

TOWN and AROUND



ISSUE 197 MARCH 2022

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First word



March is a good month. Spring is in the air and it starts particularly well this year with pancake day (Shrove Tuesday) on 1st. I have fond memories of the pancake races in Hunstanton High Street in the 90s - it would be lovely to see them again.

Making memories is what Rainbow Park is all about says Colleen Roper. You can read Tim Keogh's article about the launch of the Rainbow Park 2022 season on page 8.

Pat Richardson has come up with a unique display for the Jubilee which can be found on page 17 while Terry Parish will

have you looking heavenward for the Spring Equinox on page 58.

How will your transport needs be met? is the title of Andrew Murray's article on page 39. He points out that two-thirds of our rural residents live in a 'transport desert' where there is no realistic alternative to the private car - and offers some solutions.

My thanks as always to our advertisers, the revenue from whom finances the pages you read.

British Summer Time begins on Sunday 27th and that also happens to be Mothering Sunday.

With all best wishes for a great month

Elaine

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Town and Around

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Snettisham connected by MBE's

The first MBE's were awarded in 1917 and Snettisham's Colin Goss Coleridge became one of the first ever recipients of the award for rescuing a trapped cadet from a crashed plane which was on fire, being badly burned in the process. His name appears on the War Memorial in the village and he is remembered as one of the Snettisham 45.



*At the grave of Colin Goss Coleridge
Photo Credit: Snettisham 45 Project*

In June 2018 Stuart Dark, Ros Pugh and Veronica Wilson travelled to Canada to conduct a personal remembrance service at the grave of Lt. Colin Coleridge MBE as part of the Snettisham 45 Project that Stuart led and it was his 'service to the community of Snettisham' which included devising and leading the village's ambitious and highly successful WW1 100th Anniversary

commemoration that received national coverage that led to his MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in October 2020.

Reported on the T&A website on 10th October Stuart said: "I am absolutely delighted and very humbled by this award.

"This recognition, which I see as owned by the whole of Snettisham, as everyone played their own considerable part, acknowledges together we achieved just that.



In the first Investiture in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Year Stuart, with his wife Kerry and children Olivia and Henry, went to Windsor Castle on 8th February when Stuart,

accompanied by his daughter was presented with his MBE by HRH Prince Charles.

Returning to Snettisham that evening the family were joined by friends at the Old Bank for a celebration meal.

"We wanted to have our celebration here because not only does the restaurant overlook our War Memorial that includes Colin Goss Coleridge MBE, but also Lewis and Aga were so supportive of the Snettisham 45 Project, and in fact all the village events." Stuart



At the Old Bank for a celebration meal

Cam belts: their function and why not looking after them could negatively impact your car and your bank balance

Abigail Brown

However unassuming the cam belt may seem, it plays a crucial role in keeping your car safe on the road. If not properly maintained, it could cause serious damage to your engine.

What is a cam belt?

Simply put, it's a vital piece of the engine. Its job is to control the timing of your vehicle's internal combustion engines. It's also sometimes referred to as a timing belt.

Does your car have one?

Some cars don't actually have a cam belt and have a cam chain instead, for example, most BMW and Mercedes cars. Check your vehicle handbook or speak to your garage to find out if you have a cam belt or cam chain.

What's the difference between a cam belt and a cam chain?

Weirdly enough, the main difference is the material. Cam chains are made of metal, housed inside the engine and lubricated by the engine oil. Whereas cam belts are usually outside the engine, however, some manufacturers are now using "wet belts" which run internally in the engine oil like cam chains. Cam chains can last longer than cam belts because they're made of stronger material.

When do you need to replace a cam belt?

This differs depending on the make and model of your car; your best bet is to check the manufacturers specifications, which will set out the

necessary service intervals. These intervals can either be time-related or by the amount of miles the vehicle has done (whatever comes first).

It's so important that you follow the manufacturers requirements and get your cam belt replaced when it needs to be as the risks can be both costly and dangerous. It will cost you much less if you honour the recommended service intervals and get it replaced on time, then if you wait till it's at breaking point - or breaks completely. If you don't look after your cam belt, it can perish, damaging your engine. Take extra care if your car stops and starts a lot (if you take your car out on a lot of short journeys) or if you rarely use your car as this can cause the cam belt to disintegrate quicker.

Things you need to know:

- Ensure you use a qualified technician to fit a new cam belt. As long as you take your car to a reputable garage, you should be fine.
- Is the technician doing the job cam belt insured? If something goes wrong and they're not, you may end up paying much more than you expected.
- A lot of cars nowadays require specialist tools to carry out a cam belt replacement. The technician doing your cam belt should have access to and be competent using these tools.
- DON'T FORGET a poorly maintained cam belt could destroy your engine.

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Nelson's home

Made of Dartmoor granite and bronze Nelson's Column stands in Trafalgar Square (named in commemoration of Nelson's most famous victory) in London. It was designed by William Railton and Edward Hodges Baily was commissioned to sculpt the statue.

Today, Burnham Thorpe, Nelson's birthplace can boast a life sized statue of its own, carved by Henry Hepworth-Smith from a tree that stood in the playing field. Unlike its 169ft London cousin that took a group of businessmen, peers, MPs and the Treasury to raise the funds for construction, the village of Burnham Thorpe, that boasts fewer than 150 souls, has funded the transformation of a trunk of a diseased maple tree and made it a landmark.

Holly Smith, who is treasurer of the independent Playing Field Association that leases the playing field from the Parish Council, told T&A that the Association has been fundraising for new play equipment for several years and when a large branch of the maple fell experts were called in and the tree was condemned. Keen to keep costs to a minimum volunteers from the village removed the remaining diseased branches leaving the (safe) trunk standing.

"We had thought about cutting down the trunk and then paying to have the stump and roots removed but no-one had a big enough chainsaw, then Fiona Bevington, who lives in a farm opposite, came up with the idea of a carving. She knew Henry and he came along and had a look.

"There were various ideas including carving an owl but really Nelson was the perfect subject; the carving is relevant to the village and now it stands looking across to the pub that was named after him."

Henry Hepworth-Smith is a forester and chainsaw artist from Fakenham and he completed the statue in December. It was the first time he had taken on a commission for a statue and he said: "I did some sketches and had meetings with the committee and we came up with a plan for the statue; the maple cut nicely and I'm pleased with the result."

Engraved around the plinth is: "England expects that every man will do his duty", the signal sent by Vice-Admiral of the Royal Navy Horatio Nelson, 1st Viscount Nelson from his flagship HMS Victory as the Battle of Trafalgar was about to commence on 21 October 1805.

The cost of the work was about the same as having the stump removed and Holly said that residents had been very generous with donations.

Meanwhile, fundraising for the play area equipment continues and donations for that will be gratefully received:

Barclays Bank 20-30-81 Burnham Thorpe Playing Field Committee Account number 70221058. The e mail for the association is: thorpeplayfield@outlook.com Henry can be contacted for commissions on 07393 219994.



Photos: Ian Burt

Artworks @The Town Hall

Local • Contemporary • Art • Photography • Crafters • Gallery • Shop

The Old Tourist Information Centre at the Hunstanton Town Hall will be home for a brand new venture! A new art gallery with a shop promoting local artists, small businesses and crafters is opening on Friday 4th March.

Artworks @The Town Hall is the new venture from Norfolk Artist Jackie Kitch who previously opened Nakednorfolk at The Old Coal Shed Gallery in Hunstanton.

Jackie says "I did retire in September last year due to personal commitments and another local Artist Phoenix Phusion took over The Old Coal Shed Gallery and is producing some beautiful glass works.

This year the opportunity to open in a much larger, iconic and perfectly located position was too good to refuse and thanks goes to Hunstanton Town Council for providing the location and supporting me in this.

We have approximately 50 different artists/ photographers / crafters/ small businesses on board and I am really looking forward to making this a permanent venue. As we get busier I would like to take on local, part time staff but if anyone who is interested in art would like to volunteer until we are on our feet then please email me at: jacqueline1964@hotmail.com.

At first we will be open from Thursdays until Sundays and we will adjust these opening times as the year progresses".

Jan Roomes, Hunstanton Town Clerk says "The Town Hall has lots of various size rooms and we would like to use these to promote it as more of an arts centre for the local community for all sorts of art groups, exhibitions and drama / acting /singing /music workshops, so if you are interested in learning more about renting a space then contact : clerk@hunstantontowncouncil.gov.uk".

Artworks @The Town Hall can be followed on Facebook and Instagram .



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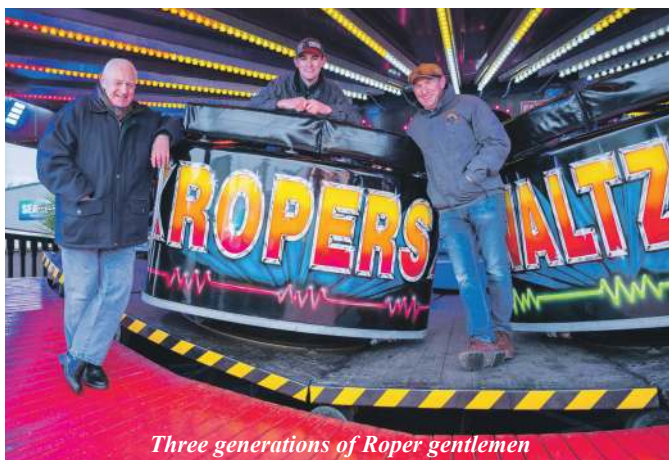
All the fun of the fair as Rainbow Park launch their 2022 season

Tim Keogh

Rainbow Park Funfair at Hunstanton began their 2022 season on the weekend of the 12th and 13th February, with James Wild, MP for North West Norfolk and Hunstanton Mayor Adrian Winnington in attendance to 'ring the bell' that officially launched the new season.



This is the 112th year of a fairground presence in Hunstanton. The Roper family have been operating the rides since the 1960's, taking over the full operation of Rainbow Park in 2015. John-Henry Roper explained, "we can trace back at least six generations of travelling Showmen in the family, with three generations currently working together at Rainbow Park. Being so hands on as a family business is, what we believe, makes Rainbow Park so special".



Three generations of Roper gentlemen

Be it the helter skelter, Ferris wheel, dodgems, hook a duck or arcade that takes your fancy, all the traditional fairground amusements are here. John-Henry's wife Colleen added, "making memories is what we are all about, aiming to give families special memories that they will always cherish". There really is no better spot in town to observe the wonderful sunsets either, time it right on the helter skelter at dusk and the views are incredible. Mayor, Adrian Winnington, said, "it's fantastic that Hunstanton has a permanent and mesmerising Funfair park that locals and holiday makers alike can enjoy".

It's been a tough two years for everyone. Rainbow Park has been no different and they like to think 2022 will bring back some form of normality in tandem with the rest of Hunstanton.

Whilst the weather might have been unkind (brutal in fact!) it did little to dispel the positive attitude of those in attendance. As the dignitaries moved across to test out the dodgems, it soon became somewhat of a relief that the recent Highway Code changes do not apply to the dodgems given some of the driving skills on display.

Heacham Minors FC u13s, whose kit is sponsored by Rainbow Park,

were also in attendance to formally accept their new kit. They certainly didn't let the weather dampen their spirits as they made the most of the Funfair ride and amusements.



MP James Wild summed it up poignantly, "most of our earliest and best experiences come from the Fairground, and I would like to pay tribute to John-Henry, Colleen and their team for their drive and enthusiasm, particularly for the work that goes on in the background, to make Rainbow Park such a special venue. Long may it continue".

Hunstanton & District Inner Wheel

Sue Trewin, Club Correspondent

The QE hospital launched an appeal a little while ago for the maternity bereavement suite for those who have lost babies at birth or afterwards. Hunstanton and District Inner Wheel have donated £600 towards this very worthwhile cause supporting this project with money raised at the Heacham Christmas Fair.

A group of members set off for a ramble in Sandringham. Spring is definitely on the way. It always amazes me to see flowers appearing after harsh winter weather and in odd places. They are determined to survive. What a good example for all of us.

Our District Chair Coral Campbell has been working hard visiting other clubs in District 8. It's an opportunity to see how other clubs function, to offer support and to share a bit about herself.

Our club has been very fortunate to have Susan Bradshaw and Rosemary Bowett, our joint Presidents, at our helm and we look forward to the spring and summer events planned.



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Commemoration of the 1953 Floods and HM The Queen's visit to Sculthorpe

By John Maiden



Mayor Adrian Winnington with Mayoress Mrs Catherine Winnington lead the procession to the Flood Memorial

This year's commemoration of the 1953 Floods took place on Sunday January 30th so that more people could be present. For the benefit of anyone unfamiliar with what happened on that dreadful night, 69 years ago, Town Mayor Adrian Winnington gave this introduction. "On 31st January 1953, three elements were linked in a fateful combination. It was the night of a spring tide, a deep atmospheric low pressure over the North Sea had been raising water levels, and northerly gales were driving a wall of water down the coast. As it funnelled into the narrower area of the North Sea between England and Holland, this wall of water grew higher. At its peak the surge was two and a half metres above the high spring tide level. This was more than the defences could stand and spelled disaster.

Shortly after leaving Hunstanton station a train collided with a house that was being swept along the track. 31 people died in the bungalows at South Beach, 16 of them American servicemen and their families.

Among the first to mobilise in the chaos and the extreme weather conditions were US Air Force servicemen from their base at Sculthorpe, some of whom were living in Hunstanton. The entire 67th Air Rescue Squadron was mobilised and spent many frantic hours searching for their comrades, friends and local people who were missing.

During the night, other groups led by police, firemen, council workers and volunteers continued with the rescue attempts, with some individuals walking in waist, or even shoulder-high water to bring people to safety. At daybreak, search and rescue began in earnest, and every house had to be checked to determine if anyone was inside. The Americans worked alongside local people, recovering bodies, clearing debris and delivering relief supplies, until February 5th.

There were many heroes that night, many were deservedly awarded honours, some posthumously; most to local officers and citizens, but some to USAF servicemen, most notably Staff Sergeant Freeman A Kilpatrick and Airman Reis Leming, both of whom were awarded the George Medal for Gallantry.

I know there are people in Hunstanton, some of whom are with us here today, who remember that dreadful night. The rest of us can only imagine the awful situation in which people found themselves, confounded by the fact that it was all happening in the dark. We call to remembrance all those who perished that night and give thanks to all those who worked through extreme conditions to rescue as many as they could."

After wreaths were placed against the Flood memorial and names of the 31 British and American victims were read out, by Adrian and Lt Col Jared Williams, Commander of the 67th SOS, the group moved further along Reis Leming Way to the point where a footpath leading to the Tide and Time flowerbed was named in honour of Freeman A Kilpatrick.

The sign itself was a gift from the RAF Sculthorpe Heritage Centre, so it was fitting that the Ian Brown, the Curator gave this introduction. "A few moments ago, we remembered the souls lost in the tempest.



Ian Brown, Staff Sgt Vinnie Telmanik of the US Air Force and (R) HM Coastguard Steve Willsher (holding the The George Medal awarded to Freeman Kilpatrick on the newly-named Freeman A Kilpatrick Way in Hunstanton

We now turn to remembering a forgotten hero. There were many people that night who went above and beyond to help others in need, both British and American. The 47th bombardment wing from nearby RAF Sculthorpe played a huge part in the rescue and relief efforts during and after the night of the storm.

Two airmen in particular went further than others. Reis Leming of the 67th Air Rescue Squadron came from RAF Sculthorpe and waded out into the flood waters to save 27 people. He would later be awarded the George Medal. In 2012, the walkway behind was named in his honour.

Today, we are proud to honour Freeman Kilpatrick. Freeman was living in Hunstanton on the night of the flood when, about to go out with his wife, he saw the impending flood waters. After ensuring that his wife, daughter and babysitter, Joyce Stubbins were safe, before heading out along South Beach Road to warn others and help people to safety.

He then swam back though the flood waters to his family and endured the worst of the storm with them, clinging to the roof of their house for several hours before being rescued.

Freeman was awarded the George Medal later in 1953 for saving 18 people, but he shunned the attention he received. He felt he was the just doing what anyone else would have done. He sadly passed away in August, 2014.

In 2020, author Sean Kelly put me in touch with Freeman's son, Alex. After a few email exchanges, he very kindly donated his father's GM to us at the RAF Sculthorpe Heritage Centre so that we can continue to honour his father's brave actions that night.

John Maiden and I felt that Freeman needed to be recognised in the same way that Reis has been. So, we come to today, and we are very proud that we can name this walk way the "Freeman A Kilpatrick Way" to honour the forgotten American hero of the 1953 Floods, Freeman Kilpatrick."

There is not much I can add to this account, except to say that Freeman had been made aware of the intention to name a footpath in his honour before he passed away, but it took someone as dynamic as Ian to persuade the borough council that it was only right and proper to make it happen.

Sergeant Vincent Telmanik of the 67th Special Operations Squadron was chosen to unveil the sign. This was because Vincent hold the same rank as Freeman A Kilpatrick

The Mayor took Jared Williams by surprise with the presentation of two copies* of the picture as described below.

*One for the Squadron HQ at RAF Mildenhall and a smaller one for himself to take back home to the States.

Back in the Town Hall, after the commemoration, Lt Colonel Williams had this to say: "The 'Night Owls' represented the heritage



The Civic representatives were joined by members of the public at the Flood Memorial

of the 67th well today, on the 69th anniversary of our very own, Reis Lemming, rescuing 27 people during the Floods of 1953.

"Additionally, the town of Hunstanton presented the 67th with a copy of the original painting that artist Geoff Pleasance did for the 60th Anniversary of the Floods. This came as a complete surprise and it was an absolute honor to receive on behalf of the Night Owls.

"May the legacy of Reis always live on in the 67th, and may we continue to honor him by answering the call whenever American and Allied lives are in danger."

Photo credit for images at Hunstanton: Ian Burt.

After dealing with the borough, Ian probably found it a more pleasant task to persuade Her Majesty to visit the RAF Sculthorpe Heritage Centre, shortly after the anniversary of the Floods. Ian and the Heritage Centre volunteers were both humbled and honoured to report, that in the year of her Platinum Jubilee, Her Majesty the Queen paid a private visit to the RAF Sculthorpe Heritage Centre in North Norfolk. Curator Ian Brown introduced the Queen to the centre's



HRH The Queen with Ian Brown at Sculthorpe

volunteer staff, and showed her the historic collection of artifacts and items relating to the occupancy of the base by the USAF, 47th Bombardment Wing. Her Majesty recalled the terrible events of the Floods of January 1953, which occurred when she was at Sandringham, and the part the emergency services, and members of the Wing played in saving many lives in the flood, something of which she was acutely aware. The Queen and Prince Philip hosted Colonel David Jones, base commander, and his wife, at Sandringham House in the aftermath. Ian was able to show her the two George medals awarded to the American servicemen recognised for their efforts in saving life, along with the replacement of the Silver Pheasant, given to the wing, by the people of Norfolk. The Centre volunteers wish to send a huge 'Thank You' to Her Majesty for this very special visit in the 70th year of her reign, and their thoughts, love, and best wishes will be with her throughout this coming year.

Photo credit for image at Sculthorpe: Kevin Osman

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A practical guide to the new 'no fault' divorce law

By Emma George, Family Solicitor, Hayes + Storr

The long-awaited Act for "no fault" divorce was passed in June 2020. It is due to become law on 6th April 2022. The law is set to end the 'blame game' and cut short lengthy separation periods. Here is a practical guide to the changes in divorce proceedings from April 2022 onwards in England and Wales.

1. There is no need to place blame

Under the new legislation, couples can divorce without having to cite blame. They will no longer need to rely on one of the 5 grounds for divorce, which previously included:

- Unreasonable behaviour
- Adultery
- Two years separation (with consent)
- Five years separation (without consent)
- Desertion

These five grounds will be removed. Under the new law, parties can make a joint statement to apply for a divorce order if they both agree that the marriage has come to an end. Previously, only one spouse could apply for the divorce. This new option allows both parties to apply together, in a joint, more agreeable way.

2. New terminology

The term decree nisi has been used by the court to mark the first stage of divorce after the acknowledgement of papers by the spouse and after the application has been granted by the court. Under the reformed legislation, this stage of the process will be known as a conditional order.

Similarly decree absolute, which marks the final stage of divorce, confirming that the marriage has officially come to an end, will be known as a final order. This follows the current terms used for ending civil partnerships in a bid to try and simplify the legal process.

3. You can no longer defend a divorce

Under the new Act, it will not be possible to contest the decision to divorce.

4. There is a minimum wait period for the Final Order

There will be a minimum period of 20 weeks between the initial application and the conditional order, and another six weeks between the conditional and the final order. That means that even a straightforward divorce will take at least six months to complete. However, as all divorces are now applied for online, it is unlikely that the process will take any longer than the current divorce process.

5. Is there a change to the court fee?

From 30 September 2021 the Government increased the court fee from £550 to £593. Whilst official guidance is yet to be released, it is unlikely that this will change prior to April 2022.

6. How will this affect the finances?

The financial side of divorce will not change. Divorce and finances are separate but run parallel in the court system. The Act has been created with the intention of making the process of divorce easier and more amicable, but it is unlikely to have any effect on financial matters relating to divorce.

Clients are strongly advised to seek expert legal advice to resolve any financial disputes, and to document any agreement reached into a legally recognised consent order which is then full and final and cannot be changed.

If you need any advice from our family law specialists and would like to arrange an appointment, please call 01328 863231 or email emma.george@hayes-storr.com.



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

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Concert Band entertains guests at Queen's tea party

Tony Foster, Membership Secretary, Hunstanton Concert Band



Her Majesty the Queen held a tea party for a small number of local residents at Sandringham House on Saturday February 5th this year, on the eve of the 70th anniversary of Her Majesty's accession to the throne after the death of her father King George VI.

I had received a telephone call from the Sandringham Estate Office asking if Hunstanton Concert Band was available to provide some music during the tea party.

Of course, we pulled out all the stops and soon confirmed that yes indeed we would be pleased and honoured to play at Sandringham – and not for the first time, having been one of the three Norfolk bands who provided music during Her Majesty's garden party at Sandringham in 2012.

So, we all arrived at Sandringham House on the Saturday morning

and set up in the two gazebos provided in the front of the main entrance close to the reception area. We supplied the background music, including *Highland Cathedral*, during the arrival of the guests and a little later H.M the Queen. Then, once Her Majesty had moved into the ballroom with her guests, we upped the tempo with a few brisker numbers including *Blaze Away* a march with several very well known, foot-tapping tunes and the rousing *Radetsky March*.

As Her Majesty finally departed the band played *Congratulations* and this was greeted by a beaming royal smile as the Queen stood and listened through to the end of the number.

We finished off with a couple more well know tunes, including *The Floral Dance*, to bring us to the end of a most memorable, unforgettable day in the history of Hunstanton Concert Band.

Breast of Friends charity ball raises £6,600 for QEH

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn's Breast Care Unit has received a £6,600 donation, following a charity ball held at Knights Hill hotel. The fundraising event, named Breast of Friends by the organisers, was arranged by a team of volunteers spearheaded by friends Denise Williamson and Jeanette Kidd who met after both receiving treatment for Breast Cancer at QEH's Breast Care Unit five years ago.



Photo Vespa Photography: Jeanette Kidd and Denise Williamson at Knights Hill Hotel

The money raised will go towards the purchase of equipment and support the ongoing treatment of patients accessing the QEH Breast Cancer Unit. The event was originally planned to take place in November 2020 but as a result of restrictions in place due to COVID-19, the event was postponed. The team worked hard to secure

sponsorship and organise the successful event at Knights Hill Hotel in October 2021 with just three months preparation. The ball was attended by 160 people, some of whom have either been through the Breast Cancer journey themselves or have family and friends who have, the generosity displayed by the guests on the night really added to the amount raised and for many it was the first occasion since lockdown to enjoy a social gathering, the entertainment on the night was supplied by local band Jessie's Ghost and DJ Jack Neville.

Professor Steve Barnett, Chairman at QEH, said: "On behalf of Team QEH I would like to send our heartfelt thanks to Denise, Jeanette and the Breast of Friends team for delivering this fantastic event in support of our Breast Care Unit. The money raised will contribute to equipment and improvements to patient treatment for Breast Cancer at QEH."

Denise and Jeanette said on the night that by organising the event it gave them the opportunity to give something back to the unit in appreciation for all the treatment, support and aftercare they have received. The Breast of Friends team are holding a second ball at Knights Hill on 24 September 2022 in an effort to raise more funds for the unit as ongoing support for the fabulous work undertaken at the unit for all the local community. Unfortunately due to Covid restrictions at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital the cheque could not be presented at this time, however the funds have been received by the unit.

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Carnival to return to Hunstanton this June

After an absence of 4 years, the Hunstanton Carnival will, once again, be parading through the streets of Hunstanton on Sunday June 26th 2022.

This is the enterprise of a small group of people teaming up together to form the Hunstanton Events Committee, coming under the umbrella of Hunstanton Town Council, and made up of members of Hunstanton Town Council, The Rotary, The Lions, Hunstanton District Festival of Arts and the Round Table.

A lot of work is being put in to make this a spectacular event in the Jubilee year, and the theme is unsurprisingly, "The Queen's Jubilee".

The parade will start at the Recreation Ground where the floats will be judged, before leaving at 1.00 pm when the parade will make its way down to the Lower Green, to join the various stalls, music and entertainment, which will be open from 11 am until 5 pm. Once the parade is gathered on The Green, the presentation of the awards for the best floats will be announced.

To make this a truly spectacular event and to ensure the success of the carnival, the events team is asking people to come forward to take part in the parade which can be either on a float, walking, driving or cycling. The more that participate in the parade the better and the more exciting it will be. Categories for the parade are Youth Groups, Social & Charity Groups, Fancy Dress, Trade & Business and Cars & Bikes;

something for everyone.

The team would like to see the whole town involved and would like to invite all local businesses to be part of and support this by giving donations and in return have their businesses promoted in the brochure / programme

The carnival is just one of many things that are being staged throughout June for the Jubilee.

To start the ball rolling there will be a Music Festival on The Green on Thursday 2nd June organised by the Hunstanton & District Festival of Arts, followed later that evening by the lighting of the beacon.

Friday 3rd June brings a full day of events and entertainment in the Town Hall commencing with a Vintage Tea Party, a Royal Quiz and a 40s & 50s Tea Dance/Singalong.

Saturday 4th June 7.30 pm, Hunstanton Town Council is proud to be welcoming John Harris with his production of 'The Queens Platinum Jubilee Gala' event at the Town Hall.

If you would like to be involved in any of the above events, the Carnival Parade, have a stall on The Green, provide entertainment, are able to assist voluntarily on the day, or support it with a financial donation please contact the Town Clerk, Jan Roomes: Tel 01485 532402 or email clerk@hunstantontowncouncil.gov.uk

Dancing in Dersingham – Exam Success!

There have been plenty of articles recently in the press in general promoting the benefits of doing ballet (as both an art form and exercise) in later life.

I specialise in teaching adults ballet, many of whom are - shall we say "not so young anymore"!!

As a qualified dance teacher and examiner with UKA Dance Ltd I was tasked with designing an examination syllabus to accompany the class work we are doing to encourage the ladies to have something more to aim for – after all, past a certain age there really aren't that many challenges anymore. This I did and four of my ladies were my "guinea pigs" (they prefer to refer to themselves as pioneers).

They took the examination (Senior Ballet Level 1) which consisted of a series of barre exercises, ports de bras, adage, allegro and a dance. Not an easy task by any means. All the work had been previously learned in general classes but then they had to remember it because I would not be doing it with them (as I do in class). This they initially found difficult but once confidence was gained, they then just practised and practised. The exam was taken



Standing on the left is Anna Grant and on the right Ann Cannon, kneeling is Marion Troubridge with Lyn Weatherall

through Zoom under the same conditions that younger dancers encounter. The examiner, Miss A Green, (a Fellow and Past President of UKA Dance Ltd) did take into account the ladies age and some medical conditions (replacement hips / a dose of bursitis being suffered by one lady at the time of the exam and such like) but not to any great degree. They danced their socks off and all passed with

very good marks. Marion Troubridge and Lyn Weatherall getting Highly Commended, Anna Grant Honours and Ann Cannon Distinction.

I am, naturally, very proud of them all and thanks to them am now rolling this option out to my other ladies, many of whom have expressed an interest to follow in their footsteps.

Library Household...

Helen Janku, Library Manager

I am trying to spread the word that we are stocking Keep warm and Go bags that include a thermal vest, scarf, gloves, hat, socks and blanket. We do have a small amount of water proof blankets too for the homeless.

We have restocked the Tricky Periods bags and also Tricky periods sustainable bags with reusable pads or cups. The toiletries to Go bags are available too, that include deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste,

shampoo and shower gel.

All these items are available from your local library, and people can just come in and collect them. If they would like to let us know how this may help I can feed this back to the organisers too.

If you know of anyone else that would benefit knowing this information please forward my email, or by all means they can give me a call for more details.

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Gaywood Library River Lane Kings Lynn PE30 4HD/Hunstanton Library, Council Offices, Valentine Road, Hunstanton PE36 5EF

The Queen's swans

Since the 12th Century, the Crown has held the right to claim ownership of all unmarked mute swans swimming in open waters across the country.

Whilst hundreds of years ago swans were eaten at banquets for the very rich, the killing of swans was outlawed in the 1980s and they are a protected species.

Apart from the Queen only the Vintners, Abbotsbury Swannery and the Dyers are the only organisations allowed to own swans.

In Hunstanton one couple has found a unique way of incorporating the swans in a floral display in a Jubilee tribute.

Pat Richardson said: "Both myself and my wife Lesley thought we needed to celebrate our Queens Platinum Jubilee in some way this year, we also thought it needed to be fun in some way, after a lot of thought this winter we realised if we used the two dates there would be four figure 2s so we came up with the idea of using Swans as the figure 2s.

"The Swans and numbers are cut from a single sheet of 8ft x4ft exterior plywood. Sue Richardson drew the numbers and Swans onto card for us which we then cut out and traced



onto the plywood.

"Then the dangerous job of using a jig saw to cut the numbers, we still have four thumbs and eight finger between us so it went ok.

"The paint we used was left over from other projects, the Crown is made from leftover Aluminium sheet from our soapbox racing

days. "The flowers are red, white and blue Primroses.

"We do hope the Queen would approve and that the Swans brightens the day and brings a smile to the faces of all who see them, if so then we have achieved all we set out to do."

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NORFOLK HOLIDAY HOMES busy times.....

Sandra Hohol

Someone once asked me if I make these up sorry to disappoint, no I don't. I have a note pad full of true 'stuff' I have jotted in the last forty years or so. It may turn into a book sometime.

We get asked a whole variety of calls and emails about holiday homes and the area when guests have booked with us. Normally the answers are right in front of guests' noses in the descriptions, website, and final details we send out. We try to cover everything. Mostly we are just reiterating information guests already have but cannot see due to self-inflicted laziness. Working with the public as I have mentioned over the years - and let's face it - most of us do in our jobs so we all know about peoples' inability to read properly and follow instructions. However, myself included here - we all do this in various aspects of life.

So, this question, easy to answer but probably the most unusual yet.... we booked a gentleman and his family into a holiday home after answering simple questions over several calls. Next call again from the same guy....."My brother has his own helicopter and was thinking of paying us a visit whilst we stay in Hunstanton. Is there anywhere he can land it please?" Really? Apart from us locals knowing where he could indeed land it in Hunstanton or Kings Lynn, my immediate thoughts were the legalities and permission side of things. Can't he visit by car or public transport like normal people? Why does he have to, anyway - obviously because he can??? Perhaps he is Brad Pitt, Tom Cruise or John Travolta or any other celeb with a pilot's licence? Who knows? So, if you saw a strange helicopter hovering and looking for a landing space over the town a few weeks ago which was not our

usual police or search and rescue you may have missed a huge autograph opportunity!

Footnote.....and yes, I did see that huge RAF plane (a Galaxy?) nearly take off the roof tops along Church Street in Hunstanton about three weeks ago! Several ladies outside the office ducked - but no this was not our guy! Pilot was nice-looking.....and laughing!

And seriously.....at Norfolk Holiday Homes, we try to concentrate on the job and get bookings in for our owners but being independent and always trying to do our best for guests, we sometimes spend too much time in helping.

My old boss at Cruso & Wilkin used to tell me repeatedly "Sandra, we are here to take bookings - you spend too much time on sorting out problems and questions when it should be the owners' responsibility". Suitably reprimanded many years ago, I have to say that I still try to help people and so do my staff.

So, when a guest asked if there was some way the staircase could be blocked off, we asked the owner. The dog was having an operation before their holiday and they did not want it to go upstairs. It was only small. We knew there was a stair gate at the top but not the bottom. The holiday home owner made a bespoke gate for the wide bottom stair entrance to prevent said pooch from climbing and injuring himself. Easy as he is a carpenter, but with a busy family and job and lives over two hours away. What a kind thing to do.

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New Hunstanton Women's Institute

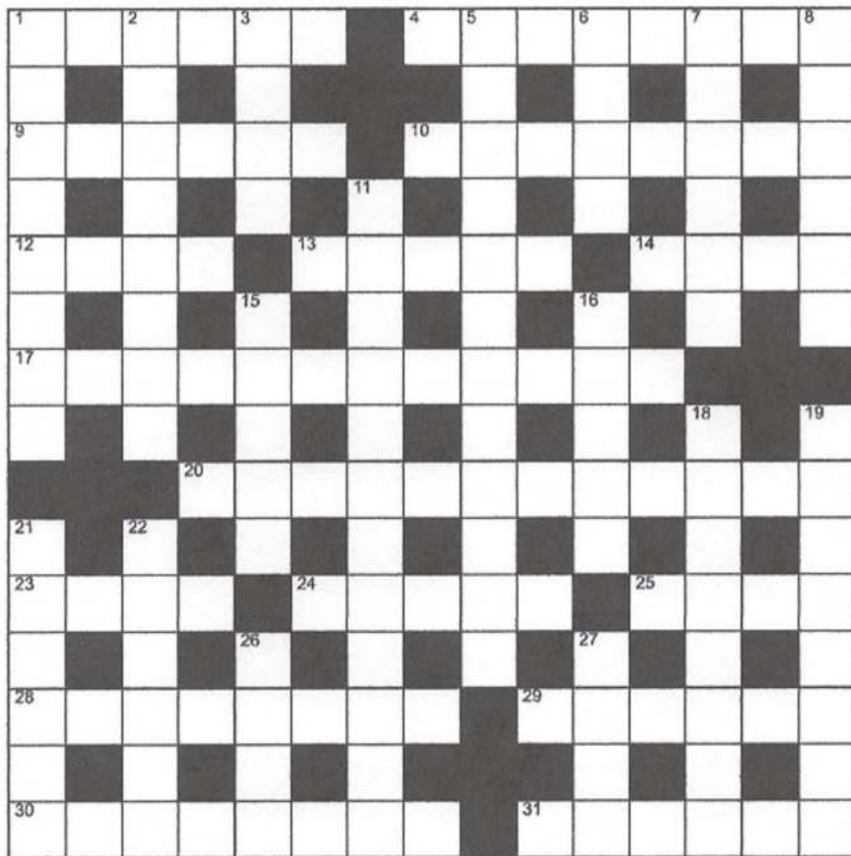
During lockdown our members knitted blankets for the Neo-Natal Unit at Queen Elizabeth Hospital. President Sally Walden delivered these to the Hospital.

We enjoyed a very interesting and amusing talk entitled "Sandringham Secrets" at our last meeting.

We look forward to welcoming Heacham Songsters to our next meeting.

Enquiries to 01485 572027.

Crossword Clues Across



Crossword solution on page 20

1. Works out final ingredient (6)
4. Snapped after setter rolled over and took off (8)
9. King ruled without being tied (6)
10. Bosses at work restricted material (8)
12. Picked players in keeping with pitch (4)
13. Stretches across back and breaks (5)
14. Iron large tuck into a jumper (4)
17. Ditch sticker attached to old weapon (6,6)
20. Press for place to land (6,6)
23. Spurs say ground's not circular (4)
24. Bend pipe for taking drugs (5)
25. Romeo arrives after Roger to get tropical plant (4)
28. Tim goes to scale rock, being a versatile climber (8)
29. Crack is six feet in length (6)
30. Innocent question passed on in conversation (4-4)
31. Dashed plot involving old soldier (6)

Crossword Clues Down

1. This woman is happiness personified (8)
2. Transport crates in container (8)
3. A sign captain is upset (4)
5. Don't get to pull in after near miss (12)
6. Take off wrong top (4)
7. Keep in a small area, take back up north and let loose (6)
8. Grim copper's line is to 'keep mum' (6)
11. It might result from sticking together every day (12)
15. Icon's rent could become an issue (5)
16. Section of trunk that can be made to expand (5)
18. Mouth stern words (8)
19. Still stuck at sea (8)
21. When water gets lower manatee appears (3,3)
22. A good quarrel is settled (6)
26. Accept cheers and keep record going (4)
27. It is used to raise pitch for players (4)

Ray Butchers Su Doku

Easy first...

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

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

Green Woodworking at Deepdale



Richard Rood with Andy, who's very pleased with his rounders bat, which he created during a 1 day introduction course

A Norfolk farm has added green woodworking to its activities. Deepdale Farm has won many awards and accolades over the years for the diversification of the farm, and the team are delighted to add a new activity. Richard Rood is now teaching green woodworking courses, a one-day introduction to green woodworking for beginners and a three-day stool making course, teaching students how to make beautiful things out of materials from the woodland on the farm.

Richard has been a regular visitor to Burnham Deepdale over the years, demonstrating at events like the Deepdale Spring Market and selling his beautiful woodwork in the Pop Up Shops and at the Christmas Market. While watching Richard work his pole lathe by the pop up shops, Estate Manager Nathan Nelson chatted with him about this traditional process of woodworking, and the idea of Richard running courses at Deepdale began to form.

"We've long thought that Deepdale Farm could be a centre for rural



Stephen showing off his lathe creation on a one-day course and Richard demonstrating a pull knife



skills and learning. The courses with Richard are the beginning of what will be a wide and varied programme of courses, activities and events. The students who attended Richard's courses in 2021 really enjoyed themselves, and so we added more dates in 2022, many of which have already filled," said Nathan.

Richard's courses currently take place in the Brick Barn of Deepdale Camping & Rooms, a barn where many customers will have enjoyed dancing to great music at events like Deepdale Festival. The farm team at Deepdale are currently preparing another beautiful barn on the farm to become a venue for future courses and events. Conversations are ongoing with various artisans and experts about other courses that could be run at Deepdale, from spoon whittling to bushcraft, chainsaw courses and conservation skills training.

Anyone interested in attending a rural crafts workshop at Deepdale Farm can find all the information they need on the farm website: www.deepdalefarm.co.uk

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Crossword Solution

Across: 1. Factor, 4. Embarked, 9. Linked, 10. Asbestos, 12. Cast, 13. Snaps, 14. Flea, 17. Trench mortar, 20. Fourth estate, 23. Eggs, 24. Using, 25. Okra, 28. Clematis, 29. Fathom, 30. Wide-eyed, 31. Bolted

Down: 1. Felicity, 2. Canister, 3. Omen, 5. Misapprehend, 6. Apex, 7. Kettle, 8. Dismal, 11. Unimpressive, 15. Scion, 16. Waist, 18. Backchat, 19. Becalmed, 21. Sea cow, 22. Agreed, 26. Take, 27. Capot

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Making Pottery Without a Wheel

Esther Boehm

Clay is a wonderful malleable material that can be formed not only into sculptures but into functional and decorative ceramics. It is the feeling of the clay and the oneness with it that not only produces objects but also leads to a relaxing meditative experience.

When we think of pottery, working with a pottery wheel springs to mind. There are, however, three hand-building techniques that can be learned without investing in a pottery wheel. Practising these, you can create beautiful vessels and objects at home.

The first technique is the pinch pot. A piece of clay is formed into a ball. The thumb is pressed through the centre of the ball and the ball is evenly and gently worked into a vessel. Pinching away from the centre opens the vessel. Pinching towards the centre closes it. Two pinch-pots joined together make a ball that can be the basis of an animal or perhaps a garden gnome. (This was a challenge in a recent episode of the Great Pottery Showdown.

The second technique is building with coils. Coils are rolled and progressively built up. This technique lends itself to more functional objects such as cups, bowls, jugs, vases, etc

The third technique uses slabs. The clay is rolled out similarly to rolling dough. This rolled out clay is a starting point for making cylinders and boxes. It can also be draped onto or placed into certain forms which provide a quick and easy way to get a bit of structure.

All of the techniques are a starting point. Once learned and perfected, there are endless possibilities to explore.

If you want to learn the basics of hand building pottery why not take a course at Studio @ 55.

For dates and times please check the website, email me or give me a call:

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Above left: A gnome made of two pinch pots as a basis made by a beginner.

Above right: Slabs used to make beach huts by a beginner.

Left: Modelling and slabs combined.

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Hunstanton



On 8th February members of the Hunstanton u3a Flower Arranging Group held a "Pink Celebration" led by our main coach and ideas member Sandra Loader to mark 10 years of her daughter-in-law Clare Petts having been free from breast cancer.

Everyone wore something pink and made a pink corsage while enjoying a glass of pink fizz and pink cakes and fancies made by members who all made a contribution to Breast Cancer now. The sum of £170.00 will be paid to the fund.

We also raised a glass to Angela Blenkinsop-Jewel our group leader, who was unable to be with us and wished her the very best recovery.



Next meeting for u3a

Our meeting will be on Monday 21st March at the Community Hall Avenue Road, Hunstanton when Saffron Summerfield will be giving a talk called "When Birds Sing"

Please go to the u3a Hunstanton site at u3asites.org.uk/hunstanton for further information.

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HUNSTANTON COMMUNITY CHOIR

Marie Jarvis

Hunstanton Community Choir invites you to come along to its Wednesday evening sessions.

Let me tell you what it is like being a member. I have been involved since the beginning, which must be 13 years ago, when we sang at the Glebe school under the baton of Claire Bloor, then on to the Town Hall with Simon Bower and now a new chapter has begun at the Christian Way Fellowship Church Hall with Liz Dark. I think at the time we were inspired by the work of TVs Gareth Malone in encouraging such choirs.

Well, of course there is the singing with the chance to learn a wide range of music, to practice and perform. But being a member of a COMMUNITY CHOIR is much more than that. It is about belonging to a group of friends whether you are an accomplished singer or a complete beginner. It is a choir for everyone and all ages, regardless of ability and experience and it's a great way to spend a couple of hours on a Wednesday evening. We have lots of social events plus a chance to sing with other choirs such as the Fakenham Choral Society.

We believe that supporting local charities is just as important as the weekly fellowship of singing.

We all know the rewards of giving something back. This is how we support our community:

We have performed in residential homes, at the Town Hall singalongs, in the streets of Hunstanton and in hotels to celebrate Christmas. We have helped happy couples mark their wedding day by singing at their ceremonies. We have supported local churches through fund raising concerts. For example, we had great fun at St Mary's Old Hunstanton where we staged the Save the Children Fund Centenary Concert. We have also raised funds for St Edmunds in the town, St Mary's Heacham, St Nicholas Dersingham, Snettisham and South Creak.

Through our fundraising and amazingly successful raffles we have been able to make generous donations to local charities. We have supported the King's Lynn Night Shelter, Riding for the Disabled, the Hunstanton defibrillator, the Piano Fund for Wells Primary School, Tapping House, the Stroke Association, and the Rehoming Greyhounds Fund.

Do come along – we're the choir on your door step. Give it a go and we look forward to seeing you at The Way Church on Wednesday evenings 7-9 – it's behind the police station. Best wishes and happy singing.

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Piles and Tribulations – Notes from a rural GP

Dr David Ince

So this week general practice has entered the uncharted territory of the nationalization debate. Our leader of health and social care, Sajid Javid has announced his plans to look at nationalizing general practice. Normally the domain of debate concerning the coal/steel, railways, postal industries amongst others we now have a new entrant to the party (Gladiators, ready.....Contenders, ready – 3;2;1 go!) – general practice. It was reported in the press (the usual mechanism for instructing health care about the next mass reorganisation) that Mr Javid was asking for an independent review of general practice to ensure our workload increased (don't get me started) and hospital admissions reduced. The proposal would be for all staff to be employed and managed centrally or by hospital trusts. On the surface this would suggest better integration of care but at what cost?

General Practice has always been a slightly odd outlier in the healthcare system – funded public servants but operating as independent 'private' organisations with each practice holding a personal contract with the NHS to provide services. We all run (generally) as independent businesses. We are private contractors to the NHS rather than salaried employees of it (as hospital consultants are). The dark art of GP funding is complex but is fundamentally unchanged from when the NHS started in the 1940s. Essentially we receive a lump amount called the global sum which is based on the number of patients on a GPs list (the raw list). This is then adjusted to take into account such factors as rurality, patient age and list turnover (the argument being new patients tend to consult more) using the catchily named 'Carr Hill formula'. The result of the Carr Hill formula then adjusts the raw list to the weighted list upon which the global sum is worked out. The global sum is currently £96. After adjustments, other sources of income (such as the Quality Outcome Framework which incentivises chronic disease management and various other enhanced service (such as drug monitoring or minor surgery)) the average surgery receives about £150 per registered patient per year to provide the complete business and cover all the expenses of primary care; this does not vary whether the patient never consults or turns up at the surgery daily – so roughly £12.50 per month per patient. It is an old GP wag that likes to suggest at this point that it is more expensive for him (or her) to insure their chocolate Labrador (which along with a coal-fired AGA, tweed undergarments and an old, battered Land Rover Defender used to be a pre-requisite for membership of the rural section of The Royal College of General Practitioners).

General practice receives around 8% of the total healthcare budget down from around 10%, 10 years ago. Overall funding has gone up but our share has gone down. Hospitals are expensive and advancing treatments cost more. The UK, despite having a nationalized health service, is 6th out of 7 amongst the G7 countries in terms of spending on healthcare in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

There is certainly an appeal to salaried employment. I wouldn't need

to respond to the burglar alarm going off in the middle of the night, the wasps in the roof, the complexity of staff employment and recruitment or managing the surgery finances. I could concentrate on seeing patients. The elephant in the room is the lack of GPs and, again, you could argue if I only had to worry about seeing patients then I would be freed up from my business constraints to deal with this. However, this is an oversimplification. Many of us are working 15 hour days and covering for colleagues. If we were 'on the clock' as salaried GPs the bill may rise significantly. And I do, however, rather like the current system – I take responsibility for my whole business – I see myself as an independent trader – akin to the market stall owner, local butcher or bookshop able to rage against the big corporates and to try and give the local population what they want and need with the ability to adjust supply according to local demand rather than being dictated to by a big profit-seeking/streamlining/'one brush fits all' organisation. I am able to adjust my service according to my patients who I know well. This autonomy may open up the ability to abuse but there is plenty (let me assure you) of NHS oversight of what we do. I am lucky and I accept that customers may find it difficult to go elsewhere and choose the out of town large supermarket rather than my fresh market stall approach but, rather like the supermarket analogy, centralisation of primary care risks the availability of rural primary care. It may be that a hospital trust or private corporation feel urban centralisation of primary care in a large central position would be more cost effective. This threatens the presence of an already struggling rural primary care. The paradox is the government are keen to involve the private sector (seemingly as long as the private sector is not GPs working solely for the NHS who hardly do any private work but rely on their 'private' NHS contract) – big corporates can currently buy up GP practices but, as we have seen, there has been no appetite for this as the profit margins are not worth their while – we haven't seen the emergence of Virgin Active Surgeries or Tesco Medical Practices. However, bundle primary care with secondary care and we may find this set up becomes much more attractive to them. I make no comment on whether this is good or bad as I am merely a subservient pawn in this experiment.

I love a debate (I have a nearly thirty year old debate going on with a colleague about the difference between a kayak and a canoe) and I think it is a good thing that healthcare funding, provision, access and cost effectiveness is to be discussed. Reorganisation of the NHS is a political hot potato and many well-meaning politicians have fallen foul of the Ministry of Health's poison goblet of reorganisation. It is well reported that Nigel Lawson once said that the 'NHS is the closest thing the English have to a religion'. I think he also went on to say that 'and those who practice within it regard themselves as the priesthood'. I'm glad (as I am sure many of you who know me also are) that I am not in charge and I can sit plodding along trying my best in rural Norfolk. You never know I may soon be sitting in a drive-thru McPractice on the A47 with a badge saying 'Hi, I'm Dave, how may I heal?'. I may have to ask Mrs Intractable Itchy Bottom if she would like to go large with that? I think she might.

I wish you good health.



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Hunstanton Eyecare blog

Today we are far more conscious of our impact on mother earth than ever before and I believe that it is up to us, the customer, to deal with companies who take their eco-friendly commitment seriously. Being an independent practice enables us to choose our suppliers, and one we have a great relationship with is WOLF EYEWEAR. You have probably noticed that they produce frames with very jolly colours, gives us all a lift in dull times I think! Wolf Eyewear is a family firm and the frame design is carried out in the UK. The new range is "Inspirit", and I will let them tell their own story.



Introducing the new Inspirit ethos

Over the past few years, brands have been rushing to bring out eco frames, but we want to go further. Rather than designing a specific line of eco-friendly frames, we want to embrace a shift toward moving all our eyewear and associated product lines to more sustainable materials from the frames, cases and cloths to the business as a whole. That's why we've launched Inspirit, a philosophy and underlying business principle that we will adopt in everything we do.

We've already switched our team to an electric fleet; our offices are almost entirely powered by renewable energy, and we continue to look at more ways to lower energy consumption and remove virgin materials from our products.

The integrity of our product is essential to us. We want to ensure that investing in new materials produces quality frames that you, our customers, will love. After much testing and research, I'm delighted to showcase our latest release of frames that now feature bio-acetate, made from renewable sources instead of traditional oil-based ones, a more planet positive material. We understand that this is just the start of our journey, but we're setting out our commitment now to ensure that what we do going forward puts our Inspirit ethos at the forefront of everything we do.

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Annette

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

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On the turf with Charles Joyce

The Cheltenham trials and Dublin Festival were not overly helpful in bringing forward the names of winners for the March jamboree of national hunt racing with fourteen grade one races to be contested by the best of Irish and UK horses. All we learnt is that Honeysuckle still has a leg at each corner and a spirit to win. And that Gordon Elliott and Willie Mullins are likely to take a large number of the twenty eight races. As for the Gold Cup it still looks like Minella Indo with four of the first five in the ante-post betting all trained in Ireland. On the day the trends tell us no horse older than nine years old has won this century. In fact, only four older than eight have won this century with two of them being Best Mate winning for the third time and Kauto Star who is the only horse in the history of the race to regain the title and along with Native River are the only two horse to lose in the race and then win in a later year. Al Boum Photo and Lord Windermere are the only winners at a double figure price this century. Lord Windermere is the only winner rated below 160 by the handicapper when winning. Coneygree is the only first season chaser to win wince Captain Christy in 1974. All had previously won a grade one race. It's a race for a second or third season chaser who has shown he (you have to go back to Dawn Run in 1986 to find a mare winning), has performed at the top of his trade. The home team still seems to be headed by Protektorat who is part owned by Sir Alec Ferguson and will attract support from Manchester United fans for that reason alone. The horse is trained by Dan Skelton a former protege of Paul Nicholls. There's nothing unusual about the Ditchet trainer having a lean January because that's when he often vaccinates his horses. But he was in the doldrums in early February with a winner strike rate of only three percent which was way down on his usual February rate of twenty three percent. There may be problems with viruses or perhaps a poor feed batch but trainers with horses numbering the Nicholls string could be okay in one place while at the same time other horses have problems elsewhere. This is because some trainers have satellite stables. It's an explanation for when Nicholls was having problems with his runners one year, yet Rock on Ruby won the Champion Hurdle. A wealth warning on all Nicholls chasers at the Cheltenham festival. Famous for his great chasers such as Master Minded, Denman, Kauto Star etc. Paul Nicholls went four years from 2011-2014 without a winning chaser from a total of fifty four runners. He missed with eight last year. It's not expected to win with 33/1 runners, but he has lost with all his runners 4/1 or shorter going back to 2011. He is 6 from 114 with all his chasers since 2011 when they have a starting price of 22/1 or shorter. In handicap chasers he is 1 from 47 when they start at 22/1 or shorter since 2011. His last forty eight hurdlers at any price have all lost. Paul Nicholls is a top trainer, but his recent record does mean punters need to be cautious before weighing in on the supposed good thing from the yard.

The novice chase run on Wednesday is another interesting race. In the last twenty four years twenty of the winners were bred in Ireland. Of those twenty fourteen were seven-year-olds. Had a punter backed all that qualified with just those two trends he would be a winner at industry starting price and exchange starting price (I only have exchange starting prices going back to 2008 but still profitable). At odds of 16/1 or less more than 1 in 5 of the qualifiers won. A month

away from the race the two most likely contenders are Lucinda Russell's Ahoy Senor and Stattler trained by Willie Mullins, the Closutton trainer also has the favourite Galopin Des Champs. He has a very good record with his six-year-old chasers especially French bred which start at 5/1 or less. A cautionary tale but it would be surprising if the better half of former champion national hunt jockey's runner was shorter than his present 10/1 come the day and some bookmakers are already non-runner no bet so punters as near as possible are assured of a run or their money returned along with best odd guaranteed. Anything less than that wait for the day. Not least because Henry De Bromhead could throw a curve ball and run Bob Ollinger here rather than Thursday which will have a big impact on prices. In the champion bumper also on Tuesday backing every one of Willie Mullins in this race going back to 1997 the punter would have won ten times showing a healthy overall profit. Had the punter ignored the French bred runners he would have avoided thirteen straight losers. If they had run in the UK or Ireland they won last time out, were most likely to be five years old ridden by a woman, Willie's son Patrick or his top stable jockey. Don't be afraid of the prices as he has trained two winners which went off at 25/1. One ridden by Ruby Walsh the other ridden by his sister Katie.

Away from Cheltenham the Lincoln kicks off the historical spring double at the end of March. In last twenty years only (nineteen runnings as no race in 2020) one winner who's last race was in the UK or Ireland had not run in the previous four to eight months (last run was 121-240 days). No more and no less. That said runners that last ran on the all-weather can do okay. The last winner bigger than 25/1 was in 2002 with only 50/1 winner since 1965. By restricting betting to the two trends of time off the track and starting price 33/1 or less the punter would have found the winner in eighteen of the nineteen runnings with one winner to every ten losers showing a reasonably healthy profit. The last winner older than six years of age was in 1998. In recent years the race is going to the higher rated horse in a double figure stall. The last six winners were rated 100 (5 of the 6) or 99 by the official handicapper. All eighteen winners had made the frame in at least one of their last five runs with fifteen winning. Half of the eighteen winners had won their last race. Only one winner has carried more than nine stones four pounds from twenty four runners, and only one winner has carried less than eight stones nine pounds from twenty seven runners. Half the eighteen winners ran at either Ascot or Newmarket Rowley course last time they ran in UK. There are other factors not so easily quantified such as needs to act on the going of the day and has won at least a mile preferably a shade further as this is a straight track with no place to hide for any horse whose stamina runs out. The two that catch my eye are the second and third in last year's Cambridgeshire run over the Rowley course. Anmaat who carried four pounds overweight when favourite and running second to outsider Bedouins Story. He gave a pound and a length and a half beating to the third Ametist from the William Haggas yard. There's nothing more than Lester Piggott's son in law likes better than winning in his native Yorkshire and he has won the race three times (two other top five places) from only six runners in the last twenty years. It is a race he takes seriously. The problem is that while Anmaat has shown stamina to some extent Ametist's stamina has to be taken on trust as although the Cambridgeshire is further than a mile, he has only won over seven furlongs. Still in receipt of nine pounds for that length and a half defeat on the Rowley course he has to come into the reckoning if he shows up for the gig. The 25/1 looks inviting as I don't see him that price on the day. The doubt is will he show up on the day.

If he turns out for the Irish equivalent on the same day as the Doncaster Lincoln Joseph O'Brien's Zozimus maybe worth a closer looker than his figures suggest as he was fourth back in October from the wrong side of the track. This was a step up for him and although not really reproducing that effort in two runs since he was then gelded and presumably put away to maintain his handicap mark.

As always pay the bills first and under no circumstances bet if you cannot afford to lose, because even the best professional punters lose more often than they win.



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Villagers call for referendum on proposed £1.3m project

Richard Dix

Heacham Parish Council's plans for a new community hall to include the Parish Office, Library and Heritage Centre on the old Dairy site in the village was under scrutiny at a meeting on 6th February at Heacham Public Hall. The meeting was opened by the organiser Dave Curtis. On the stage were: Sue Eke (Parish Clerk), Tracy Raby (Parish Councillor), Terry Clay (Parish Councillor), Terry Parish (Parish and Borough Councillor), Peter Sutton (Heacham Y and C Trust), Dave Curtis (Heacham Y and C Trust and Meeting Organiser) and David Brown (Parishioner). Richard Dix on roaming



microphone.

In attendance an estimated 300+ Parishioners who came to hear what was being proposed and within the crowd were many of the remaining Parish Councillors who were not on stage.

The meeting opened with the public still entering as there were no seats, many left standing at the back and sides.

Dave Curtis outlined the idea that with the building as it had moved on from when the original idea was proposed 8 years ago. The cost was then around £750,000 and now £1.3 million the soaring costs needing discussing with the village. There was little parking for use of the building proposed.

The idea was put forward to stop the project and clear the site and pave. This would give a car park and a village square for markets and Parish events to take place on. This led to a large cheer in the room.

There was much to and fro on the Precept required to fund the Hall which is being quoted as requiring £1.3 million pounds (including VAT)

The Parish Officer and Councillors complained that they were not informed that they would be asked onto the stage and had not brought any costings or information further than that published in the Heacham Parish Newsletter.

The Council proposed that building was required to be a central Village Hub. Parish Office, Library, Meeting Room, Hall and Cinema. The library is currently temporarily in the Church Hall. The current Office in Jubilee Clinic was not suitable for large meetings and in need of repair (with its lease expiring soon) and the Old Friends Hall off Caley Street (owned by the council) not suitable to house all the facilities required. This would be sold off on completion of the new build and its funds used to reduce the loan repayments.

Many questions arose on the exact figures of monies required and if in the current monetary climate there was a need for the Parish Council to move forward on the build. They told the room was a 10% contingency built into the grant/loan application. That the loan would be a fixed rate repayment. They did not expect it to require more money to complete, which was challenged by some of those within the room who believe every public project exceeds its initial quoted job.

There were differing opinions on the if the parking was required,



with the Heacham Post Mistress saying they if we strangle the parking any further their business will close, other suggesting they didn't have a problem and by going around the block again you can usually park.

Many in the room were looking for a referendum on the project. And despite HYAC proposing a £300 survey was sent around the village Terry Parish suggested and the Parish Council insisted that to be satisfy all concerned KLWNBC should be asked by Heacham PC to arrange, with the cost around £4000.

The meeting concluded with the action to move forward on a referendum on the build but not knowing who would organise it or pay for it. Meeting was closed at 15:20

Update with Dave Curtis

At the Parish Council Meeting on 15th February Dave Curtis presented councillors with a voting form that he had created following the meeting at the Public Hall and is distributing to Heacham households.

Town and Around asked Dave how it was received. "Well, there was no reaction at all," he said. "Apparently the Borough Council has refused to have a referendum over this issue but it will allow and run a Parish Poll.

"I have two problems with this, firstly as we are talking about the cost of any development being paid back though the Parish precept, the vote should be for each household Council Taxpayer rather than everyone on the electoral roll and secondly we have the proposers of the project that will decide the question to be asked."

Dave said that he is now printing and distributing his own private poll amongst residents to get a more accurate understanding of how the wider population of the village feel about the project. The completed forms need to be handed in at Heacham Post Office by 14th March.

"I'm challenging the Parish Council on their costings too; I can't believe that the increase on the precept will be 9p when they are proposing to borrow over a million over 50 years, the numbers just don't add up!

"In my opinion a much better proposal would be to create a market place; there's 1125 sq² for a big car park that would support our High Street, could also support a market and to preserve the street scene could incorporate a clock tower and seating area on the corner.

"I'm very proud of our High Street, what other village can you name where you can buy a bike, a kettle, a TV, visit the Post Office, get your bread, some fish and chips, have a restaurant meal, pick up a bargain at the charity shop, see your solicitor and get your feet and hair done?

"This is our opportunity to help the village by sorting out the parking problems - Let the village live!" Dave added.

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Borough Council News for Heacham, Sedgeford and Fring

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

Time Marches on. I will start with a tale of two Councils, Heacham Parish Council and the Borough Council. Parish councillors are villagers who want to benefit their village by helping in the myriad local matters that arise and need managing or sorting. They receive no money for their troubles and are generally seconded onto the Council as vacancies arise. Every four years they come up for election though, unless more than 17 stand, there is no count. I am a Parish Councillor too.

A Parish Council is accountable to the public as was demonstrated at a recent public meeting about the new build, hall, library and office. Villagers had been given opportunities several years ago, through drop-in sessions and a letter, to give the green light to the new building. This they did. However, the cost now is much higher than the cost then. Consequently, villagers need to be asked again. This is something I recommended at the Parish Council several weeks before the public meeting and I am glad that a referendum, managed by the Borough Council, will be used. This should clear the air.

The 'error' the Parish Council made several years ago was to be too democratic. They asked villagers what they wanted. The answer they got was different to what the Heacham Youth and Community Trust expected. In consequence, there has been a war of words since. Delays due to such consultation and then Covid lockdowns contributed to escalating costs. Whether villagers still want to go ahead with the build will soon be found out. Voters should be aware of the financial consequences of not going ahead too. The situation is not as simple as you might think.

Borough Councillors, like me, are elected. I have been elected twice. I was not going to stand again in 2023 but am having second thoughts as what the Borough needs is, at least, a strong opposition to the ruling group, the Conservatives. Without a strong opposition the Council's work is not scrutinised effectively. Currently there are 29 Conservative Councillors and 26 in opposition. I lead the main opposition group, the Independents, and have 15 councillors as members.

Borough Councillors do get financial allowances. All 56 get a basic allowance of £6162pa. There is an ICT allowance of £168pa and a mileage allowance for journeys to and from Lynn. (Those of you who think BCs should get nothing might save their ire for County Councillors who get a basic allowance of £11,224 for doing no more).

At the Borough Council there is a further pot of money to pay additional allowances to councillors with particular responsibilities. This pot currently stands at over £100,000. These responsibilities include Leader (£16,939); Deputy Leader (£9316); six more Cabinet Members at £7621 each; Chairs of Panels at £2370 each; Chair of Planning (£6175); Chairs of licensing, two at £2,787 each.

There are vice chairs too. All the significant special responsibility positions are in the gift of the Leader, a Conservative. Theoretically a vice chair is elected by the members of a panel. However, by default, the majority of panel members are Conservatives. At the moment one chair of a panel is an Independent. It is the Corporate Performance Panel which scrutinises Cabinet decisions; he is doing too good a job so could likely lose his position in May. The vice chair of audit is also an Independent; his background means he knows all about corporate finance. Note that he was not made Chair.

The only portion of the pot which is outside of the Leader's influence relates to the Leaders of the opposition groups. I receive £847 as leader of the principal opposition group. The Leader of the Labour group receives £507. Our deputies receive smaller amounts. In total, the opposition receives around 1/50th of the special allowance pot. Or, if the two positions mentioned above are included, around 1/20th.

An Independent Review Panel last year looked at the Borough's allowances and their distribution. Their findings have just been revealed and quickly dismissed by the Cabinet. The recommendations of the panel effectively raised the size of the allowance pot. The reason for their dismissal was, 'it was not the right time'. The increase actually recommended by Cabinet will be in line with officers' pay award. However, the review panel also made a start at redressing the imbalance between the allowances given to the ruling party and the allowances given to opposition leaders. This was also dismissed. I proposed the

change would not increase the pot if some Conservative held allowances were slightly reduced. This was ignored. I have stated that the recommended allowance for the leader of the main opposition group, currently myself, would not be taken in 2022/2023 but the principle of redistribution needs to be established. No comment has yet been received.

Allowances are a touchy thing. They were brought in, nationally, many years ago as a kind of 'levelling up'. People who were not relatively wealthy were then discouraged from becoming councillors as they could not afford the time. However, as allowances were given to all councillors, they no longer differentiate between those who need a supplement to their income and those who don't. Now, with basic and special allowances, and sometimes holding both a County and a Borough position, such 'twin hatters', can receive a good income (basic Borough plus basic County = £17,386, add a responsibility allowance and this can easily be bumped up to well over £26,000pa – as is the case for several members of the Borough Council.

What the opposition wants, and I include both opposition parties, is a recognition of the leadership demands of relatively large opposition groups. In the longer term, both groups want a fair distribution of special responsibility positions so that all councillors' expertise can be utilised irrespective of their party or leanings. This is to provide encouragement to younger people (not receiving pensions), possibly with little or no political background, to stand for election knowing they can contribute to the council and have the chance to protect, to an extent, any possible loss of earnings from their employment. This is not in the interest of the current ruling group who also resist returning meetings to early evenings which, in the recent past, has enabled most working councillors to participate more and councillors with school age children to manage their lives better.

Let's change the topic; sea water quality. It is now poor at Heacham and hovering just above that in Hunstanton. Old Hunstanton is good. The quality at Heacham has been deteriorating for some years or, as an officer said, 'it may have been poor for a long time, the tests are better now' (paraphrased). Streptococci bacteria specific to humans, dogs, cattle and birds are found in the sea. Attempts will be made to identify the causes of this situation and to mitigate them. It will likely take years as the shallowness of the Wash hinders dispersal of waste. The Borough Council will be working with the Environment Agency and Anglian Water. In the meantime, follow the advice which will be made in press releases, social media, and on notices by the beaches.

Talking of human waste, the new toilet development at South Beach has still not begun, neither have final plans been revealed. The notice displayed on them says they will open for Easter.

The saga of Cheney Hill continues. There have been considerable delays to planning matters as a significant number of officers have been leaving. New ones have been recruited but a priority was given to the Parkway 2, Borough Council application. By the time you read this that should have been sorted.

A controversial planning application in Fring should have been withdrawn by now so that objecting residents can be consulted before a fresh application is made. It would likely have been better for residents' peace of mind if consultation had been done at the outset but better late than never.

Sedgeford appears quiet at the moment. Several breaches of planning conditions or enforcement notices may have been resolved. Such breaches are an ongoing problem. Persistence seems to work. Keep highlighting them to the Borough, via the planning department or me.

As I write, car sales seem to have resumed on the wide grass verge at the turn off to Heacham recycling centre. Highways should have sorted it by now. Please do not set up your business at the roadside.

And roadside litter is more evident locally and down the A149 into Lynn. This is unlikely to be tourists at this time of year. I am attempting to find out if County has reduced its litter clearing operations. The answer of course, is not to throw rubbish out of cars and lorries. If you see it happening and it is safe to do so, take the number of the offending vehicle down.



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A WANDERER FROM THE START

This is the third and final part of an article about Ivy Scales's life by Margi Blunden

If you read the first two parts of this interview with Ivy Scales you will recall that she was now back in London having sailed round the world several times.

Never one to sit back and be swept along by life's tide, when her current boss did not suit her she applied for a typist's job in Geneva at the United Nations.

Whilst waiting for the outcome of various tests and interviews she hopped on another cruise ship and typed her way round the Mediterranean.

Once the U.N. job was confirmed off she went to find herself in a typing pool in an office overlooking Lake Geneva, the Savoy Alps and on occasion Mont Blanc glowing pink in the setting sun.

For nine months she plodded along as a copy typist, becoming bored with the reams of drafts that she copied and finding herself regretting her decision to move to Geneva. What she yearned for was some responsibility and the opportunity to take initiatives.

However, life moved on when she got a job as secretary, also in Geneva, to a retired American Admiral whose main interest was in research and was so absorbed in this that Ivy's assistance was mainly involved running around various departments checking documents. Sharing an office with three others, she (and they) found plenty of time for growing plants on the window sills and developed a collection of thirty varieties!

Although work had not quite come up to her expectations, life outside had more to offer. Free language courses were offered and so she started to learn French. She also decided to take sailing lessons on the Lake. She and a friend were quite confident that they would be able to cope with the French instructions – one such lesson proved to them that they had not yet learned quite enough of the language and they ended up in the cold, dark waters of the lake entangled in the ropes and sails of an upturned boat!

She made the most of Geneva's location in



Europe and at weekends would sometimes take trains to Italy, Germany, Austria and Belgium.

The two years of her contract being up she then made for the UK on the Orient Express.

Back in London the Greek shipping company J. G. Carris which bought the Southern Cross, needed a secretary in their offices. Her job was to procure spare parts for the six ships now owned by the company. Here she was happy to still be in contact with the ships she had loved so much and when she was invited to the relaunch of Southern Cross it was an emotional moment for her.

However, working back in London, she missed her continental friends and the flavour of European life.

So she phoned an old friend in Geneva who quickly made some calls and found Ivy a job back in the UN with a man who knew what a good secretary Ivy was and immediately asked her to be his personal secretary. Ivy's future was assured!

The following years in Geneva were settled and Ivy became fluent in French, established many friendships and enjoyed the breadth of culture which her European life afforded her.

For the British person working abroad there will always be a moment when a big decision has to be faced. Do you retire where you have worked or do you return to the UK for your retirement? Connections with places and people in the place of work have become

important to you and to break with those is not an easy thing to do.

Ivy was torn but felt the tug of family back in Norfolk. As her sister lived in Dersingham it made sense to her to retire there.

Wherever she was, Ivy always sought out whatever it was which interested her. So she joined the Hunstanton and District Civic Society and discovered a group of people who were keen on local history, architecture and the well-being of the future of the town. Her experience at the U.N. was soon noted and she joined the committee.

One of her achievements during this time was to research the history of Ringstead Mill. The result of this was a leaflet which is still available today, as is the leaflet she also contributed to about Hunstanton's local Arts and Crafts architect Herbert Ibberson. Both leaflets now incorporated into the Hunstanton Guide Book published by this Society.

Her love of history and the place of people in it dovetailed very well with the ethos of the Society. She joined the group of volunteers who opened the Heritage Centre eagerly giving her time to welcome visitors into the showcase for the story of Hunstanton and District.

From her early escape as a little girl across the Stanhoe fields in search of a world beyond the confines of home, Ivy has fulfilled that desire to explore and understand cultures, peoples and histories she then knew nothing of.

All she knew then was that she had the desire to wander and wander she did – out of Norfolk, out of the UK and round the world.

She brought back home with her the treasures of memories which she has been generous enough to share, giving us a glimpse of a life rich in experience and knowledge.

Thank you, Ivy, for sharing your life story with other members of the Society.

Perhaps it might prompt others to share their life stories.

Copy date for the April issue of Town and Around is 12th March

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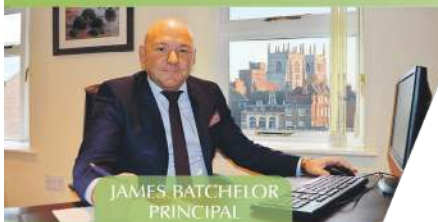
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The Mayor writes..

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Cllr Adrian Winnington 01485 534747

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My mayoral duties are varied; since my last article they have been a mixture of solemnity and fun.

In January I attended the funeral of Fred Pooley, Mayor of Hunstanton in 2002/2003. Fred spent many years of his life in Hunstanton and loved the town. It was good to see so many people turn up to acknowledge his life, his dedication to

Hunstanton and to support his family at their time of loss.

The following week a short ceremony was held at the Hunstanton War Memorial to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day. We remembered the victims of the Holocaust, an unparalleled crime against humanity, and also victims of other genocides around the



world. Now, more than ever, we need to stand together with others in our communities in order to stop division and the spread of identity-based hostility in our society.

Three days later a service was held at the Floods Memorial in the Esplanade Gardens to remember all those who perished in the 1953 Floods. Some of those present experienced the terrors of that night on 31st January but most could only imagine the awful situation in which people found themselves. It was good and right that the commander and members of the USAF 67th SOS were part of our commemorations as they played such a big part alongside locals in rescue operations on that night.

Moving in to February, and fun, Catherine and I enjoyed an evening at the St George's Guildhall in King's Lynn as guests of the West Norfolk Gilbert & Sullivan Society. We watched their excellent, very entertaining, opening night performance of the Pirates of Penzance.

On Saturday 12th February we attended the official opening of the King's Lynn Mart followed by a buffet at the Dukes Head Hotel. This was by invitation from the Showmen's Guild of Great Britain Eastern Counties Section. The following day we accepted an invitation from Colleen Roper to be present at the opening of the new season at Rainbow Park. It was good to experience both the large travelling fair and also the permanent fairground. We are very fortunate to have Colleen and John-Henry and other showmen with their funfair in Hunstanton.

Moving on to Town Council business, I must first welcome three new councillors who have been co-opted during the last few months and apologise to them for not having done so previously – Howard Johnston, Mark Williamson and, very recently, Adrian Eden. They are already getting themselves involved in council business alongside their other voluntary work in the town.

February also saw the first meeting of our Environment Committee. As the environment is so important to us all it was decided to raise its profile to a committee. Cllr Robert Corby was elected as Chair with Cllr Adrian Eden as Deputy Chair. Two councillors were elected for each of the three main areas – Environmental Matters (water quality, litter, waste, plastics); Reducing the Carbon Footprint (energy, car charging points, transport); Green Spaces (trees, wildlife). They will develop a plan to address these issues, working with the Borough and County Councils and other agencies.

As we move into Spring we begin to welcome more visitors back to our town and look forward to a much better time for all.

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Wild in Westminster and West Norfolk

Driving by the QEH in early February, I was reminded of the skip and crane indexes. David Smith, The Sunday Times' Economics editor uses a skip index to provide an informal guide to the economy. The number of builders' skips in his street provides a range from zero (no growth) to four (unsustainable boom). Others have also developed a crane index – counting the number on the skyline to judge the health of the economy. Both I'm sure would match the official statistics showing the UK had the fastest growth in the G7 major economies last year.

Anyone like me passing the QEH can't have missed the crane moving 56 modules into position for the new £12.5 million Endoscopy Unit. This is part of £20.5 million of funding to help modernise the hospital bringing together all endoscopies to take place in one unit and freeing up space to allow for the installation of roof supports in the main hospital.

Along with the newly opened outpatient unit and the £3 million West Norfolk Eye Centre – funded with an additional £3 million – set to open in the spring, these are important elements in improving facilities and staff and patient experience while the campaign for a new hospital continues.

One area of NHS activity that people most frequently raise with me is dentistry. Not being able to get to see a NHS dentist is a long-running issue which my predecessor also raised particularly following the closure of the Snettisham practice. Rural areas across the country face similar challenges but the position in Norfolk is particularly acute.

In 2020, the National Audit Office found that West Norfolk had the lowest number of dentists per head in the country – jointly with North Lincolnshire. It was also the third lowest area for contracted NHS activity actually carried out – only 65 per cent compared to a median of 96 per cent. The situation has only been made worse by Covid and the rules which reduce the number of appointments that could be offered.

That's why in my first speech in the House of Commons, I made the case for new dental provision and I've repeatedly pressed the NHS East of England since then to improve access. So, it is welcome news that two new dental contracts for Lynn have just been successfully awarded by the NHS team to Smile Care Norfolk. The contracts are due to commence by 1 July 2022 to provide new services which will



make it easier for adults and children to access NHS dentists.

As we head into spring, thanks to the success of the vaccine booster programme and people's willingness to take up the offer of a third jab, rollout restrictions have been removed as we learn to live with Covid. After such trying times and postponements, it is encouraging to see more events taking place once again. I was delighted to join the Mayor of Hunstanton to officially open the 2022 Rainbow Park season - despite the Mart weather - and with the carnival, craft fairs, runs, horse trials, flower festivals, and much more happening along the coast through spring and summer let's hope for sunnier weather to match!



Editor's note: See page 8 for the Rainbow Park story and photos.

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London

SW1A 0AA

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Tel: 020 7219 6968

www.jameswild.org.uk

Heacham Minors proud to receive their new kits

Tim Keogh

Heacham u13 Minors were delighted to take receipt of their new football kit recently, kindly donated and sponsored by Rainbow Park. This season Heacham Football Club have 12 teams competing in the mid Norfolk Youth League across all age groups. The club have also introduced girls only sessions which has now been established for 3 years with the aim of introducing them into a league environment next season.

Aimed at children under 7 years of age, the Club have also started the 'early years mini Minors' sessions which are thriving and prepares the younger players when they take the step up to competitive football.

Heacham Minors FC Chairman, Nathan Stockdale, enthused, "We have also recently become an official club partner of Coerver, a global Coaching organisation that work with clubs such as Real Madrid and Manchester United. Being a completely inclusive club, enables us to accept players of all abilities across all age groups. We also run our own 'ability counts' training for players with disabilities".

The club are keen to ensure the youth setup consolidates the success of the senior teams, ensuring that there is strength in depth across the club as a whole for generations to come. The future certainly looks rosy for Heacham FC.

For more information about joining the minors please contact Nathan Stockdale by email at Nathan.heachamfc@yahoo.com.

Members of the Heacham Minors u13s: Charlie Lavvaf, Caleb Martin, Archie Dix, Callum Alexander, Troy Hughes and Lewis Marriott with their new kit, pictured with MP James Wild, John-Henry Roper and Jack-Harry Roper



Pride in our Neighbourhoods 62

How will your Transport needs be met?

Andrew Murray

Regular readers will know that number 61 in this series, published in the January 2022 edition, explained how Transport East was engaged in a consultation concerning their draft proposals for the connectivity of the region unto 2050.

I had no feedback from that article but did co-ordinate a response from the King's Lynn Hunstanton Railway Campaign (KLHRC). Two-thirds of our rural residents live in a 'transport desert' where there is no realistic alternative to the private car. Switching from petrol or diesel to electric vehicles depends on the supply capacity and the roll out of charging points. Provided renewable sources are used to supply that electricity, such a switch will reduce the carbon footprint but it will not ease congestion or parking problems. A modal shift is needed from private car travel to walking and cycling for short journeys and public transport for longer distances. Building more wider roads is expensive, harms the environment and from past experience is only a temporary remedy because it leads to more traffic.

KLHRC was formed in 2017 with the goal of restoring a reliable, fast public transport service between King's Lynn and Hunstanton. (See website <http://www.hunstantonrail.org.uk>) An online petition now has over 8000 signatures. We have worked with Norfolk County Council and their consultants, WSP, to produce a preliminary feasibility assessment. The Department of Transport 'Reversing Beeching' programme was heavily oversubscribed, so the failure of our bid for further funding did not come as a surprise but we have the support of our MP, James Wild, county councillors and key local supporters including the Port of King's Lynn and the Queen Elizabeth hospital. NCC has committed to invest further funding for feasibility studies.

Although much of the original line remains, we are open minded about a future route. Depending on the preferred route the line could restore a railhead to King's Lynn docks (supported by the port manager), or provide a direct route to our hospital (and a direct rail connection to Addenbrookes at south Cambridge, the largest medical campus in Europe). We can foresee a long list of other benefits.

The current difficulty reaching the Queen Elizabeth Hospital at King's Lynn at peak times from communities along the Wash Coast will worsen and become a major problem for the area's ageing population as well as the town of King's Lynn itself. Good public transport should be key to the choice of a site for the proposed new hospital, and rail is an obvious choice for environmental reasons as well as for those without personal access to a motor vehicle.

Our proximity to significant growing towns and cities (Peterborough and Cambridge, as well Huntingdon, Wisbech, Ely, Spalding/Holbeach, Downham Market, which all look to north-west Norfolk for tourism and recreation), means we have long established and growing traffic problems. And our community looks to those places to provide employment and amenities. Enhanced multi-modal transport connectivity is therefore absolutely key for our future planning and sustainable transport cannot be provided with only road building.

Rail reopening schemes have regularly confounded initial conservative estimates for usage. The Exeter to Okehampton Line, reopened towards the end of 2021 has seen high numbers of passengers (despite Covid). The Okehampton station car park is already being extended, an additional parkway station is planned on the outskirts of Okehampton.

Covid may have permanently altered mass rail commuting but rail statistics show that railway leisure use is rising. Experts suggest these trends are more likely to lead to a more profitable and sustainable railway industry than peak time commuting ever did.

Better connections for towns must therefore include rail. We believe the single biggest boon for King's Lynn, economically and culturally, would be a direct rail connection to Norwich – also greatly benefiting the large towns of Swaffham, Dereham and Wymondham. The route

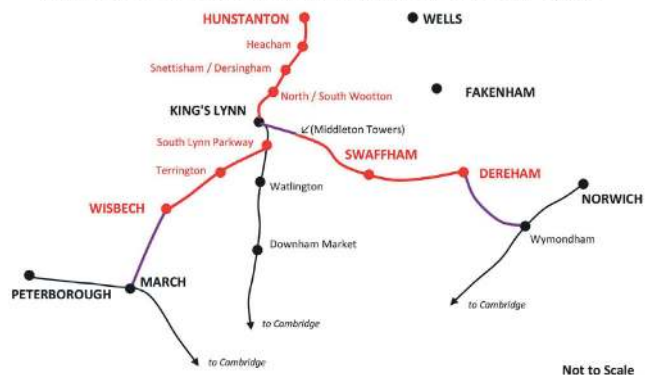


might also create interesting opportunities for truly sustainable development along the way (eg Marham).

Prioritising the scheme to fix the junction problems at Ely (for both freight and passengers) is clearly top of the list for new rail infrastructure and it is inexplicable that it has taken so long to resolve this.

We have suggested that the vital transport corridor leading from London through Cambridge to King's Lynn is extended all the way to the coast at Hunstanton. One of the original money makers for the Hunstanton line was excursion trains from London.

RAILWAYS IN THE KING'S LYNN / WEST NORFOLK AREA – 2030?



** Lines to be upgraded:

- Wisbech - March: Line currently "mothballed" but proposed for reopening
- King's Lynn - Middleton Towers: Line currently open for freight services only
- Dereham - Wymondham: Line currently a "heritage" railway but consideration being given to reopening for passenger services from Dereham to Norwich

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Sporting Corner with Tim Keogh

Row, row, row your boat gently up the River Great Ouse

West Norfolk Rowing Club (WNRC) is a community based amateur sports club based at the idyllic setting of Denver Sluice, having taken over the site from an old sailing club. The land is owned by the Environment Agency who use the location to manage river levels and flood prevention as far as Cambridge and Bedford.



Hamish given the honour (as most venerable WNRC member) of declaring the newly-renovated WNRC Clubhouse open (Aug 2021) after 18 months of work, largely supported by a grant from Sport England. He is pictured with WNRC Chairman Simon Prior and Junior Captain Zach Grant.
Photo credit: Nix Marston

WNRC row on the River Great Ouse, utilising the wide and picturesque waterways as far as Ely and Cambridge. The club and its coaching programmes are run by volunteers with over 60 members ranging in age from 11 up to 82. The club house has recently been renovated thanks in the main to a grant from Sport England, enhancing the rowing experience further. The centre accommodates competitive and social rowers alike, with programmes also available for junior and beginners. The club adhere to all the relevant procedures required to ensure everyone can row in safety.



"The Expendables" - senior men's crew in a coxless quad on one of their regular outings. Combined age over 280 yrs.
Photo credit: Nix Marston

Rowing itself was first used as a means of transport in ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome. As a sport, it began in England in the early 1800's, culminating in the most famous race of them all - the Oxford v Cambridge

University Boat Race, which was inaugurated in 1828. The next meeting returns to the River Thames on Sunday, 3rd April, with Cambridge Men presently leading Oxford Men 85-80 - Cambridge Women presently lead Oxford Women by 45-30. Whilst there have been several sinkings in the Varsity event, there has only ever been one tie, in 1877. Famous participants of the race include Hugh Laurie and Dan Snow. In fact, due to Covid restrictions, the 2021 Boat Race was actually held just up river from West Norfolk Rowing Club on a straight stretch of the river near Ely. Both Cambridge men's and women's crews won last year.



Great Ouse Marathon - WNRC Ladies Captain, Nix Marston, in stroke position of a West Norfolk ladies masters crew competing in the 2019 GOM. (photo: Phil Bancroft). Isle of Ely Rowing Club run the annual Head event on the first Sunday in Sept, 22km from Denver to Ely (not held 2020 and 2021). Hundreds of rowers from all over the country come to take on the challenge.

WNRC Ladies Captain, Nix Marston, is delighted they have been able to return to some form of rowing normality. "Whilst there was limited rowing available to single rowers during the pandemic, everyone here was relieved just to be able to get back on the water". The club is looking forward to hosting the start of the infamous Great Ouse Marathon again in September. This is a 22km race from their Denver base to Ely, and is a popular challenge for crews from across the country. Not to be taken lightly, the record times for the fastest crews are almost 1 hour 30 minutes. The club has members currently taking part in the Charles Stanley Cup - a friendly race series between novice rowers of three local rowing clubs, and are planning a Head race at WNRC in April. Nix is also looking to organise recreational club rowing trips, including a Paris event that involves rowing round Notre Dame at dawn. She described an outing recently where WNRC members joined crews from Lea Rowing Club to row a tour through the Olympic Park.

The club runs Learn to Row programmes for junior and novice rowers, with dedicated coaching skills on hand. With two club rowers having progressed in recent years to the British Rowing Start programme, a precursor

to GB Olympic training, there is support for all aspirations. The club was proud to have had a visit from GB Olympic rower, Tom Solesbury, who did a Q&A and took to the water in a double with one of the WNRC junior members. The club also regularly competes at other local rowing club Head and Regatta events throughout the year, such as Isle of Ely RC, St Neots RC and Peterborough RC.



Learn to Row, with Denver Sluice in background.
Photo credit: Nix Marston

Hamish Collin, an experienced rowing hand at the age of 82, regularly rows at the venue. He enthused, "An early morning row on a calm river really is one of the most beautiful experiences. It's good for the mind and body too as I can vouch for! Yes, I may have had the odd capsized, being rescued by a surprised angler as I appeared through some reeds or, on one occasion, been wing-flapped by an angry male swan, but the camaraderie, not just amongst the rowers but other river users as well, combine to make the river world an excellent and friendly community environment".

The club has a range of boats to accommodate all rowing requirements - singles, doubles, quads and eights (the Oxford v Cambridge race being 'coxed eights'). For the beginner and juniors, the club also has stable training boats with float stabilisers to build confidence. All boats have safety bow balls fitted. Fund-raising is planned for a junior-weight quad and other kit to expand junior rowing opportunities. There is often a waiting list at WNRC for Learn to Row courses but, whether you are new to rowing (the club provides all the necessary equipment) or an experienced rower keen to find a base, all enquiries can be made by emailing

wnrc.club@gmail.com

Annual fees are £150 for adults and £60 for juniors, which covers insurance, equipment, coaching, and use of the clubhouse. Twitter users can visit @WNROWINGCLUB for recent activities. For anyone interested in sponsoring equipment for the junior squad please contact the club using the aforementioned email address.

Armchair sports trivia

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The Oxford v Cambridge boat race is started with a pistol. However, what was used to start the race before the pistol was introduced?

Closing date: 15th March 2022

Answers to: editor@townandaround.net

or post to: 18, Tapping Close, Snettisham, Norfolk PE31 7FF

David Warner was the correct answer to last months cricket question, and Tony and Marcia Goddard were the winners being the first correct answer out of the bucket. Enjoy your afternoon tea at Berni Beans!

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Moving on to the early 20th century the popularity of knitwear soared, and high fashion also embraced knitwear with designers such as Coco Chanel's use of jersey for suits in 1916 which was a turning point for knitwear.

The future King Edward VIII did his bit too by wearing Fair Isle pullovers to play golf and our own Queen has been photographed many times wearing knitwear (there was a lovely picture in an edition of Vogue in 1998) on less formal occasions.

Technological advances have seen the introduction of computerised knitting machines that have made production more efficient and now it is estimated that one in five garments worn worldwide are knits.



MICHA has been producing knitwear in Herning, Denmark since 1932 and this season they have brought us some stylish Spring sweaters in really pretty colours to cheer us all up after Winter. The quality of their jumpers is well known and we have plain v necks in soft coral and pretty blue as well as some prints of delicate floral designs.

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Notes from a Norfolk Newbie - February Fill Dykes

A butterfly must have flapped its wings in the Amazon this morning as I opened the curtains onto a dreich and drear day. The famous meteorologist and mathematician, Edward Lorenz, may well have been right.

I found myself once more, relying on the entertaining company of Matthew, driver of the 21 bus from Hunstanton, as I returned to Docking minus my vehicle, which, once again, was in the garage.

Some might be aggrieved by the inconvenience, but ever one to make the best of any situation, every cloud etc, I flashed my faithful bus pass and joined Matthew for another journey of the Norfolk lanes. What would we chat about? Why the weather of course.

My lesson today, was the saying 'February Fill Dykes - Black or, White'. I used to live opposite the Isle of Wight. Here, if it was possible to see the island it was said to be about to rain. Whereas, if it was not possible to see the island naturally, it was raining. The February Fill Dykes expression, translates into rain or snow. Whatever colour, one or the other will happen in February.

My childhood, was filled with local sayings and proverbs and recently, I heard a report that many of the local sayings, will disappear as their relevance to life today diminishes. Now, I understand the ability to 'Spend a Penny' seems recently, to have taken on a resonance with many, in the Hunstanton area, but I wonder what other expressions will become as incomprehensible to the millennials in the near future?

As a child, I was brought up 'To be seen and not heard'. An invite to appear for tea in 'Best Bib and Tucker' was nothing less than a command. I found myself, amid scones and pastries in the company of visitors. My mother, was appalled when I had the temerity to venture a comment. 'Hold your tongue' she stage whispered to me. What would you have done? Yes... I did. Mine was not to reason why - mine was to do or, well not die, but be confined to my room without supper for the rest of the day! What was that saying? Spare the rod... thank heavens the only rods in the house were used to fish.

Pocahontas Players

Janice Curtis (Admin for The Pocahontas Players)

Yes!!! We did it!! Against all odds, The Heacham Pocahontas players managed to put on their four planned performances of Moana and the Quest for the Golden Egg.

We were approx 100 tickets down over the four shows. The group were absolutely delighted with this because of these very difficult times, especially for us thespians..

Our first time director (Joshy Chilvers) had a very worried head-count as the Cast arrived each performance, knowing that he would have to step in and take over from anyone who were isolating due to Covid but after each count he was very relieved to know they were all safely in, especially The Dame!

We would just like to thank TOWN and AROUND for allowing the Pocahontas Players space in their January Issue and to thank everyone who supported us.

Now onto our May production A Celebration of VE day. Written by Jim Race.

It might have been two years on hold but rehearsals are going well. Dates for this are Friday May 13th 7.30pm with two performances on Saturday May 14th 2pm/7.30pm. Heacham Public Hall PE31 7HG.

A light hearted view of Village life, set in a Norfolk pub during World War II. Including The Evacuee's arrival. The Gossips in the Butchers and The Land Army girls.

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The Barking Bugle

A little while ago I was absolutely thrilled to receive a phone call on my dog and bone from a journalist who works for 'Chat' magazine. "Why would she phone little ole me," I woofed to myself?

As many of you out there may know, I didn't have the best start in life as I used to be a puppy farm doggy who lived in squalid conditions. Well, the magazine wanted to hear my side of the story and after consulting with Pupstar, who has a great deal more experience than me when dealing with journalists, I decided to put paw to paper and send the magazine details of my ordeal.

Wow, I could not believe it! A few weeks later I discovered that one whole page, including photos of Pupstar and me, was devoted to my sad story. My pawrents keep raving on to other humans about how incredibly satisfying it is to look after a doggy like me. If only one kind human out there reads this and decides to rescue one of these poor doggies then my feature will have been worth it.

On another matter I have to bark about how well our Junior Repawter, Clara, has been getting on at BBHQ. Recently she has been doing some pawsome investigative work regarding the recent surge of dog friendly shops. Last autumn we were overwhelmed by the friendliness of so many of the human staff in shops when we were doing a spot of retail therapy in Norwich. Well, it turns out that Wilko in King's Lynn and M & Co in Hunstanton are now also included among the many doggy friendly outlets in Norfolk. What woofastic news, eh? Well done, Clara! Your first official assignment could not have gone any more pawfectly.



One last thing I want to bark about is the Hunstanton Fun Dog Show which will take place at Glebe House School on Saturday, May 7th this year; the judging begins at 1pm. We are all super excited about this here at BBHQ mainly because we have had to cancel the event for the past two years due to this horrible virus. However, the show is back on and we can't wait to greet all our fellow furry friends for much fun and frolics! Hope to see you there.

Woofs Miss Zsa Zsa - Canine Editor
www.thebarkingbugle.co.uk

Hunstanton Fun Dog Show - Glebe House School on Saturday, May 7th
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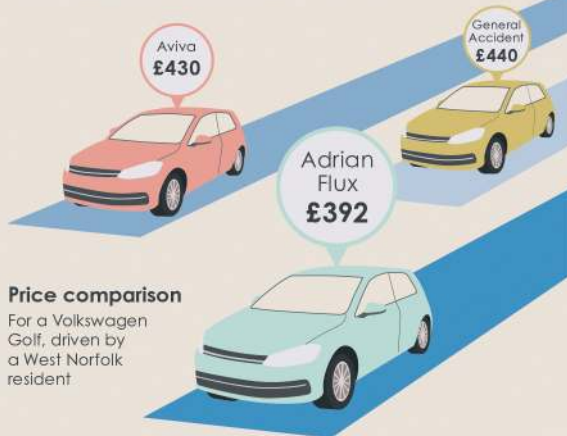
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A Fishing Story

(from the Brancaster Village Hall Archive)

The Southerland family has been fishing from Brancaster/Brancaster Staithe since the 1880s, originally catching whelks, mussels, cockles and native oysters in Brancaster Bay. Cyril founded Southerland Shellfish Company in the 1960s, concentrating on whelks in summer and mussels in winter. In the 1970s the Southerlands found that rock oysters thrived in Brancaster Harbour and these, with the booming demand for crabs and lobsters, became a staple product, along with mussels. Today the business is known locally as Brancaster Oysters, as these have proved wildly popular throughout North Norfolk, whilst still providing all the other shellfish.

Fishing is a tough business, as there are often brutal weather conditions in the autumn and winter months which challenge the hardest person. Standing for hours in icy water for long periods, not to mention the muddy conditions, with an unsettled sea can test anybody's motivation. However, orders have to be filled throughout the year, and the fishing industry becomes a slave to the weather forecast.

A further challenge is keeping abreast of customer preference. The industry needs a profound understanding of the marine environment as well as the constant changes in market demand for shellfish species. Over the years there has been a move away from whelks to crab and lobster which has meant fresh investment and the need to develop new skills. In particular, the last thirty years have seen a significant expansion of the local tourist industry and a consequent increased demand for local produce which must be of a consistently high quality, as well as sustainable.

Fishing works in a very sensitive environment, where sustainability is hugely important to the survival of the business. The shellfish beds are shared with birds, animals and sea creatures, and Man's activities have a great potential to damage this environment. The fishing community needs to respect and carefully maintain the natural balance that exists here, and the fact that the Southerland enterprise has been so successful shows that these concerns have stood the test of time in Brancaster Staithe harbour. Everything is done by hand, ensuring the minimum impact on the environment, although this creates heavy



work.

In marketing terms, the local outlets are crucial to the survival of the Brancaster fisheries. That shops and chefs in the area want to stock local produce is key to the industry continuing and thriving: Brancaster shellfish are now enjoyed across a whole range of establishments along the coast. The produce shows the many visitors to the area the quality of what can be provided sustainably.

The future of fisheries in Brancaster (Staithe) is all about continuing to offer a high quality product in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way, whilst working closely with customers, both residents and tourists. This has been an enormous success story which has its roots over the generations.

The picture shows Cyril (left) and Ben Southerland working the mussel beds.

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HOMELESSNESS

I read your article in the January issue concerning social housing and the needs of local people. I am appalled at how greedy landlords and agents have become in this area particularly! I am being made homeless, along with my daughter who shares a property with me. I am 77 years old, and I can't believe that this is happening, in this day and age, that people can lose their homes due to the greed of landlords. If they think they can get more money by using their property for a holiday let, then they will just turf tenants out like rubbish in a bin! Or, they just want friends and family to move in instead, who already have homes. It is disgusting! We registered with the council for a property, but have told us that there is such a shortage of housing it would be unlikely that they can help. Evictions have doubled in the area of west Norfolk, in just the last 18 months. These are mainly section 21 (no fault) evictions. The tenants have done nothing wrong, but greedy, selfish landlords just want more money. You said in your "Codgers corner" that there are homes near you that have been empty for months. I cannot understand why this is with the number of people facing homelessness. It is shameful.

I have also found that most letting agents have been extremely unfriendly, unhelpful and also very greedy! Because my daughter is self employed, these agencies are asking for 3 months....sometimes 6 months rent in advance. I was told this was due to Covid, and that these requirements have been brought in to protect landlords! This is

absolutely criminal! How can people afford this? We have had the worst 2 years in our lives with the pandemic, people have lost loved ones, jobs, homes and have barely been able to manage financially. I am astounded at the level of greed that people have now. There is no compassion anymore, no support. It is all about money!

We are still trying to find a home, so if anyone does still care about people like me and my daughter, I would be very grateful to hear from you!

Mrs S Pluck, Hunstanton

Volunteers needed!

Old Hunstanton Flower Festival, Scarecrow Trail and Open Gardens are looking for volunteers to help with fund raising events running up to our weekend of fun and flowers.

The theme for the flowers in the church is "Let's Celebrate" with a focus on The Queen. We would welcome anyone who wants to get creative with a floral arrangement.

Flowers in the church will be from Friday 29th July – Sunday 31st July 2022.

Open Gardens, Scarecrow Trail, stalls and refreshments at the Village Hall will be available on Saturday 30th & Sunday 31st July.

Volunteer enquires can be made to chris@guestco.net



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Hunstanton & District Lions Club 9th Charity Golf Tournament Friday 6th May 2022

Covid 19 has made the last two years challenging in many ways with numerous events being put on hold or cancelled entirely, leaving an uncertain future for most people and organisations. Hunstanton & District Lions Club are proud to be celebrating over 40 years serving the community and to be once again holding their Annual Charity Golf Tournament. This year marks its 9th running at Heacham Manor on Friday 6th May 2022.

As with previous tournaments, we are inviting Teams of 4 to play 18 holes (Stableford) and enjoy a Breakfast of Bacon Roll with Tea/Coffee and a Two Course meal in the Heacham Manor Pavilion Restaurant. There will be prizes for Nearest Pin on Hole 7, Longest Drive on Hole 4, a Hole In One competition and a raffle to be won on the day.

To take part please complete the entry form (left) or if you wish to take the opportunity to advertise your business/company by sponsoring one of the 18 holes for 50.00 or require further details, please contact 07748 052 765.

Lead Booker Details:

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TEAM NAME

FULL NAMES	H/CAP	CLUB	CDH No. (IF Known)

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Round the bend with Dean Baker

Is it Saturday or have we had lunch yet?

In the front of this venerable publication the editor, kindly requests that all articles are submitted by the 12th of the month. So, I've retreated upstairs after a Saturday lunch of flat eggy sandwiches and coaxing the not so little litters away from digital tomfoolery. With our 14 year old cat for company, us old boys, are listening to 'Pick of the Pops' and watching the gulls dance in the bitter February wind.

This month its thermostatic radiator valves. Until this morning Mrs B didn't have any idea what these valves did and I suspect she's not alone. Here we go - eyes down for a myth buster ... a thermostatic radiator valve can detect the temperature in the room and will allow more or less hot water into the radiator accordingly. If the room is cold the valve will let more hot water into the radiator to heat the room. The numbers on the thermostatic valve refer to the temperature in the room, not the radiator. As I told Mrs B - 'not many people



know that' and then I started to say 'you were only meant to blow the' but she'd already taken the dogs out!

The point of a thermostat on the radiator is that it can detect the temperature in the room.

The numbers on the valve roughly correlate to the room temperatures below.

0 = Off

*= 7c

1=10c

2=15c

3=20c

4=25c

5=30c

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During the Winter and cold Spring days I suggest you set your radiator to 2 or 3. If you go into a room and its cold don't turn the radiator up to 5. The valve will do its job and heat the room. TVR's are a great way to save money. If the room is warmed by the Spring sun it will turn off and begin heating again when the air cools. If you're away during the cold months leave your heating

on constant and set your rads to *-7c.

My advice is if you've got radiator valves decide on your ideal temp, set them, leave them alone, in fact, forget about them! That's it -

All the best, see you next month

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RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY IN A LIMITED COMPANY? WATCH OUT THIS APRIL!

Supplied by Kathryn Gigg, Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton

Some Limited Companies owning residential property could be in for an unwelcome surprise in April.

The **Annual Tax on Enveloped Dwellings (ATED)** was introduced from 2012 to remedy (or at least tax!) the perceived distortion which could arise where residential property is held within a limited company. The tax is levied annually based on a scale value and the amount charged is increased each year broadly in line with inflation. When first introduced the tax was only levied on properties valued at over £2m but this was subsequently reduced in 2015 and 2016 and now stands at £500,000. By way of example, the ATED charge on a property worth £500,000 to £1,000,000 was, in 2021/22, £3,700, and this is charged in addition to any personal Income Tax which might arise for an occupant (such as a director or a member of their family) under the "benefit in kind" rules.

Fortunately, there are a number of exemptions from the charge, primarily where the property is held as part of a rental or property trading business, is occupied by a (non-connected) employee or is a farmhouse. However, the reliefs are not given automatically and must be claimed annually.

Most businesses that are within the scope of the tax will be familiar with the disclosure and filing requirements, however, the rapid rise in property prices during the pandemic may give rise to a problem in the near future. The value used in assessing both the amount of tax payable and the £500,000 exemption is either the cost (when the property has been acquired since the valuation date), or the market value on the valuation date. The initial valuation date was 1 April 2012 and there is a requirement to revalue every 5 years – so **on 1 April 2022 all property held on that date will need to be revalued.**

This could give rise to two problems. Firstly, since property prices have risen by 20-25% over the last five years, Companies will need to look at each property and decide which value band is appropriate. Using 2021/22 bands for illustration, a property that was worth £750,000 in 2017 could well now be worth over £1m so the annual charge will rise from £3,700 to £7,500. A property which has risen from £1.6m to £2.1 m will see the charge go from £7,500 to £25,300, and it seems quite likely that those charges will also be subject to the usual annual increase by the time the relevant return is due.

The second problem is that a number of properties which have previously been "below the radar" will now be brought within the scope of this tax. This may give rise to an unexpected charge, but even if the property falls into an exempt category, there will still be a need to file a return and claim the exemption. There are material penalties for not filing on time.

Since rural properties have become particularly desirable post pandemic, this could mean that corporate landowners will need to do some work over the next couple of months to ensure that they are compliant following the 1 April 2022 valuation date.

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

N.B. Article written in February 2022



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

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Highway Code

Richard Coates

In the February edition of Town & Around, Tim Keogh gives an interesting overview of the changes in the Highway Code but creates some confusion in the principles!

He explains that the Highway Code is a set of information, advice, guides and mandatory rules for road users but then later says that the changes will be enforced on January 29th. How can you enforce information, advice and guides? It's only the changes in mandatory rules that can be enforced. So where the Highway Code says that you should do something, that's advice or a guide. It's only where the Highway Code says you must do something that it's the law. Nearly all the changes are about guidance.

Why is this distinction important? It's because some road users, for example horse riders, have wrongly been told that the Highway Code now requires car drivers must give them a 2 metre wide berth when overtaking. But the law hasn't changed, it's only guidance. We'll now have some horse riders concentrating on trying to estimate the overtaking space left by car drivers, perhaps shouting at car drivers and noting down number plates to report car drivers to the police when they should be concentrating on controlling their horses.

There are lots of changes in the new Highway Code and we all should change the way we use the roads. That's all of us, not just motorists - horse riders have new responsibilities as do cyclists and even pedestrians would find it useful to read parts of the new Code.

An online search for the "new highway code rules" should take you to the gov.uk website. From April, you'll be able to buy a printed version of the full code. Now if there's someone you always have a problem buying a birthday or Christmas present for, this is bound to be an interesting booklet for them to read and refer to!

Plant of the month: Forsythia

Wendy Warner

The garden is reawakened in Spring by yellow flowers, daffodils will be emerging from the ground, but there will also be vibrant splashes of yellow in shrubs and hedges and this is created by Forsythia. Forsythias are hardy, deciduous shrubs and are particularly striking, as the mass of flowers appear on the bare stems before any new leaves unfurl and will attract pollinating insects. It is sometimes known commonly as "golden bells" but I would say the flowers are more star-like than bells.

Forsythia can be grown as a free-standing shrub or a hedge and can be kept neat by regular pruning or left to become more informal with their naturally arching branches. Some varieties would be suitable for training against a wall or fence and other, smaller types could be used to create height in the middle of a border.

Forsythia are very hardy, don't mind a cold position, are easy to grow and can be planted in most types of ground except waterlogged soil. Plant them in full sun for best results. They will grow in shade but their flowering



will be greatly reduced and they will also become straggly. Due to their vigorous nature, they are not best suited to growing in pots or containers.

When you first plant a Forsythia, it is best not to prune it for the first couple of years to allow it to establish a good root system and let it fill out. After that, prune immediately as the flowers begin to fade, as next year's flowers are produced on the previous year's wood. If you leave it until late summer, you will reduce the flowering for the following year. Prune to shape by removing about a quarter of the

length from all stems. If a plant becomes unruly, it can be cut to the ground, but it will take a couple of years to regenerate and flower properly again.

Forsythia makes a great cut flower and stems should be cut just as they are coming into bud to maximise the show indoors.

Forsythia x intermedia 'Spectabilis' is a vigorous variety, growing to 10ft in height by 6ft spread, bearing masses of deep yellow blooms on bare stems, from early to mid-spring. A naturally compact variety, F. 'Mikador' grows to just 30" high by 30" wide and F. 'Gold Rush' is midsize getting to approximately 8ft tall.

An interesting fact, Forsythia was named in honour of an 18th century Scottish botanist who was a royal head gardener and a founding member of the Royal Horticultural Society, and a distant relative of the popular entertainer Bruce Forsyth.

If you're looking to introduce some Spring interest to your garden, you can't go wrong with a Forsythia.



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Nature notes with Carrie Carey

I don't need to look outside to know it's raining. There's a recognisable sound, like someone scrunching up a paper bag, that tells me the wind is blowing rain against my windows. Grey skies hover overhead defying me to venture outdoors but in the back of my mind I recall a maxim about not waiting for the storm to pass and enjoying a dance in the rain.

Sometimes winter can feel a bit of a bleak tunnel and it's a challenge to see beyond the short days and long nights. So we wait, counting down the days for winter to pass and spring to emerge, waiting for those warmer days, waiting for spring, waiting for the storm to pass. But instead of being passive, why not actively get outside and see what's happening because there's a lot going on and it's easy to miss it.

Nature is the perfect antidote for bodies that have been hunched over desks and tied to digital screens for much of the winter. Most of us use our brains to multitask and at some point,



Common Snipe image by Geoff Fitt

experience a degree of 'brain fog' as creativity and problem-solving abilities fade. This is the time to abandon tech and take a walk outside. Find a spot away from the house or office and breathe deeply, inhale and feel the expanding horizons of the landscape around you. Even ten minutes of digital detox gives the prefrontal cortex area of our brain time to recover. Attention is restored and our wellbeing equilibrium is back in balance.

Disregarding the rain, it's time to get outside and see what nature is up to.

In my garden, hardy primulas have pushed their way through the cold soil testing the last frosts of winter. Colourful hyacinths with bursts of star-shaped petals are giving the borders a riot of colour and yellow daffodil heads, like little pops of sunshine on sticks, infuse my featureless lawn. The rain has left soft droplets of water on the arching stems of gentle willows. As I look closely, I can see the silvery, furry buds of catkins peering up at the sky. A rustle in the leaves catches my gaze and I spot a lone blackbird darting in and out of the hedges looking for a suitable place to nest.

Whether we are working, still at school or filling our days with leisure activities, it's easy to get overwhelmed. Try and fit in a morning or afternoon of outdoor respite. Make a date with nature if you can and mark it on your calendar.

RSPB Titchwell Marsh with its sweeping landscapes offers a hiatus from the demands of everyday life. Vast skies stretch over reedbeds and lagoons reaching right out to the sea where diving ducks ride the swell. Look out for goldeneye in their tuxedo-like black and white plumage and

red-breasted mergansers, easy to spot with their handsome crest of green feathers. On inland lagoons, other ducks are also spectacular at this time of year. I love the chocolate brown head of the pintail which contrasts beautifully with its white breast feathers. It reminds me of a frothy cappuccino. Or look out for shovellers with their unmistakable large bill and iridescent green head or fluffy bottomed little grebes.

Further into the reserve the landscape changes again as open freshwater pools are replaced with swathes of rustling reedbeds. Here the wildlife is a little more coy but there is something exciting about going into a hide and spying through the openings at the unsuspecting birds. Check the fringes of the reedbeds for long billed snipe. You might even hear the drumming sound of the male as he beats his tail in the wind as part of his courtship display. From the Island hide you can also watch the aerial courtship of marsh harriers as they perform their sky dance high over the reedbeds.

Of course, the signs of spring are all around us and not restricted to nature reserves or wild woodlands. If you're lucky enough to have trees in your garden or nearby, look out for silver birch and tall alders whose leaves will start to unfurl as natural light and warmth increases. Gardens become awash with colour as bluebells, crocuses and primroses seemingly pop up overnight. The first daises begin to speckle our lawns and signal that the pollinators will soon arrive. Influenced by warmer temperatures, hibernating insects and early butterflies such as pale yellow brimstones and red admirals tentatively visit gardens in search of food. Watch out too for nesting birds, frogs and toads shambling from cold watery beds and dozy hedgehogs waking from winter's slumber.

Emerging out of winter can be a difficult process, especially if we've spent long hours binge-festing another forgettable tv show or hooked up to a laptop. But it needn't be painful. The natural highs of spring provide a perfect excuse to shake off the gloom, venture outside, splash in a few puddles and even enjoy a dance in the rain.

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"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade."
 Charles Dickens

Spring is here, whether it's cold and wet or bright and frosty as you read this article, rest assured a blast of spring colour will adorn the gardens and hedgerow all around us. Take inspiration from nature and get gardening!

A new bed

* Prepare vegetable beds on a dry day by digging in compost or well-rotted manure. This preparation can also be used for renovating an old bed or planning a new one. You can use the same principal for a large tub or pot if you have limited space.

Bare root plants & perennials

* Ideally, March is the last month for bare root purchases, including roses, hedging, soft fruit and perennials. These can be purchased very frugally and planted out on a dry, frost free day.

* With existing plants, if you start to see a bald spot in the centre of a clump of perennials, lift the whole clump, tease apart with two forks placed back to back. Take only the strongest and healthiest divisions. They will establish easily at this time of year, with little support from you.

Weeds

* If you haven't been out in the garden this year, make this month the big clear-up. Dig out weeds by the root or hoe small seedlings.

Mulch

* Once you've cleared the weeds, mulch the area with a good mix of compost and/or manure depending on your type of soil. Roses, soft fruit and perennials will benefit greatly from a mulch.

Hedges

* Elderly or weak looking hedging can be rejuvenated rather than having to buy new plants. Cutting back all in one go is only successful if your hedge is in its prime and can take it. Otherwise, do it gradually. March is the perfect month to prune hard. Learning to trim and prune hedges is best done now, the new growth will soon cover any errors, so have a go without worrying!

If the hedging has some major bald patches, possibly planting some 'infill' plants, mulching and watering in, if necessary, might be a good plan. We are so lucky to have plenty of nurseries and garden centres nearby that stock a great selection of potted hedging at this time of year.

Nature

So many people enjoyed the various 'wild flower' borders in Hunstanton in the past few years. They are predominantly annual flower seeds, but the effect is lovely.

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In order to encourage wildlife to our gardens, choose single flowered varieties so that bees and butterflies can access nectar and pollen. Leave small pots of herbs to flower, thyme is loved by butterflies, as is verbena and evening primrose. All can be sown in pots, in a small area of a border or go mad and clear a whole area. Keep on top of perennial weeds in spring to ensure a great display without the 'thugs'. Sow nigella, poppies, cosmos and night scented stock, amongst others. The display will be breathtaking and the nature around us will thank you by appearing in their masses.

HUNSTANTON GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION

The winter talks programme of the Hunstanton Gardeners' Association continues this month on 17th March with a talk by Simon Harrop from Natural Surroundings wildflower centre. Natural Surroundings is based in North Norfolk between Letheringsett and Wiveton and was started about 40 years ago to popularise wildflower gardening, and over the years has developed into a delightful garden and plant centre dealing in a wide variety of wild flowers, many of which are rarely found elsewhere. Visitors can enjoy strolling in the tranquil garden set in the Bayfield Valley, followed by light refreshments in the on-site café.

In addition to the monthly talks programme, the Association is planning two private coach outings for the summer, one to Mannington Hall gardens in June and another to Green Island Gardens, near Colchester, (described as 'Heaven on Earth') in July, and further details of these visits will be available at a future meeting.

Guests are always most welcome to attend the club talks which are held in the Hunstanton Community Centre on the third Thursday of each month in the winter, and commence at 2.15pm. Membership of the club costs only £6 per year, and we are currently looking to increase membership numbers and also attract one or two new committee members, so potential members or those wishing to put their administrative or organisational experience to a friendly gardening cause are asked to contact the Membership Secretary, Mrs June Hammond tel: 01485 535763.

Snettisham Gardening Club

Our March meeting will be on Wednesday 30th March at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall, Old Church Road, Snettisham when the speaker will be Janette Merillion to tell us about a Scented Garden.

All meetings will be subject to any Covid restrictions that may be applicable at the time.

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

From the Ground Up: Pitching and Pulling

Hanneke Robson

Well, January was a breeze! I haven't figured out February yet, but let's hope we can chug into spring with no arctic surprises! Then, if March behaves itself, we can retrieve the meadow seed vernalizing in our shed and sow it gladly upon the earth.

Seeding time is crucial. Sheeting rain would wash away our tiny offerings and the location of our meadow 'to be' means we cannot dash about with a watering can, should we have a drought. Which reminds me of something that happened to us a few years ago...

We were staying with friends on their mid Devon farm, when they decided to create a vegetable patch in the middle of a field. This 'patch' was half an acre, sloping away to the distant view of brooding Dartmoor. The weather was hot and, rare for Devon, bone dry when it came to planting. We offered our services and pricked out dozens of seedlings and duly watered them in from a distant tap. But, oh dear! Did we get that wrong! As our friends explained: farmers don't have time to pootle about with watering cans, so these tender veg had better not get used to such luxuries. They would either survive, or they would not. Needless to say, within a month or so there was a jungle of veggies



Removing the Medick from Peddars Meadow

with the ample supply of Devonshire rain helping things along.

Farmers are totally at the mercy of our fickle weather. We take it for granted they will feed us regardless of its whims. To create Peddars Meadow we only have to lay down half an acre of seed. But seed is precious and expensive. We live in one of the driest corners of England and without a light rain to settle them in, our dream of a chalkland meadow could be blown over the Wash.

To prepare for this happy day, we decided to move the four piles of fibrous medick we gathered last September to the edge of the field. They lay rotting and huge before us. Could two ladies the wrong side of sixty strut their stuff and do

this? One way to find out! Armed with pitchforks and a vague notion, we tossed the rotting stuff onto groundsheets and pulled them towards the hedge.

It was a weighty chore, but it worked. And with the help of a friendly villager, we pitched and pulled with all our might and after an hour or two the field was clear. Or not...! As we appeared to be trundling over a newly emerging verdant layer of medick and bugloss. This sturdy new growth would surely bounce our precious seed into the air and bar them from the soil. We absolutely needed to clear the land either with the aid of the farmer, or by hand.

Early February we decided to have a go with the latter and set about the ground with garden

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hoes. Needless to say, with their meagre four-inch widths, we made very little impact. If only we could muster more help, this job could be doable in half a day.

You know what I am getting at... if you fancy joining us in the creation of a chalkland meadow, do contact me through details given below, or visit our lovely art gallery in Ringstead for a chat. Word is spreading about our antics, both with the amazing and very affordable art we sell from our Garage Studio and with Peddars Meadow. Fingers crossed we can get the field cleared and seeded. Learning from the land continues to be a joy, and just think, we didn't count worms! That's for next time! Happy Spring!

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A recipe from the Prudent Pensioner

Bread, Butter, Banana & Date pudding

Serves 4

5 slices of Fruit loaf

2oz butter

Small banana, peeled and sliced

1 Tablespoon Chopped dates

2 eggs

1/4 pint milk

½ Teaspoon ground cinnamon

½ Teaspoon sugar

You will need an ovenproof dish approx.
¾ litre

Spread butter on one side of each slice.
Cut into halves if using a square dish or
4 triangles if using a round dish.

Lightly butter an ovenproof dish arrange
slices of loaf to cover base,
Spread banana slices evenly over then
cover with more bread.
Spread chopped dates evenly over and
cover with more bread.

Beat eggs in a jug, add milk and pour
over bread and fruit. Leave to stand for
30min

Add sugar to cinnamon, mix well and
sprinkle over top.

Bake in pre heated oven at 200c/400f for
25 -30 min until top is golden brown.

This is nice served with custard, cream
or ice cream

My updated book "Less Waste more
Soup" 45 easy, budget friendly recipes
for nourishing soup is now available
from Amazon. A search for Doreen Reed
will find it (together with my books of
light hearted poems and tales) It is also
available from Ridouts Bakery in
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Letters to the Editor

Hunstanton Regeneration

I read in the Eastern Daily Press today February 2nd that Hunstanton Council are to receive £50,000 regeneration funding for Hunstanton.

Might I suggest the following be the top the list: rebuild the Seagate slipway that was demolished in 1976, cut the grass on the sheep field and build houses on it, put the drinking fountain back in front of the Pier Amusement Centre, erect a zebra crossing at the top of Oasis Way and the A149 - the reason being there is a lot more children living on the Butterfield estate who all go to school that way.

Dick Melton

King George VI's death

I feel that on this day (6th February 2022) that I should share a memory relating to a late relation of mine.

My great uncle Wilfred Bridges was the King's and subsequently new Queen's head gamekeeper at Sandringham.

He and his wife Meryl had a tied cottage on the estate with their pet whippet dog. I went to see them on a few occasions as a very young boy.

Additionally he had a working dog. This was a black labrador called Sandringham Sidney who was not allowed to be fussed by anyone.

The most significant thing to happen to him and all the rest of the Nation occurred on the previous evening (5th February 1952). He had been on a shooting day as usual. At the end of the day as the King left him to return to Sandringham House there followed a short conversation. Wilfred said to the King "goodnight Sir", to which the King replied "goodnight Wilfred see you in the morning". Of course he never did and the rest is history.

A few years later Wilfred and Meryl returned to the North East of England (where Meryl was from) to retire.

So that's a small part of local history.

Geoffrey Smith

The Wash Barrier

These days global warming is a very real danger and we can see proof of warming every day. A Wash Barrier is very vital for community. Flood will have a bad impact on fertility of the land, economy and society. With raising in numbers of population we will see shortages in food. Dr Robin Limb's plan looks fantastic compared with the flood pictures of 1953.

This days we have new technologies and technical support. I think we can find a solution to build the barrier without impact for anyone.

Can you please start petition in memory of Dr Robin Limb - we have to complete the barrier construction.

Jon Brumari

Editor's note: Please send letters for the April edition to me by 12th March.

West Norfolk runner's TikToks go global

A West Norfolk runner has clocked up a quarter of a million views of his social media videos documenting his training and morning runs.

David Blackmore, 35, started posting updates in October of his virtual challenge to run the length of the USA's famous Route 66 within 500 days.

As well as the King's Lynn resident's content on TikTok and Instagram soaring over 250,000 views, the 35-year-old has also reached the 700 milestone of his 2,280 mile virtual quest - which currently places him in Oklahoma and he hopes to complete this challenge by Christmas this year.

"It all started out as a way of keeping my friends and family updated on this challenge and to help keep me motivated as I could see the miles clocking up with every video," David said.

"But the response has been more than I could have ever imagined with runners getting in touch from all over the world showing their support, giving me tips and saying how much they are enjoying following my journey.

"It's also been great to show off some of the gems right here in King's Lynn with the statue of Captain George Vancouver, the Custom House, and the Walks all featuring in my videos."

The Route 66 virtual run comes after David completed a similar challenge last year to run the equivalent distance of Land's End to John O'Groats which ended when he crossed the finish line of the Grand East Anglia Run in August.

The TV journalist is also in training to take part in the Brighton and Vienna marathons in April this year after he collapsed with heat stroke at the 25-mile marker of the London Marathon in October.

He added: "I'm hoping to run GEAR in May as well as the Great North Run in September and I'm looking forward to getting on my bike in August to complete the Lap Of Anglia to raise money for the East Anglia Air Ambulance."

You can follow David's journey by searching for @DavidBlackm0re on Twitter, TikTok and Instagram.



David Blackmore running near Clenchwarton. Credit: Paul Tibbs

**St Mary's Church, Holme-next-the-Sea,
Monday April 18th 10am – 12noon
We are back with EASTER FUN.
Save the date.**

Heacham and Hunstanton at Night

Terry Parish

Well, winter is over this month and very few dark, clear, nights to show for it. The 20th is the Spring Equinox when day and night lengths are equal. It happens at 3.33pm, put it in your diary. From the 21st you can sunbathe for longer. And remember, the Equinoxes allow you to determine directions without a compass; the Sun will rise due East and set due West. Mark those positions with the aid of an appropriate tree or building, put sunrise on your left, sunset on your right and you will be facing due South. Planets will be in front of you, to the left or right.

On the 27th British Summer Time starts, Spring forward and lose an hour. Sunrise and sunset will be one hour later than the day before. Simple.

If you want to see planets, with the exception of Uranus, it 'Heacham and Hunstanton in the early morning' again.

Uranus has a magnitude of +5.8 which is just on the edge of visibility for young eyes. Fixed binoculars or a small telescope, including a birding scope, should pick it up. Pointing them to the right place is the hard part. Google it. Uranus sets at 10.30pm.

If you can find a good SE / ESE horizon then get to it between 4.30 am and 7am. Venus rises at 4.30am and shines with a magnitude of -4.4. You won't miss its brilliant display. The planet will show as a crescent at the start of the month which will thicken until it at half phase on the 21st. The word 'dichotomy' is used by astronomers to label this presentation, I presume because there is a division into two halves – the light and the dark.

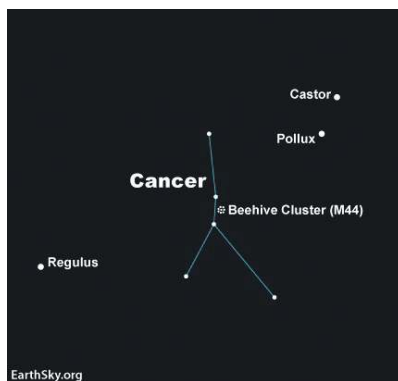
Just after Venus appears, Mars pops up below it and to the right. The red planet is very much fainter, magnitude +1.1, but that is well within the range of visibility. Early in the month, at 6am, the very faint dot of Mercury joins in, lower down and to the left. And, just above the Winged Messenger will be Saturn. As the month progresses, Mercury will vanish below the horizon whilst Saturn climbs higher.

By about the 15th Saturn rises from 5.30am. Throughout the last week, look E/ESE again from 6am. Venus will be bright, below it will be

much dimmer Saturn and to the right, forming the apex of an isosceles triangle on its side, will be Mars. On the 28th, at 6.30am, a thin crescent Moon will be below Mars. A nice grouping if you can catch it.

If you can't see planets at night, what can you see? Well stars obviously and the odd fuzzy blob if your eyes aren't too bad. These blobs will be clusters of stars like the Pleiades and Hyades which I asked you to look out for in winter.

This month find the constellation of Cancer the Crab. At its centre is a misty patch which is an open cluster of more than 1000 stars. It was written about by Ptolemy 2000 years ago and by Galileo in 1609. The cluster is named Praesepe, The Manger, though now it is more often called the Beehive Cluster. (The ancients perceived it as a manger from which two donkeys were eating; beehive is, perhaps, a better picture of what you see – a swarm of bees).



Look South, half way up sky, between Leo and Gemini

The stars in the cluster are gravitationally bound and an and a few giants. Overall, the cluster is around 600 million years old. It is 600 light years away so when you look at it (through binoculars is best), the light you see left the Beehive when Richard II was being (probably) murdered and the printing press invented.

Two planets have been found orbiting stars in the Beehive, both are hot Jupiters, gas giants close to their respective suns.

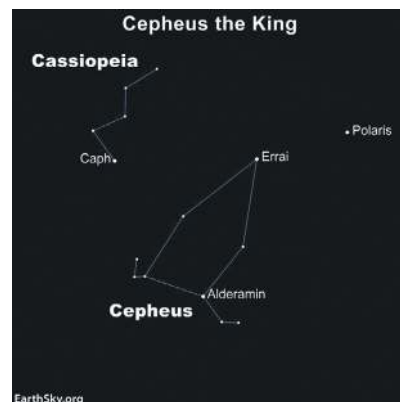


Two stars to look out for: The Garnet Star and Regulus.

Look North, fairly low. Garnet Star is found just below 'house' base, in the middle. Internet The Garnet star is in Cepheus which is a

constellation looking like the gable end of a house, it is left of the W of Cassiopeia. It is over 1000 times the diameter of our Sun, 100,000 times brighter and, unsurprisingly, a deep red. The red light is around 3000 years old when it enters your eyes. Look just below the centre of the house base.

Now find Leo the lion. One of its stars is Regulus which, as it is just 79 light years away, is bright. It is one of a gravitationally linked 4-star system arranged in two pairs. Regulus itself, Regulus A, is blue-white and particularly luminous.



Look South, half way up sky. Regulus will be brightest star on its own. Internet.

Snippets: A giant bubble around the Solar System has been mapped out. It is about 100 light years across and was formed as the result of supernova eruptions. The gas and dust resulting from these enabled new stars to be born, our Sun being one of them.

Organic compounds in a meteorite from Mars (impacts on that planet have thrown bits of Mars into space, some find their way to Earth) have been confirmed as having been produced by chemical reactions rather than from life.

The segments of the James Webb space telescope were undergoing final alignment in February. A sunlike star, HD 84406, in Ursa Major was being used as the target. It is 260 light years away.

There is a mega comet flying towards the Sun from the Oort Cloud which is beyond Pluto. The comet is estimated to be 137km across. That would be something to see over Heacham and Hunstanton. I wouldn't have to tell you where to look.

Look on the bright side, if such a comet comes close there will be few high energy bills to pay.

Set your alarm clocks and see some planets.

British Hedgehog Preservation Society

Hedgehogs will be out of hibernation and hungry. Feed them hedgehog food or tinned dog or cat food, not milk. Provide water.



Hunstanton Lifeboat Station

Geoff Needham

With no call outs to report, February is living up to its past, as our quietest month, there are no recorded shouts by our stations first boats, and only six since the station opened in 1979. The station carries on, training and keeping the equipment in a state of readiness.

Covid has had a big effect on fund raising events, not only our charity, but all charities, restricting the events that help raise vital funds. On Sunday 23rd members of Middleton Golf Club presented a cheque for £1495 raised from Captains day to Hunstanton RNLI. Captain Steve Webber presented the cheque to Rigil Kent (Lifeboat operational manager) who thanked the club on behalf of the station. (Pic. shows crew members and club members)



Saturday 6th Feb Chris Mason visited the station, Chris is on tour of all the RNLI stations raising funds, you can follow Chris on his facebook page if you want to donate. 'Chris's quest lifeboat station tour' (pic shows Chris being met by Lee Torrice).

Also a big thank-you from the crew to the Ladies of Mind Safe Haven Group from Heacham, who presented the crew with an array of bobble hats that they had knitted. Many Thanks.

Brancaster School news

The School Council have written their perspectives on school this month.

We've been learning a new song in music and it's really funny. It's about a hamster called Sergei that wants to fly so he tried everything but still couldn't. He tried to fly to Spain and New York. We also learnt songs for our "Welcome to DNEAT" Service on Friday.

Emily

This term we have started drama club. It is really fun. We have learned lots of things like the wings are where the actors wait until they go on.

Grace

I am going on the minibus for my first time this week. We're going to Docking school and we are going to little city. It is role play and because our topic is houses, homes and buildings. We went on a walk round Brancaster and then made our own map to show the buildings.

Marley

We have done maths about dividing and the 8 times table. I really like maths because I love the times tables and also I like it because you get to do some work in your maths book.

Lily

We recently joined DNEAT academy. Lots of little things have changed like our logo's background has changed from red to purple and the teachers have new badges. Recently Samphire class has made new murals outside where the old murals were. We are really proud of our murals.

Billy

Other News

Thrift Class made bird cakes then hung them in the churchyard and in school. At the end of the month, we did the Big Birdwatch and sent our results to the RSPB. We got very good at identifying birds looking out of our windows.



Platinum Jubilee marked by the children of west Norfolk



West Norfolk school children created a Loyal Address and Mosaic that has been presented to Her Majesty The Queen to mark her 70 year reign.

Children met the Mayor on Friday 4 February 2022 at King's Lynn Town Hall to see what they had created. It was delivered to the Queen the following day by the Mayor of King's Lynn & West Norfolk, Cllr Harry Humphrey, at a reception held at Sandringham on the eve of the Platinum Jubilee.

Schools involved in writing the Loyal Address were Holly Meadows, Eastgate and St Michael's. Churchill Park made the mosaic artwork.

French breakfast at Smithdon High

West Norfolk Academies Trust schools hold reward breakfasts and afternoon teas to celebrate effort and learning in modern foreign languages (MFL) throughout the term.

Students at Smithdon High in Hunstanton recently took part in a French-themed breakfast, with traditional French pastries and orange juice served.

The 23 year 9 students enjoyed practising their spoken French when describing what they would like to eat and drink.

They were selected for participation by their French teacher due to their positive engagement and attitude to learning in class.

Katie Featherstone, Lead of Modern Foreign Languages at the Trust said: "Language learning is an exciting yet challenging journey, therefore to observe students' increased attitude and engagement in this area of the curriculum is crucial and must be celebrated.

"As language practitioners we are keen to encourage the importance of learning a Modern Foreign Language at KS3 with the aim to further develop students' cultural and linguistic ability at KS4."



Photo credit: Ian Burt

New Parent Governors Required at Hunstanton Primary School

Hunstanton Primary School would like to appoint new parent governors to take the school forward in the next phase of development.

Ideally, candidates should have an interest in supporting the education of young people in West Norfolk.

The role involves working alongside the Headteacher to strategically manage the School. The time commitment required would be on average three evenings per term plus a total of a day visit to the School per year, and enthusiasm to attend regular training as needed.

If you are interested in this rewarding opportunity please contact Janet Copeland (Chair of Governors) on 01485 533373 or office@hunstanton.norfolk.sch.uk expressing your interest and to arrange a visit to meet and look around the school.



Strictly Arts: update from the HDFA

Verity Jowett

The month of March not only heralds the beginning of Spring, but also the welcome return of our regular Craft Fairs at Hunstanton Town Hall again. Our first one of the year is on Saturday 26th March where you'll find all sorts of wonderful arts and crafts on show from our stallholders. Doors open at 10am and close at 4pm. Entry is free and refreshments are available.

If you're looking for a great night out, then why not book yourself a seat for our presentation of *Blokes of a Feather* at the Princess Theatre on Friday 13th May? Featuring an evening of anecdotes, revelations, insights, video clips and much more with the creators of such TV hits as *Shine on Harvey Moon*, *The New Statesman*, *Love Hurts* & *Birds of a Feather* - Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran - it promises to be a night out like no other!

Tickets are just £23.50 + £1.50 booking fee from the Princess Theatre Box Office or visit www.princesshunstanton.co.uk to book online.

More news on our Live Music Festival which takes place on Hunstanton's Lower Green in celebration of Her Majesty's Jubilee year on Thursday June 2nd. We've had such an overwhelming response from bands and musicians wanting to play, we've moved the start time from 1pm to midday to accommodate a whole afternoon of great music from solo artists and bands.

Our own Music Festival Director Ian Wells will kick off the day before we carry on into the afternoon with popular cover bands and folk bands as well as some new faces to add to a great mix of FREE music for everyone.

Check out the full line-up and more at www.festival3.com

Finally, a quick mention to all the artists and sculptors among us to get in touch if you'd like to present your artwork or sculpture at our upcoming Art Exhibition which takes place at Hunstanton's Town Hall, Friday 17th - Sunday 19th June. Space is limited, so if you'd like to submit a piece, please contact our Art Director Chris Peel directly on cpeel50@yahoo.com.

More from Strictly Arts next month.

Hunstanton & District Festival of Arts

HDEFA

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IS PHOTOGRAPHY ART?

Lesley Nadel

Many art museums and galleries now show photographic exhibitions listed as photographic artworks. But it is for less than a hundred years that photography has become part of our everyday lives in many widespread and diverse ways. It has played a significant role in the modern and contemporary art movements - Futurism, Pop Art and other schools of art. As photography became more widespread, becoming an art form, it developed a changing role in other art forms such as drawing and painting. Most commercial art forms had historically been dominated by drawing and illustration.

Nowadays you do not even have to own a camera. Almost every mobile has one and we are constantly bombarded with images on our computers, in magazines, advertising etc. Photographs can accurately depict a person, capture a moment in time, record a document, a story. Their uses are many, including social, creative and technical. What one person gets out of a photographic image may be completely different to the next.

It took time for photography to gain recognition as a genuine art form, but often a photograph is not taken with a view to it being a work of art. Indeed, the photographer may not have any artistic intention or expression. The recognized photographic artists are well known and famous - Ansel Adams, Man Ray, Irving Penn, Dorothea Lang, Jonas Leriche. However, with so many photographic images available now, the question is being asked again, is it really art?

Traditionally there are seven different forms of art: painting, sculpture, literature, architecture, cinema, music, and theatre. Photography is not considered one of the traditional forms, probably because it is relatively modern. It is identified within the category of 'visual art', of which there are three traditional types: decorative, commercial, and fine art. There are sub-categories in each of these types, e.g., costume or fashion design, printmaking, ceramics, video, film making, architecture etc... Photography is categorized as either fine art or commercial art within 'visual art', and artists such as Annie Leibovitz work in both fine and commercial art.

To be considered as photographic art and to become rare and collectible, an image must have been created with a view to being seen as an artwork, an act of creative expression, in line with the artist's vision and emotion unique to the artist; not for commercial purposes such as adverts, family photos and definitely not the ubiquitous selfies. However, there are hazy lines. Some portraiture is considered fine art photography and regularly exhibited at the National Portrait Gallery. The work of some fashion photographers, working in commercial environments, may be considered photographic artworks and will fetch fine art prices, such as Richard Avedon and Helmut Newton. Digital artists, employing the latest techniques and post-production treatments, will still be using all the recognized art elements such as line, form, light, depth etc.

Photographic art is becoming increasingly collectable and in many forms - originals, one-of-a-kind photography or limited editions. There is a growing market for crypto art collecting and investing. But still it is the view of many that it is Ansel Adams (1902-1984), one of the all-time great landscape photographers, a lifelong advocate for environmental conservation, who makes the case for photography as art: 'It is the creative act of the artist-photographer who, in visualising a poetic or revealing image within the scene in front of him, anticipates what the final print must convey to express what he sees and feels.'

The Art Society is hosting a lecture on Influences in Photography, given by renowned photographer Charlie Waite, on 14th March 2022 in Sedgeford Village Hall, at 2pm. For more details of the lecture and how to join the Society, visit www.theartsocietynwnorfolk.org.uk

 **THE ARTS SOCIETY - ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH THE ARTS**

Next lecture: **Monday 14 March 2022 at Sedgeford Village Hall at 2pm**

Influences in Photography
Lecturer: **Charlie Waite**

Landscape photography is a way of life and is an essential method of expression for Waite. In discussing his work, Charlie refers to 'pre-visualisation' first used by the great American landscape photographer Ansel Adams from which he draws much inspiration, amongst others. "It is the creative act of the artist-photographer who, in visualising a poetic or revealing image within the scene in front of him, anticipates what the final print must convey to express what he sees and feels". Charlie refers to Ansel Adams and other artists and photographers who have inspired him and shaped his work.



For more info and how to join, visit our website: www.theartsocietynwnorfolk.org.uk
or email: info@theartsocietynwnorfolk.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1105490

The South Princess Theatre - 18th March

With the slow return to normal on the Live Music front, The South can get back on the road and do what they do best - perform the songs of that great British pop institution, The Beautiful South, to the thousands of fans of these timeless classics.

The South are an impressive 9 piece band who feature former members of The Beautiful South including singer Alison Wheeler and lifelong sax player Gaz Birtles. Since Dave Hemingway, the original singer, left the group at the end of 2016, Gaz has moved across to front the band with Alison and taken on vocal duties.

Since the demise of The Beautiful South in 2007, this exciting live band have spent 11 years touring the theatres and festivals of the UK up and down the country, bringing back the full sound and arrangements of these treasured songs - A Little Time (the number one single), Perfect 10, Rotterdam, Song For Whoever, Old Red Eyes Is Back, Good as Gold, Don't Marry Her plus many more singles and album tracks as well as a few choice South originals. These songs span an impressive 18 year career starting way back in 1989!



March diary of events

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| <p>1 Shrove Tuesday – pancakes at the ready!</p> <p>3 Stanhoe & Barwick WI Seated Yoga with Jean Clarke. Visitors are most welcome, contact Valerie 01485 576261 for more info and to confirm attendance.</p> <p>5 United Services Club Hunstanton Hi Definition band, all eras 8.30pm</p> <p>9 The West Norfolk Singers rehearsals between 7.15pm and 9.15pm at the Methodist Church, Heacham. Contact Anne Davis on 01485 571315 or chair@westnorfolksingers.org.uk</p> <p>11 United Services Club Hunstanton Band Aid 60s onwards. These guys donate their fee to the cancer wards at the QEH, King's Lynn. Please come and support them. 8pm</p> <p>12 United Services Club Hunstanton Travis 60s onwards 8.30pm</p> <p>14 The Art Society lecture on Influences in Photography, by photographer Charlie Waite, in Sedgeford Village Hall, at 2pm. For more details of the lecture and how to join the Society, visit www.theartsocietynwnorfolk.org.uk</p> <p>16 The West Norfolk Singers rehearsals between 7.15pm and 9.15pm at the Methodist Church, Heacham. Contact Anne Davis on 01485 571315 or chair@westnorfolksingers.org.uk</p> <p>16 Hunstanton & District Civic Society Talk at the Heritage Centre, Northgate, Hunstanton on 'Oxburgh Hall - Raising the Roof' by Anne Guymer. 7.30pm Members £1, Visitors £4.</p> <p>16 Oboe and Piano recital at King's Lynn Town Hall PE30 5DQ. 7.30-9pm hosted by King's Lynn Music Society and supported by the Countess of Munster Musical Trust. Visitors welcome- suggested donation £10 at door. Free to under 18s and students.</p> <p>18 A fun quiz night at Dersingham Village Centre in aid of The Norfolk Hospice. There will be a cash prize for the winning team and there will also be a raffle on the night. Licensed bar and refreshments available. Questions start at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5 each or a table of six for £25. Contact Graham Eley to book tickets: 07901 896102 or grahamreley@tiscali.co.uk In association with DVCA.</p> <p>18 United Services Club Hunstanton Quiz Night with cash prizes £3pp with supper 8pm</p> <p>19 Norfolk Goldwings Light Parade. Static display on the Green, Hunstanton 12-4pm with Light Parade through the town at 6.30pm finishing with a static display on Beach Terrace Road. In aid of East Anglian Air Ambulance</p> <p>19 United Services Club Hunstanton The Caverners with their tribute to the 60s 8.30pm</p> | <p>20 Charity dog walk at Bawsey Country Park in aid of The Norfolk Hospice. Walk for as long as you like around one of the most beautiful sites in the area. No booking required and no entry fee, please make a donation at the food kiosk. Dogs must be under control at all times (either on a lead or within sight and able to be called back). Free parking and hot and cold refreshments available.</p> <p>21 u3a Hunstanton at the Community Hall Avenue Road, Hunstanton when Saffron Summerfield will be giving a talk called "When Birds Sing". Please go to the u3a Hunstanton site at u3asites.org.uk/hunstanton for further information. publicity.u3ah@gmail.com</p> <p>23 The West Norfolk Singers rehearsals between 7.15pm and 9.15pm at the Methodist Church, Heacham. Contact Anne Davis on 01485 571315 or chair@westnorfolksingers.org.uk</p> <p>25 United Services Club Hunstanton Gentlemen's Evening with Blue Comedian and Two Exotic Dancers. ADULTS ONLY. Must be over 18 years old. £15.00pp 8pm start</p> <p>26 Snettisham Flea Market 9am-3pm at Snettisham Memorial Hall. Entry 50p</p> <p>26 Craft Fair at Hunstanton Town Hall 10am - 4pm. Free entry. Refreshments available</p> <p>26 United Services Club Hunstanton In the Mood Duo 60's onwards 8.30pm</p> <p>27 British Summer Time begins.</p> <p>27 Mothering Sunday</p> <p>29 Village Cinema at Dersingham Village Centre 7.30pm In the Heights (PG) Film version of the Broadway Musical. Doors open at 7pm £6, under 16s £3 entry includes tea/coffee/squash. Licensed Bar available.</p> <p>30 The West Norfolk Singers rehearsals between 7.15pm and 9.15pm at the Methodist Church, Heacham. Contact Anne Davis on 01485 571315 or chair@westnorfolksingers.org.uk</p> <p>30 Snettisham Gardening Club 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall, Old Church Road, Snettisham when the speaker will be Janette Merillion to tell us about a Scented Garden. Any further information can be obtained from Gail on 01485 541279 or Addie on 01485 544754.</p> |
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United Services Club: Cash prize bingo every Thursday night. Eyes down 8pm. Karaoke every Sunday night with Mick 8pm. Poker nights. 7.30pm every Tuesday friendly games. Every Thursday league games

Starting in April: Afternoon Sequence Dance 2-4pm at Snettisham Memorial Hall PE31 7LX. Dancing to music by Dinky. Tea/coffee/cake provided. Phone Dinky 07787 966000

Job vacancies at the Lodge

The Lodge have vacancies for:

Housekeepers - contact Jacky jacky@thelodgehunstanton.co.uk
 Waiting & Bar Staff, Full & Part Time, Seasonal & Permanent - contact Brittany britt@thelodgehunstanton.co.uk
 Chef de Partie - contact the Head Chef on 01485 532 896 or email: chef@thelodgehunstanton.co.uk
 Shift Manager: To apply please email your CV and covering letter. britt@thelodgehunstanton.co.uk

Job vacancies at Briarfields

Briarfields currently have vacancies for:

Housekeeper - please contact Jacky on 01485 210742 or 01485 532 896 or email your c.v to jacky@thelodgehunstanton.co.uk
 Waiting & Bar Staff, Full & Part Time, Seasonal & Permanent - please contact Phil on 01485 210 742 or email: phil@briarfieldshotelnorfolk.co.uk
 Kitchen Porter - please contact the head chef on 01485 210159 or email chef@briarfieldshotelnorfolk.co.uk

FULL DETAILS AT: www.townandaround.net

Last word from the Editor

The number of pages we print each month is dictated by the amount of revenue from our fabulous advertisers. Thank you all. We are so fortunate to have many articles and lots of news to share each month and with 64 pages available for March I have had to edit some articles and leave others out because of lack of space.

I do publish these items online and you can read them at:

www.townandaround.net

This month they include items about Heacham History and the Triple 400th Memorial by Christine Dean, a young musician Este Holdridge, Peter Doveston's 'Prisoner of the Motor Car' and news from the following churches: The Way, Hunstanton and the Saxon Shore, Dersingham, Anmer, Ingoldisthorpe and Shernborne group, The Christian Science Society and the Catholic Church.

Of course the remedy is to sell more advertising and this I am trying to do. So, if you know of, or have a business that would benefit from being in Town and Around, please get in touch. We print and distribute 12,000 copies in West Norfolk!



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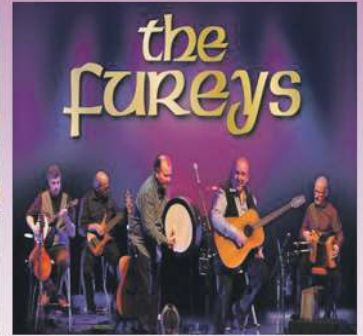
Friday 4th



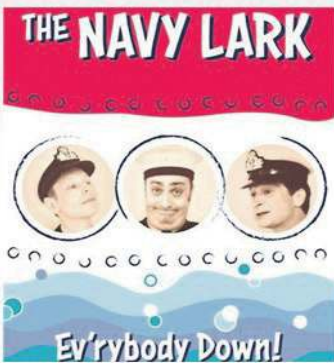
Saturday 5th



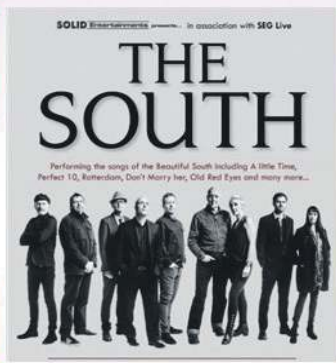
Tuesday 8th



Thursday 10th



Thursday 17th



Friday 18th



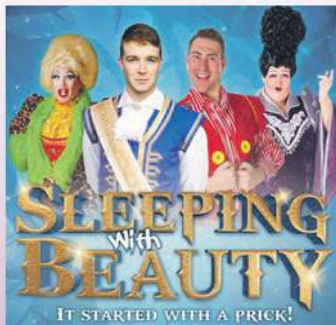
Saturday 19th



Sunday 20th



Monday 21st



Friday 25th



Saturday 26th



Sunday 27th

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