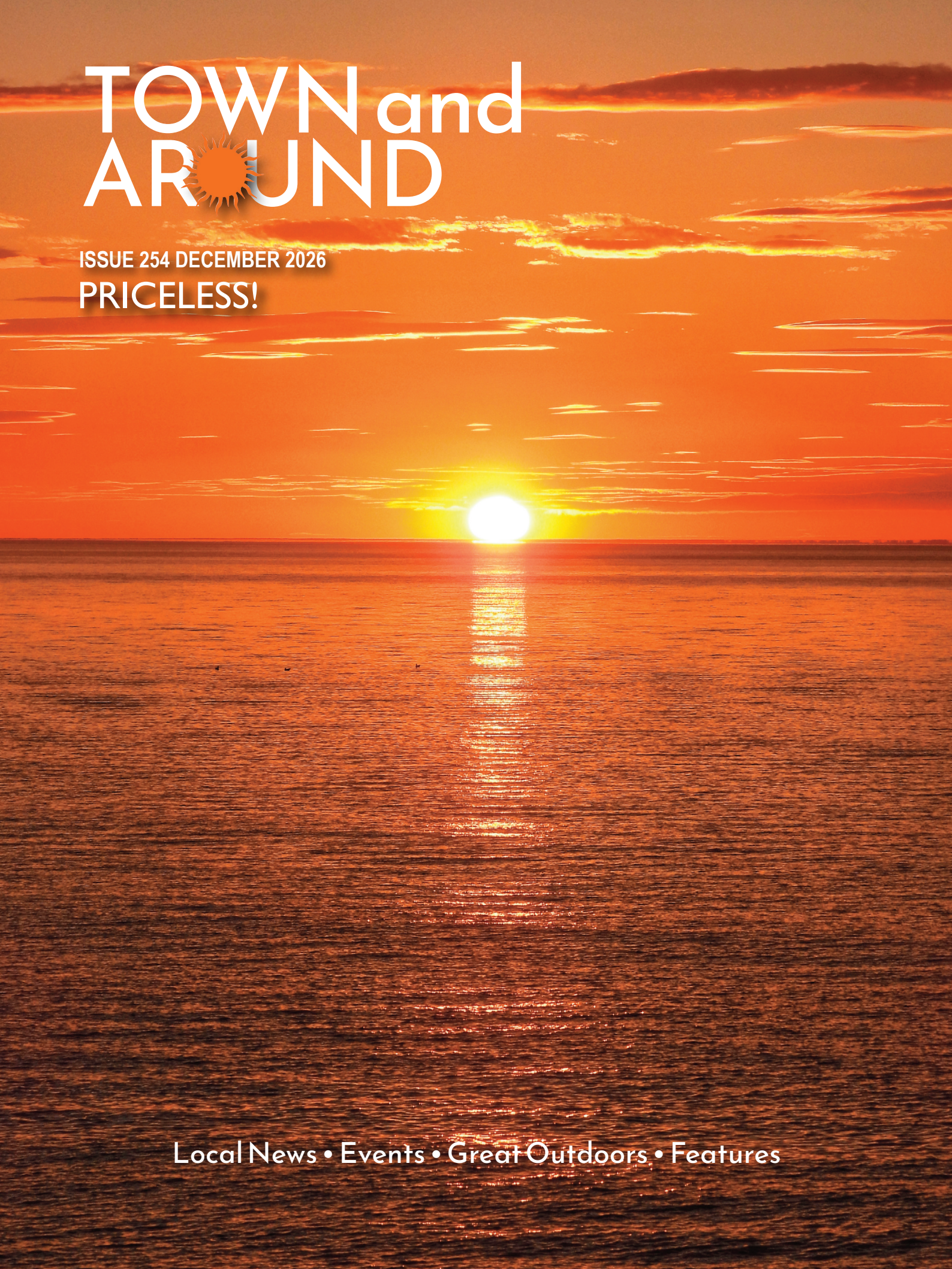
TOWN and AROUND

ISSUE 254 DECEMBER 2026

PRICELESS!



Local News • Events • Great Outdoors • Features

First Word



Well, here we are. December already, Christmas just around the corner, and another year drawing to a close. And what a year it's been!

There's something rather fitting about this month's beautiful front cover. Our winning photograph, captured by local photographer Stephen Woodward, shows a stunning sunset over the sea. Congratulations, Stephen! It seems the perfect way to say goodbye to 2026. As the sun dips below the horizon, we're reminded that every ending brings the promise of a new beginning.

And for Town & Around, this really has been a year of new beginnings.

When we took over the magazine earlier this year, we knew we were inheriting something special. After more than two decades serving West Norfolk, Town & Around had become a familiar and much-loved part of local life. What we hadn't appreciated was just how much it meant to so many people.

We quickly discovered that this isn't simply a magazine. It's a little powerhouse of community spirit.

It's the local organisations sharing their news, the volunteers giving up their time, the businesses supporting their neighbours, the photographers capturing our beautiful corner of Norfolk, and the readers who pick up a copy every month and make it part of their lives.

The messages, encouragement and conversations we've had since taking over have been genuinely humbling. People have told us how much they look forward to each edition, how they keep copies, share stories and enjoy seeing their communities represented.

And that's when you realise the responsibility that comes with being the new custodians of something so well loved.

We haven't always got everything perfect, and we're still learning. But we're enormously proud to be carrying Town & Around forward, building on the wonderful foundations laid by its previous owners while bringing some fresh ideas of our own.

This year has also seen the launch of our new website and app, bringing local news, television, video on demand and radio together under the Town & Around name. And with our radio programmes beginning on 11 January, there's plenty more to look forward to in 2027.

Of course, we haven't forgotten what makes Town & Around special. The magazine you're holding, delivered free to thousands of homes and businesses, will always be at the heart of what we do.

And what an edition we've got to round off the year!

There's our Cash for Christmas competition, with £100 up for grabs, the wonderful King's Lynn Kruisers Remembrance Run, Faith's extraordinary sailing achievement, Jess's 31 dips, and plenty of fascinating local stories. We've also got some festive inspiration from Paul Hollywood, along with our regular features, community news and What's On guide.

As Christmas approaches, we'd particularly like to thank the advertisers who make this magazine possible, the contributors who give us their time and stories, our brilliant distributors, and everyone who has welcomed us into the Town & Around family.

Most of all, thank you to you, our readers. You've made us realise that we're not simply producing a magazine each month. *We're looking after a little piece of West Norfolk life*, and that's something we don't take lightly.

So, as the sun sets on 2026, we're looking forward to what the next chapter brings. New ideas, new opportunities and, most importantly, the same community spirit that's kept Town & Around going strong for so many years.

Wherever you are this Christmas, and however you're spending it, we wish you peace, happiness and a wonderful start to 2027.

Now, put the kettle on, settle down with this month's edition, and don't forget to hunt for that £100!

MERRY CHRIMBO TO ALL!
Darren, Richard, Andrea, Dani and Lou
The Town & Around Team



Town & Around
Unit 1 Marea Farm, School Road
Heacham, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE31 7DH
Phone: 01485 540620
Email: editor@townandaround.net
Town and Around is published by KL1 Radio Ltd and printed by Mortons of Horncastle
Follow the latest stories at www.townandaround.uk



A Year of Splash and Smiles

Sarah's Swim School - Featured Article



It's hard to believe it's already been a year since we added Sarah's Swim School to our little pool! What a year it's been!!

From Hunstanton Private Pool Hire, I just wanted to create a calm little oasis where families could swim without the noise and rush of the big leisure centres. Then the idea for lessons grew naturally from that into Sarah's Swim School, working alongside each other. The private pool hire side of things is still very much keeping me busy, and we love welcoming people for those private sessions. Parents who came for a family swim kept asking if I could teach their little ones properly, and before I knew I gained my qualification and we were then offering after-school lessons and Saturday morning classes right here in the same pool.

I still get a lump in my throat when I think about some of the children who first arrived clinging tightly to the side or crying at the idea of getting their faces wet. Watching them go from that to confidently kicking across the pool (and begging to come back next week) is the best part of my job. Every child is different, and that's why we keep the classes small and personal with in water teaching. There's no pressure, no big crowded lanes – just our warm 30°C private pool, encouragement, and time to go at their own pace.

This summer we welcomed Aimee Newman to the team; she brings such warmth and patience. Between us we now teach everyone from tiny babies (from six months) right through to nervous adults who want to feel safer in the water. Aimee and I both believe swimming should feel joyful, not stressful. Water safety is always at the heart of what we do, but so is laughter, high-fives and the pure fun of being in the water.



If you've been thinking about starting lessons, or if your child needs a bit more confidence before the summer holidays, we'd love to welcome you. Whether it's a first splash for a baby, regular lessons for school-age children, or one-to-one help for someone who's a bit unsure, come and see us. You can still book the pool for private family swims too, of course! Pop onto sarahsswimschool.co.uk, give me a call on *07487 828949*, or email *info@sarahsswimschool.co.uk*. I'd be so happy to chat and find the right fit for your family.

Here's to another year of splashes, smiles and little swimmers finding their place in the water – right here at our Hunstanton pool.

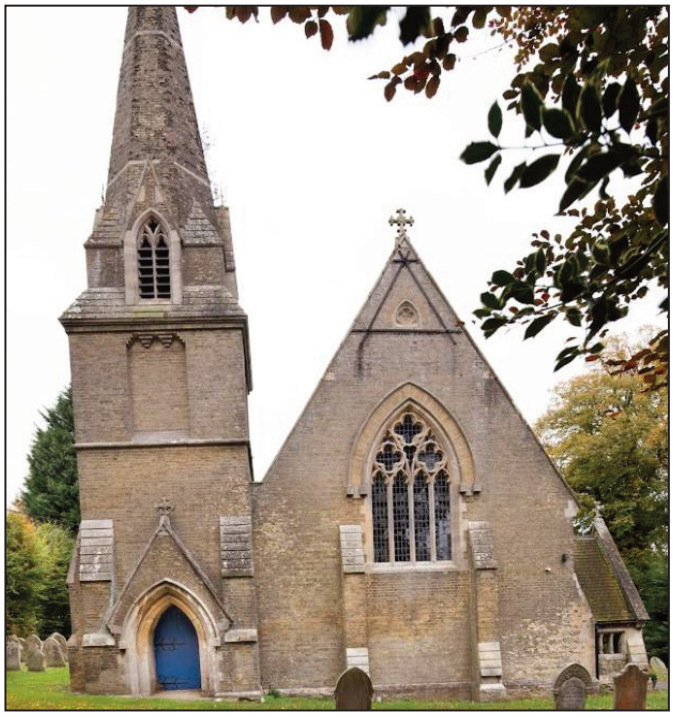
With love from the poolside,
Sarah



Lynn's Tilting Tower

Russell Lyon

I'm sure there are many old buildings throughout the land that have buildings high enough to be out of the perpendicular. The most famous off course is the Leaning Tower of Pisa which tilts to an alarming degree and when I visited it a few years ago it was in imminent danger of falling over. At the time tourists were not allowed to climb its heights but I believe it has now been stabilised and no longer in danger of collapse.



I used to drive past the leaning church in Friday Bridge. St Mark's Parish Church was built in 1864 but now the tower and spire lurch alarmingly to the north. It's said that it is due to ground on which it was built having dried out unevenly - a common enough occurrence in the Fens but it all points to poor foundations when building commenced. Plans have been approved to take the tower down and cap it until funding can be found to rebuild it safely.

Closer to home the Lynn's Greyfriars Tower is one of only three surviving Franciscan towers left in all England and it tilts. Kings Lynn has a history of collapsing buildings. Most famous was the Chapel of St James in London Road which was converted into a workhouse in 1582. Thomas Tue gifted a public clock and it was mounted on a belfry and tower above St James that rose 80 feet above the ground. Two hundred years later the whole structure had developed a noticeable tilt and in 1854 the clock stopped working. William Andrew got the job to investigate and repair the mechanism. According to local legend the clock had a history of stopping but all that was required to get it going was a hearty kick in the right place to restart it again. This time the sudden hard blow was enough to cause the unstable structure to give way. William unfortunately came down in the rubble along with an elderly inmate of the workhouse who had refused to get out his bed. Both died. The structure was not rebuilt and a Methodist Church was built on the site and all that remains is a plaque on a wall to mark the site of the old tower.

The Tower that the Franciscan's built was part of a church or priory and it was established in 1232. At the time it was a medium sized establishment which in its early years housed 38 monks whose business it was to live among the people of Lynn preaching and teaching the local population. Following the example of the founder of their Order Francis of Assisi they took vows of poverty and relied on donations and food from the local population to survive. There were 3 other monasteries in the town: Augustinian, Dominican and Carmelite but these tended to be very inward looking and had a closed existence.

The Franciscans were like the Cistercians who believed in being close to the people they served and were known as the Grey Friars. They were good builders which is reflected in the sturdy appearance of the remaining bell tower which was above where the nave joined the choir and chancel. The walls were made of stone and brick with the corners soundly secured with large rectangular "ashlar quoins " (precisely cut stone blocks) which gave strength and solidity to the building. However the tower now some 93 feet high does have a notable tilt to the North West. It is said this is due to it originally being built on marshy ground. It is only about 1.5 degrees from the perpendicular which is nothing compared to The Tower of Pisa which is almost 4 degrees from the vertical. It received a Heritage Lottery fund Grant in 2006 when the tower was restored and stabilised and the risk of it falling down has been removed. When the Priory was built by the monks they with great ingenuity designed a series of underground aqueducts to brings fresh water from a spring near North Runcton which was over a mile away. The grounds of the building were surrounded by a high stone wall and it was entered by an imposing gate house. Below ground level now are the foundations of a dormitory, a hospital, a refectory, a chapter house, a kitchen and a hall which allowed a covered walkway to the church.

At the reformation in 1537 the monastic buildings were torn down by the town authority and the stone was used as useful quarry for building but the bell tower was spared from this humiliation as it served as a useful navigation aid for ships coming in from the Wash.



The garden that surrounds the Greyfriars site was used for many years to hold cattle en route to the market but in 1911 the garden essentially as we now see and was created to mark the coronation of George V with the war memorial erected in 1921. In the garden is a restored 14th century wall with 3 arches which was saved from a house demolition that took place in 1910 at the junction of Ferry Lane and Bank lane. It is said that ghost(s) of a grey friar haunts the cellars of the old Carnegie library built in 1905. That is now Arts Centre and occupies one corner of the Priory Gardens.

Bored children can be set a task to find the heavily carved ancient Saxon cross said to be 9th century and located under the Tower structure. Where that came from nobody knows but presumably from an Anglo - Saxon church of that preceding time.

(Images The Historic England Archive)


Hunstanton
EyeCare | Audiology
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
Dipple AND Conway
Clinical Innovation • Independent Brands • Exemplary Customer Care
01485 532326 | 44 Church St, Hunstanton PE36 5HD | www.eyecarenorfolk.co.uk

How often should you update your will?

Rhys Estop - Private Client Solicitor - Hayes and Storr

Making a will is one of the most important steps you can take to protect your loved ones. But once it is signed and safely stored away, how often should you revisit it? Reviewing your will regularly helps ensure it reflects your present wishes.

How often should you review your will?

As a general rule, it is sensible to review your will every three to five years, even if nothing significant has changed. You may find that no amendments are necessary, but checking provides reassurance that your arrangements remain appropriate.

Certain life events, however, should prompt an immediate review.

Marriage, divorce or separation

In England and Wales, marriage generally revokes an existing will unless it was made in contemplation of that marriage.

Divorce does not invalidate your entire will, but generally means your former spouse is treated as having died for the purposes of gifts and appointments under it. Separation alone has no such effect, so an estranged spouse could still inherit, If your relationship changes, reviewing your will is essential.

Children and grandchildren

The arrival of children or grandchildren may change how you wish to distribute your estate, Parents should consider appointing guardians for young children and whether trusts could help protect their inheritance, Without an updated will, your estate may not be distributed to family members as you intended.

Changes to your finances or property

Buying or selling property, receiving an inheritance, starting a business or building up savings can all affect your estate planning.

Business owners should also ensure their wills remain consistent with any succession or shareholder arrangements.

Changes involving executors or beneficiaries

The people you originally appointed as executors may have died, become unwell or simply no longer be suitable.

Beneficiaries' circumstances can change too. Divorce, financial difficulties or vulnerability may mean that leaving assets in trust, rather than outright, deserves consideration.

Changes to inheritance tax rules

Inheritance tax rules and reliefs can change, while rising property values may increase the value of your estate, Regular reviews provide an opportunity to check whether your will remains tax-efficient and whether different arrangements could better protect your family's inheritance.

How do you update your will?

Never simply cross out or amend a signed will yourself. Changes usually require a properly executed codicil or a new will.

A solicitor can advise on the most appropriate approach and ensure changes are legally valid.



How we can help.....

Whether your circumstances have changed or your will simply needs a routine review, contact our Private Client team on 01328 863231 to ensure your wishes are up to date and properly recorded.

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





The Remembrance Run

Richard Dix

A spectacular turnout of classic and American cars brought colour to Hunstanton's seafront for the King's Lynn Kruisers annual Remembrance Day Run

There was quite a sight along Hunstanton's seafront on Sunday 8 November as a colourful collection of classic and American cars arrived in town for the King's Lynn Kruisers' annual Remembrance Day Run.

Following the 11am Remembrance service in King's Lynn, drivers and passengers headed towards the coast, finishing their journey at the Hunstanton Ski Cafe and Bar.



The event attracted far more vehicles than organisers had anticipated, with the car park quickly filling up and later arrivals finding spaces in neighbouring parking areas.



From beautifully maintained classics to gleaming American cars, there was plenty for visitors and fellow enthusiasts to admire as the vehicles gathered at the end of the run.



Organiser Steve Gibson was delighted with the turnout, which exceeded expectations and brought together an impressive variety of vehicles for the club's final organised run of the year.

The Ski Cafe and Bar's owner, Peter Byrne, was equally pleased to welcome the group, enjoying the range of cars on display and hoping the drivers and their passengers would return for another visit soon.



The gathering provided a fitting end to the King's Lynn Kruisers' motoring calendar, combining the club's shared enthusiasm for classic vehicles with an opportunity to mark Remembrance Sunday.



As our photographs show, there was no shortage of polished chrome, distinctive bodywork and lovingly maintained cars to catch the eye, making for an enjoyable afternoon on the Hunstanton seafront.





BRAND-NEW HOMES AT CASTLE REACH, KING'S LYNN

Located in South Wootton on the outskirts of King's Lynn, Castle Reach offers a range of 2, 3 and 4 bedroom homes set among **32.6 acres of green open space**, including community orchards and allotments.

With **excellent links** to Norwich and Peterborough, nearby amenities, the Royal Sandringham Estate and the Norfolk Coast, everything you need is close at hand.

Speak to our Sales Advisers about our Key Worker Deposit Contribution and Movemaker schemes. We could **buy your home in just 7 days** with our Part Exchange scheme.







Visit our **Barratt Homes** website

Visit our **David Wilson Homes** website

BARRATT HOMES
barratthomes.co.uk

DAVID WILSON HOMES
WHERE QUALITY LIVES
dwh.co.uk

From little surprises to delights, big discover gifts for one and all plus the plenty for home that'll bring joy to your festive season.

Two endless stores, festive finds

All you need this Christmas is...

Reeds

Make more of your visit and enjoy delicious home-made delights in our superb Downham Market Homestore Café

We would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to all our customers for supporting both our Downham Market and Ely stores, your continued custom and loyalty is greatly appreciated.

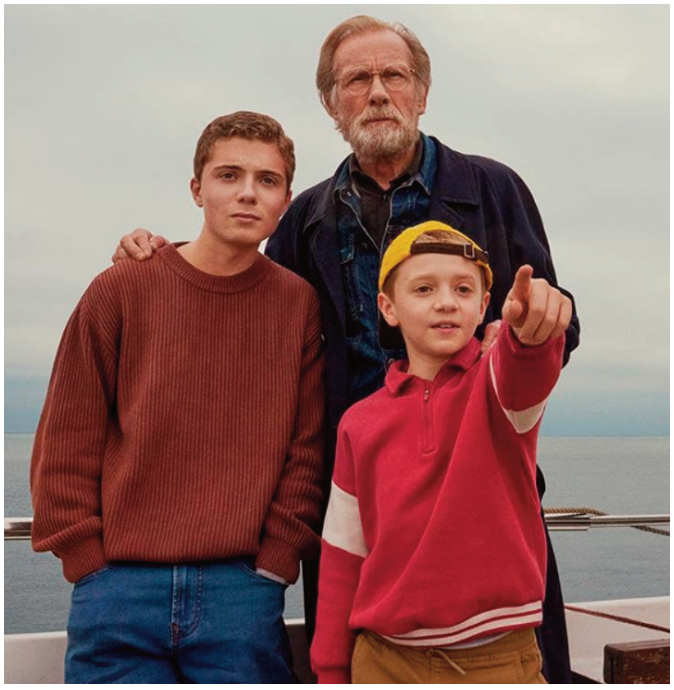
REEDS Furniture, Flooring, Bed Centre & Homestore, Downham Market PE38 9DS T: 01366 382213
REEDS Furniture, Flooring & Bed Centre, Ely CB6 3NX T: 01353 669754

Opening times vary over the festive period. Please check our website for details - reedshomestore.co.uk

Kings Lynn Community Cinema Club

Local Newsdesk

King's Lynn Community Cinema Club are showing for their December screening 500 Miles on Thursday 10th at 7.30pm in Screen 2 at the Majestic cinema. Critics have praised the performances of the 2 young leads, Roman Griffin Davies and Dexter Sol Ansell playing brothers Charlie and Finn. The story is of them running away from Sheffield to their grandfather, played by Bill Nighy, who lives on the west coast of Ireland, in an attempt to reunite the family. The grandeur of the scenery has also been mentioned.



As this is the pre-Christmas screening there will be sparkling wine with mince pies and stollen for club members to enjoy in the bar area from 7pm.

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. Alternatively, you can just come along to any film as a day member for £6 cash on the door. Full details of all the club's films and events and how to contact them can be found on the club website www.klccc.uk and Facebook page.

Want to be in next month's edition?

Have a local story, event, community update or something you'd like to share?

Send it to:
editor@townandaround.net

Copy deadline: **12th December**
for our first issue of 2027

Town & Around — Your Local Community Magazine





Compact on the outside yet surprisingly spacious within, the Geely EX2 is designed for modern urban living. Easy to manoeuvre, easy to park, and effortless to live with – it fits seamlessly into busy streets, tight spaces and everyday routines.

With an impressive range of up to 214 miles^ and 36 storage spaces, it is ready for shopping trips, luggage and weekend adventures.

The Geely EX2 arrives with an 8 year/125,000-mile warranty, 8-year unlimited mileage battery warranty, 4 years' free UK roadside assistance and 2 years' Connected Car data*.

GEELY KING'S LYNN
Hardwick Road, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE30 4NA
01553 602 948
geely.kingslynn@listers.co.uk
listers.co.uk/geely

GEELY

FOR THE FOURTH YEAR RUNNING WE HAVE BEEN VOTED AS ONE OF THE BEST FISH AND CHIP SHOPS IN THE UK BY THE TIMES



FISHERS TRADITIONAL FISH & CHIPS

www.fishershunstanton.co.uk

Fishers of Hunstanton fishersofhunstanton

HUNSTANTON CONSERVATIVE CLUB

The Club is open Monday to Saturday 10am -11pm
Sunday 11am -11pm



Meals served from Monday to Saturday 12 noon until 2.00 p.m.
A selection of special meals are available each day.
Sundays - 2 course Roast Lunch.
Sat 5th Music Night with Splash
Thurs 10th Coach trip to Cromer show (pre book)
Christmas Lunches Tues 8th, Thurs 10th, Tues 15th & Thurs 17th, Monday 23rd
Christmas Dinner Sat 12th Music with Mischief (pre book)
Thursday 31st December New Year's Eve Disco with DJ Steve Reed
For more information - see our Facebook page

Regular Events
Mondays: 7th & 21st U3A Spanish
Mondays: Strength and Balance Class 4.30pm.
Wednesdays: Scrabble 10am, U3A Chess 10am, Whist Drive 7pm
Thursdays: Strength and Balance Class 1.00pm.
Fridays: Prize Raffle 1pm. Cash Bingo at 7.30pm.
Saturdays : 'Open the Box' draw at 1pm.
U3A Yoga: Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays

www.hunstantonconservativeclub.co.uk
24 High Street, Hunstanton PE36 5AF
T:01485 532462

THURSDAYS
Banquet night 5 -10pm
From £16.50 pp

Spice Garden

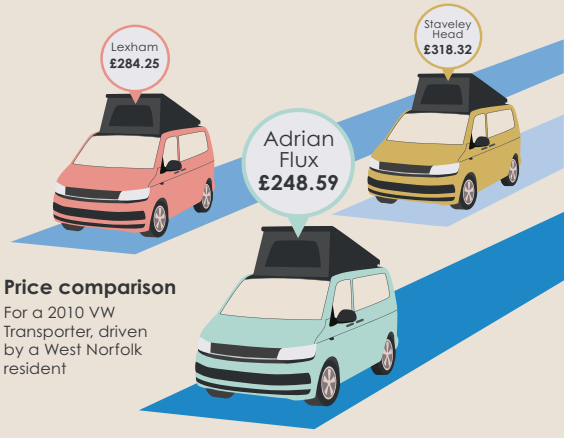
Christmas Lunch
6 course meal £39.95pp
Advance Booking essential

Sunday Lunch 12pm - 5pm
FROM ONLY
£13.95 per person

Delivery within an 11 mile radius
10% discount on collections!

Orders can be placed by phone over our website or via just-eat
www.spicegardenheacham.com
OPENING HOURS
5pm-11pm Monday-Saturday, Sunday 12noon-2.30pm & 5pm-11pm
Open 7 days a week, including Bank Holidays
14 High Street, Heacham
01485 579 393
Mob: 07310 959675

Your Local Insurance Broker
making your money go further



Price comparison
For a 2010 VW Transporter, driven by a West Norfolk resident

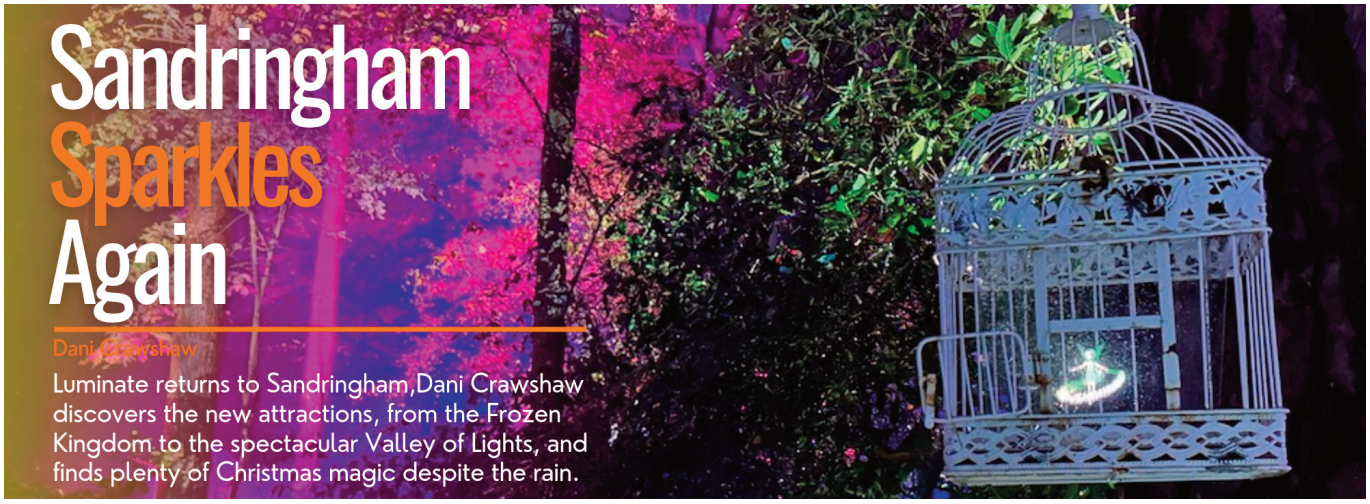
Call us on 01553 400399 for our best rates

Sample quotes are for premiums as stated for a 42 year old from PE32 area. The quotes are based on a 2010 Volkswagen Transporter with 3 years NCB (with varying degrees of excess) working as a self employed plumber. These illustrative quotes, valid as of 08/08/2025 are provided for information only and do not form the basis of any contract or tender. Competitive quotes were obtained from Lexham and Staveley Head (via comparethemarket.com) on 08/08/2025. Full details are available on written request. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

adrianflux.co.uk
Authorised & regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

ADRIAN FLUX
Insurance for the individual

Sandringham Sparkles Again



Dani Crawshaw

Luminate returns to Sandringham,Dani Crawshaw discovers the new attractions, from the Frozen Kingdom to the spectacular Valley of Lights, and finds plenty of Christmas magic despite the rain.

The enchanting Luminate is back, the light trail promises 'a Christmas adventure unlike any other' with new installations, immersive displays, and interactive fun.

Shane, who's here with his family, says Luminate, for them, 'gets



the festive season underway', "It's lovely, absolutely brilliant, we come back every year." One of his son's, 10 year old Cobey, says his favourite things are, "Playing the games and seeing the fairies."

And they're off to explore the mile-long trail, excitedly chatting and running towards the entrance

This year promises more 'wow' moments, including the Frozen Kingdom, a 100-metre Celestial Tunnel, and the new Valley of Lights laser show.

Janine Maycock, co-founder of the event, says it's 'our best Luminate yet', "We're excited about the new Christmas Corner and our WOW moments. Almost half a million Christmas memories have been made at Sandringham since we began in 2020. Don't miss the opportunity to make yours."

The weather isn't on our side when we visit, but despite the rain it doesn't put off my 3 year old, who happily runs around trying all the interactive games. Occasionally stopping, in awe of the lights.

And when we get to the Christmas Corner, where you can post letters to Lapland, she is captivated.

I chat to Georgie, who's part of the team (and has better waterproofs on than me), "This is my first year working here, and I'm excited. As a family we've been every year since it started. My mum's particularly excited to try and work out how the fairies in the cages work."

I can tell her, it's magic.

Dawn, who's busy making sure things all run to plan, adds, "From my point of view, with the rain, it actually adds something to the lights - they look more twinkly, you get the reflection of the rain."



At the Make A Wish wall I meet Shane and his family again, I ask his youngest what he's wished for, "For it to be my birthday everyday." I hope, for his parents sake, this doesn't come true.

There's a festive tug of war - and mulled wine, hot chocolate, marshmallows, and fire pits along the route.

It's accessible for pushchairs and mobility scooters, has dog friendly evenings and offers dedicated sensory-friendly sessions.

The thousands of lights, the music, the fun games - it is indeed, as organisers describe, an 'enchanting after-dark wonderland'. And we are, for over an hour, completely immersed in the magic.

It runs until December the 24th. If it's raining when you go though, take better waterproofs than I did!

Watch the video at townandaround.net

TOWN and AROUND
WEST NORFOLK'S LOCAL MEDIA HUB
A NEW WAY TO EXPERIENCE WEST NORFOLK.
LOCAL TV LIVE
VIDEO ON DEMAND
LOCAL RADIO
PROGRAMMES BEGIN 11 JANUARY 2027
THE NEW TOWN AND AROUND APP COMING SOON
ALL ONLINE NOW AT townandaround.uk

CHRISTMAS PARTY TAX RELIEF: HOW BUSINESSES CAN MAKE THE MOST OF THE £150 EXEMPTION

By Mapus-Smith & Lemmon LLP incorporating Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton

Christmas is just around the corner, and many businesses will already be planning their annual staff celebrations. Whether you're organising a festive meal, booking a venue or arranging a Christmas party, it's worth understanding the tax relief available and how you can make the most of it.

Here's what you need to know before booking your Christmas celebrations.

The £150 Christmas Party Tax Exemption

HMRC allows businesses to provide annual staff events, such as Christmas parties and summer celebrations, without creating a taxable benefit for employees, provided the event meets three key conditions:

•The event must be annual: It should be a regular annual occasion, such as a Christmas party or summer barbecue.

•It must be open to all employees: All employees should have the opportunity to attend. If your business operates across multiple locations, separate events can be organised for each location.

• The total cost of the event must be £150 or less per head.

If these conditions are satisfied, the cost of the party is exempt from tax and National Insurance for employees. There is also no requirement to report the benefit to HMRC.

It's important to remember that the £150 limit is an exemption rather than an allowance. This means that if the cost exceeds £150 per person, even by just £1, the entire amount becomes a taxable benefit, not just the amount above the threshold.

The total cost should then be divided by the number of people attending, including employees and any guests, such as spouses or partners.

For example, if a business spends £4,500 organising its party and 30 people attend, the cost per head would be £150. This would qualify for the exemption, However, if the total cost increased to £4,800, the cost per head would rise to £160. The full £160 per person would then be treated as a taxable benefit.

It is possible to use the £150 exemption on a Summer & Christmas function; the key is for the total of the events not to exceed £150.

This provides some flexibility for employers who want to reward their staff throughout the year rather than just at Christmas.

If your event exceeds the £150 per-person limit, the exemption will no longer apply, The cost of the event will generally be treated as a benefit in kind for employees who attend. Businesses will then need to report the benefit on employees' P11D forms and pay Class 1A National Insurance on the full taxable amount.

Alternatively, employers may be able to use a PAYE Settlement Agreement (PSA). This allows the business to settle the tax and National Insurance liability on behalf of employees, meaning staff don't have to pay the tax themselves.

There may also be an opportunity to reclaim VAT on the cost of your Christmas party, HMRC generally allows businesses to reclaim VAT on employee entertainment, including annual staff parties, as this is considered a business expense.

However, there are some important restrictions, If the event is attended exclusively by employees, VAT can generally be reclaimed, subject to the normal VAT recovery rules.

If employees' partners, spouses or other guests attend, the business must restrict its VAT claim to the proportion relating to employees. VAT relating to entertaining non-employees cannot normally be reclaimed.

The rules are also different where an event is organised exclusively for company directors or business owners, It's therefore important to consider who will be attending before making a VAT reclaim.

Don't Miss Out on Valuable Tax Relief This Christmas

Organising a Christmas party is a great way to thank employees for their hard work and bring everyone together at the end of the year. With the right planning, businesses can enjoy these celebrations while also benefiting from valuable tax exemptions.

The key is to keep the cost at or below £150 per person, make sure the event is available to all employees and remember to include all associated costs when calculating the total.

If you're unsure whether your Christmas party qualifies for tax relief, please contact Nicola Slegg FCA at Mapus-Smith & Lemmon LLP, Hunstanton office on 01485 534800 or nslegg@mapus.co.uk

That way, you can focus on enjoying the festivities without worrying about an unexpected tax bill in the New Year!

© Mapus-Smith & Lemmon LLP 2026

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

Mapus-Smith & Lemmon LLP
Chartered Accountants

Your trusted accountants in East Anglia

Offering a comprehensive range of services for both business and personal clients

- **Annual accounts, business and company taxation**
- **Business start up advice and incorporation**
- **SAGE, Quickbooks & Xero installation and training**
- **Payroll & auto enrolment administration**
- **VAT and bookkeeping services**
- **Small business specialists**
- **Personal tax returns and self assessment advice**
- **Capital gains tax advice and inheritance tax planning**
- **Tax planning and accounting services for private property investors**
- **Advice on Making Tax Digital for Income Tax**

For an appointment please contact Ms N S Tarry FCA

THE OFFICE, 20 KING'S LYNN ROAD, HUNSTANTON, NORFOLK PE36 5HP

T: 01485 534800 • E: ntarry@mapus.co.uk

Registered to carry on audit work in the UK and regulated for a range of investment business activities by The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Faith Makes Waves

Dani Crawshaw

Snettisham teenager Faith Turner takes on the English Channel in a tiny dinghy, raising £8,000 for Cancer Research UK in an extraordinary sailing challenge.

Record-setting teenager who sailed to France raises 8 thousand for charity, We catch up with the fantastic Faith Turner from Snettisham, who at 15 years old crossed from Dover to France in a topper dinghy, to support Cancer Research UK

"I did this because one of my family friends has recently been diagnosed with breast cancer," Faith tells me, adding, "And I would like to support her in as many ways as I can."



"I completed the crossing in 2 hours and 56 minutes, achieving what I believe to be the fastest English Channel crossing by a dinghy sailor."

The 21 mile journey was even captured by Channel 4 - for a documentary due to be broadcast next year.

"I did have to deal with some of the biggest waves I've ever sailed in," she adds, "Having to avoid ferries, war ships and cargo ships was difficult in the giant waves!"



The 16 year old says reaching French soil proved to be 'the most challenging moment', "When I got to the shore, the waves were crashing onto me, and I really struggled to get back into my boat and sail back out.



"I barely managed to do that without drifting onto the rocks."

Faith wants to thank all the people who have supported her.

"I'd like to thank them so much, because it definitely made an impact and helped a lot - it's so important as I really want to support Cancer Research, and those that are in need of it."

Mum Hayley, who was part of the support team, was following in a rib, "I think it's incredible - it's all her idea, when you get the first thousand you think that's amazing, and it just went up and up and up.



"I'm just really proud of her, she was just so composed the whole way, I obviously didn't take my eyes off her the whole time!"

Faith ends by telling me she feels 'slightly overwhelmed' by her achievement, "And just really happy because I completed it."

I ask what the family friend the teenager's supporting thinks, "She was really, really happy, and she sent me some flowers which was really nice."

Well done Faith! And good luck with training and upcoming competitions.

Watch the video at townandaround.net

East Anglia Air Ambulance News

Trevor Dane

On the 3rd October, we attended a fundraising event at Magdalen Village Hall near King's Lynn which raised £85.60. Thank you to everyone who supported this.

On 17 October, we held a fundraising bucket collection at Tesco Gaywood Kings Lynn which raised £188.69. Thank you to everyone who supported this and Tesco staff for their help and hospitality. We will be holding another bucket collection here on 17 December.

On 5 December we will be attending our last two fundraising and awareness events of the year. Magdalen Village Hall, Christmas Fair, Park Crescent, Wiggenhall St Mary Magdalen, Kings Lynn PE34 3BU 11.00am to 3.00pm and Middleton Village Hall Christmas Fair, 19 Station Road, Middleton, Kings Lynn, PE32 1RA 9.00am to 2.00pm.

Support Our Cambridge Air Base Appeal This Christmas

Two bases. One Lifesaving Service.

Help keep the helicopter minutes from you. Nobody decides when or where they have a cardiac arrest, a car accident, or a serious fall. It can happen at any time, anywhere. In that moment, the only thing that matters is how fast the right help can reach you.

That's why we have two air bases, so that in the most serious emergencies. Our crews can be by your side within minutes. Wherever you are in our region, 24 hours day, every day of the year. But our Cambridge crew are losing their home. Without a base in the centre of our region this lifesaving service is at risk, and critical care could take longer to reach you.

This Christmas, your support will help build them a new base and keep critical care close to your community.

Jane's Story

Two bases meant two emergencies didn't have to compete for the same helicopter or crew.

Jane was walking her dogs when she caught her foot awkwardly and fell. "I didn't know it then, but my right femur had snapped in half. As crews arrived around me, I was frightened and couldn't understand how an ordinary walk had gone so badly wrong" Jane explains. Our Anglia Two crew from Cambridge were tasked to care for Jane. The 40-mile journey by air took just 17 minutes, bringing hospital-level care to a field near her home in West Norfolk.



What Jane didn't know until later is that, while the crew were treating her, another emergency call came in elsewhere in Norfolk. Because there was a second base and a second crew ready to respond, that patient didn't have to wait for a helicopter to reach them from further away. You can read more about Jane's story and how to donate on our website eaaa.org.uk

KLFG can be contacted by emailing myself or my colleague Terri trevordane104@gmail.com tfaye.100@gmail.com

East Anglian Air Ambulance enquiries 03450 669 999

DIFFICULTY HEARING?



- **Free** hearing test
- **Free** hearing aid trial
- **Home** visits available
- **Easy** parking
- **Local Independent** hearing care
- **Latest** discreet & invisible hearing aids
- **Rechargeable** - no more batteries
- **Wax** removal service
- **Personalised** care plans

Helping people to hear better since 1936

Your number one choice for hearing care!

101 High Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE30 1BW

SOUND ADVICE hearing centre

01553 760250

www.soundadvicehearing.co.uk

Lifeline For Norfolk's Veterans



Dani Crawsahw

From a former RAF headquarters brought back to life to the veterans who now call it a lifeline, Veterans Central is a remarkable story of community spirit and determination

Just three years ago, the former RAF West Raynham Station Headquarters near Fakenham stood derelict, with broken windows, leaking roofs and decades of neglect. Today, thanks to more than 140 volunteers and an extraordinary 70,000 hours of hard work, it has become a thriving community supporting over 1,000 veterans.

But behind the restoration lies an even more remarkable story. From the challenges of keeping an entirely volunteer-run charity afloat to the friendships and sense of purpose it provides, Veterans Central is changing lives. For 88-year-old Jim Simpson, who found himself struggling after losing his wife of 60 years, the centre has offered companionship, meaningful work and a renewed sense of belonging.

In a moving three-part special report, Town & Around's *Dani Crawshaw* meets the people behind this extraordinary project, discovers how they are preserving an important piece of RAF history, and hears from veterans who describe the charity as nothing short of a lifeline.



Discover the full story, including photographs, personal accounts and the remarkable transformation of Veterans Central, in our exclusive three-part series at townandaround.uk.

West Norfolk's All-in-One Property Maintenance Provider

Leaky roof, damaged walls, or need a refresh? Ivy Build and Property Maintenance in King's Lynn handles everything from small fixes to full renovations with reliable, high-quality workmanship. Get in touch today to get your property back in top shape.



IVY BUILD and Property Maintenance

- Complete Renovations
- Project Management
- Bathrooms & Kitchens
- Extensions
- Brickwork
- Roofing Services
- Electrical
- Decoration
- Plumbing
- Carpentry

Peace of mind, all year round

Your property deserves the best, trust Ivy Build and Property Maintenance

gary@ivyproperty.co.uk | ivyproperty.co.uk | 01553 776 511



Dinner Not Data

Dani Crawsahw

West Norfolk councillors have unanimously backed residents opposing plans for a huge solar farm and data centre. Dani Crawshaw reports on the campaign and what happens next.

More than 400 attend meeting as West Norfolk Council unanimously backs to fight solar farm and data centre proposals

"We are hoping it sends a message to the developer, that they may have chosen to come to the wrong neighbourhood," says campaigner Martin Little, who was at the meeting on the 16th November. Hundreds turned out to oppose the new data centre, which will cover more than 4 and a half thousand acres.



"It was just what was needed. The enthusiasm is just astonishing, it nearly moves you to tears frankly," he adds. If the build went ahead, his home would be surrounded by solar panels in Tilney St Lawrence, complete with a view of the centre itself.

"The whole thing's going to be bigger than Heathrow airport. The building itself, the substation, will be 25 metres high, and will cover well over a 100 acres."



Campaigners outside the council meeting Monday night

It's being called the Longmarsh Green Energy Project, and Evolution Power Limited's (EPL's) proposals cover two areas. One site to the north-east of Tilney St Lawrence, and the other near to Fincham and Barton Bendish.

EPL says it is 'essential infrastructure', that data centres are 'crucial to the UK economy as they support the online networks we all rely on'.

Because of its scale, it's a nationally significant infrastructure project (NSIP), so the final say is with the government.

The council voted unanimously to a five-part response to NSIPs. One is to write to the Energy Secretary, asking for local voices to be at the heart of planning decisions. Another is to evaluate any final government decision and pursue legal challenges if warranted.

"Firstly it was a boost for everyone out here to know that everyone's still onboard locally and would turn out. For morale, which is high right now, it was a further boost," Martin continues.

"Secondly the council voting unanimously in support of approaches to dealing with NSIPs, I can't imagine that happens all too often in local government. It was just stunning."

Amanda Naish, who's also managing the campaign, tells me, "The worry and concern is just dreadful, I can not believe we are in this situation, I feel like I'm living in a nightmare. To discover this has been proposed has devastated us, it's completely devalued our home, and everybody's home in this area."



Amanda Naish

She lives in Tilney Cum Islington, "We are on the main road, and will overlook the solar and data centre. I'm absolutely devastated, furious, and I can't understand it, it makes no sense to me. I'm struggling to see why this has even been proposed.

just wrong size, wrong place."

Amanda's also encouraged by the meeting, "To hear all the councillors were on board, that's fantastic. And I was so cheered by the amount of people that came out in support - I mean we've only been going for 4 weeks as a campaign group.

"And the strength of the community, the passion of the council - that does give me hope. I'm not going to have any negative thoughts about this happening, this is going to be a case of this in not happening here, and we are going to do everything we can."

Also in attendance was James Kitchen, a 4th generation farmer from Tilney Cum Islington, who says he's 'devastated and cross' at the thought of the build.

"I would neighbour it, be completely surrounded by solar and be right up to the side of the data centre as well. It's the noise, it's the sight of these things. I can't pick the farm up and move it away from here if I don't agree with it."



4th generation farmer James Kitchen

"We take a huge amount of pride in what we do here, we've got some of the best and most fertile land in the UK - it's essential, for the sake of national food security, that it remains producing food.

"We're experiencing very different climates, we've had two very dry years - but this land did it again, we had very normal yields, there were absolute disasters elsewhere in the country.

"We use data ourselves in our industry, it's becoming something we all rely on, it's not a case of what it is, but where it is that's the issue. High productive farmland needs to be the absolute last choice. I can't see how anyone, in their right mind, would agree with this."

EPL claims the proposals would result in over 25 billion pounds of capital investment in the region, provide over 500 permanent roles, and generate over 20 million in local business rates annually - which could 'be used for local authorities for local improvements'.

Some aspects are still being developed, including a detailed layout and access arrangements. The company, who's carrying out a public consultation on the plans, adds 'it remains open to feedback from residents' and responses will 'help shape the proposals'.



Martin Little, where part of the proposed centre will be

Martin recognises this will be a hard fight, "It's no small battle, this is David and Goliath. We're up against people with loads of money, backed by a government with a lack of common sense."

EPL's expected to formally submit its planning application in April, a decision's expected by September 2028, and it could be operational by 2032.

The campaign groups says it will spend these months preparing, Martin adds, "The real battle begins in April. We are gathering all the expertise we can, lawyers, planners.

For more on the controversial Longmarsh Green Energy Project, including the concerns of local residents, the council's response and an exclusive interview with campaigner Martin Little, visit townandaround.uk. Dani Crawshaw has produced two in-depth reports examining the proposals and the growing campaign to protect West Norfolk's countryside.

All images from the meeting courtesy of Ian Burt



Life Saving Volunteers in our community

Darren Shortt

When a medical emergency strikes, every second counts. Across Hunstanton, Heacham and the surrounding villages, a dedicated team of volunteers is helping to save lives, providing vital care and reassurance when local people need it most.



When someone calls 999, the first person through the door may not be a paramedic, but a Community First Responder (CFR). These trained volunteers live and work among us, giving up their time to attend emergencies while ambulance crews are on their way.

Based at Hunstanton Ambulance Station, the local team covers Hunstanton, Heacham and neighbouring villages. Trained by the East of England Ambulance Service, responders attend serious incidents including cardiac arrests, breathing difficulties, strokes, seizures and diabetic emergencies.

Equipped with defibrillators, oxygen and other essential medical supplies, they can provide potentially lifesaving treatment during those crucial first minutes. Just as importantly, they offer a calm, reassuring presence to patients and their families at what can be a frightening time

Every member of the team is a volunteer, often responding to emergencies from home or during their everyday routines. Their local knowledge is particularly valuable in rural West Norfolk, where ambulance crews may face longer journeys.

But their work doesn't stop at emergency callouts. The team also attends community events, delivers CPR demonstrations and raises funds for essential equipment.

And now they're looking for more people to join them.

You don't need a medical background to become a Community First Responder. Full training is provided, and anyone willing to learn, remain calm under pressure and help their community could make a real difference.

There are opportunities both for frontline responders, who attend emergency calls, and support volunteers, who help with fundraising, events and raising awareness.

While the ambulance service provides training, the local team relies on donations and fundraising to support equipment, supplies and community activities.

From replacement defibrillator pads and batteries to training equipment, every contribution helps keep the volunteers ready to respond. Money raised locally stays locally, directly benefiting the Hunstanton and Heacham team.

Local businesses can help by hosting collection pots, sponsoring equipment or supporting fundraising events.

These volunteers are ordinary people doing extraordinary things. They could be your neighbours, friends or someone you recognise from the shops. Yet when an emergency call comes, they're ready to help a complete stranger.

Whether you can spare some time, support a fundraising event or make a small donation, you could help save a life in your own community.

For more information about volunteering, visit eastamb.nhs.uk/Join-the-team.

Smithdon's Challenge for Children

Local News Desk



Fundraising got physical when students in Hunstanton ran, cycled, and rowed to raise money for this year's Children in Need. While all year groups at Smithdon High School took part in the annual fundraising campaign, the Key Stage 3 cohort competed across three different sporting disciplines in aid of the charity.

Alysha Moat is Assistant Headteacher Pastoral at the school, which is a member of the West Norfolk Academies Trust, and helped organise the event.

"We did a Key Stage 3 triathlon throughout the day, which involved students on a treadmill, a bike, and a rowing machine," she explained.

"The Children in Need theme this year was 'Challenge Yourself', so we challenged the Key Stage 3 students to keep a treadmill, a bike, and a rowing machine going throughout the day."

She continued: "All the Year 7, 8, and 9 students took part during their PE lessons. Everyone got involved, either on the machines, or cheering each other on.

"Students also played the Nintendo Switch alongside as a bit of extra competition, so they could rotate around on the equipment more quickly."

Smithdon marks Children in Need every year, with students also swapping their uniforms for more unusual attire in aid of the cause including an inflatable dinosaur costume.

Ms Moat added: "It's important to raise awareness for Children in Need, as sadly some children aren't as fortunate as others.

"I think we raised roughly £350 for Children in Need, so the students generally had a good day – and I think they all enjoyed it too."

Other WNAT schools supporting the cause included Clenchwarton, Walpole Cross Keys, and West Lynn primaries, along with Heacham Infant School.

Images - Ian Burt



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!
The Village Cinema
CHRISTMAS MOVIE AFTERNOON



Sunday, 29th November - 3pm
WEREHAM VILLAGE HALL
Tickets available from Wereham Village Hall - Call 01366 502214
(Open 9-1 Monday-Wednesday; 9-3 Thursday & Friday)
* "Earlybird" Ticket prices: Under 11s - £2 (including Hot Chocolate & Cookie)
11 and Over - £5 (refreshments available to buy from our café)
- ALL U16s MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT -
discounted family tickets available – please ask when you book
*(ticket prices increase by £1per person after 31.10.2026)
Feel free to dress up, just follow the theme, and look proper snazzy, in red or in green!
Wereham Village Hall CIO, Registered Charity No: 1168472

Careline
Community Service
24/7 assistance at the press of a button



Careline Digital Alarm
Careline GO
Handyperson Service
Keysafe

- Digital-ready care alarms
- Friendly and patient installers
- No advance rental – cancel any time
- Home adaptation service
- Free Keysafe in West Norfolk*

*for anyone with a disability or long term health condition

If you want to find out how to stay independent in your home, call us on 01553 616200 or visit careline-cs.org.uk

Careline Community Service | Care & Repair | Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk
1170-190-3

P.D. BIRD
Plumbing & Heating Engineer for Oil & Gas
OFTEC No. CI 1852
Heacham :01485 579472
Mob: 07889 167063
GAS safe REGISTER No. 101992

For All Your Plumbing & Central Heating Repairs, Maintenance & Installation

. Plumbing Installations and Repairs
. Central Heating Installations and Repairs
· Underfloor Heating
· High Efficiency Condensing & Combi Boilers
· Heating System Power Flushing
· Unvented Hot & Cold Systems
· Servicing & Repairs to Gas & Oil Boilers
· Complete Bathroom Design, Installation & Tiling Service, Wall Panelling Specialist

Professional Quality Work - Guaranteed
www.pdbirdplumbingheatingbathrooms.co.uk

S. LEVERETT Carpets & Blinds



Choose from a massive selection of carpets and vinyls to suit any room at any budget.
Specially selected ranges for Holiday Homes, Caravans, Lets etc...
Contract vinyls / carpet / carpet tiles for the office or workplace.
ROLLER, VERTICAL, HORIZONTAL AND VENETIAN BLINDS
Tel 01485 518018 or 07760 462 788
to arrange a visit & free no obligation quotation
or e-mail: simonleverett@btinternet.com
WHY PAY HIGH STREET PRICES?

RKB
CARPENTRY & LOCKSMITHS
24/7 CALL OUT

Locksmith Services
UPCV window & door repairs | Garage door repairs
Misted unit & glazing repairs

Carpentry Services
Kitchen, bedroom & bathrooms
Extensions, conversions & renovations

Contact Richard Brown M: 07795 524301 (24Hr)
info@rkb247.co.uk | www.rkb247.co.uk

Local roundup

News Desk

Dersingham Choir are holding their Christmas Concert on Thursday 10th December at Nicholas Church, Dersingham PE31 6GZ, following the successful summer concert held there in June.

The concert will include a mix of traditional carols and popular Christmas songs from the past decades, so there will be music for all ages and tastes.

The concert starts at 6.30 pm with doors opening at 6.00 pm. Tickets are available on the door only, priced £7.00 for adults; under 18s attending with an adult are free. Refreshments will be available and there will be a raffle. The concert is in aid of Dersingham Choir which is a registered charity. If you would like more information about the concert then please contact Kate, the Choir secretary (see below).

If you enjoy singing in a friendly atmosphere, then do join us, we always welcome new members. We meet every Thursday, 7 pm to 9 pm at St Cecilia's Catholic Church, Mountbatten Rd, Dersingham PE31 6YE. If you would like to join then just come to one of our rehearsals or contact Kate, the choir secretary, phone 07513 986858 or email secretaryDC2025@outlook.com .

- *For more information please contact Kate, the choir secretary, email secretaryDC2025@outlook.com or phone 07513 986858.*
- *Dersingham choir is a registered charity, charity number 1213161. For more information see www.dersinghamchoir.com*
- *Dersingham choir meets every Thursday for practices at St Cecilia's Church Hall, Mountbatten Road, Dersingham, PE31 6YE from 7pm to 9pm.*

On Sunday 8 November a large group of members of the Rotary Club of King's Lynn, partners and friends met up at 8 am to plant 16000 crocus bulbs on the new roundabout on Edward Benefer Way. Last year some 8000 had also been planted on the same roundabout.

These purple crocuses should provide a magnificent display in the spring and are planted to highlight Rotary International's support for the world-wide eradication of polio, which has been a major aim of the organisation since 1985.



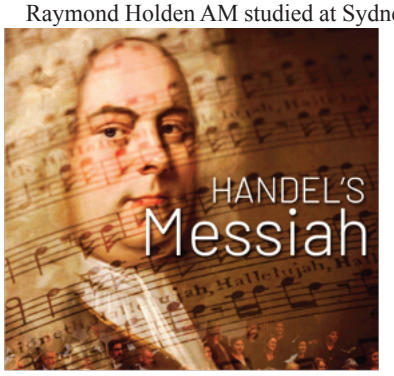
Every child immunised has his or her finger dipped in purple dye.

Over the years Rotary has contributed over $2 billion and has facilitated the immunisation of more than 3 billion children in 122 countries. Until recently polio had been eradicated in almost all countries except Afghanistan and Pakistan.

However, the war in Gaza since October 2023 has seen new outbreaks of polio in the Middle East, The Club is grateful to David Chilcott of Health and Community Construction, the company building 77 independent flats near to the roundabout, for sponsoring the crocus bulbs and to the St James Health Centre for offering parking for the volunteers.

The Arts Society King's Lynn continues the 2026-27 season on Thursday 10 December 2026 when they welcome Raymond Holden to give a talk on Messiah: an Audio-Visual Exploration of Handel's Choral Masterpiece.

Raymond Holden AM studied at Sydney, Cologne and London and is both a critically acclaimed and a multi-award winning writer, conductor, broadcaster and lecturer. He has performed with the Philharmonia Orchestra, the Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra, the BBC Symphony Orchestra, the Orchestra of the Emilia Romagna and the New Symphony Orchestra of London, and has been published regularly by Oxford, Cambridge and Yale University Presses, the Royal Academy of Music Press, Hans Schneider Verlag (Vienna) and by ICA, EMI and Warner Classics. Professor Holden has appeared on BBC Television and Radio, Servus TV (Germany), RAI Television and Radio, ABC Classic FM, 3MBS FM, Vision Australia Radio, SRF (Switzerland) and Classic FM (South Africa), and has spoken at many of the world's leading music and literary festivals, universities, conservatoires and research institutes. He was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the 2019 Queen's Birthday Honours List and is currently Emeritus Professor of Music at the Royal Academy of Music, London.



Composed in 1741 and first performed at Dublin's Great Music Hall the following year, 'Messiah' is one of Western music's greatest artistic achievements and a work that has captured the imagination of audiences around the globe. Although originally performed at Easter, the oratorio has also become a staple at Christmas and is regularly performed by some world's greatest conductors, singers, choirs and orchestras during that part of the liturgical calendar. But, over the years, the piece has been subject to a variety of cuts, changes and modifications that have reflected shifting trends in both performance style and audience expectations.

The talk will take place in West Winch Village Hall where there is ample free parking available and starts at 2.30pm. TASKL meets once a month on the second Thursday from September to May and anyone is welcome to become a member.

The annual subscription is just £60 or you can go along to individual talks as a guest for £10. Anyone interested in finding out more about TASKL can visit their website at www.theartssocietykingslynn.org.uk or to join the Society contact the membership secretary on 01760 724823 or via email at info@theartssocietykingslynn.org.uk.



K Brown Auto Repairs reaches final in National Awards

K Brown Auto Repairs has been named a finalist in two categories at the 2026 Top Awards, recognising its achievements in multi-site business management and its approach to employee health and wellbeing.

The business has been shortlisted for both the Top Garage Multi-Site Award and the Ben Automotive Health & Wellbeing Award, placing it among the finalists in this year's competition, which celebrates excellence across the independent automotive aftermarket.



The Multi-Site Award recognises the particular challenges involved in successfully operating a garage business across more than one location. Managing multiple sites requires effective organisation, consistent working practices and communication, alongside the ability to maintain high standards of customer service and technical work across the entire operation.

It also involves ensuring that individual teams have the right support, equipment, training and resources to carry out their roles effectively, while maintaining a consistent approach to the day-to-day running of the business. Being shortlisted for this award recognises the work involved in coordinating operations across different locations and developing a business structure that supports both employees and customers.

The second nomination, for the Ben Automotive Health & Wellbeing Award, recognises the company's approach to supporting its employees and creating a positive workplace culture.

Staff have access to free health and wellbeing support, including counselling sessions through an Employee Assistance Programme (EAP), providing confidential assistance when dealing with personal or work-related challenges.

The company also organises regular team-building activities and corporate events. On these occasions, the garage closes to allow staff to spend time together outside their usual working environment, helping to develop relationships and encourage a supportive team culture.

Individual circumstances are taken into consideration, with the business aiming to support employees through personal situations wherever possible, including outside working hours.

Training and professional development are also ongoing priorities. Continuous training is organised to ensure employees have the appropriate skills and technical knowledge to carry out their roles effectively. With vehicle technology continually developing, keeping up to date with industry changes is essential, both for staff development and maintaining the standard of service provided to customers.

The 2026 Top Awards finalists will gather at Delphi Academy in Warwick on 14 November, with the winners announced at the evening awards ceremony at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Coventry.

Reaching the final in two categories recognises different but equally important aspects of K Brown Auto Repairs: the organisation and management required to operate across multiple sites, and the importance placed on supporting the people who make the business work.







Find the hidden present and WIN £100! Christmas is nearly here, and at Town & Around we're getting into the festive spirit by giving one lucky reader a little extra spending money for the big day!

Whether it's helping with the Christmas food shop, buying those last-minute presents, treating the family or simply giving your bank balance a welcome boost, an extra £100 could come in rather handy at this time of year.



So we've decided to spread a little Christmas cheer with our Cash for Christmas competition, giving one lucky reader the chance to win £100, paid straight into their bank account in time for Christmas!

Can you find our hidden Christmas present?

Somewhere within the pages of this month's Town & Around magazine, we've hidden a small Christmas present.

It could be tucked away alongside a feature, nestled near a photograph or hiding somewhere you might not expect.



Your mission is simple: have a good look through the magazine, find our Christmas present and make a note of the page number.

We've included an example of what you're looking for, so you'll know it when you see it!

(this one does not count by the way!)

How to enter

Once you've spotted the present, head over to townandaround.uk.

You'll find our Cash for Christmas competition banner on the homepage, and there's also a dedicated competition button in the website menu.

Click either one to open the entry form, tell us which page you found the present on and fill in your contact details.

That's it! You're in with a chance of winning.

£100 in your bank before Christmas!

Entries close at 11.59pm on Tuesday 15 December 2026.

We'll select one lucky winner at random from all the correct entries and arrange for the £100 prize to be paid directly into their bank account by Monday 21st December 2026.

There's no purchase necessary, and only one entry per person is permitted.

So grab your copy of Town & Around, get searching and see if you can spot our festive little visitor!

Good luck, and Merry Christmas from everyone at Town & Around!

Competition open to UK residents aged 18 or over. Full terms and conditions are available on our website. Employees of the organiser and their immediate families are not eligible to enter, postal entries to:
The Editor, Town & Around,
Unit 1 Marea Farm, School Road
Heacham, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE31 7DH

R'N'R FENCING
& Landscapes
Domestic, Commercial & Agricultural
• DECKING • PERGOLAS • PATIOS
• TURFING • RECLAIMED SLEEPERS
ALL ASPECTS OF LANDSCAPING
FREE QUOTES • PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURED
07881 947506 / 01485 572107
Prided on Quality & Reliability

DALEGATE MARKET PE31 8FB
BURNHAM DEEPDALE
Shopping & Café
North Norfolk Coast shopping, food & drink
'Great little shopping precinct with good mix of shops. Well worth a visit.'
One Stop Nature Shop Relish Boutique Gone Crabbing Fat Face The Hare & The Hen
Driftwood Glass Studio Deepdale Café Deepdale Stores Pop Up Shops Information Centre
Tel: 01485 210305 www.dalegatemarket.co.uk

31 DAYS 31 DIPS ONE CAUSE!



Dani Crawshaw

Sedgeford's Jess Smith braved the cold water every day throughout October, completing 31 swims for Surfers Against Sewage and becoming one of the charity's top fundraisers.

For 31 days, Jess from Sedgeford has been cold water swimming to raise money for Surfers Against Sewage - and she's one of their top fundraisers!

"I am sad it's over," Jess Smith tells me, "It was hard some days finding the time, fighting the weather, and some days utter exhaustion. But, it gave me purpose and I can honestly say every swim, even the tough ones, I came out glowing."

We first met along Hunstanton seafront, when she was around halfway through the month. Before braving the sea, she told me why she was taking on the challenge.

"We have the most chalk streams in the world, and we need to protect them. Also, Hunstanton is a tourist resort, we want beautiful beaches and for people to feel confident about swimming in the sea without catching any nasty bugs."



She described herself as 'part seal', "Once I'm in, I'm fine - there's an initial shock and I do some breathing exercises to relax, so it takes me a few moments to acclimatise.

"It gets you closer to nature. Swimming is amazing, but swimming in open water, is on a next level. I love it, it makes your skin tingle, it makes you feel very alive."

Dip a Day is an annual fundraising and awareness campaign in October run by Surfers against Sewage. The charity says, "It's to raise funds to support the charity's clean-water campaigns, data tracking, and putting legal pressure on water companies and lawmakers."

Jess says she's been 'blown away with the support', "I am in the top 20 fundraisers. It makes me feel emotional that so many people sponsored me. It really is an important cause."

Her last swim was in the Great Ouse, "By Houghton Mill. It was magical and I stayed in for 45 minutes.

"I would definitely encourage other people to take on the challenge! There is a great camaraderie amongst the dippers."



"If you can find a swim buddy to do it with, that really helps."

She does have a bit of key advice though, "A good changing robe is a life saver!"

We just want to say a big well done to Jess, and to anyone else who did Dip a Day this year - I'll invest in a good changing robe and join you next year. Promise.

Watch the video at townandaround.net





Rally For Lottie

Dani Crawshaw

Hunstanton friends Jason Gage and Mo Crowson are gearing up for a 1,300-mile charity rally to Benidorm in a £500 Toyota Celica, raising funds for CLAPA.

Hunstanton friends Jason and Mo to do 'The Rat Run', a 1300-mile challenge to Benidorm. We catch up with Jason, who says the chosen charity has been a 'huge help' to his family.

"It's a charity that's close to my heart, I've got a personal attachment to it now, " Jason Gage tells me, who's showing me the car him and his friend Mo Crowson will be driving.

The Rat Race, which takes place in March, will see cars start from all over the UK and drive to Benidorm over 5 days, to raise money for CLAPA.



"I've always wanted to do a rally, and it started off as a fun idea, then the charity that the main rally organiser had picked is CLAPA, which is for the cleft lip community. My granddaughter, Lottie, was born with a cleft lip. She's had two operations so far, and she's due to go in again in December for another one."

Jason says the charity's made a big difference to his family's life, "Huge, they are very supportive, very knowledgable, they're wonderful. The emotional support is unbelievable, as you can imagine, it's a hard thing to go through, and their support has been endless."

Cleft lip and palate is one of the most common birth defects, affecting around 1 in 700 babies, with many children needing ongoing treatment and surgeries as they grow. The charity relies entirely on donations and fundraising.

It says, 'Every donation will help CLAPA continue providing information, feeding equipment, peer support, and spreading awareness for cleft affected children, adults and families, ensuring that no one has to face their journey alone.'

If you hadn't guessed, Jason and Mo have chosen to name their car (which started off as a humble Toyota Celica) Lighting McQueen, from the film Cars.

"You've got to pick a theme, so we picked this - and the car was red anyway, so we thought we'd go with that, why not?!" He laughs.

"The rules of the rally are you have to buy a car under 600 pounds, you can tinker with it as much as you like. This was 500, done an awful lot of miles, not in the best condition - and with a lot of help from a lot of people, it is what it is now."

He tells me the support so far from local businesses, and beyond, is 'humbling', "People have just gone along with us and have helped us an awful lot. And we're not far off from raising half of the ten thousand pounds we'd like to."

Are they feeling confident? "We've done a few dry runs in it now and we haven't had any problems, and we've gone over it with a fine tooth comb, so hopefully it should be good. I'm looking forward to it, it's a fun way to raise some money."

Best of luck to Jason and Mo - we shall be there in March to wave you both off!





Seasons Greetings, From Dipple & Conway

Annette Ball

I'm writing this at the beginning of November, and anyone who has been past the practice will notice that we have changed colour to blue. The signage has just gone up today, so thus completes our transformation from Hunstanton Eyecare to Dipple & Conway Opticians and Audiologists. We are now part of a group of five practices, our sister practice in Cromer being one of them. I didn't think at my age I would have another employer, but I have and without moving anywhere!

Dipple & Conway are certainly committed to a high standard of care, so we all feel right at home. We are the same team ready to welcome and look after you, but the one constant in life is that there is always change. Our range of diagnostic equipment has expanded as we now have OPTOMAP as well as our OCT machine, so we can see a very wide picture as well as view deep into the retina, this is an essential part of our eye examination and particularly important for our diabetic clients. Our frame range has also changed with the introduction of lots of new designs as well as a larger stock of our more traditional designs. Come and have a browse any time.

At this time of year, for those who have visited us, we thank you so much, and for those we are yet to meet, we look forward to seeing you. Don't forget that January is ear-marked for our frame sale, and there will be plenty of choice. So how about a new look for a new year?

From all of us at Dipple & Conway, Hunstanton, we wish you a merry Christmas and a very happy New Year .

Annette

National Coastwatch Brancaster

News Desk



There have been two reportable incidents since last month's report. Firstly, an elderly lady slipped on the entrance to the beach and hit her head on the rocks; the Golf Club raised the alarm with the Brancaster station Watchkeepers. She was brought to the station and cared for until an ambulance, summoned by staff at the beach kiosk, arrived to transfer her to hospital. It is pleasing to hear that the lady recovered fully.

The second incident was the sighting of a very large object off Scolt Island. The Coastguard were notified by Brancaster station Watchkeepers and eventually the RNLI Hunstanton's hovercraft was called out: an investigation found the object to be a large red sail. Despite a search, there was no sign of the vessel from which the sail had been lost.

The AGM was held on 29th October. A range of objectives for 2027 were agreed, including joint training with the RNLI, additional support from the team events and fund raising, exploration of beach patrols with HQ and the National Trust and complete job descriptions for the station officer roles created in 2026.

The AGM concluded with the presentation by the Shantymen of a cheque for £2500, pictured on the left following the hugely popular Festival in September. We thank them again for their generous support. The photo below shows the Coastwatch team in attendance at the very successful Brancaster Sea Festival on October 24th.

If you would like more information on National Coastwatch Brancaster please contact Richard Burrows, Deputy Station Manager, on 07535 612777. You can also find us on Facebook at #nationalcoastwatchbrancaster or on our website, www.nci.org.uk/Brancaster for our webcam and up-to-date information on weather and tides.



Mann Made Developments Ltd

Free No Obligation Valuation & Estimation for

Extensions, Garages, New Build, Conversions plus All Other Tasks including groundwork, brickweave, etc.

Family run business with over 30 years' experience

Call anytime for your **Free Quote**
07798 723 287 or 01485 540 008
or email info@mannmadedevelopments.co.uk
www.mannmadedevelopments.co.uk

Healthy Feet Footcare

Treatments we offer include nail trimming, corns, calluses, verrucas, thickened & fungal nails, diabetic footcare assessment.

Clinic Locations

The Therapy Shed - **Heacham** & Crystal Cave - **Hunstanton**

Home Visits Also Available

Contact Michele on: **07891 638812**

michele@healthyfeetfootcare.co.uk

20% off your first appointment

Registered footcare practitioner and graduate member of The College of Foot Care Practitioners (Dip.TCFCP)


ApprovedRoofers
Google GUARANTEED
CONFEDERATION OF ROOFING CONTRACTORS
APPROVED MEMBER
DON'T PAY FOR A
NEW ROOF
UNTIL WE'VE SEEN IT
All roof replacements signed off by building control
DSN Down's Syndrome Norfolk
Proud to Support Down's Syndrome Norfolk, Charity No. 1098031
ON EVERY JOB WE RECEIVE
NO OBLIGATION QUOTE
100% FREE
FREE
ROOF INSPECTION
FOR ALL LOCAL HOMEOWNERS
✓ CHECK FOR LEAKS
✓ BROKEN TILES
✓ STORM DAMAGE
✓ RIDGE & CHIMNEY
✓ GUTTERS & MORE
✓ FLAT ROOF REPAIRS & REPLACEMENTS
PRESTIGE
PRESTIGE ROOF LTD
WHERE PRESTIGE MEANS PROTECTION
Company Reg No. 15553312
VAT Number: GB475450281
APPROVED MEMBER
Office: 01485 789 017 Mob: 07478 266 531
contact@prestigeroof.co.uk www.prestigeroof.co.uk
Serving local homeowners throughout the festive season

PRESTIGE ROOF LTD

WHERE PRESTIGE MEANS PROTECTION

ApprovedRoofers

CONFEDERATION OF ROOFING CONTRACTORS APPROVED MEMBER

KEEP YOUR HOME PROTECTED THIS CHRISTMAS



Honest, transparent service with high-quality workmanship

Dedicated roofing and repair specialists

Trusted locally with many references in your area



Valley, Gable & Ridge Repointing From £295.00



Moss Removal From £295.00



Spray Foam Removal From £875.00



Winter Leak Repairs From £295.00

CHRISTMAS OFFER

15% OFF

WITH THIS LEAFLET

Call The Team Today

Local Family Business

25 Year Guarantees Available

Office: 01485 789 017 Mob: 07478 266 531

contact@prestigeroof.co.uk www.prestigeroof.co.uk

Merry Christmas from Prestige Roof Ltd



DUTY CALLS TWICE!

Dani Crawshaw

From RAF Marham to King's Lynn Town Hall, Cllr Steve Bearshaw is making history as Britain's first serving mayor to combine civic duties with a career in the RAF.

Did you know? West Norfolk has the first serving mayor in the UK, I meet Cllr Bearshaw in the Mayor's Parlour in King's Lynn's Town Hall. For 6 months he's been mayor, a role he's taken on alongside a career in the RAF, which makes him the first serving mayor ever in the UK.

“It’s a huge accolade isn’t it," he tells me, “The airforce are pretty fantastic and a fully supportive of it, which is vital, with the flexibility of my role I get to juggle it, and manage it the best I can.



“I’ve joked a few times that it would be good to cut the robes in half and the uniform in half, and stitch them together!”

He's now in his 30th year of service, "I’ve always been hands on and into engineering, I actually joined as an air craft engineer, initially working on engines, fuel systems, gear boxes.

“Since then I’ve done various jobs, I’ve been the configuration manager for Typhoons, modification manager, fleet manager, and then I came back down to Marham in 2022, and now I’m the workforce warrant officer.

“Part of the reason of moving over to the current role in the RAF, is there’s no-where near as many meetings, a lot of the deadlines are self-set, so it just gives me that capacity. When I finish this evening’s mayoral events, I’ll jump back on the laptop later.”

This week Cllr Bearshaw's had 14 mayoral events, I ask how he manages to juggle the roles - as well as being dad to a 6 year old.

“It’s always a balance, we’ve just accepted as a family our life is on hold for the year, and we’ll fully embrace it and do everything we possibly can."

He says the support of his wife, Marisol, is key. Her late uncle, Peruvian Daniel Estrada, served for 7 years as mayor of Cusco, even receiving national recognition for his transformative leadership.

"It's incredible - big shoes to fill family wise! But it does mean she's kind of grown up with it, so she gets it.”

Although unable to make any political decisions as mayor, he is concerned about big issues like the future of Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

"We are working extremely closely with the Trust at the moment for the hospital. If we don’t have the specialist services here, we won’t attract the top level doctors, if we don’t attract the top level doctors, we don’t attract the right students - and then you end up with a decline full stop. That needs a lot of scrutiny."

He describes being mayor as 'a privilege', “My aim - it’s a massive challenge - is to get out and thank every single volunteer.

"What a massive honour it is to call myself the mayor, but to give me the opportunity to actually go out and thank people for what they do - is so much more rewarding than being able to call myself mayor in my eyes.

“And doing my best to make sure that we as West Norfolk work well together and get the best for everybody - it’s about making all of our lives better.

"A lot of stuff I can’t influence, pot holes is everybody’s favourite isn’t it, so they all come under county, but I can feed that into county, I’ve got a really good relationship with highways.”



As we leave the Parlour, we pass portraits of previous mayors. His has already been taken, ready for next year, "I had it done over at RAF Marham in front of a fighter jet. A lot of the portraits are generally taken in the Town Hall, but I think we are going away from that tradition. The last few mayors, have had it taken in their ward or somewhere near them that means something to them."

With elections coming up in May, and his mayoral term coming to an end - life may soon look very different for him and his family.

“I could suddenly find myself from being the busiest man to twiddling my thumbs and just going back to one job!”

Further delays to new QEH are unacceptable

James Wild - MP, Member of Parliment for West Norfolk

There were people from Hunstanton, Heacham, Thornham, Ringstead, Snettisham, and other coastal villages at the recent protest in support of the QEH in Lynn. Many came with signs about the additional travel time they would face if services were moved away – but more importantly I heard direct about their experiences of the importance of access to care locally.

Rumours about potential plans to downgrade services at QEH have caused real concerns for local people and staff. At least we now can see what the Norfolk and Waveney University Hospitals Group proposes after publication of its Case for Change proposals for the future services.

From the beginning, I opposed any downgrading of A&E at QEH – so it is reassuring proposals to remove consultant-led emergency and critical care at the hospital have been dropped. Under their scenarios, most patients will continue to receive emergency care locally, with the most complex cases transferred to specialist centres. It was simply not tenable to lose such vital services for our community.

Yet while the NHS has said the changes would be about bringing care closer to patients, the NHS Group continue to pursue plan that could lead to the removal of maternity services at QEH.

I've heard from many people how this approach does not reflect the needs of expectant mums and the rurality, travel times, deprivation, and other issues in our community. Their concerns and these factors must be central to any consideration of future service provision.

The Group's strategy sets out ambitions to shift care into neighbourhood and community settings and reducing the need for hospital admissions which makes sense. Its analysis suggests that around 97% of hospital activity could remain at its current location or be provided even closer to where patients live. In that context, it is vital key services such as maternity are retained.

Norfolk and Suffolk Integrated Care Board (ICB), who are responsible for planning and commissioning NHS services, has agreed to commission further work to explore proposals for the future of services. This review will consider a full range of options, covering A&E, acute medicine, emergency surgery, critical care, maternity and inpatient paediatrics – not just the scenarios put forward by the Group. I hope they reject the maternity plans and look at how the units can be supported and maintained.

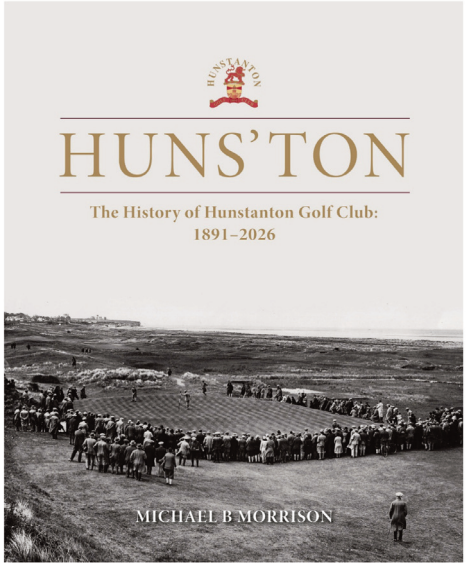
So more spend on consultants, more reviews, and more delay. A big part of my concerns is the potential impact on the new QEH. This review will take time.

Buried in the documents, I found a warning the date of the new hospital opening may be delayed to 2035 in a worst case scenario if changes are proposed that require public consultation. The best case is 2033 and the middle case is late 2034.

The opening date for our new QEH opening has already been delayed from 2030 to 2033 by this government - further delay is not acceptable. The NHS must get on with delivering the new QEH as soon as possible for staff and patients. I am urging them to stick to the 2033 date the Health Minister assured me only two weeks ago was the plan.

One of the issues is these reviews are being driven by largely unaccountable NHS bodies who began this work behind closed doors. I have already raised my opposition to the loss of services in Parliament with the Health Secretary. I will continue to campaign throughout this process so that in delivering our new hospital the interests of patients come first.

James Wild MP



Holme History Group Thursday December 10th 2.30 pm

Holme-next-the-Sea Village Hall PE36 6LH

Welcomes Michael Morrison with a talk on the

History of Hunstanton Golf Club.

Entry Free. Donations welcome

Christmas refreshments will be served.



Update on the QEH

Cllr Dr Pallavi Devulapalli

The Clinical Review group of the Norfolk and Waveney Hospital Group are looking at various possible scenarios for the three Norfolk hospitals.

They have said they will maintain an 24h emergency dept; some of the options for maternity that they are considering are extremely concerning including having just one or two maternity unit/s for the whole county.

They are looking at scenarios of moving (and not moving) maternity, general surgery, and paediatrics to the NNUH or keeping them at QEH.

It's important to note that nothing has been decided yet. Professor Dwyer, the chief executive, was at pains to emphasise that this clinical review was only one part of the decision-making process.

I asked the board to share the data that the group are basing their work on - the factual assumptions must be robust and accurate, otherwise the whole review becomes suspect.

They should be taking into account the long distances, the lack of trains and buses, the poor road infrastructure, our rural and spread-out population, plans for massive housing and therefore population growth, possible capacity issues at the NNUH to pick up extra work etc etc.

Voices from the public will be vital as the decision-making progresses. Do make yourselves heard at every opportunity. Your voice may be the thing that keeps services at the QEH.

I also attended a meeting of the Norfolk and Suffolk Integrated Commissioning Board (NSICB) on Wednesday the 4th of November.

For clarity, the NSICB is the NHS (i.e. government) body that commissions (i.e. pays for) most healthcare in Norfolk and Suffolk-including channelling public (govt) funding to the hospitals, dentistry, primary care, community health services etc.

Among other things, the ICB board:

tasked the Executive Committee of the ICB with commissioning and overseeing an ICB-led Pre-Consultation Business Case (PCBC) to develop and appraise reconfiguration options against population health needs and best interests, and to ensure the completed PCBC returns to the Board for a separate decision before formal consultation.

All of this will come to the Health Overview Select Committee on the 19th of November, for approval. I will be sharing my concerns with the ICB and the Hospital Board at that meeting.

There are other stages, including a formal public consultation, which will altogether take another 12 months at least.

My thoughts on this:

Its clear that nothing less than a fully-resourced and fully-staffed QEH will suffice in West Norfolk, so these reviews (the ICB-led PCBC and the NWUHG-led Case for Change) appear to be prolonging uncertainty and delaying the much-needed re-build.

I heard the year 2035 mentioned as a possible completion date, which is whole 5 years behind the first proposed date.

Do let me, or any of the other governors, know (contact me via email: Cllr.Pallavi.Devulapalli@west-norfolk.gov.uk) if you have any specific concerns you want raised with the hospital board.

Got a story?
Share what's happening in your town and help keep our community informed.
Your stories. Your community. Your magazine.
SUBMIT AT townandaround.net
TOWN and AROUND
Local news, local people, a brighter community

PEELINGS Coaches
QUALITY COACH TRAVEL FOR NORFOLK
NEW HOLIDAY BROCHURE NOW AVAILABLE
Contact us to get yours today
Great days out, short breaks and more
Call us on 01328 701531
or visit www.peelingscoaches.co.uk

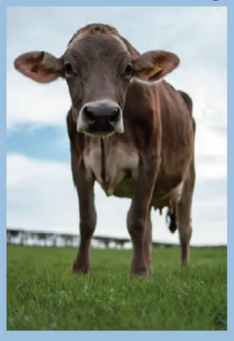
BORDOLI PIZZAS
MON: RIPPER HALL DOCKING
WEDS: HEACHAM SOCIAL CLUB
FRI: OLD HUNSTANTON SOCIAL CLUB
From 5pm
T: 07565 754812 E: bordoli99@gmail.com

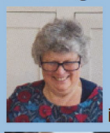
E. F. Snelling & Son
Boat and outboard - sales, service and repairs
Authorised dealers for
Yamaha outboard & Terhi boat
The Marine Centre
Main Road
Brancaster Staithe
King's Lynn
Norfolk
PE31 8BP
01485 210381
shop@efsmarinecentre.co.uk
www.efsmarinecentre.co.uk
Indespension and Snipe trailers and trolleys
Buoyancy aids, ropes, shackles, trailer parts, marine paint and more

Hunstanton Society

Our AGM followed by a presentation by Dr Catherine Temple

We start the evening at 7.00pm with the Society's Annual General Meeting which we hope should last no more than half an hour. We will then welcome Dr Temple of Mrs Temples Cheese to give us a talk about the cheese that her company manufacture in Norfolk which are also sold in the Hunstanton Deli on the other side of Greevegate from the Heritage Centre.





in the Heritage Centre



Wednesday, 9th December 2026 @ 7.00pm
Admission Free to Members, £5.00 non-members
Refreshments included

"Hannahs Roses"

in aid of "Children with Cancer"

Promoter: Monica Burton, 38 Park Road, Hunstanton, PE36 5BY (01485 535095)

Annual Christmas Fair



Sunday
13th December 2026
at
Hunstanton Town Hall
10:00am - 4:00pm



With large raffle called at 3:30p.m.
Lots of fantastic prizes.
Come join us for the day,
lots of tables, lots of fun.

Registered with West Norfolk Borough Council





STEVE PENN DRIVEWAYS

PAVING AND GROUNDWORKS RESIN

ALL TYPES OF PAVING, SURFACING & BRICK WORK

PART OF GOLD AWARD WINNING TEAM AT THE CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW

APPROVED RESIN MILL INSTALLER





DRIVEWAYS
BLOCK PAVING
RESIN BOUND
PATIOS
BRICKWORK

QUALITY WORKMANSHIP

MOBILE: 07712 244825 | 07867 868 561

EMAIL: STEVEPENNPAVING@AOL.CO.UK

Website: www.stevepennpaving.co.uk

A year in the life of Westacre

Liz Brewer

How on earth is it December already? Another year has whizzed by in what feels like the blink of an eye, and before we rush headlong into Christmas, we thought it was worth taking a moment to pause, look back and celebrate a rather extraordinary year at Westacre.

It's been a year of highs, a few lows, some spectacular challenges and more than a little chaos. We've said a sad goodbye to some much-loved members of our theatre family, and felt their absence deeply. We've wrestled with the seemingly endless world of grant applications (a creative art form in itself!), celebrated some funding successes and, at times, wondered quite how we're going to keep all the plates spinning.

And then there was the tent, After five summers of faithful service, our beloved outdoor theatre tent suffered some rather spectacular storm damage. Cue fundraising appeals, an army of willing helpers and a huge collective effort to bring it back to life. And, against the odds, we did it! With just days to spare, the tent was resurrected and ready for another summer season.

What followed was a summer of glorious sunshine, fabulous audiences and sell-out performances. Although, in true Westacre fashion, the weather couldn't let us get away with it entirely. One particularly biblical night of rain tested even our newly restored tent to its limits, amid what could only be described as a comedy of errors. Oh, the irony! But we dusted ourselves off, dried out and carried on.

And what a summer it was. An incredible season, wonderful reviews, our brilliant Summer Bursary company taking to the stage, and audiences turning out in their droves. We even managed a fleeting moment of television fame, appearing on the telly box courtesy of Countryfile. Blink and you missed us!

There have been so many moments to feel proud of beyond the summer season, too. Our young NT Connections cast took their production of Fishville all the way to Manchester, performing at The Lowry - an enormous achievement for these talented young people. We've secured grants to help more children access theatre through free tickets, and continued to create opportunities for young people to learn, explore, experiment and discover what they're capable of.

Magic moments

But perhaps the moments we treasure most aren't always the ones that make the headlines.



They're the quieter ones. The students who have worked hard and quietly passed their LAMDA exams, many with distinction. The young person who finds the courage to step onto a stage for the very first time. Someone who might once have struggled to find their voice, but is slowly discovering the confidence to use it. The young person who has found a space where they can simply be themselves, without needing to be anything else.

They're the young people who have gone on to pursue their dreams at performing arts colleges, the new faces discovering Westacre for the first time, whether as audience members or stepping into one of our own productions. And our wonderful home-educating community, whose enthusiasm, generosity and support go above and beyond.

These are the moments that remind us why we do what we do. As Theatre Director, Sadie Grist echoes, "Theatre is about so much more than what's happening on stage. It's about belonging, building confidence, making friends, finding your feet and having somewhere to go where you feel part of something."

It takes a more than a village

And that brings us rather neatly to the people who make Westacre what it is.



To our wonderfully loyal audiences: thank you. Every ticket bought, every show supported and every visit made helps keep this little theatre alive and kicking. We really couldn't do it without you.

To our army of volunteers, who welcome audiences, work front of house, distribute thousands of brochures across the community and turn their hands to pretty much anything that needs doing - you are absolute stars. And to those who've joined us more recently, thank you for giving your time and bringing fresh energy.

To our knit and natter groups, book clubs, quiz nights and Authors' Hour - thank you for bringing people together. Yes, you help us raise much-needed funds, but you do something equally important: you create friendship, laughter, connection and a reason to get out of the house. There is always room for another chair and another giggle at Westacre.

To our lovely gardeners, who keep the grounds looking beautiful; our local business sponsors and supportive schools; the touring companies who bring such a brilliant variety of work through our doors; and our volunteer photographer for giving your time, to capture the magic of our productions so beautifully.

To the team working their magic behind the scenes, often juggling more than anyone would believe, and to every single person who quietly pitches in to make things happen - thank you.

And, of course, to Ernie, our four-legged box office colleague, who continues to make his own very particular contribution. Mainly by being Ernie.

Westacre has always been about people. The people who make theatre, the people who come to watch it, the people who learn, create, volunteer, support and simply enjoy being here. We're a small theatre in a little corner of Norfolk, but together we make an awful lot happen. So, as another year draws to a close, we'll raise a glass to the good bits, remember those we've lost, laugh about the bits that didn't quite go to plan, and look forward to everything still to come.

Thank you for being part of our story. Here's to another year of making things happen, making memories and creating a little bit of magic along the way.

And speaking of magic… if you haven't yet bagged your tickets for Cinderella, you'd better be quick. You really don't want to be late for this ball!

What's on: www.westacretheatre.com
Booking Office: 01760 755 007
Email: admin@westacrethreatre.com
Socials: @westacretheatre



Ben Dawson Gardens



Professional Garden Maintenance

- ★ One-day garden tidy-up
- ✓ Lawn maintenance
- ✓ Border tidying
- ✓ Drive/patio weeding
- ✓ Hedge trimming
- ✓ Removing and planting
- ✓ Tree/shrub pruning
- ✓ Prepping/chopping logs

Monthly payment plans available for regular maintenance

CONTACT ME TODAY FOR A FREE QUOTE

07534449260

bendawsongardens@gmail.com

@bendawsongardens

@bendawsongardens

Recommended by K Brown Auto Repairs LTD

Countdown to Christmas

Music in the Burnhams

I can hardly believe we are already talking about Christmas, but what a year it has been!, Despite the challenges, Music in the Burnhams has enjoyed some wonderful successes, and I am incredibly proud of everything we have achieved.

My thanks go to Adrian Bradbury, our new Artistic Director; Greg Hacon, who ensured our inaugural festival ran so smoothly; and our fantastic team of volunteers and helpers, ranging in age from 18 to over 80.

Most importantly, none of this would be possible without our wonderful Friends and supporters. Thank you to each and every one of you.

After two quieter months, we're looking forward to celebrating the festive season with two very special December events.

LOOK TOWARDS CHRISTMAS

Thursday 4 December | 4pm

All Saints Church, Sutton-cum-Ulph, Burnham Market

Join the children of Burnham Market Primary School for a delightful afternoon of festive songs and poetry, helping everyone get into the Christmas spirit.

CHRISTMAS SUPPER CLUB

Saturday 19 December | 7pm

Burnham Overy Village Hall

An evening of delicious food and exceptional music awaits at our Christmas Supper Club.

Our Artistic Director, Adrian Bradbury, will be joined by the wonderfully talented pianist Thomas Kelly for a special programme featuring masterpieces by Bach, Beethoven and Chopin.

Following their unforgettable performances at our Summer Festival, we're delighted to welcome them back for what promises to be a memorable evening.

Come along, enjoy a celebratory glass with us and share in the festive cheer!

For further details and tickets, please see our event posters or visit www.musicintheburnhams.com.







HUNSTANTON AREA CHURCHES TOGETHER

Celebration of Christmas

Join Hunstanton Area Churches
At Hunstanton Town Hall
12th December at 2.00pm

Accompanied by

West Norfolk Singers and Hunstanton Concert Band

HUNSTANTON AREA CHURCHES TOGETHER

Hunstanton Area Churches Christmas Programme

Advent Reflections Saturday Mornings 10-12 at Catholic Church
28th Nov Waiting with Hope - Our Lady and St Edmund PE36 5DR
5th Dec Preparing the Way - St Cecilias Dersingham PE31 6YE
12th Dec Announcing the Good News - Our Lady and St Edmund PE36 5DR
19th Dec Gabriels Message Way - St Cecilias Dersingham PE31 6YE

Sunday 29th November
10.30 Advent Carol Service - Hunstanton Methodist Church PE36 6AJ

Christmas Tree Festival
4th - 6th December Town Hall, PE36 6BQ

Saturday 12th December .
2.30pm **Celebration of Christmas** Town Hall PE36 6BQ

Saturday 19th December
2.00pm Carol Concert at Hunstanton Union Church PE36 5BN

Sunday 20th December
10.30 Christmas Carol Service - Methodist Church Hunstanton PE36 6AJ .

Christmas Eve Services
4pm Crib Service - St Edmund's Church, PE36 6BE
7pm Christmas Mass - Our Lady and St Edmund PE36 5DR
11.15pm Midnight Mass - St Edmund's Church PE36 6BE

Christmas Day Services
9am Service - St Andrew's Church, Ringstead, Pe36 5JU
9am Christmas Morning Mass - St Cecilias Dersingham PE31 6YE
9.30am Service - Hunstanton Methodist Church PE36 6AJ
10am Service with Holy Communion - St Edmund's Church PE36 6BE
10.30am Christmas Service - Hunstanton Union Church PE36 5BN
11am Christmas Morning Mass - Our Lady and St Edmund, PE36 5DR

THE ARTS SOCIETY North West Norfolk

Have you always wanted to learn more about the arts?

Then start now with our next talk at Sedgeford Village Hall at 2:00pm on Monday 14th December

The Art of Trickery
Lecturer: Ian Keable



A member of the Magic Circle, Ian will share with us examples of the art of magic as depicted in art and cartoons and as performed here in Sedgeford Village Hall.

Benefits of membership:
* *A varied programme of art talks*
* *Trips and tours in the UK and abroad*
* *In depth Special Interest Days*
* *Regular newsletters and magazines*
* *A social event with a warm welcome*

For more information and how to join, visit www.theartssocietynwnorfolk.org.uk
Registered Charity Number 1105490

OLD HUNSTANTON VILLAGE HALL

FILM NIGHT

MIRACLE ON 34th STREET

Monday 14 December
At the Village Hall
Doors Open 6.15pm
Film Starts 7pm



MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET
Genres: Family Comedy/Drama Fantasy | Release: 11th June 1947 | Rating: U | Runtime: 96 Minutes
Copyright: © 1947, renewed 1974, 20th Century Fox Film Corporation. All Rights Reserved.
Synopsis:
The holiday season is in full swing when an older gentleman is hired as a department store Santa Claus. He claims his name is Kris Kringle and soon fills everyone with Christmas spirit – except for his boss, Doris Walker. When Kris is declared insane and put on trial, everyone's faith is put to the test as old and young alike face the age-old question: Do you believe in Santa Claus?
Cast:
Edmund Gwenn, Maureen O'Hara, John Payne, Natalie Wood, Gene Lockhart, Porter Hall, Jerome Cowan, Philip Tonge

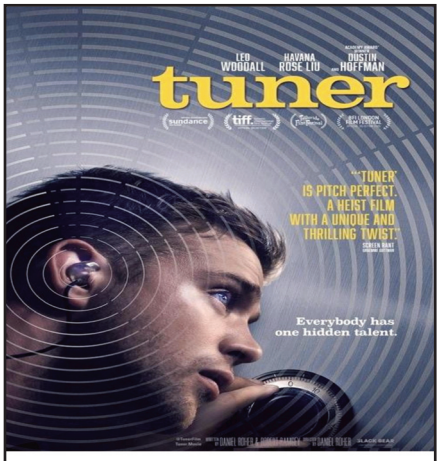
Tickets £5 on the door | Bar Open | Mulled Wine & Mince Pies available

OLD HUNSTANTON VILLAGE HALL

2026 NEW YEARS EVE DISCO & CURRY NIGHT

(Bring your own Booze)
Old Hunstanton Village Hall
Tables decorated
7.30pm - 12.30am | Disco from 9pm

Tickets £50 per person
Limited availability
Available from Nell on 07918 911716



ANMER SOCIAL CLUB

FRIDAY 11th DECEMBER 2026
Film starts at 7.30 p.m.
Doors open 7.00 p.m. Admission - £5 on the night
For further details email: enquiries@anmerclub.co.uk
or telephone 01485 579465
or visit our website on:- www.anmer.club@outlook.com

SHOWTUNES AND SCONES

Recrafting Harmony

A celebration of songs from the movies and musicals with afternoon tea

FEATURING PROFESSIONAL VOCALIST
Katy Ickringill Rankin

£30 PER PERSON
Tickets include afternoon tea and live performance

Saturday 12th December 2026
3pm-6pm

Snettisham Memorial Hall
13 Old Church Road, Snettisham, Norfolk
PE31 7LX

Bring cash for a charity raffle
Bar open throughout

ALL PROFITS IN AID OF
each East Anglia's Children's Hospices

PLEASE BOOK BY 5TH DECEMBER. EMAIL:
recrafting.harmony@outlook.com
We'll send you a payment link. Please let us know any dietary requirements.

IN AID OF EAST ANGLIA'S CHILDREN'S HOSPICES



An Evening Of
MYSTICISM WITH CLAIRE
FROM PRACTICAL MAGICK

Claire will be bringing the two worlds together, giving you the chance to actually have a question of your choice answered, without having to ask it aloud

TUESDAY 8th DECEMBER
£15 PER TICKET
SPACES LIMITED
www.practicalmagick.uk
07735 575117

SNETTISHAM MEMORIAL HALL
13 OLD CHURCH ROAD
SNETTISHAM

DOORS OPEN 6.15PM
READY TO START 7.00PM
REFRESHMENTS ON OFFER

A Musical Afternoon with Margaritaville

In aid of
East Anglian Air Ambulance

Thursday 17th December

Hunstanton Town Hall
1-4pm

Sponsored by Hunstanton Town Council

£4 Entry
Cash Only
Tea & Coffee £1

Dinky David
07787966000



East Anglian Air Ambulance

EAAA Registered Charity No. 1083876

Borough council news

Terry Parish - Borough Councillor for Heacham Ward which includes Sedgeford and Fring

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all, Not a lot has happened since last month though some things are warming up. Last month, the future of the QE hospital was a major concern of the Council and it remains so today. The threats to accident and emergency, intensive care, and general surgery appear to have gone away; they will be kept within the proposed new hospital. I doubt this good news was a result of demonstrations and local political noise but more to do with viability of workloads across the three sites of the Norfolk and Waveney University Hospitals Group.

No decision has yet been made about provision of Maternity Services, Neonatal Services and Children's Services. There is a national debate about Maternity Services due to shortages of specialist staff. Low regional birth volumes are quoted as a reason to reduce centres which offer full maternity care. That is interesting when you consider that the government has doubled the number of homes needed to be built here which, presumably, will mean more births.

That leads on to the Local Housing Needs Assessment which dominates how many houses are built within the new, new, Local Plan that Government has demanded. Officers will present this to the Local Plan Task Group (LPTG) after copy date for this publication. However, I have seen the draft report and am taken aback that calculations and numbers appear to be based upon data and the formulae supplied by government rather than a real assessment based on birth rates etc within West Norfolk. The government formula was reverse engineered from their intention to build 1.5 million homes by the end of this parliament. This target of fancy is not going to be met with, in reality, just 1 million a fading possibility. I will ask appropriate questions at the LPTG about the real number of houses we actually need to meet resident's needs in West Norfolk. After all, up until a year ago, 554 new houses/year was considered more than enough, not 1000.

If you manage to avoid a new housing estate dumped on a field near you then beware because a data centre might be on the cards or, at the very least, many acres of solar panels plus associated hardware. The latter could be stopped or at least delayed through sensible decisions by planning committee but Government has removed that democratic process (see last month's article). Data centres are deemed Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP)and the Secretary of State decides nay or yay on those (the SoS can also overturn public objections to large solar farms).

Such projects are impacting West Norfolk, the one currently making headlines is the Longmarsh Green Energy Project which is proposed just south of King's Lynn. Sounds good, Green, doesn't it?

The project covers 4,695 acres of farmland and is a data centre powered by the linked solar farm, providing about 7% of the energy the centre needs over a year.

The Borough Council had an extra-ordinary council meeting on 16th November to discuss this and other NSIP's which are coming forward. I admit I am biased; I have objected to all proposals for solar farms in West Norfolk; I believe the place for solar panels is on roofs, of houses, schools, workplaces, over car parks, almost anywhere but farm land. Household panels reduce energy costs for those who live under them, they don't profit largely foreign based investment companies who own most of the acres of high-tech glass.

The King's Lynn Masterplan, effectively cooking for the last 20 years, has reached a milestone as its intentions are all there to see though each possible project within it will require both public and private ambition and funding from both sources too. It will take another 10-20 years for it all to be realised and there will likely be changes on the way.

I chaired the joint panel meeting which considered the Plan prior to it going to Cabinet and Council. It recommended it should proceed though some councillors initially mixed up a high-level Plan with planning which is very different ad deals with permissions and conditions and detail. I think the press may have done the same, as it has focussed on proposed changes to car parks in King's Lynn. There will no loss of car spaces but it is intended some will be moved to allow car parks, or parts of them, to be better utilised. As each proposal is considered there will be consultation. At the end of the day, the town will be a better place to live in and to visit.



Last month I said that I hoped to report now that the McDonald's application had been refused. I can't say that, I asked the question of officers and have had no reply. I will try and catch them at their desks which is hard these days as working from home is oft the norm. There has been no additional document, pertaining to the application, since the 16th October.

Car parking at Heacham Beaches: As of this moment I know of no new concessions including the return of the promise of one hour's free parking. There is a new Cabinet Member with responsibility for car parks and I have asked her if any change is being considered. However, anything to do with revenue is largely decided by the Cabinet Member for Finance and the annual budget which he puts forward in February. I will remind him of the Heacham winter season once appreciated by residents.

I have my £1000 councillor fund to allocate by the end of March and am looking for new recipients this year. It's used for useful things that benefit the community or parts of it so, if you run something voluntarily and a few pounds would help, let me know asap and I will tell you how to apply. You do have to have a bank account linked to the activity,

That's all until February, as the Newsletter Team have a well-earned rest until its time to put that edition together. If anything of great import occurs, I will put it in January's Town and Around. It's unlikely, as the Council hibernates at this time of year.

Terry Parish Borough Councillor for Heacham Ward which includes Sedgeford and Fring

Mark's
Gardening Services

Garden Maintenance
Free quotes
Call: Mark Wright
07876 151688
or
07477951315
wright680199381@gmail.com

SNETTISHAM
CHRISTMAS FAIR
Sat 5th Dec 4-7 pm
The Market Square
Father Christmas, YourChoir, Gifts,
KLiRadio, Hot food & drinks,
Mulled wine, rides & stalls.

Kings Lynn Priory Rotary Club News

Local News Desk

In the space of 14 days, Priory Rotary members have Presented a cheque for £500 to the Adapted Sports Hub (ASH), created a wildflower meadow and planted an oak tree in Wootton Park, held a Technology Tournament for secondary schools at King's Lynn Academy, provided a Harvest Lunch for 80 local elderly residents at Dersingham Village Centre and welcomed almost 200 elderly residents to their Senior Citizens film club.

November 7th, Wildflowers and Oak Tree

A team of Priory volunteers assisted by Nolan and Stella Mills, from Wootton in Bloom, set to work to create a wildflower bed and plant a new oak tree in the 9 acre field just behind Wootton Park where Priory Rotary had previously planted 20 trees. This involved raking, weeding and levelling a 20m by 4m patch of grass before sowing a variety of wildflower seeds. The young oak was provided by Tony and Joyce Williams who had grown it from an acorn planted by their son Cley. Richard High, the event organiser from Priory Rotary, thanked all the volunteers for their hard work, saying "your efforts made a very strenuous task manageable and we look forward to seeing the wildflowers in bloom next year".



November 11th, Donation to ASH

There was a fantastic turnout when Priory Rotary Club held their bi-annual quiz night at South Wootton Village Hall on October 21st, in support of the Adapted Sports Hub Trust (ASH). 15 teams of 6 took part, including 5 teams from ASH. Many thanks to Trevor and Jan Clutterbuck for acting as quizmasters and scorers on the night. Everyone seemed to enjoy the evening with 8 quiz rounds and 2 marathons producing a wide range of challenging questions. Refreshments in the interval, provided by our very own Ann Pacini with help from Liz Eagling, were greatly appreciated.

Thanks to everyone who came to the Rotary Quiz, an incredible £408 was raised, which Priory members agreed to top up to £500. The Adapted Sports Hub Trust is a West Norfolk charity that is aiming to reduce the barriers to people with disabilities that prevent them from taking part in activities that keep them fit, active, having fun and being part of the sporting community. Having now had planning permission and a lease from the Borough Council, ASH now aims to build the hub at Lynnsport next to the Astro Turf. This will provide a safe space which will be fully accessible, with a hall, sensory room, counselling space, changing rooms, a social area and the most up-to-date toilet facilities. The Trust needs to raise over 3 million pounds, and it is wonderful to have the local community showing its support.



The picture shows Katie Fisher from ASH receiving the cheque from Priory Rotarians.

Other charitable donations in November included £500 to Rotary's national Xmas Toy Box appeal, £500 to the Fairstead Community Shop towards their Santa's Grotto, £500 to support the Tapping House Shine a Light appeal, and £500 towards a Xmas Toys for Ukraine Rotary project.

November 12th, Technology Tournament

Students from five schools in the area took part in the annual Rotary Technology Tournament at King's Lynn Academy. The academies taking part were King's Lynn (KLA), King Edward VII, Springwood, Smithdon and Marshland. There were 12 teams of 3 or 4 students in 3 different age categories, all challenged to create a bridge from sheets of card capable of holding a 1kg weight.



November 14th, Harvest Lunch

Priory Rotary Club treated 80 local elderly residents to their annual Harvest Lunch at the Dersingham Village Centre, a tradition that goes back over 30 years. Guests were treated to a delicious beef stew with dumplings, carrots and mashed potatoes, followed by apple pie and chantilly cream and tea or coffee. The meals were provided by experienced caterer and Rotarian Ann Pacini and her brilliant team of helpers. Other Rotary members, partners and friends provided transport to and from the venue for those that needed it and served the meals, and entertainment was provided by professional singer and Rotarian Rowena Senido, who sang many old favourites which the guests enthusiastically sang and danced to.



Club President Peter Oddey thanked all those who helped with the Harvest Lunch. He said "I had numerous positive feedbacks from people saying how much they enjoyed the meal, and how much they looked forward to the lunch as a highlight of their year. This just goes to show how much of an impact PRC can have in the local community and the joy it brings to so many."

November 16th and 18th, Senior Citizens Cinema

Priory's monthly Senior Citizens film club at the Corn Exchange cinema continued with a showing of The Yellow Tie, featuring John Malkovich, Sean Bean and Miranda Richardson. All films start at 10.45 and are preceded with free tea or coffee and biscuits, and at £4 per ticket represent excellent value. Over the 2 days, typical attendance is close to capacity at around 200 people, who enjoy the camaraderie of the occasion as well as the films themselves.



The picture shows at some of the original audience at the Corn Exchange cinema.

Priory Rotary are always keen to attract new members to help ensure their active programme of events can continue. Their next major event will be the annual Rotary Swimarathon, a major fundraiser benefitting many local charities, at the Alive Leisure St James pool on Saturday February 6th. If you are interested in finding out more about how the club operates, and whether becoming a member might appeal to you, please contact Anna Mace at anna.mace14@gmail.com or visit www.rotaryklpriory.org.

What's on in December

Add your event for free at townandaround.uk

Sat 28 Nov

Kings Lynn Flower Club joint coffee morning with the Sandringham WI
WEST NEWTON VILLAGE HALL
King's Lynn Flower Club. *10am*

Tue 1 Dec

Healthy Weight & Wellbeing Community Session
THORNHAM VILLAGE HALL
A welcoming community session led by Steven Laing, a qualified Level 3 Personal Trainer and experienced Health Coach. Explore a kinder, realistic approach to health, food and weight through practical advice, open discussion and support, followed by gentle movement, breathing and guided relaxation *7:30pm*

Wed 2 Dec

Mah-Jong Evening at Old Hunstanton Village Hall
OLD HUNSTANTON VILLAGE HALL
All standards welcome, including beginners. £3 includes refreshments. Contact Nell Bailey to reserve a place. *6:30pm*

Thu 3 Dec

Stanhoe and Barwick WI Meeting
READING ROOM, CROSS LANE, STANHOE *2pm*

Fri 4 Dec

Downham Cider Taproom
PARK FARM UNIT 5A, WORMEGAY
Norfolk cider, craft spirits and guest drinks in a relaxed countryside taproom. Pizza from 5pm, with live music later. *2pm*
Hunstanton Christmas Tree Festival 2026
HUNSTANTON TOWN HALL
Free. Glebe Pre-Prep performs. *Noon–5pm*
Look Towards Christmas
ALL SAINTS CHURCH, BURNHAM MARKET
School songs. Donations to Mind. *4pm*

Fri 4 - Sat 5 Dec

Christmas Party Night and Disco
THE WAREHOUSE, SETCHEY
Celebrate with friends, family or colleagues. Two courses £39.95 or three courses £44.95, including the disco. *7pm*

Sat 5 Dec

Docking Community Café
RIPPER HALL, DOCKING *9am–noon*
Downham Cider Taproom
PARK FARM UNIT 5A, WORMEGAY
Norfolk cider, craft spirits and guest drinks in a relaxed countryside taproom. Pizza from 5pm, with live music later. *2pm*
Hunstanton Christmas Tree Festival 2026
HUNSTANTON TOWN HALL
Free. Kids' activities and snacks. *10am–5pm*
Man The Lifeboats - Deepdale Christmas Party
DEEPDALE CAMPING & ROOMS, BRICK BARN
For St Martin's Housing. *7:30pm*
Thornham Winter Gift Fair
THORNHAM VILLAGE HALL
Handmade gifts and local food. *10am*

Sat 5 - Sun 6 Dec

Christmas Party Night and Disco
THE WAREHOUSE, SETCHEY
Celebrate with friends, family or colleagues. Two courses £39.95 or three courses £44.95, including the disco. *7pm*

Sun 6 Dec

Community Cinema: Encore Theatre Screening
THORNHAM VILLAGE HALL
Chekhov screening with Toby Jones. *4pm*
Hunstanton Christmas Tree Festival 2026
HUNSTANTON TOWN HALL
Free. Choir 2pm, winners 3:45pm. *10am–4pm*
Norfolk County Christmas Fair
KIMBERLEY HALL
150+ stalls. Fair runs 4–6 Dec. *2pm*
The Warehouse Makers Market
THE WAREHOUSE, SETCHEY
Indoor market with local makers. *9am*
Wereham Indoor Car Boot Sale
WEREHAM VILLAGE HALL
Café open. *8am*

Mon 7 Dec

Bingo Night
ANMER SOCIAL CLUB
Doors 7pm. Licensed bar and raffle. *7:30pm*
Festive Crafts with Melanie Tilford
HUNSTANTON COMMUNITY CENTRE
Join artist Mel Tilford to make a rustic hanging mobile using seasonal treasures from the local environment. *1pm*
Tai Chi at Thornham Village Hall
THORNHAM VILLAGE HALL
Relaxing, flowing movement with warm-up exercises and short sections of a traditional Chen-style Tai Chi sequence. *10am*

Tue 8 Dec

Healthy Weight & Wellbeing Community Session
THORNHAM VILLAGE HALL
A welcoming community session led by Steven Laing, a qualified Level 3 Personal Trainer and experienced Health Coach. Explore a kinder, realistic approach to health, food and weight through practical advice, open discussion and support, followed by gentle movement, breathing and guided relaxation *7:30pm*

Wed 9 Dec

Mah-Jong Evening at Old Hunstanton Village Hall
OLD HUNSTANTON VILLAGE HALL
All standards welcome, including beginners. £3 includes refreshments. Contact Nell Bailey to reserve a place. *6:30pm*
Victorian Christmas Home Education Workshop
LYNN MUSEUM, KING'S LYNN
Home education crafts for ages 7–11. *1pm*

Thu 10 Dec

Holme History Group: The History of Hunstanton Golf Club
HOLME-NEXT-THE-SEA VILLAGE HALL
Michael Morrison. Free, donations. *2:30pm*

Fri 11 Dec

Film Night: Tuner (15)
ANMER SOCIAL CLUB
Doors 7pm. £5 on the door. *7:30pm*
Winter Warmer: Edward Glover in Conversation with Billy King-Harman
THORNHAM VILLAGE HALL
Diplomacy with Billy King-Harman. *6:30pm*

Fri 11 - Sat 12

Christmas Party Night and Disco
THE WAREHOUSE, SETCHEY
Celebrate with friends, family or colleagues. Two courses £39.95 or three courses £44.95, including the disco. *7pm*

Sat 12 Dec

Medieval Christmas Family Event
LYNN MUSEUM, KING'S LYNN
Make a mini wreath and gingerbread. *10am*
Pints and Pizza at Duration
DURATION BREWING, ABBEY FARM, WEST ACRE
Neapolitan pizza in the taproom. *Noon*
The Warehouse Makers Market
THE WAREHOUSE, SETCHEY
Indoor market with local makers. *9am*

Sat 12 - Sun 13

Christmas Party Night and Disco
THE WAREHOUSE, SETCHEY
Celebrate with friends, family or colleagues. Two courses £39.95 or three courses £44.95, including the disco. *7pm*

Sun 13 Dec

Hannahs Roses Annual Christmas Fair
HUNSTANTON TOWN HALL
Join Hannahs Roses for its annual Christmas fair in aid of Children with Cancer. Browse the stalls and stay for the raffle draw at 3:30pm. *10am. Raffle 3:30pm*
Pints and Pizza at Duration
DURATION BREWING, ABBEY FARM, WEST ACRE
Neapolitan pizza in the taproom. *Noon*

Mon 14 Dec

Christmas Film Night.
OLD HUNSTANTON VILLAGE HALL
Miracle on 34th Street (1947). Susan and her mother, helped by a lawyer, defend Kris Kringle from being institutionalised by trying to prove he is the real Father Christmas. *7pm*

Tai Chi at Thornham Village Hall
THORNHAM VILLAGE HALL
Relaxing, flowing movement with warm-up exercises and short sections of a traditional Chen-style Tai Chi sequence. *10am*

Tue 15 Dec

Curry & Quiz Night
GOLDEN LION HOTEL HUNSTANTON *8pm*
Festive Crafts with Melanie Tilford
LONDON ROAD METHODIST CHURCH, KING'S LYNN
Join artist Mel Tilford for a festive crafting experience, using seasonal treasures from the local environment to create a rustic hanging mobile suitable for your garden or living space. *1pm*
Healthy Weight & Wellbeing Community Session
THORNHAM VILLAGE HALL
A welcoming community session led by Steven Laing, a qualified Level 3 Personal Trainer and experienced Health Coach. Explore a kinder, realistic approach to health, food and weight through practical advice, open discussion and support, followed by gentle movement, breathing and guided relaxation *7:30pm*

Tue 15 Dec

Knit & Natter
OLD HUNSTANTON VILLAGE HALL *10am*
Prize Bingo in aid of King's Lynn Samaritans
GLOBE BOWLS CLUB, KING'S LYNN
Doors 6pm. Tombola and raffle. *7pm*

Wed 16 Dec

John Harris's Birthday Piano Party
METHODIST HALL, HEACHAM
Join John Harris for a birthday Piano Party with musical games, competitions, prizes, singalongs, carols and guest artists. Lunch at 1pm must be booked before 12 December. *10am*

Festive Crafts with Melanie Tilford
GREAT MASSINGHAM VILLAGE HALL
Join artist Mel Tilford for a festive crafting experience, using seasonal treasures from the local environment to create a rustic hanging mobile suitable for your garden or living space. *1pm*

Mah-Jong Evening at Old Hunstanton Village Hall
OLD HUNSTANTON VILLAGE HALL
All standards welcome, including beginners. £3 includes refreshments. Contact Nell Bailey to reserve a place. *6:30pm*

Thu 17 Dec

A Musical Afternoon with Margaritaville
HUNSTANTON TOWN HALL
Join Margaritaville for an afternoon of music in aid of East Anglian Air Ambulance. Entry £4, cash only; tea and coffee £1. *1pm*

Community Cinema: Encore Ballet
THORNHAM VILLAGE HALL
Enjoy world-class ballet on the Hall's big screen in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. Contact the Hall or check its posters for the programme title. *7pm*

Mini Museum Club: Christmas
LYNN MUSEUM, KING'S LYNN
A festive early-years session for under-fives and their families, exploring the museum through activities, trails, songs, games and stories. The final Mini Museum Club of the year celebrates the wonders of Christmas. *10:30am*

Fri 18 Dec

Downham Cider Taproom
PARK FARM UNIT 5A, WORMEGAY
Norfolk cider, craft spirits and guest drinks in a relaxed countryside taproom. Pizza from 5pm, with live music later. *2pm*

Quiz Night at Anmer Social Club
ANMER SOCIAL CLUB
Doors 7pm. £3 entry, bar and raffle. *7:30pm*

Snettisham Coffee Morning
SNETTISHAM MEMORIAL HALL
10am

Fri 18 - Sat 19

Christmas Party Night and Disco
THE WAREHOUSE, SETCHEY
Celebrate with friends, family or colleagues. Two courses £39.95 or three courses £44.95, including the disco. *7pm*

Sat 19 Dec

Christmas Supper Club
BURNHAM OVERY VILLAGE HALL
Join Music in the Burnhams for a performance by cellist Adrian Bradbury and pianist Thomas Kelly, with music by Bach, Beethoven and Chopin. *7pm*

Christmas Time Ball
WEST WINCH SOCIAL CLUB
A festive night with a live DJ and bar, raising funds for West Norfolk Autism Group. *7pm*

Downham Cider Taproom
PARK FARM UNIT 5A, WORMEGAY
Norfolk cider, craft spirits and guest drinks in a relaxed countryside taproom. Pizza from 5pm, with live music later. *2pm*

North Wootton Village Market
NORTH WOOTTON VILLAGE HALL
Discover fresh local produce, unique hand-crafted goods and the people behind them at North Wootton Village Market. 9am

Sat 19 - Sun 20

Christmas Party Night and Disco
THE WAREHOUSE, SETCHEY
Celebrate with friends, family or colleagues. Two courses £39.95 or three courses £44.95, including the disco. *7pm*

Mon 21 Dec

Anmer Social Club Book Club
ANMER SOCIAL CLUB *Doors 7pm*

Tai Chi at Thornham Village Hall
THORNHAM VILLAGE HALL
Relaxing, flowing movement with warm-up exercises and short sections of a traditional Chen-style Tai Chi sequence. *10am*

Tue 22 Dec

Community Cinema: December

Silver Screening
THORNHAM VILLAGE HALL
Rediscover timeless cinema classics on the Hall's big screen in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. Doors open at 10am; the film starts at 10:30am. *10:30am*

Healthy Weight & Wellbeing Community Session
THORNHAM VILLAGE HALL
A welcoming community session led by Steven Laing, a qualified Level 3 Personal Trainer and experienced Health Coach. Explore a kinder, realistic approach to health, food and weight through practical advice, open discussion and support, followed by gentle movement, breathing and guided relaxation *7:30pm*

Wed 23 Dec

Heacham Santa Sleigh Returns
HIGH STREET, HEACHAM
Santa and his elves return to Heacham, with the sleigh setting off from the High Street at 5pm. *5pm*

Mah-Jong Evening at Old Hunstanton Village Hall
OLD HUNSTANTON VILLAGE HALL
Join the new Mah-Jong group at Old Hunstanton Village Hall. Most members are new to the game, and all standards are welcome. £3 per session includes refreshments; contact Nell Bailey to reserve a slot. *6:30pm*

Fri 25 Dec

Hunstanton Christmas Day Swim
ALIVE OASIS, HUNSTANTON
Hunstanton's famous Christmas Day Swim raises money for local good causes. *10am*

Mon 28 Dec

Tai Chi at Thornham Village Hall
THORNHAM VILLAGE HALL
Relaxing, flowing movement with warm-up exercises and short sections of a traditional Chen-style Tai Chi sequence. *10am*

Tue 29 Dec

Healthy Weight & Wellbeing Community Session
THORNHAM VILLAGE HALL
A welcoming community session led by Steven Laing, a qualified Level 3 Personal Trainer and experienced Health Coach. Explore a kinder, realistic approach to health, food and weight through practical advice, open discussion and support, followed by gentle movement, breathing and guided relaxation *7:30pm*

Snettisham Bingo Night
SNETTISHAM MEMORIAL HALL
Monthly family-friendly bingo night at Snettisham Memorial Hall. *6:30pm*

Wed 30 Dec

Mah-Jong Evening at Old Hunstanton Village Hall
OLD HUNSTANTON VILLAGE HALL
Join the new Mah-Jong group at Old Hunstanton Village Hall. Most members are new to the game, and all standards are welcome. £3 per session contact Nell Bailey to reserve a slot. *6:30pm*

Thornham Village Hall Open Day: Have Your Say
THORNHAM VILLAGE HALL
Help shape what comes next at Thornham Village Hall. Share ideas for new classes, family activities, learning skills or simply somewhere to meet. *TBC*

Thu 31 Dec

Downham Cider Taproom
PARK FARM UNIT 5A, WORMEGAY
Norfolk cider, craft spirits and guest drinks in a relaxed countryside taproom. Pizza from 5pm, with live music later. *2pm*

New Year's Eve Disco and Curry Night
OLD HUNSTANTON VILLAGE HALL
Celebrate New Year's Eve with a disco and curry night. Doors open at 7:30pm and the disco starts at 9pm. Bring your own drinks. Tickets £50 per person. *9pm*

Thu 31 - 1 Jan

NYE at Hunstanton
HUNSTANTON TOWN HALL
Blue Satin Souls & DJ Jammin Joe. *8pm*

Dalegate Market

Dalegate Market Christmas Pop Up Shops
DALEGATE MARKET, BURNHAM DEEPDALE
30 Nov - 3 Dec, 4 - 6, 7 - 10, 11 - 13, 14 - 17, 18 - 20 & 21 - 24 Dec
North Norfolk Coast Christmas shopping that's not on the high street, from local producers and artisans. *From 10am*

Sandringham

21st Nov - 24th Dec 2026
Christmas begins at Sandringham. Almost half a million Christmas memories have been made here since 2020. Step into Sandringham after dark and discover a Christmas adventure unlike any other. Journey through the Frozen Kingdom and watch the world around you come alive. Get hands-on with Light Play: chase it, change it and play with it. Then slow down, soak up the atmosphere, warm up around the firepits and make a night of it together. Set in the magnificent royal estate, Luminate Sandringham is where Christmas traditions begin and new memories are made. Christmas is more fun when you're part of the magic. This is Christmas, reimagined. Come and discover where Christmas begins. Trail from 4:30pm.

Healthy feet with Lauren
Qualified foot health practitioner offering nail trimming, treatments of thick nails, fungal nails, corns, callus, hard skin removal.
I am mobile in Hunstanton and surrounding villages.
£30 per appointment.
Phone: 07557 509858

50th Golden Anniversary Gala Dinner

Roger Raven - Hunstanton and District Rotary

Hunstanton and District Rotary were proud and honoured to hold a celebratory 50th Golden Anniversary Gala Dinner at Heacham Manor Hotel.

78 Members and invited guests were welcomed by our President Marie Jarvis; and after grace and some short introductions we enjoyed a 3-course meal, followed with music by Blue Satin Souls.



A Golden Anniversary raffle was held; expertly crafted by Val and Jean and ably assisted by David. This was followed by a short auction conducted by Peter Atterbury. The two together raised £555 which is being donated to Hunstanton and Heacham Community First Responders; our President's charity for the year.

The evening was a wonderful occasion to celebrate our '50' years of service together with our friends and supporters.

The highlights of the evening were the presentation of the prestigious Paul Harris Award to our much loved and dedicated Rotarian Val Garner, richly deserved and much overdue.

Also, the reading of a letter from a much-respected Founder Member and Past President, Michael Thomas, who unfortunately was unable to attend in person. Michael reflected on our founding and progression through the early days, highlighting significant events that brought us to where we are today. He spoke from the heart about how being a member had impacted him "given me an environment where character formed, values learned, ethics created and principles preserved, where I found comfort and solace in grief, pleasure and laughter in joy and encouragement and example in my daily living. No man can experience these things without feeling of immense gratitude. May Hunstanton and District Rotary continue to flourish for at least another 50 years"

The evening continued with music and dancing in a very happy and social atmosphere and guests drifted off home happy in the knowledge that after 50 years the Rotary ideals of fellowship and 'Service above Self' are strong within Hunstanton and District Rotary going forward.

Roger Raven - Hunstanton and District Rotary





Searles Celebrate AA Platinum Award

Local news desk



Searles Leisure Resort in Hunstanton is celebrating after receiving the AA Five Star Platinum Award for 2026/27, moving up from Gold last year.

The award recognises the resort among the very best parks in the AA's five-star category, with the AA assessing the quality and range of services and facilities at the park.

Established in 1954, the family-owned business has been welcoming visitors to the Norfolk coast for more than 70 years. From its beginnings offering caravan pitches, Searles has grown to include holiday accommodation, touring and camping, and privately owned holiday homes.

Jo Searle, Finance Director at Searles Leisure Resort, said:

"We're delighted to receive Platinum this year. Searles has been part of Hunstanton for generations, and this is a lovely moment for the team who help make it such a welcoming place."

"We'd also like to thank our guests and holiday home owners. So many people return year after year, and it means a great deal that they choose to spend their time here."

Located on South Beach Road, a short walk from Hunstanton's beach, the resort offers leisure facilities, dining and entertainment, as well as a base for exploring the surrounding Norfolk coast.

For visitors who would like a place of their own to return to, Searles also offers new and pre-owned static caravans and holiday lodges for sale. Prospective buyers can arrange a visit to view available homes and find out more about ownership.

Further information about Searles and holiday home ownership is available at www.searles.co.uk/ownership

Tim's Tree Services
LOCAL MAN - LOCAL RATES
PRUNING • TOPPING • FELLING
CLEARING • STUMP GRINDING
All aspects of tree and hedge work undertaken
OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE
QUALIFIED - INSURED
CALL 01485 541 560 OR 07884 263 897
FOR YOUR FREE QUOTE
timstreesnorfolk@gmail.com

Want to be in next month's edition?
Have a local story, event, community update or something you'd like to share?
Send it to:
editor@townandaround.net
Copy deadline: 12th December
for our first issue of 2027
Town & Around — Your Local Community Magazine

Hunstanton Ski Cafe and Bar
Tripadvisor Top 10% Worldwide
For great meals and music
Traditional home-made food with Vegan and GF options
Booking essential 01485 524475
Winter opening hours 9am-3pm (weekends 9am - 4pm) | Music every weekend
Free parking | Dog friendly
T: 01485 524475 E: enquiries@hunstantonskicafe.co.uk

West Norfolk's Cross Country Championships

Local news desk



Young runners were out in force when they took part in the West Norfolk Cross-Country Championships in a bid to secure a place in the county finals.

Hosted by Springwood High School in Lynn, the event saw almost 180 students compete to qualify for the next stage of the competition, which is due to take place early next year.

All four West Norfolk Academies Trust high schools were among those taking part, with Springwood joined by representatives from Marshland in West Walton, St Clement's in Terrington St Clement, and Smithdon in Hunstanton.

Tracey Honey is Head of PE and Sport at Springwood and organised the races, which also included students from Downham Market High School, The Nicholas Hamond Academy, King Edward VII Academy, King's Lynn academy, and Glebe House School.

"There were six races over different distances," she explained. "The fastest ten finishers automatically qualified for the Norfolk Schools Cross-Country Championship being held in January.

"The school team events were decided by the first six finishing positions adding up to the lowest total."



Among the WNAT participants, Springwood students came second in the Under-13 Girls, third in the Inter Boys, and second and third in the Junior Girls; while Marshland placed third in the Junior Boys and first in the Inter Boys; and St Clement's won first place in the Junior Girls, third in the Under-13 Boys, and third in the Inter Girls.

In the Senior Girls' and Boys' races, Springwood topped the leaderboard, with the host school also taking first in the team placings for Under-13 Girls and Boys, first for Junior Girls, second for Junior Boys, and first for Inter Girls.



The winning Junior Boys' team came from St Clement's, and Marshland placed first in the Inter Boys' team ranking.



All images Ian Burt

Free entry to a magical winter wonderland

Darren Shortt

From sparkling lights and festive markets to ice skating, fairground rides and a visit to Father Christmas, Winter Wonderland Norwich promises a magical day out for the whole family – with FREE entry and FREE parking!

Christmas is just around the corner, and Winter Wonderland Norwich is getting ready to bring a little extra festive sparkle to Norfolk.

Returning to the Norfolk Showground from 20 November 2026 to 3 January 2027, this popular seasonal attraction promises something for all ages, whether you're planning a family day out, meeting friends or simply looking to soak up the Christmas atmosphere.

And here's the best bit – admission is completely FREE, and so is parking! Visitors can wander around the Christmas markets, enjoy the festive atmosphere and browse the food stalls without paying an entrance fee. You can then pick and choose which of the additional attractions you'd like to enjoy.

New for 2026 is Journey to the North Pole Illuminated, an enchanting walk-through experience featuring glowing Christmas scenes and spectacular light displays. At its centre is an impressive 25-metre illuminated steam train, creating a wonderful backdrop for festive photographs. The attraction opens from dusk on event days and requires a separate ticket.

If Christmas shopping is more your thing, the traditional market cabins offer plenty of inspiration. Browse handcrafted decorations, jewellery, winter clothing and personalised gifts while enjoying the sights, sounds and tempting aromas of the season.

And there's certainly no shortage of festive food! From German sausages and Yorkshire pudding wraps to stone-baked pizzas, burgers and loaded fries, there's something to satisfy every appetite. Those with a sweet tooth can tuck into churros, crêpes, doughnuts or a warming hot chocolate, while marshmallow toasting adds another little touch of Christmas magic.

Of course, no festive family outing would be complete without a visit to Father Christmas. Youngsters can meet the man himself in his grotto and enjoy the Elf Workshop, while the giant observation wheel offers spectacular views across the surrounding area.

With live entertainment, themed bars and attractions throughout the site, Winter Wonderland Norwich isn't just for children. It's equally suited to an evening out with friends, a festive date night or a seasonal get-together with the whole family.

Best of all, you don't have to spend a fortune to enjoy the occasion. With free admission and free parking, families can enjoy the lights, markets and Christmas atmosphere, choosing which paid attractions to add to their visit.

Visitors are encouraged to book their FREE admission tickets online in advance to secure their place. Ice skating, rides, the illuminated trail and other ticketed attractions are charged separately.

Winter Wonderland Norwich takes place at the Norfolk Showground, NR5 0TT, from 20 November 2026 until 3 January 2027, opening daily except Christmas Day. Opening times may vary throughout the season.

For full details, opening times and free admission tickets, visit www.winterwonderlandnorwich.com.

North West Norfolk MP James Wild leads opposition to new Holiday Tax

North West Norfolk MP James Wild opposed the government's Visitor Levy (England) Bill during a debate this week. The legislation would give Mayors and local authorities in England the power to impose a 5 per cent tax on overnight stays at hotels, B&Bs, holiday parks and other short-term accommodation. James warned of the impact on local businesses, jobs and families.

Citing warnings from UK Hospitality, he argued that the tax would increase holiday costs and threaten jobs, with British families facing more than £100 in additional charges for a typical holiday.

He also challenged Angela Rayner MP over her comments that most people "won't notice a tiny little bit extra":

"Despite what the Government might claim—this is a tax on hard-working British families. Weekends away, a family holiday or a few nights by the seaside will all cost more. This is a tax on staycations.

"According to the Housing Secretary, 'most people won't even notice a tiny little bit extra'. Frankly, that shows how out of touch she is, when this could see over £100 added to a family's bill for a typical week-long break, making many trips unaffordable."

"Our hospitality and leisure sectors have been hammered by the jobs tax and by the significant increase in business rates imposed by the Government, with over 100,000 job losses since the election."

He also raised concerns about people travelling for work or medical treatment.

"Why are Labour Mayors so keen to hit the electricians, the plumbers, the fit-out engineers, and the sales reps who typically stay overnight mid-week in budget accommodation? Far from cutting the cost of business, the Chancellor is loading on more costs."

"Research has found that British patients and families spend over 600,000 nights a year away from home in private accommodation for medical reasons. How can the Government justify this tax being faced by people travelling for medical treatment or to care for their sick child or family member?"

James questioned the range of accommodation covered, including charitable organisations such as scout camps:

"As it stands, the Bill includes all short-term visitor overnight accommodation: hotels, B&Bs, campsites, campervan pitches and self-catering cottages. It could even include scout camps, despite the Scout Association pointing out these are 'being run for charitable purposes by volunteers, on minimal budgets'."

He also warned that the Bill contained no limit on how high the tax could be set:

"Although Labour mayors, who cannot wait to introduce this tax, say that they will limit it to 5%, there is nothing in the Bill to prevent higher rates."

Closing his speech, James argued that hospitality needed support rather than additional taxation, highlighting Conservative proposals to cut business rates, reintroduce VAT-free shopping and make hiring easier.

Conservative MPs voted against the tax, but the Bill passed with Labour support. James will continue to oppose it as it progresses to Committee stage.

HEATING AND PLUMBING SPECIALISTS
Gas Safe and Oftec Registered Engineers
Dempsey Heating Ltd.
Gas & Oil Heating
Boiler Servicing
Bathrooms
Renewable Energy
Your Local Experts. Great Service. Competitive Prices.
Contact us today to see how we can help you!
01328 862189 www.dempseyheating.com
George Edwards Road, Industrial Estate, Fakenham NR21 8NL



Scrumptious Christmas Buns!

Festive Foods

Paul Hollwood's fruit rolls, will add a delicous christmas treat to any table, grab the recipe below.

Paul Hollywood's fruit rolls can be made ahead then heated up before adding a glossy glaze and citrus icing, making them the perfect morning treat for Christmas Day.

Christmas Buns

MAKES 9

For the dough

500g strong white flour, plus extra for dusting
7g sachet fast-action dried yeast
300ml milk
40g unsalted butter, softened at room temperature
1 egg
Vegetable oil, for greasing

For the filling

25g unsalted butter, melted
75g soft brown sugar
2 tsp ground cinnamon
100g dried cranberries
100g chopped dried apricot

For the glaze

50g caster sugar
For the lemon icing
Zest of a lemon
200g icing sugar

Cooking directions:

1. Put the flour and 1tsp salt into a large bowl. Make a well in the centre and add the yeast. Meanwhile, warm the milk and butter in a pan until the butter melts and the mixture is lukewarm. Add the milk mixture and egg to the flour mixture and stir until the contents come together as a soft dough (add extra flour if you need to).

2. Tip the dough onto a well-floured surface. Knead for 5 mins, adding more flour if necessary, until the dough is smooth, elastic and no longer sticky.

3. Lightly oil a bowl with the vegetable oil. Place the dough in the bowl and turn until covered in oil. Cover the bowl with cling film and set aside in a warm place for 1 hr or until doubled in size. Lightly grease a baking sheet and set aside.

4. For the filling, knock the dough back to its original size and turn out onto a lightly floured surface. Roll it into a 1cm-thick rectangle. Brush all over with the melted butter, then sprinkle over the sugar, cinnamon and fruit.

5. Roll up the dough into a tight cylinder, cut into 9 x 4cm slices and position on the prepared baking sheet, leaving a little space between. Cover with a tea towel and set aside to rise for 30 mins.

6. Heat oven to 190°C/170°C fan/gas mark 5. Bake the buns for 20-25 mins or until risen and golden brown. Meanwhile, melt the glaze sugar with 4 tbsp water until syrupy.

7. Remove from oven and glaze. Set aside to cool on a wire rack. Once cool, mix the zest and icing sugar with about 2 tbsp water to drizzle over the buns. Serve.



MASSINGHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Archive Evening

Friday 15th Jan.

Come along & see our collection of photos, documents, research studies & maps.

Village Hall 7.30pm

Members Free, Guests £3.00 Bar open

Nik Kershaw comes to Norfolk!

Darren Shortt



Eighties pop legend Nik Kershaw is returning to Norfolk in 2027 with an intimate evening of music, memories and humour as his popular Musings & Lyrics tour hits the road once again.

The singer-songwriter, best known for hits including Wouldn't It Be Good, The Riddle and I Won't Let the Sun Go Down on Me, will perform at Epic Studios in Norwich on Wednesday 10 March and The Corn Hall in Diss on Thursday 11 March, with a further regional date in Boston on Sunday 14 March.

Rather than a traditional concert, Musings & Lyrics gives audiences a chance to hear the stories behind the songs, enjoy live performances and discover more about Kershaw's remarkable career.

Bursting onto the music scene in 1984, Kershaw became Britain's biggest-selling solo artist of the year, spending an extraordinary 62 weeks on the UK Singles Chart. The following year, he performed at the historic Live Aid concert.

His talents extended well beyond his own chart success. He famously wrote The One and Only for Chesney Hawkes in 1991 and has worked with artists including Elton John, Lulu, Gary Barlow, Bonnie Tyler and Sia.

After returning to recording and performing his own material in 1998, Kershaw continued to build a loyal following, with his songwriting and musicianship winning over new generations of fans.

The forthcoming tour, which coincides with the release of his book, promises an entertaining mixture of personal anecdotes, musical performances and reflections on more than four decades in the industry.

Speaking about the tour, Nik said: "I had such a great time on this tour last year, meeting fans, telling stories and performing my favourite songs and I can't wait to do it all again next year."

For Norfolk music lovers, it's a rare opportunity to enjoy an evening with one of the most recognisable voices of the eighties in an intimate theatre setting.

LOCAL TOUR DATES

Wednesday 10 March 2027 – Epic Studios, Norwich, 7.30pm.

Thursday 11 March 2027 – The Corn Hall, Diss, 7.30pm.

Sunday 14 March 2027 – Blackfriars, Boston, 7.30pm.

Tickets and further information: www.awaywithmedia.com/tours/nik-kershawfind details of Nik Kershaw's book.

KL1 Radio becomes Town & Around Radio

After six years serving West Norfolk, KL1 Radio has officially become Town & Around Radio, marking an exciting new chapter for local broadcasting

The move brings the station under the Town & Around brand, joining Town & Around Magazine and Town & Around TV to create a truly hyper-local media service dedicated to the people, places and stories that matter to our communities.

Richard Dix, director of Town & Around, said: “We're incredibly proud of what we've achieved with KL1 Radio and the support we've received from listeners across West Norfolk over the years.

“This next chapter is particularly exciting. By bringing radio, television and our magazine together, we're creating something genuinely special for the area. We're building on Town & Around's 21 years of community loyalty while embracing new ways of reaching and connecting with local people.

“The name may be changing, but our commitment to West Norfolk remains as strong as ever.”

A NEW HOME FOR LOCAL TELEVISION

An important part of this exciting development is Town & Around TV, bringing local stories to life through video. From community events and interviews to local businesses, entertainment and the people making a difference across West Norfolk, the service offers another way to discover what's happening on our doorstep.

And we want our readers to be part of it!

Have you captured something interesting on camera? Perhaps a community celebration, a charity fundraiser, a local achievement or something unusual happening in your village. We'd love to hear from you.

We're inviting readers to submit their own videos, photographs and story ideas for consideration across Town & Around TV, Radio, Magazine and our website.

You don't need professional equipment or broadcasting experience. Sometimes the best local stories are captured on an ordinary mobile phone, and we'd love to help share them with the wider community.

The aim is simple: to give West Norfolk a stronger voice and celebrate the people, places and events that make our area special.

Town & Around Radio will continue delivering great music, local news, interviews and community information, while our magazine and television service provide even more opportunities to showcase local life.

With 21 years of community loyalty behind the Town & Around name, the future promises to be an exciting one.

Discover Town & Around Radio, TV and Magazine, and get in touch with your stories and videos, at townandaround.uk.

Got a story?
Share what's happening in your town and help keep our community informed.
Your stories. Your community. Your magazine.
SUBMIT AT townandaround.net
TOWN and AROUND
Local news, local people, a brighter community



What You don't See

Stuart Taylor-Roberts

Stuart gives us a complete behind the scenes view of what you normaly dont get to see in hospitality!

When you go out for Christmas dinner, there's usually a point when nothing particularly interesting seems to be happening.The drinks have arrived. Somebody's wearing a paper crown, there's a debate about whether anyone actually ordered the extra roast potatoes, and half the table is talking at once.

Then dinner appears.

If everything has gone properly, that's more or less all you're supposed to notice.

You don't see the delivery that turned up short that morning, or the chef counting portions before service and trying to work out whether everything will stretch far enough. You probably don't see somebody holding the dishwasher shut with one hip because it's developed ideas of its own.

And you definitely don't see somebody swearing at a printer.

That's one of the strange things about hospitality. When it works properly, most of the work disappears.

At Christmas, some of that work started considerably earlier than you might imagine.

At the beginning of November, one of my suppliers was already asking for our final Christmas turkey numbers. Another told me that their initial orders for Christmas crackers had to be placed back in January.

January.

Most of us have barely finished taking down the previous year's decorations, and somebody somewhere is already working out how many cardboard tubes containing terrible jokes and paper hats we're going to need eleven months later.

The further back through the supply chain you go, the earlier Christmas seems to begin.

By the time customers start thinking about booking their Christmas meals, restaurants, pubs and hotels have often been planning for months. Menus need developing, prices need calculating, suppliers need confirming, and somebody has to work out how many staff they'll need and when.

All of that has to fit around the ordinary business of feeding people, because the regular customers don't suddenly disappear when December arrives. The usual menu still needs cooking, the fryers still need cleaning, and the dishwasher remains completely indifferent to the fact that everybody's supposed to be feeling festive.

And then there's the Christmas food itself.

I'll let you into a little secret about Christmas in professional kitchens. It's bloody boring.

Or at least, it can be.

What the customer sees as a special Christmas dinner, the chef sees as another roast. Turkey, potatoes, stuffing, vegetables, gravy and whatever extras the menu calls for. Christmas in a professional kitchen is essentially a month's worth of Sunday lunches.

And then you cook it again. And again. And again.

I'm not complaining. Well, perhaps a little.

But there's a difference between cooking that meal and sitting down to enjoy it. For somebody around the table, this might be their annual works Christmas party, or the one occasion when the whole family manages to get together. They might have been looking forward to it for weeks.

For the kitchen, it could be the twentieth portion of turkey they've plated in the last ten minutes.

It's easy to become so familiar with something that you forget it isn't ordinary for everybody else.

The customer doesn't need to know how many times you've cooked those potatoes, or that you're thoroughly sick of looking at turkey. They certainly don't need to know that somebody has just spent twenty minutes trying to find another clean gravy boat.

They've come out for their Christmas meal, and however many times you've cooked it already, it's still their Christmas meal.

Making that happen depends on hundreds of little things that most customers never really have to think about.

A chef notices the sauce is getting low before it becomes a problem. Someone behind the bar remembers what the couple by the window drink. A waiter spots the empty plates before they become annoying. The pot washer keeps enough crockery coming back that nobody has to explain why pudding is being served in a soup bowl.

Somebody finds the teaspoon that was apparently the last teaspoon in Norfolk.

None of this sounds particularly dramatic, because most hospitality isn't. Television has done a fairly good job of convincing people that professional kitchens mainly involve tweezers, shouting and somebody staring very seriously at a scallop.

Most of the real job is considerably less glamorous. Checking dates, peeling onions, cleaning something you cleaned yesterday, filling things before they run out and trying to keep half an eye on tomorrow while today is still happening.

Hospitality is full of jobs that only become noticeable when somebody hasn't done them. Nobody leaves a review saying there were enough clean forks, or calls the manager over to congratulate the kitchen on correctly estimating the evening's gravy requirements.

Front-of-house have their own version of all this. Remembering drinks, allergies, regular customers and which child probably needs their dinner first because another ten minutes may result in negotiations normally reserved for international diplomacy. Somebody's answering the phone, somebody's changing a barrel, and somebody's trying to find the high chair.

Christmas brings its own particular entertainment, especially when it comes to large parties and preorders.

Jill in Finance dutifully collected everyone's meal choices three months ago, but by the time the prawn cocktails have been cleared and the third bottle of wine is open, half the table can't remember what they ordered.

The kitchen has the list. The customers are considerably less certain.

And it's a rather interesting collection of people who keep everything moving.

Hospitality has always attracted a slightly odd mixture. Students earning their first wage, parents fitting shifts around school, career chefs, weekend bar staff, retired people who still enjoy being around others, and teenagers washing dishes alongside cooks old enough to be their grandparents.

There are people who came in for six months and suddenly realise it's been fifteen years. Some remember customers who first came in with their parents and now bring children of their own.

Others are on their very first shift, still trying to remember where everything is while somebody asks them a question they haven't learnt the answer to yet.

Some arrive because they love food. Some enjoy the noise and movement. Some discover they don't especially like people at all, but are somehow very good at looking after them. Plenty simply needed a job and, somewhere along the way, became good at it.

There's real skill in getting through a difficult service, seeing a full room eating, or sorting out a problem before the customer even knew there was one.

And while those people are helping everyone else celebrate Christmas, they've still got their own lives going on. There are presents to buy, children to collect, family arrangements to make and all the ordinary responsibilities that don't disappear just because December has arrived.

The job carries on regardless. The ticket still prints if you've had a bad morning. The customer celebrating with friends has no reason to know that the person serving them spent the drive to work worrying about money, family or whether the car is going to make it through another MOT.

Nor should they, really. You came out for dinner, not to conduct a welfare check on the kitchen.

The whole point of good hospitality is that, You sit down, somebody else cooks, somebody else clears up, and somebody else remembers the things you're allowed to forget for an hour or two.

There's something generous in that, although I don't mean everyone serving Christmas dinner is making some enormous personal sacrifice. Hospitality has spent long enough congratulating people for surviving working practices that probably deserved questioning in the first place.

There's nothing noble about burning people out, but there's a difference between glorifying pressure and recognising the skill involved in doing a job well.

Across West Norfolk, those people are everywhere.

They're in the village pub where half the customers are greeted by name, the café where somebody starts baking before most of us have considered getting out of bed, the hotel preparing for guests spending Christmas away from home, and the butcher working through orders while everybody else is wondering whether they've bought enough pigs in blankets.

We tend to talk about these places as though the building itself creates the experience.

That pub is friendly. That café always looks after us. That restaurant has a lovely atmosphere.

But buildings don't remember your order. A kitchen doesn't notice that your child looks nervous and quietly bring their food first. The walls don't stay late because your table is still enjoying itself.

People do that.

And they've all got stories of their own. The night everything broke at once, the customer they still remember twenty years later, or the ridiculous mistake that's still mentioned every Christmas.

You could walk into almost any long-established pub, café or restaurant around here and probably find enough stories behind the counter to fill this magazine several times over. Most will never be written down. They're simply part of the place.

When the Christmas meal is over, the people sitting around the table will probably remember something quite different.

They'll remember the people they were with, the conversations, the jokes, perhaps somebody making a fool of themselves after a few drinks. Maybe they'll remember that the food was particularly good, or that somebody made sure their elderly relative was comfortable without anyone needing to make a fuss.

They probably won't think about the crackers ordered back in January, or the hundreds of little decisions made before they arrived. They won't know how many small problems somebody quietly solved while they were enjoying themselves.

So the next time a plate appears in front of you and everything seems wonderfully uneventful, that doesn't necessarily mean nothing happened. It may mean quite a lot happened.

Somebody just made sure none of it had to become your problem.

God bless hospitality staff. Every one.

Lavender View Foot Health Clinic

Merry Christmas to all of my patients, old and new!

You have a friend to turn to if there is anything I can do, big or small, to help over Christmas and New Year please do not hesitate to ask.

With Love Janet

Foot Health Practitioner Janet Pitkin and Wound Prevention Specialist

Pre-diabetic & Diabetic Foot Care Advice.

Check your heels, bunions and toes for any skin breakdowns.

Are you using the correct creams? I can advise on this to help keep your feet and legs in good condition.

Offering weekly appointments to help with fungal nail care reduction.

Preventative measures for ingrown toe nails.

Located within The Wellness Centre, Heacham Manor Hotel and **Newly Opened** to the general public **Foot Care Fridays** within Lavender View (Spa Room), Hornbeam Drive, Hunstanton PE36 5FF

Janet Pitkin Dip.CFHP MPSPract
Member of the Alliance Register of Foot Health Practitioners
Registration No. MPSP22594 AR9523
07767 733838
www.heachamfoothealth.co.uk

The Wellness Centre, Heacham Manor Hotel, Hunstanton Road, Heacham, Norfolk PE31 7JX

Helping To Raise Foot Care Standards Across North-West Norfolk And Commited To Continuous Professional Development

Armchair Sports Trivia

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

QUESTION: What sport traditionally uses a tee?

ANSWERS TO:
editor@townandaround.net
or by post to:
The Editor, Town & Around,
Unit 1 Marea Farm, School Road
Heacham, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE31 7DH

Please note we do not accept entries by any social media channels or text. CLOSING DATE 15-12-.2026.

Congratulations to last month's winner Julie Dear

BERNI BEANS
GIFT CARD
£8 £16 £30 £50
PURCHASE ON LINE
PURCHASE IN HOUSE
01485-532288

Classic Cottages support Norfolk Hospice

Local News Desk



A hospice in Norfolk is able to help more people live life to the fullest thanks to a £500 donation by holiday company Classic Cottages.

Tapping House, in Hillington, King's Lynn, provides free care and comfort to adults living with life-limiting illnesses in Norfolk and North Cambridgeshire, and support for their carers, families and friends.

Classic Cottages' donation will help fund activity workshops for new outpatients in the Tulip Centre, which forms a vital part of the hospice's services by providing a supportive, welcoming environment for patients and their families.

The centre offers a range of activities and therapies for people with potentially life-limiting illnesses, including cancer, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease or heart failure. Activities range from circuit exercise and seated yoga to fishing, cookery and woodwork.

All are designed to enhance quality of life, manage symptoms alongside medication and promote independence, helping patients to live as well and as fully as possible.

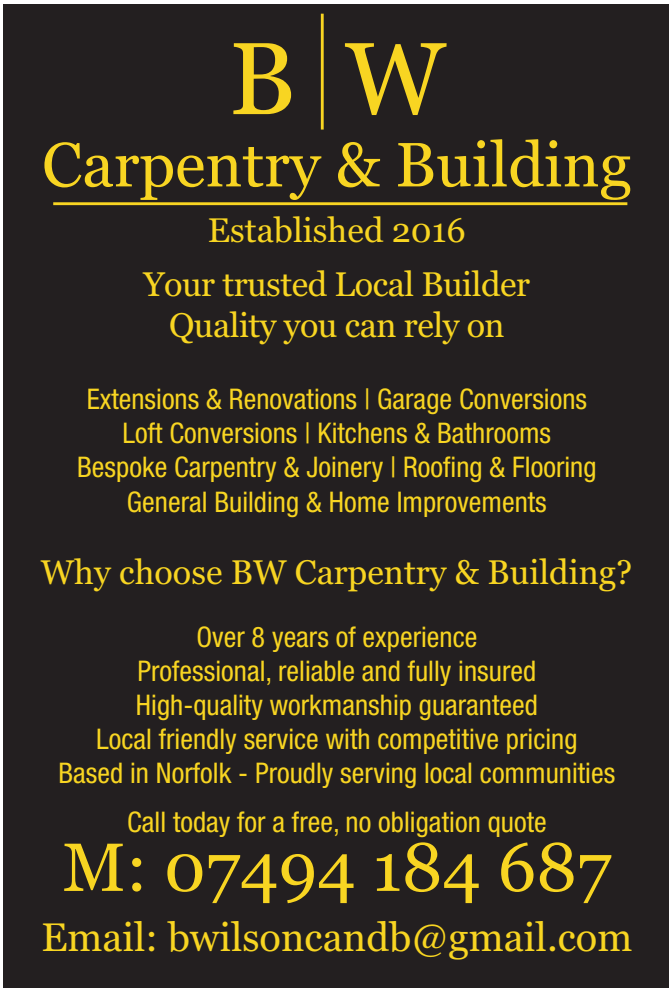
Tapping House supports around 6,000 patients and family members each year and the Tulip Centre Outpatient team delivers 700 health and wellbeing programmes and therapies annually. It costs £7m a year to deliver its services and with less than a quarter of its funding coming from government sources, Tapping House relies on the kindness and generosity of its supporters.

Tapping House Marketing and Content Manager Leah Westcott Graham said: "These joyful workshops that Classic Cottages is helping to fund aim to promote independence and manage symptoms for patients with a potentially life limiting illness. We are so delighted and grateful to receive this generous and kind donation. Thank you so much to Classic Cottages for choosing to donate to Tapping House - we're thrilled."

Fiona Booth from Classic Cottages, who is based in the Hunstanton office, said: "We really admire Tapping House's approach to helping people live as well as possible. The Tulip Centre is about supporting people to stay active and independent, try new things and enjoy time with others. It does fantastic work for patients and their families and we're very pleased to be able to support it."

Classic Cottages is part of Sapphire Holidays, the family-owned group of self-catering holiday letting agencies which also includes Aspects Holidays, Boutique Retreats, Unique Hideaways and Island Escapes.





The Hunstanton Society News Letter

Stephen Kent

Talk on 21st October 2026 – Refurbishment of Smithdon High School by Terry Hill – Regional Design Manager - Education – Bowmer & Kirkland, Sadly a very wet and windy evening welcomed Terry to Hunstanton Town Hall to give a talk about the work that his employer has been doing to Smithdon High School. This resulted in a rather small but appreciative audience. Even though the talk lasted for almost 2 hours, it was extremely interesting.

Terry explained how this all started with the design competition that took place in the early 1950s to design a school on a plot of land at the back of Hunstanton. This was won by Peter and Alison Smithson, a young, newly qualified couple aged 31 and 23 years old respectively at the time the school opened. Terry told us that it would normally nowadays not be possible to qualify fully as an architect until you are at least 30, so this couple did well.

We were taken through the process, backed up with many photographs of the building of the school and some of the design features. The problems associated with high temperatures in the summer and low temperatures in the winter were acknowledged as well as many other problems in the design particularly the fact there was a lot of glass that made the view, particularly from below, very difficult for ladies, especially as skirts got shorter over the ensuing years, Further problems associated with rusting steelwork has resulted in windows not being openable.

Three years ago, following various attempt to attract feasibility studies and quotations for refurbishment works resulted in Bowmer & Kirkland being appointed to carry out the refurbishments with limited controls on spending levels. Decisions were made to build a temporary school at the back of the playing fields over the course of this year's Summer holidays, fence off the old school to allow building works to progress from August this year, planned to last about 3 years.

When asked what the cost is likely to end up being, Terry Hill advised that a Public Information Request would probably draw an answer in the region of £60 million. Whether this was worth it or not will come out in the wash but Terry was particularly contented with what he thinks will be the outcome and so would the Department for Education who are footing the bill.

Those that attended the talk unanimously agreed that we should invite Terry back in about a year to update us on progress for the refurbishments. Thankfully Terry was not averse to this suggestion. It would also give those who had wanted to attend this talk being given another opportunity to listen to Terry's talk.

In December we have a talk to be given by Dr Catherine Temple of Mrs Temples Cheese, with their farm based in Wighton near Wells-next-the-Sea. This will be preceded by our Annual General Meeting which we have every year in December for which papers will shortly be distributed.

The AGM will presents reports by our Chair and Treasurer and will include the election of the Committee all of whom will be resigning at this meeting. We hope that most, if not all, will wish to be elected again but we are really hoping that more of our members will decide to support the Society by being nominated for membership on the Committee. Please do consider putting yourself forward (finding someone to nominate you, of course) – the more we have the easier it is to spread the workload around

Heritage Centre News



We had a visit by 13 members of the GRAY family from Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada. These were descendants of Charles Earnest Gray. Charles Gray used to own many of the hotels in Hunstanton including The Le Strange Arms, The Glebe Hotel, the Golden Lion Hotel and many other hotels in the region as well as some further afield. This photo we took on the day of just some of them including C E Gray's grandson, his wife and some of his children and grandchildren. They brought with them a number of artifacts that they thought would sit well in the Heritage Centre which we were pleased to accept. We shall now need to set up a display for them over the winter, ready for our reopening in February next year.

The Centre closed on 8th November for Winter with the last normal opening day on Remembrance Sunday on which day we opened for extended hours. We were very pleased to welcome a contingency from the 67th Special Operations Squadron, United States Air Force who had attended the Remembrance Day Parade at the War Memorial in Hunstanton. A reminder that Hunstanton is unusually twinned with this Squadron, unusual because most twinnings are between Towns located in different countries around the world. whereas the 67th SOS can be based anywhere (previously at Sculthorpe but currently at Mildenhall). As you know, the 67th SOS were very involved in helping Hunstanton in the floods of 1953 when they came with many members of the USAF some of whom actually were billeted in Hunstanton and so were included in the lists of those who perished in the floods.

Please let us know if you think of anything we should be doing, if you can help with any event, or if you want to join the events team, at hunstantonsocietyevents@gmail.com. Enjoy the Autumn!

The Photographers

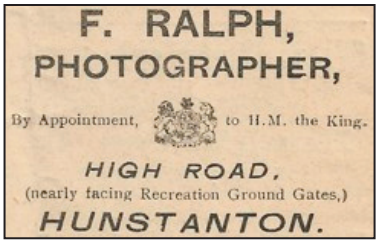
Philip Thomas - The Hunstanton Society

We met William McLean in the last article. A local artist and entrepreneur from March. The Heritage Centre has a few early albums displaying some of his work– this picture is from the early 1870s.

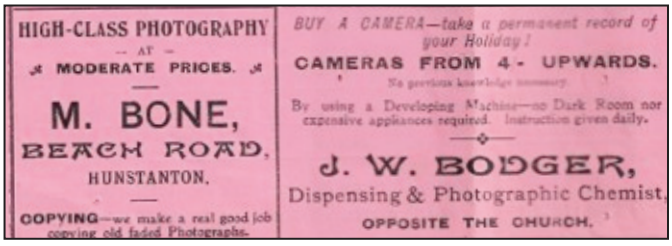


By then he had built a camera obscura and started the first photography business in Hunstanton. He would have used glass plate photography- plates coated with a light-sensitive emulsion and concentrated mostly on portraits.

By the end of the Victorian period, other photographers were operating in Hunstanton, such as the Mace Brothers from Cromer operating in the "Esplanade Studio" (probably on the North Prom). Herbert Mace had built the camera Obscura in Cromer. There was also Frederick Ralph (this advert is from 1911) from Dersingham.



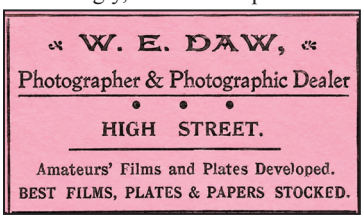
McLean died in 1901 and his business on Beach Terrace (presumably now known as "Norfolk Studio") was taken over by noted photographer May Bone. The pink advert is from the Lounge Theatre Programme in 1904. By then Bodger the chemist was selling cameras and developing pictures. The movement to film wasn't complete until Eastman's Safety Film (Kodak) was available around 1911.



May Bone had moved to the Pier Gate by 1911, the right-hand side building in the pier picture has the words "Rembrandt Studio" and "May Bone" on the roof. The picture itself is from a postcard and was taken by May Bone herself. May was famous for the use of postcards and many examples are available. She is also credited as one of the first photographers to take "walking pictures" of tourists.



During World War I May was training Doris Leggett, who is shown as a photographer employee of Rembrandt Studio in the 1921 census. Together, these two ladies operated in Hunstanton for many years. Interestingly, another competitor named Daw (advert from same 1904 programme) had a daughter Margaret also listed in the 1911 census as a photographer so there were at least 3 ladies in the business during the early 20th century.



May Bone and Doris Leggett continued in business together in Westgate before May set up shop in the High Street. At the start of World War II Doris Legett was in business alone at 68 Westgate. This was bombed in 1941 and she moved to 80 Westgate.



After the war, May Bone is recorded still in business as a very old lady (born 1876). Doris (born 1896) carried on in Westgate, diversifying into "fancy goods" and wool. The "Wool shop" is remembered to this day – In this picture from 1960 the name "Leggett" is directly above the 3-Wheeler. As the Norfolk Camera Centre is next door (later Swains/Norfolk Camera Centre/West Norfolk Photographics) diversifying was probably a good idea.

Philip Thomas, Hunstanton Society

Coincidentally, one of our members sent Phil this photo of Norfolk Camera Centre which is very similar to the one in his article. Either this member had heard that Phil was writing the article or there must have been some telepathy at work!! Which came first? Agfa or Ilford?



WESTGATE – *circa 1960*

Rural Families Deserve Better SEND Support

Terry Jermy MP

Recently, I was delighted to secure and lead a Westminster Hall debate on the important issue of special educational needs and disabilities.

This debate builds on the work I have been doing to ensure that the rural experiences of South West Norfolk families and schools inform the Government's approach to SEND.

I used the Parliamentary debate to stress the impact of rurality on SEND to Education Minister, Georgia Gould MP, highlighting that areas like South West Norfolk typically have a limited range of local SEND provision and support, which results in children and young people having to travel significant distances – often hours – to access a suitable provision, and can impact wellbeing, attendance and readiness to learn.



These challenges also result in substantially higher home-to-school transport costs, placing sustained pressure on high needs budgets, which limits the resources available for early intervention and in-school support.

The financial impact is wide-reaching. I meet regularly with parents who have had to leave their job because there isn't a suitable provision nearby and they are having to spend hours driving their child to school, or they can't work because they need to be at home with their child whilst they try to find a suitable provision. The economic impact of this is decades-long, not felt just in the here and now, but also affecting families later in life through the lack of National Insurance credits or pension contributions being accrued.

The other cost caused by a lack of suitable provision in rural areas is the emotional and mental toll. Parents are often exhausted and burnt out from being forced to battle every step of the way just for their child to receive what they are entitled to. This is often compounded further by the deeply painful experience of a parent profoundly fearing for their child's future.

I was pleased that during the debate the Minister gave assurances that the voices of South West Norfolk families and teachers are being taken seriously as the DfE works through the consultation on SEND reform plans.

I was also happy to see that the Minister had brought along an early copy of my SEND report – Rural Realities Within a National Landscape – to the debate, which I authored following roundtable discussion engagement, survey research and specialist casework support through my office.

Already, we have seen several approaches implemented that were policies I called for, including mandatory SEND training for all education, health and care professionals through a landmark £200 million SEND teacher training programme. I have also secured £20 million in Government funding to build a new SEND school in Downham Market.

But to fix the SEND system, the impact of rurality must be considered in every part of the proposals from provision to transport to early-intervention to mental health and wellbeing. The findings of my engagement are clear – the impact of rurality means that for too many families, the SEND system is no longer providing what it should, it is instead becoming a source of additional stress and anxiety.

To continue in my support of South West Norfolk children and young people with SEND, and their families, my upcoming conference at the end of November will bring together support organisations and community groups, charities, and local schools. It is intended to provide families with practical advice, information, and support, whilst also creating opportunities for local organisations to showcase the services they offer to SEND children and their families.

To register your interest in attending, please email: terry.jermy.mp@parliament.uk



Jennie Shingfield
WEB DESIGN
Bespoke professional websites
Mobile friendly design
Easy to manage and update
07356 058112
jennieshingfield.co.uk
info@jennieshingfield.co.uk

CJB COMPUTING
- New & Used Computers
- Tuition, advice
- Repairs & upgrades
- Broadband, Wireless
- Internet, E.Mail
- Laptop power supplies
- Screen replacement

No job too big or small, give Chris a call
Office: 01553 606555
Mobile: 07447 748356

Coastal Fascias & Cladding
All types of property maintenance
Fascias • Cladding • Guttering • Windows • Doors
EPDM Rubber Roofs • Replacement Units
Window & Door Repairs
Assure Certification • Over 30 Years' Experience
Paul: 07469 051886
coastalfasciasandcladding@yahoo.com

Decades of dedication at Hunstanton RNLI

Richard Dix

Three familiar faces at Hunstanton Lifeboat Station have been recognised for their years of voluntary service, with one crew member celebrating an impressive 30 years helping to save lives at sea.



It was a proud morning for the Hunstanton RNLI team as the High Sheriff of Norfolk High Jonathan Charles Pearson visited the lifeboat station to meet volunteers, tour the facilities and present long service awards.

Among those honoured was Lee Torrice, who received recognition for an outstanding 30 years of service with the RNLI.

Fellow volunteers Roger Smith and Ryan Darby were also presented with awards marking 10 years of dedication each.

The presentations took place before the crew headed out on one of their regular training launches, offering the High Sheriff a glimpse into the commitment and preparation involved in keeping the lifeboat service ready for emergencies.

For Hunstanton and the surrounding coastal communities, the lifeboat station is a familiar and reassuring presence, with volunteers ready to respond when someone gets into difficulty on the water.

Behind every launch are crew members who give up their own time for training, maintaining equipment and responding to emergency calls, often leaving behind family commitments or their everyday jobs.

The three awards recognise a combined 50 years of service, representing countless hours of training, teamwork and dedication to the local community.

Hunstanton RNLI said it was incredibly proud of its volunteers and the commitment they continue to show, whatever the weather and whatever the time of day.

The station also thanked the High Sheriff for visiting and taking the time to personally present the awards.

For Lee, Roger and Ryan, the recognition was a fitting acknowledgement of their years supporting one of the area's most valued emergency services.

And while the medals and pins mark an important milestone, it is the willingness to turn out whenever help is needed that makes Hunstanton's volunteer lifeboat crew so special to our coastal community.





Plant Of The Month

Wendy Warner

Bring a splash of colour to your home this year with the spectacular Christmas Cactus. Discover how to care for this beautiful houseplant and keep it blooming for years to come.

What better plant to represent December with than the Christmas Cactus, a species of Schlumbergera, that are grown as a houseplant and give a spectacular flower display in winter. In the wild Schlumbergeras are jungle cacti originating from moist tropical rainforests, where they grow in pockets of leaf debris in the clefts of tree branches in dappled light and warm, humid conditions. Therefore, when growing them indoors, they prefer conditions that replicate this environment, so unlike desert-dwelling cacti, keep them out of strong sunshine, an east-facing windowsill is ideal, and provide regular water and humid air.

The flowers which appear at the tip of each stem, in various shades and combinations of pink, mauve, red and white, sometimes with tinges of yellow or orange. The fuchsia-like flowers may appear to consist of separate tiers of petals, and they have long stamens protruding far beyond the petals. Individual blooms last for a few days but a plant with many buds may flower for several weeks. Even when not in flower, the succulent, trailing stems make an attractive evergreen cascade all year round, ideal in a hanging planter, jardinière or on a windowsill. These plants can be very long lived, and the more stems they develop over the years, the more flowers they'll produce. There are specimens that have been validated to over 100 years old.



Christmas cacti are available in the run-up to the festive season, when they're in flower. They are usually sold as small plants so are relatively inexpensive. Choose a plant that has plenty of buds, rather than one in full flower, as the display will last longer. Keep it well protected on the journey home, as low temperatures can cause the buds to drop.

Newly bought Christmas cacti can be kept in their original pot for a couple of years. After that, repot every year or two, once the roots have filled their pot, to maintain healthy growth. Repot at the end of March, which is the beginning of their growing season using a cactus compost and choose a pot that is only slightly larger, as these plants like to be snug in their pot.

To ensure flowering in future years, give them two rest periods per year – a month or two of cooler temperatures and less watering in early autumn, before buds form, and again after flowering in late winter. This temperature reduction can be achieved by moving the plant to a cooler room, or, if grown on a windowsill away from heat sources, the temperature may dip naturally. Exact temperatures aren't critical to promote flowering, but there should be a distinct drop. During the summer months, they can be moved outside into a warm, sheltered, shady spot. This will help to ripen new growth and encourage flowering. Keep them out of full sun, protect them from slugs, and bring them back indoors at the end of summer, before temperatures start to drop. To boost growth, apply a liquid houseplant feed from April to the end of September.

The flowers only form on the stem tip, so for more flowers, the plant needs to have more stems. You can also encourage stems to branch by removing a few of the tip segments in spring.

For a low maintenance, colourful flowering plant for the festive season, treat yourself to a Christmas Cactus.





K. Brown
Auto Repairs

Get your car ready for the cold with our FREE 10-point winter health check

HUNSTANTON BRANCH

01485 533786

12 King's Lynn Rd, Hunstanton PE36 5HP

Monday – Friday: 8:30am – 5:00pm

Google
4.9
average rating

We also have a garage on the Hardwick Ind Est in King's Lynn.

www.kbrownautoskingslynn.co.uk

West Norfolk Sports round-up

Richard Dix

Kwame Thomas capped a fine run for King's Lynn Town with the only goal against Stourbridge at The Walks on 14 November, sending the Linnets into the third round of the FA Trophy. It was their third straight win without conceding since a 5–0 defeat at Worksop Town. Thomas scored twice in the 3–0 win at Hereford that began the recovery and converted a penalty against Spennymoor Town before Ross Crane sealed a 2–0 home victory.

Downham Town's 14-match unbeaten start in the Thurlow Nunn Premier Division ended with a 1–0 home defeat by Great Yarmouth Town. Shaun Avis drew Downham level at Thetford three days later, but they went down 5–1 and slipped to fourth. Heacham lost 3–0 at Ipswich Wanderers, although their reserves had better luck in a lively 4–4 derby draw with King's Lynn Soccer Club. Aidan Billing scored twice for Heacham.

FC Snettisham took the honours against neighbours Hunstanton Town in the North West Norfolk League. Nathan Mitchell scored twice and Ryan Scrivens added the other in a 3–2 win, a week after Snettisham had lost 4–3 to West Winch William Burt.

Looking back to the close of the cricket season, Snettisham beat Bradfield Seconds by ten wickets after D Twiddy took five wickets, while N Linsell made 55 as Thornham beat Norwich Thirds by seven wickets. Rain spoiled the final weekend for both sides. Snettisham's game against Swardeston CEYMS was abandoned with A Herbert unbeaten on 80, and Thornham's trip to Mattishall Seconds was washed out. There was county recognition for Snettisham too, with Julie Fielder named Norfolk Cricket Foundation Coach of the Year.

West Norfolk's rugby players had to wait until the last minute for the try that secured a 40–38 win over Shelford Nomads in thick fog. Jack Wicks crossed twice. West Norfolk Warriors came away from league leaders North Walsham with a losing bonus point after a 24–21 defeat, with Jenna Moxey scoring two tries. In hockey, Jess Houghton's hat-trick kept Pelicans women's thirds top of their division after a 5–1 win over City of Peterborough's sixth team.

Two King's Lynn players met in the over-40s men's singles final at the Veterans Eastern Masters table tennis tournament in Norwich. Wayne Mason, who knocked out top seed Neil Charles in the semi-finals, beat clubmate Serafim Melo in four games. Paul Rich won a consolation singles final. Back in town, King's Lynn Badminton Club holds its club night on Thursdays at Lynnsport, with pool and snooker available at the Maltings Q Club.

At Downham Market Academy parkrun, Ryston Runners' Adam Matthews led home a field of 42 in 17:17, with Martha More, in the 11–14 age group, first female finisher in 24:21. On Hunstanton's cliff-top course, Samuel Vincent was first home in 18:22 and Dersingham Runners' Bethany Willox was the first woman across the line in 19:49. There were milestones to celebrate too, as Sam Stringer, Nancy Waldron and Andrew Millis each completed their 200th parkrun.

Town & Around Pet Care
Vet Home Visits
King's Lynn & surrounding area
07849 485434
townaroundpetcare.co.uk

Chris Palmer
Plumbing And Heating Services Ltd
Plumbing | Heating | Gas Services | Renewables
New boilers | Repairs | Servicing
Bathroom | Shower room installs
Fully insured
Gas Safe Register
ATAG Heating Technology
Mitsubishi Electric Domestic Heating Systems
01485 571363
07798 635860
chrispalmer333@gmail.com

STUDIO @ 55
Christmas is coming ...
Still looking for that perfect Christmas gift? Why not get a gift certificate for a course at STUDIO @ 55?
Contact me for more information:
Esther Boehm • 21 High Street, Heacham, PE31 7ER
www.studioat55.com • esther@studioat55.com
Phone 01485 779691 • 07538 986235

HUNSTANTON DENTAL LABORATORY
For Emergency Denture Repairs
Call: 01485 533 388
For all your denture repairs come and see us in our new, larger, Dental Laboratory at:
6 Le Strange Terrace, Hunstanton PE36 5AJ
j.asman@yahoo.co.uk

Professional, Eco-Friendly
Deep Oven Cleaning
Ovens, Cookers, Hobs, Extractors
Ranges, Agas & Everhots
Fully Insured
OvenGleamers (Kings Lynn & West Norfolk)
Peter Edge-Partington
YOUR LOCAL CHAP
Call 07946 455 645
More 5 Star Reviews on Yell and Google than anyone else in Norfolk!

A.T. NORFOLK
PLUMBING & HEATING

BATHROOM
RENOVATIONS

QUALITY BATHROOMS.
LOCAL EXPERTS.
LASTING RESULTS.

DESIGN | PLUMBING | TILING | INSTALLATION

Transform your space

BEAUTIFUL, PRACTICAL BATHROOMS DESIGNED AROUND YOU











BATHROOM INSTALLATIONS | PLUMBING & TILING | BATHS & SHOWERS | VANITY UNITS & STORAGE | COMPLETE REFURBISHMENTS | WET ROOMS & ACCESSIBLE BATHROOMS



Local. Reliable. Professional.

COVERING WEST & NORTH NORFOLK

01485 518648
07733 335845

GET IN TOUCH FOR A FREE CONSULTATION & QUOTE

THORNHAM | BURNHAM MARKET | HUNSTANTON | KING'S LYNN | AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES

Age UK launches Stay Warm, Stay Well

Local News Desk

Age UK Norfolk launches winter campaign to help older people stay warm, well and connected Annual winter campaign returns with practical advice, financial support and a community challenge to help older people across Norfolk.

Age UK Norfolk is encouraging people across the county to prepare for the colder months as its annual Temperature Check Your Winter campaign returns for winter 2026–27.



Running from November to February, the campaign will share practical advice, highlight support available to older people and encourage communities to come together to help everyone stay warm, well and connected throughout winter.

The Charity is reminding older people that support is available if they are worried about keeping their home warm, managing their finances or feeling isolated. Age UK Norfolk can provide advice on keeping warm, help people find out about winter grants and other financial support, and offer welfare benefits checks to identify benefits they may be entitled to. Its Money MOT service provides further help with managing finances.

The Charity also offers digital inclusion and companionship services to help older people stay connected. Throughout winter, its teams will also be visiting communities across Norfolk to share information and help people find the support they need. Details will be available on the Charity's website and social media channels.

This year's campaign features the "Who's your winter check-in?" Community Challenge, inviting everyone to think of one person they could check in on over the coming months. Whether it's calling a relative, visiting a neighbour, sharing a coffee or helping someone find support, a small gesture can make a real difference.

Ann Donkin, Chief Executive of Age UK Norfolk, said:

"Everyone deserves to feel safe, supported and connected, whatever their circumstances. For some older people, winter can make everyday challenges feel that little bit harder, and knowing where to turn for help can make a real difference.

"As a local charity, we want to make sure people know we're here for them, while encouraging communities to recognise the difference they can make to one another. You don't need to do something extraordinary to help someone feel less alone. Sometimes, simply taking the time to ask how someone is doing is a good place to start."

To find out more about Temperature Check Your Winter, access advice and support, or discover upcoming community visits, visit www.ageuk.org.uk/norfolk. For information and advice, contact Age UK Norfolk's Advice Line on 0300 500 1217 or email advice@ageuknorfolk.org.uk.



Hunstanton Croquet Club News

Caroline Harper



This will be the last news of 2026 from HCC. How has that happened? It seems just a few short weeks ago that we were eagerly beginning a new season!

Whilst the time has flown by, there has been an awful lot crammed into the last 7 months - tournaments both internal and external, coaching sessions, club mornings, afternoons and, new this year, evenings. And, of course, lots of tea, coffee, biscuits and cake and the occasional beer or wine has been consumed.

Trophies have been won and friendships made - as evidenced by the friendly chatter of 40 members who gathered at our annual Prize Presentation and Luncheon at The Pavilion, Heacham Manor.

Official business was concluded at the AGM. Thanks were given to the outgoing Chair and Secretary - Janet Kendal and Gren Perry, for their fantastic contribution to the Club. The new committee was duly elected, with a special welcome to Roddy Willett and Gary Lewis for stepping up to take on the roles vacated by the aforementioned Janet and Gren. No club can function without people who are willing to take on committee roles and the members who support them by 'doing their bit'.

Then it was time to 'put the club to bed' for winter. Many thanks to all who turned out, despite Storm Austen, to assist with cleaning and putting away.

If you are interested in joining a thriving club and competing next year, look out for how to do so next Spring.

By the time this goes to print, we shall have donned our Christmas jumpers for the first of our winter coffee mornings. In the meantime, although it is still October as I draft this text - Happy Christmas and Happy New Year from Hunstanton Croquet Club

XMAS OPENING TIMES
24th December 2026 to 1st January 2027

Christmas Eve
24th December
Food 12-8pm
Bar Closes 10pm

Christmas Day
25th December
Pre-booked guests only

Boxing Day
26th December
Food 12-8pm
Bar Closes 10pm

Sun 27th to Wed 30th December
Food 12-9pm
Bar Closes 11pm

New Year's Eve
31st December
Food 12-3pm
Bar Closes 4pm
Close 5pm

New Year's Day
1st January
Food 12-8pm
Bar Closes 10pm

JOIN US FOR PRE-CHRISTMAS DINING

BOOK A TABLE NOW
In the mean time, why not pop down for some stunning food? Scan the code to book now!

The Lodge Hotel & Bar
t 01485 532896
w thelodgehunstanton.co.uk

Mediaeval Baebes Torchlit Procession

Heather Joy

With a torchlit procession, ethereal harmonies and ancient stories; on Sunday 20th December, the Mediaeval Baebes will bring an exquisite spectacle and three decades uplifting harmonies to St Nicholas Chapel in Kings Lynn, as part of their very special 30th Anniversary Tour.

A Living Tapestry of Music and Pageantry

Heralding an evening of music, storytelling and seasonal enchantment… in the winter darkness a magical torchlit procession will make its way towards the historic Church, leading audiences into a world where music, theatre and dance intertwine. Starting at 6.55pm, from Sowerbys in Tuesday Market Place, the Mediaeval Baebes will be joined by Armoured Knights and Bell Ringers. Families, musicians and reenactors are invited to become part of the merry making. Dress in costume, carry a lantern, bring a drum, or simply watch as the procession makes its way into the venue.

Inside, the Mediaeval Baebes' renowned voices will fill the space with soaring harmonies, accompanied by an array of exotic and historical instruments. Their performances combining the mysterious atmosphere of the medieval world with the warmth, drama and emotion of contemporary storytelling.

At the heart of this year's concert is their latest album, The Spinning Wheel; a richly woven collection of twelve songs inspired by the twelve months of the year. Ancient texts and new melodies meet throughout the album, moving from winter laments to summer longing and exploring themes of customs, romance, nature and the passage of time.

For this special 30th Anniversary Tour, these songs will sit alongside the festive celebration and beloved repertoire for which the Mediaeval Baebes are renowned, creating a concert that feels at once ancient and newly born.

The Mediaeval Baebes have shaped an extraordinary musical



journey. Formed in 1996 by musical director and composer Katharine Blake, the ensemble has gone on to release 12 studio albums, tour internationally and perform in extraordinary settings ranging from cathedrals and castles to caves and Glastonbury Festival's Pyramid Stage.

Their distinctive sound has taken them around the UK and across the United States, Canada, Asia and Europe. They have performed at the Royal Albert Hall, toured with Jools Holland and received an Ivor Novello Award for their performance on the BBC's The Virgin Queen. They have also received two Emmy nominations and a Royal Television Society award for their work alongside composer Martin Phipps on ITV's Victoria.

Now, three decades after their wonderous beginnings, the Baebes invite audiences to celebrate their journey with a concert that honours the music that has defined them, while also embracing the next chapter of their story.

Expect voices that shimmer and stories that linger. Instruments that evoke another age and music that carries the audience through winter into light. Everyone is invited to listen.

For more information and to book your tickets for this unique event, *visit: www.mediaevalbaebes.co.uk*

COASTAL
Veterinary Group
16 Alma Road, Snettisham
King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE31 7NY
✓Caring, friendly and professional
✓Fully independent practice
✓24 hour emergency service
✓Full surgical facilities
✓On site x-ray facilities
✓Home visits available
✓Off street parking
Tel:01485 544201
Email: info@coastalvets.co.uk
www.coastalvets.co.uk



C L STEPHENSON
PAINTER & DECORATOR
HUNSTANTON BASED
● Free Estimates
● Interior & Exterior Decoration
● 20 Years' Experience
● All types of Wallpapering
Tel: 07932 074 207
or 01485 533 783



Snettisham Gardening Club News

RHS Affiliated Club

We do not have a meeting in December, our November Hog Roast being our last for 2026, We thank our members for their support during 2026 and wish all a Very Happy Festive Season.

We will begin 2027 on Wednesday January 27th with our AGM when Subscriptions will be due, Programmes and Membership cards issued and Open Show schedules for July 2027 will be available. There will also be "Fizz and cake" on offer to welcome in the New Year. We look forward to seeing you then.

As with all our monthly meetings in the Memorial Hall, Old Church Road, the evening will begin at 7.30 pm.

For further information please call Gail on 07899933840 or Gwyneth on 07984411667

DNS
COMPUTER SERVICES

Daniel Sharman
07554 018307
dan@dnscomputerservices.co.uk

- IT Support & Consultancy
- Apple and Microsoft friendly
- Virus/Spy/Ad-ware removal
- Wi-Fi Coverage solutions
- Home & Business networks
- Repairs & Maintenance
- Data Recovery
- CCTV Systems
- Multi Room Audio
- Tuition & Sales
- GDPR Compliant

Tapping Close, Snettisham

Fullers Body Repair Centre
Established 1973



Unit 10
Cheney Crescent
Heacham
Norfolk
PE31 7BT
T: 01485 570799
E: beautifulbodies@hotmail.co.uk

Free Estimates · Resprays · Accident Repairs
Corrosion Repairs · Insurance Approved

SARAH SENDERSKI
PERSONAL TRAINER

Personal training sessions on a 1-to-1 basis or in small groups

Online training plans, specialising in triathlon coaching

Based in Hunstanton, covering the North Norfolk Coast and King's Lynn

sarahsenderskipt.co.uk
Sarah.senderski@gmail.com
Instagram: @coach_roan_totaltri
07835 808314



News from the Barking Bugle

Christmas Cheer, Santa Paws and a spot of Doggy Mischief



Well, here we are again! December has arrived, the humans are getting excited, there's a definite festive feel in the air and I've noticed Mum behaving rather mysteriously. It can only mean one thing… Christmas is coming!

Mum's only gone and brought a tree indoors! A proper big one, too. She's covered it in lights, baubles and sparkly things. Very nice, but I've got to ask… What's it doing in the living room? I thought it was a new indoor toilet. After all, it's a tree and trees are usually fair game! I was just about to christen it when Mum shouted, 'Ziggy No!' Apparently, it's for decoration, not decoration by dogs. Honestly, you can't do anything in this house! Zsa Zsa says I've got no Christmas manners. I say it's a perfectly good tree going to waste!

Anyway, enough about my domestic difficulties. I've been sniffing out what's happening locally this December, and there are a couple of festive treats for you and your two-legged friends.

19th December – Santa Paws at Holt Country Park. Santa is making a special appearance at his grotto from 10am. So, if you've been a good dog (and I'm sure you have!), here's your chance to meet the legend himself and perhaps put in a personal request for an extra-large stocking! Cost: £6 per dog plus booking fee.

21st December – Canine Carolling at Holkham Hall at 10.30am. Time to warm up those vocal chords! Holkham Hall is hosting its annual, barking mad festive celebration for four-legged friends and their humans. It's a free event, although car parking charges apply. I'm already practising my Christmas repertoire. My favourites include:- Bark! The Herald Angels Sing, We Three Canines and Santa Paws Is Coming to Town. I'm hoping there's a prize for the loudest barker! If so, I've already got that one in the bag!

Helping Paws This Christmas - Now, Christmas isn't just about presents, treats and getting into mischief. Well apparently not. Miss Zsa Zsa says it's also a time to think about animals who aren't quite so lucky. So on 9th December, The Barking Bugle will be outside Tesco in Hunstanton collecting for PACT Animal Sanctuary. We'd love you to pop along and support us. Every donation, however small, helps animals in need and makes a difference to the wonderful people who care for them. So, if you're passing, please stop for a chat and show your support. We'd be ever so grateful.

Well, that's December sorted! A visit to Santa, a spot of carolling and a little charity work. What more could a dog ask for? Actually, I've thought of something. More treats, more pawsecco, more presents and perhaps a Christmas tree that comes with clearer instructions!

Wishing all our lovely readers, two-legged and four-legged, a wonderful Christmas filled with love, laughter and lots of tail-wagging.

Woofs, Ziggy Bear & Miss Zsa Zsa - Canine Repawters

thebarkingbugle.co.uk

John Harris cordially invites you to another
PIANO PARTY
on his Birthday,
Wednesday 16 December 2026
at the Methodist Hall, Heacham
(opposite Boots)
Between 10am and 3pm
Musical games and competitions (with prizes, including Musical Christmas Presents – something for everyone!), singalongs and carols, with Guest Artists.
Cold lunch (with hot chips!) and desserts (courtesy Oakhouse Foods) at 1pm.
No charge for anything, but a donation of your choice may be made to Diabetes U.K.
N.B. Please ring 01485 579136 before 12 December to book lunch

WEST NORFOLK BEFRIENDING
Providing a listening ear
Charity N° 1111735
Our trained volunteers visit socially isolated older people for companionship and a chat.
If you'd like to make a positive difference locally, we'd love to hear from you.
info@wnbefriending.org.uk
01553 763500

Oysters & Mussels
Brancaster Oysters
HOME DELIVERY
FRIDAYS WITHIN
30 MILES OF BRANCASTER
BRANCASTEROYSTERS.CO.UK
07503684849
BRANCASTEROYSTERS@GMAIL.COM

MONSOON THE SEAL RETURNS TO THE WILD

A young grey seal rescued from a Norfolk beach with a plastic flying ring embedded around her neck has made a remarkable recovery and been released back into the wild.

Readers may remember Monsoon, whose rescue we featured in last month's Town & Around. She was finally caught by Friends of Horsey Seals at Waxham on 7 October.

Thankfully, her recovery was relatively quick, and after regaining her strength in the centre's outdoor pool, she was returned to a Norfolk beach and released back into the sea.

RSPCA Centre Manager Evangelos Achiellos said: "It's always such a heartwarming moment when a wild animal is released back to where they belong."

East Winch has treated 104 seals with similar 'necklace' injuries, successfully rehabilitating and releasing 95.

Anyone spotting an injured or entangled seal should keep their distance and contact the RSPCA on 0300 1234 999.



Christmas WORD SEARCH

Find all 15 Christmas-themed words hidden in the grid below.
Words can be forwards, backwards, up, down or diagonal.

V	G	N	Z	B	Z	M	I	N	C	E	P	I	E	S
F	N	S	E	L	D	N	A	C	R	Q	T	S	T	E
W	Y	L	P	O	E	T	F	W	A	Y	R	N	E	L
L	L	I	G	G	I	F	T	S	C	F	E	O	M	B
S	L	G	Z	V	A	K	Y	L	K	S	E	W	F	U
C	O	H	I	I	D	X	Y	O	E	G	D	M	T	A
C	H	T	T	V	G	T	B	R	R	T	N	A	Y	B
J	Y	S	I	X	K	X	P	A	S	E	I	N	B	H
W	U	T	B	O	D	U	Z	C	Q	S	E	W	C	S
F	Z	B	I	P	D	M	E	L	L	L	R	I	W	N
R	R	H	D	D	K	P	A	A	V	E	P	X	K	B
A	K	Y	I	N	X	N	Y	E	S	P	D	C	P	F
X	R	N	R	D	E	Q	S	Q	D	U	C	M	L	N
O	G	J	G	B	N	W	T	F	B	Q	S	Z	L	B
L	Z	T	T	Q	Q	L	U	Y	Z	G	B	U	E	V

WORD LIST

BAUBLES
BELLS
CANDLES
CAROLS
CRACKERS
ELVES
GIFTS
HOLLY
LIGHTS
MINCEPIES
NATIVITY
PRESENTS
PUDDING
REINDEER
SNOWMAN

Answers on Pg 73

LEEMAC CONSTRUCTION LTD

Block Paving • Landscaping • Patios
Roofing & Repairs • Flat Roofs • UPVC Roofline
Renovations • Extensions & Conservatories
Resin Driveways, Patios & Pathways






Check out our reviews on Checkatrade.com

CALL JOE: 07555 730 857 | OFFICE: 01485 558 582
www.leemacconstruction.co.uk leemacltd@gmail.com Checkatrade.com
91 South Beach Road, Hunstanton, PE36 5BA



Extra Hands
Established 1993
Providers of Home Care in Norfolk

Multi-award winning providers of Home Care in your community



We are a local multi award winning independent Home Care Specialist, providing carers trained to the highest standards including Dementia Care. We offer a wide range of services within the home setting which are tailored to suit individual needs from personal care to shopping and companionship.

Our services can be arranged on either a short term or long term basis, we offer flexibility when organising care packages and can assure our customers that we will meet their requirements every step of the way.

If you or anyone you know may be interested in our services please do not hesitate to contact us on the number below or call in to our office at Heacham for further advice and information.

Thinking of a career in Social Care?
Why not join our award winning team



We offer: • Good rates of pay • Various hours available • Enhanced holiday entitlement • Paid mileage • Free DBS check & uniforms • Mobile Phone



Tel: 01485 570611

Extra Hands, Unit 13,
Heacham Hall Ind Est, Hunstanton Road,
Heacham, Norfolk. PE31 7DP

www.extrahandshomecarenorfolk.co.uk

Extra Hands is regulated by the CQC to provide care and meet all of the CQC National Standards

Simply CooKit

Order your freshly cooked, oven ready Christmas dinner for delivery on Christmas Eve!
Order by 12th December

HOME COOKED, HIGH QUALITY MEALS DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR
Made by local chef Kat Asker in a 5* hygiene rated kitchen

Free local delivery
Tel: 07767753413
Email: simplycookit.kat@gmail.com

GOFF HEATING OIL



Deal direct & save on your heating oil

Get a quote – **call our team on 01953 713555** or order easily online

Handy Dan's Home Maintenance

All aspects of home maintenance undertaken.

No job too small just give me a call.



07788 816340

News From Brancaster Village Hall

Geoff Wingrove

Another extremely busy month for BVH has, thanks to our sterling volunteers, been very successful. The Brancaster Sea Festival took place in atrocious weather, which did not spoil the enthusiastic singing from the community, nor the excellence of the talks from the RNLI, Coastwatch, Fishing Community, Harbour Master and the Sailing Club.

The Brancaster Community Chat on Wednesday mornings has made a good start, and gatherings are proving very popular. We are also delighted that the Scottish Dancing Group has restarted, and that Functional Fitness classes have increased to 2-3 sessions a week, due to demand.

Regular groups continue, including Baby and Toddler, Community Chat, Functional Fitness, Scottish Dancing and Mobile Library van

FORTHCOMING EVENTS – DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 28th November:Brancaster Winter Fayre
Saturday 5th December:Mega Quiz 7.00-10.00pm
Saturday 18th December:Carols at the Bar
Wednesday 23rd December:Children's Christmas Party 4.00-7.00pm
Friday 15th January:Talk by James Butterwick on Dimitry Lebedev, aUkrainian symbolist artist.

For further information about these and all our activities, please contact us at bvhsetup@gmail.com

From the Brancaster Parish Archive

Religious Houses in North Norfolk - Geoff Wingrove

It may come as a surprise to readers that this area has been the home to two religious houses for hundreds of years. Carmelite Friars set up home in Burnham Market and Augustinian Monks and Friars in a community just outside Creake.



A monk lives and works in a settled community which is self-sufficient and spends his life in contemplation and prayer. Monks were often required to develop farming skills so that the community might be self-sufficient for food, as well as to act as scribes for religious works. Friars on the other hand were mendicant orders living in the general community and relying on charity to subsist. Friars often had rudimentary medical skills and would be expected to lead prayers in the community as well as provide a modicum of education to young people. There were four main orders of Friar recognised by the Catholic Church: Franciscans, Dominicans, Augustinians and Carmelites.

The friary at Burnham Market was the home of the Carmelites whose order was originally founded in the Holy Land on Mount Carmel. They were originally hermits who lived in very rough circumstances on the mountainside. The failure of the Crusades and subsequent loss of the Holy Lands to the forces of Islam led to the expulsion of the Carmelites in 1238. In 1241 the Carmelites came to England and set up the first community in Norfolk with support of Sir William Calthorpe and Sir Ralph Hamenhale; this was the fourth Carmelite community set up in England. Much of what we know about the Carmelites comes from the writings in the 15th century of the theologian and author Robert Bale, who produced a history of the Carmelites and is buried in Burnham Norton churchyard in 1503.

The Carmelite order, also known as the Order of the Brothers of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel differed from other orders in that they had no founding charismatic personality; instead, it used the examples of the Old Testament prophets Elijah and Elisha as inspirations for religious life. The Jewish tradition has Elijah and Elisha living as hermits in caves on Mount Carmel and the example of these prophets and Mary, mother of Jesus, filled the central roles in Carmelite life, with Mary becoming the queen and mistress of the order.

On coming to Europe, the Carmelite order gradually changed from a hermit existence to become a medicant order and became one of the four orders recognised by the Pope. The order faced a degree of hostility from the established Church in England but despite this prospered in the country as well as in Europe. The order split in the 16th century following a reform movement started in Spain and Discalced Carmelites were formed, taking their example from St Teresa; an order of nuns was founded in the 15th century.

The friary at Burnham Market was always a small community with perhaps thirty to forty friars at its height. It was closed under the reign of Henry V111 in 1503 when there were about four friars still in residence. Today there are about 2000 friars and 700 nuns in countries across the world and 25000 to 30000 lay Carmelites. The friary at Burnham Market was partly demolished following the dissolution but the original gatehouse and some walls remain to mark a time when Carmelites played a role in our community.

Creake Abbey started life as an alms-house for the poor and was developed by the Augustinian Order as a priory in the 12th century following support from the local community. It became an abbey in 1231 when Henry III made several grants to Creake. The order of Augustinians was founded in 1244 to follow the rule of St. Augustus, although the order had some previous history. Augustus of Hippo was a theologian and philosopher who lived from 354 to 430AD. His writings were enormously influential and gradually spread through Europe; Augustus was also a skilled preacher and rhetorician.

The heyday of Creake Abbey was in the 14th century when it continued to fulfil its medical and hospital functions. It also housed a large resident community and also owned extensive lands around the Abbey. In 1483 a fire swept through the Abbey destroying the church and several of the Abbey's buildings. Restoration was carried out with money provided by Richard III and Sir William Calthorpe. In 1506 a sweating sickness swept through East Anglia and almost wiped out the monastic community at the Abbey.

The reign of Henry VIII brought about enormous changes in religious practice across the country and also had a disastrous effect on religious orders with their loyalty to the Pope in Rome. Henry moved away from the Catholic Church to form the Church of England with himself at the head. In search of money to fund the Crown, Henry oversaw the dissolution of religious houses across the country, destroying the abbeys and confiscating their lands and wealth. Creake Abbey became a victim of Henry's policy and the Abbey's lands were initially given to Margaret of Beaufort in 1507 before ending up in the ownership of Christ College Cambridge.



Prior to these events the Augustinian order had spread across Europe, and adherents became numerous in many countries. Many Augustinian abbeys and monasteries became very wealthy and, in political terms, powerful. As such they became easy targets for rulers, such as Henry, in need of treasure and lands. Most Augustinian communities remained relatively safe where the Pope's edict ruled but in England the end of that edict resulted in the loss of wealth, lands and influence and the break-up of the communities.

Today the Augustinians are present in fifty countries, and the order is governed by an elected Prior General from its headquarters in Rome. Creake Abbey today is the site of a thriving market community, although large areas of the original buildings can still be viewed and enjoyed. The photos show the Carmelite Friary at Burnham Market and Creake Abbey.

Geoff Wingrove



YORK AVENUE CONVENIENCE STORE
THE NATIONAL LOTTERY
payzone
YOUR LOCAL CONVENIENCE STORE
Groceries • Fruit & Veg • Soft Drinks • Frozen Foods
Confectionery • Newspapers • Greeting Cards
Lottery • Payzone • Off Licence
2-4 YORK AVENUE HUNSTANTON PE36 6BU
Tel: 01485 535472
Mon - Sat: 7am - 8pm
Sun & Bank Holiday: 8am - 8pm

Anita's Salon
Open Monday to Saturday
from 9am to 4pm
or at other times by appointment
66 Westgate, Hunstanton
Tel: 01485 533736

A.J. COGGLES
Family Funeral Directors
MINTLYN
OUR FAMILY
CARING FOR YOURS
Compassion, Care, Dignity.
Dedicated to honouring your loved ones through professional and personal funeral services, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
5th Generation Independent Family Funeral Service
www.ajcoggles.co.uk
GOLDEN CHARTER
FUNERAL PLANS
Proudly serving our communities
Kings Lynn 01553 766795
Downham Mkt 01366 384182
Wisbech 01945 461112
Hunstanton 01485 534421

Want to be in next month's edition?
Have a local story, event, community update or something you'd like to share?
Send it to:
editor@townandaround.net
Copy deadline: 12th December
for our first issue of 2027
Town & Around — Your Local Community Magazine

Spooktacular Parkrun at Sandringham

Malcom Senior

The sun was shining but deep in the woods hooded figures and witches were waiting for the brave participants of Sandringham parkrun no. 257 on this Halloween morning.



Undaunted 368 partakers completed the two-lap course with the first finisher Marie Duhig in a time of 19.02 with the first male with a new PB Mark Banfield in a time of 19.36. We had a haunting 71 first timers to Sandringham including 9 first timers to parkrun. With 56 finishers enjoying a new PB and many finishers achieving Milestones. Trust you all had a wicked good time. We had tourists from across the UK and a special visiting marshal from Albas in France.

Parkrun cannot go ahead without our Fa-boo-lous volunteers so a massive Thank You to todays 45 volunteers. To volunteer add your name to the sign-up sheet on a Saturday morning or email us at sandringham@parkrun.com.

Apart from our regulars we had volunteers from The Adapted Sports Hub Trust which evolved from the partnership and collaboration of 3 local community organisations; Hockey Club, Little Discoverers & Little Miracles. With its fleet of adapted bikes and trikes the trust supports children and adults of all ages and abilities to be active and have fun.

We also welcomed 5K Your Way. Move Charity - 5K Your Way at Sandringham parkrun is the only one in Norfolk. It is run by volunteer ambassadors many are from the QEH. 5k Your Way encourages involvement in physical activity in an accessible way. It's a support group with a difference for people living with or beyond cancer, and their families, and we have ambassadors there each month to welcome people and to walk and talk around the beautiful 5k parkrun 2 lap route in the country park or just sit and relax. It improves participants' physical and mental wellbeing and helps build confidence and self-esteem. We always have delicious cake afterwards.



Sandringham 5K Your Way: Welcomes anyone impacted by cancer - If you or anyone you know has been affected by cancer, please join us. Participants can walk, jog, run, cheer or volunteer or sit and have a coffee and enjoy the surroundings.

When: Last Saturday of every month.

Time: 8:30 for a 9:00 am start

Where: The group meet at Sandringham Visitor Centre at the picnic tables underneath the stretch tent near the children's play park area.

IMAGINE YOUR NEW KITCHEN, BEDROOM OR BATHROOM



A FAMILY RUN INDEPENDENT KITCHEN, BEDROOM & BATHROOM BUSINESS. SHOWROOM AT HORSLEY'S FIELDS, KING'S LYNN

WE CAN OFFER THE FOLLOWING:

GIVING YOU MORE FOR YOUR MONEY SINCE 2009

- A full refurbishment on your kitchen, bedroom or bathroom. Project managed from start to finish using one of our 5 teams of installers.
- A change of doors, worktops, sink, tap and wall tiles using made to measure doors creating a new look kitchen with less mess.
- FREE design and consultation service.
- TRADE AND RETAIL as well as supply only available on all products.

Unit 2, Laen Court, Horsley's Fields, King's Lynn, PE30 5DD | Tel: 01553 765575
Email: sales@triangliadesigns.co.uk | Web: www.triangliadesigns.co.uk

TRI ANGLIA HOME DESIGNS LTD

Heacham young Football heroes lift the cup

Richard Dix



Eight boys from Years 5 and 6 have brought the Croydon Cup home to Heacham Junior School for the first time, following a thrilling tournament featuring a penalty shoot-out and a dramatic last-minute winner.

Representing the school, part of the West Norfolk Academies Trust, the youngsters won two of their opening matches before facing local rivals Hunstanton.

James Agate, the school's PE Lead, said: “The boys represented the school brilliantly, giving absolutely everything throughout the tournament.

After topping their group, Heacham progressed to a tense semi-final. With neither side able to score during normal or extra time, the match went to penalties. Four confidently taken spot kicks secured their place in the final against tournament hosts Glebe House School.

But the drama was far from over.

Heacham fell behind 1-0 after just four minutes before their number seven produced a superb individual run, beating two defenders and calmly slotting the ball into the bottom corner.

With the score level at 1-1 and just a minute remaining, their number eight unleashed a powerful strike into the net to seal a remarkable 2-1 victory.

The Croydon Cup was heading to Heacham for the very first time!

Back at school, the champions received a hero's welcome, walking into a special celebration assembly accompanied by the Champions League theme music.

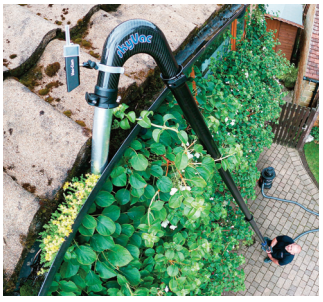
Proudly displaying their trophy and gold medals, the team were cheered by fellow pupils and staff.

Mr Agate added: “The boys showed tremendous determination, teamwork, and resilience throughout the competition, and their achievement is something the whole school can be incredibly proud of.”

For eight young footballers, it was a day of unforgettable memories, a dramatic comeback and a winning goal worthy of any cup final.

North Norfolk Properties Ltd

Caring for your property



Gutter Clearing with SkyVac

Our camera assisted vacuum system clears gutters to a height of 50 feet and can even reach over conservatories and outbuildings



Moss Removal with Skyscraper

Using our specially shaped scrapers and brushes to remove moss and prevent gutter blockages and damage to roofs

Driveway, Path and Patio Cleaning

All garden maintenance and landscaping services available

Contact David on: 07584 088097

Email: david@nnpltd.co.uk

Caring Together now open in Kings Lynn

Local News Desk

New charity shop opens in King's Lynn to support unpaid carers. A new charity shop has opened in King's Lynn High Street, raising money to support people who care for family members, friends and loved ones.

Caring Together Charity has opened its first-ever shop close to Tuesday Market Place, offering shoppers a selection of pre-loved clothing, accessories, homeware and other items.

The charity supports unpaid carers across Norfolk, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, providing advice, information and practical and emotional support to people looking after someone with a long-term illness or disability.

The new shop will help raise funds for those services while providing another place for people to donate unwanted items and pick up a bargain in the town centre.

Shop Manager Belinda Jones said: "We're incredibly excited to open our very first-ever charity shop.

"This is about so much more than selling pre-loved items, it's about bringing the community together and making a real difference to unpaid carers to remind them they aren't on their own and that they deserve support.

"We can't wait to welcome everyone through our doors!"

The shop is now accepting donations of good-quality clothing, accessories, homeware, toys, games, linen and small electrical items.

Donations can be dropped off during opening hours, Monday to Saturday, from 9am to 4pm.

The charity is also looking for local volunteers to help with the day-to-day running of the shop, with opportunities available for those who can spare anything from a few hours a week to a full day.

Belinda said: "Whether you can volunteer for a few hours each week, a full day, or on a more flexible basis, every contribution is vital.



"We welcome volunteers from all backgrounds and levels of experience, and we will work with you to find a role that matches your interests, skills and availability."

For many unpaid carers, looking after someone is a daily responsibility that can leave little time for themselves. Caring Together aims to ensure they have somewhere to turn for advice, understanding and support.

With its first shop now open in King's Lynn, the charity hopes local shoppers, donors and volunteers will help it continue that work while giving unwanted items a new home.

Local Independent **eyecare** and **hearing care** in King's Lynn



We are proud to welcome Audiologist, **Lee Mason** (left) as our **hearing care partner** at Wigram and Ware Optometrists and Opticians.

Lee is a familiar face in King's Lynn, having been providing hearing care services in the area for the past eight years. Lee welcomes patients old and new to visit him for their hearing care needs.

From initial **hearing screening** to **full hearing assessments, hearing aid fittings** with supportive **aftercare**, as well as **ear wax removal** services, Lee will be offering appointments at both our King's Lynn & Dersingham practices.

You can make an appointment with Lee by contacting the practice on the details below or by scanning the QR code.



WIGRAM & WARE
~Established 1920~

www.wigware.co.uk

King's Lynn • 8 Blackfriars Street | King's Lynn | Norfolk PE30 1NN
T: **01553 772878** | E: reception@wigware.co.uk

Dersingham • 4 Jubilee Court | Hunstanton Road | Dersingham
Norfolk PE31 6HH | T: **01485 544850** | E: reception@wigware.co.uk

Thornalley
FUNERAL SERVICES

Local Independent Family Business

Pre-paid funeral plans – contact us today for a face to face appointment

King's Lynn	01553 771399
Dersingham	01485 598598
Swaffham	01760 721305



www.tfs.co.uk

SAIF INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS

The King William IV Pub & Hotel

Heacham Road, Sedgeford, Norfolk, PE36 5LU
www.thekingwilliamsedgeford.co.uk

From Festive Dining and Afternoon Teas to Christmas Day Celebrations and New Year's Festivities, let us make your season truly special.

To book, just call our friendly team on **01485 571765**. We can't wait to celebrate with you this festive season. **Scan the QR code** below to view our full Christmas Brochure for 2026.



SN *HANDYMAN*

Services for all your general home and garden maintenance.

Painting & Decorating (interior/exterior)
Garden Maintenance
Gutters Cleared & Repaired | Pressure Washing Patios etc
Sealant Replacement | DIY and Improvements
No job too small

References available upon request.
Please call Steven Newton 07713 859712
or email: newton73@hotmail.co.uk
Sedgeford, Norfolk

COOPER & ELMS

AUDIO, VISUAL & DOMESTIC APPLIANCES



WE ARE A FAMILY RUN, INDEPENDENT ELECTRICAL RETAILER SERVING WEST NORFOLK FOR OVER 40 YEARS WITH AUDIO/VISUAL EQUIPMENT AND DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

euronics

WE DELIVER, WE INSTALL, WE CARE!

01553 774798 | 30 TOWER STREET, KING'S LYNN PE30 1EJ
01485 570303 | 34-40 HIGH STREET HEACHAM PE31 7EP
(FORMERLY A. E. WALLIS)
WWW.COOPERANDELMS.CO.UK
SALES@COOPERANDELMS.CO.UK

BACKYARDPITRUBS.COM

BIG BBQ FLAVOUR. MADE EASY.

Hand-blended BBQ rubs made in Norfolk by a family who cook the way you do.

BOLD FLAVOURS
NATURAL INGREDIENTS
THE ULTIMATE BBQ EXPERIENCE



Downham Market & District Horticultural Society

Affiliated to The Royal Horticultural Society

We were proud to take part in this year's Remembrance Day parade at Downham Market, the first year we have done so. Our Vice-Chair and Town Councillor, Mick Lane, was honoured to lay our wreath, beautifully made by one of our members (see photo below). We were pleased to see such a large turnout, both in the parade itself, and local people attending to pay their respects. The Hilgay Silver Band performed splendidly as usual, and The Last Post and Reveille were played with suitable poignancy, bringing an air of dignity and solemnity to the occasion.



The photograph depicts a small selection of wreaths laid at the War Memorial by many local organisations. Our wreath, comprising laurel, bay and rosemary for remembrance, with some hand-made poppies and some poppy seed heads, is shown at the bottom right corner, adjacent to the striking purple wreath, laid by The Magpie Centre (Riding for the Disabled). A purple poppy is a symbol of remembrance used to honour animals that served, suffered or died in military conflicts and wars.

Our November talk, very appropriately, focused on the origins of Poppy Day and the history of the Royal British Legion, and was given by Frank Bridgman, Chairman of the Royal British Legion Downham and District branch.

At the time of writing, the Society is looking forward to its Christmas events, upon which I will be reporting in next month's issue. We have an exciting diary of events lined up, including our Christmas buffet and the always-impressive Christmas hamper draw; a Christmas shopping evening hosted by Words and Wonder Books; and a wreath-making workshop, run by the same talented member who made our Remembrance Day wreath.

DIARY DATE: Next year's Summer Show is on Saturday 3 July, in Downham Market Town Hall again.

Further details

To receive further details about our Society or our Summer Show, or if you'd like to come along to see what we're all about (with no obligation to join), please contact our membership secretary, Judith, on 01366 501466 or email: jt.mazur@tiscali.co.uk. At only £10 per year, it is a real bargain!

Carolyn Hayes

WINTER FIREWOOD AVAILABLE NOW

SANDRINGHAM SAWMILL

Please note new phone number 01485 524440







Over 175 timber products for retail direct to the public, including sawn timber, fence panels and posts, creosoted poles, garden furniture and firewood that is available in full and half loads. The on-site shop sells everything you need for your project including hand tools, ironmongery, paint and postcrete.







Admiral's Drive, Sandringham PE35 6EG
Monday – Friday 7.30am – 4.00pm and Saturdays 8.00am – 12 noon.
Contact the Sandringham Sawmill: sawmill@sandringhamestate.co.uk 01485 524440

Christmas WORD SEARCH

Find all 15 Christmas-themed words hidden in the grid below.
Words can be forwards, backwards, up, down or diagonal.

V	G	N	Z	B	Z	M	I	N	C	E	P	I	E	S
F	N	S	E	L	D	N	A	C	R	Q	T	S	T	E
W	Y	L	P	O	E	T	F	W	A	Y	R	N	E	L
L	L	I	G	G	I	F	T	S	C	F	E	O	M	B
S	L	G	Z	V	A	K	Y	L	K	S	E	W	F	U
C	O	H	I	I	D	X	Y	O	E	G	D	M	T	A
C	H	T	T	V	G	T	B	R	R	T	N	A	Y	B
J	Y	S	I	X	K	X	P	A	S	E	I	N	B	H
W	U	T	B	O	D	U	Z	C	Q	S	E	W	C	S
F	Z	B	I	P	D	M	E	L	L	L	R	I	W	N
R	R	H	D	D	K	P	A	A	V	E	P	X	K	B
A	K	Y	I	N	X	N	Y	E	S	P	D	C	P	F
X	R	N	R	D	E	Q	S	Q	D	U	C	M	L	N
O	G	J	G	B	N	W	T	F	B	Q	S	Z	L	B
L	Z	T	T	Q	Q	L	U	Y	Z	G	B	U	E	V

WORD LIST

- BAUBLES
- BELLS
- CANDLES
- CAROLS
- CRACKERS
- ELVES
- GIFTS
- HOLLY
- LIGHTS
- MINCEPIES
- NATIVITY
- PRESENTS
- PUDDING
- REINDEER
- SNOWMAN



SOLUTIONS

Coastal Mobility
YOUR TRUSTED MOBILITY PROVIDER
Snettisham, Norfolk
SALES • HIRE • SERVICE • REPAIRS
Freephone: 0800 699 0565

YOU'RE IN SAFE HANDS THIS WINTER

Coastal Mobility has some great autumn/winter offers on all our mobility scooters, power chairs, wheelchairs, rise and recliners, beds and much more!

Every scooter or power chair purchased new or used comes with a:

- Free annual service for every year you own it
- Free bag, panel cover and cover
- Long warranty
- 12 month battery warranty
- Free Extended 1 year warranty to manufacturer warranty on all new scooters purchased

Free items not applicable to sold as seen goods.
Payment Terms available - no credit checks.

Book a FULL SERVICE £45
(usual price £95)
either at the shop or we can come to you at NO extra charge
Offer ends 18/12/26

We offer AMAZING part exchange deals on all new purchases.



FOLLOW US ON facebook

Coastal Mobility 2 Poppyfields Retail Park, Snettisham PE31 7FR
Telephone: 0800 6990565 Email: info@coastalmobility.co.uk
www.coastalmobility.co.uk

Dark Skies Of West Norfolk



Terry Parish

Our monthly look at the skies over West Norfolk with a few dates for your diary!



The calendar turns and another New Year beckons. The Earth comes back to a position, relative to the Sun, it was in 12 months ago and, on the 21st, at 8.50pm, it is the Winter Solstice. The Sun is lowest in the sky for this year and the night is longest, the day shortest. Light fires, drag in the Yule log, gather holly and eat to keep the cold out. The Sun will then start rising in the sky again and all will be well. It's worked for thousands of years.

Prior to this event, another which was first observed in 1862; the Geminid meteor shower. This runs between the 4th and 24th but peaks on the nights between the 13th and 15th. This year the Moon sets at 8pm so is out of the way for this convenient shower – no need to stay up until the early hours.

The Geminids are unusual as they originate from a rocky asteroid, Phaeton, rather than from a comet (though recent evidence suggests that comet debris has added to them). Being rocky particles means they are larger and denser so travel more slowly across the sky sometimes emitting colours as metals within the rock burn. The debris cloud has drifted closer to the Earth's orbit over the years and the number of observed meteors has increased from 10-20/ hour in the 1800's to 120-160 today (dark sky conditions). Phaeton orbits the Sun once in 1.4 years, dropping bits as it whirls around.

Whether we are lucky and see a good show this year depends on the weather but take a look and you might se some celestial fairy lights.

Just past the Solstice, on Christmas Eve, a clear sky will give any carol singers light to see by. The last of this year's Supermoons will be shining down; it will be the brightest Full Moon for 9 years. The Moon, at 357,000km, will be as close as it gets to Earth this year (perigee) and will not be closer until 2034.



Phaeton, son of Helios, fell out with Zeus. Internet

The planets, meanwhile, have been orbiting the Sun as they always do, and have been before Man appeared and will do so after the human race has gone. In order of distance from the Sun; Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn are those to look for on clear, crisp, December nights – I am ever hopeful.

Venus requires you to get up before the Sun. The goddess of love rises towards the east at 3.45am and will outshine, with a magnitude of minus 4.8, everything in the sky until sunrise. A telescope will reveal it as a crescent at the beginning of the month and, as Venus moves along its orbit, this will fatten. On the 4th and 5th our Crescent Moon will be close in the sky, two crescents for the price of one.

Mars rises in the east about 10pm after Jupiter which appears at 9pm. By 11pm you should see both in the sky, Mars below Jupiter with the bright star Regulus in between.

You won't miss Jupiter as it shines with a magnitude of minus 2.3 whereas Mars is a dim +0.2 (new readers will have to accept that magnitude, brightness, is brighter the lower the number, negative numbers are really bright and the scale is logarithmic so small changes make big ones). Mars is red though, so once found easily spotted. Use binoculars to confirm colour.

Home Selection Specialist
For all your flooring needs
Your local family owned & run flooring specialist
Supreme Carpets Ltd
SUPREME QUALITY & SERVICE


Guy Playford established Supreme Carpets over 35 years ago and is now joined by his son, Tom and daughter, Molly.

Carpets: 1000's of samples to choose from
Rugs: Traditional Persian & Chinese/Indian rugs
Vinyl, Natural Flooring & Luxury Vinyl Tiles
01485 542384 www.supreme-carpets.com
Visit our showroom: Foresters Hall, 49 Manor Road, Dersingham PE31 6LH Open: Mon-Fri: 10am-5pm Sat:10am-2pm

After Boxing Day, on the 27th at 11pm, Luna is between Tyr and Jove. On the 28th Selene is below Ares. I have mixed up cultures to give your brains some exercise after Christmas excesses.

Saturn remains in the sky, setting around 1am in the west. Early in the month, you can look for it from 6pm in the SSE or 8pm due south. As the month progresses scan the sky further right, so, at the end of the month, look due south at 6pm, SW at 8pm. Though a dim magnitude +0.7, it is the brightest object in that part of the sky. On the 17th a Quarter Moon joins the ringed planet though the latter of course is far, far, further away.



The dark skies of December are ideal to find and observe two star clusters, the Pleaides and the Hyades. Even my aged eyes can see the dim glow of the former and see the grouping of stars which is the Hyades. Binoculars held steady reveal them very well. In the middle of the month at 10pm they are both due south, the Pleiades high in the sky and the Hyades below them. Earlier in the month look a little towards the east, later towards the west. Similarly, earlier or later in the evening.

In the middle of the Hyades but not actually part of them is the bright orange star of Aldebaran. Classed as a red giant, Aldebaran is at half the distance of the Hyades open cluster which is 153 light years away. It consists of a rough sphere of hundreds of stars which are similar in age and moving together through space. We see the brighter stars which form a V, five of these have evolved into giant stars too. The Hyades are about 625 million years old.



Orion's belt points the way to the Hyades. Internet

The Pleiades, at 444 light years distance, are much further away than the Hyades but appear much brighter in the sky. Its stars are younger, just 100 million years old, and the 1000 stars are dominated by hot blue ones. They are moving through a dust cloud which reflect their light and glows. A pretty sight to add to celestial Christmas baubles. You may know the Pleiades by their Seven Sisters name. Seven stars were easily counted by the naked eye and still can be in the right skies.

The Sun, Moon, and all the planets follow the Ecliptic, a curved line across the sky beginning in the NE and ending in the SW, this line passes between the Hyades and Pleiades so all local heavenly bodies pass through this Golden Gate of the Ecliptic. The Moon, being close, sometimes appears to occult, cover, the gate and does so on the 21st at 11pm when it will pass in front of the Pleiades. The Golden Gate has been a feature of sky observations for over 4000 years.

Ephemera: Something I missed last month; Voyager 1 was one light day from Earth on Nov 18th; it is now further away. A light day means it takes light and the rest of the electromagnetic spectrum24 hours to travel, one way, at 186,000 miles/second or 330 million metres/second. It is roughly 16.1 billion miles or 25.9 billion km. Voyager 1 launched in 1977 and has spent just over 49 years in space. Its remaining instruments will keep functioning until the early 2030's and it will keep transmitting until 2036.



Voyager 1 under construction in the mid 1970's. NASA

The new mini moon acquired by Earth's gravity in April is now orbiting the Earth and will complete 1.5 revolutions before escaping in 2027. It will return in 10 years.

January 2027:

Happy New Year! On the 3rd January the Earth is at perihelion, as close to the Sun as it gets, a mere 147,000,000km away. Reflect on that if we are in a deep freeze.

The planets are ranking a little differently as the month progresses. Saturn is still visible but sets by 10pm whereas Jupiter rises earlier, at 7pm so is able to be observed well before bedtime. Get out big binoculars or small telescopes to watch the Galilean Moons dance.

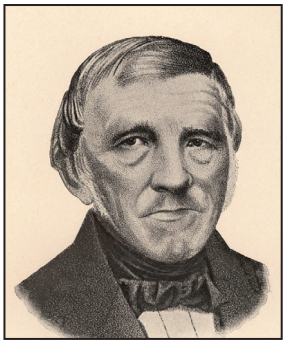
A telescope will reveal Neptune just below Saturn. It is dim, magnitude +7.8 and you will have better luck finding Uranus, magnitude +5,7, near the Pleiades.

At 11pm on the 23rd, Jupiter appears very close to the Moon. You won't mistake it as it shines with a magnitude of minus 2.5. Follow a line left and down to find the red dot of Mars. The red planet is brightening and shining with a magnitude of minus 0.6. It rises in the NE about 8pm so should be above trees and such by 10pm. On the 24th, again at 11pm, Mars will be close to the Moon, above and to the left.

Venus is a shing light before dawn. It as a magnitude of minus 4.5 and anyone up and about at 6am between 2nd and 4th will see the Crescent Moon close by.

Mercury puts in an appearance right at the end of the month, quite bright at a magnitude of minus 0.9, but very low down in the west after sunset. The beaches and cliffs provide possible vantage points but it all depends on cloud and haze towards Lincolnshire. Do not use optical instruments before the Sun has set.

I mention Mercury as, in the last week of January around 6pm, also low in the west and just to the upper right of the messenger of the gods, Encke's comet will appear. Though it has been brightening through the month it will still be dim and binoculars will be needed. Into February it will vanish into the glare of the Sun so there is a narrow window of observing opportunity.



Comet Enke is a periodic comet taking just 3.3 years to completely orbit the Sun. Named after the man who computed its orbit in 1819 it was the first periodic comet to be discovered after its more famous cousin, Halley's Comet. If you want to get a better look at it wait until June 30th, 2172, when it will skate past Earth just 15.3 million miles away.

The remains of an old comet or, perhaps, bits of a minor planet (lump of rock etc) will burn up in our atmosphere on the night of the 3rd/4th of January. It will be the annual Quadrantids meteor shower. A short one in the early hours so check the weather before staying up late.

And there is another supermoon on the 22nd. Just 644km km further away than last month's, you will not notice the difference. It will be bright!

That's all for this year and the start of next. I will return in February.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Terry Parish

ART: Trickery and the Macabre

Lesley Nadel

At first, we see beauty. Then something shifts. A shape emerges from the shadows, a face becomes a skull, and the image we thought we understood begins to unsettle us. In Charles Allan Gilbert's All is Vanity (1892), a seemingly romantic scene carries a reminder of death. The pleasure of looking gives way to a more uncomfortable recognition: life is fleeting. Yet we keep looking. Perhaps it is curiosity, perhaps fascination, or perhaps the wish to confront our fears from the safety of a painted world. When artists become tricksters, blurring the boundary between truth and illusion, they invite us beyond the surface. Beauty is no longer a refuge from mortality, decay and violence; it becomes the very thing that draws us towards them.

Follow that invitation into the past, and the darkness is already waiting. In medieval Europe, the experience of plague found expression in macabre images on the walls of chapels and halls and in the pages of illuminated manuscripts. Death was not merely an ending to be hidden away, but a presence to be contemplated. Moving into the Renaissance, we encounter the strange, troubled world of Hieronymus Bosch. In his triptych The Temptation of St Anthony (c.1500), ghost-like figures, demons and tortured souls crowd the scene. The eye wanders from one unsettling detail to another, caught between fascination and dread. Temptation and human vice take visible form, and looking becomes an uneasy journey through the lure of evil.

That uneasy journey continues into the art of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, where beauty can make the disturbing even more difficult to dismiss. William-Adolphe Bouguereau's pleasing images of youthful figures and angels offer little preparation for Dante and Virgil (1860). Inspired by Dante's Inferno, the painting draws us towards the beautifully rendered bodies of its fighters, only to confront us with the brutality of their struggle. The attraction and the horror are inseparable. With Salvador Dali, the encounter becomes more nightmarish still. In The Face of War, a disembodied head stands against a desert backdrop, its emaciated features and attacking serpents turning the scene into a vision of anguish. There is no comforting escape into beauty here. The image leaves us facing the ugliness of conflict and humanity's relentless return to it.

For some artists, mortality was more than a subject to imagine. Theodore Gericault's fascination led him to keep dismembered body parts in his studio; in Severed Heads, death appears in the stark form of decaying human remains. From there, the journey leads to a different kind of horror in Andy Warhol's Electric Chair. Based on a press photograph of the death chamber at Sing Sing State Penitentiary in New York, the work replaces the spectacle of flesh with the haunting presence of an instrument of execution. Against the controversy surrounding the American death penalty, the chair becomes a stark metaphor for death. We have travelled from a skull concealed within a romantic scene to a place where death needs no disguise. What holds these works together is not simply their power to shock, but the difficulty of turning away. They leave us with a question that lingers after the looking is over: are we drawn to the darkness and trickery in art because it is strange, or because we recognise something of ourselves within it?

If you are interested in learning more, the Arts Society North West Norfolk are hosting a talk by Ian Keable, a member of the Magic Circle and an accredited Arts Society lecturer, entitled "The Art of Trickery". He will share with us examples of the art of magic as depicted in art and cartoons. Sedgeford Village Hall, Monday 4th December 2027 at 2.00 pm. Ample parking.

Full details www.theartssocietynwnorfolk.org.uk

Want to be in next month's edition?

Have a local story, event, community update or something you'd like to share?

Send it to:
editor@townandaround.net

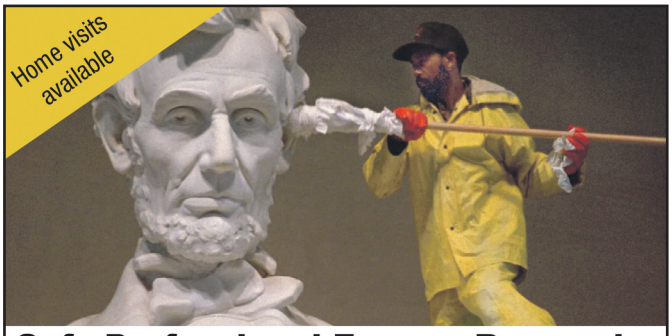
Copy deadline: **12th December**
for our first issue of 2027

Town & Around — Your Local Community Magazine

P.H.
Plumbing & Heating
Your local quick response plumber
Small jobs specialist
Taps replaced,
showers and leaks
Drains cleared
Toilets fixed
Gutters cleaned
Heacham and surrounding area
07855 902358

Julian The Pond Guy
Pond creation, servicing, renovation and refurbishment.
Filter system installation and servicing.
Pond planting. Water features.
One off or regular visits at agreed intervals.
Contact Julian Witton on
07798 835303 or
julian.witton@tiscali.co.uk

Gary Kite Computer Services
25 YEARS EXPERIENCE
Sales | Upgrades | Repairs | Home Calls for Tuition
Broadband Installations | General PC Maintenance
Tel: Gary on 07775 512 485 or 01485 544 606
gary@garykitecomputerservices.com



Safe Professional Earwax Removal...
for your appointment at The Drift Complementary Health Clinic, Station Rd, Heacham PE31 7DT or to book a home visit:
T: 01485 205085 or 07966 403517 E: bex.hearcare@gmail.com

Hospitals' Dark Legacy

Cllr Michael de Whalley

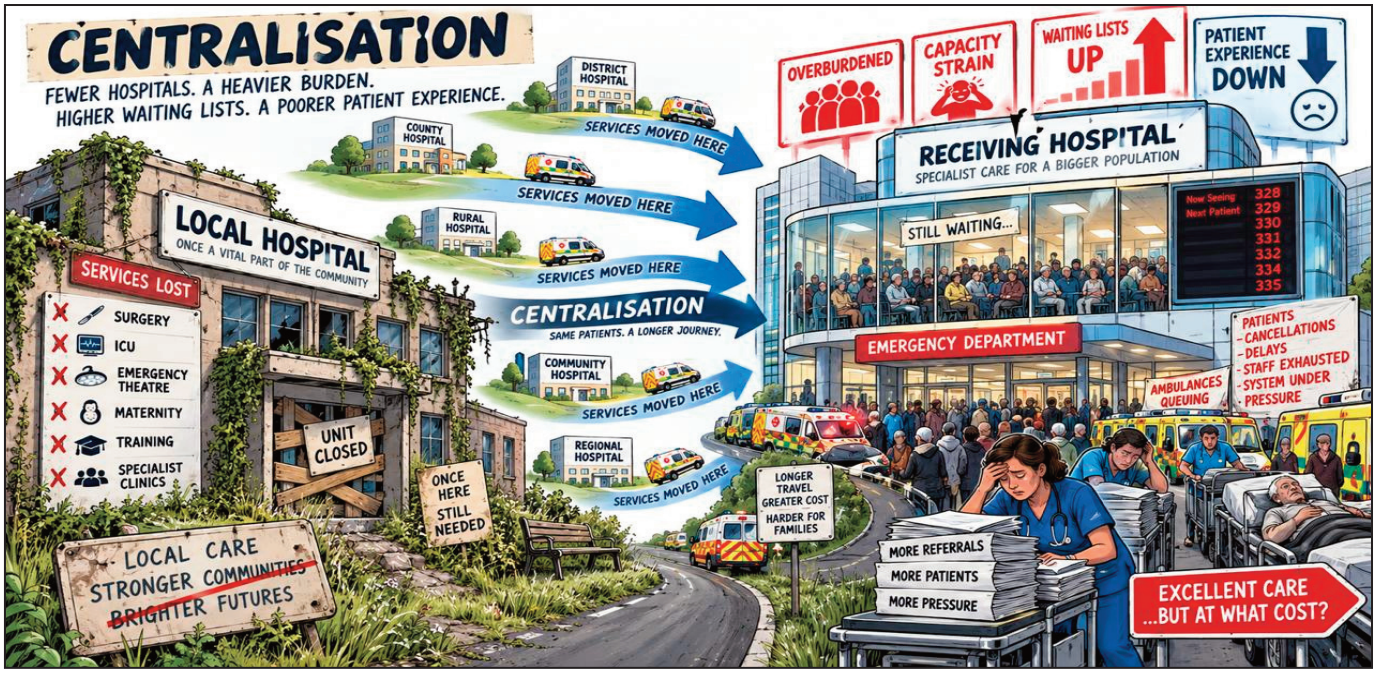
Once upon a time in West Norfolk there was a rather run-down hospital trying its very best to care for the good people of this fair land. The distant King, Lords and Ladies ruling the County decreed that such hospitals were really only good for treating bumps, bruises and splinters. Therefore, it was further decreed that in the future the people would get really great care only if they undertook long pilgrimages to wonder hospitals far to the South or the East. If they survived their quests for care and reached these near mythical centres of excellence, all would be well and they would return to their loved ones miraculously cured.

Ah, but as in most fairy tales there would be a twist, an unintended consequence, a downside. The run-down hospital continued to run down until it was unable to provide any good care at all. Its staff left, its equipment failed and only thousands of props held up its crumbling walls as a monument to the stupidity of the King and those Lords and Ladies.

Unfortunately, there is no happy ending. The wonder hospitals in the South and the East became overwhelmed by the additional burden of patients migrating to them from the run-down hospital and all the other run-down hospitals, as there were many of them the length of the land. So, the quality of care in the Great Addenbrookes and the nearly as great Norfolk and Norwich declined, until hospital care over the whole of the East Land imploded. This would become known as the great care lose-lose situation and was to hang across the land as a dark legacy for many years to come.

The End

Cllr Michael de Whalley.



Town&Around
Advertise with us
Get your business in front of thousands of local readers across West Norfolk
Book your advert for upcoming editions
Contact us today:
editor@townandaround.net
01485 540620

Fabrics Curtains Blinds
Christyana
OPEN
Tuesday to Friday
10am - 4pm
Saturday
10am - 2pm
BESPOKE CURTAINS, BLINDS AND ACCESSORIES



CURTAINS - ROMAN BLINDS - VERTICAL - ROLLER & VENETIAN
Showroom at | Poppyfields Retail Park, Snettisham
Contact Paula or Marcus
T: 01485 541111 • E: info@christyana.co.uk • www.christyana.co.uk

In the Limelight

Anna Hallard

The Theatre is ready for the festive Season! We have decked the halls, the tree is up and you will see the fairy godmother has been busy! She simply waved her magic wand and now we have a magical walkway in the foyer, come in a see for yourself and step into Christmas! The Panto Cast have been busy rehearsing behind the scenes with The Rollason Stage School students, and now Panto ready for opening weekend on 5th Dec.

The Box Office and Theatre Bar is open daily. Looking for a Christmas Gift inspiration? We sell Gift Vouchers and have plenty to choose from. Pop in for a winter warmer, mince pie, grab a copy of the new programme and make the Princess Theatre part of your Christmas shopping outing. Whilst you are out and about make sure you visit the Hunstanton Christmas Tree Festival at the Town Hall Fri 4th - Sunday 6th Dec. Every year our tree is entered, this year with a Cinderella Theme. Thank you to Jenny Chapman who enters the tree for the Theatre.

Every year, we are delighted to welcome schools and groups from across Norfolk and Suffolk to the Princess Theatre for our festive pantomime. We would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all the teachers, staff and group organisers who choose our theatre for their annual Christmas outing.

We know that many schools are keeping alive the wonderful tradition of 'The Christmas Treat', a special trip to the theatre to enjoy a pantomime.

Live theatre plays such a valuable role in children's education, introducing them to the magic of performance, the atmosphere of a theatre, its traditions and etiquette, and, of course, the joy of joining in with an interactive production.

For us, there's nothing quite like seeing the excitement on children's faces, hearing their laughter and watching them become completely immersed in the magic unfolding on stage. These are the moments that create lasting memories, and perhaps even inspire the next generation of performers and theatre lovers! Long may the tradition of the Christmas pantomime school trip continue!

We promised to reveal a few festive secrets from our Cinderella cast… and here they are!

Christmas is a time for family, friends, festive treats and those little traditions we look forward to every year. But have you ever wondered how our favourite pantomime characters celebrate the most wonderful time of the year?

Well, we thought we'd find out! And, as you might expect, their Christmas traditions are anything but ordinary…



Cinderella loves the magic of Christmas, decorating the tree, hanging her stocking and dreaming of a little festive romance. Although we hear she insists on leaving a glass slipper by the fireplace… just in case Prince Charming happens to pop down the chimney!

Why spend hours peeling potatoes, wrapping presents and preparing Christmas dinner when a simple wave of your wand will do? Our Fairy Godmother has Christmas all wrapped up! Although we do wonder whether her magic works on the washing-up afterwards…!



Poor Buttons! While everyone else is busy writing their Christmas lists, he has just one wish for Cinderella to finally notice him! He's even bought some mistletoe, practised his best dance moves and polished his shoes. Will this be the Christmas his dreams come true? **Oh, we do hope so!**

Cinderella – Saturday 5th December to Sunday 3rd January

We always delight with brilliant special effects, along with plenty of toe-tapping, musical numbers and dazzling dance routines!

The clock is ticking… book your seats and make a little panto magic part of your Christmas!

Plans are already in the making for next season, and we are delighted to share with you that the pantomime for 2027 will be Beauty and The Beast! Early Bird Ticket Sales will be open & available to book from 5th Dec 10am!

Last few seats remaining for Rick Wakeman – A Hint of Christmas | Sunday 13th December 2026, 8.00pm For one night only, legendary keyboard maestro Rick Wakeman brings his festive show A Hint of Christmas to the Princess Theatre, joined by special guests Mollie Marriott and Oliver Wakeman. Book now before the last few seats disappear!



Following a magical festive season, the Princess Theatre will be taking a short break, closing from Monday 4th January and reopening on Monday 18th January 2027.

But don't worry, there'll be no January blues at the Princess Theatre! We've got a fantastic line-up of entertainment to brighten those winter evenings, with legendary music, comedy and a fascinating night of true crime, Sat 23rd Jan – Showaddywaddy

Fri 29th Jan – Talon: The Best of Eagles – Busy Being Fabulous

Sat 30th Jan – Jim Davidson

Sun 31st Jan – The Making of a Murderer: Fatal Mistake with Donal MacIntyre.

Finally, as the year draws to a close, if you find a quiet moment to reflect on your visits to the Princess Theatre, we would be absolutely delighted if you could leave us a lovely review online. Our wonderful team of staff and volunteers work incredibly hard throughout the year, to make every visit to our little theatre a special one. So, if you've enjoyed a show, made some happy memories or simply have something nice to say about us, why not give us the gift of a glowing review this Christmas? Your kind words mean the world to us and would certainly make our year!

And on that note, from all of us here at the Princess Theatre, Hunstanton, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Thank you for your continued support of our little theatre with BIG shows. We look forward to welcoming you back in 2027!

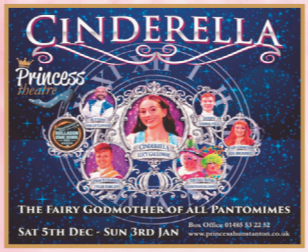
Festive Sparkles - Anna H ***All images Ian Burt***


CINDERELLA
MEET THE CAST
BUTTONS
SAM LITTLEWOOD
CINDERELLA
LUCY GALLOWAY
DANDINI
THOMAS FAGE
FAIRY GODMOTHER
JESS BROADBENT
PRINCE CHARMING
TYLER SARGENT
THE UGLY SISTERS
JOSH REETIE & MICHAEL DIAMOND
The Fairy Godmother of All Pantomimes
The clock is ticking, so book your tickets now before it's too late!
YOU'LL HAVE A BALL AT HUNSTANTON'S PANTOMIME!
Princess theatre
Silver Ticket Prices
Adult £23.00
Chil/Conc £21.00
Family 3 £57.50
Family 4 £73.50
Gold Ticket Prices
Adult £24.50
Chil/Conc £23.00
Family 3 £62.50
Family 4 £80.50
From 5th December until January 3rd 2027
Opening Weekend All Tickets £19.00.
For Group or School Bookings - please contact the Box Office directly.
BOX OFFICE: OPEN
10AM - 4PM 01485 532252
WWW.PRINCESSHUNSTANTON.CO.UK

DEC - JAN
WHAT'S ON
AT THE PRINCESS THEATRE

Princess theatre

Book your seats and support your local Theatre



FROM 5 DEC

CINDERELLA FAMILY PANTO
Various Times

A magical pantomime for the whole family



SUN 13 DEC

RICK WAKEMAN A HINT OF CHRISTMAS 8PM

With special guests Oliver Wakeman and Mollie Marriott.



SAT 23 Jan

SHOWADDYWADDY LIVE 7.30PM

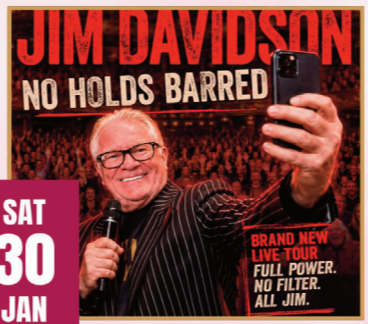
So come and join the 'Dancin' Party'... 'You've Got What It Takes'

THE GIFT OF THEATRE

PRINCESS THEATRE GIFT VOUCHERS MAKE THE PERFECT PRESENT FOR THEATRE LOVERS. AVAILABLE FROM THE BOX OFFICE 01485 532252



FRI 29 JAN



SAT 30 JAN



SUN 31 JAN

Book to experience some great shows or come along to sip and savour a beautiful view or catch a sunny hunny sunset!

Live Music, Concerts, Tributes, Ballet, Musicals and More!

Sunset Wine Bar
Open 7 days a week.

Box Office:
Open 10-4pm / 10-8pm on show days.

www.princeshunstanton.co.uk