

TOWN and AROUND

ISSUE 175 MAY 2020

PRICELESS!

EMERGENCY
EDITION - FREE



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

First word



I have been writing these editorials for fifteen years and this is the first time I find myself (almost) stumped for words. I have been overwhelmed by the kindness and support from advertisers, contributors and our volunteer delivery team. Thank you all.

We are all living very different lives at the moment and our local County Councillor Andrew Jamieson reflects on the New

Normal, and what might happen on the other side, on page 18.

The Civic Society have embraced technology for virtual meetings and research work continues for new displays. turn to page 9 for their news plus an interesting piece on a ceremonial mallet.

The nation's passion for gardening has had a boost with many of us at home. I'd hazard a guess that this year our plots will be even more beautiful than before - and now is the ideal time to actually complete that project you've been talking about! Ward's Nursery, Snettisham Plant Nursery and Thaxters Garden Centre are offering delivery and collection options that ensure social distancing is maintained.

Our little road applauds the NHS every Thursday and our granddaughter Eden has been singing on the front lawn (see our website for video).

We are very tight for space this month so some articles I couldn't fit in are on our website - link below.. Please log on to read items from Robin Limb, Terry Parish, John Maiden, The Prudent Pensioner and more.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Elaine

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Beaver Scouts box up veg for the vulnerable

I promise to do my best,
To be kind and helpful
and to love our world

A promise every Beaver Scout makes when they join the world wide Scouting movement. Since suspending meetings mid-March 1st Heacham Beavers have been busy completing tasks and earning badges from home. They have been helping parents with gardening and chores, delivering care packages to neighbours and the elderly, helping with younger siblings, putting rainbows in their windows and posting crafts and paintings to friends and family.

Before lockdown these three Beavers were helping at Kems Fruit and Veg shop in Hunstanton who have been working tirelessly to provide food for the elderly, vulnerable and people in isolation. The Beavers had been helping make and box up the orders and deliver them to customers. Since lockdown they



have been helping with some deliveries by staying in the cars and finding the door numbers on

the way round.

I am very proud of all of them for showing their support in the

community and at home.

Malak (Heacham Beaver Scout Leader)

LIFEBOAT VOLUNTEERS RETIRE AFTER COMBINED 38 YEARS OF TIRELESS FUNDRAISING

Carrie Harvey

The Hunstanton and West Norfolk Fundraising Lifeboat Guild announce the retirement of two of its longstanding members - David Jones and Claire Taylor who have served on the Guild for 15 and 23 years respectively.

Their time and hard work have contributed to making our Guild one of the most successful of the Fund Raising Guilds on the East coast. Their guidance and knowledge will be sorely missed.

Claire is retiring but David will continue to look after the administration of the boathouse. A presentation was made to them from the Guild and a letter of appreciation was made to them from the Lifeboat headquarters at Poole.

We are also sorry to see the departure of Alan and Tina Barton who decided to return to the Midlands. Tina was a great asset to Melissa Darby in the RNLI shop and Alan was our treasurer.

Without the support of many of us in the local community, the Guild would struggle to raise the necessary funds to support our boat house and the RNLI. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer get in touch with our Chairman David West. His email address is DWest@gbstp.com.



David West thanks David Jones (left) for his invaluable support over the last 15 years.

Across: 1. Snapsho, 6. Aswan, 9. Upper-case, 11. Average, 12. Drafted, 13. Spellbound, 15. Wear, 17. Hoop, 19. Stigmatised, 22. Taffeta, 24. Instate, 25. Chaparone, 26. Roost, 27. Aden, 28. Latitude
Down: 2. Nowhere, 3. Pinnacle, 4. Houseboat, 5. Tepid, 6. Format, 7. Startle, 8. Anaesthetic, 10. Endorsement, 14. Negligent, 16. Sanskrit, 18. Offhand, 20. In a word, 21. Demean, 23. Atoll

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BEREAVED OFFERED FUNERAL SERVICES VIA INTERNET FROM MINTLYN CREMATORIUM

As faith leaders are now being urged to restrict the number of mourners attending a funeral so that they can maintain a safe distance from one another, a little known service provided by the Borough Council may help people wishing to pay their last respects to a departed loved one without attending in person. The Crematorium run by the Council offers those who, for whatever reason, cannot attend the service the option of viewing the service via the internet.

The introduction of the national lockdown on 23 March saw gatherings limited to two people and all public events including weddings banned, but funerals were exempt. However,



only members of the same household and close family members should attend according to the guidance. Public Health England have said that social

distancing should be maintained as there is a very real risk of Covid-19 transmission.

Services at Mintlyn Crematorium are broadcast to the

internet to mourners via a password protected website www.obitus.com. A username and password for the individual service can be obtained from the Crematorium.

To use the service mourners should contact Mintlyn Crematorium on 01553 630533 or email mintlyn@west-norfolk.gov.uk.

Everyone is asked to please apply in plenty of time to enable the Council team the chance to respond and provide the username and password.

Town and Around thanks Cllr Charles Joyce for providing this information.

Lucy's Law spells the beginning of the end for puppy farming

April 6th saw the Government introduce landmark new legislation to tackle the low-welfare, high volume supply of puppies and kittens, by banning their commercial third-party sale in England.

'Lucy's Law' means that anyone wanting to get a new puppy or kitten in England must now buy direct from a breeder, or consider adopting from a rescue centre instead. Licensed dog breeders are required to show puppies interacting with their mothers in their place of birth. If a business sells puppies or kittens without a licence, they could receive an unlimited fine or be sent to prison for up to six months.



The law is named after Lucy, a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel who was rescued from a puppy farm where she was subjected to terrible conditions. Puppy farms

are located across the UK with most depending on third-party sellers or 'dealers' to distribute often sick, traumatised, unsocialised puppies which have

been taken away from their mother at just a few weeks old.

This often involves long-distance transportation, with the puppy or kitten suffering life-threatening medical, surgical, or behavioural problems which are passed on to unsuspecting new owners. Lucy's Law effectively removes the third-party dealer chain, resulting in all dog and cat breeders becoming accountable for the first time.

As well as Lucy's Law, the Government has committed to supporting tougher sentences for animal cruelty, raising maximum prison sentences from six months to five years, and has pledged to bring in new laws on animal sentience and to end excessively long journeys for live animals.

Barking Bugle Competition!

I was putting **paw** to paper the other day when I suddenly realised just how **impawtant** our **paw** words are! Indeed it's incredible how frequently they crop up in conversation in the Barking Bugle household every day! Here are some of my favourite ones with definitions:-

Pawfect = a description of me!

Pawdecure = having your nails done. (We like this sort of pampering!)

Pawk = a big space for walkies.

Pawrents = a doggy's mother and father.

Pawesome = extremely good, excellent. (We use this one a lot!)

Pawsecco = an Italian white wine.

Repawt = we are **paw**ticularly good at this!

Can you think up some more? Send them into newsdesk@thebarkingbugle.co.uk and the best one will win a prize. Woofs Pupstar – **paw**fect pooch and K9 repawter



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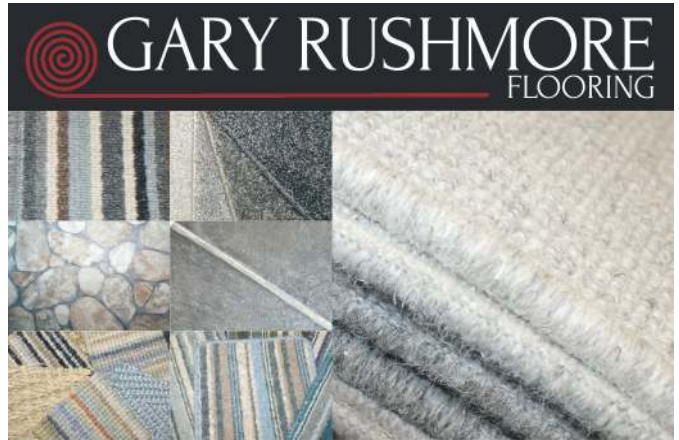
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Round the bend with Dean Baker

What to do if, or just call ...

This is a quick round up of what to do if ... If your toilet becomes blocked – don't panic.

Don't flush, you'll flood the toilet bowl, making a bad situation worse! Mix half a cup of bicarbonate of soda with 2 cups of vinegar. Pour the mixture into the toilet bowl and leave for 24 hours. You can do the same with a blocked sink or bath. Don't put wipes down the toilet, even if the packet says you can.

When you've finished reading this article – wiggle the temperature dial on your shower, so that it doesn't get stuck on too hot or too cold.

If your radiators are making grinding noises and you have a cold top (!) then your radiators will need bleeding. If you can't manage this, don't worry, you can soldier on for another month or so without damaging your heating system. Thankfully, warmer days are just round the corner.

If your toilet cistern keeps running, then the ball valve probably needs replacing. To do this you need to go into the loft or find the cold water tank. You can do it yourself, you can phone round the local plumbers, but my advice is just to put up with it for the next few weeks ... it's not doing any damage.



Keep fresh air circulating in your house or flat.

I'm only doing emergency call outs ... but I can speak on the phone or email.

Finally, but most importantly, please don't be frightened. If it gets too much, call someone, call me, have a glass of water, turn out a cupboard, do a silly dance to your favourite song ...

Until next month

Stay safe - Stay in

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*According to figures from campaigntoendloneliness.org

Hunstanton & District Civic Society

Covid-19 Coronavirus

Many thought that this horrible virus might stop everything happening. This is not the case but our activities have had to be refocussed. Your committee held an informal meeting using the wonderful Zoom technology on 1st April to see how we could operate and what business we could adequately discuss in a virtual format. 10 members found that they were able to converse easily and the meeting was judged to be a success. It was decided that we shall not be dumbed down by this virus but shall do the very best we can to keep going.

Newsletter

In order to remain in contact with our members, 90% of whom are on line, it is planned to issue a newsletter on a monthly basis that will contain useful information as well as something of interest to read. The information includes a list of those businesses and groups that are offering to support those who are self isolating with home deliveries and other services.

Heritage Centre

The centre closed after Sunday 15 March and will remain closed for an indefinite period until we are advised that the peak danger from the virus is truly over. During this time, work will continue with our research and

development of the display material.

Each month one object or article in the Heritage Centre will be chosen and its history and significance will be described in the newsletter. This month features the Ceremonial Mallet that was used by Lady Ffolkes of Hillington Hall when she laid the foundation stone for the building of the Children's Convalescent Home on 26 April 1906. Hunstanton had gained a reputation for its 'miracle air' that was beneficial to those that suffered with respiratory problems or needed to convalesce after illness.

The grand opening of the centre took place on Friday 14 March and photographs of the event can be found on the website www.hunstantoncivicsociety.org.uk under 'Heritage Centre' and clicking on the link to 'a number of photos'.

Talks and Outings

The last talk before the shut down was an informative and enjoyable talk given by Mr John Cushing on 19 February. He described how his father started having a small Christmas concert with a few singers and began collecting agricultural machinery and fairground rides. Then, how this has progressed into the fantastic Christmas Spectacular which is enjoyed by parties of people from all around the country from early November to just before Christmas.

The monthly talks programme has been cancelled but we hope that it may be possible to begin the new series in September. Our planned visits to Blickling Hall and the Bircham Newton Heritage Centre have been cancelled.

Development and Regeneration

At present, Borough Council planning meetings have been cancelled but regulations have been amended to permit them to be held by video link but it is not clear how the public may be able to participate.

Hunstanton Gardens

The Borough's grounds staff aim to provide a basic level of grounds maintenance according to availability but staff could be deployed to alternative duties. The Anglia in Bloom and Britain in Bloom competitions will not take place this year. The adopt-a-bedders are allowed to tend/maintain their beds as part of their daily exercise but must adhere to social distancing. Similarly, members of the Civic Society are tending to the plants around the Heritage Centre; the Railway Garden by the Coal Shed Gallery; the St Edmund's Chapel Garden and the Sign-post Garden near to the lighthouse. Also, the flaking paintwork of the Mercy Gray shelter has been touched up during exercise periods.

The Ceremonial Mallet

The ornate Mallet was presented to Lady Ffolkes of Hillington Hall who used it to lay the foundation stone at the building of the Children's Convalescent Home. This was on the 26th April, 1906.

The home's latest use was as the Council Offices, in the Valentine Road Car Park.

It was well reported how the Air quality here in Hunstanton was beneficial to those that suffered with respiratory problems or needed to Convalesce after illness.

In 1872 the Town capitalised on this 'miracle air' and built a temporary wooden structure housing 12 Beds, the most famous Patient was the Prince of Wales. He was thought to be in danger of dying from a nasty chest infection, all Royalty had come up to Sandringham in case the end was near. But he was brought up to Hunstanton to get some of this 'miracle air', and got better.

That was the best advertising for more Convalescent Homes to be built here. There were Convalescent Homes all over England, but none with the success that Hunstanton had.

So in 1879 an Adult Convalescent Home was built to have 40 Beds on the corner of Valentine Road & Greevegate – now known

as Valentine Court. It was extended to house 100 beds by 1906 and then used for wounded Soldiers from WW1.

The building costs were from a Charity formed by wealthy Lords and Ladies plus a donation from the Prince of Wales.

Around 1906 it was decided to build a Children's Wing, 200yds south of the Adult Home, this is where the now closed Council Offices stand in Valentine Car Park. It was to contain 20 beds exclusively for Children at a cost of £5,000. Work started in 1906, with monies from the Building Fund which had an endowment of £11,000 invested in Consols. The Building Contractor was Messrs Clarke & Son and the Architect was Mr A.P. MacAlister.

So on April 26th 1906 a very large gathering of dignitaries came to the Laying of the Foundation Stone, not without its problems with who was to perform this. Originally Viscount Coke was to preside over the ceremony, but a week before the event his Regiment was called up for duties, then Lucy, Lady Braybrooke was to lay the stone, but was detained in the Isle of Wight by an attack of Influenza. The Earl of Leicester, President of the Charity, was very ill at the time so Lady



Leicester who had been the intended layer of the stone (and had laid the stone of the Adult Home) was unable to leave her husband at this time so the duty of laying the foundation stone fell to Lady Ffolkes.

The Ceremony was attended by some 50 wealthy dignitaries and most of the Town Council. Letters of apology were received by some 200 Friends and Supporters of the Charity, many of whom enclosed a contribution.

The Institution of this Charity in 1905 had between 130 and 140 members.

Their work had provided help for 19,000 people since 1872, the majority having been

cured.

Lady Ffolkes was presented with a Silver Trowel by the Architect Mr A.P. MacAlister (we are still looking for that?) and an Ebony Mallet by the Builders, Messrs Clarke & Son.

With these implements she laid the Stone. Interestingly, the first cot in the Children's home was named 'Prince Edward's Cot' (by permission of HRH).

If you would like to know more, after we have reopened the Heritage Centre, please ask one of our volunteers to dig out a file of information on the Children's Convalescent Home from our archive store for you.

The Mallet was seen by one of our Committee members (Tony Armstrong) on Ebay in early 2019, he was able, successfully, to bid on it on behalf of the Society and it is now on show in one of our glass cabinets.

Thank you to Tony Armstrong for all his work in getting the story together.



Borough Council News Heacham, Sedgeford and Fring

Cllr Terry Parish Borough Councillor Heacham Ward - Leader of the Independent Group

The lock down began as I wrote the last article and remains as I write this one.

Borough Council officers have been very busy ensuring the many Government directives have been efficiently enabled in West Norfolk – business rate relief; business grant for some; homing the homeless; setting up a community hub; dissuading people from travelling to second homes, etc.

All this and more has been published on-line, through press releases, through the use of social media and, some, within a letter addressed to all residents. It has all been copied to Parish Councils and to Borough Councillors.

The helpline number in use during the Lockdown Period is 0344 800 8020. Use it for enquiries related to essential food items, medicines, or well-being support.

Planning decisions have been following due process but are generally delayed as officers are working from home, visits to sites are very restricted and there has been no planning committee since 2nd March. As I write, the first on-line meeting, a sifting committee for applications, is scheduled to take place.

Meetings of Panels and the Council itself will likely take place on-line soon. The Independent Group asked for this to happen just before the government said that electronic means should be utilised in all democratic organisations. Where possible, through whatever system or application is used, the public should be given access too.

Across West-Norfolk, in smaller villages at least, individuals and organisations have sorted everything from food deliveries to sourcing hand steriliser and flour. Locally, at least in this Ward, people seem to have managed mostly on their own or with help from friends and neighbours.

There have been some issues: concerns about visitors which faded after the first weekend. Persistent complaints were received about a property on North Beach which I followed up with the police but, at the time of writing, I have had no resolution of it.

There was some disgruntlement about police warning locals about walking on the beach or bird watching. I think a national comment about using common sense settled that issue.

Common sense answered / answers a lot of the problems concerned with lock down; minimise travel, keep your distance and wash your hands when you return (during work and before leaving it too).

I was asked about working at other people's homes and checked government directives. This was /is to work at your own home if you can. If you can't, then work if you can follow social distancing directives. This



allowed / allows gardeners, boiler maintenance engineers etc, to get on with their jobs. The government, it appears, has been left wrong footed by the number of people who have stopped working and are claiming support of one form or another. (Health and Safety Executive guidance 14th April says, 'keep your business open, all workers are encouraged to keep working – following guidance).

Bin collections caused a bit of confusion. Currently (at the time of writing) all 3 bins are collected, general waste, recycling, garden. However, food waste is not and should be put in the general waste, black bin. Minimise it, compost what you can, and wrap the rest well.

Congratulations to the small Tesco's in Heacham for the efficient self-distancing protocols they organised and managed. I have no experience of whatever Lidl did /does as I have never been in it but I am confident it did the job too. And congratulations to Moulam and Horn for continuing to operate and stepping up deliveries. They even got plants in from our beleaguered nurseries.

Boots managed well with queuing outside – it would be good if they could expand into the empty premises next door. Heacham could do with a larger shop selling Boots full range of goods; just the prescription service needs more space in normal times. And thanks to places like The Fox for delivering meals to order and to Flames for continuing take-aways and delivery. If I have missed your business out, sorry and thanks too.

As I write, it is over 2 weeks until May. Perhaps we are beginning normal times again. I hope we are, at least in West Norfolk, but Covid 19 or a variation will be back and the country can't shut down again and again, so normality will be a variable concept.



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A Page from the Sage

Well here we go again with some more fact, fiction, and squit from the Sage up in the mountains of Hunstanton.

Bagot Goats

About 3 years ago Pat Richardson and I found out that Cromer they were having a problem cutting the grass and foliage along their high and sloping cliffs, it was suggested to them that they bring in some Bagot goats; this is a breed of small goats that are very sure-footed and are very much at home on hills and mountain sides.

So North Norfolk Council decided to get a small herd of these goats and try them out on the sloping cliffs and they were an instant success with the locals but also a great attraction for the holiday makers.

The council then decided to have ornaments made of these goats, also pictures of them printed on tea towels and many other things to sell on. Not only did this go down well, but the goats also made a very good job of keeping the grass and foliage under control along the cliffs at Cromer.

North Norfolk were so pleased with what these goats did that this last winter they bred 12 more Bagot goats; six billies and six nannies, at Wiveton Hall. Other seaside resorts are using these goats on their cliffs too, so Pat and I suggested to King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council that they should have a small herd of these Bagot goats tethered along the top of Hunstanton cliffs to get rid of all the grass and foliage that grows there, but oh no they chuckled that idea out straight away, even though we have brought it to their attention a few times. But there you are me and Pat are just two old Norfolk boys that have worked hard all of our lives but we know nowt.

Freezing weather

In the latter part of the nineteenth century a great freeze up in the country gave the enthusiasts the cause to celebrate an event of world renown, the ice skating championships were held on the River Nene at Wisbech. Amid the roasting of an ox and much merriment of the town and local fen folk, a man named Fish Smart was the winner, and his family are alive today in the Fens, and have pictures to prove of this great event. North West Norfolk did not escape this freeze up and many sea birds were frozen to death; cattle and sheep lost their lives in the many deep snow drifts were they lay refrigerated for months. More recent frozen winters that people remember was in 1947 only a few short weeks after the 1946 Christmas, snow fell continuously for many hours unabated, roads were so blocked that traffic was stopped and diverted where possible, the weather got worse week by week, and it was Easter before

by
Dick Melton
01485 535658

the great thaw set in, then the rivers overflowed and more flooding occurred in Norfolk.

Redgate Hill those days the road was narrow with two s bends along its route to the summit; the first weekend of the arctic snow the road was blocked from top to bottom, the snow lay as high along the road as the two high hedges on either side like a frozen solid canal, green uniformed German prisoners of war were brought in from Houghton Hall and Snettisham Beach Prisoner of War Camps to clear the snow, only to be sent for the next day to clear it all again.

The next big freeze in Norfolk brought frost every day from the end of December 1962 till the end of March 1963, with snow most days. At Snettisham, Heacham and Hunstanton the sea froze over with the ice at Hunstanton going out way past the pier. Some of the old boys that went beachcombing were very lucky as they found a lot of lobsters also some codling and cod, which were very fresh as they had been frozen in the ice. Essential supplies of milk, medicines, food, bread, papers and mail, were taken on tractor across the frozen wastes to the small villages like Fring, Anmer, Inmere, Red Barn and Ling House. In some of these small villages the roads were filled up with snow and if the snow was cleared it would soon be filled up again by the snow blowing off the fields, in the nineteen fifties and sixties lattice type snow fences would be put up along the side of the road from which the snow was blowing these would help keep the snow off the roads; they don't use those snow fences these days.

Hunstanton's most comical character and colourful resident, 'N***** Lake', always ready to earn a quick bob or two, minus his faithful friend and workmate, a Jerusalem jeep, donkey, helped himself to a large and wide sweeping broom from the railway station platform and swept the deep snow from the Town Hall hill all the way from top to bottom during one cold and lonely night, then he tackled the adjoining pavements and cleared them of snow in readiness for the



traders and shoppers the next day, after which he went to bed in Church Street to dream in comfort, warmth and with pleasure about all the cash he would collect next morning for his snow clearing activities, only to wake up at half sunrise to find the town smothered in a six inch blanket of freshly fallen snow. Undaunted he went from shop to shop, shouting "you owe me ten bob for sweeping your shop front last night", 'Snowflake Lake', did not earn a fortune in the snow clearing business that bitter night. History is made up of small bits and pieces of the past.

Old Newspapers

Lots of people give me old newspapers that they used to line their pantry shelves with then after a few years they decide to change them so I get hold of them. They are usually the Eastern Daily Press, or papers from the Second World War. I have a copy of the Lynn News and Advertiser it was called then, the date on the top is Friday 23rd of October 1970. It was a large paper in those days that you had to hold with two hands or lay it on the table to read; in the paper this day were over 120 people advertising for workers among the largest advertisers were, Tesco's, Campbell's Soups, Donald Cook, PYE TMC, Littlewoods, Maxview Aerials, Frigoscandia, Jermyn's, Betabake and many more, with all these jobs going no one should have been out of work in 1970.

On the weekend of Friday October the 23rd there was a very good choice of entertainment in the area, starting off with the Blue and Gold Club at the Walks Stadium King's Lynn, Saturday there was Star Cabaret with Clubland's Mr Wonderful, Carl Adams, instrumentalist-vocalist-impressionist-ventriloquist, and dancing to the new style Dick Dent Band, dancing till 1am, members cover charge 4/- (2/- extra after 11pm) also Aubrey Scott at the electronic organ before and after the match on that day.

On Sunday you could go dancing from 7pm till 10.30pm at the Kit-Kat Hunstanton, admission was 5/- upstairs you could dance to the Offbeats with Danny Ford and downstairs it was Amberstone.

At the Country Club at Hunstanton on Saturday the 24th of October members and their guests could dance till 1.15 am to the Alvin Thompson Band.

Down the road at the Anchor Club Snettisham on Friday the 23rd you could dance to The Family Tree, on Saturday the 24th it was Geoff Stinton and his Musicians, then on Sunday the 25th it was dancing to The Graham Walker showband.

If on Monday the 26th of October you would like to travel further afield you could to the Barton Manor Hotel, Barton Road Wisbech for a dinner dance and cabaret, admission 1guinea (21/-) on the bill was Ette

Franklyn exotic striptease, Bob Howley the singing wrestler from London, and dancing was to the Don Cowlan Duo.

Also advertised that day in the same paper Swaffham Round Table were having a grand charity auction of All Sorts - old and new even vintage you name it-we've got it TV sets, fruit, clocks yes even a combine harvester and a good car, this auction will be at the Assembly Rooms Swaffham on Friday October the 30th, kick-off 7.30pm, all proceeds for local charities.

Here is just one more interesting advert from the same paper in October 1970, the advert goes like this, Heacham, detached family house 3 bedrooms, bathroom, 2 WC's, garage, garden, large greenhouse, near High Street, room for extension, excellent condition, £4,500. I just wondered how much that house would cost today!

Well that's all for now, we are going through some rough old time at the present, all the best and keep yourself safe.

The Boy Dick
Sunny Hunny

Hunstanton and District Inner Wheel

Normally I would be sharing with you what we have been doing since we last met a month ago. No explanation needed as to why this will not be the case this time. Thank goodness for technology which enables us to keep in touch with each other, checking that all is well and if not, seeing how we can help. Who would have thought we would be facing such a crisis which does give us an opportunity to benefit from the friendship objective of Inner Wheel.

Telephone calls and emails have been put to good use, not just to Inner Wheel members, but to people in the community to whom a phone call makes a huge difference.

All Inner Wheel meetings here and elsewhere have been postponed or cancelled, leaving diaries blank. This gives us the opportunity to reflect on how we meet challenges and what is really important in life.

I hope you are all clapping on Thursday at 8pm for the NHS.

I would like to add my own rainbow to the many colourful and creative ones seen around the village.

Keep safe and well and normal service will be resumed when it is safe to do so.

Sue Trewin Club Correspondent



Technology overcomes old rules

Town and Around's Special Investigator reports on virtual working, drones and more

When the Government ordered a ban on all public meetings it included council meetings. The Borough Council cancelled all meetings set to go ahead prior to 30 April. That maybe about to change following a relaxation in legislation. Previously council meetings that were open to the public had to be held in person. But this rule was rescinded and until further notice all council meetings can be held virtually either through video or by telephone. The change effects all councils in England including parish, borough/district and county councils in Norfolk. This means remote council meetings will enable everyone taking part to stay at home, helping to reduce the spread of the coronavirus. Meetings will remain accessible whilst ensuring councillors staff and members of the public do not have to leave their homes. The move has been supported by the Local Government Association, who's Chairman Cllr James Jamieson was quoted as saying: "Giving councils powers to hold meetings remotely is important to maintaining local democracy and allowing critical decisions to be made during this public health crisis. Councils need to respond quickly and make very many key decisions. They can now do so while remaining open, transparent and accessible to the public."

At the Borough Council, councillors are being asked to help facilitate video meetings with more news likely to be forthcoming in the near future. The software used is unlikely to be Zoom after reports that South Devon District Council had problems as one individual claimed to be a councillor but was not, and everyone was put on mute when what was believed to be porn could be heard in the background. Inevitably, there have been teething problems which may cause smaller parish councils problems, but one lesson learnt from South Devon is to have an IT specialist on standby to deal with what the South Devon Chairman called "hecklers", but he was being polite.

One service that interests many people which may have specific difficulties with video meetings is Planning. The present system is that in addition to those applications specifically identified as needing a site visit, any development that has 10 or more new homes proposed requires a site visit from the full Planning Committee. The members of the committee and officers visit the site via a bus. It is very possible such site visits will not take place while the emergency lasts. I am told the idea of a drone has been put forward as a substitute for the site visit.

When the Borough Council does go virtual councillors will no doubt

want to question the Cabinet member for Response to Covid-19, Heacham councillor Stuart Dark who has reported that 80% of council workers are designated as key workers with over 70 being reassigned full time specifically to deal with the council's response to Covid-19. Cllr Dark has further reported that support payments and business rates allowances processed total over £35 million in aid to local businesses so far, as well as increases in housing allowances for over 1300 local tenants, and additional assistance for those on Council Tax support.

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IN THESE TROUBLED TIMES.. BUSINESS SUPPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT

By Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton

As I am certain you will be aware, the Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, recently set out a package of measures to support both individuals and businesses through this unprecedented period of disruption caused by COVID-19.

The Government is publishing daily guidance on each of these measures and we are endeavouring to keep pace with all of the detailed provisions. Please however remain aware that there may be further updates of the guidance issued subsequent to my writing this article, and once the legislation is enacted. Hence, all businesses and employers should check the GOV.UK website and/or take specific professional advice before taking any action.

The package of measures to support business includes:

The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS)

The CJRS is a government grant to reimburse employers for 80% of the wage costs of "furloughed" workers, to a cap of £2,500 of gross pay, plus the attendant Employers NIC and Employers Auto Enrolment basic level contributions per month.

Employers can top up either the unfunded 20% or the amount above £2,500 for higher paid employees, but this is not required.

The scheme is open initially for 3 months, backdated to 1 March, (on the basis that the employee had not worked wef that date), and the Chancellor may extend the scheme "for longer if necessary".

All UK employers with a UK bank account are eligible.

A furloughed worker must not do any work for the employer whilst on furlough leave.

The grant is available for both full and part-time employees, casual workers and office holders such as company directors. The latter can continue to undertake their statutory duties but must not do any work as an employee that would be commercially advantageous to their company.

The rules do not prevent employees furloughed by one employer working elsewhere for another, i.e. taking on a second job.

The grant will be available for those employees who were included on the payroll as at 19 March 2020 but will not be available to those taken on after this date.

There are a number of pre-requisite requirements that must be met before an employer can access the grant and as these are also impacted upon by current Employment Legislation great care should be taken when furloughing staff. Relevant legal advice should therefore be taken in this regard as the employees' contract of employment must be amended to reflect the furlough period and pay; and such amendment must be documented and agreed to by the employee.

There are several things that one should do to get ready for when the HMRC Furlough Scheme Portal opens on Monday 20 April

2020. The only way to make a claim is on-line.

The following information will be needed to make a claim:

1. Your Bank Account Number and Sort code.
2. Contact details of the person in your business for HMRC to call with any queries.
3. Your own or your company's Unique Tax Reference (UTR) number, or Company Registration Number.
4. The name, employee number and National Insurance Number (NINO) for each of your furloughed employees.
5. The total amount being claimed and the total furlough period.

Assuming that you have less than 100 employees you will need to input information directly onto the system for each employee. The inputting is likely to be pretty labour intensive.

It has yet to be made clear how you will proceed if you are a domestic employer without a UTR (e.g. engaging a Nanny) or where your employee does not have a NINO.

The Revenue are actively encouraging agents, such as your accountant, who is authorised to act for you for PAYE purposes to make the claim on behalf of their business clients, in the hope that this will avoid the HMRC phone lines being inundated with calls when the system first goes live.

Full details of the mechanics of the system, at the time of writing (16 April 2020), are still awaited, which is somewhat concerning when the Portal is due to open on Monday next week.

To ensure that you are able to make your claim under CJRS, without fail, you need to ensure that your Government Gateway (GG) includes PAYE on the list of services that you can access. You will not be able to make a claim without such access. Find your GG ID and password now!

As mentioned above, an agent who is authorised to act for you for PAYE purposes, will be able to make your claim on your behalf, but do not assume that your accountant has this access automatically. If access is not already in place, please make every effort to get it in place without delay if you are not confident of using the Portal yourself.

By the time you read this article the first claims will have been made and we will have all learnt a lot more about the intricacies of the system and so if you need our help in making your own claim please contact us promptly in order that we can assist you as swiftly as possible. We are able to support you with your calculations (the grant claim figures will not necessarily be mirror image of your payroll), specific advice on the Portal, and how to carry out the necessary upload. If necessary, we will help you by accessing your screen remotely and securely, and run through the upload step-by-step.

It is planned that claims will be paid within 6 working days and you will be best advised to direct any queries to your agent in the first instance, or the HMRC webchat service if

available in a timely manner. Please do contact us if we can help in any way.

Self-Employed Income Support Scheme (SEISS)

This scheme will allow self-employed individuals to claim a taxable grant worth 80% of their trading profits up to a maximum of £2,500 a month for 3 months at least.

It is available to self-employed individuals or members of a partnership who have submitted their Self Assessment Tax Return for 2018/2019 tax year ahead of 23 April 2020; who traded in 2019/2020; and are trading when they apply or would be except for COVID-19; who intend to continue to trade in 2020/2021; and have lost profits as a result of the virus. (As to whether or when the latter point will ever be checked it is not clear, or whether HMRC will impose any claw-back mechanism should any of the conditions not be met.)

Note that any changed figures submitted in amended Returns filed after 26 March 2020 will not be recognised when considering eligibility for SEISS.

Profits must be less than £50k and comprise more than half of the individual's total income. This will be determined by at least one of the following conditions being true:

- (i) Having profits in 2018/2019 of less than £50k and these profits constitute more than half of your total taxable income; or
- (ii) Having average trading profits in 2016/2017, 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 of less than £50k and these profits constitute more than half of your average taxable income in the same period. (Losses of the same period will reduce averages, but not losses brought forward.)

People starting self-employment after 6 April 2019 will not be eligible for the grant, which is particularly harsh for someone who left employment last summer, for example, to start their new business.

This is, of course, an unprecedented level of support, but we are in unprecedented times. It is expected that 95% of all self-employed will benefit from this scheme, however, cash flow is currently under immense pressure and the sole traders and partners amongst us have yet to get through the next couple of months because the SEISS system does not yet exist. We are told that HMRC is working on this "night & day" but is not expected to start payments until the beginning of June.

HMRC state that they "will contact you if you are eligible for the scheme and invite you to apply online. Individuals do not need to contact HMRC now and doing so will only delay the urgent work being undertaken to introduce the scheme". It is hoped that contact will be made mid-May.

At the moment it is not clear as to whether agents/accountants will be able to apply on behalf of their clients but clarity in this regard is being sought as it is recognised that many taxpayers will need such support.

As you will have noted, both the CJRS &

SEISS support packages have cut-off dates, so watch this space as the lockdown continues as the Government may be forced to extend these dates to ensure that more people in distress are eligible.

For those anticipating financial hardship in the meantime, the following support measures may assist:

- Your 31 July 2020 Self Assessment payment on account can be deferred until 31 January 2021 without penalty or interest.
- VAT payments due between 20 March 2020 and 30 June 2020 can be deferred until 31 March 2021. (Don't forget to cancel your Direct Debit though if you want to benefit from this!)
- Small Business Grants are available from your Local Authority for those with premises that pay little or no business rates. Make sure you claim now if you have not already done so: BCKLWN are very speedy in making the payments if you are eligible and NNDC, although running behind, are now catching up.
- Increased amounts of Universal Credit are available to be claimed. (Remember to separately identify any savings which you have set aside for your tax bills.) A claim for Universal Credit can be made whilst individuals wait for the SEISS grant to arrive, but the grant could affect how much UC applicants are entitled to later on as the SEISS will be classed as income for UC purposes.
- Business Interruption Loans that are 80% Government guaranteed are also available upon



application (but unfortunately this system is currently on overload so you will need to be efficient in getting your application in and push hard).

- Some Local Authorities are also running Hardship Funds so it may be worth contacting them to see if there is anything available to you in that regard.

As mentioned above, the SEISS system is not yet up and running, but if when you get your grant through (the 3 monthly payments will be paid in advance in one lump sum into an account of your choosing) you do not feel that the figure is correct, please do not hesitate to contact your accountant or ourselves in order to get the calculation checked.

If, having read through the information provided above, you require advice, please

contact either myself or my assistant Nicola Tarry FCA on 01485 534800 or email kate@kathryngigg.co.uk if we can assist in any way.

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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NORFOLK CARE AWARDS 2019

Wild in Westminster

As a Norwich City fan, a common refrain during the season is that it is the hope that kills you.

In these very challenging times, it is hope that we need to hold on to. Her Majesty The Queen captured that sentiment perfectly with those simple words: 'we will meet again'.

As I write, the Prime Minister has just been discharged from hospital and the peak of coronavirus is expected in the next week or so. It is humbling to see the dedication of our amazing NHS staff, care workers, hospice staff, and other key workers on the frontline. We owe them all a tremendous debt of gratitude.

Amidst the darkness, it has been heart-warming to see community spirit shine through. Whether picking up essentials for neighbours, volunteers organising support for their and surrounding villages, or the Community Hub working with Voluntary

Norfolk and GoodSam, Norfolk has come together to help the vulnerable.

It is a huge privilege to represent this stunning part of the country. When elected I spoke about the role I wanted to play in encouraging more people to #LoveWestNorfolk and come and enjoy all we have to offer. So having to ask people to stay at home and not visit has been very difficult, particularly as our reliance on tourism means the impact on seasonal workers and businesses has been dramatic.

At this time of year beaches should be packed, beer gardens full of laughter, hotels and restaurants serving Norfolk's great food. Instead our coastal towns and villages are largely deserted. Unfortunately, a minority have travelled to second homes or holiday cottages despite the rules Parliament put in place and the clear, strong Government advice. Most people have followed the



guidance and by doing so have helped to save lives.

In the face of this unprecedented crisis I've been working in Westminster to ensure there is a bold economic response to support West Norfolk's businesses, individuals, and families.

All hospitality, leisure, and retail firms will pay zero business rates for a year and there are grants for smaller firms forced to close. Government-backed loans are available although the banks need to step up and lend.

I've helped hotels, pubs, and other businesses in villages and along the coast navigate the support and put staff on temporary leave with the government paying 80% of their wages. This is designed so that when we come through this businesses can get up and running with their experienced staff.

Analogies to other periods in history are imperfect. What is undeniable is that this is a time of huge disruption and sacrifice. As we look ahead to marking VE Day, we must remember that above all it is a national effort and by staying united and playing our part we will overcome this crisis.

When we do there needs to be a huge effort to encourage visitors back to Norfolk, to support our fantastic local firms, and to put a smile back on everyone's face. I, like you, am looking forward to that day.

James Wild MP
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Linking Up

Andrew Jamieson, County Councillor for the North Coast and Cabinet Member for Finance

Looking at the Other Side: thoughts about a New Normal

A crisis by definition means a shortage of time and resources. Because of this it is often notoriously difficult to anticipate what might be happening longer term. But if we do not think about the longer term now, then the responses will take longer to work and the recovery will be harder.

When the peak of the pandemic curve is reached (hopefully this will have occurred by the time you read this) the immediate impacts will begin to emerge such as the loss of businesses, societal and behaviour changes and changes to ways of working. Longer term history shows that pandemics, more than financial crashes, alter economies for decades. They tend to lower the return on capital and increase the cost of labour, leading to slower growth and lower interest rates.

In the short term, the virus will teach us to do more things for ourselves and to spend more cautiously. The longer the virus drags on, the more entrenched these behaviours will be, meaning that it will be a long time before spending gets back to where it was. Counterintuitively, this may help our local economy: a reluctance to fly in planes or travel on cruise ships will continue to make the relative solitude of the Norfolk Coast and its hinterland an obvious attraction.

Not all the changes need be destructive,

however. At Norfolk County Council I have been genuinely impressed by the rush to get care to patients; meanwhile the Borough Council, under the guidance of the Cabinet Member for Coronavirus, my good friend and colleague Stuart Dark, has moved quickly to get help to as many of our struggling local businesses as possible. I would like to thank everyone involved in the effort to slash through the 'bureaucratic sludge' to get things moving in a way that will hopefully be long lasting.

As Member for Finance, I have long been pushing to make transformational changes to ways of working: for our County to prosper we have to make greater use of digital technology to innovate our services, work from home, have better more direct contact with our customers and 'de-clutter' the office-based ways of traditional service delivery. Within NCC, I had been told that it would be two years before we would be able to take our people to the end of this journey: in many ways we have just done it in two and a half weeks! Here are some of the things we are learning to do today that I hope we can keep doing (or live without) in the future:

- Taking cash in County offices;
- paper invoice submission;
- Any physical inbound or outbound post where digital alternatives are working.

- Use of other County assets, such as libraries, to deliver services, particularly for part time or "on-demand" / peak time workers.

There seem to be certain buildings our people are - living without perfectly well;

- Physical journeys where video or telephone contact is proving sufficient.

- Video link instead of large face to face meetings will save a fortune on travel and training;

- Increased remote working; increased managerial competence at handling remote teams.

These are just some of the ways I think that NCC, as a major local employer, can influence the way we might work in future. We are assessing the impact of the pandemic upon Norfolk's economy, the way we look after our elderly and the way Society's attitudes might change. Home working, or working from shared spaces, is likely to increase as Norfolk finally gets the better Broadband speeds across the County as a matter of course, together with the mobile coverage promised from the carriers by the year end.

I truly believe that our innovative and entrepreneurial population can take advantage of the New Normal when we get to the other side of the pandemic and help us rebuild an economy to suit the ways in which the people of Norfolk want to live their lives.



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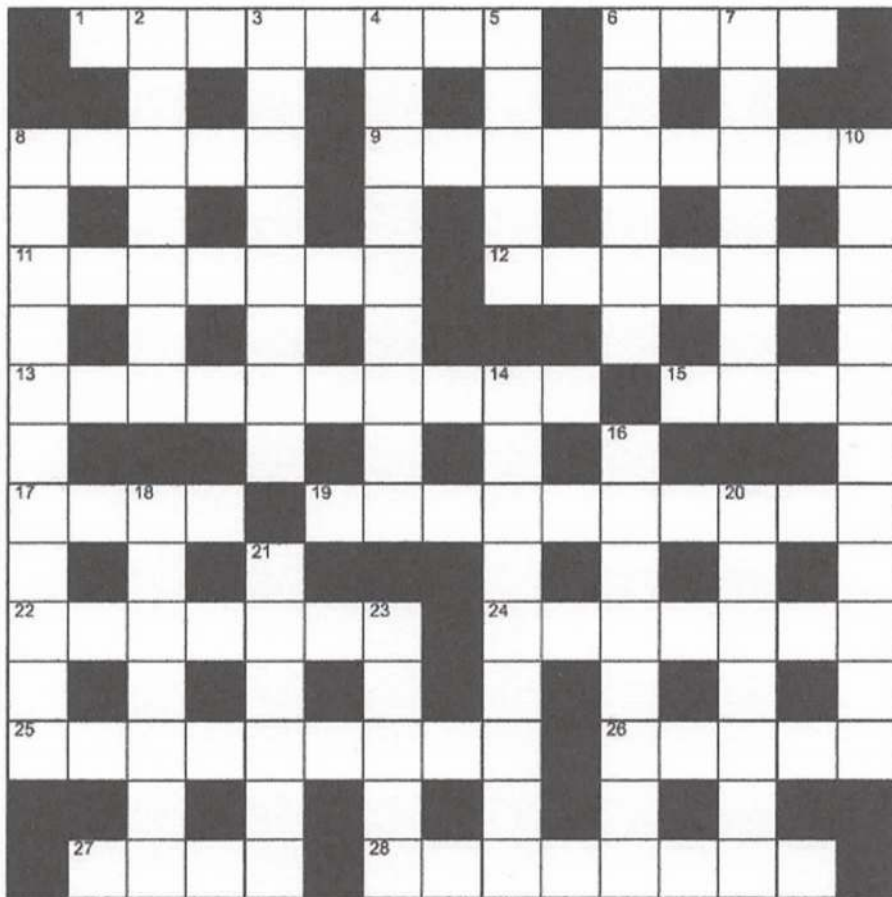
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Crossword Clues Across



Crossword solution on page 4

1. Still exhausted after break (8)
6. Duke is first to start and first to finish (4)
8. Ace glider settles on a place in Egypt (5)
9. Highest-ranking cabinet letters are blocked (5-4)
11. Fair is a long time in Lynn (7)
12. After moving daughters around, made a rough sketch (7)
13. Made fast time before being caught (10)
15. Stomach conflicting views by rebellious leading rights activists (4)
17. Credit in some circles is banned, we hear (4)
19. Blame game? It sits awkwardly... (10)
22. ... and is material to retirement of big cheese (7)
24. Establish a single new position (7)
25. For one who screens first part of book time is running out (9)
26. Commences second trip, right round again, before coming to rest (5)
27. Port and lemonade (not bottled) (4)
28. Slack line? (8)

Crossword Clues Down

2. Lost without sport on radio (7)
3. Pop back to clean fluff from highest level (8)
4. Mobile home heading for Docking? (9)
5. Cool favourite is backed by papers (5)
6. Class act scores 100 for style (6)
7. Scrumptious tartlets have surprise ingredient (7)
8. A number collect china tea set (11)
10. Final finisher in 'andycap rallied amid new support (11)
14. For gentle giant, losing at wrestling is careless (9)
16. Language used by Parisian without clothes is about right (8)
18. Is casual getting a bad deal...? (7)
20. ... yes, so to speak (2,1,4)
21. Shame of master keeping setter locked up (6)
23. Bikini, for example, can fit small midriff to large and extra-large (5)

Easy first...

...then the more challenging

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

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

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HUNSTANTON IN BLOOM ~ COMPETITION TIME ~ BE CREATIVE THIS SUMMER

Obviously while writing this we are still on lock-down and don't know where we will be in May. I do know that there will be no In Bloom competition this year but the Esplanade Gardens will still be planted with summer bedding for us to enjoy on our daily exercise.



But the In Bloom Committee is pleased to be offering ten £25 cash prizes for anyone, young and old who would like to submit their recent photographs of any one of the three following categories.



1. **Tallest Sunflower:** Stand beside your prize exhibit with a measure to record the height.
2. **Miniature container gardens:** using any natural materials that can include pebbles, fir cones, shells, seaweed as well as grasses and flowers to create a beautiful mini-garden.
3. **Fun with Flower-pots:** your chance to get creative; the possibilities are boundless!



Entrants can be individuals or groups and should live in, work in, or attend school or nursery in Hunstanton. Please send your photographs with name, age and address of the grower or creator to cldr.winnington@hunstantontowncouncil.gov.uk before July 31st which gives plenty of time to get everything established. Our In Bloom Committee will then choose 10 winners and would want entrants to be willing for their photos to be used in our 2021 portfolio which we submit to Anglia In Bloom and RHS Britain In Bloom. At the time of writing seeds and plants can be bought from local hardware shops and supermarkets in Heacham and Hunstanton.



*Please join in
and have fun!*



Mudpies & Butterflies

with Louise Barby

Gardening during a pandemic is for everyone, regardless of whether you live in an apartments or on a 100 acre estate. Victory gardens during WWII supplied fresh vegetables, fruits and herbs. Pandemic gardens can do just the same today. Gardening gets us out in the fresh air, while respecting social distancing, adds positive energy in to our life, provides enjoyment and can give a new activity to the whole family.

✿ **Flowers** - There is still plenty of time to direct sow annuals. Sow weekly or fortnightly to ensure a long season of interest. Try cosmos, field poppies, double calendula or even night scented stock for a speedy and stunning display.

Pots and hanging baskets can now be filled with annuals, plug plants are very effective and can be planted in sheltered areas or protected in the night time from frost. Try popping some water retaining granules in the compost mix as this ensures the baskets won't dry out if you forget to water them!

If you have a very small garden or patio, try Ipomoea (morning glory) or sweet peas. They will happily grow in a deep pot, create a wigwam of canes and you will have a fast growing climber, clothed in flowers until the first frost and all from one packet of seeds.

Seeds and plug plants can be purchased on line. We also have the luxury of still having some local nurseries who can take orders over the phone and deliver our order.

Wards Nurseries - Ringstead, Snettisham plant nursery and Thaxters, Dersingham, Moulam & Horn, Heacham, all currently have the ability to take orders and deliver, while respecting current government guidelines.

✕ **Bugs** - Keep an eye on new perennials and annuals, wash off bugs with your hose, treat with warm soapy water in a spray gun or a chemical spray before they consume all the new growth. Addressing bugs now will ensure your plants and flowers remain healthy throughout the growing season.

✂ **Lawn** - It's the time to address moss by scarifying, use lawn sand, sow lawn seed and start to mow fortnightly to weekly. This is great exercise if you are working from home or self-isolating, but well. Do it gradually for a daily exercise until the whole lawn is complete.

☀ **Vegetables and fruit** - Beetroot, spinach and similar, should be thinned out. Small plug plants of cut and come again crops can be purchased at this time of year. Alternatively, just sow at regular intervals for a crop of new baby leaf spinach and rocket straight from ground to table throughout the summer. For a bright show in a raised bed try Kale 'Redbor' or Nasturtium Black velvet.

If home schooling and juggling work too, how about starting a mini veg. garden with the children?

They can be fully involved, even starting planting and watering rotas.

🌿 **Ponds** - If you have a new pond, wait at least six weeks prior to introducing fish.

Lift and divide overcrowded pond plants and introduce water lilies now for a great flower display.

Finally, it is good practice to liquid feed your plants weekly from May onwards, this ensures strong growth and flowers throughout the summer. Support and tie in new vegetable and flower growth for a successful summer display.

Some of us will be working from home and juggling home schooling, with work commitments. Others may live alone and finding it particularly hard to be so cut off from friends and family. Whatever the scenario, take solace in your garden, outdoor space or even bright windowsill. Break the day up with a little gardening, the results are bound to make you smile.

Nature Notes with Roger

The darling buds of May

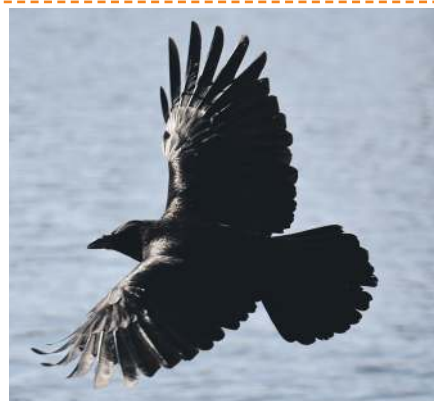
This is the title of a book written by H E Bates in 1958 following the lives and loves of a fictitious family in rural Kent in the 1950's. The title itself is taken from one of Shakespeare's sonnets, in which the bard imagines the sun chasing its way into summer after the month of May. I wonder if Bates was having a play on words and was referring also to the buds and early blossom of the tree we know as the hawthorn, also called the May-tree, as it comes into flower in that month.

The hawthorn is a widespread native shrub and tree equally at home in farmland in the south-east of the country as on steep mountainsides in Wales. It is a good bush for field hedgerows as it has a tangle of branches with sharp thorns, providing a good barrier to any livestock with ideas of wandering. It also provides shelter and food for many species of birds and mammals, and the flowers are important for nectar feeding insects. In autumn it yields small red berries known as haws which are a rich food resource for winter visiting birds. For me, may blossom is one of the signs that spring has truly begun. The small white flowers tinged rose-pink at the base of the petals have a strong musky but also sweet smell that can pervade the air and is powerful enough to be smelt some way from the tree itself. Two years ago, after the bitterly cold 'Beast from the East', followed by a particularly warm spring, there was a profusion of may blossom so thick it looked like there

had been another fall of snow.

The old hawthorn just beyond our front boundary attracts many birds, and presently there are a pair of magpies attempting to set up home near the top of the tree. When we first moved here there were no magpies in the vicinity, but in 2017 there were two brief visits, from one bird in March and then a pair in August. During 2018 visits became more numerous as the birds no doubt sussed out the territory, and then last year they started to build in the hawthorn. This became a large tangled ball of twigs and small branches, but no eggs were laid and the attempt was abandoned. I suspect this pair is fairly young and have not yet quite perfected the art of homemaking. I wait to see what becomes of their efforts this year.

At the time of writing this, in common with all of you, I have been confined to quarters, so my observations have been made from my home. I am having to watch spring unfold from our windows, and have already heard and seen several Mediterranean Gulls, spotted a Red Kite drifting lazily over the house and heard a Great-spotted Woodpecker drumming in the trees at the end of the road. However, before the latest rules of confinement were introduced, I managed a few short trips and was suitably rewarded with some fine sights. Just outside one village I encountered a Barn Owl out in broad daylight as it quartered the field edges and came right alongside the road, giving me



excellent views from the car. A few days later at exactly the same spot I came across a Short-eared Owl which was far more purposeful in its flight as it was probably on its migration northwards. I was also treated to a special sighting of a Raven which flew overhead with its very distinctive guttural "cronk" call. These are rare birds for Norfolk, last recorded breeding being in 1859, with three sightings during the rest of the 19th century, then variously spotted between 1931 and 1953, and now in only single figures for most years.

Hopefully soon we will be able to get out and about a bit more freely and enjoy "the darling buds of May". Meanwhile I leave you with another old saying: "Cast not a clout till May be out", which basically means don't pack your winter clothes away until the month of May is finished (or before the may flower is in blossom) as there can still be some cold and wintry days to catch us out.

Let's hope not.

Keelie's

Don't worry ladies

*My girls are resting well at home so that on our return
we are brave enough to tackle the longest toe nails,
the hairiest legs and the wildest eyebrows!
Stay safe Hunstanton*

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Tech news from DNS

This month we thought it would be sensible to talk about some of the opportunities which are available to help us keep in touch, and to keep working, through the Coronavirus restriction period. And also to mention some of the latest scams to be aware of.



Daniel Sharman
07554 018307
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Tapping Close, Snettisham

Keeping in touch with family, friends and colleagues is essential, and as we are all confined to our homes at present, the best way we can do this is online.

There are many different solutions available for video calling, ranging from free of charge social apps, to subscription-based conference software suites designed for large businesses. Whatever your needs, if you have a connection to the internet, you can keep in touch.

Here are a few suggestions of free services which you can download and use to connect with people.

Skype – www.skype.com

Free to download and free to make audio/video calls from one device to another, just download the app and create a free account. (If you already have a Microsoft account you can use these details to log in).

Zoom – www.zoom.us

Zoom is now very popular, available to download on mobile devices and computers alike, it allows you to make video calls to multiple people at the same time, good if you want to have a group chat with friends or family, free of charge, a limit of 40minutes call length.

Facetime – <https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT204380>

Apple's native system for video calling, nice and easy if you have Apple devices at both ends, just call people using their Apple ID.

House Party – www.houseparty.com/

House Party is very similar to Zoom, available as an app, free to download on mobiles and PCs, it allows for multiple contacts to connect at the same time, with the added bonus of some quizzes and games.

Recent Scams

Unfortunately, the Coronavirus epidemic has attracted the attention of cyber criminals as an avenue for exploitation, namely in the form of email scams.

We have seen a dramatic increase over the past 2-3 weeks in email based scams, pretending to be from HM Government, HMRC etc, offering financial aid, tax breaks, refunds etc.... If you receive any emails of this nature, the best thing to do is to assume that they are scams. You can contact HMRC using the proper government website www.gov.uk where you can find contact numbers for your particular concern.

If you would like more information about getting up and running with video calling or if you have any other IT requirements please do give us a call on 07554 018307. We can provide a remote service, without the need to visit you.

Our best wishes to everybody

Dan & Carrie, DNS Computer Services
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I am pleased to say that no-one will be staying in any of our owners' holiday homes until 6 June – to be amended as Government Rulings change. Not that this happened in other cottages in the area I heard. From the 'horses mouth' too so we know it is true. What are people playing at? What don't they understand? Stay at home is exactly as it means – STAY AT HOME. Don't go anywhere unless it meets the criteria of Government Directives. Don't have a day trip or go on holiday – STAY AT HOME.

Anyway, at Norfolk Holiday Homes we find ourselves working hard, offering various positive suggestions to our holidaymakers who have booked to stay in our part of the world so they can still have a holiday. We know that we are not the only ones having to deal with cancelling bookings, appointments, meetings, schedules and more, caught up in this horrendous predicament. We are all having to find ways to adapt bad situations and turn them into good ones.

As we are moving guests out we are now getting others who are booked into properties beyond 6 June wanting to know what to do. Again, we will have to transfer guests or refund them if necessary but abiding by booking conditions as are the majority of on-line travel channels. For some it is the one time of year where they have saved up very hard, looking forward to a break, and now to lose their holiday is catastrophic. It also means that some families who unite and catch up once a year, will have to wait another year. They are all being dealt with fairly, promptly and amenably – apart from the very few who think that they are MOST important and want answers NOW. This kind of heated aggravation we do not need.

On the other hand we have had so many emails of thanks from owners and guests which is really heart-warming. Everyone is so appreciative of how we are trying to re-accommodate guests and their families. Also owners have surpassed all expectations in some aspects of the possibility of losing their bookings, with generous offers of dates, dates and flexibility

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in order to help. Thank you so much. This is a job we did not envisage that we would have to do, but we are managing to do our best, sometimes improvising to achieve a positive result.

Our office hours have changed, and yes we are still in the office on certain days to help those future guests who are in a dilemma, need reassurance and assistance – especially the elderly ones who do not have email technology or families to deal with the crisis for them. Some have to refer to other members of the family to check on dates, school timetables and taxis, but they are overcoming the problems. Thankfully we are at the end of the phone and email so we can speak directly. Some companies have confusing robots in place with endless call queues. Thank goodness for local and friendly.

So, we may have a war on our hands, trying to cope with the Covid 19 Virus, but with the same mind set of the Royal Marines we all having to adapt, improvise and overcome.

Finally, If you are stuck at home at a loose end or on the computer, take a few minutes to reflect on our Carol's April Blog.
<https://www.norfolkholidayhomes.agency/our-blog/>

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Letters to the Editor

Many thanks

I would like to give very sincere thanks to the independent shopkeepers who, along with the supermarkets, have done an excellent job of keeping us supplied with treats as well as essentials. Particular accolades go to Kemps Greengrocers (unfailingly cheerful, friendly and efficient), Moss Bakery for great pies and Norfolk Deli for delicious freshly made food delivered to your door. Please keep smiling and don't listen to those who say you should not be opening - we are lucky to have such wonderful shops in Hunstanton and should do everything we can to support them.

Beth Winsor, Heacham

Fruit for the medics

Kemps greengrocers has donated a huge box of fruit to the medical staff at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Kings Lynn.

The donation was organised by a pair of sisters, one from Hunstanton and one from Heacham, who went to the fruit and vegetable shop in the south end of the High Street with a box and asked for it to be filled up with fruit for the staff in the Critical Care Unit.

Kemps filled the box with apples, pears, oranges, satsumas and a range of other fruit but when the sisters asked for the bill, the shop said there would be no charge. The fruit was taken to the QE and handed over to reception with a request for it to be taken to the CCU and a thank-you note (pictured).

"It was a lovely gesture by the shop and we thank them very much," said one of the sisters, who did not wish to be named. "We were happy to pay for it but all we had to do is to take it to the medics who are working so hard at the moment."

Debbie Le May

Stay home, save our NHS

I am astounded that the Boro of KL&WN think it is acceptable to expose their staff to the risk of covid 19 by forcing them to work. Litter pickers, toilet cleaners and traffic wardens are being told they are essential workers. Because of this they are getting abuse, particularly the traffic wardens who are getting verbally abused just for being on the streets.

Where is the health and safety, they could be carriers, they could be infected by others who are carriers and will not practice social distancing - surely the council should adhere to Stay at home Save lives.

I would be interested to learn how many of the office staff in Kings Lynn are at home - safe, and how many frontline (outside) staff are at home safe. I would hazard a guess that more office staff are safe at home. How about the council obeying the Prime Ministers ruling on lockdown of Stay at Home unless absolutely necessary for staff to work?

How about they KEEP THEIR STAFF SAFE AND PROTECT THE NHS.

Name and address supplied

Editor's note: On 16th April I contacted the Portfolio Holder for a response to this letter and at the time of going to print I had not received a reply. When I receive the response, I will publish the details on the T&A website.

Thank you for bearing with us during this
challenging time. There are fewer pages in
this emergency edition, and some articles
that are not printed in this issue
will be posted online for you to read at:
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Volatile times

When you live in volatile and uncertain times, should you put your long-term plans on hold?

Read or watch the news, and you will encounter a world that's volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous. Glance at a stock market's performance over the course of a few weeks, and what stands out is probably not the general direction of travel, but the short-term seesawing of prices – especially during a volatile period.

Those characteristics can make the task of planning for you and your family's future feel all the more daunting.

As investors, it can be all too tempting to try to predict the future, or react to events as they happen. However, on the one hand, even long-term investors can all too easily respond emotionally to short-term volatility; and make bad decisions as a result. On the other, events are unpredictable at the best of times, and perhaps especially just now. On top of all this, it's not always easy to sort the facts from the fake news.

The wide range of current challenges make the world highly unpredictable. In the context of saving and investing, the products and services we need to help us are similarly numerous and complex. Do you take the DIY approach to investing, seek guidance, or look for

professional financial advice?

Do you know your ISAs from your pensions and unit trusts – and how do you choose? Where should you invest? In public or private markets? In equities, bonds, or property? And should you seek out active managers or passive funds?

The weight, number and nuance of such questions can make us yearn for simpler times – and bury our heads in the sand. Yet that will not help you secure a brighter future for you and your family. In times like these, it's important to take action and speak with someone you trust.

A professional financial adviser can help guide you through the wealth of options available, to keep your eyes focused on the horizon, and to help you to achieve your long-term financial goals.

To receive a complimentary guide covering wealth management, retirement planning or Inheritance Tax planning, contact Jeremy Plummer of Plummer and Associates on 01485 500025 or email jeremy.plummer@sipp.co.uk.

Hunstanton Lifeboat Station

Geoff Needham, LPO Hunstanton RNLI



Due to the present crisis, the RNLI has closed all Stations and shops however, our crews will still respond to calls for help.

Thursday 26th March at 12.03. p.m. UK Coastguard requested launch of Hunstanton RNLI Lifeboat to report from a vessel broken down with mechanical problems off the Woolpack Bouy with one person on board. This request was delayed, while attempts to arrange a commercial tow could be arranged. Ninety minutes later the cruiser confirmed no tow was available and reported he was taking on water. Hunstanton RNLI Lifeboat Spirit of West Norfolk launched on service at 1.35pm with a salvage pump aboard, arrived on scene at 2.20pm. The lifeboat crew discovered that the mechanical issue was intermittent overheating of engines caused by blocked cooling pipes. The lifeboat escorted the vessel towards Kings Lynn before taking her under tow to Kings Lynn. Lifeboat returned to station at 6.30 p.m. High Water. Thursday 7.46pm. Wind. E.4. Sea state slight. Vis. Good.

At this time of National Crisis like all emergency services we are stretched to the limit. We ask the leisure sailor, is your journey really necessary?

The RNLI is urging everyone to follow Government instructions, which are clear: stay home, protect the NHS and save lives. While you

are allowed out for daily exercise, we do not recommend that this exercise is on or in the sea. Our charity's lifeboat service is still available but every time a lifeboat crew is called to an incident, it puts additional pressure on RNLI volunteers and other front-line emergency services as well as potentially exposing them to COVID-19. We know people who live at the coast still want to exercise by the sea, but when you do this, please think of the potential impact of your actions on RNLI lifeboat volunteers and other emergency services.

Keep on moving

In last month's article about how Julie-Ann Rayner was sad to be closing her physical Zumba classes and starts to offer her weekly classes online it very quickly became evident it was exactly the right thing to do. With the Government restrictions still in place and the inevitable continued social distancing that will still be required even when lifted, it has never been more important to keep moving. Julie-Ann (aka North Norfolk Zumba) continues to offer weekly classes on her YouTube channel to try to brighten peoples' day and help them to have fun and even enjoy doing some exercise.

Up until now, the videos have only been posted once per week, but will now be available at the usual times of all the physical classes; Mondays at 10am (repeated on Wednesdays at 9am) for Zumba Gold (a lower intensity class) and Tuesdays at 6:30pm (repeated on Thursdays at 6:30pm) for Zumba Fitness (the higher intensity class) to give people as much chance as possible to keep moving and most importantly to keep healthy.

With this in mind anyone is welcome to tune in to the online classes via the North Norfolk Zumba YouTube Channel by searching for North Norfolk Zumba or by following this link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJPYXRz_y8cA15Tph3I9cQ

If anyone would like any further information then they can get in touch a number of ways:

online at; www.facebook.com/northnorfolkzumba,

via mail; northnorfolkzumba@gmail.com,

or call Julie-Ann on 07795 246364

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A Solid Place to Stand

By Gill Tanner a member of The Way C F Leadership team

There is a rock to stand on when the storms around us feel like shifting sand. His name is Jesus Christ. In the Old Testament of the Bible the Israelites were crying out in desperate thirst in the wilderness, and God told Moses to strike the rock. Out gushed water, enough for over a million people, plus their animals.

On the Roman cross at Golgotha just outside the walls of Jerusalem the creator of the universe hung and died, naked and tortured. His life blood was ebbing away through multiple wounds. He was taking every bit of the punishment due to you and me for our rebellion against God and our lack of love for Him and our fellow man. The soldiers came to break his legs to hasten death because it was the Jewish pass-over, and the authorities asked for the bodies to be taken down. To their surprise they found that Jesus was already dead – it could take two or three days to die by crucifixion. Instead they thrust a spear between his ribs into his heart and out gushed blood and water; the plasma had already separated in the blood.

That stream from the side of the Son of God is enough to cleanse every sin that stands between us and Father God. On Easter Sunday we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. He had taken the death sentence for us all, so that we can have everlasting life now, and when we shed this old container of a body that we live in, and our soul and spirit will be with the one who loved us enough to die for us.

If we ask God to forgive us for not believing in Him, or loving and obeying Him, He will. As a result we can know real peace and freedom from fear of death. We step into a kingdom whose King is love, justice and purity, always faithful and always with us.

If we build our lives on Him and on His promises, we will stand on a solid rock through every storm this life throws at us.

While the churches are caught up in the coronavirus lock-down, there is a wealth of Christian teaching and help on line that you can find to encourage you. We pray God will bless you and you will know His peace.

"Peace I leave with you. My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." Those are Jesus' words as recorded in John 14.27.

FINDING A WAY

Like all the other churches up and down the country, Union Church closed it's doors in response to the government's recommendations in March to stop the spread of the Coronavirus. Immediately thoughts turned to how we could continue to be a Church while we did not have a building to worship in. Within a short time there were lots of ideas and a great willingness and determination to keep everyone connected with each other.

We now have in place a weekly Sunday Service produced by various people, attached to an email giving updates & information on Christian programmes broadcast on radio & TV, as well as details of who to contact if in need of help with shopping etc. All this is also sent out by post, so that no one is left out.

After the first week of self-isolation, phone lines were buzzing with lots of people ringing each other to check they were alright and to make sure they heard a friendly voice of encouragement regularly.

Groups that used to meet during the week also keep in contact with each other and bible study notes are sent out weekly too.

As the saying goes, where there's a will there's a way, and as a Church we are following God's will to lead us to finding ways of still living as His people in these difficult times. If you would like to know more about what we are doing or would like to receive any of the items we are producing, do contact me by phone or email.

With Every Blessing, Janet Brown
Tel. 01485 532309
Email: ubjaney@hotmail.co.uk

Who is Mary Baker Eddy?

Mary Baker was born in 1821 in Bow, New Hampshire, USA and is primarily known as the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science. She was a spiritual pioneer, an influential author, teacher and religious leader, and studied the Bible all of her young life, often searching for inspiration and hope in prayer to help with bouts of illness.

After suffering the loss of her first husband a few months after marriage, Mary returned to the family home, pregnant with her son. Still suffering from recurring illness, she was forced to place her young son in the care of the family's nurse, after the death of her beloved mother. Her second husband was unreliable. She eventually divorced him on the grounds of desertion.

The turning point in Mary's life came in 1866 when Mary suffered a severe fall on the ice and left her in a critical condition. She turned to her Bible and, reading one of Jesus' healings, she was healed. The next nine years were spent in intensive study of the Bible, meeting setbacks with proofs of spiritual healing and culminating in the publication of the first edition of her seminal work, Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures in 1875. In 1877 Mary married Asa Gilbert Eddy, who supported her wholeheartedly.

Because of the reluctance of existing churches to embrace her discovery, Mary Baker Eddy started her own church "to commemorate the word and works of our Master, which should reinstate primitive Christianity and its lost element of healing." Mary Baker Eddy was a tireless worker, revising Science and Health, founding a variety of periodicals, which exist today and, at the age of 87, founded the international newspaper, The Christian Science Monitor, in response to the tabloid news of her day. The Monitor, along with all Christian Science publications are still available, in print and online versions, at www.christianscience.com.

On Mary Baker Eddy's passing in 1910, hundreds of tributes appeared in newspapers around the world. Science and Health has now been translated into many languages and the church is worldwide. Biographies of Mary Baker Eddy's life are available from the website below.

Due to the current situation, our church services are now available online. Please go to www.spirituality4.me to find livestreamed services around the UK, along with other online events, talks and webinars.

Just a thought.....

At the end of this month is Pentecost Sunday; a time when the Spirit came upon the disciples and changed their lives beyond recognition. But do you believe the Spirit impacts on your life; do you ever question where this Spirit that transformed so many at Pentecost is?

Well, that quiet Presence in our lives that makes us say, "God is near me," is the Holy Spirit. Those times we stand up for what we believe and feel a fire in us that gives us courage and strength are times when the Holy Spirit motivates us. Those times of crisis when we ask God for help are times when the Holy Spirit responds with the graces we need to get through the trouble we are in. The Holy Spirit is the God who dwells in us; God with us now, always.

Pentecost is a time of great renewal, not only for the church but for our lives too. Look at the passage in Acts 2: 1-4 again, listen to its sounds and feel the God given presence of the Spirit which blows where it will and then be alive to its actions.

Just like the wind that sweeps across the fields, the Spirit will push you into places you thought never possible, and it will stop you from going to places you think you ought to be, but the journey will bring new experiences of God and new experiences in your faith in the living Christ.

It is wonderful to think that God invites us to receive the Holy Spirit into our hearts and minds; God with us, God for us, God in us; God involving and engaging us in his work. And with God, all things are possible, and with the Spirit of God with us, in us and for us, all things can work together for the good of our lives, our church, and our community.

Steve, Rev Steve Oliver, Methodist Church

The Gospel Hour is now broadcasting on www.hospitalradiolynn.org.uk, at 10am every Sunday, so please join

me for an hour of songs/hymns poems, readings, the odd joke etc.

If you have any song/hymn requests for Pentecost or any other Sunday please contact me on email: buzzard177@msn.com. But please get them to me on the Thursday before the Sunday broadcast.

Where is God in all this?

This may be a question many people ask as we live through the COVID-19 pandemic. As I write this we are in 'lockdown'. Our lives are severely restricted, we are not allowed out of our own homes except for vital supplies and daily exercise and we listen to the daily news updates of the number of cases of the disease and sadly the number of deaths too. With all this going on, with no corner of the world left untouched by this virus, we may well ask, 'Where is God in all this?'

In 1 Kings 19 we read the story of the prophet Elijah who was hiding in a cave in fear of his life. Whilst he was in the cave the Lord spoke to him and told him to go outside as he was about to pass by. Elijah went outside and a powerful wind tore the mountains apart and smashed rocks, but the Lord was not in the wind. Then came an earthquake but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire but the Lord was not in the fire and after the fire there was the soft whisper of a voice and God spoke to Elijah.

God is not in the corona virus. God is not in the disruption caused to our lives. He is not in the storm of COVID-19 He is in the soft whisper of those who come after. He is in the dedication of the NHS staff who selflessly and tirelessly work to care for those admitted to hospital and those who remain at home. He is in all those who continue to work in key industries, supermarkets and other food outlets, pharmacies and delivery services to name but a few. He is in the hundreds of thousands of volunteers who have offered their services to those who are self-isolating. He is in the neighbours who rally round at our time of need.

On Songs of Praise a few weeks ago Second World War veteran, Harry Billinge, spoke of his answer to those who asked of the war, 'Where is God in all this?' His reply was that it had nothing to do with God but everything to do with the evil that is in every man but he said there was also a spark of good in every man which just need to be fanned into a flame.

I think we have witnessed the spark of goodness in each one of us being fanned by the coronavirus pandemic. It has brought out the good in everyone and seen communities coming together to help the most vulnerable. We have seen acts of goodness and kindness all around us and it has helped us to appreciate those things that we often take for granted such as visiting family and friends, travelling and gathering together for worship.

Although we are not allowed to gather for worship, our hall in Snettisham is closed and so is our charity shop in Hunstanton, The Salvation Army is not closed. We are still here praying for our community and available to help with practical assistance and spiritual needs. If you need us just get in touch.

God bless you and all you are doing in this time of national crisis.

Alison Kirby 01485 579079 or 07775 717852

Alison.Kirby@salvationarmy.org.uk

Hunstanton and the Saxon Shore

Dear Friends,

When I sit down to write these thoughts it is often just after I have said Morning Prayer. In these times of lockdown I am unable to enter any of our eight lovely churches to lead the faithful in worship or even on my own to say prayers for everyone. We are all in the same difficult situation and many have incredibly tight restrictions on their daily activities.

I have been challenged by many things I am hearing and reading about how people are responding to the lockdown. On the one hand I am seeing some incredibly judgemental observations of others and some seemingly irresponsible behaviours. On the other hand I am having some wonderful conversations with parishioners on the phone and hearing about how folk are spending their time creatively or in great thankfulness for our lovely area.

I guess we all have the ability to be negative, judgemental and prone to complaints as well as the opportunity to be precisely the opposite. From what I am hearing and seeing there is a great deal more to be thankful for than to complain about with the way in which our various communities have rallied round and supported each other. We have the wonderful way in which the NHS is being applauded and thanked and the understanding shown to our many and valued key workers as they go about their working lives, often in difficult circumstances. I have seen generous gifts brought in to our Foodbank in Hunstanton (which is giving out an increasing amount of food and necessities each week and stocks need replenishing!) and I know that a great many people are fetching and carrying food and medicines for others. We are so blessed to have small local businesses that are going out of their way to deliver food to those having to remain in their homes. The vast majority of people I speak to are helping others in many different ways and these are often unseen, especially those in the local hospitality sector who, by closing entertainment venues, hotels, B&Bs and small businesses are protecting others. Thank you to all who are doing their bit, large or small, you are appreciated.

So many supportive and helpful things are quietly happening in our communities and we can make a choice to be thankful and not critical, to seek out the good and not point the finger at others. As we have just celebrated Easter, when we remember with thanks the resurrection of Jesus after his death on the cross, we as Christians are challenged by this ultimate act of love for the world. In the first letter to the Corinthians Paul talks of love and the different ways in which love operates... 'Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.' This example of love can be seen in the way in which Jesus lived and died but we too can be a part of this love. It is always important to show love and now more than ever we can start to turn our hearts towards showing this in different ways as we work together to get through these incredibly difficult times.

You are in my prayers daily and do get in contact if there is any support we can give.

Rachael Dines, Rector of Hunstanton and the Saxon Shore

revd.rachael.dines@hotmail.com

COVID Update from Managing Director Ben Allen, Allen Tomas & Co

Following recent government announcements, we have now implemented a range of measures to comply with all relevant guidelines to mitigate the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). Allen Tomas & Co is conducting all review and new business appointments over the telephone. All of our services remain in place and we are contactable as normal. Should you need to contact us, you can call on 01485 541998, email info@allentomasfinancial.co.uk or write to us at our postal address.

One of the biggest concerns from our clients has been, naturally, "Is our money secure"? Markets are extremely resilient and our Company's Investment Process is built on diversification of asset classes. This means that investments are spread between asset classes such as gilts (loans to the Government), bonds (loans to Large Corporations), property and, equities defined by geography or emerging markets. We place huge importance in our research of these fund managers, their performance, volatility and their downside protection. Our Investment Process is robust and designed to operate remotely so there has been very little change and we will continue to put our clients

at the heart of how we manage the business.

If we follow the FTSE100 index as a guide we can report that on the 4th March 2020 the index was at 6815.59, on the 23rd March 2020 as we went into lockdown the index was at 4993.89, and now the FTSE 100 index is already up to 5801.07 (figures correct as of 14/04/2020). A pure example of market resilience.

This crisis may have rocked all our boats but please don't forget tax planning is still essential, securing the best mortgage rate is still essential, investing at the best unit price is still essential, diversification is still essential and reviewing existing holdings is even more important right now. With recent Bank of England base rate changes, it is important to review your existing mortgage rates. We offer independent mortgage and protection advice with a dedicated Adviser.

We would like to give peace of mind to local residents and to reiterate the importance of contacting us to review your existing investments, pensions and mortgages with one of our Independent Advisers. We thank you for your co-operation during these challenging times.



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Dear Patrons of the Princess Theatre

Firstly, on behalf of us all at the Princess, I would like to wish you and yours well at this difficult time as we, as a community, soldier on through together.

Thank you to everyone for your support, I can't begin to tell you how humbled I've been by the comments I've received over the phone, by email and message.

These past three weeks have really brought home to me how worthwhile the last eight years of hard work put in by the theatre staff, volunteers and directors at the Princess have been. We have had to move over thirty shows, some as far off as next year but even so, many of our customers have moved their tickets to the new dates or taken credit notes which has greatly helped us.

It is to you that we say a special thank you.

Over the course of a year, the Princess brings thousands of people into Hunstanton. This in turn supports our Tourism, Hotels, Restaurants and Shops. Without your support the Shows, especially our own Summer Show and Pantomime, would be without a home and the town would lose its theatre. Part of the soul of Hunstanton Town!

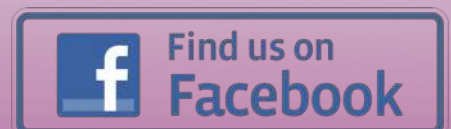
We look forward to the day, in the not too distant future, when we can open our doors to you again.

Please come along in the summer and have a drink on our new terrace as I would like to thank you personally for your valued support.

Thank you to you all. Stay safe and see you soon.

Brian

Director



Website & Online Bookings: www.princesshunstanton.co.uk