

TOWN and AROUND



NEWS FROM
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FREE

ISSUE 183 JANUARY 2021

PRICELESS!

THE GREAT OUTDOORS: Sport, gardening, farming, nature and wildlife
LOCAL NEWS: Business, jobs, schools, clubs, council, civic and churches
FEATURES: A Page from the Sage, Lifeboats, Money Matters and more...

First word

Happy New Year! What a roller coaster 2020 was and while every New Year brings fresh optimism, this year those resolutions I make to see friends and family every year I truly intend to keep in what I hope will be a much better 2021.

So, this is the first magazine of the year and it is filled with stories of hope, joy, hard work, generosity, success and much more.

The first thing to be joyful about is the lengthening days although the Met Office is predicting an icy blast from the north which may well blow in some snow.

If you are intending to work off those extra pounds after Christmas there's an offer on golf club membership on this page, details of some super walks on page 36 and personal training with Sarah on page 35.

Thank you to everyone who has supplied articles, information and letters. In particular I would draw your attention to Dr David Ince's health update on page 18.

Thanks also to our advertisers, without whom we could not print the magazine and distribute it all over north west Norfolk.

It has been a tough time for us all and especially the hospitality and entertainment sectors that make up a significant part of our local economy but once again our corner of Norfolk led the way with a socially distanced pantomime at the Princess - congratulations Brian, Gemma and the entire Princess Theatre team.



With best wishes for 2021

Elaine

Elaine Bird, Editor,
Town and Around

The Perches, 18 Tapping Close, Snettisham PE31 7FF

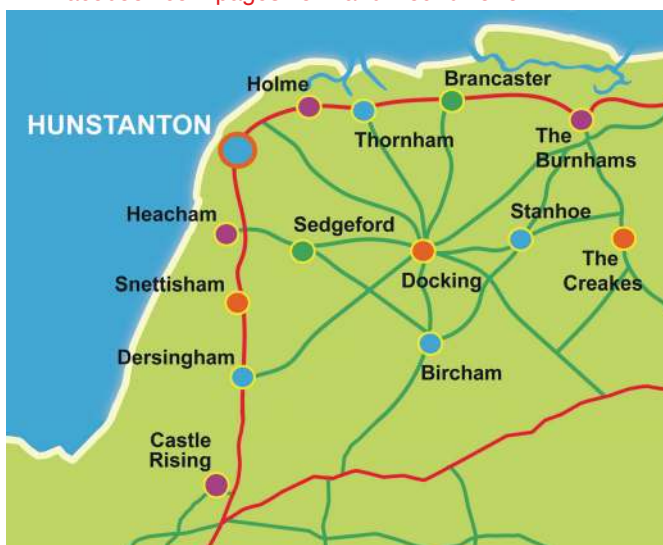
T: 01485 540620 M:07533 088196 E: editor@townandaround.net

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Pride in our Neighbourhood - 52

Cllr Andrew Murray

In July 2013, Hunstanton's previous Town Clerk, Lisa Powell requested permission from the Borough to produce a Neighbourhood Plan covering the whole of the parish and that request was granted in March 2014. This series of articles was commenced later that year in order to bring planning issues to the attention of a wider audience. The production of the Hunstanton Neighbourhood Development Plan (HNDP) has proved to be quite a long complex process. We are now ready for it to be submitted again to the Borough who will send it on to an independent examiner and it might require a little modification before it can go to a referendum. It is hoped that the referendum can be held in May 2021 and if more than 50% of those voting agree, the plan can be 'made' and will become the key to what development can take place in the town.

The Planning Committee of the Borough Council considered two planning applications on 7 December that have significant implications for the town. The first application was to build 32 apartments along Southend Road and on the southern part of the car park. This site was identified on the Hunstanton Town Centre and Southern Seafront Masterplan of 2008 as being an Opportunity Site and envisaged building along Southend Road to provide active retail frontages at street level with residential units above with perhaps the loss of 20 car park spaces. The actual application 20/00811/FM to provide 32 apartments extended around the corner into Seagate and around into Beach Terrace Road and would involve the loss of 100 and possibly more car park spaces.

Although during office hours there are four buses each hour going toward King's Lynn, the provision of public transport for those wishing to go inland or along the coast is not good or for those needing to travel to or from work early in the morning or in the evening.

Recently applications have been permitted to build apartments on both the former Witley Press site and the former Kit Kat site providing only single parking spaces for each apartment on the basis that the sites are close to the town centre facilities and the town has good system of public transport. A similar contention was made for the Southend Road scheme. When judged by the standards recommended by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the local policy Development Management Policy DM17, there was a shortfall of 22 spaces.

The 2008 Masterplan for regeneration was under pinned by five visions for the town: -

1. It should be an Active Town -expanding the existing water sports and activities offer;
2. A Local Town – meeting the needs of its residents with an expanded retail core;
3. A more attractive seaside destination -where visitors stay longer and spend more;
4. A town that respects its heritage whilst looking to the future;
5. An environmental town – making the most of the town's natural assets.

Objections were raised because the Borough's application to develop Southend Road does not fulfil any of the aspects of that vision and therefore cannot be considered as a part of the regeneration aspirations. It does not expand the water sports or other activities;

It does not expand the retail core;

It does not make it a more attractive destination – unless you consider that obscuring the rear of the Azams building makes it qualify;

It does not respect the heritage- it seems ironic that the ground was part of the railway line that once connected Hunstanton with King's Lynn but sadly closed in 1969;

The provision of a few photovoltaic panels on some roofs only pays lip service to the environment.

Despite the Borough being in line to receive a large government grant in the scheme for the local authority accelerated construction (LAAC) and the planning officers support, the members of the planning committee took notice of the views of local businesses and



Andrew Murray

decided not approve the application by 9 votes to 6.

The second application considered on 7 December 20/00817/FM was approved. It involves the loss of the bus station and re-provision of the library and public toilets and building 47 apartments also aided by the LAAC scheme.

There is a similar poor provision of parking spaces. Concern was expressed about the likely increase in congestion and pollution along St Edmund's Terrace and the danger to pedestrians and cyclists in that area where new bus stops are to be created.

As a direct result of losing the bus station, the bus routes will alter. Buses from King's Lynn that are not continuing along the coast will continue northwards from Southend Road, go along Le Strange Terrace before turning up to pass The Green and then turn right into St. Edmund's Terrace. During the summer the fairly constant stream of pedestrians crossing between Azams and the sea front to Cassies (now number 21) and the town, holds up the traffic flow and will delay the bus service. There is a need for the present Zebra crossing to be upgraded to a Pelican or Puffin to regulate the flow of both traffic and pedestrians and the developers should meet the cost of that.

It was judged by the planning officers that the HNDP was not at a sufficiently advanced stage for it to be a consideration in those two applications. Although the town council decided that the plan would focus on the type and quality of housing, the plan does contain policies that might have ameliorated these two schemes. Policy J1 requires each development proposal to demonstrate that it enhances the places in which people live their lives, work or visit, or it supports the sustainability of the town and its amenities. Policy K7 states that proposals not meeting parking standards will not be supported because Hunstanton is a very rural area being 16 miles from the nearest town and it currently has very limited public transport links. Policy K11 would restrict sale of the apartments to those people who wished to use them as their principal residence. Whilst Policy L6 states that development of car parking areas for other uses will not be supported unless a) it can be demonstrated that retention of car park spaces is not essential or b) alternative provision is made to ensure no overall loss of parking capacity in key areas for commerce or c) where is exceptional circumstances it can be clearly demonstrated that the development will be of significant social and/or economic benefit to the town.

The latest version 8.7.0 of the HNDP can be found on the websites of the Town Council and the Civic Society. www.hunstantontowncouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan.html or www.hunstantoncivic.org.uk/latest%20news/neighbourhood%20plan%208-7-0.pdf

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Update dated December 1st 2020

Further to the October and November 2020 meetings with Borough Councillor Elizabeth Nockolds, Norfolk County Councillor Andrew Jamieson, Borough Councillor Carol Bower and Borough Councillor Paul Beal, the Action Group of the Hunstanton and District Civic Society requested a meeting with James Wild, our local MP.

This meeting took place, via Zoom, on Monday November 30th 2020.

Present at the meeting were James Wild, MP, Borough Councillor Carol Bower, Maureen Matthews, a resident of Hunstanton and the five members of the HDCS Action Group – Amanda Bosworth, John Bridger, Yvonne Bridger, Stephen Kent and Sheila Kent. Borough Councillor Paul Beal was unable to attend the meeting but is very supportive of the Action Group's efforts on behalf of the Hunstanton business community.

Documents and evidence relating to the case for the reinstatement of a TIC facility in Hunstanton had been sent to James prior to the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to focus on asking one very precise question – that of asking James if he would review the evidence of the case for the reinstatement of a TIC facility in Hunstanton and liaise with Elizabeth Nockolds and Andrew Jamieson with a view to finding

a staffed solution for a TIC facility ready for the start of the tourist season 2020/2021 – i.e. by March 2021.

James said that it was unfortunate that there had been a lack of consultation on the sudden closure of the TIC and that he has already been in discussions with Elizabeth Nockolds and Andrew Jamieson.

James had taken note of all the evidence the Action Group had gathered since June 2020 and was mindful of all options being discussed and agreed to follow up with Elizabeth Nockolds and Andrew Jamieson in support of a staffed solution.

James also understood that time is of the essence if we are to rectify the current situation and is aware that businesses, tourists and visitors feel strongly it is important for Hunstanton to have manned TIC services available in the town, once a workable solution can be found.

We were – and are – very appreciative of James' time and support for a manned tourist facility for Hunstanton and for his understanding of the need for a manned tourist facility in the town for the benefit of businesses, residents and visitors alike.

We now look forward to the next stage.

We will keep you all posted via Town and Around and other forms of media.

Happy New Year!

Carl's labour of love brings joy to the hearts of many

Retired Lincolnshire farmers Carl and Anita Clayton have lived in Hunstanton for seven years and for the last five a Christmas star in their Princess Drive garden has been visible at the top of Redgate Hill.

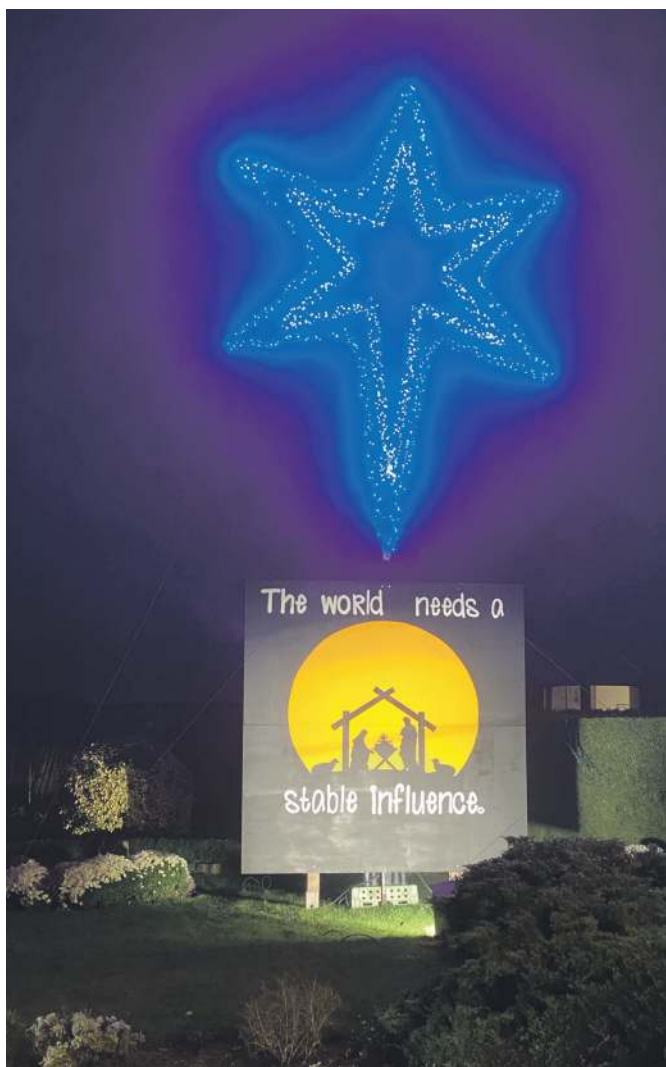
Carl always had plans for a different display this year as the boards he'd been using had, as he says, "become rather tatty."

Putting up the display that will withstand the wind and weather requires planning and a lot of help from his friends, especially since Carl suffers from ME and can only do a little bit each day. "With a project like this that I can plan and look forward to really helps my mental health," he said. "We had lights at the farm in Fosdyke and I wanted to continue the tradition here; though when we moved to the bungalow I hadn't realised the potential for a display like this."

T&A asked Carl and Anita about this year's design and it turns out that it had come from friends on the other side of the world. "Our friends Andrew and Carrie Goff who moved to Melbourne posted this image on Facebook," said Anita, "and as soon as we saw it we knew that was it."

Stepping up to the construction challenge were neighbours Derek, Mick, Peter and Mervyn who had to wait until Lockdown 2 ended before they were able to get started at the beginning of the month.

"I couldn't do this without my friends and neighbours, they are fantastic and I am very privileged to be in a position to do this; I can't thank them enough," Carl added.





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Eighteen businesses at The Granary

Angie Raines took over the Snettisham site in 2011 and now a total of eighteen businesses operate from the Granary that is best described as a retail oasis.



After a month's lockdown, The Granary in Snettisham re-opened its doors on 2nd December.

The product range is vast with each specialist business adding something different to the mix and making every visit interesting. Everything from gifts and house signs to handbags and hats to paint fill the ground floor along with a café serving food from 10am to 4pm every day.



Upstairs is full of antiques, vintage, retro and collectables. An episode of the TV programme Antiques Roadshow included a visit to the Granary which helped put the antiques side of the enterprise on the collectors map.



"I suppose I took over the Granary on a whim," said Angie.

"I had been in catering for about nine years and had operate the café at Park Farm, then I saw this place advertised and asked my sister out for a coffee here; when we arrived she asked what it was all about and when I told her I wanted to take it on she thought I was mad and here I am almost a decade later with my daughter Carol, and granddaughter Kelly in the business too."



Like every non-essential business Angie had to close down during both lockdowns but her innovative approach led to the development of a take away business that included pasties, quiches and cream teas.

"I was pleasantly surprised," she said, "we started taking out food to some of our older customers realising that they were isolating and might be in need of a treat, but then people started ordering and we even had one order placed from New Zealand for a relative in the village."

"We also had a very popular Saturday mini market outside with food and charity books during the first lockdown, but this time round it's been a bit too cold for that although we have been doing the takeaways."

"We have been supporting the CLIC Sergeant Charity for many years and have raised a £26,786 so far from special events and the sale of second hand books."

Employing ten people in the café Angie said she was grateful for the financial assistance from the Government during the pandemic, especially the furlough scheme, as she has been able to secure the staffs' futures rather than make them redundant.

When asked about future plans Angie said: "It is really difficult to plan at all at the moment as we don't know if there will be a third lockdown early next year, it's really a case of doing what we can and business as usual, I'm just glad we can open today and people can be assured we are Covid-compliant – we follow all the rules to the letter."



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HDFA 'Christmas Tree Forest' brings some much-needed cheer to Hunstanton!

Situated on Hunstanton's Upper Green, the 'Christmas Tree Forest' is an outdoor installation consisting of seven wooden Christmas trees made out of recycled wooden pallets, festooned with hundreds of wooden Christmas baubles, decorated by hand by local schools and community groups.

The project, spearheaded by the HDFA, was put together with the help of Men's Shed Hunstanton who designed and constructed the wooden trees, and it's hoped it will bring some Christmas cheer to local residents who can come and view the 'forest' all through December.

HDFA Festival Director Stephen Hayter said "We're delighted to be able to bring our local community groups together to make this new project happen. Men's Shed have done a wonderful job constructing the trees and big thanks go to the children at Hunstanton Primary and Heacham Junior Schools for their enthusiastic efforts in decorating the wooden baubles for the trees.

"We should also thank the HDFA team - Dawn, Christine, Ann & Verity - for their hard work and dedication in making this project a success and who knows, this could be the start of a brand new tradition for Hunstanton in the coming years."

The HDFA is dedicated to bringing the arts to Hunstanton and is responsible for the Music Festival on the Green, the 3-day event of



Verity Jowett (at front) & Christine Earnshaw are with members of the Men's Shed

One Act Plays, monthly craft fairs, the annual Christmas Tree Festival and other one-off events during the year. Find out what's being planned for 2021 at www.festival3.com

Gifts pour in to the Mayor's Christmas Appeal

The generosity of the people has been amazing with gifts arriving in to the Town Hall almost every day.

The Mayor Cllr Tony Bishopp said "I am overwhelmed by the generosity of the people both local, from surrounding villages and as far as Derbyshire who have given donations, the appeal has had an amazing response.

"Putting a smile on a little one's face at Christmas is one of the best things a person could do and so I urge as many people as possible to get involved.

"The level of need this year is so much greater due to COVID-19 and if ever there was a time to help, 2020 is it.

"Many people are struggling due to a loss of income and a challenging job market. Your donation will help to make sure those in need have presents under the tree this Christmas.

"For the many vulnerable young people and families experiencing hardship, the giving and receiving of gifts will be an unaffordable luxury without our help."

Cllr Maureen Howard, Chairman of the Community Engagement working panel stated "Together we can make this Christmas a memorable one for so many in our community and thanks to your generous donations many will now receive a Christmas gift this year.

"Every child deserves to have a special Christmas and these gifts will make a huge difference to those who receive them.

"Any donation is welcome and we are now particularly looking for gifts of toiletries for both male & female and presents for babies, toddlers and teenagers.

"This Christmas, there'll be even more families than usual finding it hard to afford gifts for the Christmas tree or stockings, so I ask people who can help to please do so."



From left: Jan Roomes, Town Clerk, Mayor of Hunstanton Cllr Tony Bishopp, Chairman of Community Engagement Cllr Maureen Howard

More than 350 gifts of new toys, clothes and toiletries have been kindly bought and donated over the last 2 weeks and will be shared to local charitable groups in the lead-up to Christmas.

The Mayor gave thanks also to those who

have kindly donated to the Mayors Go Fund Me campaign with the current total received standing at £660 saying, "Thank you to you all for your generosity – you've been outstanding!"

Raised Bed on The Upper Green

Hunstanton Town Council congratulates HDFA for its Christmas Tree Forest which they have created on the raised flowerbed on The Green. It is good to see a number of groups of all ages from our community working together.

The raised bed is managed by Hunstanton Town Council. If any other organisations or groups within the town would like to produce a display on the bed, please contact the Town Clerk with details for consideration by the town councillors. It would be good if any projects for Spring and Summer could include some plants. Since the Town Council took over the management of the raised bed from the Borough Council displays have included the Centenary of the End of World War 1, the 50th Anniversary of the Moon Landing, and Thanks to NHS, Emergency Services and All Key Workers.

Hunstanton Town Clerk, Mrs Jan Roomes

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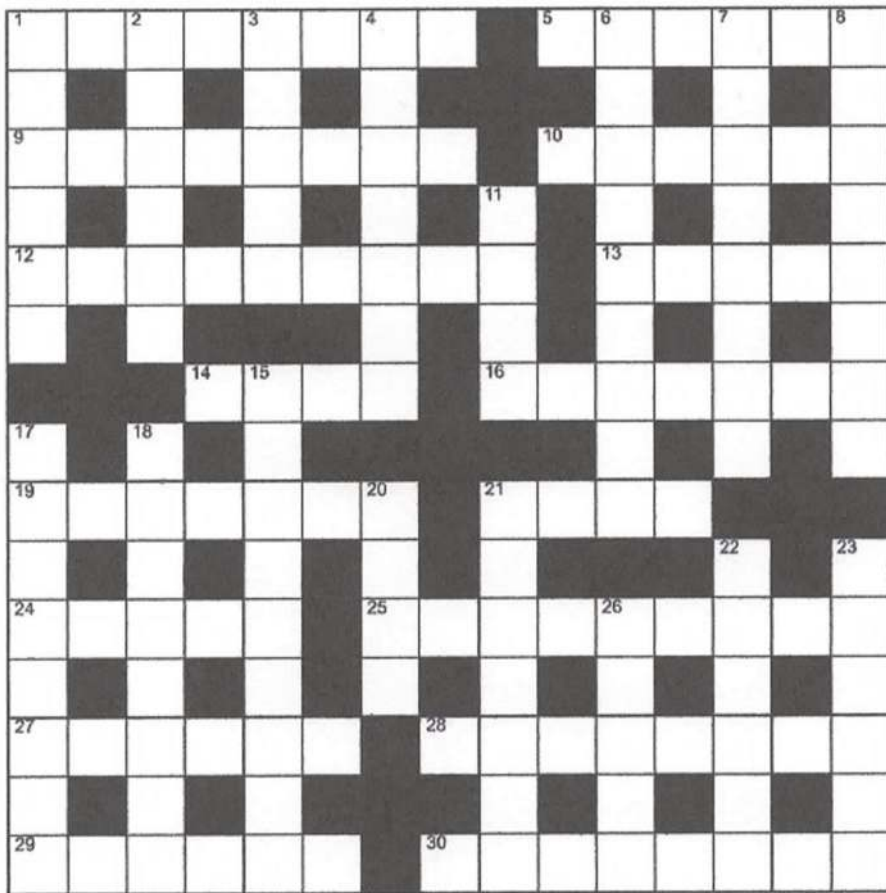
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We would like to thank you all for your continued support during what has been a very challenging time for everyone and we wish you all the best for 2021 !

David Elsey's Cryptic Crossword



Crossword solution on page 22

Crossword Clues Across

1. A loan to invest in estate, say, will be useful for the year ahead (8)
5. Rail against opening of singles bars (6)
9. Adverse reaction to the cat? (8)
10. Pusher rejects joint, being a stable person (6)
12. All finish exercise, getting quite stiff (9)
13. American writer sounds too old (5)
14. Celebrate return of working in pairs (4)
16. Ran through vocal with tenor (7)
19. Last offer? (4,3)
21. Graduates after hard knock (4)
24. Must we emulate 3 to get answer? Not exactly (5)
25. I created a dress to finish off (9)
27. Stumbles over one during fight (6)
28. They make suitable changes to Pat's bread, sacrificing first batch (8)
29. It beats boxing giants (6)
30. Coloured fish only seen at depth (8)

Crossword Clues Down

1. Being allowed to enter Civil Service, stays (6)
2. Hairdresser to the cabinet? (6)
3. Trumpeter abandoned circus, silly thing (5)
4. Men on board company needed banks to clear out (7)
6. Credit arrangement of manageable sessions (4,5)
7. In the wrong place with bull just about to be let loose (8)
8. Piece of music composed in a day (8)
11. Barmy theory has no foundation (4)
15. Love helping after pantomime (9)
17. Close to lodge that is sturdily built (8)
18. Prepare a table to eat with Cassandra (8)
20. Tie excites both sides supporters (4)
21. It might be weak, causing bishop to run (7)
22. Heed opposing tricksters who quickly move from one side to the other (6)
23. Picked up daughter after hearing (6)
26. Just doesn't begin to get intimate (5)

Ray Butchers Su Doku

Easy first...

...then the more challenging

The money health problem – Improving your financial future

When we have an issue with the electrics in our house, we seek out a professional - we trust that they know what they are doing. We accept that we are only human, and while we each know our own jobs well, an electrician is the safest option to look after the 'health' of our house in this situation.

If you knew how a lightbulb worked; would you re-wire the electrics in your house on your own? Or would you say to yourself it's too dangerous, that you could easily miss something and hurt yourself or others? That you "don't know what you don't know", so you entrust this task to someone who specialises in the area.

The answers above seem obvious, don't they?

Now, how about we change the subject we're talking about to your finances?

You're a little uncomfortable already aren't you?

This is where the problem lies for most, we are content to speak to a specialist and trust in them to do the job well when it comes to most things; the electrician above, a solicitor for buying a house, a doctor for our personal health. But when it comes to finances, lots of us think we can muddle through it ourselves; we know a little and that will do.

Our financial well-being is ignored, we go each year missing out on tax benefits we don't know about, paying for services we don't need or understand, being exposed to large risks which will affect our family poorly, and the list goes on. We pull one lever, thinking it's better to do something rather than nothing, and we suffer the unintended consequences down the line.

So now that we know the problem - what is the solution? Which profession is it that looks after people's financial health, and what do they even do exactly?

A good financial advisor will know not just where and how to invest your money, but when and for what reason. They will evaluate your circumstances, tailor your investment plan to your circumstances, factor in the flexibility you need for the future, and keep your plan on

track with the wider picture. The really good ones will tailor your tax, investment and lifestyle plan to your situation, they will recommend the solutions which are in your best interests even if they aren't in their's. They will know about wills, tax, powers of attorney, insurance, ISA's, pensions and beyond.

This year has brought finances into a new light for a lot of people, perhaps you're already thinking differently than you did last year. How far reaching are the effects of this year going to extend into your financial future? Uncertain financial times need an advisor you can be confident in, an advisor who can help you look at and understand your financial health.

What do you need to look for to know you can trust your financial advisor? An absolute must is to check they are registered with and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (the FCA). An essential for most people is that your advisor is 'Independent'; which means the firm doesn't restrict itself to certain providers, and instead searches the whole market on an ongoing basis to provide the best fit for their client's circumstances.

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A Page from the Sage

Hi there, it's the Boy Dick again (The Sage) writing in the Town and Around for the month of January 2021.

Game

This is a little write up that I found in a very old book about poaching and the taking of game. The county of Norfolk suffered for many years from the unlawful taking of game by gangs going out in the night. It was advertised on the 12th November 1790 that any person giving any information against any higgler, carrier, inn keeper or any other person who possessed or offered for sale any hare, pheasant, or partridge would be entitled to a twenty pounds reward over and above that allowed by Parliament, a reward of five pounds above that allowed by Parliament would be paid upon information against any person or persons who took in the night any hares, pheasant, partridge, turkeys, geese ducks or any other poultry.

Licensed Trade

As most of you know I worked in the pub trade for many years so when a chap phoned me up and asked me about the law for a pub being called a public house I thought I would look into it.

Rule one - is open to the public without membership or residency.

Rule two - serves draught beer or cider without requiring food to be consumed on the premises.

Rule three- at least one indoor area not laid out for meals.

Rule four - allows drinks to be bought at a bar (not just table service) this is the CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale) definition. Today public houses have no definition.

All public houses at one time had to have the licensee live on the premises. Places like the Three in One (Waterside) and the Harlequin were classed as lock up bars, not public houses, and the landlord did not have to live on the premises. All public houses had to stay open all the year round every night but then a new law was brought in to say some licenced premises like the Three in One could shut down for the winter months as there was no trade.

When I was a teenager the Albert Victor public house at Dersingham was in the Freebridge licence area like all the other pubs in the village it had to close at ten o'clock at night whereas The Ship Inn at Ingoldisthorpe was in the Docking licence area (Smithdon and Brothecross), so they kept open till ten thirty at night, so us lads from the Dersingham pubs would get on our motor bikes and go down the Ship for another pint or two.

When I first worked at the Kit-Kat we had a very old licence that had been transferred from the Buck at Sedgford that had been closed down. This allowed the Kit-Kat to

by
Dick Melton
01485 535658

open at five thirty in the evening. As all the other pubs in the town had to open at six, the Kit-Kat was, and has always been, the only true public house in Hunstanton as all the other licenced premises where ether bars, hotels or clubs. At one time there were plans to build a public house near the fairground but it never came about, if it had done the owners were going to call it the Showmen's Arms.

In 1971 Watney Mann were running eight breweries and they owned nearly six thousand public houses throughout the United Kingdom.

The wallet guide to Hunstanton

I have a small book that a good friend of mine gave me many years ago, it is called the Wallet guide to Hunstanton, it was printed in 1925 by the Daily News and it has in it a lot of interesting bits about Hunstanton.

The Pier: a fine promenade some 800 feet in length, it has a commodious concert pavilion, refreshment kiosk, and well sheltered seats, accommodation is provided for deep sea bathing.

Theatre: theatre goers can enjoy productions by well-known London companies during the summer season, at the Town Hall Theatre.

The lounge is situated on the Esplanade, is visited by talented concert parties dancing frequent dinner dances at some of the hotels and are open to non-residents.

Tennis: there are twelve excellent grass courts on the Recreation Ground, the Hunstanton Tennis tournament in August attracts many well-known players. An en-tout-cas court* has been laid out close to the promenade (Waterside car park).

Bowls: devotees of this game may become short term members of either of the two clubs situated on the Recreation Ground.

Putting greens: an excellent putting green of eighteen holes is provided in the Esplanade Gardens, and there is another course situated amidst the bungalows on the South Beach.

Croquet club: this Hunstanton Croquet Club has several well-kept greens on the Hunstanton Recreation Ground.

Fishing provision is made for the angler from



the pier and good sport can also be obtained from a row boat, plaice, dabs, whiting and mackerel are fairly plentiful and tope weighing up to 30lbs are frequently caught.

Boating is perfectly safe, and sailing boats or motor launches may be hired by the visitor for sea trips.

Seal hunting: it is perhaps little known that the Wash is swarming with seals so much so that they are becoming a pest owing to the large amount of fish they consume and a reward is offered for each one destroyed, large numbers of seals can be seen on a warm day sunning themselves on the sand banks which lie some five or six miles from the coast, and are uncovered by the outgoing tide, the seal is very difficult to approach, at the slightest hint of danger makes for the water where it dives out of sight.

The shooting of seals should have been made illegal a long while before this but it was not. In around about nineteen sixty four or five a was going to work on my motor bike to Luton Marsh and when I got to the iron bridge at Sutton Bridge the traffic had slowed up as everybody was looking down river where three small fishing boats that had been out in the Wash shooting seals had been set on fire; not long after this a law was brought in to stop the shooting of seals in the British Isles.

Roberts Temperance Hotel



I was asked what I know about the Temperance Hotel. It was built sometime in the late 1860s, situated on the south side of what was in those days called Gingle Pit Road (once the Westgate Hotel now the Richmond B&B and restaurant). You can get to the back of it by going up Chapel Lane; it has a large courtyard where the stables used to be after

the railway came to Hunstanton in 1862 then all the building started in a big way.

The first street to be built was Le Strange Terrace though it was not until 1875 that the Sandringham Hotel was built by the Great Eastern Railway Company in Le Strange Terrace (it was demolished in 1967 and Harlequin House was built on the site in 1984), at the same time as the Temperance Hotel was built. As was the Post Office, nearly next door in Westgate. The Post Office was not moved up into the High Street until 1899.

After the railway came in 1862 a lot of building was done in Sand Pit Road (now Southend Road) three lots of terraced houses were built, Roseneath Terrace, Marine Terrace, Albion Terrace. These houses were built for the people that worked on the railway, the Station Master's house was built at the junction of Southend Road and Westgate so you can see that in the 1860s and till about 1888 Le Strange Terrace and Westgate were the hub of the town. In 1886 the present High Street was a small by-road with cottages on the east side only, it was not called the High Street until after 1890.

Whales

Around the end of November 2020 there was a sperm whale (dead) washed up off Snettisham beach, it later got washed by the tide further out into the Wash.

We have over the years had many whales washed up in and around the Wash; the problem is how to dispose of the dead whales' carcasses. Years back when a dead whale was washed up the local people would cut it up, take the blubber home and put it through a wringer or mangle; there would be a tub under the mangle to catch the oil as it was squeezed out of the blubber then this oil was used in their oil lamps.

I read in a report that in 1933 a dead sperm whale was washed up on the beach near the Kit-Kat. Within 24 hours most of it was cut up and taken away by the local people but the report did not say what it was used for. Some people would take the whale's rib bones and use them as ornamental arches in their gardens, there was at one time an arch made from two whale bones in the garden at the back of Hunstanton Hall.

On or around February 16th 2016, six sperm whales were washed up on Hunstanton and Old Hunstanton beach. Sadly they all died despite efforts by many people to get them back into the sea. Their carcasses were then cut up, taken away and put in landfill, at the same time three more dead whales were washed up on the beach at Skegness.

I remember a few years back a dead sperm whale carcass was washed up on Heacham beach it was towed out to sea and it then ended up on Terrington Marshes.

Well that's about the lot for this month, I wish you all a happy New Year and let's hope it is better than the last one, so just keep on a troshin' and eat plenty of mussels - they are good for you.

All the very best to you all

The Sage Sunny Hunny

*Note: An en-tout-cas court is the oldest and best known of all artificial tennis court surfaces.

Double Awards Joy For Prince William's Local!

SNETTISHAM PUB LANDLORDS SCOOP TOP SPOT IN THE UK

Jeannette and Anthony Goodrich, landlady and landlord of The Rose & Crown, Snettisham are named Licensees of the Year 2021 by The Good Pub Guide. As well as this incredible accolade, their pub, The Rose & Crown in Snettisham has also been named Norfolk Dining Pub of the Year 2021.

The new edition of The Good Pub Guide 2021 has named Jeannette and Anthony Goodrich, licensees of the Year. The Editors of the Guide praised their continuing enthusiasm, innovative thinking and care and appreciation of its local customers.

Despite a rollercoaster of a year, and a seemingly endless succession of new rules and openings and closings, Jeannette and Anthony have managed to remain positive.

Says Anthony "We had a cracking summer once we had reopened on 4th July, with a real feeling of how much people enjoy being out and in the company of others, even if not sitting at the same table.

The second, November, lockdown came as a disappointment, as was Norfolk being categorised as Tier 2 for our reopening on 2nd December. However the outlook is encouraging with lots of bookings coming through, for both dining and accommodation, and we hope that 2021 will see a real bounce back for ourselves and all the other pubs that have been through such a difficult time."

Covered in roses and looking on to the cricket pitch, (whose cricket team it sponsors), The Rose & Crown is a quintessentially English village inn with a staunch group of regular local customers, as well as many regular customers from further afield, who come for the welcoming, convivial ambiance, outstanding food, excellent beers and friendly staff, and all of whom contribute to The Rose & Crown's inimitable character.

Says Jeannette of the latest re-opening "We are going full tilt into the Christmas season with the lights and decorations sparkling, the fires burning, candles lit, mulled wine on tap and home made Christmas puddings and mince pies on sale in Dave's Bakery. This is the year of small but extra special celebrations, and we will shortly be serving Christmas meals for both diners and takeaways."

The Rose & Crown has also been named Norfolk Dining Pub of the Year 2021 by The Good Pub Guide, the second year running that it has held this award. Says Anthony "We greatly value our staff, both in the kitchen and front of house, who take such a pride in the business, and create the very special atmosphere for which The Rose & Crown has

become so well known. We are delighted for them - they are a key element in winning this award, and it is a great endorsement of their dedication and hard work".

Photos: Andrew Waddison / AW PR



Phone Box to Book Box

Simon Bower, Snettisham Parish Clerk

A new "Community Book Box" was officially opened on Saturday 28th November. The Snettisham Parish Council purchased two red telephone boxes some time ago, and the one in Ingolside is now functioning as a fully-fledged mini-library for residents to exchange and borrow books in a COVID-safe way.

This has been the project of Sally Phillips and her partner Andy, who moved to Snettisham in 2015.

"The phone box looked so sad and unloved it was a project I really wanted to take up. I contacted the PC who agreed to adopt the box from BT on behalf of the village. Once BT removed the telephony it was back to me to start the works. Working full time and a hectic cottage renovation still to complete it was slow progress. That was until 2020 and Covid hit! I was furloughed and suddenly had too much time on my hands.

"Out came the broom and power-washer to clean away years of cobwebs and dirt. Clean and prepped it was ready to paint. I met some lovely people walking past as I painted, and everyone was keen to see it finished.

"Shelving was the next step, which is where my partner Andy came in. Another weekend of building, sanding and oiling saw the shelves complete. I loved filling the completed box with books and had to stop when I found myself putting them in alphabetical order and into genres! Clearly a missed vocation to be a librarian rather than a Project manager!

"We have had over 300 likes to the Facebook post on the village page the uptake and enthusiasm has been tremendous. I'm so pleased to have been able to do this and give something back. This is my gift of time to the village. This has been an extraordinary year and one we'll never forget, but it's also a year when



Cllr Todd formally opening the box

communities have pulled together - I hope this can be a 2020 legacy which everyone will enjoy for years to come."

Cllr Alf Todd, Parish Council Chairman, expressed his thanks to Sally and Andy. "I was really impressed with what they have achieved. We have been so fortunate in the Village in the way people have come together to help the



Sally Phillips after decorating the box for Christmas

Community over the last few months. This is a perfect example of what can be done when individuals have an idea, and the energy and commitment to put it into action. Hopefully this will be a well-loved, and well-used, reminder of some difficult times. I shall be visiting often."

Photos: Snettisham Parish Council

The Duck Inn celebrates rejoining The Top 50 Gastropubs

"The best Christmas present ever" says Ben Handley

On 9th December The Duck Inn, in Stanhoe received a letter informing them that they had rejoined the prestigious Top 50 Gastropubs in The UK. The Duck first made the list in 2019, coming in at an incredible Number 35 in the list and this year they are more thrilled than ever to have been included.

The list is created by leading industry experts and fellow gastropubs and is regarded as the bible of the best gastropubs across the whole of the UK.

Chef Patron Ben Handley said: "Being included in the 2021 Top 50 Gastropubs is the best Christmas present we could have wished for, especially after this most awful of years. The Top 50 community are some of the most inspiring and genuine people you could wish to meet. We have a group chat on WhatsApp and the support everyone has shown to each other in 2020 has been heartwarming. You could offer me a Michelin star, but this is the



award that means the most, simply because of the wonderful group of people who are involved across the board.

We have made friends for life with so many people from the Top 50, people who are so passionate about the hospitality industry as a whole, their staff, and their communities.

2020 has proved how vital pubs are to communities, so to have been named in the Top 50 of the UK makes it very special indeed.

Our wonderful team here at The Duck will tell you just how emotional I got opening that little brown envelope this morning. It means the world to us."

Photos: Andrew Waddison AW PR





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Health update with Dr David Ince

GP, The Burnhams Surgery, Burnham Market. Deputy Clinical Director, Coastal Primary Care Network.

A year ago, in December 2019, Chinese State media started publishing reports of patients from a province called Wuhan that were suffering from a pneumonia of unknown origin. The World Health Organisation soon became involved and the first death in China was reported on the 11th January 2020. By the end of January, the UK had its first confirmed cases. COVID-19 was officially 'named' in February 2020 – the disease called COVID-19 is short for Coronavirus Disease (the family of viruses it comes from) and the year 2019. By the middle of February over 1000 deaths had been reported in China and deaths were beginning to emerge in Europe. This exponentially growing timeline continued as we have all seen – normally at this point a commentator will observe 'the rest is history' – the reality is, unfortunately, that COVID-19 is still very much 'present in' and 'part of' the community.

The previously infrequently heard words – 'lockdown', 'highly clinical vulnerable', 'social distancing', 'furlough', 'key worker' and 'self-isolate' are now part of our normal day to day vocabulary. Our daily lives have changed more than most thought possible. However, there may be some distant light coming into view at the end of the tunnel. On 2 December, UK regulators granted authorization to a vaccine from drug firms Pfizer and BioNTech. At the time of writing vaccinations have started to be administered at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital and a proportion of community sites will start vaccinating before Christmas. Priority groups have been published but what is becoming clear (and makes an article that you may read a month or so after being written on this subject so hard) is that plans are both moving and changing at quite a pace according to many known and unknown variables.

The vaccination program will be a long one and most believe it will run until at least Spring. Other vaccines are being developed but the current vaccine available is a new type of vaccine – a so called mRNA vaccine. It does not contain any virus but is based on the virus's genetic material (the mRNA) that mimics the spikes on the outside of the COVID-19 coronavirus. Once introduced into the body, we produce antibodies (natural defence cells) against these spikes alongside other immune pathways which will then guard against infection if exposed to the COVID-19 virus.

It has met the strict standards of safety, quality and effectiveness set out by the independent Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). Around forty thousand people have been given the vaccine in trials and no serious side effects or complications have been reported. It is given as an injection in your upper arm and you receive 2 doses, at least 21 days apart. Following the second injection you should have maximal immunity after a week or so. It is over 90% effective.

The vaccine needs to be kept at a temperature of around -70

degrees - it is being transported in special transport boxes (the size of a suitcase) that keeps the vaccines at the right temperature for 10 days if left unopened. It is therefore a challenging delivery chain operation which is why we are developing local vaccination centres to accept the frozen vaccines with appropriate facilities rather than the usual GP practice model that we use for the flu and many other vaccinations. Once thawed the vaccine can survive for a further 3-5 days which is the period within which it will be administered.

Older adults, care home residents and workers and NHS frontline staff are being prioritised for vaccination. As more, and other types of vaccine, become available the vaccine will be offered to other people at risk as soon as possible. People rightly worry about side effects. You cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine and the evidence is that the side effects are mild and short lived – a painful arm, tiredness, headache and mild flu like symptoms (although a high temperature is unusual). At the time of writing, there are some early reports that patients who have previously had severe allergic reactions (anaphylaxis) may need to take extra precautions.

The vaccine is safe and appears effective but there are more questions to be answered – how long protection from the vaccine may last, exactly how much it prevents patients from catching the virus or simply reduces severity and the impact this has on passing it on. The government was prepared to seek approval for any vaccine that appeared to be over 50% effective (the definition of effectiveness is a complex one and worthy of an article in itself!) – the approved vaccine looks to offer over 90% effectiveness so has surpassed all expectations. A lot of these questions are still true for the annual flu vaccine that many of us happily receive. However, none of these questions should deter patients from being immunized with this safe, effective vaccine.

Locally, it is likely there will be initially one or two vaccination hubs in our Primary Care Network. The NHS and your practice will let you know when it is your turn to have the vaccine. We are lucky that we have a list-based primary care system so we are able to generate easily the cohort of patients eligible and we have systems in place to call them. You will be contacted by the NHS or your practice and should wait to be called rather than contacting the NHS. Regular updates are available through www.nhs.uk.

The logistics are challenging, the numbers needing to be vaccinated large, the supply of the vaccine complex but the NHS has the skills, reserve, infrastructure and resolve to make this a highly successful vaccination program and allow us to return to normality later in 2021.

I would encourage you to have the vaccination when offered. I will be.

I wish you good health.

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OFFSHORE INCOME TO DECLARE?

By Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton

Traditionally, and prior to opening the traveller's suitcase, customs officials would open conversation with "anything to declare?". This phrase now seems to be returning with a vengeance for those who have offshore income.

Being in receipt of offshore income is not in itself a concern. Many hundreds of thousands of former Abbey National investors now have offshore income from shares in Santander, for example. However, in the past, some taxpayers have held substantial sums in offshore accounts, sometimes unwittingly assuming that income from such sources did not need to be declared.

UK residents are taxable on all worldwide income unless it is exempted under a specific tax treaty. Since 2017 HMRC has been exchanging information with other jurisdictions. The number of such countries cooperating in this way has doubled in the last three years and the number of accounts disclosed has risen almost eightfold. HMRC believes that tax under-declarations in the UK (admittedly not all from offshore income) costs them over £30Bn a year, so one can understand why they are now applying resources in this area.

Where apparent variances are identified between the information submitted on a Tax Return and the data obtained from foreign tax authorities, the best case scenario is that HMRC will write to the taxpayer with what they refer to as a "nudge" letter, often accompanied by a Disclosure Certificate to be completed by the taxpayer. Alternative, and less friendly, approaches might be a full Tax Return enquiry, or even a criminal investigation. Nudge letters are a soft approach to encourage a taxpayer to review their Returns, voluntarily disclose any accidental under-declarations and certify that everything is up to date and correct. The process of responding to a nudge letter is one which must be handled very carefully indeed, since negligence at this stage can open up the possibility of heavy penalties (up



to 200% of the tax at stake) or even criminal proceedings.

Just because a nudge letter is received does not necessarily mean that something is wrong – there can be innocent reasons why information reported on the Return and by the overseas entity does not agree, particularly as overseas reporting time-frames are most usually for calendar years rather than the UK tax year. Nevertheless, anyone receiving such a letter ought to take professional advice at the earliest opportunity. We have experience of dealing with these issues and may be able to swiftly resolve the matter where there are genuine timing or currency translation issues. If income has been overlooked, we will assist you in identifying the problem and advise on the proper approach to correct your Returns or disclose the non-compliance.

The worst possible course of action is to ignore the letter, complete the Disclosure Certificate negligently or assume that HMRC cannot possibly know about your overseas nest egg! Going down that path will practically guarantee an unhappy outcome.

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

Mrs K H Gigg FCA

Caution: The information listed above is for general guidance only. You should neither act, nor refrain from action, on the basis of any such information. You should take appropriate professional advice on your particular circumstances because the application of laws and regulations will vary depending on particular circumstances and because laws and regulations undergo frequent

change. Whilst I endeavour to ensure that the information contained herein is correct, neither I nor my firm shall be liable in damages (including, without limitation, damages for loss of business or loss of profits) arising in contract, tort or otherwise from any information contained in it, or from any action or decision taken as a result of using any such information. © Kathryn Gigg 2020



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HUNSTANTON MAN SHORTLISTED FOR NATIONAL ARTS COMPETITION

An amateur writer from Hunstanton has made the shortlist for the King Lear Prizes, a new national arts competition launched in March 2020 to encourage artistic creativity among older people during lockdown.

Bill Brakes beat thousands of other entries in the inaugural Prizes to make the shortlist of seven in the short story category. The competition attracted more than 14,000 entries in total in six categories from about 5,000 people across the UK and British citizens overseas.

Mr Brakes gained his PhD from Trinity College, Cambridge, and worked as a mathematics lecturer in various universities. On retirement, he took an MA in Modern English Studies and he's been writing ever since, with two unpublished novels and many short stories under his belt.

For Mr Brakes' shortlisted short story 'Flying Upside-Down', he will receive a certificate of commendation. Speaking about why he entered the King Lear Prizes, Mr Brakes said he wanted "to support an excellent

initiative and to measure myself against others".



Revealing the inspiration for his work, he said, "The time and location are from my student days. The character of Maria is an invention, the type of woman I'd like to have met in those days but didn't."

The inaugural competition was supported by famous writers, actors, musicians and artists, such as broadcaster Gyles Brandreth, who judged the poetry category, cellist Julian Lloyd Webber, who judged the music category, and

literary editor of The Spectator Sam Leith, who judged the short story category.

Speaking about the entries in the short story category, Sam Leith said, "The monarch for whom the King Lear Prize is named may have started out foolish and ended up mad, but the writers whose short stories I read showed no signs of either condition: here were first rate works of imagination and craft. These stories – composed, in many cases, in the difficult and isolating circumstances of a lockdown that has been especially hard on older people – showed what a wealth of talent there is among men and women for whom writing fiction is a resource and a recreation rather than a professional calling. It has been a great privilege to have had a hand in judging them."

When the competition was launched earlier this year, Caroline Abrahams, Charity Director of Age UK, said, "Spending more time at home and apart from our family and friends inevitably means big changes to our normal activities and routines. As a result, looking

after our mental and physical health is going to be very important, and taking time to be creative can be really beneficial. Having a project to focus on, like a submission for the King Lear Prizes, is fantastic and will hopefully bring a sense of achievement and much joy to everyone who takes part, and I look forward to seeing what is produced during these challenging times."

The competition was open to people over 70 with no professional experience in the arts, to submit new short stories, poetry, short plays, solo musical compositions and art during the time they were quarantined. The Prizes take their name from Shakespeare's play King Lear, which was written in 1605-1606 during outbreaks of the plague in London.

'Flying Upside-Down' as well as the other winning and shortlisted entries, are available to view at the King Lear Prizes website www.kinglearprizes.org.uk.

Finally, when asked what he was most looking forward to after lockdown Bill's reply was: "Scottish Country Dancing!"



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Letters to the Editor

Lockdown 100 year Birthday Celebration

Mrs Doris Weaving celebrated her 100th birthday at Driftwood House Care Home, Hunstanton on 24th November.

The family would like to thank Driftwood House for organising a lovely day of celebration for all the residents, in spite of the current restrictions. The day started with a special hair-do, then the receiving of many gorgeous flowers, the opening of cards and presents, with cards from Her Majesty the Queen and Daniel O'Donnell, which caused lots of excitement!



After lunch, a gathering with singing, with staff popping in who were off-duty, followed by tea and a lovely birthday cake made by Redgate Bakery, and the singing of 'Happy Birthday'.

We would like to thank everybody for their cards and birthday best wishes.

We would like to say a big THANK YOU to all the staff, as even in these difficult times, gave mother a day of fun, kindness, care and love, making it a very special day for mother, and for us.

We feel very lucky that mother resides in Driftwood House.

Colin Weaving, Paul Weaving and Susie Prendergast

Chalk or Chalybeate?

On reading of John Maiden's query 'Is the Ringstead River really classified as a Chalk River?' (Letters To The Editor - November 2020 issue), my immediate thought was 'No, its a Chalybeate stream'.

This from the Geological Survey of Great Britain: The water supply of Norfolk from underground sources online (Pg35) - <https://www.ebooksread.com/authors-eng/geological-survey-of-great-britain/the-water-supply-of-norfolk-from-underground-sources-hci/page-5-the-water-supply-of-norfolk-from-underground-sources-hci.shtml>

At Barrett Ringstead Farm (a name that does not appear on the newer map, 129), at the western end of the marked valley of Ringstead Downs, a chalybeate spring, as A. J. Jukes-Browne remark-," rises from the middle of the Lower Chalk probably about 20 feet above its base. The existence of such a spring in Chalk is unusual, and is probably in this case to be explained by the occurrence of a fissure traversing the Chalk and the Red Rock below so that there is a communication with the underlying Carstone (Lower Greensand). The ferruginous sandstone is probably saturated with water, and a local fissure may allow this water to escape upward and mix with that which percolates down the valley in the Chalk.

- so in naming the road that serves the new Butterfield Meadow development, clearly someone hasn't done their research; but I suppose Chalybeate Stream Road would be a bit of a mouthful!

Is there room for a Chalybeate Close anyone?

Tim Snelling, Sedgeford.

NHS

Like most people I have used the NHS in a number of ways but I have also worked in the NHS for over 30years.

I believe most working in the NHS are kind, caring and conscientious but that it is not only the patient that needs a face to face relationship, the Doctor needs it too to maintain and enhance skills and perspective. Much is gained from seeing the patient holistically, when more time is given to the screen and keyboard than is spent with the patient so much is lost from both sides.

The relationship between Doctor and patient is 2 way, the Doctor as well as the patient needs to feel respected and valued.

Job satisfaction is vital for morale, the need to feel they are doing their job well and feel appreciated, face to face interaction is needed to reinforce this and it really is important that the value of face to face contact be recognised by the medical profession as it is by most patients.

Name and address supplied

T&A

I eagerly look forward to receiving Town and Around each month and have started a scrapbook with some of the news that most interests me.

I was born and grew up in Brancaster Staithe so was very pleased to have notice of the possible sale of Barrow Common. I have now been following the progress of this matter as dealt with by Brancaster Parish Council.

Another article of particular interest to me was about the help given by American Forces in the area during the 1953 floods. An American couple were guests at our wedding in 1955.

There are so many other interesting articles which I turn to as soon as my monthly copy of the newsletter arrives.

Thank you for all the excellent work you do with regards to the magazine.

Sylvia Colwell

Following the campaign

Thank you for sending the magazine. As we cannot visit this year we have enjoyed reading it. We always enjoy visiting the Tourist Centre so we are following the campaign to save it.

Jane and Peter Gillibrand

CROSSWORD SOLUTION
 Across: 1. Calendar, 5. Fence, 9. Backlash, 10. Ostler, 12. Everybody, 13. Twin, 14. Laud, 16. Hurdled, 19. Hold out, 21. Bash, 24. Circa, 25. Erradicate, 27. Spirit, 28. Adapters, 29. Titans, 30. Crayoned
 Down: 1. Cables, 2. Locker, 3. Nelly, 4. Abscond, 6. Easy terms, 7. Culpable, 8. Serenade, 11. Myth, 15. Adoration, 17. Thickset, 18. Alarmist, 20. Tees, 21. Bladder, 22. Careen, 23. Sensed, 26. Imply



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Need for a Distinct Perspective

By John Maiden

In November I read that Mr Justice Nicol had refused Johnny Depp permission to appeal against a High Court ruling that concluded he had assaulted his ex-wife Amber Heard. This interested me, because eleven years ago the same judge had refused a similar application, which had the potential to be of great benefit to Hunstanton.

This application was from the Hunstanton Pier Company (HPC) for permission to apply for judicial review of a decision by West Norfolk Council, not to release the HPC from a condition in a 999-year Pier Lease, stipulating that occupancy of the pier site on The Green was dependent on making and maintaining Hunstanton Pier.

Mr Justice Nicol also ordered that if the application for permission to apply for judicial review was renewed, my application to be joined as an interested party, representing Hunstanton Civic Society, would be considered at the same time.

The HPC renewed the application, and on July 15 2009 Mr Justice Blake directed that I should be joined as an interested party, because of my distinct perspective.

Unfortunately, the Council decision makers, no doubt led by their legal services manager, a mere solicitor, decided to ignore the wisdom of two senior High Court Judges, and agreed to release their Pier tenant from the obligation to reinstate the Pier.

By 2009 this 'distinct perspective' on issues relating to the Pier and The Green had been acquired by delving into legal documents; letters; emails; maps and press reports. No councillor, or council employee, had come close to acquiring the depth of knowledge obtained by my painstaking efforts.

Perversely, it was this fact, rather than anything else, which persuaded Council leaders that selling Hunstanton short was preferable to allowing the High Court to hear my evidence. Contrary to repeated claims by officers and members of the council, the legal advice obtained in September 2002 made it abundantly clear that the Pier Lease was for a Pier and for the land covered and occupied by the said Pier. Therefore, the council, in its capacity as Pier Landlord could tell its Pier Tenant that unless it rebuilt the Pier, shown on plans attached to the lease, it could not erect the non-pier proposed for the Pier site.

Unfortunately, the Council had rushed through the planning appli-

cation just a few days before this advice was obtained. In fact, the Council did this in such haste that English Heritage (a statutory consultee) was not even informed. The official explanation was that this was due to an oversight on the part of high ranking planning officers and experienced members of the planning committee (then known as the Development Control Board). However, when a representative from English Heritage visited Hunstanton in 2009, at the invitation of the Civic Society, he could not understand how the non-pier building had been granted planning permission, when it clearly failed to protect or enhance the character and appearance of the surrounding Conservation Area. He did suggest that the assortment of children's rides on the public footpath in front of the building should be moved inside the building, because by their visual clutter they emphasised the poor design of the building.

In line with the response to every demand from its defaulting Pier tenant, apparently permission has been granted for amusements to be housed throughout the three-storey monstrosity. This should provide an opportunity to refuse permission for any rides or other apparatus to spill out onto The Green or the public promenade. The council might need the advice of someone with my distinct perspective to be aware of the implications of a reciprocal Deed dating back to 1954.

The excuse given by the council for releasing the pier tenant form its duty to provide a pier, was because the council was obtaining rent from a donut kiosk. In actual fact this mobile structure was far enough away from the 1954 pier footprint not to constitute a breach of the Deed. The non-pier tenant on the other hand will be breaching the 1954 Deed if his company, or any subtenant trades anywhere on the promenade within a hundred yards of the 1954 Pier footprint.

Compliance with any or all of these legal requirements falls a long way short of what the Council should be doing to rectify its past errors and omissions. Even a 'mere' solicitor recognised, as long ago as 2003, that it is really not possible to remove the Pier from the Pier Lease by means of a Deed of Variation. This particular solicitor made the observation in a letter to the council, and it is worth noting that at this time he was acting for the defaulting Hunstanton Pier Company!

OLD HUNSTANTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Children's Playground was invaded by a couple of families from outside Old Hunstanton in November. Their excuse was that they needed to bring the children to the beach. They seemed to think that Lockdown didn't apply to them. The Playground is a local facility on private land leased by the Parish Council (PC). It is not owned or maintained by the Borough Council. At the present time the PC does not have the finances nor the resources to maintain or police its use. Therefore, on advice, we have decided to keep the facility closed until it is safe to do so.

Our Traffic concerns are still ongoing. Bureaucracy is slow at the best of times but Covid appears to have its foot on the brake, if you pardon the pun. We have set aside monies for the Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO'S), so we are set to go as soon as we get the go-ahead.

The Neighbourhood Plan is continuing to the next phase, which requires it to be inspected before we can send it out to the residents for ratification.

That's the lot for this month but, just as a reminder, our meetings are still being held online via Zoom. Please contact the PC through the Clerk, email below, if you wish to attend and/or speak at the meeting, to give us your views on the above, or anything else you think we should know or do something about. The Parish Council meeting dates for 2021 are now on the Parish Council website and on the notice board. The January PC meeting is on Thursday 21st January.

Thank you all for helping the village through this pandemic and, hopefully in the same vein, continue until the virus is under control.

David McLeod, Chairman OHPC

Old Hunstanton Parish Council Clerk – Glynis Allen E-mail: clerk.oh@gmail.com Tel: 07917 757328

OLD HUNSTANTON PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY – PARISH CLERK/R.F.O.

Old Hunstanton Parish Council is looking for an enthusiastic and self-motivated person for the role of Parish Clerk/ Responsible Financial Officer.

The position is approximately five hours per week and the salary will be in accordance with national agreements.

The ideal candidate will be able to administer formal meetings, take minutes, be computer literate, have access to the internet, have basic knowledge of accountancy, have good standard of literacy and be diplomatic and approachable. CILCA qualification would be preferable but a willingness to attend training would be considered. The applicant should reside within a reasonable distance of Old Hunstanton and have use of own car with full clean driving licence.

Main Areas of Responsibility:-

- Attend up to 12 meetings per year, dealing with the agendas and minutes.
- Attend additional Committee meetings where required.
- Ensure that proper procedures are followed and advise on matters of legislation.
- Manage the Parish Council's finances as Responsible Finance Officer.
- Liaise with contractors undertaking work for the Parish Council.

Further details are available from the current Clerk, Glynis Allen. clerk.oh@gmail.com

and applications by letter with CV submitted to the above e-mail address or by post to:

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AN ITEM OF INTEREST FROM THE HERITAGE CENTRE – More a piece of local history

HUNSTANTON AND HEACHAM'S CONNECTION TO POLAND by Margi Blunden

Heritage is People

Heritage presents itself in many forms. We usually think about it in terms of objects or pictures from the past, or old buildings. My recent encounter with Asia Hutchinson demonstrated to me that heritage comes through people; people who are linked to other people in all kinds of ways.

So often the stories which people tell one another are about the fabric of their lives springing from their beliefs and values. Asia is one of those people and she has a fascinating story to tell which I was privileged to hear.



Asia is Polish and lives in Hunstanton. Her life began many years ago on the outskirts of Warsaw, and, growing up there during communist times she had no idea that her future would become entwined so closely with England.

But there was one man in her family whose life had been altered completely by WW2 and he, like many other Polish soldiers, ended up living in the UK. This was her uncle Lieutenant Ryszard Alwingier who was firstly sent to a Siberian gulag by the Russians, and from there, travelling via Iran, Palestine, Egypt, and Italy, he came to the UK. He settled around Oxford. Driven by his values and love of Poland he has helped numerous Polish people to forge lives in the UK.

This was very significant for these people. And the reason is as follows: loss of independence has been a hallmark for Poland since 1795. This large country suffered enormously at the hands of other countries. It lost its unity and much land until 1918, and then was invaded by Germany on September 1st 1939.

On August 25th 1939, Poland and Britain had signed an agreement promising mutual assistance

in the face of invasion. This meant that Britain came to the aid of the Polish by standing up to the Germans, and the Polish Government immediately sent three destroyers to help the British Navy, and later thousands of troops.

Poland only gained independence back after the war in 1945 when it was governed under the influence of Soviet installed communist authorities until 1989 when the 'People's Republic of Poland' became the Republic of Poland, and over the next few years democracy was established.

Loss of sovereignty is at the heart of Poland's history and so patriotism in exile became hugely important to the Poles.

Our story now turns to Asia who trained as a P.E. teacher in Poland; wanting to learn English, she visited her uncle in Oxford. For her this was a life-changing experience and eventually in 1978 she was able to settle in England.

Years later, in retirement in Hunstanton, something happened to her which again changed her focus in life.

She suffered a stroke, and survived it.

She decided as part of her recovery to take on a project – a decision which has had very interesting consequences.

Her project centred on restoring a memorial to the Polish soldiers who helped to protect the people of this part of the North Norfolk coast during WW2.



If you go to the Catholic Church in Hunstanton you will find the memorial in the grounds. This shrine replaces the former one, which the soldiers themselves built in the 1940's, but which had deteriorated and fallen into decay. Asia was determined

that these men who played an important role in the war-time community should not be forgotten.

The more she became involved in her project the more she recognised how important it is to pay attention to, and respect, the past actions of people who have played significant parts in our history. Her own nationality of course linked her directly to the Polish soldiers, and she was in an excellent position to organise support and funds to put the new memorial in place. All of which she achieved in honour of a group of men who, as part of the army in the name of Poland, joined the war effort in this country to help it against the Germans.



If you don't already know what these men did for us in this community, the narrative is that they arrived in Heacham on 22nd of November 1940. Their job was to run an armoured train up and down the coast. This train had two carriages for people and a third goods wagon armed with machine guns. Armoured trains had been proven to be effective in previous military situations in Poland – and the Polish Army (West) – numbering overall around 168,000 troops – were given the job of protecting the whole UK via its rail network and specially constructed trains were used for the purpose.

The people of Heacham wel-



comed the local Polish troops, and invited them into their homes and lives. This acceptance meant they quickly became known as individuals, and, in addition to going into schools for assemblies, taking part in local entertainments etc., they attended the Hunstanton Catholic Church.

Because the church only held forty people in those days and there were sixty plus soldiers, the men took it in turns to attend Mass. However, they soon had the idea to build a shrine in the grounds, which meant the priest could say Mass outdoors so they could all be present.



We owe these soldiers, and the largely forgotten significant Polish military contribution to the eventual defeat of Nazi Germany, our thanks. Locally, Asia's cathartic experience of stroke has led the way in reminding, or informing us of a local aspect of WW2 that remains important today.

'Lest we forget' is the phrase most often on our lips on Armistice Day every year.

However it has a gravity of meaning which is embedded in our everyday lives today – to be aware of our history, which is made up of the actions of men and women like ourselves, helps us to appreciate the present and further to inform our current actions.

The group of Polish soldiers have left us a legacy. They are a testimony that Heritage is People.

A leaflet that contains the story of the restoring of the memorial can be found at <https://peterksc319.wixsite.com/parish-of-kings-lynn/hunstanton-polish-memorial>. It is understood that it was built on the rubble reclaimed from the remains of the original shrine and the statue itself was made in Poland and transported to England.

We hope to have a story about the Polish airmen in Hunstanton cemetery in a future Newsletter.

Margi Blunden is a member of the Civic Society as well as a volunteer in the Heritage Centre. She interviewed Asia Hutchinson in November 2020.

Photos: Chris Bishop

Lost or unexpected beneficiaries

By Emma Langley, Solicitor, Hayes + Storr

'Personal representatives' is the collective term for an executor or administrator of a deceased persons estate. A personal representative is responsible for ensuring all rightful beneficiaries receive their share of an inheritance. This can be difficult if the beneficiaries are unknown or if there is no will.

It is not uncommon for personal representatives to face difficulty tracking down some beneficiaries of an estate, especially if the will was written a long time ago.

Lost beneficiaries

To comply with their legal duties, personal representatives must take all reasonable steps to trace beneficiaries. This could include:

- Making enquiries with other beneficiaries and family members
- Conducting searches of death or other public records
- Conducting online research
- Placing adverts calling for the lost beneficiary to come forward; or
- Instructing a tracing agent.

If reasonable steps have not been taken, a personal representative can find themselves personally liable to a claim against the estate by a lost beneficiary who later comes forward.

Unexpected beneficiaries

An unexpected beneficiary is someone who turns up when the personal representative was previously unaware of their existence or entitlement. This is most likely to happen in an intestacy situation or if there is a gift in a will to a class of people, (eg. "my children"). If the estate has already been distributed, this can cause significant problems for a personal representative.

Protecting yourself against unexpected beneficiaries

If you are acting as a personal representative, you can avoid becoming personally liable to beneficiaries of whom you are unaware, by taking certain steps to protect yourself, these can include:

- Publishing official notices advertising the death of the deceased and calling for beneficiaries to come forward
- Instructing a Genealogist at the outset to carry out a full investigation and prepare a full family tree
- Obtaining missing beneficiary indemnity insurance

There are important rules to adhere to when placing notices, including where they should be placed and specific wording, and allowing sufficient time for potential beneficiaries to respond.

Disgruntled dependants

You might find yourself faced with a disgruntled dependant or family member who

has been excluded from the will or does not benefit under the intestacy rules. They may be entitled to bring a claim for a share of the estate. If you as personal representative have already distributed the estate, you could find yourself personally liable if certain steps and precautions were not been taken.

Appointing a solicitor

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may mislead. However no duty of care is assumed to any person and no liability is accepted for any omission or inaccuracy. Always seek our specific advice.

Linking up

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

With the news that a vaccine is on its way, we in Norfolk County Council are already gearing up for the immediate delivery of doses to each of the 27,000 residents and staff in Norfolk care homes. Due to the difficulties in handling the drug, patients will need to come to specific centres as it will be almost impossible to deliver it effectively to each care home. By the time you read this it is my fervent hope that the logistics will have been overcome, the costs underwritten and the vaccine made available to other vulnerable groups. Hopefully an end is in sight.

The bid to reopen the railway between King's Lynn and Hunstanton took another step forward this week, with the government asking Norfolk County Council and campaigners to submit further details to strengthen our case for funding. So, while disappointing that the bid did not receive immediate support, it is encouraging that the government has recognised the huge potential of our proposal. We look forward to participating in the workshop sessions that government is arranging in the New Year, which will help us to understand and present our next steps for the project and to continuing to work closely with James Wild, MP and the Kings Lynn to Hunstanton Rail Group, whose input continues to be invaluable.

Natural England has published its proposed route along a 33-mile stretch between Hunstanton and Sutton Bridge, which extends around The Wash. This is the latest part of the new 2700-mile England Coast Path. It will include an extra seven miles of access to the wild Norfolk coastline between the RSPB reserve at Snettisham and King's Lynn, skirting the western side of the Royal Estate at Wolferton. As Norfolk County Council's member champion for cycling and walking, I have been closely following the planning of this section of the route and I am so pleased that we will be able to walk the stretch along the Ouse to the Wash and northwards. Many of you may remember that we had to work hard to make sure that the Stretch 3 proposals put forward by Natural England from Weymouth to Hunstanton, did the job that local residents wanted: these are still with the Planning Inspector. However, when these final sections of the coast path is in place, we'll have a superb 113-mile trail right around Norfolk's beautiful coast. We want this new section to be a route that people will love to use, so I shall be making my views known about the route, (in particular the current plan to place the path on the landward base of the seawall for most of the route, rather than on the top), and I'd urge people to take this opportunity to look at the plans and feed their views back.

For me, particularly after the year we have had, it's not just about opening-up new access to our coastal areas enabling us to get out in the fresh air as much as possible, it's also about helping our local businesses by bringing



a much-needed financial boost: we know popular long-distance paths bring a significant benefit to local economies. In 2018 to 2019 we saw 750,000 visits to Norfolk's coast path, so I hope completing the trail will help encourage even more visitors to Kings Lynn and the coast.

From King's Lynn the trail uses the existing Peter Scott Way, a local trail which extends into Lincolnshire and was named after the famous naturalist.

Here is a picture of Peter Scott, being presented with 'the Wash Bowl' sailing trophy by my grandmother in August 1939.

Anyone may make representations to Natural England about the reports during the eight-week period. Owners and occupiers of affected land may make objections about the reports on specified grounds, which will be considered by a planning inspector before the Secretary of State makes a final decision.

Here is the link to Stretch 4 Proposal:

England Coast Path from Hunstanton to Sutton Bridge: comment on proposals - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

While speaking of developing new walking routes, I want to assure residents that better maintained and expanded walking routes remain one of my top priorities after the next election. It is worth having a look at what I am doing in this area.

1. As mentioned above, I will try to ensure that Natural England sites Stage 3 of the Norfolk English Coastal Path where local residents want it, not where English Nature feels it expedient to go.

2. While I fully accept that 2020 has been a difficult year for the Council to maintain paths, as a result the work got away from us, I fully intend to commit more resources to ensure we not only catch up but exceed expectations next year. To help me to do this, I became chair of Norfolk Trails in August.

3. Increasing public use and enjoyment of the Norfolk Rights of Way network in the Norfolk Access Improvement Plan (NAIP) www.norfolk.gov.uk/naip which was adopted by the Council in 2019 and runs for 10 years. The NAIP sets out the aspiration to create an easy to use, safe, health and sustainable way to enjoy the Norfolk Coast and countryside by delivering:

- a. A Well Managed Access Network
- b. A Well Connected Access Network
- c. A Well Protected Environment

- d. A Well Promoted Access Network
- e. An Access Network Underpinned by Excellent Information Management
- f. A Community-led Access Network
- g. An Access Network that Supports
- h. A Valuable Access Network

I will be working to make this a reality.

4. Our Walking and Cycling Strategy includes the vision to recycle Norfolk's old railway lines and other disused or little-used under the Greenways banner. We are actively seeking funding for this via the Government's Gear Change document which set out its vision for cycling and walking, with the a reviewed strategy to be produced in the new year.

5. We are at the early stages of a revolution in farm subsidies: but central to this is the 'Public Money for Public Good' mantra. This will provide us to work with local landowners to develop additional access routes in a positive way.

Starting on 11th January, I would like to have the opportunity to speak directly with people in and around Hunstanton. If you have concerns to raise with me, I will be at Hunstanton town Hall from 09.30 till 1.00, available to speak to you in a private space for 20 minutes during the morning and early afternoon. Please raise any concerns you have, or ideas you would like me to bring forward.

If you would like to arrange a time to speak to me, please contact alison@droveorchards.com

Please be aware that the event will be covid compliant, so masks need to be worn and social distancing adhered to.

Finally can I wish everyone a Very Happy New Year....Frankly we are well shot of the last one!

**Cllr Andrew Jamieson
SURGERY**

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West Norfolk



*According to figures from armedprevention.co.uk

Wild in Westminster & West Norfolk

Although it was a few years ago, I have completed the London marathon twice and I enjoy running albeit now for shorter distances.

So the analogy that with the rollout of the vaccine we are in a marathon rather than a sprint strikes me an apt one. In an endurance race, you have to take it one mile at a time and put the thought of 26 miles and the finish line out of your mind. In the coming weeks and months, the manufacturing and supply of the vaccine will continue to increase and more distance will be completed as people in the priority groups receive their jab.

However, this is the biggest vaccination programme in the history of the NHS. The Pfizer vaccine is safe and effective but it is complex to move, store, and prepare. Having started the rollout in hospitals it is moving to local vaccination centres including those run by GPs, pharmacists and practice nurses. I understand the desire of many to get the vaccine and while it may be difficult please be patient. You will be contacted when it is your turn to be vaccinated. In the meantime please continue to follow the rules and hands, face, and space.

Last month I was pleased to have the opportunity to make the case to the Prime Minister for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to be one of the additional eight new hospitals

that the government has committed to rebuild.

The Prime Minister confirmed that the Department for Health is working with QEH ahead of launching a bidding process in due course. The Trust has developed a strong case which is now being turned into an outline business case. This work and the support of the local community will be an important part of whether we are successful in the bidding process. My focus this year will continue to be securing this investment to give West Norfolk the hospital that patients and staff deserve.

And we have the exciting opening of the School of Nursing to come in September. This is a great project that with accelerated funding from the Towns Fund will provide local training opportunities for young people and set them up for skilled careers in the health service.

In other pages of Town and Around, I enjoy reading about the stars and planets. There is something magical and awe-inspiring about the dark skies we enjoy in North West Norfolk and as a Vice Chairman of the All Party Group on Dark Skies, I am pleased that we have set out new ideas in our policy paper to tackle light pollution and protect our nightscapes.

It proposes changes to update the planning framework to deal with obtrusive light, to overhaul the rules applicable to outdoor



James Wild MP

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

james.wild.mp@parliament.uk

www.jameswild.org.uk

@jamesowild

lighting, and to promote best practice for lighting including for "Dark Sky Hours." There's also an important role to raise public awareness of the issue of light pollution.

I am grateful to Norfolk Coast Partnership and the King's Lynn and District Astronomy Society for their contributions that helped inform these policies. These measures will help protect and enhance Norfolk's skies and the Dark Sky Discovery sites we are fortunate to have at Titchwell and Brancaster.

2021 National Living Wage and National Minimum Wage rates

New rates will come into force from April 2021 following the Government accepting, in full, recommendations made by the Low Pay Commission at the end of October.

The National Living Wage will increase by 2.2 per cent from £8.72 to £8.91, and will be extended to 23 and 24 year olds for the first time. For workers aged under 23, Commissioners recommended smaller increases in recognition of the risks to youth employment which the current economic situation poses.

	Rate from April 2020	Rate from April 2021	Increase
National Living Wage	£8.72	£8.91	2.2%
21-24 Year Old Rate	£8.20	£8.36	2.0%
18-20 Year Old Rate	£6.45	£6.56	1.7%
16-17 Year Old Rate	£4.55	£4.62	1.5%
Apprentice Rate	£4.15	£4.30	3.6%
Accommodation Offset	£8.20	£8.36	2.0%

Bryan Sanderson, Chair of the Low Pay Commission, said: "Recommending minimum wage rates in the midst of an economic crisis coupled with a pandemic is a formidable task.

"The difficulty in looking forward even to next April is daunting; there are strong arguments concerning both low-paid workers – many performing critically important tasks – and the very real solvency risks to which small businesses are currently exposed. In these unprecedented conditions, stability and competence are prime requirements.

"Our value as a social partnership is to use the imperfect economic evidence to produce a recommendation which is professionally researched and dispassionate. Most importantly, after much debate it has the support of the business, trade union and academic representatives who make up the Commission. We have opted for a prudent increase which consolidates the considerable progress of recent years and provides a base from which we can move towards the Government's target over the next few years."

The increase in the NLW will mean that low-paid workers' incomes rise broadly in line with predicted wage growth; and modestly ahead of projected increases in prices, meaning low-paid workers' living standards should be protected. Commissioners do not believe the increase presents a significant additional risk to employment prospects, beyond the already challenging outlook.

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The mortgage question: Should I use a Bank or Broker?

The current Pandemic has disrupted our way of life in so many ways, and the Mortgage market has been no exception. Its common knowledge that most Lenders have tightened up their Lending criteria. The availability of higher loan to value (LTV) mortgages has seen Homebuyers having to provide higher deposits. Even if these buyers are capable of providing this, they can then come up against another hurdle, with stricter Lenders affordability calculations than seen previously.

I believe its fair to say that most Lenders have tightened up on what income is permitted to be used when performing this calculation, in particular when it comes to the self-employed.

Once these two particular issues have been sorted buyers could find that the actual number of schemes that are available have been reduced, giving them far less choice of products.

When the mortgage scheme is selected and despite the bank of England base rate falling, in the case of higher loan to value mortgages Lenders rates have increased in many cases (i.e. falling Bank of England base rates does not automatically mean falling mortgage rates).

All doom and gloom? Not necessarily, as this brings us back to the title of this article, Bank or Broker.

Even prior to the Pandemic the majority of mortgages were arranged via Brokers, with the public usually preferring this route than going directly to a Lender.

The reasons for this are varied, from people

preferring to “shop locally”, personal service, convenient opening times etc. In our experience the initial contact is made to a Broker because they are not tied to one particular Lender, and will be able to offer the Homebuyer the most competitive of products for that individual customer and their circumstances.

During the current Pandemic, the Broker offering is seen by many as being more important than ever.



Quite simply, unless customers are prepared to contact scores of Lenders on an individual basis, they have no real way of knowing if they are being offered the best scheme on the market for their requirements, unless they deal with a

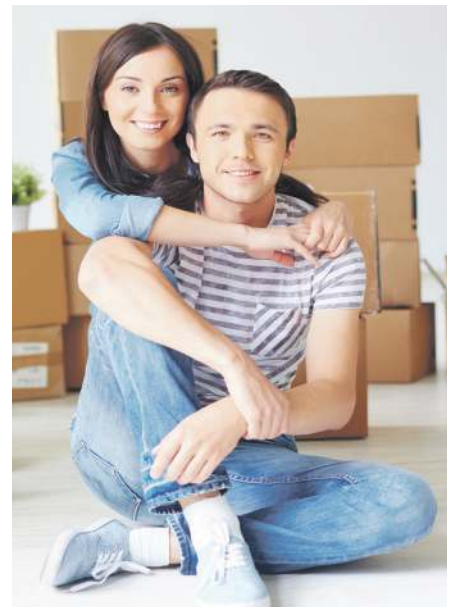
Broker.

They could even be declined by going directly to a Bank as they are being assessed on that Banks criteria alone. Different Banks have different criteria. This can be when assessing income and where it is derived from (e.g. Salary, bonus, overtime, benefits etc), but can be for other reasons. What one Lender declines, another may accept.

Rates and schemes can change on a daily basis. Even Lending criteria has been changing more frequently than previously. A Bank that says no today, may well say yes tomorrow (and vice versa). Our Electronic Mortgage sourcing software offers up to date information so customers can see what is available to them from the mortgage market as a whole. The system can even be updated to show all available schemes at the same time as customers are actually in a mortgage meeting.

People compare many things these days. Utility Bills, Car insurance, house insurance etc. Why should your mortgage be any different? Why go directly to a Bank who can only offer their own products? By doing so, Homebuyers will have a very limited choice when compared to the Broker market offering.

You deserve the best mortgage scheme for your requirements and circumstances, and also the best service. When your mortgage is arranged via Barrett Batchelor Mortgage Services LLP, you deal with the same person from start to finish. You are not handed over to a faceless administration team once the application has been signed and submitted.



To us the Customer is King, and you are not just a number.

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Paul Malcolm, CeMap

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Equity Release made simple

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

When my business partner Nigel Barrett and I first formed Barrett Batchelor Mortgage Services LLP in King's Lynn, our aim was to not only be professional and efficient, but also ensure the service offered was personal and friendly. We firmly believed this was essential to make our company successful – and was also what the people of West Norfolk required.

We were (and remain) determined to treat our clients with the respect they deserve and ensure they don't feel as if they're just a number, as can be the case when dealing directly with the big banks.

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

Important decisions have to be made when people are approaching retirement – and using your property to raise funds could be the most important one of all. It's fair to say that Equity Release isn't for everyone, and part of the process I guide people through is explaining the other options available to them.

In addition to this, future plans and state benefits could be affected – it's not a decision that should be rushed into,

and it all depends on your individual needs and personal circumstances.

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

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

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

Equity Release to enable them to do so. One thing I'm very keen to do is explain to people how the Equity Release market has evolved over the last 25 years. You no longer have to sell your property to the Bank, so you still retain ownership of the property. Another important point is the 'No Negative Equity Guarantee' – which ensures the amount you borrow will never exceed the debt on your property.

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

- Raising funds to boost their income in retirement
- Clearing an outstanding mortgage on a property
- Property improvements
- Assisting family members financially
- Funding new or existing hobbies, such as caravanning

There are of course numerous other reasons you may be looking to raise money, and the importance of discussing such matters in detail with a fully qualified Equity Release Adviser can't be stressed enough.

A big concern I have is that many people decide Equity Release isn't an option for them without being in possession of the full facts. They could be missing out on a great opportunity because of this, and that's why I offer a completely free consultation without obligation. I'd even suggest you bring a

family member or a trusted friend with you to the meeting.

If you're fast approaching retirement (Equity Release is available to over 55's only) or have already reached this milestone in your life and would like to explore the options available to you, I'm here to offer an expert helping and guiding hand.

To understand all the features and risks, please

ask for a personalised illustration. If our service is of any interest to you, I'll be only too pleased to visit you in the comfort of your own home if you'd prefer.

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Live Nativity Journey

Stettisham Parish Church's live nativity is a tradition that has attracted families each Christmas telling the story that has been told for 2000 years.

This year the Rector and Church Wardens came up with a new project, the Live Nativity Journey, a festive walk through the live nativity scene to replace the service that normally sees St Mary's pews packed and children performing their nativity story.

Family groups were guided around the one way, socially distanced trail to see all the animals from Park Farm, see all the decorated wreaths made by local organisations, find shining stars amongst the displays and complete their quiz about the Christmas story. Pebbles the donkey, ponies, calves, sheep, a llama, goats, a giant rabbit and guinea pig were petted by visitors while carols were playing in the background making it a really wonderful start to Christmas.

Rector of St Mary's, Rachel Alexander said: "We had such a fun time at Live Nativity. So lovely to see so many families enjoying themselves. Thank you Park Farm."

Photos: Ian Burt & T&A



Four year old Locky Mulligan



*Above: (L) Betty Mulligan (9) & Abi Haslam (8)
Below: Eleanor Baird from Park Farm with a calf*



*Above: Rev Rachel Alexander with Pebbles the donkey
Below: Carved nativity scene*



Round the bend with Dean Baker

Two for Tea or Flip the Lid for 2021

Without doubt we are a nation of tea lovers. There is no occasion in the Baker household that doesn't merit a cuppa. We drink it to wake up, perk up, make-up and at night-time, snuggle up with a tea and a book. Britons drink more tea per person than any other nationality except the Irish and Turkish. The UK gets through nearly 73 billion cups a year on average, and many more in 2020. That's about 4 cups per person per day, however I think us Bakers drink much more! The idea of only putting the water you need to use into the kettle, seems pretty finicky. After all, boiling an electric kettle to make a cup of tea only requires about 0.0312125kWh of electricity and generates around 0.015kg CO₂.



But we are also a nation of profligate boilers. Research has found that tea drinkers fill their kettles with twice as much water as they need, on average, wasting a huge amount of energy every day.

This practice results in the unnecessarily boiling of an estimated 70 million litres of water every day. We are needlessly wasting some 5,525 tonnes of CO₂ in our kettles.

The Energy Saving Trust has concluded that if we each boil the only water we need to make a cup of tea instead of filling the kettle, we could save enough electricity in a year to run half of all the street lighting in the country.

Of course, there are other ways to heat water for a cuppa; in a pan on a gas hob or in the microwave. However, this is fiddly and I don't

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like the potential hazard of spilling very hot water. You could invest in an Eco Kettle or an independent water heater.

But, the good news is you can get the same result without splashing out, by pouring the required number of cups/mugs straight into the kettle. This necessitates opening the lid of the kettle instead of filling it through the spout. We're a family of spout fillers!

And it's making a small change in the habit of a lifetime ... but it's a good habit to make change and it's a good habit to save even a little money and time.

And it's an even better habit to protect our planet. It's a brand new year so let's start by making a change.....

Until next month ... take good care

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The Barking Bugle - The Norfolk Trails Barked by Cocoa

Originally when my pawrents sat me down and explained that we were moving from Spain to Norfolk I was very worried. My Spanish friends didn't help, gleefully informing me of the reported lack of space and green areas for walking. But oh, how wrong they were! Norfolk still remains a very countrified area with plenty of different walks through heathland, woods and along the coastline.

Mum also told me about the Norfolk Trails and after hearing her talk about all of those wonderful walks, a lot of them taking in the coast and sea, I couldn't wait to get there and start exploring.

Since then I haven't looked back as there are so many different walks to do. It's hard to tell you what my favourite one is, so I think it would be best if I just bark about them all! So here goes ...

ANGLES WAY - Distance: 93 miles

This is one of the main long-distance paths in Norfolk, which starts in the seaside resort of Great Yarmouth and ends in Thetford. At 93 miles it would take me several weeks to walk, so it's a good thing that it's very easy to access the path at different towns and villages in order for you to break it down into sections to suit your ability. There are also plenty of options to enjoy, depending on whether you want to go on circular, shorter or longer walks.

Most of the path is on flat ground with good quality footpaths, although it can get muddy so expect sticky paws in winter especially when it's been raining.

Highlights for me include the section from Great Yarmouth to Burgh Castle which is a lovely walk of about 4 miles along the southern shore of Breydon Water. Burgh Castle welcomes doggies on leads and you can wander around the ruins of this ancient Roman fort. From here the Way follows the Waveney Valley passing through the Broads, open countryside and the market towns of Beccles, Bungay, Harleston and Diss before winding through heathland and woodland and finishing up in Thetford.

BOUDICCA WAY - Distance: 36 miles

This Way runs between Norwich and Diss following close to the old Roman road passing through Caistor St. Edmund, Saxlingham, Nethergate, Shotesham and Pulham Market. If you are a doggy who likes history then you might be interested to know that this route is named after the legendary warrior and Queen of the Iceni who used to live in these parts. The Boudicca Way passes through the beautiful, unspoilt rural countryside of South Norfolk and the Waveney Valley.

BURE VALLEY PATH - Distance: 9 miles

Starting at the Bure Valley Railway in Aylsham this path runs beside the railway track to Hoveton and Wroxham. Along the line are wayside halts serving the picturesque Broadland villages of Brampton, Buxton and Coltishall. The carriages on the railway are dog friendly so if you get tired you can hop onto one of the steam or diesel trains.

THE FEN RIVERS WAY - Distance: 50 miles

This trail runs for nearly 50 miles between King's Lynn and Cambridge. The path goes alongside the River Cam and the River Great Ouse. The route is flat and fairly easy. Sheep and cows will most likely be grazing so do be aware!

THE MARRIOTT'S WAY - Distance: 26 miles

Another 'Way' is the Marriott's Way. This starts in the old pretty market town of Aylsham, wending its way through Cawston and Reepham which is along an old railway line and through Whitwell, then onto Lenwade, Attlebridge and Drayton, and finally after 26 miles it ends on the outer ring road of Norwich. The good thing about this walk is (if you are less than able) that the path is wide enough to get a dog stroller all of the way – so you can take it easy, get a breath of fresh air while your hooman does all of the work! There are also a few refresher stops along the way, not at every section but Aylsham, Reepham, Whitwell and Lenwade offer a few dog friendly pubs or cafés where you can put your paws up for a while. We particularly like Reepham, where you will find the old Reepham & Whitwell Railway station that has now been restored into a museum. There's a pawsome dog friendly café

there as well with indoor seating.

THE NAR VALLEY WAY - Distance: 34 miles

One of the 'Ways' that we hadn't touched on until recently is the Nar Valley Way. This section of the trail goes from Gressenhall to King's Lynn which is 34 miles long. However, on this particular day we weren't up for a long walk. Instead Mum found a short circular walk based around the castle and priory of Castle Acre, which is one of the stops on the Nar Valley Way. I love a bit of culture (unlike my canine brother, Luca, who is the less intelligent one of the family!) and I was very impressed to see parts of the castle and priory still standing. The priory was founded back in 1089 (that's a lot of dog years ago!) and the castle was originally a Saxon hall. The walk takes in all of this, sometimes following the course of the river, and I found the landscape particularly beautiful around this part of Norfolk. As the walk was only 1.5 miles long we had the time to savour and enjoy the views and the history. Well, when I say we, what I really mean is that I was happy enjoying the views as Luca only had eyes for the wildlife!

NORFOLK COAST PATH - Distance: 84 miles

This is one of my favourites walks, starting off in Hopton-on-Sea, taking in Gt Yarmouth, Happisburgh, Bacton, Mundesley, Cromer, Wells-next-the-Sea (to name just a few stops along the way) and finishing up in the seaside town of Hunstanton. I haven't done all 84 miles of it because going at Luca's pace would take forever and a day! The sections that I have done have been superb with such a mixed variety of landscapes. For example, part of the path touches the edge of Sheringham National Trust Park (so you can take in a bit of natural heritage) and around the Weybourne area there is a lot of heathland (the colourful gorse pointing the way). As you near Weybourne station you might be lucky enough to glimpse the old steam train as it huffs and puffs its way between Sheringham and Holt (we can also take a trip on this as they are very dog friendly). Of course along this path the sea is the main feature as it rolls back and forth dominating the landscape. Sometimes it feels as if you are quite a distance away from the sea; sometimes you're so close that you don't need to stray far from the path to be able to dip your tootsies into the water and trust me, those are my favourite bits – well, I am a water dog!

THE PASTON WAY - Distance: 22 miles

The Paston Way takes in a lot of mum's old stomping grounds starting in North Walsham, through Paston, Bacton, Trunch, Mundesley, Southrepps, Northrepps and ending up beside the seaside in Cromer. The section between North Walsham and Bacton does not have any refresher stops, just plain old walking but again the countryside it takes you through is very pretty.

Parts of it around Knapton Cutting (where there is a butterfly reserve) are on the disused railway line so the paths are wide and shaded and you can see far into the distance. However, at various parts there are steep steps to negotiate. Further along is Pigney's Wood which apparently has over 40 different species of trees and is a designated local nature and butterfly reserve – this is a really great place in which to get in tune with nature!

PEDDARS WAY - Distance: 46 miles

This trail starts in the Brecks, an area of forest and river valleys at Knettishall Heath near Thetford, and ends on the beach at Holme-next-the-Sea on the North Norfolk Coast near Hunstanton. It follows a Roman road built along the line of an even older trackway. Some parts of the route are on small country roads and it's also a popular route for cyclists, so do take care. Along the trail are the villages of Little Cressingham, Castle Acre and Ringstead and in between miles of countryside. Legend says that the Peddars Way was traditionally supposed to be a haunt of the ghostly East Anglian hound, the Black Shuck... Eeek! Don't walk this path after dark or close to Halloween!

THE WEAVERS' WAY - Distance: 61 miles

We have walked some of the smaller sections of the Weavers' Way which is renowned for historic country estates and also the Norfolk

Broads – yes, water is involved again, yippee! The walk is well sign-posted and takes in various sections of the country estates of Felbrigg and Blickling. It is said that the ghosts of Anne Boleyn and her father, Thomas, haunt Blickling Hall on every anniversary of her execution so beware! She was born in the original manor house where this impressive Jacobean building now stands. Unfortunately whenever we visit the estates Mum always seems to pick the section where the cows are grazing and for some reason they always seem very intrigued by Luca. This then unsettles Mum so we normally have to make a rather unsightly dash through the cow pats, stopping for breath only once we have cleared the final gate, which I think is a great game but I don't think Mum is so keen! The route links two popular coastal resorts: Cromer in the North and Great Yarmouth, taking you on a journey through the Norfolk countryside.

WENSUM WAY - Distance: 12 miles

This Way goes through some very pretty countryside in central Norfolk, much of it close to the river that gives it its name which comes from the Old English for 'winding'. Starting at Gressenhall it links the Nar Valley Way with the Marriot's Way at Lenwade.

WHERRYMAN'S WAY - Distance: 37.5 miles

This trail runs between Norwich and Great Yarmouth and is named after the Wherry, a type of boat that was used on the Norfolk Broads to carry passengers and cargo. The Way passes through the centre of the Broads, along the River Yare, open marshes and several riverside villages. It's a very scenic walk and a great way to discover the Norfolk Broads if you like to stay on firm ground and don't fancy a boat trip. Don't forget to wave a paw at any boats you see on your walk! There are lots of options for short, long and circular walks on the Wherryman's Way, so something for every dog to enjoy. Plus of course there are loads of dog friendly pubs to visit after all that walking.

So as I travelled around Norfolk on various different walks I soon came to realise – I love Norfolk! My Spanish friends were wrong as there is so much to see and do here and the Norfolk countryside still remains just that, countryside. There are plenty of areas for walking and hiking and you don't have to be a fitness fanatic to enjoy them – everything is possible.

Many of the tourist attractions are dog friendly too. We have been on trains, boats and in museums to name but a few and have always been made to feel very welcome. The cafés and pubs are a joy, and my brother Luca can vouch for those as he lives for the culinary delights he finds underneath tables! But for me, you can't beat the Coast Path which is a beautiful walk and of course water is featured heavily on this trek so that's a paws up from me!

So get out and get exploring. Norfolk is a beautiful county, so make the most of it!

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Free maps of the Norfolk Trails are available to download from the norfolk.gov.uk website.

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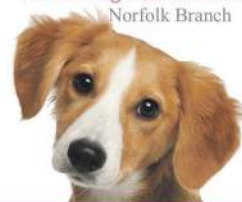
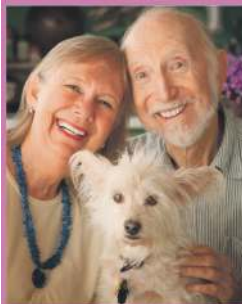
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Here we hoe again

Old Muck, Northfields Allotments

Tallest of the Peters' wheelbarrow's got a flat tyre. Which one, I glibly ask. The one at the front, TOTP explains, giving me one of those glances the wife throws me during those 'I wonder why on earth I ever married you sometimes' moments.

You got a foot pump by any chance, he asks. Do I look like the sort of person who carries a foot pump everywhere?

As we mull over the options, including I lend TOTP my Chillington Camden 85L with added front bracing struts, which - if you know your wheelbarrows - is a particularly fine model.

It's a real wheelbarrow-user's wheelbarrow, a light yet sturdy piece of kit which can turn on a Sixpence, even fully-laden and more importantly in this time of crisis has a fully-inflated tyre - as in the one at the front. Which TOTP's barrow currently doesn't.

Do I lend him Black Beauty, as I call my treasured Chillington Camden 85L with added front bracing struts, by dint of its colour and sleek, understated lines?

Then a familiar figure appears, who smart money would say was exactly the sort of chap who would have a foot pump: Our plot manager Derek, no less.

Foot pump, foot pump? I 'ent got one of them with me, he shrugs. But I do have one of them battery compressors in me motor though. Reckon that'll blow it up.

Now this everyday tale of being prepared for any eventuality is hardly news for anyone who knows Derek. But allotments can sometimes teach you the odd lesson on life as well as how to grow carrots, rotate your crops or up your tomato yield. It's called looking out for each other.

Have you got a - insert tool, bit of wood, any spare old guttering or roofing felt - and the answer's usually yes, here you are, if you ask the right person.

Along with a 4x4 full of just about every tool, fitment or fixture needed to cover any emergency, Derek also has an encyclopaedic knowledge of where every spare bit of wood, guttering and everything else is located.

As TOTP sets to work with his wheelbarrow, Derek spots the loft tank I am about to dispose of. Canny up the other end's after one of them, he says. I'll go and get me barrow.

The tank I scrounged off to someone else who didn't want it for some project I never got round to is off to Canny's plot, for whatever Canny wanted a loft tank for.

Derek disappears to fit new felt on the roof of someone's shed. TOTP has completed his wheelbarrowing and left for TOTP Towers. I give my Chillington Camden 85L with added front bracing struts an affectionate pat before I follow suit, noting its tyre is still inflated. As in the one at the front.



Editor's note: I took this photo in September 2014 at the Northfields Allotments' Open Day.

Whilst I'm not sure about the pedigree of this particular barrow, it is being pushed by Dave Nice (him who grows those whopping pumpkins). The girls had a lovely time.

England Coast Path: Proposals published for fourth stretch in Norfolk and third in Lincolnshire

On 25 November 2020 Natural England published its proposals to improve public access to a 33-mile (53-km) stretch of coast between Hunstanton and Sutton Bridge, which extends around The Wash.

There is now a period of eight weeks for legal interests and members of the public to make objections or representations that the Secretary of State must take into account when considering whether to approve the proposals.

If approved, this route will become part of the England Coast Path - a 2,700-mile-long distance-walking route and England's newest National Trail, currently being developed by Natural England.

The whole extent of the proposed trail is located in areas of international wildlife value and bird watchers will particularly enjoy The Wash National Nature Reserve and the RSPB reserve at Snettisham.

Natural England's proposals will also create seven miles of new access between the RSPB reserve at Snettisham and King's Lynn. This is an area largely remote from local facilities such as toilets and cafes, where the trail passes between The Wash and arable fields.

From King's Lynn the trail uses the existing Peter Scott Way, a local trail which extends into Lincolnshire and was named in honour of Sir Peter Scott, the famous naturalist. The trail also goes past the lighthouse near Sutton Bridge, where he lived.

Cllr Andrew Jamieson, Norfolk County Council's member champion for Cycling and Walking, said: "When this final section of the coast path is in place, we'll have a superb 113-mile trail right around Norfolk's beautiful coast. We want this new section to be a route that people will love to use and will return to again and again, so I shall be making my views known about the route and I'd urge



Photo: Adrian Gardiner

people to take this opportunity to look at the plans and feed back their views.

"It's not just about opening-up new access to our coastal areas, it's also likely to bring a much-needed financial boost as we know popular long-distance paths bring a significant benefit to local economies. In 2018 to 19 we saw 750,000 visits to Norfolk's coast path, so I hope completing the trail will help encourage even more people to experience our wonderful coastline in the future."

All representations and objections must be received by Natural England no later than midnight on 20 January 2021. The full reports, and all the forms and guidance on how to make a representation or objection within the next eight weeks, are available on the GOV.UK website.

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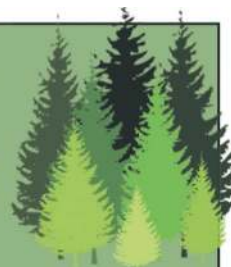
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Nature Notes with Roger

Three (hundred) calling birds, two grazing Deer and some Partridge in very large flocks

The colours of the countryside are nearly all browns now – nice different shades of brown though; the dark brown of the soil, lighter brown of the dormant vegetation at field edges and the golden brown of leaves still lingering on some trees. I have been noticing the trees in particular; now that most are bare they stand like skeletons with the sinews and muscles of each trunk and branch standing out clearly. On one very exposed spot two beech trees were bent with their backs to the prevailing wind reminding me of elderly farm labourers who had spent a lifetime battling against the elements. In the more sheltered valleys the trees stand more upright and keep their apparel for much longer, affording shelter and food for many birds. On one evening walk which I went on, a party of about twelve Long-tailed Tits passed through the trees feeding on minute invertebrates on the branches and keeping in touch with each other with their high pitched contact calls. At night they will all bunch together on one branch, maintaining warmth from one another – a very friendly survival tactic. Shortly after, a Barn Owl did a regular patrol of its patch, and as the light faded and the sky turned red in the west several hundred Pink-footed Geese passed overhead with their distinctive high-pitched calls, on their way to roost at Snettisham. The long straggling lines of flying birds were silhouetted against the orange glow of sunset and made a perfect Norfolk picture.

I seem to be seeing more deer out and about at this time of year. With the cold weather and the shorter daylight hours they need to take every opportunity to find their food. A few weeks ago two Roe Deer were crossing an uncut field of maize along one stretch of the Peddars Way, and a few days later two more were out in the open on rough ground near to Sedgeford. They are fairly widespread throughout Norfolk but more abundant in the central and south-west parts of the county. On another evening walk along the grazing marshes of the north coast I was watching



Chinese Water Deer

several Marsh Harriers flying in to roost in the reedbeds, when two Chinese Water Deer crossed the fields, stopping to feed and looking quite at home in the landscape. As the name suggests these deer are native to eastern China and Korea and were first reported in the wild in the UK in Buckinghamshire in 1945; quite possibly after escapes from large estates such as Woburn. The first record in Norfolk was of one at Hickling Broad in 1968, and over the next 30 years the population expanded and spread along the Yare valley north-westward. Small numbers were recorded in new locations during the 2000's but these seemed to be short-lived, until in the 2010's new populations became established in north-west Norfolk, particularly around Thornham and Titchwell.

It is difficult to travel around the countryside in this part of Norfolk without seeing some partridges, either in the fields or walking down the middle of the road! On my trips I have encountered many, either in twos or threes, or in quite large groups. Most have been the Red-legged variety which is not a native species having been introduced into this country in the late eighteenth century. Most of the introductions were from France which has given it the alternative name of French Partridge. They have been very successful and are now more numerous than the native species, the English Partridge, also known as the Grey Partridge. There has also been a

massive decline in Grey Partridge numbers, nationally some 80% since the 1950's, but the highest concentrations are still in the north-west parts of Norfolk. They prefer open, cultivated farmland with hedges and other shelter such as rough grass banks, but can also be found among sand dunes and shingle banks. The increased use of herbicides and pesticides has undoubtedly led to the decline, as these kill off the weeds fed on by insects, and the aphids and other crop pests, and it is these insects that the chicks are reliant on for the first two to three weeks of life. Other changes

in farming practice over the decades have not helped – the loss of hedges reduces nesting places, and more efficient harvesting and storage of crops leaves less waste grain in fields and yards. Thankfully, with more sympathetic and wildlife-friendly farming methods of late it can be hoped that numbers will naturally build up.

So, a great array of sightings – geese, deer and partridge – all very appropriate seasonal fayre; but personally I would rather see them out in the wild in their natural surroundings.



Grey Partridge

Mudpies & Butterflies

with Louise Barby, Balanis Garden Design

Firstly, I would like to wish you a very happy and healthy new year! January is a time of planning and preparation for the Spring and Summer to come. If you can brave the elements, here are a few things to be getting on with.

Did you know, you can still plant in January in Norfolk?. Although the air temperatures are low, the soil will still be retaining some warmth. Unless the soil freezes, is waterlogged or we have heavy snow, January is a perfect time to plant, just ensure that the plants you buy have not been undercover or cloches. If they have been grown and stored outdoors, they are safe to plant.

What to plant

Purchase snowdrops 'in the green'. If you haven't been successful with snowdrops in the past, buying and planting them in the green, provides a much higher success rate. Plant or fill gaps in hedging and add trees and shrubs to your plot.



Bare root trees, hedging, Roses, Azaleas, Camellias and Rhododendrons all do well if planted at this time of year.

Summer bulbs are also worth ordering now through a nursery or on line, gladioli and dahlias are great bulbs for adding impact in the border without costing the earth.

If you buy tubers or bare root varieties now, the choice is immense in comparison to potted varieties later in the season.

If you have windowsill space sow some sweet peas for early summer flowers.

Pruning

Be cautious when clearing leaves this month as you may find wildlife hibernating there.

Perennials can be cut back to just above ground level.

Shrubs such as Buddleja can be pruned back hard now, you may also remove any very old stems. This will increase the amount of flowers this season.

Thin out and prune apple and pear trees, cut back any new growth to one or two buds.

Late flowering Clematis can be pruned now, either down to a foot or so from the ground if you are happy to keep it compact, or shorten all side shoots to one leaf joint.

If your roses didn't flower well last year, try cutting them back quite hard, mulch them with a well-rotted manure and remove any branches which rub or cross over others. You can also train short climbers along wire, this will result in new shoots from the horizontal branches and plenty of flower buds.

Mulch

If you haven't already, mulch your borders. You can use compost, rotted manure or leaf mould. Put on a good thick layer, this not only provides your plants with nutrients it also protects them from harsh temperatures and prevents on onslaught of weeds come Spring.

From your armchair

Take time to go through all the mail order brochures that arrive at this time of year. Pre-order small plug plants, seeds and bulbs now to provide excellent savings.

Wishing you a blooming lovely 2021!



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UNSUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION IS NO LONGER AN OPTION

By Robin Limb, agricultural consultant

There are two Coca-Cola businesses – one being the parent company, based in Atlanta, Georgia, named ‘The Real Coca-Cola Company’, and CCE (Coca-Cola Enterprises), based in the UK which is basically just a bottling plant in Wakefield, using imported juice concentrate – and around 100KT of home-grown beet sugar annually.

Following attendance at a conference in the US in 2010, it was plain to see the vision that the world’s biggest drinks supplier had. It was no longer just good enough for your customers to like your product, they now wanted to know that you were operating on sustainable corporate business principles.

Coca-Cola has an objective to understand and measure the impacts of their activity on the planetary environment, and they are still in discussions with their global suppliers at the moment about this.

The company is focusing on three main areas: water, soils, and biodiversity, although their core interest appears to be water.

Their big concern is that they use intermediaries to source their sugar from processors and so have no direct contact with the growers.

Their growers are dispersed and variable; they do not contract directly with growers; and do not fully understand the geography of their producer base as it changes year on year.

They are keen to do something to see how their industry affects environmental outcomes, and notes that wherever sugar beet is grown in this country, it is likely to have some connection with Coca-Cola.

They keep making reference to this, and that they want to explore possibility of a pilot approach in the EU and potentially saw sugar beet growers in East Anglia as a good place to start.

Coca-Cola wants to understand what impact their sugar beet growers are having; what environmental outcomes they already have; and the potential improvements that could bring multiple benefits.

Coca-Cola are also interested in a simple list of plant, animal, and insect species that could be used for identifying their measures and impacts on biodiversity.

Coca-Cola were in the vanguard of the concept of sustainability, but many other companies were soon running hard to catch up.

In my final months with British Sugar, back in 2013, I worked alongside the Silver Spoon marketing manager, Alan Mayo, on the principle of sustainability. At the time it seemed like we were just two employees in the wilderness that had ‘Seen the Light.’

A bit like health and safety, sustainability has to be at the very heart and core of business, not just a compliance ‘tick-box’ exercise, that you review every few months, and then consign to the filing cabinet.

I remember e-mailing the British Sugar CEO with my proposals – his response was:

“Neither of these two managers actually knew where their sugar came from or how it was produced in the UK”

“This is just going to add cost to our bottom line and transfer value to our customers.”

The next week the same CEO had dinner with the head of CCE in London, when the subject of sustainability came up. The



comment was: “In future we will be judging our suppliers as much on their sustainability credentials as on price.” Well, you could have heard a pin fall. The penny had finally dropped.

There are various definitions of the word ‘Sustainability’. My version is: “Carrying on doing what you are doing without distraining upon the Earth’s natural resources or harming the environment.”

In agriculture, it falls into five roughly broad categories:

- Soil management
- Water management
- Environmental management
- Emissions control
- Wildlife conservation

There are others I could think of also. Interestingly, seaweed has been mentioned as a sustainable source of biomass, and ‘farming the seas’ may yet offer many opportunities. We live in a world of diminishing natural resources, which makes it all the more important that we carefully manage what precious natural resources we still have left.

In 2012 I organized a farm visit, hosted by the Ireland family, in Lincolnshire, to bring together all sectors of the UK sugar supply chain, including the two sustainability managers from both Coca-Cola and Mondelez. The astounding thing was that neither of these two managers actually knew where their sugar came from or how it was produced in the UK.



Mark, James, and Tony Ireland, together with Adam West from Natural England, discussing farming wildlife conservation and sustainability on their farm in 2012.



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New farm scheme

The Environmental Land Management scheme (ELM), is a new grant system for farmers which will in time replace Countryside Stewardship. This means that farmers will not be paid according to how much land they own but for delivering beneficial outcomes including: clean air and water, thriving plants and wildlife, protection from environmental hazards, and enhanced beauty in our landscapes. Heritage, engagement with the landscape, and reduction and adaptation to climate change are also important elements as we look to the future.

This is great news for the environment and for farmers who will be more supported financially to deliver benefits. The schemes will start in 2024 and protected landscapes including AONBs (Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) will begin to engage with farmers to support their participation in the ELM scheme from early next year. The Norfolk Coast Partnership has already been in discussions with Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB and the Broads National Park over



possible collaboration work here in East Anglia. They are looking forward to working even more closely with local farmers in the AONB and to help facilitate positive change for our landscape, wildlife and people.

Spreading a ray of light

Beacons of light are shining each evening between 4pm and 9pm at Snettisham Church illuminating the spire in a range of colours and effects that can be seen from around the village.

A collaboration between the Church and Matt Hallard's local events company Resort Entertainments Events saw the equipment installed on 11th December and the show launched on Sunday 13th when the spire was turned blue in recognition of the NHS and front-line workers in the village before turning green on 15th and 16th in recognition of the carers and volunteers.

Church Warden Andy Gee said: "With all the challenges that the village has faced over this year and with still a level of uncertainty for some, we at St. Mary's thought it would be good idea if we could turn the church into a beacon on the hill (literally) as a reflection of Hope and light for 2021.

"We had meeting with Matt and he took my initial idea and ran with it and his experience and passion is sure to show when the full program launches after the two days of green for carers.

"The hope is that families will walk up to the church to watch the display (though it will be quite visible from most areas of the village) and feel a sense Comfort and Joy this season; this is our way of spreading a ray of light for the Village and surrounding areas.

"We owe a massive vote of thanks to the local businesses and benefactors who have been so generous with their donations and support to help make this happen at such short notice."

The whole event will run for three weeks up to the 1st January.

Matt Hallard can be contacted at
matt@resortentertainments.co.uk or 07388 014003





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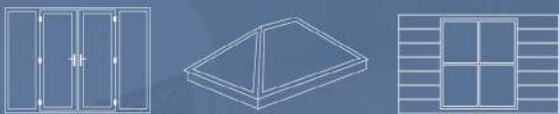
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Pandemic doesn't deter carers from joining West Norfolk company

New starters take caring roles during the most challenging time in the last 100 years

Joining the caring profession during a pandemic when health services faced the most challenging time in a century has not deterred new carers at a West Norfolk home care company.

Five new members of staff completed their initial training with Extra Hands at the height of the pandemic earlier this year before heading out into the community to play a vital role in looking after older and less able people in what has been an extraordinary year for the care sector.

In fact, the pandemic inspired one new-starter to change career and join Extra Hands, which has offices in Heacham. Tamara Proctor, of West Lynn, said the onset of Coronavirus and the problems it brought had made up her mind about becoming a carer.



"When I was growing up I was a carer for my mum and I'd also seen how carers helped her so when I could see what was happening with the virus, it seemed like the best time to get involved," she said.

The 20-year-old described the job as 'character building' and she had previously worked in a shoe shop, dealing mainly with older customers which, she said, had given her a useful insight into some of the requirements of her new career with Extra Hands, which has been in business for 27 years.

Another new joiner has been 25-year-old Natalie Ely, of Hunstanton, who had been considering a move into the world of care work for a long time and says she is thriving at the award-winning company, which offers a range of options from well-being checks to full, multi-visit care

plans.

"I happened to take the leap of faith at this time, but I'm so glad I did - it's an incredibly rewarding job," she said.



Natalie, a mother of two, works evenings and alternate weekends and said the work-life balance was one of the key reasons for joining Extra Hands, whose Heacham office has been rated as Outstanding by the Care Quality Commission.

"I am so glad I made the move, it's incredibly rewarding," she added.

Khloe Evans, 21, of South Wootton, returned to Extra Hands earlier this year after a spell of working in a care home. This year has been particularly challenging but Khloe has no regrets about her move.



"Knowing that when you leave the house you have set someone up for their day and they are feeling good about it - that means you can leave with a smile on your face," she said.

Having worked for many years as a mobile hairdresser, Amanda Hathaway, of

Dersingham, had always been tempted by a career in the caring professions.



"It's something I really wanted to do. I've been a hairdresser since I was 16 and a lot of my customers tended to be older, so I've ended-up doing extra things to help them anyway," said the 53-year-old.

"I absolutely love being a carer. Making the users happy and leaving them safe with a

smile on their face, is the best feeling," she added.



Another career changer is Laura Hawksworth, of King's Lynn, who felt she had more to offer than the admin roles she had been working in.

"The thought of doing a job where I could go into people's homes and help them as they needed was something that really appealed as people have told me I have a caring nature," she said.


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Hunstanton Lifeboat Station news

Geoff Needham, LPO Hunstanton RNLI

On behalf of all the crew at Hunstanton RNLI we wish you all a happy New Year. Thank you for all the support you have shown to the station and thanks to Elaine for giving us the space to keep you informed of events here.

The station has remained operational throughout, as with all RNLI stations. Covid-19 restrictions have forced us to operate under severe pressure, as with all emergency response teams, crews have had to re-adjust on how to operate in as safe environment as possible, but social distancing on a lifeboat is not possible, all possible precautions and safety equipment is used, and all has to be cleaned and sanitised after every shout. Our coastal area has seen a vast number of visitors exploring the wide open spaces, which has resulted in over 50 persons having to be rescued from the incoming tide, having either got cut off on the marshes, sandbanks and Scolthead island, around 50 incidents needing RNLI assistance.

Weekend commencing 12th November the crews were involved in a multi-agency search for missing wind surfer Chris Bamfield, sadly without a result. Our condolences are with his family.

With no further shouts so far, let's take a look back at the station history. December 11th 1912 A Norwegian brig the Henrik Wergeland left Boston with a cargo of coal and ran aground on the long sand in a south south west gale and rough sea. The Hunstanton men were alerted by the Roaring Middle Light vessel firing signals of distress. The Licensed Victualler launched at 11.25am and proceeded under oar and sail. On arrival the Hunstanton men found the vessel rolling heavily and the crew asked to be taken off, but as the vessel's master refused to leave, the lifeboat remained by the stranded vessel. After a time it was found that there were two feet of water in the hold and four of the lifeboat men went aboard and manned the pumps, as the vessel's crew refused to go back on board. Later in the day a tug arrived and towed the vessel clear, she was towed back to Boston, and the crew were landed at Hunstanton at 4.15pm. The station was credited with saving seven men and the brig.

Dec.7th 1922 the Lynn Well lightship fired signals indicating that some vessel was in trouble in her vicinity, the Licensed Victualler launched for what was to be her last service launch at 12.40pm. The wind was strong



An old photo of the last licensed Victualler on station when it closed

breeze from the north north west with a rough sea to the steam trawler ME 26 of Montrose which was aground on the Sandbanks. With the tide flooding and engine running she was able to get herself off the banks and resume fishing. The lifeboat returned to station and was re-housed at 4.45pm.

Thursday 16th July 1931 the RNLI Committee of management decided to close the Lifeboat Station. As there had been no

service calls for nine years. The Licensed Victualler and her carriage were sold locally, and the tractor returned to RNLI depot at Poplar in London.

Video footage of some recent rescues can be seen on the RNLI website www.rnli.org.uk. The RNLI is a Charity that is supported by voluntary donations and volunteer crews.

For information on the RNLI the Charity that saves lives at sea visit www.rnli.org.uk

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A brand new year ahead and we are all wondering what it will bring..... maybe we can help

Sandra Hohol, Norfolk Holiday Homes

Despite what people may think, we at Norfolk Holiday Homes do not sit and do nothing when in 'lockdown' or even throughout the winter months. I think that in all my forty years in this business there are always several people each year who think that come September (in a normal year), we sit twiddling our thumbs or even shut up shop for the next six months till Easter as there is nothing to do. Just because the holiday season goes a lot quieter in the shoulder months does not mean there is no work for us. We have paperwork to catch up on and bums to kick into action; preparations for the forthcoming months with owners, properties and housekeepers; lots of reading and learning to be done in line with anything relating to Covid 19 plus many other legal items which need attention and updating. We never rest. Our days' work never finishes, it just rolls over. There are always jobs on my desk or in emails which all need doing first.....prioritising is hard but we cope as this is our job. For those with your own holiday homes, you will know how hard it is to juggle random calls at all hours and time spent talking to the caller at maybe an inconvenient time. The time consuming paperwork involved too which never stops. It is not just a case of take the booking details, process the money, tell the guest the arrival and departure details and hey ho, job done. The summer is booked – good season, now we can rest in the winter. If only.....

I had a call from a prospective new holiday owner last week who had already had a brief chat with us and was sent details of our services. He then emailed back to say that he could not really see exactly what we did to earn commission. I thought he was 'having a laugh'. This obviously incensed all of us in the office. I set to, listing everything which I could immediately think of and came up with over thirty items just for starters. Before I continued by asking the girls, I thought I had better stop before filling up several pages and ending on a rude note. I duly pressed the 'send' button on my PC. No surprise – he did not come back to me.

Going back to individual holiday home owners, if you feel that the last year really knocked you for six, and you have had enough of being

tired of managing your property, why not let us take the pressure from you? Maybe you feel helpless sometimes as you are too far away? Has all the new Covid -19 legislation changes given you a big headache? Do you have someone to keep you on your toes to ensure you are meeting all legal requirements running your holiday accommodation? Can you let your property out of season on the 'shoulder' months? Do you struggle with cleaning or finding someone decent to do this for you? Is your handyperson not so handy any more or do your own skills do not match up? Can't find a plumber or electrician who is reliable? Is your current agency fulfilling your needs? Maybe it's time for a change. We have plenty of room for more properties and love to keep busy if you need that change. Like the Co-op's advert says.....'It's what we do'.....
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Hunstanton and District Inner Wheel

By the time you receive your Town and Around copy, Christmas will be over and 2021 will be upon us. For many people Christmas will have been a paired down experience but new ways have emerged on how to keep in touch.

Enter ZOOM! Hunstanton Inner Wheel had a virtual Christmas Party. Dress code was Christmas hats, sparkle and a glass of something. It was interesting to see who drinks what. Very revealing but I will not reveal who had the gin and tonic and what size it was. Below you will see one member who was almost unrecognisable.



At this time of the year donating items to Baby Basic is vital. There are many young single mothers who have very little for their newborn babies and Hunstanton Inner Wheel have been collecting for them and plan to deliver, hopefully in time for Christmas.



Our vice District Chairman Coral Campbell is seen below with our contributions, minus Monty, her dog, and we are delighted to support this worthwhile charity.

Let's us hope that we will be able to reconvene soon but in the meantime, happy new year from all of us at Hunstanton and District Inner Wheel.



Sue Trewin, Club Correspondent

A recipe from the Prudent Pensioner

Macaroni Cheese with Bacon

Makes 2 generous servings

125g/4 ½ oz. Dried macaroni pasta
 15g/½oz Butter
 15g/½oz Plain flour
 250ml/½ pint Milk
 1/4 teaspoon English mustard
 100g/4oz Strong flavoured Cheddar Cheese grated
 Salt & Pepper
 1 rasher Back Bacon or 2 rashers of Streaky bacon rinds removed
 You will need a 850ml/1½ pint ovenproof dish.

Cut bacon into small strips and fry until cooked to liking. Place bacon in ovenproof dish and spread evenly over base. Half fill a medium size saucepan with lightly salted water bring to the boil then add the macaroni. Boil for 5 minutes then strain off all but approximately 2 tablespoons of water. Meanwhile melt butter in a saucepan, remove from heat and add flour stirring to form a smooth base for the sauce. Whisk in milk a little at a time until all mixed then gently bring to the boil still stirring constantly. Reduce heat to simmer, stir in mustard, salt and pepper to taste. Cook for 2 minutes stirring often. Add par cooked macaroni to pan, stir and cook for 4 minutes. The starches in the pasta will thicken the sauce as it cooks.

Preheat grill to medium. Remove sauce from heat and stir in 2/3rd of the cheese. Pour sauce over bacon in dish, spreading evenly. Sprinkle over remaining cheese and grill for approximately 6 minutes or until cheese is browned and sauce is bubbling.

For details of my books and more of my recipes and 'How to' Video clips Visit the Prudent Pensioner's page on my website
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 See more recipes on The Prudent Pensioner Facebook page

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Lighthouse painting starts auction for hospital cause

An online auction will take place soon to raise vital funds for the imminent Maternity Bereavement Suite at Lynn's hospital for parents who lose a baby either during, or shortly after birth. The idea was inspired by Nikki Brown-Smith, founder of Holistic Health in Wisbech, who rekindled her passion for painting during the pandemic period.

Ms Brown-Smith decided she would help raise funds for furnishings and essential extras at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital's planned maternity bereavement suite, expected to be completed by April 2021. The target of £185,000 was met by the Trust's own charity giving £145,000 and £44,000 raised by the generous local community.

And Ms Brown-Smith recently ran a competition on Facebook asking for West Norfolk photos for her to paint. After five photos were chosen, a random number generator saw Julie May Smart's photo of Hunstanton Lighthouse selected.

A former graphics designer, Ms Brown-Smith proceeded to devote 300 hours to the oil painting of the lighthouse, which will be auctioned for the maternity bereavement suite cause, also named as the Lynn News Charity of the Year for 2020.

Ms Brown-Smith said: "It was the most detailed painting I have ever done. When I started it was very slow, but halfway through I picked up a lot of pace. It would be nice to raise £300 for it as that would be a pound for every minute!"

The painting and other items will be auctioned in aid of the maternity bereavement suite thanks to the goodwill of Fakenham-based James and Sons Auctioneers who have agreed to support the Queen Elizabeth Hospital by hosting an online auction in the New Year.

James and Sons director David James said: "We are delighted to support such a good charitable cause and we have helped a number of organisations over the last few years.

"We did one for the Royal British Legion for 800 uniforms and I will do my best to help the organiser of this one. "We will hold the auction online and it depends on the volume of items that come in, but it will be early New Year at the latest." Ms Brown-Smith's painting will be auctioned, but Mr James has suggested branching out to practically everything including coins, stamps, military and sporting memorabilia with donations being welcomed from the community. It should be noted that James and Sons does not auction furniture. Local



artists are encouraged to donate their work for the cause.

Speaking about her support for the Charity of the Year, Ms Brown-Smith recalled her own devastating loss at Lynn's hospital nearly two decades ago. She said: "It was only when I found out the full title of the charity that it knocked me off my feet. 17-years-ago I went full-term with a little girl who died. On the due date, there were no facilities at all and I went into a room at the back where I sat on a bed and a man put a briefcase on my lap. "I was so traumatised and he said 'do you want her cremated'. It was just so callous and cold and my relationship eventually ended because of it. "A maternity bereavement suite will hopefully help other families and mothers cope better than I did."

If you would like to donate items for the auction, contact the QEH fundraising executive on 01553 613373, or at Laurence.morlaas@qehkl.nhs.uk. You can also send cheques payable to 'Maternity Bereavement Suite' or give online at www.justgiving.com/campaign/QEHMaternityBereavementSuite.

NB: Article courtesy of Lynn News.

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Hunstanton EyeCare Blog

Coral Eyewear

With all the traumas of 2020 we look forward to the new year with hope, and perhaps the thought that there are some things that we really need to change. My concerns are over our wonderful planet, the fact that there are too many of us humans consuming far too much of our finite natural resources at the expense of our beautiful wildlife and eco system. In the optical world we manufacture millions of frames from the dreaded plastic and they are not recycled, even the charities have found it uneconomic to send your old specs to poorer countries so that has stopped.



However, there is hope. A bright young spark at the University of East Anglia, George Bailey, is the Co-Founder of Coral Eyewear, a company manufacturing frames from plastic waste reclaimed from the sea and landfill. This is the second such company we have introduced at Hunstanton Eyecare and I hope this is a message for change in the industry. You can read more about George and his innovative company at www.coraleyewear.com. The range is a little limited at the moment but we have to start somewhere!

Our very best wishes to you all for a Happy and Healthy 2021.

Annette

T&A thought this was such an interesting story, so here's a little more about George Bailey from: www.coraleyewear.com/pages/our-story and the UEA news archive of 20.11.2019.

Whilst studying at the University of East Anglia, George began researching sustainable materials, combining his passion for the environment, with his dad's experience in the optical market.

The university quickly recognised the potential of the brand, invested in the business, and then introduced George to entrepreneur, philanthropist and TV personality, Jake Humphrey. Jake was already supporting UEA students through his Scholarship scheme, and was immediately captivated by the Coral eyewear idea, becoming an investor, a creative driving force, and Coral Eyewear's first brand advocate.

Originally from Canterbury the (then) nineteen year old said: "I've been inspired by the big characters in climate change like David Attenborough, and it all helps to build awareness around plastic waste. But what I'd like to come across, is that everyone can make a



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You in Mind

Hope you are coping well in this time of uncertainty. I know some of you may struggle with anxiety on a day to day basis. This time may indeed cause you to think more deeply about the negatives that are all around us now. But there is some solace in knowing that like most viruses they do and will eventually pass.

For some, this time may lead you away from worrying over your concerns of the past and future, of playing over in your mind the fears for you and your loved ones, and now, you find your mind's focusing on this pandemic.

It is indeed going to be worse for those of you who struggle with anxiety, as you tell yourselves that you have now a real solid reason to be concerned and to over-think.



I do understand that anxiety is a very real uncomfortable emotion that strips away any good feeling and can leave you in a state of complete panic and where you feel consumed by fear of life. Yes life can be fearful but it can be helpful to find comfort in the NOW! And when we only think of Now! and do not become distracted on concerns of the past and what may or may not happen in our future.

I wanted to let you know, because it would seem this could go on for a while yet, that I am still open to seeing clients. I am abiding by the government's safety guidance, keeping a safe distance of over 2 metres away from my clients at all times through the sessions.

Let me explain how I work: You will walk through my doors without having to touch anything, then will be seated on a clean throw (every one has a clean throw just for them) and then I will close doors and sit over 2 metres away from you. At the end of the session the same safe sequence will be repeated when you walk out of the premises.

So if you would like me to help you with what ever you may be struggling with, please get in contact with me. This has to be your decision not mine.

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Sandie Payne

The Arts in Lockdown

The media has recently been full of the valiant efforts by the music and theatre professions to keep performance alive during lockdown. This ranges from leaving seats vacant in auditoria to self-sterilising door handles! But few of us could have foreseen six months ago that we'd be into a second period of confinement, albeit one a little less stringent than the first. As a retired performer my heart goes out to those young people who aren't eligible for government financial support. And many of those who are eligible are being advised to change profession. For those who have dedicated their life to a career on stage or on the concert platform, such advice is both devastating and cruel. Yet there is little light at the end of the tunnel. For one group of young musicians, however, the second lockdown presented a unique opportunity they would otherwise not have had.

Playing in any musical ensemble is a huge challenge that requires physical and mental skills closely akin to those of a surgeon. In addition, being part of a string quartet (two violins, a viola and a cello) calls for finely-honed teamwork and highly advanced aural skills that can only be developed with hours and hours of practice. The quartet repertoire, as exemplified by those by Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven, includes some of the world's greatest masterpieces that can only be tackled by ensembles who have played them dozens of times. The Echéa quartet has only recently left the starting blocks. They're fresh out of the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music, where their junior fellowship was cut short earlier this year because of the pandemic. As part of their aims and objectives to help promising young performers, Simon Rowland-Jones and Barry Cheeseman, founders of the North Norfolk Music Festival, engaged the young quartet for a concert in November and had booked the Yorke Trust premises in South Creake for two long weekends to enable them to study and to be coached. Simon sent me a link so I could see their potential for myself and I was suitably impressed.

Hardly had the quartet set foot in the village when a panic email landed on my desk. A second lockdown was rumoured, meaning that the ensemble would be unable to meet for a month - a major set-back for their development as there was nowhere in London they would be allowed to work. Added to this, one of their members lives in Vienna! Could they lock down in Norfolk for the whole month? Fortunately, the Trust was able to accede to their request as all other bookings had been cancelled and the premises were free. They gave a preview concert early in their residency with an audience of about six people in the Trust's newly re-decorated Old Chapel. And a very rewarding experience it was as they play with good musical instincts coupled with the vitality of youth. And rather than abandon their NNMF engagement altogether, they recorded a performance that was made available to NNMF Friends, proceeds from which helped pay for their stay.

'It's an ill wind...', as the expression goes. It came to mind that one of the greatest string quartets of all time, the Amadeus, had its genesis when three of its members were interned



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together on the Isle of Man after being forced out of Vienna by Hitler's 1938 Anschluss. The quartet vowed to disband should any one of them die which, on the death of the viola player Peter Schidlöf in 1987, they duly did. Their legacy includes over 200 recordings, which in itself is an awe-inspiring achievement. Internment of the Echéa in South Creake? Well, not quite. But one can only wish them every possible success in today's rapidly changing coronavirus world.

The Yorke Trust will invite the Echéa quartet for one of a series of Benefit Concerts in the Old Chapel, South Creake, designed to help support and promote young musicians in these challenging times whilst also enriching the cultural life of the area. Details will be posted on the Yorke Trust website when national restrictions have been eased.
www.yorketrust.org

Rodney Slatford
Chairman, The Yorke Trust

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FREE and easy to view ONLINE LECTURE

Monday 11th January 2021 at 2pm.

Join us 'online' for what promises to be a fascinating talk.

Sir Ernest Henry Shackleton (15 February 1874 – 5 January 1922) was an Anglo-Irish Antarctic explorer who led three British expeditions to the Antarctic. He was one of the principal figures of the period known as the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration.

Photographic Odyssey: Shackleton's Endurance Exhibition Captured on Camera. Mark Cottle.

On Ernest Shackleton's third Antarctic expedition in 1914, his ship, the *Endurance*, was trapped and eventually crushed in the pack ice. After camping for five months on the ice, Shackleton's men rowed to the remote Elephant Island and from there, Shackleton sailed for help to South Georgia over 800 miles away. Over three months later he returned to rescue the *Endurance's* crew Frank Hurley, one of the great photographers of the 20th century, was the expedition's official photographer. His photographs are a visual narrative of an epic journey which capture, with great artistry, new and amazing landscapes within which a remarkable human drama is played out. The lecture captures Hurley's achievements as a photographer of the Antarctic in the first flush of human contact when it was still essentially terra incognita.

To arrange your view please visit the Society's website and click the link to request your free on line access code.

www.theartsocietynwnorfolk.org.uk



*Shackleton's Grave
South Georgia*

u3a

HUNSTANTON
Learn, Laugh, Live

As we remain unable to hold meetings in the Community Centre our meetings will now be available via Zoom.

Our AGM is on Monday 18th January 2021 followed by our Speaker at 2.15pm.

Full details will be available on our website u3aHunstanton, we look forward to your virtual company.

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NORFOLK & NORWICH FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES DATES FOR 2021

Daniel Brine Artistic Director and Chief Executive of Norfolk & Norwich Festival has confirmed that the 2021 Festival will take place between 14 – 30 May. Following its cancellation in 2020, and the continuing worldwide pandemic, the 2021 edition of the arts festival will be a one-off adaptation, with programme and presentation designed especially for Covid-times.

Daniel Brine said: "We, like the whole arts sector, have been navigating the complications thrown upon us by Coronavirus and so I'm really overjoyed to be able to announce that we will be staging a Festival in 2021."

The Festival, which will mark its 249th year in 2021 usually attracts audiences of around 80,000 for its international programme of music, performance, visual arts and literature in venues and outdoor spaces across Norwich and Norfolk.

Mr Brine explained: "As a Festival, we have no fixed venue, and have been able to be fleet-of-foot, reactive, opportunistic. We have the ability to adapt to a degree, so we have been working to create an exciting, adapted and safe programme for the 17 days next May."

During the pandemic we have been reminded of the value that art has in our lives. People have been listening to music, watching box sets, reading, and streaming theatre to bring moments of respite and connection. We have been doing our bit over the summer, providing support and relief for some of those worse affected through creative projects across the region. But we are all missing the magic, the shared experiences that live art and performance bring us. It's important that the people of Norfolk and Norwich can have a Festival to look forward to next year and we're working on something that as many as possible can enjoy.

But it isn't just about audiences. Delivering a Festival will provide a tremendous boost for the local economy and bring vital employment opportunities for artists, freelance crew and arts workers, all of whom have been heavily affected over the last 8 months."

The full programme for 2021's Norfolk & Norwich Festival will be announced in March 2021.

CLASSICAL MUSIC ROCKS

LIVE SUNDAY CONCERT SERIES - SPRING 2021

With local classical music festivals cancelled throughout 2020, we are delighted to bring you a live classical concert series with some of the UK's finest musicians, in conjunction with Classical Music Rocks, throughout the Spring of 2021.

Socially Distanced Seating Applies.

Dedicated to bringing classical music to children in West Norfolk and run by volunteers with no administration costs. Supported by private donors, West Norfolk Music Centre, the Norfolk Music Hub and the Prince of Wales Charitable Trust.

Patrons: Louis de Bernieres & Lord Bellingham.

CMR are launching an exciting series of chamber concerts involving 8 of our talented musicians.

CMR say, "We are very pleased that Brian Hallard and the Princess Theatre are helping us to mount this series which should be of great interest to a public starved of live music."

Concerts will be for an hour, without an interval.

Tickets are now on sale via the website and from the Box Office.

Adults £10.00, Under 18's £5.00. Full Festival Tickets (all 6 concerts) Adults £50.00, Under 18's £25.00.

Festival tickets can only be purchased via the Box Office

For details of our musicians and Classical Music Rocks please look at our website cmrschoolwestnorfolk.com

Charity No. 1185672

See advertisement on page 63.

Brancaster School news

By Connor Broomfield and Freya Kidd

Hello everyone and welcome to this month's update on what has been going on at Brancaster school. Lately Samphire class has been learning about Sicily, so one afternoon we sampled some Sicilian food. We tried green and black olives; Caprese salad made with mozzarella, tomatoes, basil and olive oil; chorizo, prosciutto and salami; pasta with tomatoes and Parmesan cheese; and tiramisu to finish. A lot of people liked the tiramisu best because it was chocolatey.

Using VR headsets, we have been exploring volcanoes – including Mount Etna. That was really fun. It felt like we were falling because it looked and felt like we were floating. We also used the VR headsets to visit the International Space Station, but the volcanoes were best. We went to the Grand Canyon using the VR headsets too. We discovered that there are trails to go but it takes two days to get from the top of the Grand Canyon to the bottom, so there is a campsite halfway down for people to stay overnight. We were on top of the Grand Canyon looking down. When we looked down it was like sky-diving – like you actually were falling. Connor really did fall down on the classroom floor!

As well as VR, we also tried out Augmented Reality. We had a phone and selfie stick each, and QR codes were scattered around the room. When we moved around with the phones, we saw dinosaurs in 3d on the screen as if they were in the actual room with us. We found that there was sometimes a bit of a lag so when we turned to find another QR code the dinosaur on the screen looked as if it was following us.

We made fossils using plasticine and Plaster of Paris – and some of class 1's dinosaurs! We were really pleased with how they turned out.



We are starting to prepare for Christmas. Due to Covid, things are going to be different this year. We'll miss going to church and being able to celebrate with the community, and singing at Tesco like we usually do. Class 1 are performing the nativity whilst Class 2 are using green screen to make it look like we are reporters on location in Bethlehem, reporting the latest events back to a TV studio. The Class 1 and Class 2 bubbles cannot mix, so we are recording our separate parts and then editing them together. It feels a bit weird and different not performing altogether in front of our parents, even though we know that they will be sent a link to view the final production.

We have also taken part on the Christmas cards for Care Homes project so some lucky people will be receiving cards from us to make them feel happier at Christmas.

Finally, a big thank you to those people who kindly donated Christmas trees and decorations to the school. Both classes have now put them up and they look lovely!

Term finished on Friday 18th and we start again on 4th January.

Have a happy new year.



A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY
THORNHAM OPEN GARDENS
SUNDAY, 20TH JUNE, 2021
LUNCHES AND TEAS

Village School helps with dog mess campaign

Simon Bower

Before the first lockdown, pupils from Snettisham Village School enjoyed taking part in a competition to design an eye-catching poster to help reduce the problem with dog fouling in the Village.

Prizes were awarded by the Parish Council and the winners were:

1st - Emily Dry

2nd - Jessica Moore

3rd - Grace Arndt-Poole

The signs are currently being placed around the Village, on the numerous dog bins, and at the Common.

Cllr Janet Todd, Cllr with responsibility for liaison with the School, and one of the judges, said: "We very much enjoyed seeing the children's work, and they were really engaged with the idea. We hope that their work draws attention to the problem, which is a perennial issue for all parish councils. It is so good that youngsters are committed to this, as we know it bodes well for the future. Children are also great influencers of their parents."

Cllr Alf Todd, PC Chairman, noted that Council believed having the visual impact of the children's designs would make a difference. He urged all dog-owners to behave responsibly, and drew attention to the reporting system operated by the Borough Council.



Cllr Alf Todd (PC Chair), Cllrs Ros Pugh, David Baxter and Janet Todd (judges) with Grace, Jessica and Emily

Hunstanton and Saxon Shore Benefice

My aunt is an avid reader of the BBC "Sky and Night" magazine and passes her copies on to me. A few months ago we were following the planet Mars through the night sky and marvelling at its increasing brightness and clarity. And I was intrigued by a recent article in the magazine about its orbit and seasons. The Martian year lasts for 687 earth days with seasons that mimic ours, but almost twice as long. Those long Martian winters would be difficult for human explorers to endure. I am just glad that our winters on earth are not as long, and am looking forward to the increasing day light as we go into 2021.

I trust that you had as good a Christmas as possible in the current circumstances; it is good to celebrate the birth of Jesus as we look forward to the New Year when the sun grows

stronger again and the natural world reawakens. However, Jesus was almost certainly born in the spring, for that is when those shepherds would have been grazing their flocks in the fields outside Bethlehem. How many know that, until the middle of the eighteenth century, the year began on March 25th? This is the Feast of the Annunciation, celebrating the conception of Jesus in the womb of Virgin Mary, exactly nine months before Christmas Day. The switch came when this country changed from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar in 1752, one hundred and seventy years after the rest of Europe. However, the tax year did not change because obviously no one wanted to pay a year's tax after only nine months. But the eleven days difference between the two calendars shifted that year's end to April 5th, the day observed

by the Inland Revenue.

Christians believe that everything should begin with Jesus, not only the start of the year, and we in the Hunstanton and Saxon Shore Benefice believe that he has called our new team vicar, Rev. Kirsty Allan, to join us to begin a new ministry. Formally a curate at Wilmslow in Cheshire, she will be licensed to all the churches in the benefice by the Bishop of Norwich later in January. The date at the time of writing has yet to be confirmed, and we pray God's blessing on her as the New Year and her new ministry begin. And may God bless you as 2021 begins.

Rev. James Monroe, Assistant Priest, Hunstanton and Saxon Shore Benefice.

Would you like to have your copy of Town and Around posted to you each month?
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One Church, One Family

By Gordon Tanner, a member of The Way C F Leadership team

I have previously mentioned in Town and Around that my musical taste is found in the genre of Tom Paxton. I am far from musically inclined, so my musical taste has to be based on the words of the songs. I was trained as an engineer in the 60's and my music was songs of social change and protest.

I've not written about my brother and sister before. My sister grew up with Gilbert and Sullivan operettas as her staple music taste, and she has gone on to sing in choruses and is an avid opera-goer. My brother was much more musical than me and at the age of 16 he was the organist and choir master in the local church, studied music at university, and went on to become a senior producer on BBC Radio 3. So musically we are totally different but all three of us form one family.

It is much the same in Christianity. The church in the bible is a group of people; it is not buildings, bricks and mortar with stained glass windows. Christians were not permitted until about 350AD to have a building for worship. That was done in people's homes or a suitable piece of open ground. When the

letters in the New Testament were written they were addressed to the church in a city or town. For instance St. Paul wrote to 'the church in Ephesus' even though it was a city of about 250,000 people.

So today when people who don't know, look at the church in, for instance, Hunstanton, they see five or six church buildings in a town of about 5000 population they are not wrong to wonder 'why so many buildings?'. The fact is that over time people have found different ways of worship, and different stresses in the subjects preached, causing people to show their preferences by which group they get involved with. The outsider may not realise that all the churches in Hunstanton preach the same basic core beliefs of Christianity:

that Jesus is God and was creator of this world that Jesus was born of a virgin as prophesied in the Old Testament – that He died to bear the Father's anger against sin and pay the penalty for us, which had been given announced at the very start – if you sin, you will surely die –

that he came back to life because he himself was sinless so death had no power over him that he ascended to heaven and that those who believe in him, when this life ends, will also spend eternity with him

So a few months ago a meeting was started for the leaders and prayer teams of the local churches, to pray together for the town, and for blessing on each other's ministries. It started small with three churches involved before the first lockdown came along. A fourth church joined us in the time between the two lockdowns and we plan to restart as soon as the Covid situation eases enough to allow meetings of more than 6 people (suitably distanced of course!). We are praying primarily for the area and that each person will come to know Jesus as a personal saviour.

I pray as we enter into 2021 that you will be blessed by getting to know our Lord better and better, and He'll guide you to the right part of the family where you'll find your music being played.

A Traveller's Tales - by a Wayfarer

21 Still learning???

As a mother collected her small son after his first day at school, she asked him what had he learned. He replied - "Not a lot - they told me I have to go back again tomorrow!"

I have to admit I did NOT like starting school in 1945 - which for me was the Infants School in James Street, Hunstanton, - shades of Shakespeare's schoolboy, creeping like snail unwillingly to school! After the war, as a family we returned to Ilford where I resumed my schooling. The following summer, returning to Hunstanton for our holiday, I visited my old school and saw my former teacher. She asked me how I was getting on with my reading. She then handed me one of their Reading Primers to see what I could make of it. I was absolutely mortified because I couldn't read it at all! Fortunately, after the holidays I started seriously to learn to read - and happily I have been an avid reader ever since. Interestingly, the incident when I had been challenged about my inability to read, had been so embarrassing that for many years I had tried to wipe it completely from my memory and it only surfaced again in 2004 when I undertook a filming assignment in Côte d'Ivoire concerning a very special Literacy programme.

Due to a complex range of problems, at that time illiteracy rates in Côte d'Ivoire were appalling with nearly half the men and two thirds of the women unable to read and write. I found it most heartening and humbling at the same time to see the eagerness and enthusiasm with which Ivoirians were seizing opportunities to learn to read - many of them women and many of them no longer young!

Sadly even today in Great Britain there are many who have left school unable to read and write. Recent events have stirred my thoughts and concerns about 'schooling' and learning' which have prompted the writing of these lines.

Not long ago President Donald Trump stunned the world with his comments concerning COVID 19. After belittling concern about the virus, likening it to a mild dose of 'flu, he contracted it himself. Having been given oxygen and fed with a cocktail of expensive drugs he said "It's been a very interesting journey,... I learned a lot about COVID. I learned it by really going to school and I get it and I understand it." Many - even in his own party have been asking "Has



Ivorian women learning to read in classes held at Church before their morning service

he actually learned ANYTHING about COVID 19?" The Guardian newspaper stated unequivocally - "Absolutely NOT!" But before we smugly express our own disapproval of Donald Trump's arrogance, we should be very careful that we don't condemn ourselves by our assumptions that we know better!

I wonder how many of us having left school - perhaps many years ago - think we are now 'grown up' and nobody can teach us anything? Many of us may enjoy the TV series 'New Tricks' based on the old proverb (myth) that "You can't teach an old dog new tricks". How wrong can we be. It was Michelangelo who is credited with the being the first to admit "I'm still learning." Then there is the story of a former Headmaster of Eton who died in his 90's, and had "Still learning" as

his epitaph. When we stop 'learning' we are really in trouble. I would like to stress that age of itself has little to do with our ability to learn - it is more to do with our state of mind.

I will freely admit that I have personally learned far more since I left school, than ever I learned at school. Aristotle famously wrote, "The more you know, the more you realize you don't know." - a fact I now wholeheartedly endorse.

I never had the privilege of going to University - like many others. However, I did initially have a common misconception concerning Universities, assuming they produced 'Experts'. I have since been constantly reminded of the fact that an 'Ex' is 'a has been', and a 'spurt' is 'a drip under pressure'!! The truth is that Universities don't teach you all there is to learn, about anything but how to learn more about everything. The Open University is now a well-established and very successful avenue for anyone to learn anything. To date, they've taught more than two million students - quite a few being well past normal retirement age - some even into their 90's!

A very dear friend - now happily my wife - earned her Upper Second Class Honours Degree through the Open University - at the age of 65.



Iris with her Degree certificate

In my previous 'day Job' I had the privilege of being a Visiting Lecturer at the HM Customs & Excise Training Centre at Southend, lecturing on technical subjects related to the Department's revenue control over Oil Installations. One interesting feature was that we would only accept as trainee students, Officers who had already been 'doing the job' for at least 2 or 3 months. Without that practical 'hands-on' experience, the classroom training would lack the context in which any training needs to take place - very similar to the old and well-tried practice of Apprenticeship.

Jesus taught in very much the same way. He said - "Follow me ... Learn of me ... Put into practice what I teach you." That is the crux of it. Truth, like soap on the flannel, must be applied if it is to be of any value.

Just before He went to the cross Jesus promised His disciples a very special gift - His very own Spirit which would lead them into all Truth. Truth in this context isn't a commodity that can be encapsulated in its entirety, and fully attainable by anyone. Rather it is the mouse in the granary scenario where the store is so vast compared with our minuscule capacity to hold any of it. There is always more to learn.

2020 has been a most troubled year with so many accepted ways of life being turned inside out and upside down and the future most uncertain and unclear. Interestingly, '20-20' vision is regarded as the standard of excellent eyesight !!

Now over 80 years old, I freely admit I am Still learning, Still journeying - as a Pilgrim and Wayfarer on a Journey of a Lifetime. As 2020 draws to a close, my prayer for all our readers is that we persevere in Still Learning, Still journeying - as Pilgrims and Wayfarers on the Journey of a Lifetime

- with Jesus
Vaya con Dios

Big C benefits from Mintlyn donation



Cllr Geoff Hipperson, the Mayor of King's Lynn & West Norfolk, and Cllr Paul Kunes, Borough Council Cabinet member for Climate Change and Commercial Services, presented Dr Chris Bushby, Chief Executive at Big C with a cheque for £10,000 towards Big C Cancer Charity on 16th December.

The money has been raised through a charitable scheme, operated by the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM), of which Mintlyn is a member. Under the scheme metal from medical implants is recycled after cremation, with the consent of the family of the deceased. Twice a year the institute asks its scheme members to nominate local charities, which help to support people to cope with the death of loved ones, to receive a donation.

Cllr Kunes said: "Over the last nine years Mintlyn Crematorium has raised thousands of pounds for many worthy local causes through this scheme. I'm delighted to be presenting this cheque to The Big C, a charity who have been improving the lives of those affected by cancer in Norfolk for the last 40 years."

Dr Chris Bushby, Chief Executive at Big C, said "Grateful thanks to the Mintlyn Crematorium for their loyal support of Big C. Donations towards our local work supporting those affected by cancer are always vital, but never more than this year, which has been even more challenging than usual for those with cancer. It has also been a difficult year for the charitable sector and this contribution will make a valuable difference to those in our community who need our support."

Last word

This has been such a challenging year for all of us. At T&A, unlike many other local magazines, we have managed print and distribute approx. 10,000 magazines to 25,000 potential customers every month throughout 2020, bringing much needed cheer and information to our community in NW Norfolk.

Our distribution network was disrupted by both lockdowns and we have had to find new outlets for copies of the magazine speedily. So via the authorised Self-Select Distribution specialists appointed by the major supermarkets we have rented space in the Hunstanton, Heacham and King's Lynn (Hardwick) branches of Sainsbury's and Tesco, King's Lynn Asda and the Co-op stores in Snettisham and Dersingham. Additionally Lidl at Heacham have been most supportive in an independent arrangement. These support our existing network of outlets that have been able to remain open.

We address the NW Norfolk audience many of whom rely on printed magazines and not the internet. We would argue that social media has its place, but print is king!

Let's look forward to a much better 2021 and in the meantime, I wish you a happy and healthy New Year.

Elaine Bird, T&A Editor



What's on

Spring 2021

CLASSICAL MUSIC ROCKS



With local classical music festivals cancelled throughout 2020, we are delighted to bring you a live classical concert series with some of the UK's finest musicians, in conjunction with Classical Music Rocks, throughout the Spring of 2021.

Socially Distance Seating Applies. 60 minute performance.

Adults £10.00, Under 18's £5.00
Full Festival Tickets (all six concerts)

Adults £50, Under 18's £5.00.

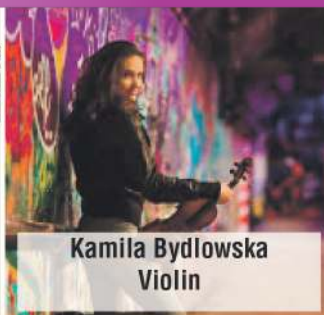
Festival tickets can only be purchased via the Box Office



Sunday 7th - 2pm

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Sunday 7th - 2pm

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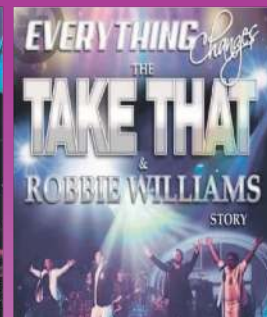
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What's on Spring 2021

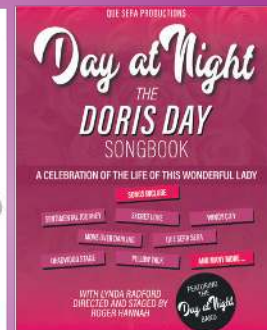
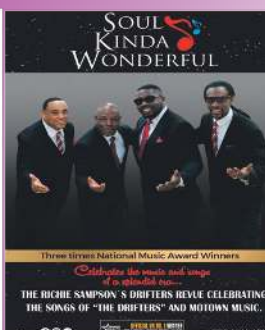
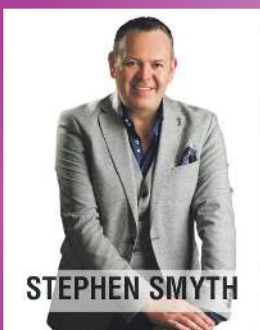


Friday 5th

Saturday 6th

Saturday 13th

Saturday 20th

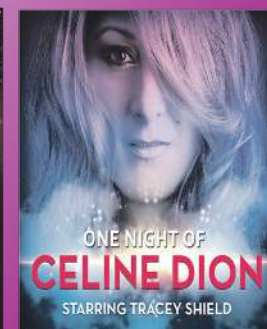
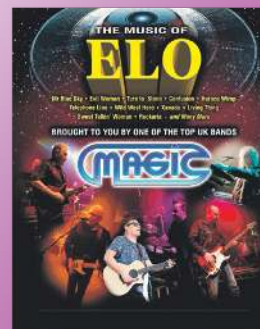


Sunday 21st

Saturday 27th

Sunday 28th

Saturday 6th



Wednesday 10th

Saturday 13th

Saturday 20th

Saturday 27th

Sunday 28th

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