether it's home made Peggy's jams and pickles, hand made wooden lamps, beautiful knitwear for babies, soaps, candles, crafted note cards and stationary, there is always something so satisfying about picking up a one of a kind item from a local artisan. Many of the items are inventions in their own right. Materials are reused in such a creative way that these objects become much loved talking points for years. So if you're looking for something unique, made with love, and quality for yourself or someone you love, or even if you are looking for a really early start to your Christmas shopping, please do drop by Docking's Hare Fair on Saturday September 20 at St Mary's Church between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Entrance is free and there is a raffle for some lovely prizes. The scouts fire up the barbecue for burgers and if you need to be entertained while your burger is cooking, perhaps you can spend some time watching the chainsaw sculpting craftsman. He will be outside the church working hard with his chainsaw creating something extraordinary out of a block of wood. You might even find something among his finished sculptures for your garden. A beautiful owl perhaps, or a woodland creature. Or maybe you'll find yourself giving him a special order for something you've always wanted.

For those of you who don't fancy a burger, there will be cakes, scones, fresh coffee, tea, home made sausage rolls, ploughman's lunches, crisps, squash and juices available inside the church. There will also be a number of games for children and perhaps some child like adults to play. The chocolate Tombola is expected to be a favourite.

And if that doesn't entice you to join us, perhaps Docking's resident poet will. He will be reading some of his beloved poems out loud over the lunch hour to inspire us in life and entertain us while we tuck into all the lovely home made lunch items. It promises to be a day of fun, joy and atmosphere, so please come along on Saturday September 20 between 10 and 4 at Docking's St Mary's Church. We look forward to seeing you.

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Blooming marvellous - 50th Flower Festival rose above and beyond expectations

Dani Crawshaw

On my way to St Mary's I pass Sandra Ellison, a retired priest who still runs a few Sunday services at the church. "It's fantastic that we've got to 50 years, we've got lots of new people coming in, new faces doing the flower arranging. As you can see it's very popular and it's only just after 10 o'clock. Enjoy it!"

Outside one of the wardens is sitting on a bench in the sunshine, "It's getting bigger and better each year," says Steve Rimmer. "It's a great way of gelling the village, a real coming together and it really is a wonderful place." I also chat to Simon Carter who's selling programmes and ask if he's got a favourite display, "Ohh, tough question. We have some amazing ones, all sorts of different interpretations - go and have a look around and decide for yourself!"



Steve Rimmer

As I enter St Mary's it's the aroma I notice first. It's unbe-leaf-ably (couldn't resist) wonderful. I'm handed a list of the flower displays and join dozens of people on a walk around. There's everything from goldilocks to a golden toilet. The golden theme is of course paying homage to the 50th anniversary.



"It's a bit of fun really, it's representing the stolen loo from Blenheim palace. We spray painted the toilet, cardboard box for the cistern, jam jar for the handle - and one of the thieves wearing my stuffed gardening outfit," Helen Riddington tells me. "It really is a lovely 3 days, it's very good for the community, because we don't necessarily see each other during the year much. There are people from other villages too and we all pick up where we left off."

As if to prove a point we're interrupted by two ladies eager to say hello and tell Helen the idea's 'simply brilliant'. Before I walk on she stops me and says, "I've been taking part for around 40 years, the longest someone has, I'm not necessarily the oldest participant but very nearly!"



Next I spot someone watering the displays, who happens to be the coordinator of the event Gary Bocking, "I love the fact that everyone comes together, we've got so many different people and it's just such a pleasure to all pitch in, everyone helps each other and it's just such a lovely atmosphere. I think the final buzz of the last few days is really special."

After walking around and seeing all the displays (it's hard to pick a favourite, but my one year old has fallen in love with 'mummy bear') I stop for a moment and sit on a pew, and take in what is a brilliant community event. I hear murmurs of appreciation. Carol who's sitting nearby tells me she's come for the last 30 years, "This is one of the best I've ever seen, there are some very clever minds that work out not only beautiful flowers but beautiful themes."

As I head to the village hall, where there're stalls and refreshments (as well as a hog roast

on the Saturday and a dog show on the Sunday), I pass the duck pond where plants are being sold for those feeling inspired. Winnie the dog stops to say hello, her owners tell me she's a previous winner for 'the waggiest tail'. They buy some flowers from the stall and say the festival gets 'better and better each year'.

The hog roast is a sell out, there's even a Lancaster WW2 bomber which flies overhead. It returns Sunday too as the dogs are getting ready for the show. We enter my mum's cockapoo in 3 categories (determined to get a prize) and Freddie finally takes fifth place for waggiest tail (robbed of first in my opinion!)

It is a joyful three days in the village. The raffle, with prizes donated by local businesses, raises a record 3 thousand pounds and a special commemorative programme also adds to funds, which go to the village hall and church. Chairman Mike Tuffs, who's been involved for almost 20 years, says a huge debt of gratitude is owed to all the volunteers that make it all possible, "We couldn't have done any of it without them!" This is Mike's last year as Chairman - and what a special year to go on!

After I've bought some homemade jam and am happily eating some delicious homemade cake I hear a comment as I leave that I'm sure will delight all those involved. Jane from Northampton, who's recently been to Sandringham Flower Show, says, "I think that the flowers here are more exquisite than they were there." A well deserved compliment indeed.

Chairman Mike Tuffs has now handed over the reins to Simon Carter. If you would like to register your interest in being involved with the Festival next year - or know of someone (maybe new to the village?) who might like to join please contact Simon on 07941 521860 or simoncarter920@btinternet.com



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Recent activities at 42F

Mike Lister

Over the last few months, the teenagers of 42F (King's Lynn) Squadron RAF Air Cadets have been having a fantastic time taking part in many varied cadet-based activities and also proudly being seen in their light blue uniforms at a number of public and civic events.

In early May six new members joined the Squadron. Having undertaken initial training, they were recently formally enrolled into the Air Training Corps by the Squadron's Padre, the Rev. Kyla Sorenson.



May also saw the Squadron's team at the Wing Athletics at Ipswich return triumphant with 7 medals, Cpl Nicol 1st shot put, Cdt Sarnas 1st Discus, Sgt Munson 1st Discus, Sgt Took 1st long jump, Sgt Took 1st 1500m, Sgt Seekings 2nd 400m, Sgt Munson 2nd javelin. We look forward to hopefully bringing home some more trophies soon from the Inter-Wing Athletics.

At the Sandringham Festival of Carriage Driving in late June cadets enjoyed the spectacle of various equestrian events whilst assisting the organisers with a number of tasks over the weekend's trials.

A recent addition to the Squadrons sporting events, at its Loke Road headquarters, is archery, with a member of the unit's adult supporters now qualified to instruct this activity.



The annual Sandringham Flower Show saw our cadets assisting as usual with various tasks that included manning the Squadron's recruiting and fundraising marquee, and duties at the Royal Warrant Holders Marquee. On arrival of the King and Queen cadets raised the Royal Standard before forming an Honour Guard for their Majesties, which King Charles appeared to enjoy immensely.



Wednesday 17th September is the Squadron's next intake evening at which we look forward to welcoming that think the Air Cadets is just the youth organisation they would love to join. Minimum age is 13years (12 and a half) if in year 8 at school. Parents do bring your young people along to find out all about the Squadrons activities. You never know you might even like to get involved yourself as an adult volunteer. The evening starts at 7pm at the Squadron's Loke Road Headquarters.

Epic challenge of 42F's Adult Instructor

In June, RAF veteran, Chris McDowell a civilian instructor with 42F (King's Lynn) Squadron Air Cadets took on an epic 15-day challenge to raise vital funds and awareness for the veteran's charity 'Combat Stress'. Chris, who works for Tesco, walked a total of 500 miles along a route from Edinburgh to Welwyn Garden City visiting 20 Tesco stores along the way to raise awareness of the mental health issues of many veterans and raise funds along the way. Not only did he complete his self-imposed challenge but he did it carrying a heavy 3kg medicine ball as well, representing the unseen burden of mental health issues.



42F's Air Cadets are looking forward to the day, in the not too distant future, when Chris progresses from being a Civilian Instructor at the Squadron to a Uniformed Officer when he gains his RAF Air Cadet Commission.

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Little Massingham Church will be opening up to visitors when it joins the 'Heritage Open Days' on Saturday 13th September 10am-4pm. The 13th September is also the annual Norfolk Churches Trust Bike Ride. Please come along to learn more about the church history and what is planned for the future. <https://bit.ly/41y2yee>
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Who do you think you are kidding?

Kevin Johnson

I am sure that every family has its fair share of stories/legends about their forebears which have grown and changed across the years; mine is no different. What might be unusual is that many years after first hearing of the capture of an enemy airman by my Nan and neighbouring ladies, a chance conversation with a mutual friend not only confirmed this tale but also gave me the other half of the story: a Dad's Army scenario to boot.

I have since been able to fill in some missing details on-line, and can place it with some confidence on the 9th May, 1942 (I am open to correction from wiser heads), when a Dornier 217 came down in the woods in Fring, on the road to Sedgeford. I assume that this 'plane had attacked RAF Bircham Newton, then a Coastal Command station. What happened next forms this tale...

Early in the morning of the 9th, Fred, a labourer on the farm at Red Barn working for Mr Hunter, whose son had been killed in the Battle of Britain, rode off with a pal to catch a 'bus to a race meeting in Fakenham. As members of the Home Guard, it was a welcome break in routine. The journey would involve a haul up the Fring to Sedgeford hill, down which they would return later that day.

The work on the farm and in the cottages continued through the early spring day until in the early afternoon (sic) the sounds of the countryside were broken by the roar of aero-engines to the south coming increasingly close. As they watched, the residents saw a white parachute leave a plane, which then flew over them, whilst the visitor from on high gradually descended to earth, coming to an ungainly (and painful) rest in the thorn hedge at the end of Nan's garden. As the ladies rushed to help, they found to their surprise – and probably horror – that their visitor was in fact German aircrew! The greatest shock for these brave ladies was when they were addressed in perfect English, saying that his sidearm had fallen out of its holster on the descent and he was worried that children might find it – hardly the 'Beastly Hun' of legend.

Eventually the farmworkers, many of them members of the local Home Guard, arrived, some armed, to arrest the crewman. He was to be taken to the police in Snettisham, and so the farm foreman, an NCO in the Home Guard, arrived in his van as transport. When they arrived at the police house, the acid from the damaged plane on the boots of the crewman had burned through the floor of the van!

Now the rules at the time said that enemy parachutes should be handed in to be recycled... perhaps this order had not reached the farm, as somehow it reached Nan's table where every household was able to collect material for new handkerchiefs, underwear or whatever.

Fast forward a few hours and a very 'happy' Fred and friend arrived back on the bus, being dropped off to collect their bikes. Deciding that trying to ride home in their

condition was a bad idea, they set off to walk the few miles. As they slowly reached the brow of the hill they spied in the distance two chaps walking in the same direction. Bravely mounting their steeds, they traced a less than straight route towards the bottom of the hill, swiftly catching the walkers up. Being a polite pair, Fred and pal greeted the two men, who responded politely and asked where the road led, to which they responded, 'Fring.' Receiving thanks our intrepid duo rode on towards the end of the road.

Now the tale takes a twist, of sorts. At the junction stood fellow members of the Home Guard manning a checkpoint, who promptly

challenged the unsteady cyclists, asking if they had seen anyone, as missing crew from the plane were still at large. Why they replied that they had not, Fred was unable to say, but they did.

As they were about to leave, behind them came the two walkers, who approached the soldiers, came to attention, raised their hands, and explained that they were the missing aircrew.

Fred never said what reaction he was to enjoy from his colleagues, but one can guess that it was not the award of a medal! However, the ladies of Red Barn were awarded silk underwear that lasted for many a year.

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News from Brancaster Village Hall (BVH)

Geoff Wingrove

As is usual in the summer, BVH has been buzzing with activity, attracting every kind of use, from Scottish dancing and art shows to clay pigeon shooting and informative talks on a wide variety of subjects. The latest newcomer is the Games Club Night, which meets on alternate Friday evenings to play a range of board games. Do come along: you will be assured of a very warm welcome.

Our regular groups continue to meet, including Yoga, Baby and Toddler Group, Coffee Morning and Mobile Library.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Halloween Party Friday 31st October, with Spooky Masters and Bordolis Pizzas.

BVH Talk Saturday 8th November: "My Life in Politics" by Steven Norris, former Under-Secretary of State for Transport.

Winter Fair Saturday 29th November

BAR 71

Neil's Retirement Party Saturday 13th September @ 6.00pm

Regular events, with Darts, Skittles and Quiz Nights

Further information about these and other activities 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 PARISH ARCHIVE: BRANCASTER STAITHE HARBOUR MASTER

Ports and harbours have existed for thousands of years and, as a consequence, there has been a need for somebody to manage the coming and going of ships and the loading and unloading of cargoes. This requirement has become more formalised over the past two centuries in Britain and other countries and the duty has fallen to the post of Harbour Master. Today Harbour Masters oversee many of the 433 official harbours in the UK and 45 in Northern Ireland under regulations laid down by Parliament and overseen by the Statutory Harbour Authorities.

Harbour Masters are appointed by the owners of the harbours and are responsible for the safety of harbour users in compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code. There are no set qualifications for the position, although the larger harbours require a Master's Certificate. The role includes responsibility for safety policies and procedures, enforcement of regulations and marine law, direction of harbour traffic, emergency planning and security, and reporting on, and investigating, incidents.

Brancaster Staithe has been a harbour for hundreds of years and has a harbour master appointed by the National Trust, which owns the harbour and its environs. The current postholder, Mike Parker, works from April to October each year, when the harbour receives its maximum usage. Brancaster Staithe has been a thriving port, trading in coal and barley up to the mid-19th century; today it is home to a small number of fishing vessels and a large, strongly supported sailing club.



Mike Parker is a RYA Powerboat and Senior Dinghy Instructor, as well as a keen canoe and SUP paddler; he lives in Derbyshire, but has accommodation in Brancaster during the boating season, and has been Harbour Master for three years. The post provides an office at the Staithe and also a small coastal craft to undertake maintenance of harbour buoys and supervise the harbour traffic. It can also be used to tow craft that have got into trouble and provide support to the emergency services when necessary.



Besides the small working fishing fleet and inshore shellfish industry, the Staithe is home to Brancaster Staithe Sailing Club, which has a large membership and long history. During the summer months there can be upwards of two hundred craft in the harbour waters – boats from BSSC and casual users. This usage can include various classes of sailing/racing boats, power ski boats, kayaks, paddle boarders and canoeists, as well as swimmers. Mike has to engage with all these groups, as well as with casual visitors to the harbour coming for sightseeing and birdwatching, in order to ensure that there are no incidents, and that everyone enjoys their time on the water. He is particularly vigilant about users wearing personal safety equipment before going on the water and has constantly to remind people of the safety aspects and the need to ensure they are safely equipped.

Mike works closely with the emergency services, particularly the RNLI and Coastguard and, in recent times, the newly established Coastwatch station at Brancaster. This station also focuses its efforts on water safety and, along with Mike, liaises with the emergency services to keep beach users and coastal craft safe.

The tidal conditions in Brancaster Staithe harbour and off the coast are extremely tricky for first-time users; there is the additional attraction of Scolt Head Island National Nature Reserve across the opposite side of the tidal channel to the harbour. Users need to be aware of the movement of tides, the impact of wind

directions and particularly the very fierce currents in the approach channels to the harbour. Some intrepid visitors use low tide conditions to wade over to Scolt Island and are surprised when the sea races in and cuts them off; the wreck of the SS Vina at the western end of the island is also a draw. The Harbour Master works with the Coastwatch station to highlight the dangers and to arrange the rescue of people stranded on the island.

The BSSC does not allow novices or younger sailors outside of the harbour, but some of the casual users can get into difficulty quickly if they ignore wind or tidal conditions. It is still surprising that paddle boarders in particular will venture out in very difficult conditions, and Mike needs to be keenly alert to activity in the harbour and be on hand to offer advice and guidance.



In conclusion, the Brancaster Staithe harbour works well, with good relationships between the Harbour Master, BSSC and the fishing fleet, which Mike works hard to maintain. These relationships and the mutual respect that underpins them ensure that the harbour remains a relatively safe environment, but constant vigilance is needed, without which serious incidents can occur very quickly for the unwary and inexperienced.

I would like to thank Mike Parker and the National Trust's Richard Steer for their invaluable assistance in writing this article. The pictures show Harbour Master Mike, fishing boats in the harbour and sunset over Brancaster Staithe.

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NATIONAL COASTWATCH INSTITUTION (NCI) BRANCASTER

This being the summer season, with thousands of visitors using the beach and the coastal waters of Brancaster, it has been a very busy time for the Brancaster Coastwatch station and the volunteer Watchkeepers on duty. Along with the enlarged spit off the beach reported in last month's account, Scolt Head Island continues to be a magnet for the unwary. There have been three incidents of people becoming marooned on the island as the tide has rushed in; they needed to be escorted to safety by the RNLI hovercraft from Hunstanton and the Coastguard Rescue Team (CRT), following notification by station Watchkeepers. A leisure boat was also seen drifting off Scolt Head Island but was towed to safety by another craft.



A happier tale (no pun intended!) refers to a couple who lost their rescue dog, Margo, in the marshes next to the beach when she was hassled by other dogs whilst being walked. Being of a very nervous disposition, Margo proved elusive to capture, and the CRT were called by Watchkeepers to ensure that the owners did not stray into the potentially dangerous marsh area. The station staff were able to enlist the help of a number of volunteers from the community in the search; happily, the following day Margo was eventually persuaded to come out of the marshes, and her owner was able to get a lead on her. It was a really heartwarming end to the story, and Margo's owners offered their grateful thanks to the Watchkeepers for their vigilance and invaluable assistance over the two days.

In the interests of increased safety, the station staff will be stepping up their presence on the beach on Bank Holiday Monday, 25th August, and will also be at the Hunstanton beach for Emergency Services Day on 7th September.

If you would like more information on NCI Brancaster, or to find out more about becoming a volunteer, please contact Richard Burrows, Deputy Station Manager and Watchkeeper on 07535 612777. You can also find us on Facebook, if you search NCI Brancaster. The pictures show Margo, and also Margo back home with her buddy, Yogi, a rescue cockapoo.



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Hunstanton Lifeboat Station news

Hunstanton Round Table donated a piece of "game-changing" equipment to the station in the shape of a thermal imaging scope.



The £2,600 piece of kit will enable volunteers to literally see in the dark when out on shouts, helping them to search for missing people at sea or on the foreshore.

Ryan Darby, one of the station's helms, is also chair of the Round Table, while crew members Ed Napolitano, Josh Haycock and Elliott Nicol are also members.

"We're in the crew so we know how vital the scope is," said Ryan. "It detects heat, which means we can see a lot further at night."

Fellow helm and Round Table member Ed added: "It's a game-changer in dark conditions, when you're trying to find someone and time is of the essence."

The station was kindly gifted a similar scope by a generous donor last year.

The Round Table's gift means crew on both its lifeboat and hovercraft can now be equipped with one in the event of both being launched on the same 'shout'.

Lifeboat operations manager Mike Gould said: "We're hugely grateful because it means we can have one on each asset. We know how important these things can be in both night and daytime conditions."

We're always touched by the kind support we receive from our town and its surroundings.

Hunstanton Golf Club hosted a charity golf day for the RNLI back in June. Some 180 players took part, tee'ing up £38,145 to help save lives at sea.

Organiser David Umlers, who's a member of the Hunstanton and West Norfolk Lifeboat Guild, said: "We were very pleased, it was a very successful day."



"The money will go to help save lives at sea so it's a win-win situation for everyone made possible by the kindness of Hunstanton Golf Club, their general manager Chris White and the committee for allowing us to use the course for free."

Darren and Ann-Marie Wing also did us proud with a fantastic two-day event at the Queen Vic in Snettisham in July.

The bash, organised by the couple along with customers Steve Webber and Dave Taylor, raised £2,000.

Also in July Some 60 Rock Choir members rocked up at Hunstanton lifeboat station for a warm-up performance before they were joined by 300 more voices from across East Anglia for a memorable show on The Green. The shows raised just over £1,600.

Preparations are well under way for the RNLI Fest at the Golden Lion on Saturday, August 30. You're all paged to attend what should prove to be another great afternoon of live music, food and drink - with a few fun games thrown in. The fun gets under way from 12-noon.

If you'd like to find out more about our work and how you could join us, either pop down to the station on a Sunday morning when we train or e-mail hunstanton@rnli.org.uk.

Stay Safe, Respect the Sea, Hunstanton RNLI



Sirens at the Helm singing at The Queen Victoria, Snettisham



Rock Choir in Hunstanton

All images credit: RNLI/Chris Bishop

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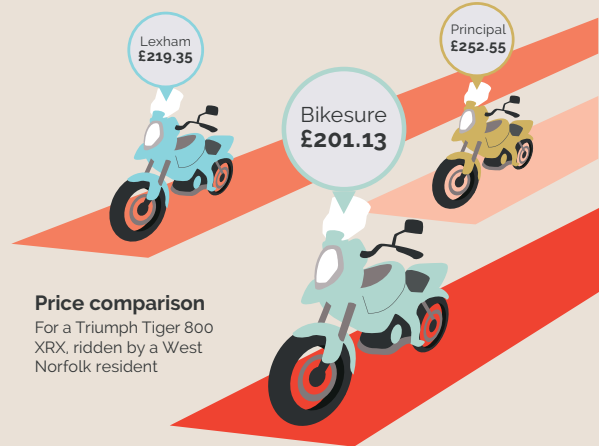
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North West Norfolk Girlguiding at Sandringham Flower Show

Our Girlguiding stand received a lot of attention from potential new recruits and volunteers alike. We had exciting and fun things going on, such as the "Pin on the Map" activity, which shows just how far our Girlguiding family stretches. The "Spin to Win" wheel was also a massive success with the kids (and a few adults), offering prizes and a glimpse into what we do. The whole day served as a great testament to our Girlguiding community's spirit of fun and friendship.

However, the real showstoppers were our "Buddy Dolls" – lovingly created by our wonderful friend and fundraiser, June Barrett. They were a hit with everyone and perfectly showcased creativity and teamwork.

A Royal Encounter

Beyond all the fun and games, the Sandringham Flower Show provided us with an unforgettable moment when our Division Commissioner, Ruby Goold, had the honour of presenting a special set of Buddy Dolls to King Charles III and Queen Camilla!

It was a fitting way to show our respect for the Royal Family, whilst promoting our core Girlguiding values of service and community.

"It was a truly wonderful day," said Ruby, "The Sandringham Flower Show is just such a wonderful event, and it was fantastic to be able to share the spirit of Girlguiding with so many people. The absolute highlight, of course, was presenting the Buddy Dolls to the King and Queen – a moment I will never forget!"

Spreading the Word and Finding New Friends

Our stall provided an ideal opportunity to promote Girlguiding in the local area. We had many lovely chats, and it was wonderful to meet so many new Guiding friends visiting us from afar, placing a pin on the map to show us where their Girlguiding journey began – Northumberland was the furthest!

We shared all the info on how to get involved and how they can make a difference in the lives of girls and young women.



local event demonstrates the positive impact that Girlguiding brings to communities everywhere.

Volunteers are always welcome. Whether you're a parent, a former member, or someone new to Girlguiding. There are so many ways to get involved!

For those interested in joining Girlguiding as a young member or adult volunteer, registration is open at <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/>

For more information on how to get involved or to find your local group, please contact: northwestdivision@girlguidingnorfolk.org.uk

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More information on www.solosaxclarinet.com



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Other things I enjoy doing with the society, is maintaining the website and our database of artifacts, and writing on local history. I can feel a book coming on...

Eight more words make required target 250. Done.

DONATION OF MAPS BY SMITHDON SCHOOL TO HUNSTANTON SOCIETY

We reported last month that we had been donated with a large quantity of Ordnance Survey Maps by Smithdon School.

We are pleased to report that these have all been flattened out and sorted. We have ended up with over 90 maps that we have accessioned and over 100 duplicates that we are going to offer to other schools, libraries, local History groups etc. They are mainly maps printed in the 1970s and although not totally up-to-date might be useful for investigative work for educational purposes. Some maps are older and nearly all cover this corner of Norfolk, mainly 1:2500 scale which is extremely detailed.

BREAKING NEWS!

Treasure chest found on Hunstanton Beach.



A treasure chest has been found washed up on the beach at Hunstanton. It is thought to have belonged to the pirate of myths, Hunstanton Harry.

Hunstanton Harry allegedly chased and caught ships on their way into the docks at Kings Lynn or took shelter in The Wash. The treasure chest is stored in the Hunstanton Heritage Centre but the volunteers have not been able to crack the code to open the lock.

Can you help the volunteers at the Heritage Centre to crack the code and discover the treasure?

The Events team have put together a treasure hunt and a new display on smuggling for all the family to enjoy. People who have completed the treasure hunt have all commented that it was fun and that they discovered parts of Hunstanton that are not on the normal tourist trail.

For a review please see the following link: <https://townandaround.net/news/adventure-awaits>.

More details and entry forms are for sale at £3.00 in the Heritage Centre.

Hunstanton Society

Heritage Days take place between the 12th and 21st September.

Fridays, 12th and 19th Sept 11.00am - 2.00pm there will be half hourly visits to the Lighthouse and on Thursday, 18th Sept there will be two guided visits to Hunstanton Hall at 10am and 12pm.

These visits must be pre-booked any time from 27th August by emailing Andrew Murray on andrew.murray1942@gmail.com stating which tour and what time you would like to book. These tours are incredibly popular so please book early.

On days when the Lighthouse tours are taking place, visitors will receive a voucher for refreshments at the Heritage Centre which will be open from 11am until 4pm on those Fridays.

If you would like to contact the Events Team, the email address is hunstantonsocietyevents@gmail.com. We would love to hear from you if you would like to join the Events Team or if you have any ideas on future displays and events about things you would like to see us do.

MEET THE COMMITTEE : Philip Thomas - Treasurer

I was born sometime last century into a long story in California but grew up in Cornwall. Having studied Economics at the University of Warwick, I embarked on a career as an accountant, for want of something else to do, initially in the steel industry in Sheffield, later in electronics in Slough. After various career changes I finished up implementing business software for a large Multinational – Honeywell

International*, being based in Leicester. This is where I met my wife, Alison. After semi-retirement the logical thing to do was move to Leicester-On-Sea aka Hunstanton.



**Honeywell don't just make thermostats. This picture is of me at our VE Day event finding out that they made this tank periscope!*

Hunstanton is very friendly and welcoming, and before long Alison and I were involved in the community. We both volunteer at the Princess Theatre and are members of the Hunstanton Society. Alison also volunteers for Tapping House Hospice.

I am currently the Treasurer of the Hunstanton Society (not too much work – honestly. If anyone else fancies a go let us know), where I get to deal with the cash and banking, keep a big spreadsheet which automates year end accounts, pass this on to the auditor and accountant, then start again.



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Dark skies of West Norfolk

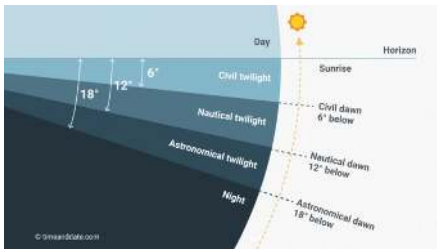
Terry Parish



Internet

The nights are drawing in but, too often, so are the clouds. The 22nd, at 7.20pm, is the Autumn Equinox when night is about the same length as day. Nights then get longer until 21st December. The equinox is when the Earth's axis of rotation neither points away from the Sun (winter) or towards the Sun (summer). This position repeats itself 6 months later and half way around the Earth's orbit, at the Spring Equinox.

Diminishing day length is due to earlier sunsets. Sunset is defined as the moment the top limb of the Sun dips below the horizon. Due to refraction this is after the Sun has physically done so, just as sunrise occurs before the Sun is actually above the horizon. An experiment you can do which vaguely illustrates this phenomenon requires a coin, a cup and some water. Place the coin in the cup. Move your head so that the lip of the cup prevent you from seeing the coin. Without moving your head, pour water into the cup, an assistant might be useful. Magically the coin appears. refraction has bent the light reflected from the coin.



Three twilights follow sunset and after each twilight is a dusk. Ordinary twilight lasts until the centre of the Sun is 60 below the horizon, nautical twilight then begins until the Sun has sunk another 60. Then Astronomical twilight follows for another 60, followed by Astronomical dusk and, at last night. In case you are confused, it's all a matter of degrees of darkness. People are content with dark; sailors prefer darker and astronomers want darkest.

So, what can we see at night? Saturn will be at its brightest this year with a magnitude of 0.6. This is because on the 21st it is in opposition, at its closest to the Earth with just 1,279 million km between us. Swing a small telescope or powerful binoculars on it to see the rings, though they will be almost edge on so, this year, a line really.

Saturn is visible all night long, starting in the ESE from about 10pm. On the 8th, the Moon is just above and to the left of it.

The furthest planet, Neptune, also reaches opposition on the 23rd and is only 4,321 million km away from us. At magnitude 7.7 it will not be seen by naked eyes but a telescope

will find the dim blue-green planet. On the 8th, when you have found Saturn, swing good binoculars to a point between it and the Moon, there lies Neptune.

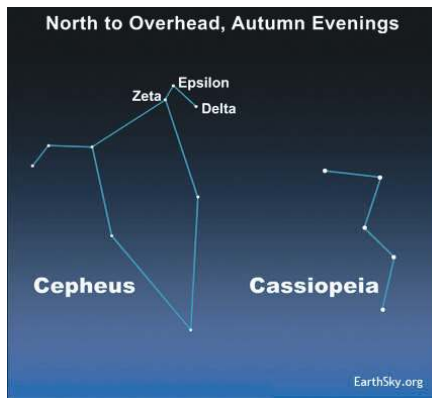
Back in 1989, Voyager 2 shot past Neptune and sent back extraordinary pictures. It discovered that the methane rich planet had dusty rings and that a moon, Triton had ice volcanos. Neptune's planetary core is very hot, more than 5000 oC, which drives storms and winds of up to 2,100Km/hr.

To see Jupiter and Venus early morning calls. Jupiter rises in the SE at half past midnight. At 2am it will be high enough to easily see and shining brightly at a magnitude of minus 2, you won't miss it. On the 16th the Crescent Moon is above Jove and, the next night, below it. The box like pattern of stars sharing the sky with Jupiter is Gemini, the twins. The two stars at the corners of the left-hand side are Castor and Pollux.

Venus is far brighter with a magnitude of minus 3.9. It rises about 4am so, having caught Jupiter you may as well stay up and look for meteors.

Though September has no major meteor showers it does have the most incidents of sporadic ones – those that appear without being forecasted. There is also a minor shower, the Southern Taurids which starts on the 10th and goes on until the 20th November. The Taurids produce Infrequent meteors but some bright ones are possible.

Patterns of stars to look out for include Cepheus near the zenith. It looks like a house and contains Herschel's Garnet Star which, unsurprisingly, is red. If you got close you would find it was also big, a 1000 times wider than the Sun.



Herschel's Garnet Star is just above the middle of the upside down floor of the house, so to the left of Zeta. Internet

Another star in the Cepheus house is Delta Cephei, the original cepheid variable. These are stars which regularly dim and then brighten again. How rapidly they do this is related to how bright they really are (absolute magnitude). Knowing that and how bright they appear to be from Earth (apparent magnitude) means their distance from Earth can be calculated. Delta Cephei fluctuates over 5 days and 9 hours and is 887.1 light years distant.

Such variables enabled the galaxy to be

better mapped and distances to other galaxies determined. Space born telescopes like Gaia have since taken over.



Internet

Find the Summer Triangle asterism (pattern) in the SW. The bright stars Vega, Altair and Deneb are at its corners. Vega is 25 light years distant and a blue white star. Altair is 16.7 light years distant and a larger, hotter version of our Sun. Deneb's distance from us is somewhere between 1,400 and 2,600 light years distant. It is a blue supergiant and head of the Northern cross.

I am writing this early in August before I go to Wales where, I hope, I will see some Perseid meteors despite the full Moon. Perhaps a mountain will block it out. Not many of those in Norfolk though we do have Cheney Hill.

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Sedgeford, Norfolk

Still all to play for!

Hunstanton Bowls Club (Cromer Road)

The bowling season is fast approaching its climax with several leagues completed and Club competitions reaching the final stages. Unfortunately the ladies were pipped at the post in the King's Lynn league and dropped to second place on the last game of the season. However, this was a vast improvement on 2024 and all concerned should be congratulated for their commitment to the cause!

After a disappointing start the Men's "A" Team pulled out all the stops during the second half of the season and finished a creditable fifth in West division one of the Norfolk County league. On occasions the "B" team struggled to field a team but as this league is now mixed things look much healthier for 2026 as the ladies are raring to go in supporting the men. Bring it on!

Having reached the final of the County Top Club competition the ladies faced a very strong side from Norfolk Bowling Club. Hunstanton put up a valiant fight but NBC eased ahead in last few ends to take the title. Well done ladies!

The finals of the club competitions will be held on Saturday 6th September. Why not come along and see some of Hunstanton's best bowlers vying for glory. You never know...you might be tempted to give bowling a try in 2026!

President Mick Hallifax will be hosting his President's day on Sunday 7th September when the men will be playing the ladies...spectators very welcome.



Friday evenings remain "Club Nights" at Cromer Road and several events are planned for the autumn to keep everyone involved and build upon the social side. The first event is a QUIZ NIGHT on Friday 26th September- all are welcome to join us - for more details or to book a table contact: John: 07895 947747 or Debra 07521871689

Hunstanton Croquet Club

Zena Penty

Despite the dry weather the lawns continue to be in great condition and the club has recently hosted on average to 2-3 days of competitions per week, both internal and external. This enables members to compete at a high level, or to gain experience and increase their competitive play should they wish. Take a look the News and Results page of the website to see full reports and photos: www.hunstantoncroquetclub.co.uk

Club afternoons continue to be busy with a regular attendance of 30+ players enjoying the sunshine, 3 x 30 minute games at varying levels followed by tea and a chance to have a chat and catch up with other members.

It is vital that the club has members who regularly help set out the lawns, help with refreshments and maintenance tasks etc but we will also be looking for members interested in taking on key roles on the committee for next season i.e. treasurer (this does not need to be a playing member) Please get in touch via the website.



Hunstanton Promenade parkrun

Tania Stowe

Currently every Saturday morning, runners, joggers, and walkers gather on the beautiful Hunstanton clifftop for a 5K that is much more than just a run—it's a celebration of community spirit, fitness, and friendship. At the core of this weekly tradition are the volunteers who make Hunstanton parkrun possible. Their dedication, energy, and kindness deserve a heartfelt thank you from us all.

Whether it's rain, wind, or sunshine, the volunteers are there—bright and early—setting up the course, marshalling with encouraging cheers, timing each participant with care, and scanning barcodes with welcoming smiles. They are the reason parkrun is free, safe, and so wonderfully well-organized.

These roles might seem small individually, but together they create a seamless and



uplifting experience that allows hundreds of people to start their weekend on a positive note. From the Run Directors who keep everything running smoothly, to the Tail Walkers who ensure no one is left behind, every volunteer plays a vital role.

Many volunteers give their time regularly, while others jump in when they can, sometimes after running themselves. Some are recovering from injury, others simply love being part of the community. But all of them share a

common goal: to support others and make Hunstanton parkrun a joyful, welcoming event for all.

To every volunteer who has stood in the cold with a stopwatch, clapped with enthusiasm from a marshal point, or sorted tokens after everyone else has gone home—thank you. Your time and effort do not go unnoticed. You are the heartbeat of our parkrun.

And for those who have never volunteered before—consider giving it a try. It's a fantastic way to meet new people, give back to the local running community, and be part of something genuinely uplifting.

The photograph alongside this article shows some of our volunteers coming together for a summer picnic on the Green in early August. It was lovely to spend some time together in glorious weather and we anticipate it will become an annual event.

To learn more about volunteering at Hunstanton Promenade Parkrun, visit the official Parkrun website or chat with the team after your next run.



Sporting corner with Tim Keogh

A new football season dawns

It only feels like yesterday when the football season ended, but here it is again, with all local teams gearing up for a new campaign. Here, Town & Around's very own sports reporter, Tim Keogh, gives his predictions on the forthcoming season.

Kings Lynn Town FC

The Linnets had a relatively successful campaign last season by reaching the National League North play offs. However, this campaign is a case of out with the old and in with the new, with James Rowe replacing Adam Lakeland at the helm. Rowe has also made some changes with Michael Gyasi looking to be an exciting prospect, with ex Heacham player, Fletcher Toll, expected to feature at some point. Whilst it is difficult to judge after just one game, their showing against Telford United in the season opener, a 1-1 draw (Gyasi), showed that this side looks like they are going to provide an entertaining season for the fans.

Prediction - Top half of the table, may sneak into the play offs

Heacham FC

After last season's creditable mid table finish in the Thurlow Nunn Premier Division, a relatively young side this season have made a similar start to last year. However, losses against champions elect, Fakenham Town, and higher level Newmarket Town, should not deflect that Heacham might prove to be a tougher side to beat under Paul Hunt, certainly as the season evolves and the youngsters adapt. Toby Hilliard's decision to lead the frontline again could prove pivotal.

Harvey Easton made history in Heacham FC's first ever home game in the FA Cup by also scoring their first ever goal in this historic competition. The youngsters actually put Heacham ahead before they conceded two late goals against their higher league opponents, Newmarket Town.



Harvey Easton scoring Heacham's first ever FA Cup goal Credit Phill Gwilliam

Prediction - another mid table finish and a good cup run

Dersingham Rovers

After the heartbreak of missing out on promotion to the Premier Division in the Anglian Combination League at the last hurdle in May, Dersingham have already started the season on the front foot by defeating premier side Acle Utd 2-0 in the equivalent of the Community Shield opener. Manager, Harry Collison, is under no illusions though and knows it will be another tough campaign, especially with the sides who have come up.

Prediction - Promotion

Heacham FC Reserves

Having been promoted to Division Three in the Anglian Combination, Heacham have already thrown down the gauntlet to the other teams with a comprehensive free flowing 5-2 win at home to Aylsham Reserves. The entertaining outfit likely to be in the mix come the end of season by simply out scoring their opponents.

Prediction - Another promotion

Ingoldisthorpe FC

The 'Thorpe were relegated to Division Four last season after a disappointing campaign. Gone is leading scorer, Dylan Ess, as well as a couple of other influential players. However, the local outfit have recruited well and their first outing against Madra showed they could be challenging for an immediate return to Division

Three. Despite losing a tight game 2-1, new signing, Shane Jackson, shone in particular, scoring an absolute screamer. With a good engine he should prove a key player this campaign. Chairman, Eddie Herbert, said, "there has been a lot going on out of season to make sure we rebuilt and moved forward. We have carried out pitch repairs, built new changing facilities for the home team and also signed some quality players for both teams who will definitely strengthen both squads. I am looking forward to a good season, the club is on the up again.

Prediction - top half finish

Dersingham Reserves

The Ders will be looking to build on last season's mid table finish with a challenge for promotion this campaign and have already made their intentions clear with a 2-1 victory over Watton United Reserves.

Prediction - top half finish

The North West Norfolk League doesn't start until September. Dersingham Rovers 'A' will once again be in Division One having finished 2nd last season, whilst relegated Ingoldisthorpe Reserves will be in Division Two. FC St. Edmunds Hunstanton will also be in Division Two, looking to build on a very successful second half of the season last campaign. Manager, Nigel King, was wax-lyrical about the challenge ahead, saying, "pre-season training has gone well and we are a long long way ahead of where we were this time last year. I'm optimistic we will be challenging this year". Training is on Wednesdays from 6pm on Hunstanton Recreation Ground. Dersingham have also introduced an U23's side into Division Two.

Prediction - All four teams challenging for promotion.

The local Junior football season starts in September, with Docking, Heacham Minors, Dersingham and Hunstanton based Redgate Rangers all represented. T&A will be looking at their progress in the next edition.

Local siblings deliver at Sailing Nationals

After recently performing well in the Topper World Sailing Championships in Holland in July, Toby and Faith Turner were back in action from the 4th to 9th August, this time in the Topper National Sailing Championships at Largs Yacht Haven Sailing Club in Scotland.

The Snettisham Beach Sailing Club members yet again performed well achieving prized and coveted Gold Fleet finishes. Toby secured a win on the final day which secured 4th place overall out of 100 boats.

With some fantastic results at the top end of the fleet, Faith battled it out right to the last race on the final day to leapfrog all the girls and win the Top Female Award and 23rd overall.

For the duo, who both attend Smithdon High School in Hunstanton, it caps off a superb season giving the pair confidence and allowing them to take their successes this year into the 2026 season.

Whisper it quietly but, who knows, with the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics just three years away, Faith and Toby could be timing their progress perfectly.



Sporting corner with Tim Keogh

Cricket Update

tim@townandaround.net

Match Report - Sandringham & Dersingham 1st XI v Bircham 1st XI

The wonderful setting of Sandringham Estate provided the location for Sandringham & Dersingham CC's league match against local rivals Bircham CC on Saturday, 9th August. With the ground in close proximity to Sandringham House itself, the team bearing the Royal responsibility were hoping to gain revenge on a tight 15 run defeat in the reverse fixture earlier on in the season.

With both sides now out of contention for promotion from Division Two of the Norfolk Cricket Alliance, it was simply a case of playing for bragging rights.

Whilst the Royalty have been known to view matches on occasion, no beheadings or whippings have occurred due to poor performance thus far, taking the pressure off the home players. However, based on this rare off day, some players may now be looking over their shoulders.

Indeed the visitors laid down the gauntlet, grabbing the bull by the horns from the outset, as they picked up the prize wickets of openers Ollie Southgate and, albeit an injured, James Havers in the first five overs. Whilst Aaron Nicol and local dentist, Sary Rahma, did manage to tee the out a response and steady the ship, an excellent bowling display from Bircham, notably Will Faulkner's 4 wickets, restricted the home side to a very modest 79.

A valiant attempt by the home side to make a game of it started well as they too skittled out Bircham's openers, but it proved too little too late as the visitors quickly chased down their target in just under 16 overs with 6 wickets to spare, achieving the double over their local foes this season. Ultimately, a campaign that had looked so promising for both sides early on has, alas, dwindled out.

Elsewhere, in-form Snettisham continue to put pressure on the top two in Division Four where second place should secure promotion. A key home game against leaders Sprowston 2nds will prove pivotal, although



Sandringham & Dersingham opener, Ollie Southgate, bowled out early on by Bircham's Tom King

second placed Hingham also face the leaders on the last day of the season.

In Division Five, a top two finish for Thornham remains entirely in their own hands. A mouth watering fixture is looming as they welcome 3rd placed Reepham & Salle CC on the final day of the season on the 31st August. Worth a look if it comes down to it.

Snettisham Women top the Shell UK Norfolk Women's Cricket League going into their last game. They have certainly prospered under the guidance of new coach, Julie Fielder, this season and know a win in their final match at home to Sheringham Women on the 24th August will secure their maiden title.

Photo credit: Ian Burt

Rear view and update

A monthly rear-view mirror take on the local bowls scene by Kev Johnson

Everybody wants to rule the world...

To quote Douglas Bader, "rules are for the obedience of fools and the guidance of wise men." This was probably a maxim from an earlier flyer, but is still in common usage today in more terrestrial arenas. A comment regularly heard on the bowls green is a variation, "we're not playing for a row of houses." Whilst this is true - at least no-one ever exchanged deeds after a match to my knowledge - it is usually aimed at an opponent who is quoting rules about a situation.

Now I concede that many rules for such a trivial event, such as a sports match, could be seen to be restrictive to the enjoyment of those playing. Why should a game be 'obstructed' by petty do's and don'ts? Let the players play, and all that.

Well, I will put my hands up and admit that I am one who plays for metaphorical houses in any sport - much to my better half's annoyance when I rail at poor applications of rules when watching sport on TV. I believe that like them or not, rules are there for the guidance of all: my answer to those who decide that a rule is not worth applying is what would they think if I ignored the rules about throwing a bowl and carried my bowl to the jack?

The payback I receive is that even during a game, a shout can ring-out for me to explain a rule on another rink. This is further

complicated by there being TWO sets of rules that apply to EBA and EBF bowls in turn, meaning that the rules regarding rink boundaries, for example, effectively argue with each other, which leads to confusion for many.

If the two codes were to come together with one set of rules life would be easier, but I also believe that players of any sports should have a working understanding of the rules, even if they seem pettifogging. Without rules anarchy lies... try driving on the right of the road! Rant over.

Local Bowls Update

The season is now reaching an exciting climax with league table positions becoming defined and cup final berths being secured.

At the time of going to print, Bircham Railway Bowls Club continue to lead the way in the Bridges 3 Wood League, whilst South Creak BC and Docking BC top Division One & Two of the North West Norfolk League respectively. The Countryside League is led by Ingoldisthorpe BC whilst Searles remain in mid table in their debut season in Division One of the Albert Victor League. They have also secured a berth in the League Cup Final. In the Norfolk County Bowls League West Divisions, Hunstanton 'A' & 'B' and Cliff Parade BC are now out of any races for promotion.

The Oasis Indoor Bowls League have confirmed their AGM will take place at Cromer Road Bowls Club on Wednesday, 3rd

September (7pm), whilst coaching resumes on Wednesday, 24th September from 2pm to 4pm at the Alive Oasis in Hunstanton.

A full round up of all the local bowls season winners and losers will appear in the October edition of Town & Around.

Armchair Sports Trivia

Win a delicious afternoon tea for two (worth £19.95 pp, total £39.90) courtesy of Berni Beans.

QUESTION: How many teams in the top five divisions of English football begin and end with the same letter?

NB: This does not include FC at the end of the names as in theory every club has FC at the end.

ANSWERS TO:

editor@townandaround.net or by post to:

The Editor, Town & Around,
18 Tapping Close, Snettisham
PE31 7FF

Please note we do not accept entries by any social media channels or text.

CLOSING DATE 15.09.2025.

Last month's question about Cameroon's kit being banned by FIFA resulted in a huge postbag, all of which were correct. The kit had no sleeves and there was nowhere to attach tournament badges. The lucky winner was Jo Moss of Pentney.



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Discover the King William IV

A gem in Sedgeford

Nestled in the heart of the historic village of Sedgeford, the King William IV is a traditional country pub that has recently joined The Coaching Inn Group Estate, which boasts 37 hotels and inns across the UK. With roots dating back to the reign of King William IV (1830-37), this charming inn has become a beloved spot for both locals and visitors, attracting a steady stream of patrons from those passing through the village to walkers on the nearby Peddars Way.

The name Sedgeford is believed to derive from "Secci's ford," as noted in the Domesday Book of 1086. The village is home to a stunning Anglo-Saxon church built from flint and stone, one of many round towers that dot the Norfolk landscape. Archaeological evidence suggests that Sedgeford has been inhabited since ancient times, with two historic routes - the prehistoric Icknield Way and the Roman Peddars Way - traversing the village. The latter leads to the coast and passes by Magazine Cottage, a 17th-century structure built by the Le Strange family during the Civil War, rumored to have a secret tunnel connecting it to the church. This intriguing history adds to the allure of the King William IV, making it a perfect stop for those exploring the area.



Earlier this year, Hayley Heslin, a local Norfolk lady, took the reins at the King William IV and is eager to elevate the pub's offerings. With a fresh menu and a lineup of themed evenings - including curry nights, fish & chips specials, and quiz nights - Hayley is committed to creating a vibrant atmosphere. "We have also introduced a takeaway fish and chips service and are keen to meet the expectations of our varied customer base," she shares. The pub's traditional Sunday roast dinners are a highlight, drawing in diners looking for a comforting meal.

The King William IV is not just about great food, it's also a hub for entertainment. Live music performances take place both inside and in the picturesque gardens on various weekends. As the festive season approaches, keep an eye out for the enticing Christmas Menu and a special function planned for New Year's Eve.

Whether you choose to dine in the cozy bar, the inviting restaurant, or the beautiful outdoor gardens, the King William IV offers a delightful setting for any occasion. With nine en-suite rooms available, the pub can also cater to events and celebrations for up to 60 guests. The recently refurbished bar area features a snug that welcomes dogs, ensuring a relaxed and friendly environment. Guests can enjoy an excellent selection of beers and real ales, all while soaking in the warm atmosphere that greets you as soon as you step through the door.

Hayley emphasises, "We are keen to create a blend of service that meets the expectations of both our local and holidaymaker trade to create that memorable experience."

With its rich history, delicious food, and welcoming atmosphere, the King William IV is a must-visit destination in Sedgeford. Whether you're a local or just passing through, you're sure to receive a warm welcome from Hayley and her dedicated team. So why not stop by and experience the charm of this historic pub for yourself? You won't be disappointed!

For more information, you can contact the King William IV on 01485 571765 or visit their website at www.thekingwilliamsedgeford.co.uk.

Hayley has also kindly offered a prize of lunch for two for Town & Around readers. For your chance of winning please answer the following question:

How many effigies of birds are there in the bar area of the King William IV?

Please email your answers with a contact number to tim@townandaround.net by Friday, 19th September. The winner will be drawn at random.



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Brooke Fleming In the spotlight

Local girl, Brooke Fleming, works for the family garage business, Fleming Bothers in Hunstanton. She is well known on the local music circuit and is the lead singer of band, B-Roads, who recently performed at the Hunstanton music festival, The Lodge and Briarfields.

Full Name: Brooke Emmie Fleming

Age: 26

Star Sign: Taurus

Where born: Kings Lynn

Where live: Pott Row

Occupation: Parts Manager
at Fleming Brothers Suzuki

Family: I'm not sure I'd have enough
space to write my family down it's so big!

A Cats or dogs person: Dogs, I'm allergic to cats

Sports Team Support: I don't really watch sport

Worst injury: I tripped on a stone hill when I was young and have a scar on my knee

Biggest Break: I haven't had one yet (except working for Flemings of course)

Funniest memory: Our bass player once head butted a pool table light off from the ceiling at a gig

Hero: My mum and dad

Hobbies/interests: I am a musician, play piano and sing. I also play golf and got down to a 15 handicap.

I am also very interested in history especially The World Wars, Vikings, dinosaurs and anything abandoned

Best memory: Any time I get to spend with my family and my boyfriend (Brooke's boyfriend Daniel Cook plays cricket for local side Snettisham) - there are too many good memories to write down just one



*Brooke with her
band members*

Favourite international meal/cuisine: Mexican food -nachos, tacos quesadillas, that sort of thing

Favourite drink: Water

Favourite band/singer: Etta James and my band B-Roads (pictured with fellow band members Henry Turner, Reece Morley and Joe Reed). Neighbours to Flemings may often hear us practicing in the evenings in the garage

Favourite film: Legends

Favourite holiday destination: America, Florida in particular

Three items for a desert island: A book, knife and a dog

An interesting fact about yourself nobody knows: I'm an open book there's not much people don't know about me and I'm not that interesting (Ed: very modest)

Worst habit: Biting my nails

Pet hate in others: Hearing people I don't know eat crisps - if I know you, I don't mind!

Biggest achievement in life: At the moment it is knowing I have an amazing relationship with my family and Daniel and also creating my amazing band B-Roads who are booked up all year and smashing it for next year too!

Best advice ever given: Treat others how you want to be treated yourself

Like to live forever: I hope that when my time comes I will know I've lived my life to the fullest and ended up happy and content.

Sandringham Endurance Race attracts 1,000 Runners

The annual Run Sandringham 24 race took place over the weekend of 9th & 10th August.

The race is a true test of fitness as racers run through the day and night along the course which weaves its way through the picturesque Estate. Participants run as individuals, pairs or teams completing as many laps as possible of the 5 mile circuit within a 24 hour period.

Over 1,000 runners took part at this year's event organised by Good Running Events in conjunction with Run Sandringham and raises thousands of pounds for good causes.

In the end, Cambridgeshire based female endurance runner, Alex Marshall, (pictured right) who covered a mind-boggling 125 miles during the 24 hours, took the coveted title.

The event is part of a larger series which also includes the Sandringham 10k, Half Marathon and Community Mile.

For more information or to enter the Half Marathon or Community Mile on Sunday, 28th September, please visit www.runsandringham.co.uk

Photo credit: Running Events/Epic Action Imagery



Competition winner

Hunstanton man, Wlodz Kula, was the lucky winner of Town & Around's recent competition to win a signed copy of Robin Donovan's new book, The Pits and the Mulsanne, about his experiences racing the 24 Hour Le Mans fourteen times. Robin now lives in Holme-next-the-Sea.

Pictured right: Robin handing the book over to Woldz at the White Horse in Holme-next-the-Sea





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Hunstanton and District Rotary

John Geyson PHF



Hunstanton and District Rotary Club & Breast of Friends

As the summer slips by so does our main fundraising events. We have had a very busy year so far. A street collection in aid of Breast and Prostate Cancer. Wild West Norfolk a day of country music, Norton Hill Railway & Burnham Market Craft Fair, which although hasn't happened whilst I write this report, it will be over and done with for another year. It's also a very sad time as we say goodbye to our friends Michael & Angela Schumann from Norton Hill Railway. After, over 30 years of opening up their miniature railway to raise money for good causes, they have decided to call it a day. We all owe them a great deal of gratitude for what they have done over all these years, and we wish them well in the future. A few years ago we awarded Micheal with the highest honour we could have in Rotary, the Paul Harris Fellowship for services to this community, and it was an absolute pleasure.

All these events help us to raise funds for both local charities and international charities. But it takes both time and people (Members) to achieve all of this. We have recently inducted 3 new members, who we welcome, they are now part of an organisation that has over 1.4 million members world-wide. If you would like to know more about joining, then please email: admin@hunstantonrotary.org and someone will contact you.

A helping hand for SWAG

The Snettisham Wednesday Afternoon Activities Group (SWAG) is one of the community causes being supported this year by the Co-op in the village.

"The shop provides the milk and three varieties of biscuits and, as and when we need them, tea, coffee, sugar and sweeteners meaning that our forty(ish) members can enjoy refreshments on the fourth Wednesday of the month," said Eric Langford.

The attendees play board games, do jigsaws, crosswords, and hand and eye stimulation games such as cribbage, dominoes and the buzz wire.

SWAG also runs a quiz at the Queen Victoria on the first Wednesday of the month. Quite a few people arrive earlier and have lunch there too.

"The club is free to attend, and with support from the Co-op, Friends of Heacham Practice, the Parish Council and local groups we are able to get transport for people who can't get to the club independently; Kevin at A149 cars has been really helpful," Eric added.

For more information call Eric on 07876 712315.



Pictured: Manager of the Co-op Chris Cobb with Eric Langford.

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September calls for 'in-between' dressing

The weather in September can be rather like four seasons in one day. Dressing for daytime temperatures between 17 and 26 degrees, and early morning and late evenings that can be distinctly chilly, call for layering.

This is the time to add a cardigan or jacket over your summer dress or a light sweater with cropped trousers. Look for soft-feel fabrics, lightweight layers and longer hemlines.

"It's not quite time to pack away your summer outfits, and in fact we still have some gorgeous items from our spring and summer collections, perfect for September, that you can pick up at a bargain price in our sale", said Allez Chic's Cheryl Daubney.

The autumn collections are starting to land in store and Marble have some super dresses and separates that are so easy to wear they are bound to become firm favourites.

With more than a nod to this year's catwalk trend for blending warm and cool tones and new knit textures in stunning vibrant and neutral colours, Marble has the perfect autumn ensemble to lift your spirits.

"Come and see us in Castle Rising, we can help you select something that's perfect for your colouring and body shape – you'll want to wear it time and time again!" Cheryl added.

Allez Chic, The Old School, Castle Rising PE31 6AG



Calling all kind-hearted creatives: Join our wonderful volunteer team at Westacre Theatre

Liz Brewer

At Westacre Theatre, the magic doesn't just happen on stage - it begins with the people behind the scenes. And right now, we're on the lookout for some truly wonderful souls to join our team of volunteers. Whether you're a seasoned theatre lover or simply someone with a little time and a big heart, we have a place for you here.

There's a role to suit every interest, skill, and schedule, whether you've got a spare hour now and then or a regular spot in your diary. You'll be joining a warm, welcoming bunch who are as passionate about the arts as they are about supporting one another.



Volunteers at Westacre Theatre

Quite simply, our volunteers are the heartbeat of Westacre. You could be greeting guests Front of House, pouring a drink behind the bar, rummaging through our costume rails, helping backstage with the

technical hoo-hah, lending a hand in our cosy Café, spreading the word around town with poster and brochure distribution, or getting involved in fundraising and local promotion.

And if you've always dreamed of stepping into the spotlight, we're also welcoming new faces to join our Westacre Theatre Productions. No prior experience needed - just a love for performing and being part of a creative, collaborative company.

Come along to one of our Open Volunteer Mornings on Saturday 13th September 10am-12pm and Saturday 15th November 10am-12pm. Bring a friend, have a cuppa, and let's have a chat about how you can get involved. No pressure, no obligation - just an open door and a friendly smile. The Theatre is on River Road, West Acre, Norfolk PE32 1UA

Call Jen on 01760 755 007 Email us: admin@westacretheatre.com Or pop in to say hello! We'd love to meet you.

We're a registered charity, and everything we do is powered by community, creativity, and a shared belief in the magic of the arts. Our volunteers are the backbone of this little powerhouse, and with your help, we can keep bringing bold, brilliant theatre to Norfolk and beyond.

Oh - and speaking of brilliant theatre... don't miss our action-packed Autumn/Winter season! From Shakespeare's Hamlet to our very own in-house production of Steven Moffat's 'The Unfriend', alongside touring shows, book talks, Autumn Fair and more - it's shaping up to be a sensational season. Come be a part of it.

Find out more at www.westacretheatre.com



The King's Lynn Community Cinema Club have two events with screenings at The Majestic in September. On Thursday 11th September at 7.30pm A Real Pain written, directed and starring Jesse Eisenberg will be shown. Also starring Kieran Culkin, brother of Macauley, who won an American Academy Award and a British Academy Film Award for Best Supporting Actor. Eisenberg won a BAFTA for Best Original Screenplay.

Prior to the screening will be a KLCCC birthday celebration for members, details of which are sent directly to them.

On Wednesday 24th September at 6pm, a special social event in collaboration with the Majestic Cinema will occur with special screening of the film Lee. The film starring Kate Winslett is about the World War II war correspondent Lee Miller and her pursuit of the truth about the Third Reich. This will be followed by a question-and-answer session with her son Antony Penrose. Tickets from the cinema.

Membership of KLCCC is open to anyone over 18 and costs £20 a season. There are 2 seasons a year each with 8 scheduled films that are free for members to enter, if joining more than half way through a season it is £12. Membership can be arranged by emailing communitycinemaclub@googlemail.com. Alternatively, you can just come along to any film as a day member for £6 cash on the door. website www.klccc.uk and Facebook page.

The Arts Society King's Lynn

Our next lecture starts at 2.30pm on Thursday 11 September 2025 at West Winch Village Hall when the topic will be Ludwig van Beethoven - Classical Music's Greatest Revolutionary.

Our lecturer will be Sandy Burnett who is one of the UK's most versatile music commentators, enjoying a career that combines broadcasting, performing and lecturing. After studying at St Catharine's College, Cambridge and working as music director for the RSC, National Theatre and in London's West End, Sandy Burnett spent a decade as one of the core team of presenters on BBC R3.

Visitors are always welcome to join any lecture for a charge of £10. Please email taskl.treasurer@gmail.com to book your place or just turn up on the day. To enquire about TASKL membership please ring 01760 724826. Full details about the society and all our activities are available at www.theartsocietykingslynn.org.uk

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Heacham Artists at Wighton25

Esther Boehm

There have been so many changes and challenges in my life over the past few months. My new studio is up and running. Yay! Our 'Save the Old Dairy' Coffee Morning was a great success. We also had a fabulous time at the Heacham Carnival.

On the artistic side, Michelle Louise Carter and I exhibited at Wighton 25 Site/Sight organised by the North Norfolk Exhibition Project. The NNEP was established in 2000 by a group of Norfolk artists.

The yearly exhibitions are an opportunity for artists to step out of their comfort zone and create new work in this environment. This year's "brief was for a response to Site/Sight. The work considers the significance of the interior and exterior site of All Saints Church, Wighton. A medieval church that sits in a rural setting close to the North Norfolk coast." A total of 45 artists were selected to exhibit.

Michelle and I took very different approaches.



My sculpture, The Passage – was inspired by a door into the church, a portal or threshold into a space of belief. I questioned the meaning of belief. For me it is a personal journey – one that enhances my own perception of truth. Not only the here and now but something beyond that – something that is greater than ourselves. Inside a church, we celebrate this. My sculpture echoes the shape of the doorway. The branch like elements symbolise the cycle of birth, death and rebirth. I have added elements that explore my journey. Some I have collected on my way around the world.

My personal favourites are the round cameos – photocopies of my artwork over time. During the course of the month, the natural elements intervened and subsequently something new evolved.

This sculpture became a journey in itself. It was built in the heat, wind and rain in my friend Annie's garden. I was without a studio and still facing the challenge of new materials. In spite of moving the sculpture to Wighton at 20-25 miles an hour, significant damage resulted. Somehow, the context of the artwork within the historic churchyard worked. Even the natural tilt of the sculpture seemed right.

At the end of the exhibition, I decided to remove the sculpture myself (as opposed to the 4 people required to place it). The setting up trauma was over so I embraced this. In spite of having to cause further damage, new ideas emerged. The process was surprisingly liberating. Full circle. www.estherboehm.com

Michelle says, "When we were given the project brief for Wighton25, I immediately envisaged a large tepee created in a way to promote peace. The "Meditation Tepee" took five months to build. I hand spun 20kg of Faroe Island sheep fleeces that were formed into dense waterproof panels to cover the wooden framework, using weaving, knitting and crochet. To finish I made a simple lining with natural linen in a way that as the wind blew through the tepee, the softness fluttered around the body and shoulders of whom was seated inside. During the time of the exhibition visitors added feathers and pieces from herbal plants to enhance the protection process while using the tepee.

I have been astounded with the positive feedback from both other



artists and visitors to Wighton25. The experience has definitely been a confidence boost and has directed my next work project towards healing methods and mental health."

Michelle Louise Carter, MAFA, www.darkartnorfolk.co.uk

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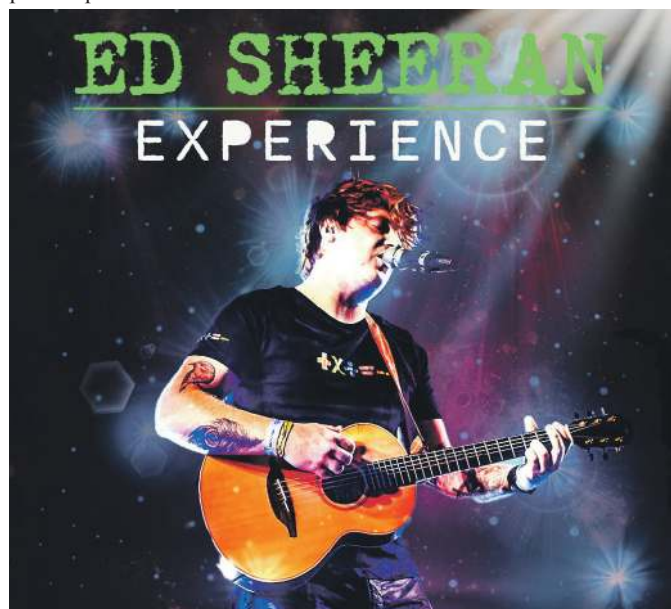
In the Limelight

August was a month to remember at the Princess Theatre. From live music to a packed programme of shows, the highlight was undoubtedly *The Great British Seaside Summer Variety Show*. This year's production was brimming with surprises from mind-bending magic to high-energy dance courtesy of the Rollason Stage School. With plenty of laughs, audience participation, and a warm, family-friendly atmosphere, the show proved more popular than ever, with ticket sales up on last year. It was pure seaside entertainment at its best and we can't wait to see what next summer has in store. Thank you to Bennet Homes for being the shows sponsor.

Cinema and Film Club has had a refresh. The theatre will be showing Cinema Live screenings only, moving forward. The decision to focus on something this unique means we can offer something different. **What is Cinema Live?** Pre-recorded performances, like concerts, theatre productions, and operas, broadcast on large screens. It allows audiences to experience these events in a communal setting, often with the feeling of being part of a live experience, even if they are not physically present at the original venue. This Autumn, we are showing "Love Never Dies", the sequel to *The Phantom Of the Opera* on Tuesday 28th October. With a similar haunting Halloween vibe, we



will be screening "Bat Out of Hell", the Award-Winning Hit Musical on Tuesday 4th November. The great aspect of Cinema Live is we can schedule well in advance so you can get the date in your diary and grab your friends for a night out doing something different. In 2026 we are screening "John Cleese Packs It In" on Tuesday 27th January. Watch out for more Cinema Live additions to our website, we will update you in this newsletter accordingly. If you have any questions re film club, please speak with the box office team.



This September we kick off with ballads, beats and loop pedal magic! "The Ed Sheeran Experience" is a live show consisting of all

the hits. Jack Shepherd has been performing as Ed since 2014 and has even been credited by the man himself in which he was told "I think what you do is awesome." Book tickets for Saturday 6th September.

Sunday 7th September it's "Mike Osman's Jethro Tribute Show"! Are you ready to step into a world of timeless humour, uproarious laughter, and wit? Look no further! Mike Osman, the brilliant comedian and close friend of the legendary Jethro. Mike Osman's tribute show is a heartfelt endeavour to keep Jethro's name alive, celebrating his fabulous jokes and captivating stories. Get ready for a good belly laugh on Sunday 7th September.

"Heaven can Wait" The Meatloaf Tribute Concert, rocks up onto our stage on Saturday 13th September. The show stars the awesome powerhouse vocals of Lee Brady as Meat Loaf with his awesome full live band. The audience are taken on a rollercoaster ride of hits as the show pays homage to the star and the music of the genius Jim Steinman.

On Sunday 14th September, we welcome back Cliff Richard Tribute Show "Wired for Sound" with Jimmy Jemain, the UK's premier No 1 Cliff Richard tribute artist and the winner of TV's Stars In Their Eyes. Join the musical celebration featuring Jimmy's authentic Shadows Band.

The Forecast is 100% Chance of Raining Men on Saturday 20th September! The UK's hottest Magic Mike Live tribute is here! "24K Magic Men" are bringing a night of electrifying excitement, where pulse-pounding energy, tantalising teasing, talent and irresistible charm collide!

"The Stars of Irish Country Show" return, following a hugely successful tour last year. Join four of the Emerald Isles favourite Country Music Stars all in one super show, featuring the accordion maestro and hugely popular, Sean Wilson, who makes a welcome return to England after a 5 year break. The energetic Laois man Shawn Cuddy who will take you on the Merry Go Round, together with the talented John McNicholl from Derry and Co. Downs musical maestro Stephen Smyth who between them have scored countless accolades, notched up over 30 No 1 hit songs and have toured all over the world for years, to packed houses of legions of fans. Irish Music fans can enjoy this show on Sunday 21st September.

Now let's go back to the 80's. "Nik Kershaw" joins us on Friday 26th September. Nik exploded onto the UK pop scene in 1984. A string of global hit singles including 'Wouldn't it Be Good', 'The Riddle' and 'I Won't Let the Sun Go Down on Me' saw him languish for 62 weeks on the UK Singles Chart, making him the UK's biggest selling solo artist that year. In 1985, he performed at Live Aid. After stepping out of the limelight to concentrate on writing and producing. Nik wrote Chesney Hawkes's 'The One and Only' and collaborated with Elton John, Lulu, Petula Clark, The Hollies, Ronan Keating, Jason Donovan, Let Loose, Sia, Imogen Heap, Gary Barlow and Bonnie Tyler. In 1998, Nik returned to performing and has been crafting critically acclaimed albums ever since. Now he's ready to look back with an intimate evening to coincide with the release of his new book. Expect songs, stories, and silliness from one of the nation's most-loved performers. Upgrade your tickets to a Meet and Greet with a goody bag.

Get Ready to "RAVE ON" on Saturday 27th September. From the emergence of Rock and Roll at Sun Records in Memphis, Tennessee to the British Invasion and beyond, this is a musical adventure you won't want to miss. Join us for an exhilarating evening of toe-tapping, sing-along iconic classics, vibrant, vintage costumes, colourful staging and dancing in the aisles!

Dare I mention Christmas? Now a few months away and you know what we simply adore about December is the Hunstanton Traditional Panto. This year we are proud to present "Aladdin". We will soon be announcing the cast and will have further news about this production in October. But for the time being simply get online or get on the phone and book your tickets now. The magic carpet awaits you in this magical story.

Finally, we would like to pay tribute to a person who is special to the Princess Theatre. Showbiz legend Tony Peers has taken his final bow. (7 December 1946 to 23 July 2025). Tony and Brian Hallard worked together to produce and bring back the pantomime to the Princess Theatre almost 10 years ago. He was also our producer for



the Seaside Special for a few years. Tony had an immense career from Butlins Red Coat to TV and stage. He was a popular performer, director and producer. It was an honour for us to have worked with Tony.

Thank you for reading!

Why not pop in, say hello, and have a chat with our friendly Box Office team they'll be happy to help you book those autumn tickets. Or simply relax and take in the stunning sea views from our Sunset Wine Bar. Don't forget DJ Zola on Wednesdays continues right through until mid-September (weather permitting) so here's hoping for plenty of golden autumn evenings to enjoy.

Best Wishes Anna



September events - see also <https://townandaround.net/whats-on/september>

Monday 1st

Anmer Social Club Coffee Mornings – 10:00 a.m. to Midday. For information email: lee.suckling78@outlook.com or telephone, text or WhatsApp 07899 872351

Anmer Social Club Bingo Night – Club opens at 7.00p.m. Info: anmer.club@outlook.com or telephone; text or WhatsApp 07899872351

Tuesday 2nd

Anmer Social Club: Norfolk and Waveney Mind Group Meetings – 11:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. www.norfolkandwaveneymind.org.uk

Or telephone: 0300 330 5488 nikki.nourse@norfolkandwaveneymind.org.uk

Wednesday 3rd

Roger McGough 'Alive and Giggling' at St Mary's Church, Snettisham (Scaffold – Lily the Pink) 6.30pm Advance tickets £20, £25 on the door. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/roger-mcgough-alive-giggling-tickets-1484090507659>

Friday 5th

Sedgeford Village Hall Carpet Bowls 2pm. Mature, friendly group come along and give it a try (tuition available) for more details phone, 07938442790 or 07708567674

United Services Club Hunstanton 01485 533360 Carolann tribute to Cher 8.30pm

Saturday 6th

Hunstanton Promenade parkrun 9am. Starting at the Salad Bowl and running towards the lighthouse. Volunteers 8.30am. Info: 07804 927764

Sandringham parkrun Sandringham Royal Park at 8:40 for a 9:00 am start. First Timers Briefing 8:45 am. Start and

finish on the vista near children's play area. Car parking for parkrun is free until 11:00 am. To volunteer or for further information contact: sandringham@parkrun.com 07913 439222

Ingoldisthorpe Sports & Social Club: Bingo Returns after summer break! Eyes down! Doors Open 7pm Cash prizes. Please call Diane on 07901924223 for details & directions.

Wereham Village Hall Quiz night 7pm. £6pp (purchased in advance or £7 on the door. Hot Dog included. 01366 502214/500766

United Services Club Hunstanton 01485 533360 Kenny Lee & Hustler Band. 60s rock & roll 8.30pm

Sunday 7th

East Anglian Air Ambulance stand on The Green Hunstanton supporting The West Norfolk Morris Minors Owners Club, West Norfolk Branch.

Indoor Car Boot sale Wereham Village Hall PE33 9AP 8am-1pm. Booking: 01366 501330 or 07759 033492

RAF Bircham Newton Heritage Centre PE31 6RH Open Day 10am-4pm. 07807 098348

United Services Club Hunstanton 01485 533360 Find The Joker Draw £1 a ticket, Fantastic Cash Prizes, Drawn at 2pm Karaoke Mick Covey 8pm

Tuesday 9th

Anmer Social Club: Norfolk and Waveney Mind Group Meetings see Tues 2nd for details.

Thurs 11th – Sun 14th

Flower Festival at St Nicholas Church Dersingham PE31 6GZ see page 48.

Friday 12th

Sedgeford Village Hall Carpet Bowls 2pm. See Fri 5th for details

Kevin Barry at Snettisham Memorial Hall PE31 7LX. Doors open at 6pm Tickets £11 includes a hog roast. Raffle. All funds for QEH Stroke Ward. Call 07591 732033 to book.

Anmer Social Club September Film Night – Mr. Burton – 12A – Biography of Richard Burton Club opens 7.00 p.m. – Film starts 7.30 p.m. Admission £5 at the door. enquiries@anmerclub.co.uk or telephone 01485 579465

Saturday 13th

Hunstanton Promenade parkrun 9am. See Sat 6th for details

Sandringham parkrun Sandringham Royal Park at 8:40 for a 9:00 am start. See Saturday 6th for details

Hunstanton Concert Band present 'Over the Rainbow' a colourful programme of music from the musicals and uplifting marches 7pm at Union Church, Hunstanton PE36 5BN. Entry free, donations welcome.

United Services Club Hunstanton 01485 533360 Laurie Hayley Duo 60s 8.30pm

Sat 13th-Sun 14th

Massingham Historical Society Exhibition: Old Photographs of Great Massingham and Little Massingham. St Mary's Church. Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 12-4pm. Books & postcards for sale. Refreshments.

Brancaster Staithe Sea Shanty Festival. Sea shanty groups from across the UK gather in Brancaster Staithe for a weekend of live music, singing songs for the sea at The Jolly Sailors, the White Horse,



Events are added to our website during the month. Scan here for up to date info

Brancaster Staithe Village Hall, Deepdale Village Hall, Deepdale Camping and St Mary's Church. Field sam@brancasterstaithe-shantyfest.co.uk Parking: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/CmwV8PzNb6XnrWma8> What3words: [///cold.piston.swatting](https://www.what3words.com/cold.piston.swatting)

Sunday 14th

Ingoldisthorpe Sports & Social Club: General knowledge quiz 2pm - 4pm

Tease that brain on a Sunday afternoon! £2 per person. Please call Diane on 07901924223 for details & directions.

Marriott's Warehouse PE30 5DT. Trust Talks 2.30pm. Peter Gidney talks about Sea Haven, King's Lynn Millennium Project and the development on the South Quay. 01553 818500

United Services Club Hunstanton 01485 533360 Find The Joker Draw £1 a ticket, Fantastic Cash Prizes, Drawn at 2pm Karaoke with Mick Covey 8pm.

Monday 15th

Anmer Social Club Coffee Mornings – For info see Monday 1st

Continued overleaf

Monday 15th

Hunstanton u3a at the Community Centre, Avenue Road. 2.00 pm will include a Special General Meeting to vote on amending Trustee Serving Periods, followed by our speaker Kate Craven who will be talking about the RNLI - a very important part of Hunstanton community. We look forward to seeing you then. Info: www.hunstantonu3a.org

Tuesday 16th

Anmer Social Club: Norfolk and Waveney Mind Group Meetings See Tues 2nd for details

Knit and natter at Old Hunstanton Village Hall No need to book. Just turn up with your knitting/ croqueting. £3 includes cake and coffee. Gail: 07536 022176

Thursday 18th

Caley Hall PE36 6HH. Coffee morning 10am-noon for cake and a great prizewinning raffle! In aid of Tapping House 01485 533486

Deco Craft Workshop 7-9pm at Wereham Village Hall £20pp all materials supplied. Booking essential 07833 567502

Tennessee Twin a really talented duo sing Country & Western at St Mary's Church, Snettisham. 7pm Tickets £10 in advance £12 on the door. <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/k11radiolimited/1726591>

Friday 19th

Sedgeford Village Hall Carpet Bowls 2pm. See Fri 5th for details

Music in the Burnhams: Classical guitarist Craig Ogden. Works by Bach, Rodrigo, Scarlatti and George Shearing. 7.30 St Mary's Church, Burnham Market. Adults £25 U18s free. 07989 177079

United Services Club Hunstanton 01485 533360 Quiz Night £50 first prize. Teams up to 4 persons. £3pp. 8pm

Saturday 20th

Hunstanton Promenade parkrun 9am. See Sat 6th for details

Sandringham parkrun Sandringham Royal Park at 8:40 for a 9:00 am start. See Saturday 6th for details

Docking Hare Fair at St Mary's Church 10am - 4pm. Art, Crafts, Food & Raffle. Entrance Free. See more p35

United Services Club Hunstanton 01485 533360 Slash Duo 60s & more 8.30pm

Sunday 21st

RAF Bircham Newton Heritage Centre PE31 6RH Open Day 10am-4pm. 07807 098348

Hunstanton Soap Box Derby The Green 11am-5pm (Scrutineering from 9.15am) Stalls on lower green. T: 07547 106003. Course map and road closures: file:///Users/elainebird/Downloads/soap_box_derby_map_2025.pdf

United Services Club Hunstanton 01485 533360 Find The Joker Draw £1 a ticket, Fantastic Cash Prizes, Drawn at 2pm Karaoke Mick Covey 8pm

St. Mary the Virgin Church Anmer - Harvest Festival and Evensong 4:00 p.m. Light refreshments served in the church after the service. Donations towards the Harvest Festival please - to be given to the Women's Refuge and the Night Shelter

Tuesday 23rd

Anmer Social Club: Norfolk and Waveney Mind Group Meetings See Tues 2nd for details

Stargazing evening on The Green Hunstanton PE23 6GB with the King's Lynn Astronomy Club. 7pm T: 07547 106003

Wednesday 24th

Macmillan Coffee Morning South Creakle Memorial Pavilion .NR21 9PD 10.00 a.m. To 12.30 p.m. Cakes, plants, books, tombola 01328 823515

Snettisham Gardening Club members' Autumn Show and Auction. Visitors and guests are welcome. 7.30pm Memorial Hall, Snettisham. Info: 01485 541279 or 01485 544754

Thursday 25th

Musical afternoon with Geoff Manhatton & Dinky David 50s and 60s music in aid of East Anglian Air Ambulance Hunstanton Town Hall 3pm £4 cash only. Info 07787 966000.

Friday 26th

Glebe House School and Nursery Open House. Now registering for September 2026. Call 01485 532809

Sedgeford Village Hall Carpet Bowls 2pm. See Fri 5th for details

Anmer Social Club Quiz Night - Club opens 7.00 p.m. Quiz starts 7.30 p.m. Entry £3 per person. Fully Licensed Bar Raffle. For information email : anmer.club@outlook.com or

telephone; text or WhatsApp 07899872351

Ingoldisthorpe Sports & Social Club: Comedy Drag Queen Fanny Burns returns for another year! An evening of Hilarity & some naughty jokes! Be warned! Entry fee £10.00 non members £5.00 members. Please call Diane on 07901924223 for details & directions.

Fri 26th - Sun 28th

King's Lynn Literature Festival at King's Lynn Town Hall PE30 5NQ 'The Small Festival with a Big Heart'. Six events over 3 days. Tickets: 01553 764864

Saturday 27th

Hunstanton Promenade parkrun 9am. Starting at the Salad Bowl See Sat 6th for details

5K Your Wy - Move Charity Sandringham Royal Park 8:40 for a 9:00 am start. For anyone affected by cancer, friends and healthcare professionals. 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 07913 439222

Snettisham Flea Market PE31 7LX 9am-3pm Entry 50p U16s free. 07790 789235

Macmillan Coffee Morning at Wereham Village Hall 10.30-12.30. Side Stalls and a big raffle. Donations of prizes and cakes gratefully received. Call Angela 07535 399883.

Syderstone Cinema presents Mr Burton 12A It's 1942 and Richard Jenkins is at school in Port Talbot, caught between the pressures of an alcoholic father, a devastating war, and his own ambitions. Hall, The St, Syderstone, King's Lynn PE31 8SD £4 on the door. Hearing loop and ice creams. Bookings : syderstonecinema_arvh@outlook.com

k.com 01485 578244

Music in the Burnhams: Victoria String Quartet with Peter Hewitt and Leon Bosch. Featuring Beethoven 3rd Piano Concerto. 7.30 St Mary's Church, Brancaster. Adults £25 U18s free. 07989 177079

United Services Club Hunstanton 01485 533360 Cecil Faray Motown & Soul Man 8.30pm

Sunday 28th

Sandringham Half Marathon and Community Mile PE35 6EN 9.30am info@runsandringham.co.uk

Tuesday 30th

Anmer Social Club: Norfolk and Waveney Mind Group Meetings See Tues 2nd for details

Early October**Saturday 4th**

Gayton Craft Fair at Gayton Church PE32 1PF. Many different crafts in a warm, friendly church. Raffle and refreshments. All welcome. More info: 01553 636620

Monday 13th

Film Night At Old Hunstanton Village Hall. Fisherman's Friends. A feel good seaside story of romance and shanty music! 6.15pm doors open. Film starts 7pm. Bar open. £5

Editor's note

Many more events can be found in the What's On section of our website. We add to the listing every week when we receive new information. You can add your event on the online form on that website page.

Town and Around publishes the information organisers of events supply. We cannot answer questions about events - please contact the organisers directly. Thank you.



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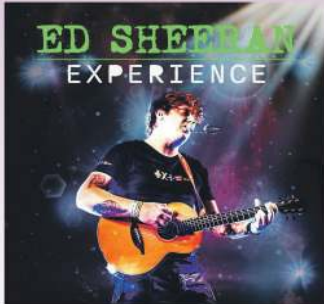
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Sun 7th Sept



Sat 13th Sept



Sun 14th Sept



Sat 20th Sept



Sun 21st Sept



Fri 26th Sept



Sun 27th Sept

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