

TOWN and AROUND

A person with a large, curly black wig and blue eye makeup is wearing a red and yellow costume with black pom-poms. They are performing outdoors with their hands outstretched. The background is a blurred landscape.

ISSUE 240 OCTOBER 2025

PRICELESS!

Local News • Events • Great Outdoors • Features
14,000 copies distributed in West Norfolk
Celebrating 20 years 2005-2025

First word



A celebration of all things local this month as we publish our 240th edition, which is full of news, events, local advertising and more. So now we are 20 and I thought I'd tell you how it all came about.

A couple of decades ago when we were living in Hunstanton, Richard and I realised that a magazine with local community news would probably be well received. We asked various organisations if they would be willing to produce one and volunteered to help any who wanted to take on the project. After a few months it was obvious that if we were to have a magazine, we'd have to do it ourselves.

At that time, no local printers were willing to help, and they said we didn't have the knowledge to produce a magazine. How fortunate then that we had (and still have) a friend in Bedfordshire who had worked in the print since leaving school. Martin was brilliant, he helped us develop a format and sorted out our printing needs.

Walking around Hunstanton we visited local businesses and asked them if they would be willing to advertise in a new magazine and in the autumn of 2005, we published issue number 1.

Since then, we've published every month without fail and have increased the pagination, copies printed and our distribution area. None of this would have been possible without the Town and Around team and all the people and organisations who share their news, provide articles, information and photographs and of course our fantastic advertisers, the income from whom pays for each issue.

Alongside the print magazine we have the website where news items, often including videos, are posted on a regular basis.

Richard and I would like to thank everyone who has been part of the past twenty years, and we look forward to working with you in our third decade.

In the meantime, this edition is brimming with things to read, our pantomime cover story can be found on page 4 (thank you to Ian Burt for the super photos) and if you turn to the diary of events pages 76-77 you'll see just how much happens in this busy corner of Norfolk.

With all best wishes and until next month,

Elaine

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Follow the latest stories at www.townandaround.net
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Our pick-up points include supermarkets in Hunstanton, Heacham, Dersingham, King's Lynn and Downham Market.

P.S. Don't forget to turn your clocks back before you go to bed on Saturday 25th October.

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Genie-uinely excited for this year's panto!

Dani Crawshaw

It's all about a magic carpet, a genie and a lamp - with Aladdin as the panto of choice. And it may only be September, but as I enter the theatre this year's dame is on stage to welcome us with a big, "Cooee, it's me... Widow Twankey, heellloooooo."



Last year Josh Rettie played the Prince and is excited to be playing a very different character, "I am really looking forward to it, slightly different role than last year - more of a comedy role. Being a dame, any dame, you can kind of just have fun with it all, you can play around, mess around and just make sure everyone's having a good time really."

I ask what it's like in all the make-up and the extravagant wigs and outfits, "Hot, very hot, I feel about 6 foot taller than I normally am, putting the make-up on was a bit of a challenge but I'm learning as I go, so hopefully by December I'll look fabulous!"



Lewis Southall's playing the Emperor (Princess Jasmine's father), "Panto is Christmas, it is Christmas in a nutshell, it's everything you want - joy, presents, camaraderie - we love it and panto is the best form of theatre."

Aladdin's his favourite he tells me - adding singing is a favourite too, "I hope I have a very, very large solo part," he jokes. I ask for a bit of a song, and he does a few lines from 'A Whole New World'. If it were me picking the solos - he'd have my vote.

The antagonist, Jafarazad, is Jess Broadbent's role, "I love playing a baddie, personally I find it so much fun, I find it a challenging journey because it's so different to how I am normally - I'm quite a nice person I would say! But I love it, I love to explore that side and just be mean to everyone."

She says panto's one of the reasons she got into theatre and is dedicating her performance



to her mum, Barbara. "My mum used to take me to the pantomime every year and I just loved all the lights - costumes - everything about it, and it really just got me into wanting to do it as a career."



As a leave to chat to another cast member she gives me a sinister smile and a bit of a rendition - I can hear the audience booing and hissing already.



On to the less sinister role of Princess Jasmine. Freya Barton says she grew up going to the panto, "I like the fact that it brings everyone together around the festive season and it provides lots of fun and laughter. It was such a big thing in my local town to go."

Amy Robinson (Spirit of the Ring) adds, "I just love the audience's reaction, especially when the curtain opens at the beginning it's just magical and hearing all the children screaming and really getting into the Christmas spirit - it's fantastic."



Sam Littlewood is taking on the star role of Aladdin, he played Muddles last year in Snow White. He's abroad until rehearsals start, but says he's excited to be back again this year hoping 'you all enjoy the show'.

And it's in safe hands being directed by Keith Simmons, "This is my 35th production to direct, I've written over 150 pantomimes mainly with my son Ben." Clearly a panto fan!

"I am. It's a great way to introduce children to live theatre. Pantomime is a bit of everything, they're great stories so it's great drama, great music, great singing, great dancing and most of all great comedy - if you can mix all those things together, and have the audience go out feeling better than when they came in - you've won the day."

Lucy-Rose Rollason's the choreographer, "I am so excited - we've got a great cast who look like they're all going to point their feet for me, and we've got some great tracks." Members of her school will be dancing too.

Before I go Widow Twankey stops to say, "If you like Scottish dames, then you've got one coming your way - think Mrs Doubtfire but more fun because Widow Twankey's the best!"

Tickets are on sale now - after meeting the cast I've already got mine. Time to practice those cheers, boos and hisses and teach my one year old to shout 'it's behind you!'

Aladdin at The Princess Theatre in Hunstanton runs from December the 6th until the 4th of January. For more info: <https://www.princesshunstanton...>

Images all Ian Burt.

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Would you be-leaf it - The Gruffalo made of foliage at Dersingham's Flower Festival!

From Shakespeare to Dr Spock, and War and Peace to The Wind in the Willows, the theme was all about books.

St Nicholas Dersingham was filled with the colour and fragrance from thirty different exhibits all around the church, each lovingly prepared by members of the church and local community.

Buckets of flowers and foliage were carried into the church on Monday 8th, and arrangers completed the displays on-time for the opening of the festival on Thursday 11th.



Rev Mark Capron praised the arrangers for their innovative ideas and admitted he'd taken a selfie with the Gruffalo, one of the world's best-loved monsters saying, "it's an amazing piece of creativity."

This is the 30th festival at the 14th century church of St Nicholas for co-ordinator of the event Yvonne Fuller, a retired florist, who also completed some of the displays and is the architect of the Gruffalo. "Getting him here was an adventure in itself," she said, "we had him on the back of an open truck and as he travelled through the village people stopped and stared in disbelief."



Yvonne (right) - working on one of the arrangements on Monday

Visitor to the church, Angela said; "This is the first time I've been to a flower festival and I'm blown away by it, how people think up these beautiful displays is beyond me." Another visitor Jackie said, "I think it's wonderful, wonderful displays all of them; I haven't got a favourite, I wouldn't know which to choose."

Gathering in the choir, the Children's Activities on Saturday afternoon saw performance artist Amy Scott Robinson telling stories, singing songs and introducing one of her puppets to the children (with a fair number of adults enjoying it all too!).



Agatha Christie's 'The Mirror crack'd from side to side'



The Merchant of Venice



Grimms Fairy Tales (left) Looking towards the font



Throughout the festival the catering team led by Katrina were kept very busy with the hundreds of visitors coming through the doors.



The novels of Charles Dickens



Dr Spock

More cinnamon twirls were being made as the photograph below was taken.



From left: Rose, Lynne, Dorothy and Katrina

Editor's note: more photos and a video online at: <https://townandaround.net/news/would-you-be-leaf-it-the-gruffalo-made-of-foliage-at-dersinghams-flower-festival>
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Kings Lynn business owner says it's 'an honour' to partner with Parkinson's UK

Dani Crawshaw

EA Mobility is to collaborate with the charity to ensure people living with the disease get the best support.

"My dad - a big thing for him was please don't put me in a care home," I meet Kevin Carvell in King's Lynn, where he runs his business. His father became paralysed from a spinal cord tumour in 1996 at 47 years old, and the family struggled to find the necessary support.

"We adapted my parents' property over a period of years, so we were able to give him all the care and support and equipment and the accessibility in his own home. He was wheelchair user and once you're in a wheelchair basically everything can be a boundary."

And that's what inspired EA Mobility, "One of our biggest missions is to keep people in their own environment, it's their home, some people have lived there for 40 plus years, and to take them away from that would be very sad. So to be able to create facilities in their own homes is very rewarding."



Kevin Carvell

charity Parkinson's UK to help improve the lives of people living with the condition, which he describes as a 'great honour'.

Sue Mills from the charity says, "We're proud to collaborate with EA Mobility, whose consistently high ratings as a Which? Trusted Trader for over seven years demonstrates their excellence. Their customer centric approach ensures people living with Parkinson's receive the best support and tailored solutions at every stage of the process."

Kevin's a big supporter of the charity, having recently done some fundraising, and is donating 10 per cent of every purchase made by people living with the disease to Parkinson's UK. The company will also be visiting support groups to share advice about home adaptation options.

He goes on to tell me that his personal experience has been invaluable, "From a learning perspective it's taught me a lot. It gives me the greatest satisfaction to be able to make a difference to somebody's life. And that's the company's ethos, if someone wants to work here if they're not passionate about making a difference - if they're just in it for their pay cheque - then they are the wrong person to come on this journey with us."

Last year the team did more than 600 conversions nationwide, and they hope to



Bathroom modification, Image EA Mobility

Since 2018 the company has specialised in making homes more accessible for those with disabilities and the elderly, by providing and installing adapted bathrooms, wet rooms, walk-in baths, ramps, and other home modifications.

"My understanding and my experience of this is not one disability is the same," Kevin says, "So we study the client and understand their needs and then make a recommendation, we will tailor the solution around what they need."

The family run company (Kevin's two sons work with him) has now partnered with the



Sue Mills receiving a cheque from Kevin in July

continue to share their 'expertise and kindness'.

"As a result of my father being paraplegic and the care that involved - it's taken me on an amazing journey in helping others. It's very rewarding, it's very fulfilling and I enjoy the outcomes, it's all about people isn't it."

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As second homes becoming more costly, should you switch, let or sell?

By Claire Burns, Paralegal, Hayes + Storr

Own^{ing} a second home can be a dream but rising costs and changing regulations mean it's not always straightforward. Whether your property is for leisure, work, or inherited, the way you use it can affect your tax position and running costs.

How the regime has changed

Recent measures have increased the financial burden on second-home owners, including:

Stamp Duty Land Tax surcharges on additional properties (introduced in 2016, increased in 2024).

Council tax premiums: Local authorities can now charge up to double (or triple in Wales) on second homes, particularly in tourist areas like Cornwall, Pembrokeshire and Norfolk.

What's happening in Norfolk?

In Norfolk, several councils, including Great Yarmouth, North Norfolk, and Kings Lynn & West Norfolk have implemented a 100% second-home council tax premium which started on 1st April 2025, doubling the council tax for second-home owners.

Planning restrictions

Some councils require planning permission to use a property as a second home.

Main residence vs second home

Council tax premiums apply only to second homes. Some owners switch their "main residence" to mitigate costs, but this must be

genuine. Changing your main residence could reduce council tax but increase Capital Gains Tax (CGT) when selling. Keep clear records of how and when the property was used.

Second home vs holiday let

Letting your property commercially may reduce costs. Qualifying holiday lets may pay business rates instead of council tax and offer certain tax benefits.

In England, the property must be available for at least 140 nights and let for at least 70 nights a year (longer in Wales). Rules are complex and changing. For example, the recent Budget altered tax treatment for furnished holiday lettings, and the Renters' Rights Bill may affect regaining possession.

Gifting a property

Passing a second home to children can relieve ownership burdens but raises tax issues. Gifts may reduce inheritance tax (IHT) liabilities if you survive seven years after the transfer, but retaining any benefit (e.g., holiday use) could trigger charges.

Selling considerations

Selling a second home involves the usual conveyancing process, to include Completing the TA6 property information form accurately - misleading answers could lead to claims.

Managing practical issues if you live far away Use a reliable local estate agent and meet insurer requirements for visits to unoccupied property.

Being chain-free can help secure a smoother sale.

Tax implications

Capital Gains Tax applies on sale or gift, based on the property's increase in value. Rates are 18% or 24% depending on your income. Costs of renovations and any period as your main residence may reduce liability.

Inheritance Tax

A second home forms part of your estate. If your assets exceed £350,000 (£500,000 if leaving a main residence to direct descendants), IHT at 40% may apply. Lifetime gifts may help, but must be structured carefully.

Professional advice

Second-home decisions are rarely simple. Legal and tax implications should be factored into any choice to switch, let, gift or sell. Our residential property team can help with conveyancing, and our private client team can help with the tax implications. Call 01328 863231 or email law@hayes-storr.com for more information.

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



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Hayes + Storr strengthens Elderly and Vulnerable Client Services Team across Norfolk with new appointments and promotions

Hayes + Storr Solicitors is proud to announce a series of developments within its Elderly and Vulnerable Client Services Team, reflecting the firm's ongoing commitment to supporting older and more vulnerable people and their families across Norfolk.

In Holt, the team will be led by experienced lawyer Laura Weston, supported by colleagues based at the office supported by colleagues based at the office, including Charlotte Lynskey who has recently been promoted to the position of paralegal, and overseen by and overseen by Director Miranda Marshall. Clients in King's Lynn will continue to benefit from dedicated local support under the supervision of Director Robert Howliston. While in Sheringham the team has recently expanded following the promotion of Emma Langley to Director and the arrival of Paralegal Jo Chander, who both bring additional expertise to the community.

Director of the Hayes + Storr Holt office, Miranda Marshall, said: "Laura's promotion is richly deserved. She brings warmth, professionalism and expertise to her work, and we're delighted she will be leading the team as we continue to expand our services for elderly and vulnerable clients across Norfolk."

Together, these appointments reflect Hayes + Storr's strategy of ensuring that these services are accessible to families across the county."



Directors Miranda Marshall pictured above and Robert Howliston, (below) who oversee Hayes + Storr's Elderly Client and Private Client services.



Non-legal Support

As well as providing expert legal advice on matters such as Wills, Trusts, Lasting Powers of Attorney, Court of Protection applications



Pictured from left: Jo Chander, Laura Weston and Charlotte Lynskey

and Estate Administration, the team also offers a unique blend of practical, non-legal support to help clients maintain their independence.

That can include managing household finances, support with benefit claims, securing homes when clients are in hospital or respite care, checking care arrangements, arranging care, domestic help and maintaining properties and gardens.

Speaking about her promotion, Laura Weston said: "It's a privilege to step into this new role. Our aim is not just to provide legal expertise, but also to give clients and their families reassurance and peace of mind. Treating every client with kindness, dignity and respect is at the heart of what we do."

Hayes + Storr is proud that many of its

lawyers hold specialist accreditations from The Association of Lifetime Lawyers (formerly Solicitors for The Elderly) and the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP), reflecting the high standards of care and professionalism the firm brings to its work.

With senior solicitors such as Miranda Marshall, Robert Howliston and Emma Langley continuing to provide expert guidance, and a growing team of dedicated lawyers across Holt, King's Lynn, Sheringham, Fakenham and Swaffham, Hayes + Storr is ensuring that families across Norfolk can access trusted, local support whenever it is needed most.

Battle of Britain Service of Commemoration

Tower Gardens Mon 8th Sep 25

Gary Walker



The annual wreath laying service, commemorating the 85th anniversary of the Battle of Britain took place in Tower Gardens King's Lynn on Monday 8th September 2025, this marking the start of the annual Wings Appeal.

The battle, which saw the German Luftwaffe suffer its first major defeat during WW2 at the hands of the RAF, was a significant reversal of fortune for the Germans, following a string of victories during WW2, which saw most of Europe overrun and conquered.

It was arguably the turning point in the war, which would eventually lead to the victory of the Allies over the Axis forces and the freeing of Europe.

The service, which was organised by the Royal Air Forces Association, was led by Canon Mark Dimond and was attended by Deputy Lord Lieutenant Gp Capt Stewart Blackburn, the Mayor of the BCKLWN Cllr Andy Bullen, the MP for West Norfolk James Wild, together with representatives of the Armed Forces, Police, Cadets and Veterans associations

It was followed by a reception at the Bridge for Heroes Veterans Charity contact centre.

Sedgeford Summer Fayre

Jacqueline Sindle

As yet another Sedgeford fayre finishes I would like to thank everyone who took part. The raffle held at the Fayre was in aid of the RNLI and we raised £183.76.

I would like to thank those businesses who very kindly donated prizes - Horizon Gift Shop in Hunstanton, Thaxters Garden Centre, Tesco in Heacham and Hunstanton and the Lifeboat Inn at Thornham.

The shops, too many to individually name, who displayed our posters as far as King's Lynn, Dersingham, Snettisham, Heacham, Ringstead, Sedgeford, Hunstanton and Thornham; we thank you for your contribution.

A special thank you also goes to the crew who provided lovely homemade refreshments throughout the day and raised over £300 towards the maintenance of St Mary Church in Sedgeford and also to Lucy Fox who as well as manning her own stall, more or less single handedly ran the raffle stall (sorry I didn't help more Lucy).

It was lovely to have the support of and see so many members of the RNLI visit the fayre and a special thank you goes to Jacqueline Merrills.

Finally a big thank you to all stall holders who as well as some beautiful and well crafted items donated raffle prizes.

Thank you Elaine and Richard Bird for your continued support; it is very much appreciated. A lot of "thank you's" I know but without the support of these people our fayres would not be of the standard and as successful as they are.

Our next Fayre is in aid of East Anglia Children's Hospice and will take place on 23rd November at Sedgeford Village Hall.

Brancaster Baby and Toddler Group



THE Brancaster Baby and Toddler Group (BBTG) has had a highly successful year at Brancaster Village Hall. The Group has gone from strength to strength, thanks to the tireless energy and commitment of organiser Annie - which is all the more remarkable as she gave birth to her third child, a baby girl, just over two months ago.

The numbers attending BBTG have increased throughout the year, and approximately fifteen children, together with their parents/carers, are regular members. The Group continues to offer outstanding opportunities for children and their parents/carers to socialise, and for the latter to exchange advice and provide mutual support. The youngsters benefit enormously from playing and learning in a friendly, relaxed and informal environment, which also provides safety and security.

Thanks to generous donations from the Brancaster Group Parish News and Brancaster Parish Council, BBTG has been able to purchase a wide range of toys, games and essential equipment, including a sensory table, a mini trampoline, slides, floor mats and a new reading corner: on Tuesday mornings the Hall really does look like an Aladdin's cave!

Over the last year, funding has also enabled BBTG to offer special sessions during the holidays and on other occasions; in October, there was a hugely popular and enjoyable Halloween event, and at Easter, an enormously successful multi-activity morning. The Group has also

been able to offer music, dance, magic and role-play sessions, bringing in specialist organisations such as Hartbeeps and Go Awesome.

BBTG has continued to operate its Swap Shop, where parents/carers bring along any clothes, toys and books, suitable for 0-5-year-olds, which they are happy to pass on. All items are free of charge, so that parents/carers can take what they can use.

The Group meets on a flexible basis on Tuesday mornings from 9.30am to 11.30am. No booking is required: sessions are just £2.00 per family, which includes a generous snack for the children and hot drinks and biscuits for parents/carers. Do come along - you will be assured of a very warm welcome.

Looking to the future, BBTG will continue with its special events during holiday periods and would be delighted to hear from any individual or organisation that would like to present a session of interest to this age group. Annie can be contacted on 07813 459049, if you would like further details.



Snettisham RBL needs YOU

Many readers will be familiar with the sight of the iconic RBL Hall located in Church Road but not many may be aware that the future of the RBL Hall is under threat and far from guaranteed. Built over a hundred years ago by former armed service personnel returning home after the conflicts of World War 11 on land provided by Sir Stephen Lycett Green, with materials provided free by local farmers and businesses, as a place for village families to socialise and relax in peace for as long as there remains an active RBL branch in the village of Snettisham. This reality now faces an uncertain future.

The RBL Branch is keen to hear from any persons, (male and female), willing to help increase the Branch membership numbers.

You do not have to have served in the armed forces to become an RBL member, the only basic criteria is being over 17 years of age. Membership costs £22 per year. Members receive a quarterly magazine and allocate themselves to a choice of 4 Branches of their choice. (Hopefully to include Snettisham).

For information on RBL membership email memberships@britishlegion.org.uk For an informal chat about joining the Snettisham Branch contact Acting Chair, Eric Langford 01485 541515 or Treasurer, Derek Phillips 07580 176466

The Annual General Meeting of the Snettisham RBL Branch is at 7-30pm on Wednesday 8th October, held at the RBL Hall in Church Road.

Members of the Public are allowed at Branch meetings, so why not come along to see what we do and decide if you would like to join?

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Do you run a business?

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Whether you run an established business, an ambitious start-up or you're an enterprising sole trader, the New Anglia Growth Hub offers vital support.

The Growth Hub, run by Norfolk County Council, provides expert coaching and practical workshops, as well as signposting owners and managers towards information about grants, finance and other specialist advice. Its team of advisers aim to help businesses to innovate and thrive in these tough economic times.

Since launching in 2014, it has supported over 7,000 enterprises in Norfolk – and you could be next!

Right now, businesses in King's Lynn and West Norfolk can apply for grants through the Rural England Prosperity Fund, delivered by the Growth Hub.

Grants between £10,000 and £100,000 are available, and you can apply for up to 50 per cent of the total cost of your proposed project. Projects that could be funded include:

- Plant, equipment or premises to improve business productivity, help engage in new markets or support innovation.
- Diversification for farmers entering new markets such as leisure and tourism.
- Introduction of new technologies or processes.
- Projects that will create job opportunities.



Earlier this year, Sam Coates, of environmental management company SCS East Anglia Ltd, based at Manor Farm, near King's Lynn, received a £31,250 grant from the Rural England Prosperity Fund which meant they could purchase a specialist river boat for a tree removal project.

The business needed to reduce and remove trees on a Site of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI), which could only be accessed by boat. The team were also asked to take on new work to remove invasive seaweed at a Natural England site in Northumberland, something it didn't previously have the equipment to do.

Sam said: "Thanks to the grant, we were able to purchase a new boat, and this has had an immediate effect on new business generation."

Curious to find out how the Growth Hub could benefit your business too?

Call 0300 333 6536 or visit www.newangliagrowthhub.co.uk

Coming up in October

Throughout October, the Growth Hub will be running workshops to help business owners develop skills in social media, public speaking, the use of AI, and much more. To keep up to date with all future and free training opportunities, sign up to the Growth Hub newsletter www.newangliagrowthhub.co.uk/newsletter

Thursday 9th October: Chat to Growth Hub advisors at the B2B Exhibition at the Norfolk Showground, organised by Norfolk Chamber of Commerce, and learn more about business support and funding.

Norfolk manager celebrates 20 years with family-run company

A Norfolk home care company manager is marking two decades of leading from the front to ensure both staff and service users are prioritised at all times, including during the difficult pandemic years.



Jo is celebrating being a manager for Extra Hands for two decades, but has been part of the industry for 34 years and still loves her role ensuring that quality of care comes first.

And it was the Covid years that still stand out for Jo as, while everyone else locked themselves in, the carers continued working during a time of uncertainty and ensured the service users were safe and supported.

"We were all completely in the dark about how this thing would play out, but we just did the best we could and got on with the job!"

A true EastEnders, Jo hails from Stepney and went to school in Tower Hamlets, but admits that she was without any real ambition when she left.

"I worked at an insurance company in central London through a Youth Training Scheme and they offered me a permanent position. I very quickly realised that commuting by train every day was certainly not for me. I then moved onto floristry and attended college in Tottenham - I was told I was very creative and talented with flowers!" she said.

When her first son was a toddler, Jo started working in a care home and found her true vocation.

"I absolutely loved it, I worked my way up to senior carer, and then a registered manager and studied at Enfield College to get a care management qualification."

She moved to Cromer having had a second son and 'stumbled on' Extra Hands advertising for a manager for the Broadland office in Horsham St Faith and decided to apply to the family-owned business which also has an office in Heacham.

Moving away from the front line was strange at first, but Jo thrived on the challenges of managing and has never looked back.

"During my years in domiciliary care, I have seen so many changes, some good, some bad. I am very thankful that I work for a company that puts quality first because that's how I like to work, putting people before profit."

"We are blessed to have such a committed team of care staff, many of whom have been with Extra Hands for many years. We want to recruit the same kind of people; honest, committed and caring - these are the key qualities."

"It's important to value staff, they are our biggest asset. The training at Extra Hands is exceptional and we are always looking at how we can improve for our service user and care staff. I'm lucky to have a great, committed training manager working alongside me."

Changes in technology have changed the world of domiciliary care as it has every other profession and communication above all else has benefited greatly, and Jo said Extra Hands was an early adopter of the advances.

"I have a great team and I feel they respect my values and what I want to achieve for the people we support. Extra Hands, being family owned, makes the difference between valuing people and seeing you as a number, we are all so much more than that here."

Credit Barking Dog Media/Ian Burt

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Saturday 4th October - Quiz Night

Monday 6th October - Coffee & Brandy at 10am

Saturday 18th October - Music Night with The Haley Brothers Duo

Regular Events

Yoga for U3A members on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Mondays : Strength and Balance Class 4.30pm.

Tuesdays: Cash Bingo starts at 7.30pm

Wednesdays : 10am-12pm (Fortnightly) U3A Chess Group.

Scrabble 10am, Whist Drive 7pm.

Fridays : NIA at 12.30. Prize Raffle 1pm. Cash Bingo at 7.30pm.

Saturdays : 'Open the Box' draw at 1pm.

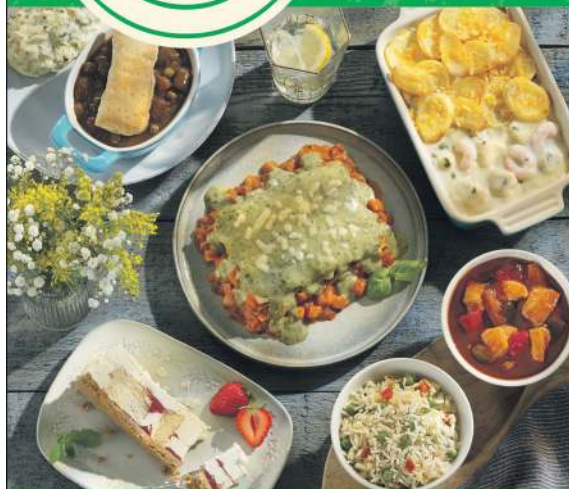
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Heritage Open Day - King's Lynn

Ian Burt

The King's Lynn Heritage Open Day was held on Sunday (14th September), organised by the King's Lynn Civic Society. The event is the chance to have a sneak peek at wonderful, historic buildings not normally open to the public & to discover some of the town's rarely seen symbolic treasures, with exciting experiences that bring local history and culture to life.



Joanna Lockwood & Stephanie Burkett

The town was buzzing with activity as the annual Classic Car Day was held with over 200 exhibitor spaces. Wardens guided visitors through the tunnels of the World War II Air Raid Shelter under the Tuesday Market Place. It is a popular attraction, and the event features an immersive live air raid simulation experience hosted by The Bridge for Heroes.



East Norfolk Militia

Morris Dancers jubilantly entertained the crowds, colourful re-enactors were positioned around the town and there was lots of live music to enjoy. On Purfleet Quay, East Norfolk Militia performed musket displays next to the Custom House, which was built in 1685.

If some places seemed a bit far to walk, a ride on vintage buses was free for everyone.



The Walks hosted a miniature train, a falconry display & The Knights of Skirbeck had set up an encampment with displays of armoury and weaponry near the 15th century Red Mount Chapel.



Mike Willis from Fens Falconry with Phoenix, a Saker Falcon



Cllr Andy Bullen, Mayor of King's Lynn and West Norfolk in the air raid shelter under the Tuesday Market Place

Mayor of King's Lynn & West Norfolk, Cllr Andy Bullen told Town & Around "What a wonderful event Heritage Open Day is and it is definitely a highlight on the calendar. I've met so many people from out of town, some from as far away as Windsor and Sunderland and

they've all said how remarkable the day is".

Heritage Open Day is England's most popular voluntary cultural event and is also held in a further 48 countries across Europe.



Kentwell Players (L) Emma Mordue & Liz Woolnough



Corn Exchange staff (L) Sarah Dignam & Emily Clark



All photos: Ian Burt

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EQUITY RELEASE MADE SIMPLE



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Evergreen Equity Release Solutions
27-28 Tuesday Market Place, King's Lynn, PE30 1JJ
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www.evergreenequity.co.uk
info@evergreenequity.co.uk

Evergreen Equity Release Solutions is a trading style of Barrett Batchelor Mortgage Services LLP, and is a Limited Liability Partnership. Registered in England and Wales number: OC367701. Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

News from The Barking Bugle!

A Capital Adventure Beyond Hunstanton



Hello, dear readers! Miss Zsa Zsa here, your four-pawed correspondent from Hunstanton. You might be wondering why a dog from our lovely seaside town is wagging her tail about Norwich. Well, most dogs need to stretch their legs beyond the cliffs and sandy beaches sometimes and Norwich is a pawsome city full of parks, historic buildings and shops! Every time we visit, my humans and I are amazed at how many places welcome dogs. I've sniffed out the best spots, so grab your leashes and follow me for a paws-itively perfect day out in Norwich.

Main Attraction - Norwich Cathedral

Even us dogs get the red carpet treatment at Norwich Cathedral! This 900-year-old Norman masterpiece is a treat for both humans and pups. Wander the medieval cloisters, sniff around historic sites, or roam the 44 acres of surrounding green space. Perfect for a riverside stroll and picnics.

Entrance is free, guided tours are free and donations are appreciated.

Shopping - Woof friendly retail therapy

For doggies who love a sniff-and-shop adventure, Norwich has plenty of dog-friendly stores. Jarrold's Department Store, dating back to the 1770s, has five floors to explore. John Lewis, Waterstones, and many of the quirky independent shops in Norwich Lanes roll out the welcome mat for dogs. Even the market in the city centre is paw-approved!

After a shopping spree, take a breather at Chapelfield Gardens, a central park where dogs on leads are free to stretch their legs.

Walks - Paw-tastic Adventurers

Explore Norwich on paw! The Cathedral and Castle Walk takes about 1.5 hours and covers iconic landmarks plus the pretty cobbled Elm Hill.

For those with a taste for the spooky, Norwich Ghost Walks allow leashed dogs to join tales of poltergeists and lost spirits. Feeling adventurous on the water? Pub & Paddle rents canoes and kayaks (dogs ride free—just bring your own life jacket!).

Parks - the best green spaces

Sainsbury Centre Sculpture Park: dogs can roam 350 acres of grounds filled with stunning art. Entry is free.

Eaton Park: 80 acres of trails, a bandstand, boating lake and dog-friendly café—ideal for long leg stretches.

Earlham Park: woods, riverside paddles and a dog-friendly café make it perfect for sniffing adventures.

Mousehold Heath: 184 acres of woodland and fields with amazing skyline views. Follow the Earth Heritage Trail for a sniff of history.

Cinema - Movie time for Mutts!

Yes, dogs can enjoy the big screen too! Cinema City on St Andrews Street hosts dog-friendly screenings, usually Sunday mornings, complete with fleece blankets for comfy paws. Book early—as these events sell out fast!

Dining Out

Norwich is packed with dog-friendly eateries:

Slice & Dice: vegan board game café, human-friendly, pup-approved.

Cranberry's Café: home of Toby the retriever, welcoming dogs since 2016.

Olives & Woods Coffee Bar: all-day breakfast spots where dogs get free treats and puppuccinos.

The Bicycle Shop & The Garnet Pub: free treats for dogs.

Redwell Brewing: a brewery garden where we are welcome everywhere!

Whether you're sniffing out history, hunting for treats, or strolling the green parks, Norwich is a totally pawsome place to visit. If you go, have fun and do let us know!

Woofs Miss Zsa Zsa - Repawting for the Barking Bugle visit www.thebarkingbugle.co.uk

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Hunstanton Charity Shop fuels outdoor learning at Ingoldisthorpe School



A wave of excitement has swept through Ingoldisthorpe School's nursery and Reception classes, thanks to a generous donation from Hunstanton Charity Shop that has helped to transform the school's outdoor learning environment.

The local charity shop, known for its commitment to community enrichment, recently donated a substantial sum to the school, enabling the purchase of a wide array of high-quality outdoor resources. From climbing cubes and construction stations to imaginative small world equipment, the new additions have turned the outdoor area into a vibrant hub of exploration and creativity.

"We are incredibly grateful to Hunstanton Charity Shop for their kindness," said Jacqueline Patnell, Head of Early Years. "The children are absolutely thriving. They're outdoors every day, engaging with the equipment, building confidence, and developing key skills through play."



Staff have noted a marked increase in enthusiasm and engagement among the youngest pupils, who now spend much of their time outside, immersed in activities that support physical development, social interaction, and imaginative thinking.

The donation reflects a growing recognition of the importance of outdoor learning in early childhood education. Research consistently shows that access to outdoor play enhances cognitive development, emotional well-being, and resilience in young children.

Hunstanton Charity Shop's contribution is not only a gift to the school—it's an investment in the future of the community. With the new resources now in full use, Ingoldisthorpe School's outdoor area has become a beacon of what can be achieved when community spirit meets educational vision.



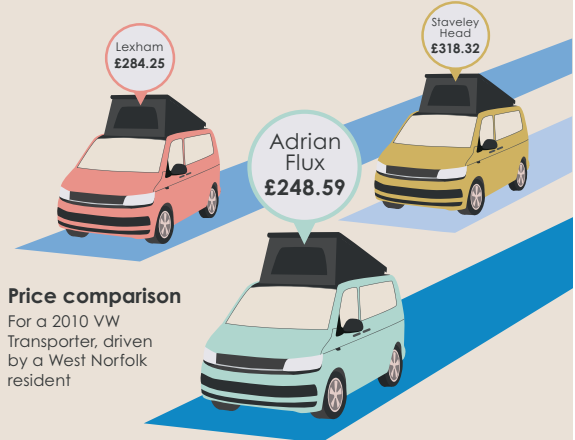
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CAMPAIGNS - People Power Improves King Charles III Coastal Trail

County Councillor Alexandra Kemp, Clenchwarton and King's Lynn South Division including West Lynn.
Borough Council, South and West Lynn Ward

These boots were made for walking! Generations of West Lynn, Clenchwarton, South Lynn and Borough residents, have trodden the fantastic panoramic route atop the riverbank above the sparkling River Ouse, into the town centre. The South Lynn side has a tarmac footpath, the section from the Ferry to West Lynn Football Field was surfaced at the Millennium, leaving the final section to the Bridge as unimproved grass, impassable in winter. It has long been residents' ambition to complete the route with a proper surface



Norse started the works this morning. Today, 12 September, West Lynn residents and I were out on the last section of grassy footpath celebrating. After a long community fight to improve walking connections between Lynn's historic riverfront and the two town communities each side of the river.



The work entails surfacing the remaining 1181 linear metres section from West Lynn Football Field to the Freebridge to make it accessible all year round in all weathers for all abilities.

It shouldn't be this difficult to surface a footpath, that's now part of an international walking trail, the King Charles III Coastal Trail, which ticks all the boxes - disability access, Active Travel, Climate Change, Health. But it was.

We had to demonstrate community support. I wrote a special Transport Survey and took it round West Lynn. Residents had a petition, a protest, created a Campaign Group, sent a deputation to the CIL Committee.

I had to put the case to have the local Community Infrastructure funding rules



aligned with the national rules. I obtained the Environment Agency's in principle agreement to the project last July.

The Borough Council Community Infrastructure Panel awarded West Lynn £287,000 last Autumn. I "match-funded" this with £5,000 from my County Councillor Member Highways Budget.

Obstacles in the way were relentless. We were haunted by history: County Council Boundaries Team said it was illegal to surface the current path, as it had been diverted from the original public footpath in 1904, when a new seawall was built. So, the County Council Legal Orders Team had to ask the Environment Agency Solicitors for a Deed of Dedication to officially change the public footpath route.

Then the width of the footpath had to be agreed, so that the Environment Agency maintenance vehicles could ride astride it.

The Summer came. Norse mobilised the workforce. We were ready to go. County made the Order to close the footpath for the works to start the third week in July.

Then the call came from County Hall, when I was on the Riverbank. The work couldn't start. Because the Environment Agency was "reviewing the project", said the officer. I stared into the phone. Reviewing the project? What are they reviewing the project for? I have the EA's consent in writing. It turned out that the County Council had started the Flood Permit application in February, a two-month process - but the Government changed the Permitting system in March. Transferred the local scheme to a national scheme. That now takes over 6 months and then some. All the information given to the local and regional team had not found its way to the national office. So much duplication when Government wants to streamline local government to cut out duplication. Unbelievable. So, over the past 7 weeks, I have contacted the Environment Agency every day, working with the County Project Manager, and had West Lynn put on the fast track. The Flood Permit was granted last

week. The Compound Licence was agreed and Deed of Dedication sealed.

I would like to thank all the County and Borough Officers, who have worked so hard, to bring the project to delivery. Super teamwork to deliver infrastructure and improve the lives of residents, the *raison d'être* for local government. This is why I don't agree with Local Government Reorganisation in Norfolk. Will it slow down delivery and be a costly bureaucratic mistake, like the Government's new National Flood Permitting Scheme? Reorganisation in Norfolk is not worth risking the loss of experienced staff and local knowledge in small agile skilled teams at the County and Borough Council. Tearing apart dedicated teams would be rearranging the deckchairs on the Titanic.

But the West Lynn Footpath is a real victory for better disability access, for young families with prams and buggies, for everyone.

Alexandra's Landline: 01553 630329
Mobile: 07920 286636



For many, Indian cuisine has become a familiar comfort, a go-to takeaway that delivers a reliable punch of flavour. But for the true enthusiast, the search for an authentic, transportive dining experience is an ongoing quest. That journey can end at The Spice Garden in Heacham.

Award winning chef Jamil Ahmed took over the Spice Garden earlier this year having worked in Bangladesh, Cornwall and Downham Market over the past twenty years.



As you walk through the door of the Spice Garden the air, alive with the scent of toasted spices and simmering onions, is the first indication that something special is being prepared.

Jamil's menu is refreshing. He offers a focused, curated selection that respects regional favourites together with original dishes he has created for the Spice Garden including Mozadar, a chicken dish that is marinated overnight and barbecued then cooked with fresh ginger, onions and green chillies in a spicy hot sauce.

The menu is a story of India itself, with



Jamil Ahmed with his wife Mahbuba and their two-year-old Ayana

dishes that highlight the unique cooking techniques and ingredients from different states.

For starters, do not miss the mixed kebab. For those with a taste for something rich and creamy, the North Indian staples shine. The lamb rogan josh is a masterful slow-cooked dish, and vegetarians will delight in the chef's take on a simple vegetable curry or the yellow dal, which, as experts note, is the true test of a kitchen's skill.

Small details matter and this starts with the condiments, which are all made in-house. The chutneys and pickles are vibrant and fresh, showcasing a chef who takes immense pride in every element of the meal.

The Spice Garden reminds us that Indian food is more than just 'curry';

it is a diverse and regional cuisine that deserves to be celebrated. It's a restaurant for those who want to feel the warmth, taste the tradition, and experience good, honest cooking.



The popular Banquet nights at £16.50 per person are every Thursday from 5pm-11pm and the Sunday Special from noon to 5pm is just £13.95 per person. Booking is recommended for both.

Prefer to eat at home? The Spice Garden offers take-away and a delivery service too.



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Thousands enjoy Sea Shanty Festival in Brancaster Staithe

Dani Crawshaw

More than 20 groups performed at the 5 venues; organisers say this year was 'off the scale'.



Freddie's Barnet with one of the organisers Sue Ireson T&A

"It's been really busy, the roads have been packed," Skip tells me, he's been helping out with parking at the village hall - where I can hear shanties being sung. At the doorway is James Cooper-Watson, who's part of a trio called Freddie's Barnet and has performed at all 5 venues (Village Hall, Jolly Sailors, The White Horse, St Mary's Church at Burnham Deepdale and Deepdale Camping).

"It's been wonderful, Brancaster Staithe is one of our favourite festivals, because it's so friendly and lovely to do, we do all the other big festivals around the country - but this is where our heart is."

He walks with me to the Jolly Sailor and introduces father and son Steve and Sam Ireson, who're part the team who organise the event, and also sing in Nelson's Shantymen. Steve says, "It's been off the scale this year, it keeps growing every year and getting better and better all the time - we are really pleased. We've got some new groups this year and we've just talked to some of them who want to get booked in ready for 2026."

Sam says 'it means the world' to see people enjoying themselves, adding, "Especially when it's all for charity as well, our main aim was to bring the community together and raise money for charity. Hopefully it'll keep on growing - roll on next year!"

More than 20 acts performed over the 3 days, and money raised goes to the local RNLI and the National Coastwatch Institution, which operates a look-out station on the nearby beach.

The Wellington Wailers from West Sussex are about to sing - before the group takes to the stage I get a chance to speak to a few of them. John Charlish, who was born in Great Yarmouth, says, "It's a really great little festival, everybody's so friendly, we know some of the other groups and there're just loads of really nice people."



Nelson's Shantymen on stage at the White Horse.

Credit: RNLI/Chris Bishop

25 year old Charlie Planson is the youngest member by 'a reasonable amount' he jokes. I ask what it's like to sing shanties, "It's quite invigorating in a way, quite freeing, it's hard to put it into words but when you're up on stage with everyone else, and you're all harmonising, and you're all together - it's - and this sounds really corny - it's a warming feeling, it's pretty incredible to be honest."

I'll be honest too, I only thought I'd stay for a few songs and move to another venue - but I stayed for the whole set. The crowd getting out of their seats and joining in, especially when they performed 'Drunken Sailor'.



Wellington Wailers T&A

I spot a lady in her 80's avidly singing along, and make my way to her to have a chat. Angie, who's followed the group from Sussex, tells me she's their biggest fan. When I asked what she loves about shanties, she laughs and says, "The entertainment, the history and the men!" Brilliant.

Sue from Oxford, who's dressed as a pirate, says, "It's just good fun isn't it, have an ale or two - sing the sea shanties, amazing."

And as I walk out with a smile on my face - having sung along and danced - I am already thinking about booking a babysitter for next year so I can make the most of the 3 day festival.

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Hunstanton Eyecare news

Heraclitus, a Greek Philosopher some 2500 years ago said, "Change is the only constant in life", and how right he was. Since we were acquired by Dipple & Conway, we have transferred to the new computer system to make us paperless, although I must confess that I still hanker after a pen and a post-it note, those colourful little reminders of something important!

Anyway, there are some important changes to tell you about. The first is that we are re-introducing opening the practice on Saturday, from



9.00am to 4.00pm, there could be a lunch-break in there somewhere. Now we are part of a larger Dipple & Conway team, an Optometrist and Dispensing optician from other practices will come to Sunny Hunny, but probably not every Saturday. Nicky has stepped up to an extra day so you will see a familiar face at the reception desk. The only reason we abandoned Saturday was that after my accident falling down the stairs and being off for four months, we didn't have staff to cover the day. When I returned, we couldn't get Optometrist cover for Saturday so thought it best to consolidate our working week.

The second good change is that we are resuming the Hearing Clinic as from Monday 29th September. Sylvia Kewish is our new audiologist, and that's about all I can tell you at the moment. I'm sure she will be lovely as we only employ lovely people!

There is a third development. As many of you will know, my specialist subject is Low Vision, and I have been going on and on about having a Low Vision service easily accessible in our practices for those whose sight is not A1. Although at Hunstanton I have my collection of magnifiers and all sorts of low vision aids, we are the sole practice in the area, as my profession is just not catching on to this great idea. However, it appears Dipple and Conway are getting the message, and this afternoon I went to chat to Hazel, the Dispensing Optician Manager at the Swaffham branch. Hazel is very keen to stock low vision aids and offer a good service, so I will get on and order the kit. So, we have two out of the five practices on board, and as I now have an ally, I'm sure we can persuade the rest of the group in time. "Slowly, slowly, catchee monkey", I read that this phrase is an old English proverb, likely to have originated from African or Caribbean cultures, and popularized by the late Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts, amazing what you find out writing for T&A!

We look forward to seeing you soon.

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Wendy Warner's plant of the month - Pyracantha

Autumn brings with it some of the richest colours in the garden, from turning leaves to ripening fruits and berries. Pyracantha has an abundance of magnificent flaming red, orange or yellow berries in autumn and early winter, and sharp thorns – hence its common name of 'firethorn'.

Pyracantha is a versatile, evergreen shrub with small, dark green, glossy foliage giving year-round interest. As well as the berries, it is laden with attractive, small white blossom in spring. It can be grown at the back of a border or as a specimen plant in a lawn, to develop into a large bushy shrub. Although not an actual climber, it can be trained along a fence or wall on supports such as trellis or vine eyes and wires to give a dense, evergreen covering. If training Pyracantha along a wall or fence, plant at least 50cm out from the wall to avoid the dry area at the base. It can be grown as a prickly intruder-proof hedge where there's sufficient space to produce bushy growth.

They are particularly beneficial in wildlife friendly gardens, where the clusters of flowers attract bees and butterflies and the dense evergreen foliage is used by birds for nesting and shelter and the berries for food.

Pyracanthas flower and fruit best in a position that gets full sun or partial shade, but still perform well in shade. Berrying can be reduced in shady sites, including against

north-facing walls. They are suitable for most moderately fertile garden soils including very dry, free-draining soils, and heavy clays, as long as they are not prone to waterlogging. Watering is required to help plants establish in the first couple of years after planting, especially with our increasingly dry summers. After this establishment period, watering is seldom required although those near a wall may need some extra watering in dry spells. Mulch in the autumn with a good layer of well-rotted garden compost or manure and apply a general purpose fertiliser such as bonemeal or fish, blood and bone. As well as adding nutrients to the soil, this will reduce water loss from the soil. Most varieties will reach a mature height of 2.5m but can be pruned robustly to a manageable size, dependent on the garden's requirement.

Unlike other berried plants like holly and skimmia, pyracantha do not require male and female plants to produce berries as they are self-fertilising.

Although there are many varieties of Firethorn, most are very similar. For yellow berries choose from Pyracantha 'Saphyr Jaune', 'Golden Charmer' or 'Soleil d'or'. Popular red varieties are Pyracantha coccinea 'Red Star', 'Red Column' or 'Saphyr Rouge' and for orange Pyracantha 'Orange Glow' or 'Saphyr Orange'. If you are looking for a specific colour berry it is best to choose your plants when they are in berry in the autumn.



Pyracantha Golden Charmer



Pyracantha Red Star



Pyracantha Orange Glow



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Downham Market and District Horticultural Society

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Downham Market & District Horticultural Society had a busy start to September. On Sunday 7 September we had a plant and information stall at Upwell Village Fete and Dog Show. There were about 30 local stalls in total – a mixture of crafts, charity stalls, and tempting locally-produced food and drink, but the highlight was the Dog Show, with many cute entries in numerous classes. We had taken some home-made dog biscuits (recipe courtesy of the RSPCA) and these went down very well with our four-legged friends, as did our colourful, home-made doggy bandanas.

The weather was warm and sunny, but the strong wind was the bane on our lives. After struggling to keep our large display board the right way up, in desperation we tried setting it up at the back of one of our members' vans. This proved to be a good move as it was more eye-catching (and more stable) in the van than balanced, precarious and wobbling, on our stall!

We were delighted to meet several prospective new members – that's the good thing about these stalls: getting our name out there and making connections.

The following evening was our monthly meeting, and we were delighted to welcome Jo and Simon from Phoenix Bird of Prey Rescue, and five of their beautiful birds of prey. The charity was set up 12 years ago for the rescue and rehabilitation of sick and injured wild birds of



Spectacled owl with Jo

prey. It has grown steadily, yet remains fully manned by volunteers. The charity gets its funding through shows, talks and donations. With vets bills, food and other crucial items being so expensive, fundraising is vital. If anyone is interested in having Phoenix Rescue attend an event or provide a talk at their club, please contact them on phoenix_rescue@hotmail.co.uk. If you find an injured bird of prey and are able to capture it safely, please place it in a box and keep it somewhere warm while you contact the charity on their hotline number: 07914 661385.

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

Hunstanton In Bloom - It's Gold

Adrian Winnington, Chairman of Hunstanton In Bloom

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to help Hunstanton achieve a Gold Award and Best Coastal 2025 Trophy in this year's Anglia In Bloom campaign. Members of the committee received the awards at the Anglia In Bloom Awards Ceremony at St Ives, Cambridgeshire, which was attended by over 200 people from all six counties of the Anglia region. Three of our "Specials" entries also received a Certificate of Nomination in their categories: Redgate Roundabout (Sustainable Gardening), Floral Display by an Individual (Moss Bakery), Commercial Area (Town Centre).



with new ideas. Also if anyone from other places in West Norfolk thinks that they might like to set up an In Bloom group in their community just get in touch with myself or visit the Anglia In Bloom website:



www.angliainbloom.co.uk
adrianwinnington@btinternet.com
07775643877



The three judges who visited Hunstanton on a hot sunny day in July thoroughly enjoyed their visit and gave very favourable feedback in their written report. Some of their comments were:

- "Fantastic planters and good use of volunteers to support the Council team"
- "Great pride in the local heritage of the area"
- "The wider environment is well supported

encouraging wildlife to make Hunstanton their home"

- "The support from local businesses was evident and help with new ideas as well as supporting existing projects"
- "A highlight of the tour was the Mens Shed.

A dedicated group who want to support groups in the town from their very well-appointed 'Shed'

The judges closing remark was:

- "Overall this is a town which embraces its coastal roots and wants to be seen at its best for the huge number of visitors but also to be a haven of community for the residents."

Committee members will have the opportunity to meet and discuss with the judges at the Anglia In Bloom Autumn Seminar in November. At our committee meeting later that month we will be making plans for our 2026 campaign. If anyone thinks they might like to join us for that we are always pleased to welcome new members



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Three special gardens to visit in October

What a summer it has been and it's not all over yet. Three very interesting gardens are open this month and cannot fail to provide inspiration for all garden owners. Hindringham Hall which has appeared in several garden magazines recently is situated north of Fakenham. The huge and popular gardens at East Ruston Old Vicarage have spectacular containers to die for, and near Norwich is East Carleton Manor which is a garden to be enjoyed by all ages.

Sat 11th October

Hindringham Hall, Blacksmith Lane, Hindringham, NR21 0QA (10.00-16.00) Adm £10, Chd free.

Light refreshments inc hot soup and sausage rolls as well as teas, in aid of Hindringham Church.

Delightful garden which surrounds a moated Grade II Tudor Manor (not open). Working vegetable garden, Victorian nut walk, formal beds, bog and stream gardens. Wheelchair access. No dogs.

Saturday 18th October

East Ruston Old Vicarage, Norwich NR12 9HN (12.00-5.30) Adm £14.50, Chd £2.

Light Refreshments. Rare and unusual plants abound in these 32 acres, giving all year-round interest. Great variety of different and interesting types of areas which include walled, rose, fruit, vegetable and cutting, as well as topiary and box parterres. Mediterranean and exotic, wonderful water features and spectacularly planted containers. Wheelchair access. No dogs.

Saturday 25th October

East Carleton Manor, Rectory Road, East Carleton, Norwich, NR14 8JY 10-4, adm £10.00, chd free. Pre-booking essential. Home-made teas and refreshments in aid of Priscilla Bacon Hospice. Partial wheelchair access. No dogs.

A 10-acre garden designed and planted in the 1960s for autumn colour, with many interesting trees and shrubs. Summerhouse with a knot garden, a walled garden with a hydrangea border. Moon gate and Italian garden. Water circulates through smaller ponds into a lake with water lilies.

Snettisham Gardening Club

By the time you read this the memories of the Village Summer Fayre will be fading - it was very successful and our plant stall made £130.00 to send to E A C H, so our thanks to all who contributed plants, helped on the day and bought our plants. Thank you

At our September meeting we had an interesting talk by Sally Bate from the Norfolk Garden Trust explaining their work in trying to establish how many properties in Norfolk benefited from the expertise of Capability Brown. Our September meeting was a produce show by members followed by an auction of the entries and a share a plate for refreshments. Our meeting in the Memorial Hall, Old Church Road on 29th October will be to welcome Martin Shone who will speak about the life cycle of Willow and give a Weaving Demonstration.

Our final meeting for 2025 will be the annual Hog Roast on 26th November. There is a charge for this and as always visitors and guests are welcome to join us. Reservation and payment is required for this evening by at the latest Friday 21st November.

For any further information please call Gail on 01485 541279 or Addie on 01485 544754.

Old Hunstanton Flower Festival 2026 - Friday-Sunday 24th-26th July 2026

For your diaries: The date of next year's Flower Festival has been confirmed as Friday-Sunday 24-26 July 2026. Over 100 villagers are involved in making this event such a success. If you would like to join us next year please drop Simon Carter an email at simoncarter920@btinternet.com.

Mudpies and Butterflies

Louise Barby, Balanis

October can feel like the garden is winding down, but it's also one of the best moments to add bursts of colour and structure. Enjoy the Autumn sunshine while tending your garden, or walking around the neighborhood for inspiration for next spring in your own garden.

It is the month when the garden shifts into its autumn cloak. Mists soften outlines, seed-heads turn architectural, and colour bursts from trees before they shed their leaves. It's a moment for both work and reflection. Here's how to make the most of it, with tasks for your borders, lawn, and wildlife, alongside inspiration from celebrated autumn gardens and designers.

Essential Jobs for October

1. Borders & Beds

- Cut back spent perennials – but leave some seedheads (verbena, echinacea, grasses) standing for both beauty and birds.
- Lift tender plants such as dahlias and cannas in colder areas, storing them frost-free.

- Plant spring-flowering bulbs – tulips, daffodils, alliums. Plant them in bold drifts for the painterly effect Piet Oudolf often achieves in his naturalistic schemes.

- Divide congested perennials to invigorate plants and increase stock.

2. Trees & Shrubs

- Plant new trees while soil is still warm and moist. This is the best season for establishing fruit trees, roses, and hardy shrubs.

- Prune climbing roses once flowering is over, tying in new stems.

3. Lawn & Leaves

- Rake fallen leaves regularly – make leaf mould piles in mesh bags or bins; this “black gold” is the finest mulch.

- Mow less often – reducing cuts gives grass a chance to toughen up before winter.

Injecting Colour & Structure Now

Autumn doesn't have to mean fading tones. You can intensify your garden's character right now:

- Add structure with shrubs: Cornus alba or Cornus sanguinea (dogwoods) for fiery stems revealed once leaves drop; Ilex crenata or clipped yew for evergreen punctuation.

- Plant for late-season flowers: Asters, Anemone japonica, and Sedum 'Autumn Joy' carry jewel tones into the frosts.

- Use ornamental grasses: Miscanthus, Calamagrostis, and Pennisetum stand tall, their seedheads glowing in low sunlight.

- Choose small trees with dramatic foliage: Acer griseum (paperbark maple) with its cinnamon bark, Liquidambar styraciflua (sweet gum) for rich reds, or the reliable Amelanchier for flame-orange autumn leaves.

- Pot displays: Switch summer annuals for autumn containers – heucheras, cyclamen and trailing ivy to frame entrances or patios.

All this will help your garden carry drama and beauty well into winter.

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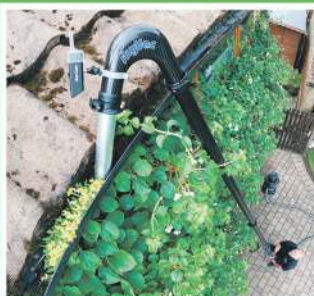
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Borough Council news

Cllr Terry Parish, Heacham Ward which includes Sedgeford and Fring

I am writing this in the first half of September so my apologies if significant things have happened by the time you read the article.

Hot news at the moment is the proposed sale of Borough land at North Beach, Heacham, which is leased to beach hut owners. The Borough's case was that the rent received (105 x £730) /year Inc. VAT, was offset by site maintenance costs (owners wonder what maintenance) and the charges involved in negotiating new 10-year leases next Spring. The officer estimate of this was in excess of £100K which appeared nonsensical to some. Effectively, the business wasn't making a cent and was about to cost more. Coupled to this was the Borough's assertion that retaining the site would subject the council to 'further high-profile criticism' – hut owners made the press earlier in the year complaining about the large increase in annual rent.

My take on all this was mixed. As a Borough Cllr I had not been formally consulted but, in an informal chat, had been told the proposed sale was coming forward. I advised Heacham Parish Council to invite a Borough representative to a Parish Council meeting to discuss the matter. An offer was made for a meeting after a significant Borough panel meeting would make recommendations to Cabinet about the sale.

In the meantime, I received various communications from concerned hut owners and also had further information about the proposed sale. It was evident that insufficient consultation was taking place, the sale of the land was hardly credible given the bad face put on the business by the Borough, and, if sold, rents would certainly escalate to enable the investor to claw back the investment. Overall, selling the land under tenants who had an expectation of continuing leasing from the council and leaving them in the thrall of a private investor seemed a bad idea and worthy, in my opinion, of a dodgy landlord.

Come the Regeneration and Development Panel (R&D) of the 9th September, which I chair. The item about the beach huts was scheduled to be 'exempt', that is held in secret without public or press. The day before I negotiated a change to that position so, except for one or two financial details, it could be public and appear on YouTube. This was important as the debate would reveal public and councillor concerns and those concerns could not, whatever the final decision, be minimised.

At the meeting there was a lively discussion which led to two proposals, both of which rejected the sale of the land. The one which recommended a new 10-year lease was supported unanimously. By now, it will be known if Cabinet accepts the recommendation. News reports on this Heacham farrago currently abound but will settle unless earlier errors of judgement are compounded.

If you have a view, make it known to me, the BC and or the CEO.

CIL is an acronym which likely means little to many of you. It is the Community Infrastructure Levy; a tariff placed on housing developers of £60, £40 or £0 / square metre depending upon where in the Borough the development is. Supermarket development costs rather more. CIL came into being by government dictat about 9 years ago and brings a continual flow of money into the Borough. A proportion of the CIL generated goes to the Parish Councils where the development is, 15% if no Neighbourhood Plan, 25% if there is one. The remainder goes into a pot held by the Borough Council. Up until now, the pot was split 60% for strategic projects, essentially under the control of the BC and 40% for local projects for Parish Councils and others to bid for. I was chair of the small committee which created these governance arrangements and some millions of pounds have gone into projects over the years. Our governance model ensured as much as possible went locally.

New arrangements are about to come into force and the distribution will be 80% to strategic projects and 20% to local, so Parish Councils etc will be able to bid into a reserve half the size as previously existed. Their projects also have to cost between £10K and £100K which means the number of projects able to be supported will be significantly reduced. Coupled with the need to find some match funding, perhaps a half or more, councils with limited budgets will find bidding difficult.

Changes have come about due to advice and direction from government sources as CIL was always intended to support infrastructure related to development and the procedures have to be put in place to ensure it is. Parish Councils have had a good run for their money and some have done very well (for example, outdoor gyms have been funded by CIL at Heacham and Sedgeford and the latter has a well heated, energy sufficient hall, containing an adjustable stage too).

The 80% strategic funding pot concerns me and others as Cabinet can effectively decide where some of it can go, e.g. to the Council's Corporate Project Programme. We considered the new CIL arrangements at the R&D panel and the Leader of the Opposition, there under a standing order which gives right to speak, made salient points about the need for scrutiny of such allocations. I agreed and the panel added such a recommendation. I will be surprised if Cabinet accepts it.

The King's Lynn Transport Strategy (draft) was a long document and presented by NCC officers at the R&D meeting. It was essentially a list of intentions as funds allow and will be ready for the new local government model. What it lacked was no mention of transport hubs -park and ride – and reference to public transport was muted. The panel wanted better consideration given to bus services and new proposals for rail.

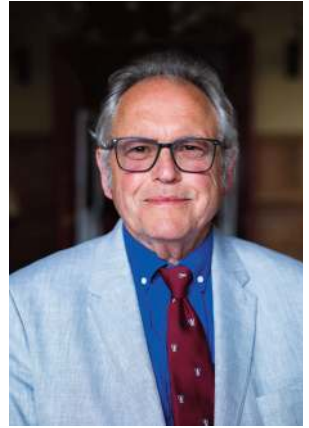
The proposal for e-scooter provision in Lyn provided some slight amusement as two present, I was one, thought it a little daft given the problems such devices are causing around the country including, apparently, Norwich.

I also commented on improvements to islands and roads by the hospital would not have been needed if they had decided to build the new hospital south of Lynn where new housing growth will be. An argument, unfortunately, lost almost 2 years ago because those in control would not even discuss the matter. Their principal argument being the new hospital had to be built by 2030. Well, almost 2026 and not a shovel, I believe, has been put in the ground.

Tongue in cheek I also asked if any consideration had been given to catering for Sandringham's nuisances, sorry music festivals, which all but closed down Lynn a few weeks ago and caused major inconvenience to many.

Anyone for Padel Tennis? A member of cabinet appears enthused by the idea of establishing it across West Norfolk. A planning application has, serendipitously, been received for courts in Heacham. Not having a clue about it I used Google and found many references to nuisance caused by the game. It is, apparently, very noisy and is causing complaints to councils up and down the country. The best solution proposed is to place courts in a large, well-insulated shed far from anyone who is not deaf (a little exaggerated but feel free to Google (other search engines are available) yourselves.

Heacham car parking charges escalated in spring and the winter season of no charges ended too. Residents complained, it made the papers. A small concession was, apparently, won but has not happened. At the time of writing, repeated calls for the Cabinet Member for parking to meet with Heacham Parish Council have been ignored. Emails from the resident leading on the concession have not been answered. Anyone with an interest and energy please message the Borough with your displeasure.



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Wild in Westminster and West Norfolk

Using the mobile signal as you head from the Green towards the lighthouse. Having to leave your house and go into the garden to make a call. Not being able get fast mobile data speeds when you need them. These common complaints were why before the summer I launched a survey examining mobile phone services across Hunstanton, Holme, Ringstead, Thornham, and other coastal villages.

The results were pretty stark. Over half of the more than 500 respondents reported a lack of usable signal within their main living space. 47% rated call reliability 4 out of 10 or lower. Some residents felt stuck in a digital "black hole" despite "living in a developed town."

So what happened next? Well, after analysing the results, I engaged directly with the main mobile providers and the findings have already led to commitments to practical steps to address the issues raised and improve the services.

The now merged VodafoneThree has confirmed upgrades including additional 4G technology at Thornham, a power boost to improve coverage in Old Hunstanton, and further 4G improvements at Hunstanton. This is alongside longer-term 5G enhancements planned across North West Norfolk.

O2 has requested improved coverage in Hunstanton and scheduled 4G and 5G upgrades in 2025 across King's Lynn and Ingoldisthorpe. EE confirmed work to

improve the Hunstanton mast which took place August and it continues to investigate other local issues.

My survey also looked at broadband. Just over a half of respondents rated their broadband speed a 6/10 or less. This was particularly disruptive for businesses and those working from home when streaming or working with large files.

Again, I took this up with providers and Openreach has confirmed ongoing investment in broadband with full-fibre rollout underway in Hunstanton, Old Hunstanton, and Thornham. Additional areas have now been identified in Ringstead.

Building Digital UK (BDUK), the government's delivery body for gigabit broadband in areas which will not be covered commercially, is funding upgrades to the Fakenham exchange under Project Gigabit to connect more homes and businesses.

When I presented the results to the Digital Minister, he reported that 97% of North West Norfolk landmass now has 4G coverage from all operators and outlined longer term plans for nationwide 5G expansion by 2030. His department is also monitoring impacts of the 3G switch-off as some survey respondents reported this had left them without data services.

This survey provided a compelling snapshot of the mobile and broadband challenges residents face. I am very grateful

to everyone who responded as the results have helped me secure provider and government action to improve digital connectivity which is essential for work, education, and everyday life. However, I will continue to press providers and operators to deliver on these commitments and provide services residents and visitors can rely on.



James Wild MP joined Colleen Roper and John-Henry Roper from Rainbow Park in Hunstanton for the launch of the World Fun Fair Month (WFFM) exhibit in Parliament, marking its fifth anniversary and to celebrate the unique contribution of showmen and women to communities across the UK.

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George Vancouver the Kings Lynn Explorer

Russell Lyon

Vancouver in his time was ranked as one on England's greatest sailors and explorers but is now largely forgotten in Britain but not elsewhere. His statue stands at the Custom House beside Purfleet Quay and is a reminder to everybody in Kings Lynn of the greatness of the man born in the town in June 1757. He was the youngest of six children of John Vancouver a customs official and Bridget Berners.

George Vancouver became one of the foremost English explorers of his time and sailed with Captain Cook on his second and third voyage, firstly on HMS Resolution then HMS Discovery. In 1771 he had joined the Royal Navy as a "young gentleman" at the age of thirteen and was quickly classified as a midshipman. It was a fateful family decision which he would have welcomed as a young adventurous lad. His training and education in seamanship, navigation and surveying was completed "before the mast." By the time he came back to England in 1780 he was twenty – three years old and had seen a lot of the new world with James Cook and may well have witnessed Cooks murder by natives in Hawaii.

On his return, he was made up to lieutenant in the Royal Navy and posted to HMS Martin to assist in patrolling the English Channel and North Sea. The sloop eventually was ordered to the West Indies and he gained promotion again to 4th lieutenant on a 74 - gun warship HMS Fame where he took part with distinction in the Battle of the Saintes in the Caribbean against the French. It was fought just off the Dominican Republic and was regarded as a great victory for Britain and restored British Naval mastery in the Caribbean.

At that time Britain was contesting the seas against the Spanish as well as the French.

All three nations were looking to expand their influence in overseas territories. Vancouver by one of these quirks of good fortune was given command of HMS Discovery and ordered to take possession of Nootka Sound in North America and survey the surrounding coast.

He left England in 1791 in command of two vessels HMS Discovery and HMS Chatham and was given the brief to explore the Pacific basin. With him in the crew went five other Kings Lynn men. It was a tall order considering

how vast and unexplored the countries were all around the rim of the Pacific. In his first year the ships travelled to South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Tahiti and Hawaii. He surveyed the coasts that he travelled and collected thousands of botanical specimens – mostly plants and shrubs unknown to British eyes.

He then left for North America after claiming Western Australia for the British Crown. He made landfall of what is now Oregon and sailed north. He entered the Strait of Juan de Fuca which is between Vancouver Island and the present Washington State coastline. This was in 1792 and he had orders to survey every nook and cranny of the west coast all the way up to Alaska. Most of the surveying had to be done in small boats like skiffs and by rowing as it was much too dangerous and almost impossible to manoeuvre large sea going vessels into totally uncharted waters.

He named many of the landmarks and mountains, sounds and reefs after friends and ship mates. Nootka Sound and Island soon became known as Vancouver Island. He made good friends with a Spanish commander Juan Francisco Bodega y Quadra and they exchanged maps and information.

He then spent the winter of 1792 in Hawaii giving his crew much needed rest and recuperation. Although far from home there have to be many worse places than Hawaii to spend Xmas. Come the New Year he returned to British Columbia and proceeded north surveying as he went and then came back to California where he found the Spanish Governor there much less cooperative than his friend Quadra and he again spent the winter in Hawaii.

In 1794 having managed to chart most of the west coast of North America he set sail for home by way of Cape Horn. He had completely circumnavigated South America.

Once home he faced nothing but trouble from politicians. He had sent home Thomas Pitt, one of his crew as a trouble maker and made a life time enemy of a man who had powerful friends. Thomas Pitts allies included William Pitt the Younger the British Prime Minister. George was challenged to a duel which he declined. Instead he was stalked by Thomas Pitt and matters came to a head when



Vancouver's brother Charles on meeting Pitt came to blows with him and thrashed him. Their subsequent legal dispute required both parties to keep the peace but nothing changed. The row was only terminated when Vancouver, worn out by his naval service died aged only 40 years old in 1798. He is buried in an obscure grave in St Peters Church, Richmond upon Thames. The Hudson Bay Company placed a memorial plaque to him in the church in 1841.

His legacy of his life and times lives long after his untimely death. His discoveries were very many – his exploration determined that the longed for - North West Passage could not exist at the latitudes that would have made it viable. He accurately charted most of the west coast of America and Canada but there was a down side as he failed apparently to find two of the most important rivers on the Pacific coast- the Rivers Fraser and Columbia.

His reputation was enhanced markedly by the sensitive way he dealt with the many native people on the lands he surveyed from Alaska to Hawaii. He did make enemies however not only with the Pitt family but in addition he was very angry about the many unscrupulous western traders who were selling guns and supplies to different natives and tribes. These agents deliberately fomented trouble to improve their arms sales. Despite a long history of war between Spain and Britain he managed to maintain friendly relations with his Spanish counterparts – if not the French. That would have been a step too far. He deserves to be better known.

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Hunstanton Lifeboat Station news

The lifeboat display at our recent Emergency Services Day turned into a shout for Hunstanton and Skegness crews.

Both were tasked to assist a 27ft cabin cruiser in difficulty in The Wash near the mouth of the River Nene.

It was decided the safest option would be for our lifeboat to tow the vessel to a safe anchorage near the station, from where they could later return on the high tide to tow it across to Boston.

Hundreds came to see us and our colleagues from both volunteer and full-time emergency services who all work together to keep our coastline safe.

We've had another bumper summer visits-wise at Sea lane, with more than 20,000 popping in to say hello or find out more about our work.



Irene Cornford RNLB/Chris Bishop

A new arrival at the boathouse turned up on what most be one of the largest lorries seen in town for some time.

Our regular craft Spirit of West Norfolk has gone to the Isle of Wight for a major refit, which is likely to take some months.

Regular rescues, exercises and hostile seas all take their toll on the RNLB's lifeboats, so it's essential that they receive regular maintenance and upgrades so that they can



The 'Hunstanton Flyer' does a display at a special emergency services day. Credit T&A



Irene Cornford RNLB/Chris Bishop

carry on saving lives.

But the RNLB operates a reserve fleet to ensure like-for-like service is maintained whenever one of a station's assets needs to go away for an overhaul.

So the charity that saves lives at sea has sent relief lifeboat Irene Cornford to the station to ensure that we can maintain 24/7 search and rescue cover, 365 days of the year.

She's a sister to 'Spirit', an inshore lifeboat carrying four crew on board one of the fastest vessels in the fleet.

Our last big event of the summer also drew the crowds to the Golden Lion, who kindly hosted the second RNLB Fest.

The live music, fun and games continued all afternoon until the heavens opened.

Before that, young collectors Freddie and Eden melted a few hearts among the crowd as they dashed around in adult dry suits and helmets, which were a little on the large size.

On the events theme, a firm favourite with many is the Emergency Services Carol Service at St Mary's Church in Old



RNLB Fest RNLB/Chris Bishop



Hunstanton.

We're just confirming one or two details, so see next month's Town & Around for the date.

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

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Brancaster Village Hall (BVH) news

Geoff Wingrove

Brancaster Village Hall has had another busy summer, with many activities, including a highly successful talk by Brigadier (ret'd) David Wakefield OBE on the end of the Second World War in Japan (80th Commemoration). The Summer Party was also a great success – with the combination of a good time and terrible dancing!

Problems were experienced, however, with the overspill from Hunstanton Tennis Week, with young people making life difficult for staff and the environs of BVH. The BVH Management Group will review arrangements for 2026, in order to keep staff and the building safe.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Halloween Friday 31st October: Ghosts and Ghouls for children from 6.00pm and Bordolis Pizzas from 4.00pm.

Talk Saturday 8th November: "My Life in Politics" by Steven Norris, former Under-Secretary of State for Transport in John Major's Government

Winter Fair Saturday 29th November: Always a high spot of our year.

BAR 71

Quiz and Skittles Nights continue; come along too for darts and snooker, as well as a taste of the Guest Ale.

Further information about these and other activities can be found on our website at www.brancastervillagehall.communitybookings.co.uk or on Facebook and Instagram. For enquiries, please contact us at bvhsetup@gmail.com

FROM THE BRANCASTER PARISH ARCHIVE: THE "ALBATROS", WELLS QUAYSIDE

A common sight for all visitors to Wells is a large sailing vessel moored alongside the quay. This is a restaurant and hotel boat which has recently undergone an extensive refit in Maldon, Essex, the home of Thames Sailing Barges. Most people looking at the ship would have little idea of its long and interesting history; this article is a brief description of the colourful career of the Albatros.

The sailing ketch Albatros was built in Holland in 1899. She sailed as a cargo ship from her launch until 1996, initially transporting cargo between the Netherlands and the Baltic states from 1899 to 1920. In 1920 she was sold and moved to Denmark to continue trading between the Scandinavian and Baltic areas. In order to assist its commercial activities, an engine of 60hp was installed in 1933.

During the Second World War, Albatros had a very eventful career, being used to smuggle Jews and political dissidents from Nazi-occupied Denmark to neutral Sweden. On return journeys, the ship smuggled arms to resistance groups into Denmark. As the captain and mate were known by the German authorities to be drunk most of the time, they were left alone to carry on their covert

operations.

After the war the ship continued her trading role between the Scandinavian countries and Baltic states. The vessel was refitted in 1964: the lower hull was replaced by welded steel instead of riveted metal, which made the ship much stronger. A new and more powerful engine of 160hp was also installed to assist in ship handling amongst the various ports, and when the wind did not blow. In 1978 Albatros was laid up in Copenhagen harbour, where she stayed until purchased by her new owner, Captain Ton Brouwer.

Captain Brouwer owned the ship between 1980 and 2020, and its very varied career carried on over this period. Ton Brouwer was born in Holland in 1948; being a very bright student, he progressed to university to study German, gaining first a bachelor's and then a master's degree. He started working as a teacher but became increasingly involved in the sea and began organising sailing trips for students; he lived on a houseboat.

Ton decided to purchase a Dutch sailing barge in 1979 and spent time searching shipbrokers in Europe for a suitable vessel. He found the Albatros in what, at first glance, was a relatively poor state, moored in Copenhagen harbour. She seemed ideal for his purposes and so, after surveys and negotiation, he purchased the ship. Incredibly, he began a restoration of the upper deck and accommodation while still working as a teacher. He was helped in this undertaking by students, who did the cleaning, painting and clearing; the restoration was completed in 1981.

Ton realised he would need to become professionally qualified under Dutch law and also have the Albatros registered, if he was to begin carrying goods between European countries. He obtained his Mate's Certificate in 1983 to allow coastal trade and, following further restoration, the Albatros was registered under a Maltese flag: this was changed to a Dutch flag in 1992.

The first challenge facing Ton was to find a cargo for the ship and get commercial activities underway. The first was a cargo of soya beans from Belgium to Scotland, and from this point, cargoes were transported to various European ports until 1996.

In 1997 a new chapter started in the ship's history when Ton was approached by Greenpeace in Amsterdam. They wanted to charter the vessel for two or three years, to be used as a floating classroom to take children between ten and thirteen years old on day trips to teach them about the environment; Ton's own background in education suited him ideally to this task. The Albatros was refitted between 1997 and 1998 to make the change from cargo carrier to classroom. This involved the replacement of the wooden deck with one of steel, making the ship a great deal safer, and the installation of toilets with an ecological holding tank. Cabins for the instructors/teachers also needed to be provided in addition to those for the crew.

From the completion of the refit until 2000



the ship carried up to thirty-six children at a time on day trips, teaching them about such topics as chemistry, energy, navigation, fish and plankton, with groups of six to eight children rotating to cover each activity.

In 2000, at the end of the Greenpeace contract, Ton decided to return to Wells, which the Albatros had often visited with cargos. This move was initially to concentrate on day trips, receptions, parties and celebrations, as well as environmental and seamanship courses. 2001 was the first full season for the ship: it was fully booked, including a contract with the Ocean Youth Trust to provide sail training courses for young people between twelve and twenty-five years old. Unfortunately, early in the year disaster struck, when the vessel, on returning from a day trip, ran aground on the marshes on the approach to Wells Harbour. With the help of a salvage firm, the ship was eventually refloated, but the season was ruined and charters cancelled.

Following repairs, the Albatros continued its day trips and also made visits to ports where celebrations were happening, both in Britain and also in Europe. During one such visit, the ship was caught in a violent storm off the French coast and had to be towed to Cherbourg by the French coastguard. Once repaired, the vessel continued its programme of day trips and visits. However, it was becoming evident to Ton that the future may lie in a different direction, in order to maintain the viability of the ship.

In 2005 a major change took place in the Albatros' career, as it became clear that there was a living to be made by having the ship used as a restaurant, bed and breakfast and a venue for parties, commemorations, music events and special occasions; the vessel would stay permanently moored at Wells' quay and offer this range of services. In particular, the live music sessions proved very popular, and

many groups performed on the ship. The Albatros became a strong attraction to all visitors to Wells.

In 2019 the Harbour Commissioners accused the vessel of polluting the water in Wells Harbour. The boat was closed down and further investigations conducted which proved that the ship was not the source of pollution. However, Ton decided at this point to sell Albatros and concentrate on his growing family. The new owner undertook another major refurbishment, and the ship has now resumed its place on the quayside.

I am very grateful to Captain Ton Brouwer, whose account of the Albatros formed the basis for this brief article: his book "My Life on the Albatros 1980-2020" is available from bookshops or online and offers much fuller detail.

Letter to the Editor

They used to reckon tourism was the biggest industry round here. But that's now got a rival - digging up the bleedin' roads.

That got so bad in the Spring you couldn't get from one side of town to the other without hitting queues and traffic lights.

I was thinking of getting on to the town council to see if they fancied setting up a new compertishun. Win a stick of rock or something.

See if you can get from one end of town to the other without sitting in a queue watching

NATIONAL COASTWATCH BRANCASTER (NCI)

The late summer has proved to be a very busy time for the Watchkeepers at Brancaster's NCI station, with a number of incidents recorded; despite all warnings, people continued to become marooned on Scolt Head Island by incoming tides. Separate incidents involved three children and six adults stranded but, fortunately, all managed to make it ashore with HM Coastguard – informed by Watchkeepers – who subsequently saw all to safety. The team has also had to deal with a whale washed up on Titchwell beach, lost children, a child needing an ambulance after passing out on the beach, an adult behaving suspiciously and an unmanned vessel adrift off the coast which had to be towed back to

Brancaster Staithe Harbour by the RNLI Hunstanton. Many thanks go to Watchkeeper Jo, who managed to locate the missing child using the station optics.

Brancaster station was represented at the Emergency Services Day held on 7th September on Old Hunstanton beach and at the Brancaster Staithe Sea Shanty Festival on 13th/14th September.

If you would like more information on NCI Brancaster, or to find out more about becoming a volunteer, please contact Richard Burrows, Deputy Station Manager and Watchkeeper on 07535 612777. You can also find us on Facebook, if you search NCI Brancaster.

a load on blokes in hi-vis with spades slung over their shoulders having a good old mardle about where they're next going to bring chaos.

"I reckon we oughtter dig up there next Wally, what do yew reckon..?"

"Nah, let's gew fer right outside Tesco when all the grockles are here. That'll cause a decent bottleneck."

They've been digging up roads to put broadband in, test the water - yep, that's still wet.

Now they're about to embark on their piece de resistance like they say in France.

For abandon all hope ye who use the A149. The county council's decided they want to put

traffic lights at Lamsey Lane so the buses can be prioritised or something like that.

That's already kicked off, as you may have noticed. But there's worse to come.

Imagine what that's going to be like in summer, when the tailbacks already stretch back in either direction because of the lights at Lavender Junction.

So let's, um, add another set instead of a roundabout.

Next time that Lancaster bomber does a fly-past, I might ask if they've still got any left on board from the war and fancy a detour to save taking them down the tip.

Ragin' Reg (name & address supplied)



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East Anglian Air Ambulance (EAAA) King's Lynn Fundraising Group (KLFG)

by Trevor Dane, EAAA Volunteer

Thank you to Caz and Neil who held their 2nd annual Music n Motors event at The Old Garage in Magdalen in aid of EAAA on 9 August 2025. KLFG were pleased to support this wonderful event. Music n Motors raised a fantastic £1,400 and KLFG raised £157 for a grand total of £1,557. Thank you to everyone who attended the event and supported Caz and Neil, and EAAA.

KLFG also attended the first Frontline Services event on 23 August at The Walks, King's Lynn - and it was a great success! It showcased the region's emergency and frontline services, such as the police, fire service, ambulance service and coastguard. KLFG raised £318.91. Thank you to everyone that supported EAAA.

25 Years of EAAA: Every Life Counts on You

On 6 September 2000 a new charity was formed. East Anglian Air Ambulance had one mission: to save lives across East Anglia. 25 years later, we have reached tens of thousands of people delivering emergency care when every second counts. At the start our crew



flew just one day a week, and thanks to your support, we have grown into the 24/7 life-saving service we are today. Whether by air or road, we now reach critically ill and injured people in the heart of communities across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, and Suffolk.

To discover the key milestones from our 25-year journey that have saved thousands of

lives and continue to make a difference every single day visit eaaa.org.uk for our history.

Coming up this month!

Restart A Heart Day, which takes place on 16 October, is a national initiative to increase public awareness and knowledge of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and to empower people to act in the event of a cardiac arrest by teaching them CPR and the effective use of a defibrillator.

You can learn how to save a life with EAAA with a free one-hour CPR and AED training session. Build your skills and confidence so you can act quickly and start the chain of survival as soon as possible to potentially become somebody else's lifesaver. For details of how to book a training course and to find out more visit info@eaaa.org.uk or call 03450 669 999.

KLFG will be attending the Hunstanton Indoor Market on 28 October 10:00 to 2:00 at Hunstanton Town Hall.

KLFG can be contacted by emailing myself or my colleague Terri: trevordane104@gmail.com tfaye.100@gmail.com EAAA enquiries 03450 669 999

Hunstanton to Sparkle at Christmas Tree Festival!

Jan Roomes

Get ready for a magical start to the festive season! Hunstanton Town Council is delighted to announce the return of the Christmas Tree Festival, taking place at Hunstanton Town Hall on: Friday 5th, Saturday 6th, and Sunday 7th December 2025

This much-loved community event promises a weekend full of twinkling lights, festive music, and Christmas cheer for all ages!

What's Happening:

- A forest of beautifully decorated trees by local groups and organisations
- Vote for your favourite tree – help us crown the best one!
- Festive music to get you in the spirit
- Refreshments available to purchase
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welcome!

Want to Decorate a Tree?

Local groups, clubs, schools, and businesses are encouraged to take part.

There is a £5 entry fee per tree, with all proceeds going to the Mayor's Charity – Guide Dogs for the Blind.

To Enter a Tree contact:

Julie Marziano

07745 322124

cllr.marziano@hunstantontowncouncil.gov.uk

Come along and enjoy the magic of the season while supporting a fantastic cause. Whether you're showcasing your own Christmas creation or simply soaking up the sparkle, this is a festive event not to miss!



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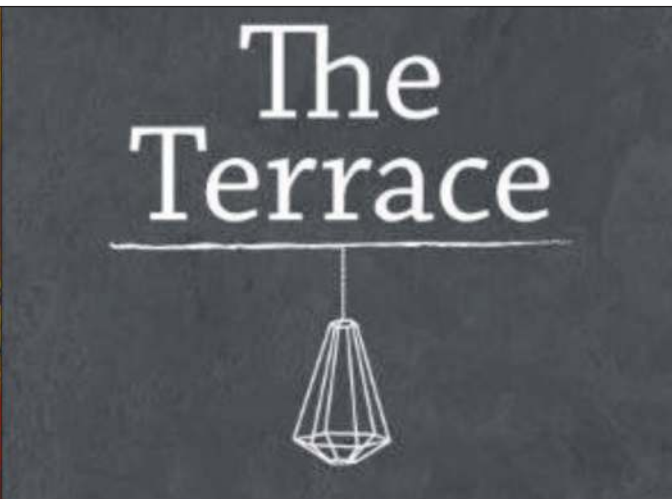
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Hunstanton Society

A very kind donation

A week or so ago we had someone walk into the Heritage Centre and popped £50 into our collections jar. He told the volunteers on duty that his son, Simon, had mislaid his mobile phone somewhere in Hunstanton and advertised that if anyone found it he would give them an award of this amount of money. Well – someone did find it and took it along to the Police Station. Simon was so pleased that he decided that as he could not give the award to the rightful finder, he would donate it and immediately thought of us. Now isn't that a really nice thing to do? Just wish there were more people losing their valuables and deciding that by merely getting them back they would make a donation to a worthy cause. Thinking of the Hunstanton Society and the Heritage Centre is really nice. He also included a lovely Thank You card. Thank you to Simon – we would call you an 'angel' but you might not appreciate that!

October's talk



Hunstanton Society

Nick Torry
Hunstanton before the New Town

Nick will be talking about the original village of Hunstanton long before Henry le Strange decided that he would create the new town of Hunstanton St Edmund in the mid 1800s.




Wednesday, 15th October 2025 @ 7.30pm
in the Heritage Centre

Admission £1.00 to Members, £5.00 Non-Members
Refreshments included

Events Team News



Fantastic day on Thursday 21 August 2025 when the Heritage Centre hosted the first Fossil Safari led by our resident fossil expert, Barry. About 25 people signed up to explore the beach from the north Prom to the Pier Amusements

under Barry's expert guidance, in a safe and sustainable way. Using only our eyes, hands and an occasional garden trowel, we uncovered secrets lying at our feet on the sand. Many interesting finds included several ammonites and fossilised wood much to the delight of the group. Thank you to Barry for his time and dedication in coordinating and delivering this event.



We are planning to organise another fossil hunt during the October school half term holidays when the young visitors will be back and the tides are in our favour. Watch out on Facebook for details!

Barry, the Family Fossil Man continues to be at the Heritage Centre drawing in the crowds on Saturdays from 1400 to 1500 to share his expert knowledge and help to identify any finds visitors have found on the beach.

The Treasure Hunt has proved to be very popular as visitors try to crack the code to open Hunstanton Harry's treasure chest which remains in the Heritage Centre. We plan to keep it on display until after the October half term so visitors can continue to explore the treasure trail and earn their share of the pirate treasure. People who have completed the treasure hunt have all commented that it was fun and that they discovered parts of Hunstanton that are not on the normal tourist trail so please encourage visitors to have a go. For a review please see the following link: <https://townandaround.net/news/adventure-awaits>. More details and entry forms are for sale at £3.00 in the Heritage Centre.

Meet the committee : Sheila Kent

Sheila was born many years ago of an English mother and a Scottish father in Dublin, Ireland moving to Scotland (Stonehaven) when she was about 3 years old. Here she was educated in a good old Scottish Academy before working towards a Hotel, Catering and Management Institute qualification in Aberdeen.

Her first job was at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary in one of their Nurses homes. After a year or so she moved to Bedford where she worked at the Teaching Training College before moving yet again down to London to get married to Stephen. Here she worked at the Middlesex Hospital before relocating back to

Aberdeen where she started the Kent family. A relocation to Singapore with husband and daughter for a couple of years followed before being relocated back to Aberdeen then Hamilton near Glasgow. Here, she worked with the Pre-School Playgroups covering challenging areas around Glasgow. You can see habits took shape – constantly on the move, it seems. A move to Devon was next where she took on a job as Pre-School Playgroup Association County representative involving a lot of travel around this large County. A few years later she followed Stephen up to Norfolk where she found a slot working as Domestic Bursar at Langley School. Another move to East Sussex working in another school as a Matron followed before moving up to Hunstanton where she has settled for the last 18 years. Here she had her arm twisted and became Secretary of this Society for a number of years. She says she has never been bored!



An item of interest from the Heritage Centre

Over the next few days we shall be adding to our displays a lot of material given to us following the death of Peter Lewis-Crown last year. Indeed, on Friday, 12th September, a Memorial Service was held in London mainly for those who were unable to attend his funeral at St Mary's Church, Old Hunstanton last October. The Memorial Service was held at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge followed by a wake at the Chelsea Arts Club. Some of our members attended representing the Town and the Society. You will recall that Peter spent his whole working life as a Couturier running the 'House of Lachasse' and dressing the likes of Princess Margaret, Norma Major, the Countess of Burma and many other well-known people. There are also a few items that will be on display including a plate awarded to him for his work with the Anglo-Bolivian Society for which he was a founding member.





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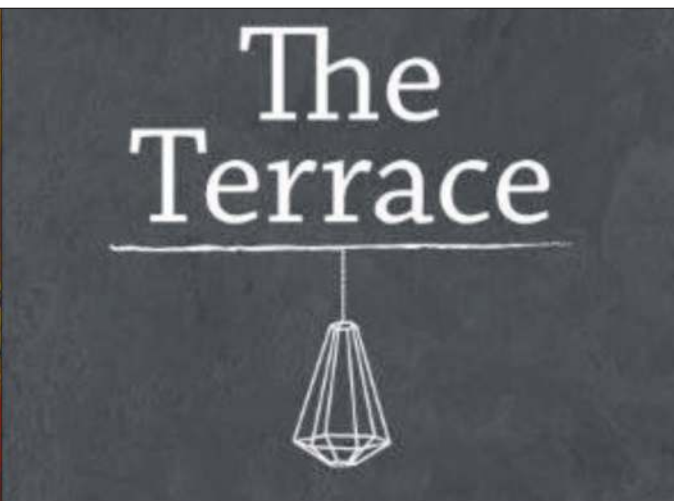
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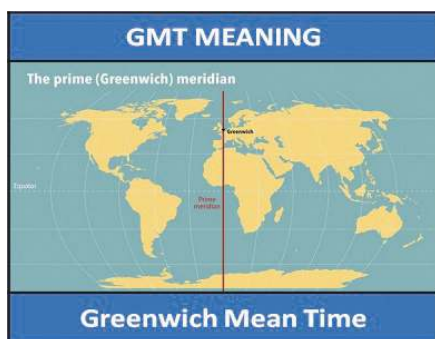
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Dark skies of West Norfolk

Terry Parish



Fall back (but not immediately). The 26th at 2am precisely is the end of British Summer Time. So, when your body clock wakes you up at 7am, it is 6am. Mornings will appear a tad darker, early evening, lighter. All very English which is why the Scots don't like it.



The historical 0° longitude through Greenwich, Internet

From the 26th the time standard is Greenwich Mean Time which is the same as Universal Time. Greenwich was the chosen meridian, 0 degrees longitude. Navigators could calculate their actual longitude by comparing local noon with noon at Greenwich as displayed by accurate clocks on board ship. Every 15 degrees of longitude is equivalent to an hour change in time. So, if your personal noon occurs one hour after noon at Greenwich you are 15 degrees west of Greenwich.



Long distance travellers will know that clock time is different at your destination, Internet.

These time zones, delineated by every 15 degrees of movement, led to Universal Time. Both Greenwich Mean Time and a Universal Day of 24 hours beginning at Greenwich midnight were advocated by a Scottish Canadian Engineer, Sandford Fleming (1827-1915) who seems to have built Canada or, at least, its stamps, significant railways, and maps. GMT and the Universal Day were

accepted by the International Meridian Conference of 1884. His notion of time zones took longer and it was 1929 before most major countries accepted them.

In the Second World War, British Double Summer Time was introduced to increase productivity and save energy. Perhaps today's government could be told though it would mean Scotland gets dawn around 10am.

What to see at night?

Saturn is up all night, setting at 5am. It has a small positive magnitude, 0.7, so is dim and telescopes will reveal almost edge on rings, so no classic image. Look ESE from 7pm, SE at 8pm and due S at 11pm. It is in the lower half of the sky, rising along an arc as it gets later. On the 5th, the Moon is close, just below and to the right of the ringed planet. The next night, the Moon will be above and to the left.

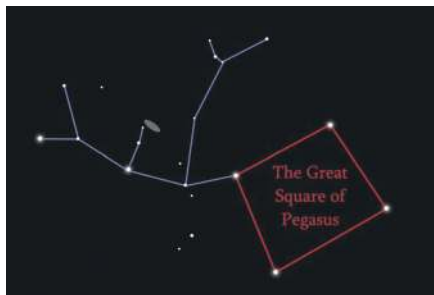
Neptune, the most distant planet, is just a couple of finger widths (at arm's length) to the left of Saturn and a little lower. It is very dim, magnitude +7.7, and you will need a telescope to see it as a greenish hazy, dot swimming in space.

Uranus is just bright enough for binoculars to pick it out. It is just below and to the right of the Pleiades, a star cluster relatively easy to see and find in the E to SE as the night gets later.

All the planets above are visible all night and, more importantly certainly visible by 10pm.

Giant Jupiter is not quite so amenable and, though it rises in the E at 11pm, midnight until about 4am will give the best views. At magnitude minus 2.2, you won't mistake it. Look due E at midnight. On the 14th, at 2am, the Moon is just to the left and a little above,

Venus, magnitude minus 3.9, outshines Jupiter when it rises at 5.30am. Look due E but don't use optical instruments as the Sun will be rising too.



Find the Great Square above Saturn. Andromeda, M25, is the fuzzy grey ellipse in the middle of the blue V. Internet.

It should be dark earlier enough to admire stars. Look above Saturn and find the Square of Pegasus, an asterism (pattern) which forms part of that constellation, The four stars starting at top left and going clockwise are Alpheratz, Scheat, Markab and Algenib. Arabic names because Arabs were the great

early astronomers. All of them have apparent magnitudes between 2.06 and 2.84.

Apparent magnitude is how bright they look to us. However, the brightest, Alpheratz, is just 97 light years away whilst the dimmest, Algenib, is 470 light years distant so it is very much the brighter star in reality. True brightness is called Absolute Magnitude.

Both Alpheratz and Algenib are binaries; Scheat is a giant variable and Markab has an atmosphere with unusually high proportions of mercury and manganese and rotates very rapidly. Four stars which do not look unusual but which demonstrate the variability stellar objects have.

The Andromeda Galaxy, 2.5 million light years away, is the furthest object discernible by good eyes in a dark sky. It is well placed to observe through big binoculars. Go left and up from the top left corner of the Square of Pegasus. The bright star you come to is Mirach, go up and right a tad, look for a fuzzy patch. Twice as many stars as the Milky Way but having the same mass. Theorists say that's because the Milky Way has more dark energy which I think is a myth that earns research grants. Fast forward 4 billion years and the two galaxies will merge.



Another way of locating Andromeda.

Alpheratz is the top left corner of the Great Square of Pegasus. Mirach is the bright star to its left, Shedir is a star in the easily identified W of Cassiopeia. Internet

Meteors! 8th October, just before dawn, look for fireballs from the Draconid meteor shower. The night of 21st / 22nd the Orionids appear in a night without any moonlight. These are particles of dust from Halley's comet burning up in the upper atmosphere.

Darker skies despite BST ending, a few planets not too late at night and some stars to contemplate. Meteors will be a bonus.





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Or, do you want to explore something that maybe recently occurred?

I'll give you some examples. I went and did a course at Esther's studio. I'd never worked with clay before. I'd not long lost my beloved dog Archibald. Esther gave me a bag of clay. Before I knew it I was modelling a whippet! Somehow I tapped into something that the clay enabled me to express.

Archibald by SJ Stone



Then along came Sue. She created a fantasy scene – a tower covered in ivy guarded by a dragon and a sneaky mouse. Tall tale?

I guess what I'm saying is there are no rules, when you are working with clay (well there are a few but it's far too boring to get into that now). Let your hands do the talking. You might be surprised at what they say. If not you'll have lots of fun along the way.

Dragon Tower by Sue York



Pop into the studio at 21 High Street, Heacham to find out more. Alternatively email Esther at eb@estherboehm.com or call 01485 779691 or 07538 986235. You'll always be greeted with a warm welcome.

SJ Stone

On behalf of the Save The Old Dairy Project team.

www.savetheolddairyheacham.org

Encouraging Individuality Acceptance and Understanding

A best-selling author, now living in Hunstanton, says town will inspire a future novel

Dani Crawshaw

I meet Gillian in her new home in Hunstanton, which she, husband Ray and their 5 children moved into 2 weeks ago. There are already some family pictures up, one of their time living in France. In 2009 the author and freelance writer decided life as an English teacher, whilst rewarding, was exhausting, "I came home on a November night and said to my husband shall we just move to France, and he said yeah let's do it. It was sort of an escape for both of us."

In France Gillian had her first novel 'Everything is Fine' published (she now has more than 10) - but after 15 years abroad they decided to come back last April, opting to live in 'Sunny Hunny'. "We chose Norfolk mainly because I felt it was quieter, more rural, beautiful, and in that way similar to where the children had grown up. I'd been into Hunstanton before and I'd really liked it." Gillian adds she's always wanted to live near the sea, so that was 'the final icing on the cake'.

The family rented until a few weeks ago and Gillian says the area felt 'welcoming from the start', "I think Hunstanton in particular it seems that everyone is willing to chat, there're lots of nice cafes and lots of places to explore - we feel very new here still but we're really enjoying it. It's really lovely and one of the main things for me is that the children are happy at the schools."

And it's been here, at local book shop 'by the book', that the author had her first official signing for her new novel 'Village Café in the Loire'.

"Although some of my books have been translated into French and I can speak French, it wasn't good enough to do a presentation in a book shop, so I never got that in person feeling. One of the first things I did when I knew where we were moving was to contact Adrian at 'by the book', and he was really lovely and welcoming." Gillian adds she's done a few events since but says getting to meet and chat to people 'you live amongst is just lovely'.

She also says the town will inspire a future book, "I think to write about an area and to bring it to life you really have to know it quite intimately. So I'm looking forward to really using my knowledge of Hunstanton and love of different locations to bring it to life for the reader. The focus will be on the relationships of the people living in the area."

I ask if we can we expect particular people or places to feature. "I think a lot of my observation is happening without me really knowing it, once in a while there'll be something and I'll think that's really interesting, but it won't immediately go to oh that can be Henry in my new book. A lot of my characters will be amalgamations of people - a habit someone has or an expression that I overhear."

"I would tend to use the location, so I would mention Hunstanton. But if I use something that's there, like a book shop, I wouldn't use its actual name. So people who know will know, but it's kept it in the fictional world at the same time."

Her books, that are described as 'contemporary, uplifting fiction', are international best sellers, "It was surreal to hold my first novel in my hand, and it is lovely each time one comes out and I get to unbox them, that's always a really lovely moment. I think a lot of authors aren't that good at celebrating their successes, they feel self conscious about that - and I certainly do."

As the family settle into their new life Gillian ends by saying she's, "Definitely excited to build a home here - I think we've done enough moving around now."

And whilst it may be a little while before Hunstanton takes the limelight in one of her novels (she's busy writing other ones at the moment), when the time does come I'll definitely be at 'by the book' for the signing!



Articles are posted to our website regularly
See: www.townandaround.net

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by the book

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Rainbows (Age 4-7) Brownies (Age 7-10) Guides (Age 10-14) Rangers (Age 14-18)



Holme History Group

Sally Crown

Holme History Group's autumn programme starts in October and there are some interesting talks and meetings to put in your diary. On 9th of October we begin with a visit from Debbie Bradley, a professional genealogist. Debbie's talk entitled "More than just names on a page" will help us to discover more about our ancestors' lives. Tickets are £3 on the door including refreshments.

Holme is a small village but the History Group have collected an extensive collection of historical records which will be featured at "Explore Holme Archives: Open Afternoon" on Thursday 9th November. There will be lots of photographs, maps, and plans to browse and a slide show to sit and enjoy. Refreshments and entry is free but donations are welcome.

On December 11th Ann Smith, SHARP's Finds Officer, will be coming to talk about "30 years of finds from the SHARP excavations in Sedgeford". Ann's talk will be free but there will be a collection for SHARP.

Everyone is welcome at the meetings which start at 2.30pm, and are held in Holme Village Hall, Kirkgate, PE36 6LH.

Opinion

Change is needed in Hunstanton

John Freestone

A few years ago, I raised the lack of a meaningful growth strategy for Hunstanton and suggested that without change, the town and area would decline.

Unfortunately, little has changed in the intervening years with Hunstanton increasingly dominated by care homes, retirement properties and reduced job opportunities for young people emerging from good quality local education. The ability to obtain doctor and medical appointments is exacerbated by the continued growth of an aging population drawn here by lower cost housing and of course, the local environment. However, much of the housing stock remains beyond the reach of locals who still cannot find well paid and secure employment.

A walk around the town shows a number of boarded up shops, a significant growth in barber and charity shops where previous productive employers such as local bakers and printers have left the area or closed to sell for redevelopment leaving only employment in often insecure and seasonal areas such as hospitality, property maintenance and low pay reliant care homes available.

The vast majority of new developments are in care home construction and retirement properties, the majority of which will always be beyond the means of locals but still add to the pressures on local services such as doctors, dentists and medical services. Just how many care homes can a town of this size support?

Our local councils and National government seem to be oblivious to local needs; I cannot recall when the need to attract industry or skills to the area was raised as a serious local strategy although the current government professes to see economic growth as key.

Although Hunstanton remains one of the core areas making a positive financial contribution to the coffers of West Norfolk, this is unlikely to continue without a desire for change to its focus. As the UK population grows Hunstanton cannot prosper without attracting new employment opportunities. It cannot aspire to act as a dormitory for Kings Lynn, develop care homes and retirement ghettos without attracting those with skills able and willing to live here?

A change in approach could provide well paid career opportunities for our school leavers in areas such as food processing, medical services, business management and administration to retain and expand a skilled and productive local population. The development of IT encourages opportunities but there is a pressing need for our councillors and leaders to think beyond caravan site development and hospitality and encourage entrepreneurs to the area. Change in thinking is surely overdue, as is a possible change in the make-up of the skills of our councillors?

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Autumn is a wonderfully predictable season and very soon we will all be reaching for warming layers and comfortable separates as the temperature drops - and it's finally the perfect time to wear boots!

You want to look your best as the weather gets colder so check out the final Marble collection which has the most gorgeous comforting fabrics, signature prints and a sophisticated colour palette.

This gorgeous and right on-trend colour block jumper (right) made from 100% cotton by Marble is really flattering and teams well with jeans. The oversized style and batwing sleeve is casual yet stylish and the cowl neck adds a cosy finish.



And perfect for work or lunch out with the girls this jumbo cord combo by Lily & Me (above) offers a stylish alternative to the classic denim jacket, and the classic midi skirt has a touch of elastane that gives stretch to the fabric for a more comfortable fit and a slight front split allows for ease of walking.

Find all the latest autumn/winter collections in store now.

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Theatre's survival makes me ask what if?...

John Maiden

The panto season began for me on Battle of Britain Day, September 15th at the Princess Theatre, where I met members of the team that will bring 'Aladdin' to Hunstanton from December 6th to January 4th.

The first thing that struck me, when I saw this year's press pack, was the wealth of experience cast members have had between them, from the youngest dancer to this year's panto director, Keith Simmons. Keith has written 154 pantomimes, directed 134, and performed in 56. A prolific song and comedy writer, Keith has created material for some of the biggest names in the business, including Sir Ken Dodd, Nicholas Parsons, Sir Norman Wisdom, Gary Wilmot, and for 17 years, Brian Conley's TV shows and BBC's 'We've Got Your Number'.

All very impressive, but I was even more impressed when Keith produced a copy of a poster advertising the last time he topped the bill at the Princess. This was with his brother Alan, in 'The Simmons Brothers Laughter Party' way back in 1993! Under Keith's direction Aladdin looks certain to bring lots of laughter to the Princess at a time when we all need something to cheer us up.

Of course, Hunstanton is extremely lucky to have a theatre providing shows for permanent residents and visitors throughout the year. The Princess, which began life as the



Keith Simmons has fond memories of appearing at the Princess in 1993 with his brother

Capitol cinema in the art deco period, shortly before my birth, serves as a reminder of Hunstanton's lost assets. These included a railway; pier; bathing pool; and boating lake.

This makes me ask, what if there had been more people with Brian Hallard's ability and enthusiasm, prepared to fight for their future,



Swimming Pool in the 1940s



Boating Lake on a rare cloudy day in 1959

just as he has done for the Princess, would they all have been saved from their untimely destruction?

The Princess Theatre is looking for new volunteers

Town & Around caught up with long-standing steward Jenny Chapman to chat about her role and why volunteering at the beloved Princess Theatre is such a rewarding experience.

Jenny has been part of the Princess family since 2012 and is a familiar, friendly face to audiences. She explains: "Our main priority is always the health and safety of the audience – making sure their experience of the theatre is good and being on hand to answer any questions. A sense of humour and patience really help."

"Your eyes are everywhere, checking for any situations arising; we have training, Fire Training and monthly 'Coffee & Cake' meetings – which allow everyone to get together and discuss duties and matters arising."

Volunteering suits people of all ages, but Jenny notes that many of the current team are retired or have more free time to give back to the community.

"You get to know the locals. If I'm on the bus, I'll often have people coming up to me saying, 'Lovely show last night!'"

One of the busiest times of the year is Pantomime season, when the theatre often runs two shows a day – matinées for school groups and evening performances for the public. But with the hustle and bustle comes plenty of perks.

"You often get to meet the celebrities that perform," Jenny says, "and of course, you get to see the shows for free."

Above all, Jenny highlights the camaraderie of the volunteer team: "We're like a family here. Everyone gets on, and we all help each other."

With many sell-out shows needing at least seven stewards to keep



things running smoothly, the Princess Theatre is always on the lookout for new volunteers. Jenny encourages anyone thinking of joining to give it a go:

"It's a lovely way to give something back to the community. The theatre really does rely on its volunteers."

If you'd like to get involved, pop into the theatre or call 01485 53 22 52 for more information.

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Hunstanton Primary School news

Gemma Tandy

Hunstanton Primary School Achieves GOLD Award for Sport!

Hunstanton Primary School is celebrating a fantastic achievement – we have been awarded the School Games GOLD Mark Award for 2024/25!

This prestigious Government-led award, delivered by the Youth Sport Trust, recognises schools that show exceptional commitment to physical activity, competitive sport, and developing opportunities for young people both in school and the wider community.

At Hunstanton, sport is at the heart of school life. The majority of our pupils have proudly represented the school in local inter-school competitions, showcasing teamwork, resilience, and sportsmanship. Beyond competition, many of our children have also stepped up as play leaders and volunteers, encouraging others to get active and promoting a culture of fun, fairness, and inclusion on the playground.

This award is a true reflection of the dedication and enthusiasm shown by pupils, staff, and families alike. We would especially like to thank Miss Stanton, whose passion and hard work in developing sports provision at Hunstanton has been instrumental in achieving this recognition.

We are incredibly proud of this accomplishment and of every child who has contributed to making Hunstanton a school where sport thrives. With the GOLD Mark secured, our sights are already set on the future –



and we look forward to applying again in 2026!

Congratulations to everyone involved – this is a whole-school success worth celebrating!

Hunstanton teacher celebrates 30 years at school

As the new academic year kicks off, one Hunstanton teacher is celebrating an impressive milestone. This month marks Steve Chapman's thirtieth year of teaching at Smithdon High.

Now Assistant Headteacher at the school, Norfolk-born Mr Chapman did a degree in Geography and Economics at Reading University before completing a PGCE at the University of Anglia.

He says he wanted to teach as, "I have always enjoyed meeting people, which education allows you to do. I had been inspired by my own teachers, who showed passion for their subject and used teaching techniques which allowed me to enjoy learning."

"I remember my first day at Smithdon," he continues, "I was given a very friendly Year 8 form who were with me until they left in Year 11."

Career highlights include outings to Disneyland Paris, London, Brighton and



Birmingham, along with a visit to Alton Towers, complete with rollercoaster ride.

During the three decades Mr Chapman's held a variety of roles, becoming Head of Sixth Form from 2002 to 2018, "It was an amazing job, allowing me to work with ambitious, young people, supporting them towards their goals of fantastic university careers."

In 2022 he became Assistant Headteacher adding, "I really enjoy working with our excellent staff team. It is humbling that I can

offer support to staff. Working in a school is never dull, days go quickly, and you never quite know what might happen."

He says the best thing about his job though is the students, "Who I honestly believe are the best you can work with. Only last month, I saw an ex-student who also started Smithdon in 1996, who told me that my lessons were the inspiration for her career. She also told me that I had not aged – I was very pleased with that compliment!"

Headteacher Amanda Gibbins says, "Steve is a stalwart of Smithdon and lynchpin in our Senior Leadership Team. Calm, consistent, and widely respected by students and staff alike, he is an inspiration to us all, not least in having dedicated 30 years of his life to one school – which is a rarity in today's education world."

Adding, "I look forward to continuing to work with him for years to come."

Photo: Ian Burt

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Norfolk's biggest multi-charity Firewalk: Step up, step forward, step over the flames



The Rotary Club of King's Lynn Priory Satellite is proud to present Firewalk to Fundraise! 2025 on Friday 14th November at Alive Lynnsport – Norfolk's largest multi-charity firewalk. This unforgettable evening invites local people, charities and businesses to unite in courage and community spirit while raising funds for many good causes.

Get Involved – Four Ways to Take Part

- Charities: Register a team of up to five firewalkers (£100 per team) and raise money directly for your cause.
- Businesses & Groups: Rally your colleagues, club or family and enter a team (£100 per team) to support your chosen charity.
- Individuals: Register directly (£50) and raise funds for a charity close to your heart.
- Sponsors: Businesses can support the event by sponsoring, with branding opportunities on event materials.

Why Take Part?

This isn't just an extraordinary fundraising opportunity – it's an empowering, once-in-a-lifetime experience. With a seminar led by renowned empowerment coach and Master Certifying Firewalking Instructor Steve Consalvez of Firewalk UK, participants will discover clarity, confidence and courage before walking barefoot across glowing embers. The firewalk is about more than

conquering flames – it's about conquering fear.

Supporting Local Charities

All money raised goes into a central fund collected by Priory Rotary. After costs are covered, profits will be distributed proportionally to participating charities based on the funds raised by their teams plus Priory Satellite's two nominated charities; The Macmillan Cancer Centre based at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, King's Lynn and The Big C. Every step across the fire helps multiple charities continue their vital work in our community.

Join Us on the Night

Spectators are warmly invited to come along for just £1 entry (children under 12 free) to cheer on the brave firewalkers and share in the excitement.

For full details, registration forms, sponsorship information, and donation links, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/h9xcwvm8>

Roger McGough sets St Mary's Snettisham alight

Richard Gibbs

Liverpool poet and living legend (National Treasure) Roger McGough brought his show, "Alive and Giggling" to Snettisham on 3rd September.



Performing to packed pews in St Mary's church, the 87 year old regaled the audience (of around 180) with stories and poems from his past and present. There was much laughter, but also some poignant moments, during the ninety minute performance.

Poet, performer and broadcaster, Roger McGough has published over 100 poetry books for adults and children and has been called 'the godfather of modern poetry.' He was one of the Liverpool poets, alongside Adrian Henri and Brian Patten, who influenced popular culture in the sixties. The Mersey Sound, published in 1967, is one of the bestselling poetry anthologies of all time, selling over a million copies. In the 1960's with John Gorman, and Mike McGear he formed The Scaffold, performing a combination of songs, poetry and sketches who had several top 20 singles including the hit song 'Lily the Pink'.

Roger has won numerous awards including The Cholmondeley Award in 1988, received the Freedom of the City of Liverpool in 2001, and was awarded a CBE in 2004. A Fellow of The Royal Society and President of The Poetry Society he presents the popular Radio 4 Poetry Please series. After the show Roger signed copies of his most recent book The Collected Poems which presents the definitive selection of

his best work, from the Mersey-soaked sound of his Sixties start, through to meditations on fatherhood and family, and on to political sendups, pandemic playfulness and brilliant new writing.

The show, acclaimed by those present to be a wonderful evening, raised funds for The Friends of St Mary's, a group that exists to ensure that the church is preserved for the benefit of the whole community.



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Game, Set and Match

It is amazing to think that Hunstanton Lawn Tennis Tournament started just after the Great War over 100 years ago. Rumour has it a few local dignitaries decided it would be a good idea for the town to hold its own 'little Wimbledon' whilst enjoying a few gin and tonics. From those humble beginnings it has turned into the biggest event of its kind, in Europe (and possibly the world). That is down to one man, Chris Holt.



Chris first became involved in 1975 with his first responsibility to sign players' balls in and out. Woe betides if you were a ball short on sign off, as you were briskly sent back out to find another. And since 1975 the number of courts has risen from 10 to 38.

Since Chris's involvement, there is no doubt the tournament has grown from strength to strength to evolve into the tournament it is today. Having served on the committee in many roles including secretary, Chris became tournament organiser and 2025 proved to be the 50th anniversary of his association with the event.

A group of local amateurs attended later in the week of this year's tournament, including Councillor Richard Robinson, local man Paul Dixon, his daughter and holidaymaker, Dave Snart. As some of the outside courts became available they were able to play a couple of sets, then enjoy a few ales whilst watching the high-quality tennis on display. Marvellous, what better way to spend a summer afternoon. After probably one beer too many and a chat with Chris it was agreed all would enter the veterans tournament next year! We shall see. This does epitomise what the week is about as serious players, novices and spectators all mingle and enjoy the event together.

As the week progressed so the tennis on display intensified. All semi-finals proved to be tight affairs as players could see the silverware in sight at one of the most iconic tennis events



From left Sandi Procter (LTA President), Chris Holt, Heather Bottomley (LTA Councillor for Norfolk), Andy Creighton (Tournament Chairman). Credit Chris Lowndes

in Britain's summer sporting calendar.

There was a reason Ann Haydon came here in 1955, using the excellent grass courts as good preparation for Wimbledon, participating many times and, as Ann Jones, going on to win the Ladies Singles title in 1969, winning a total of seven grand slams.

The 38 courts are renowned for their quality with groundsman, Jonny Ives, who once worked at Wimbledon, praised for the high standard of care. Praise must go to him and his team of hard-working volunteers and council staff who work around the clock before, during and after the event.

Chris was a well-known teacher at the local school now known as Smithdon High School. Many alumni remember Chris, not just for smoke filled rooms in the science labs but as a friendly and courteous character who would gain their attention through his approachable teaching methods, an important and rare trait in the classroom. In fact, if former pupils were to bump into him, Chris would still often remember them even though he hadn't seen or taught them for maybe 40 or 50 years.

Hunstanton is renowned for many things, particularly as a Victorian seaside town first developed by the Le Strange family and now as popular as ever amongst tourists and locals alike. However, the tennis tournament has become legendary, mainly down to Mr Holt, and is as much associated with the town as its coastal heritage.

With over a thousand players ranging in age from 8 to 80, there is something special about catering for tennis enthusiasts of all abilities as well as spectators.

This year there was also a raised Padel court, a game invented in Mexico in the 1960's, a combination of tennis and squash in an enclosed arena that has now become one of the

fastest growing sports around the world.

The boutique stalls, sumptuous food on offer and The Hoste sponsored bar added to the ambience and gave the whole event a festival atmosphere.

On the grass, a record entry competed in the Gentleman's and Ladies' Opens, Doubles, Juniors and Veterans categories across all age groups.

The top seed in the Gentleman's event, Phillip Peters, was surprisingly beaten by Angus Creighton in the semi-finals. However, 2nd seed, Seth Briggs-Williams from Wisbech defeated Creighton in an exciting final, 6-4, 6-4, to retain his title.

In the Ladies' Open, top seed, Alice Gamman, beat Boston compatriot, Emma Mastin, 6-3, 6-0, in the final to also retain her title. Local girl and unseeded, Daisy Waddison, managed to reach the semi-finals before losing to Mastin.

Seth Briggs-Williams also lifted the Gentleman's Doubles Trophy with partner, James Cottam, whilst Alice Gamman and his BEM lifted the Ladies' Doubles Trophy with Isabel Wookey. Briggs-Williams made it a rare treble by teaming up with Genia van Daalen to win the Mixed Doubles title.

On the Wednesday evening, a celebration of Chris's 50th involvement in the tournament was led by Chairman, Andy Creighton, along with LTA President, Sandi Procter.

Chris had already received the highest accolade the LTA bestow, the Meritorious Service Award, to add to his Competition Organiser of the Year Trophy and his BEM in the Queen's Birthday Honours list in 2013. So, that evening Sandi Procter simply presented him with a memento to celebrate this milestone. Sandi said, "Chris is simply amazing, and he is well respected at the Lawn

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Tennis Association. We wish him well in his retirement but know full well he will still be involved in some capacity next year”.

Whilst Chris will still be involved on a consultancy basis moving forward, his son, Stephen, will be taking over the Tournament management in 2026, much to the relief of Chris’s wife, Linda. Chris can now focus on his other favourite pastime, photography.

There is a common phrase in sport that no individual is bigger than the event. On this occasion a rare exception can be made. Chris signed off his reign, with some poignant words, “of course it has been hard but, looking back, I have enjoyed every single moment. I have to thank all the people who have helped over the years, particularly all the volunteers and in particular, Jonny Ives and his team, without them, the tournament quite simply would not happen. And of course, to my long-suffering family, wife Linda and son Stephen. I look forward to seeing you all again next year but in a somewhat more relaxed capacity”.

For an interesting insight into the long and eventful history of the tournament, you can purchase the book “Wimbledon-on-Sea” by Ashley Martin online.



Photos clockwise from top left: Seth Briggs-Williams, Alice Gamman, Seth Briggs-Williams with James Cottam, Seth Briggs-Williams with Genia van Daalen

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Heritage House Day Care Centre celebrates 40 years

Heritage House celebrates 40 years of supporting people across North West Norfolk who are lonely, isolated, are in need of support and want to meet people, socialise or get support for their cared for family member.

Good shared therapeutic activity is a life saver. It can prevent people late in life from a predictable decline into isolation, dementia and in care services, and reduce the impact of some of the biggest conditions that affect older people today. Reducing isolation, good positive interaction that gives someone a reason to look forwards, enjoy today and be interested in what tomorrow will bring stimulates the mind, makes engaging in exercise more likely and new friends provides someone to relate to, to share an experience with.

For the carers, the opportunity to have a break, recharge batteries or just complete those necessary tasks that mean that life at home can continue, possible. Delaying the day when a loved one needs to go into a cared for facility, delaying the day when hospital beds are taken up, when community nursing care becomes more intensive. The earlier active support begins the greater the benefit and for someone with dementia, it becomes part of their routine far easier than starting later. Later, as dementia intensifies, accepting change can be really problematic.

Heritage House has 40 years of experience of making every day a special one. Many carers though try to go it alone until it gets to a

breaking point that makes it really difficult to settle, and they are too tired to cope. Planning support mechanisms is really important.

Heritage House provides the most cost-effective therapeutic support you can get for anyone, and for most can even provide the transport.

The building in Wells next the sea and its extensive garden have undergone a major refurbishment this year. All are welcome to visit to see for yourselves the countryside views, comfortable interior or excellent meals. Heritage House believes that there has to be a new era for the support given to older people. Everyone is treated as guests, welcomed and valued. The ethos is simple in that everyone should look forwards to their day, enjoy the company of others, and be supported to be as active as they can.

Norfolk County Council has designated the service as a Centre of Excellence.

New service

Heritage House has a new service based in Old Hunstanton Village Hall, called Vera's Dementia Cafe. Every Wednesday morning at 10 to 12 midday, from 1st October. It is a free to use service for people with dementia and their carers, run by specialist staff trained in dementia communication.

T: 01328 711333 W: heritagehousecare.org.uk

Hunstanton Bowls Club

(Cromer Road)

Moving Towards the Season's End



Three Hunstanton bowlers made their way to Leamington Spa in August to represent Norfolk in the National Bowls Finals. Margaret Hunt, Mo Stokes and Debra Wright faced Nottinghamshire in the first round of the triples and after emerging victorious were drawn against a strong Essex block. Unfortunately this proved the end of the journey for Norfolk but they put up a good fight!

The Tuesday afternoon friendly league, started this year, has now concluded and the final result will be announced at the Presentation Lunch on Sunday 19th October when awards will also be presented to the winners of the Club competitions. Watch this space!

During the past month Friendly matches have continued with games against Gorefield, Streatham, and Thornham. It was particularly heartening to welcome Thornham for the first time...a new fixture for both clubs but the rematch has already been arranged for 2026.

Played in excellent weather & thoroughly enjoyed by all those involved these are moments when friendships are forged.

Long may they continue!

As the season draws to its conclusion the Friday evening socials will continue in the clubhouse. Outdoor bowling may be over for another year but the club carries on!

News from Hunstanton Croquet Club

Zena Penty

September saw the end of the many well fought internal and external competitions held throughout the croquet season and introduced a new tournament for both Association and Golf Croquet called the East Anglian Challenge Series which was held for 1 day over each of the 3 summer months. See the club website for full tournament reports and photos hunstantoncroquetclub.co.uk

Thanks as always to those members who work hard to make it possible to hold so many tournaments on the fantastic lawns at Hunstanton's club.

Friendly club afternoons also proved very popular throughout the sunny weather as did the annual 'Bright Shirts Day' with worthy winner Alf looking very tropical!

Many of the new members this season have improved tremendously with the help of coaching from David Boxell and support from other players throughout this beautiful summer and some members have taken part in the in-house competitions which is a great way to learn, improve your game and make new friends. Introduction to croquet courses will be held again during April/May next year for potential new members so please look out for the dates if you are interested.





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Please note we do not accept entries by any social media channels or text. CLOSING DATE 15.10.2025.

Last month's question was How many teams in the top five divisions of English football begin and end with the same letter? Only one correct answer was received (that's never happened before) so congratulations to Paul Osborne from North Kilworth, Leics for correctly identifying all six: Liverpool, Aston Villa, Northampton Town, Charlton Athletic, Solihull Moors and York City.

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The Woottons FC

By Pat McGee

On Friday 5th September the Woottons FC seized the opportunity to use the tail end of the summer weather to celebrate numerous achievements, notably the awarding of Norman Cesar as their honorary life president and Tim Kirby as club president.

Norman and Tim's combined work at the club stems over half a decade, with Norman planting the initial seeds as founder 41 years ago.

Today the club boasts a membership of around 180 players ranging from under 6 to veterans' teams. The club has recently appointed a number of new individuals to the committee to take the club forward in the coming years, under the stewardship of their new chairman Tom Rudd.

Developments this year have seen the clubhouse benefit from a significant refurbishment, with the net result being hot food and drinks now on offer on match days. To date these additional facilities have been a huge success and long term should help to underpin the financial security of the club.

The Woottons FC would like to thank everyone who came to support the event and made the night a great success, which raised funds for further enhancements of the club's facilities.



Pictured are (from left) club president Tim Kirby, welfare officer Jen Rudd, clubhouse manager Lou Gotsell, treasurer Neil Gotsell, King's Lynn Town FC captain Michael Chunan, Norman Cesar; chairman Tom Rudd, vice-chairman Darren Chilvers & secretary Ashley Dickerson.

Photos: Ian Burt



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Sporting corner with Tim Keogh

The local Lawn bowls season reached an exciting conclusion

The Bridges 3 Wood League went to form as Bircham Railway Bowls Club successfully defended their league title. The Pete Waddison Memorial Trophy was won by Shouldham Yellow BC who enacted revenge on Bircham, who beat them in the 2024 final.



Bridges 3 Wood Bowls League Organiser, Brian Stockdale, presenting Shouldham Yellow BC Captain, Keith Brand, the Pete Waddison Memorial Cup

In the Countryside League, Ingoldisthorpe BC capped off a fine season to win the Knockout Shield to add to their league title, whilst Snettisham Excelsior won the Eddie Hipkin Cup.

The North West Norfolk Bowls League proved to be a tense affair, with Ingoldisthorpe BC eventually securing the Division One title whilst Docking BC topped Division Two. Burnham Coronation won the Ridley Cup. In the Subsidiary Cup Final, Ringstead BC prevailed over Docking BC.

In the Albert Victor League, newly promoted Searles BC secured their place in the top flight for next season. They also managed to win the League Cup, defeating Rougham BC in the final.

In the Norfolk EBA County League, Hunstanton 'A' rallied late in the season to finish a creditable 5th in Division One (West), whilst Hunstanton 'B' and Cliff Parade unfortunately occupied the bottom two places in Division Two (West). Hunstanton Ladies managed to reach the final of the County Top Club competition where they lost to a strong Norfolk Bowling Club.



Searles team: Paula Green, Judy Jackson, Steve Buffery, Dave Cox, Rod Quinton, Peter Green, Paul Woodbine, Tony Thacker, Teresa Hills, Rob Hills



Ridley Cup Winners Burnham Coronation BC

Focus now moves onto the Indoor bowls season that takes place at the Alive Oasis in Hunstanton. There are sessions to meet all abilities. For more information, please contact Kev Johnson by email at Cagey45@aol.com.

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

It takes two, baby!

The outdoor season has ended, full of success or failure; bowls have been wiped clean for either hibernation or using indoors; the green 'put-to-bed.' Over the season players have turned up, paid their dues (usually), and retired either to the bar or home with tales of great deeds or awful luck. Often little thought is given to the stoic band of brothers and sisters who's mission it is to make everything work, imitating the proverbial duck to do so. What follows centres on one club, but is written in gratitude to these stalwarts, wherever they play...

The role of secretary, my burden, sorry, pleasure, has its moments, but pales compared to those of the greenkeeper and captains. At the heart of our club are two gents, let us call them Rob and Bob, who are long-term members, who by a combination of circumstances have risen to the ranks of greenkeeper and team captain. Neither actively sought the posts, but neither were they prepared to let the club down – without either a green or a captain there is simply no match. Both are the first to admit that they are doing the jobs for 'one-more-year,' but like Topsy, that year grows and grows. Both also would admit that the green is a challenge, not helped by a mat of thatch that needs urgent removal, whilst the levels of it are 'interesting' after many attempts by the club to improve the surface by a combination of methods and extra soil. The grass has stubbornly refused to fill-in, despite their efforts, leading to moss patches and grass oasis, with the former's removal turning to worn areas. What is never helpful is players making

comments along the lines of, "Should plant potatoes" – I am amazed that such comments do not lead to the insertion of a bowl up the proverbial!

Captaincy, ah, now that's another story, one I have experienced and can sympathise with, or should I say empathise with. Before the season begins, they endeavour to find out how many players we have in which team, placing a list on the noticeboard. Over the year Mickey Mouse has regularly said he will play, but has yet to appear... After prompting, cajoling even bribing individuals over the pre-season, somehow, they perform a magic trick and find enough bodies. The system we adopt is to create a rota for the whole season, which works for us. However, some players regard this as a basis for negotiation, often saying on the day, or even hours before a match that they cannot play that night. Now both Rob and Bob are easy going about this, but when it is just before they are due to play, on occasion the message can be forgotten and further headaches follow. Then there's the moaning about someone playing who, in another's opinion, shouldn't be... I could go on (please don't, I hear you beg), but like that policeman, their lot is not a happy one.

In conclusion, without each club's Rob and Bob things would rapidly implode; 'experts' who criticise are usually the first to hide when asked to take over. So please be kind to them, bowls depends on them.

Onto the indoor bowls season.

Tense climax in the Margaret Torrey Challenge Trophy finals

The Torrey Cup is a trophy that is contested for by local teams in Heacham. Donated in 1924 by the well-known Heacham family at the time, the Torreys, Violet Torrey named the trophy in memory of her mother Margaret, although it was daughter, Susan, who became more involved with the tournament over the years, before she passed away in 2001. The very same trophy exists to this day and is on display at Heacham Social Club.

In the early days the tournament was played by individuals with the first ever winner a CA Patrick. In the latter part of the century, local establishments began contesting for the Cup, namely The Fox & Hounds, Wheatsheaf, Greyhound and Ex Services Club. In the 1950's Arthur Chilvers received the trophy on behalf of the Fox & Hounds team from Susan Torrey (pictured), whilst also winning the event again with the Fox & Hounds in the 1970's (pictured). More recently, Arthur's grandson, Colin, also went on to win the tournament in 2023.

After a short sabbatical, Mick Rumens reignited the tournament, before Sue Dainton took over the realms to create the format as it is known today. In the old days, participants had to live in Heacham, whilst nowadays the criteria has been widened to include people from the 'local area'.

This year's event involved 16 teams of three vying for a place on finals weekend via two qualifying weekends on a round robin basis. On the first weekend, Sylvia Lee (87), who was known as 'Mrs Heacham Bowls', and whom the pavillion is named after along with her husband, Phillip, attended with her carer from Millbridge Care Home.

On Sunday, 7th September, the 8 finalists



went head to head in what proved to be a pulsating afternoon of bowls. As Sue put it, "probably the most exciting, competitive and closest tournament I have been involved in".

So it proved, after a total of 28 ends, the tournament was literally won with the final play on the final end, as the team of Duane Gowen, Nick Blake and Michael Jackson secured the title by just one point much to the delight of their vociferous onlooking support. Having won 12 of their 14 matches, the team of Colin Chilvers, Mark Morrison and Tim Keogh were agonisingly pipped at the post coming 2nd, whilst the team of Mel Barr, Paul Rawlinson and Gary Mason came 3rd.

Sue said, "probably the most enjoyable tournament I have been involved in. As well as the players and spectators, I would like to thank Gary 'Elvis' Lee for the background



Susan presents the cup to Arthur Chilvers 1950s. Also in photo: France Hart, Stibbie Turner, Walter "whippet" Chapman, George Bunn, Ronnie Clark, Norman Benn, Billy Grapes



Fox and Hounds Team in the 1970s. Back from left: Dicky Benn, Ronnie Clark, Paddy O'Callaghan, Billy Bray, Stan Lee, Unknown

Middle: Arthur Chilvers, Claude Youngs, Basil Proctor, Jimmy Warnes, Sid Evans

Front: Maurice Plumb, Unknown

music during the finals, Heacham Social Club for the refreshments and catering and, of course, Luke Steadman of LPS Building & Groundworks for sponsoring the event".

£250 was raised throughout, which was

donated to the RNLI and the 8:56 Foundation equally. Sue has now taken a well earned break in Spain but is looking forward to making the tournament even bigger and better next year.



2025 Torrey Cup Winners - Duane Gowen, Nick Blake, Michael Jackson



2025 Torrey Cup Runners Up - Tim Keogh, Colin Chilvers, Mark Morrison who donated their prize money to the 8:56 Foundation

Sporting corner with Tim Keogh

Snettisham wait anxiously to see if they have been promoted

Snettisham Cricket Club 1st XI capped off a fine season by finishing 2nd in Division Four of the Norfolk Cricket Alliance League (NCA).

However, promotion is dependant on complicated permutations still to be played out higher up the Cricket Pyramid at the end of September.



Back row from left: Josh Herbert, James Hearmon, Kieran Herbert, Dan Coggin, Damien Twiddy, Sachin Rathnayake. Front row from left: Ryan Twiddy, Jonathan Forder, Lewis Jeavons, Danny Arnold, Jack Cotton. Photo credit Ian Burt

In Division Two of the NCA, both Bircham and newly promoted Sandringham & Dersingham had high aspirations for promotion at the start of the campaign. After good starts, both teams faltered mid

campaign before finishing 7th and 8th respectively.

In Division Five of the NCA, Thornham fell just short of securing a potential promotion place in their final game as they lost a tense encounter at home to Reepham & Salle CC by four wickets, who leapfrogged the local outfit into 2nd place in the process. However, Thornham can feel proud of their 3rd place finish in what was their debut season at this level.



Snettisham Women impressively won the Shell UK Women's Cricket League, beating North Runcton Women by a point. It is no mean feat for the team, who brought in experienced Middlesex Coach, Julie Fielder, at the start of the season which clearly reaped dividends. Captain, Michelle Knott, was delighted with the achievement, saying, "congratulations to all the players and everyone involved behind the scenes, they all deserve their maiden title".

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It's a funny ol' game...

It's been a Jekyll and Hyde start for King's Lynn Town FC thus far this season. However, it appears their Jekyll side is winning over as they flirt with the play off places early on in the Conference League North.

Michael Gyasi has certainly hit the ground running with five goals already, although manager, James Rowe, believes he could be less selfish. But, as we all know, successful goal scorers tend to possess a selfish streak, so Rowe will be aiming to get the right balance from his talisman.

A 4-1 win at Chesham in the FA Cup means the Linnets also have a 3rd Round Qualifying tie to look forward to at Isthmian League side, Royston Town, on Saturday, 27th September.

Déjà vu for Heacham FC who have experienced a similar start to last season, out of the FA Vase and FA Cup and without a win in the Thurlow Nunn Premier Division (at the time of going to print). A 3-1 home defeat to bottom side Woodbridge Town on the 12th September meant the Magpies were rooted at the foot of the table by mid-September. It doesn't get any easier with their next three games against teams in the top half of the table.

Dersingham Rovers have been knocked out of two cup competitions albeit against higher league opposition. However, it means they can now focus on building on a positive start in Division One of the Anglian Combination after missing out on promotion by a whisker last season. Manager, Harry Collison's prediction that this is going to be a very competitive division is already proving right.

After relegation to Division Four last season and a slow start to this campaign, Ingoldisthorpe FC are now starting to show signs that they will be in the mix for promotion come the end of the season. Shane Watson looking to be the pick of the new signings.

Heacham FC U18's experienced their first ever foray into the FA Youth Cup, returning from Soham Town Rangers U18's with a 3-1 win to add to a solid start in the league. They face Bury Town U18's in the next round later on in September.

Dersingham Rovers Women FC also created their own little piece of history by winning their first ever game in the Norfolk Women & Girls' Football League. Emma Leech scoring in a 1-0 win over Necton Women. Manager, Georgie Archer, is excited about the new season, saying, "a positive start and something we can build upon". Town & Around will be featuring one of their matches in November.

Town & Around will also be keeping you up to date with all local team's performances every Monday in the online weekly sports report (www.townandaround.net).



Docking Rangers U13's with Ash Miles (Manager), Mark Childs (Brancaster Garage) and Matthew Bateson (Coach)

Docking Rangers FC U13's

Docking Rangers FC U13's has been sponsored by Mark Childs of Brancaster Garage for the new season. It is exciting times for the club

who are looking to build on the success of their last campaign.

The junior football season starts in September, and T&A will be following the progress of Hunstanton based Redgate Rangers, Dersingham Rovers, Docking Rangers and Heacham Minors junior teams over the course of the season.



Docking Rangers FC U13's has been sponsored by Mark Childs of Brancaster Garage

Woottons FC

Recently, the Woottons FC seized the opportunity to use the tail end of the Summer weather to celebrate numerous achievements, notably the awarding of Norman Cesar as their Honorary Life President and Tim Kirby as Club President. See report and images on page 60.

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Sporting corner with Tim Keogh

Golf Championships and Round Up

All local golf clubs held their annual Golf Championships recently, with members all vying to win the respective coveted titles and securing their name on the club roll of honour boards for eternity.



Hunstanton GC Men's Champion Nathan Holt right Runner Up Tom Hadfield

Nathan Holt won the Men's Championship at Hunstanton Golf Club with an 8 over par (36 holes), whilst Harriet Allesbrook successfully defended her title with a 9 over par (36 holes) in the Ladies event.



Hunstanton GC Ladies Champion Harriet Allesbrook centre Runner Up Sue Meadows right and 3rd Place Poppy Beales



Heacham Manor Mens champ Angus Law with children and HM Mgr Charles Bryan

At Heacham Manor GC, Angus Law won the Men's title with a gross 77 and 83 across 36 holes with Rachel Hodgkinson winning the Ladies title with a gross of 89 (18 holes)



Heacham Manor GC Ladies Champion Rachel Hodgkinson with Charles Bryan

The Men's Le Strange Cup at Searles GC was won by Rob Hills who defeated Tony Thacker in a tense play off after both grossed 75 over 18 holes, whilst in the Ladies event there was a new champion in the form of the popular Christine Watson, who grossed 94.



Golf - Searles GC Le Strange Men's Championship Winner Rob Hills with Searles Representative, Tom Coventry (left).



Golf - Searles GC Ladies Champion Christine Watson with Tom Coventry (Searles)

Local Heacham Manor Golf Professional, Warren Bates, travels to the UAE later this month, having qualified for the season ending Clutch Pro Tour Tier One event at the Al Ain Equestrian, Shooting and Golf Club aiming to win a share of the £100k prize fund.

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Final bow for HDFA



The Hunstanton and District Festival of Arts has a new Chairperson. Dawn Davies, who will be the final Chair in the run up to the HDFA Annual General Meeting this December when it will close.

This year's Committee has been Wendy Croucher Chair, Mike Ruston Treasurer, D. Davies V. Chair, Ian Wells Music Festival Director, Bob Davies Publicity and Ann McKimm as secretary.

Dawn has been a member of the Committee for many years and Vice Chair for the 24-25 season. She has recently been the principal co-ordinator for the popular Hunstanton Craft Fairs held every month at the Town Hall.

Since 2012, the tile painting workshops have been among the most well-attended events each year, excluding the period affected by Covid. The final seafront panel was completed this summer and will be exhibited next spring, in collaboration with the local community group, The Men's Shed.

This may be the final season for this registered charity that has been running since the 1940s and who lost their grant from Kings Lynn Borough Council this year. The current committee are looking for an active group to take it on.

The Annual Music Festival of live bands is safe for 2026 thanks to generous donations from the audience at this year's event.

Details of the AGM will be available soon, and anyone interested in taking the Charity forward into the future is invited to get in touch via the website www.festival3bythesea.org for more information.

Kings Lynn Society for Arts and Sciences (KLSAS)

As autumn approaches KLSAS launches a new programme.

The Society was established in 1913 and has been bringing high quality talks spanning arts and sciences to Kings Lynn and West Norfolk for over a century.

Keep the date, Tuesday 14th October, when following a very brief, businesslike AGM we will enjoy a talk on Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, a tale of seduction, chivalry and beheading in medieval England by Emeritus Professor Christopher Page.

On Tuesday 28th October, Lida Kindersley, renowned for her exquisite work at The British Library and many Cambridge colleges will reveal The Kindest cut of all: the making of gravestones from sketch to execution.

John Heath's, Post, post, post: the wartime writings of Private Arthur Heath from life on the front will be an appropriate topic for reflection on Tuesday 11th November.

The full programme is available on our website site www.klsas.uk but look out for our brochure and posters.

We meet from 18.45 for a 19.30 prompt start, at the small barn Knights Hill Hotel where there is free parking and refreshments available to purchase. Visitors at £7 in cash each talk are always welcome but why not join for the season? If you join before 14th October £24 will give you access to all nine talks extending through to March 2026. At less than £3 a time what is there lose?

Email our Treasurer Alan at alan@klsas for bank details to set up a standing order, bank transfer or arrange payment by cheque or cash.

We look forward to enjoying your company.

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Charity Music Gala at St. Mary's Church, Snettisham

Dersingham Choir is hosting a Charity Music Gala at St Mary's Church, Snettisham, on Saturday 18th October, starting at 7pm, with doors open from 6.30.

The gala evening will feature Jenny Williams (soprano), Daniel Meades (tenor) and pianists Matthew Preston and Benjamin Howell. They will be performing works by Verdi, Puccini, Bernstein, Gershwin, Dvorak and more.

Jenny, from Docking, is Musical Director of Dersingham Choir. After graduating from the Guildhall School of Music she began her career singing opera for companies including Pavilion Opera, Pimlico Opera and Les Arts Florissants performing roles such as Donna Anna in Don Giovanni, The Countess in The Marriage of Figaro and Micaëla in Carmen, as well as many oratorios and solo concert performances.

Daniel has performed in over 30 countries as a tenor soloist and has worked with companies such as Scottish Opera Go Round, English Touring Opera, Pavillion Opera and Opera Brava, and he is currently a member of the extra chorus at English National Opera.



Benjamin and Matthew perform together as The Missing Coda, and they teach music in schools and work with other organisations throughout Norfolk. Benjamin, from East Barsham, has toured the world as musical director, pianist and keyboard player in musicals, pantomimes, theatre productions and on cruise ships. Matthew, from Fakenham, is accompanist for the Dersingham Choir. He graduated with a First Class honour degree from Leeds College of Music, has been organist at Burnham Deepdale church and is a trustee of the Norfolk County Music Festival.



Jan Wilson, chair of the choir committee said, "We are absolutely thrilled to welcome such gifted musicians to Snettisham. Our gala evening promises an unforgettable night filled with beautiful classical music and opera, performed by some of the most talented artists from our own community."

Advance tickets for the charity gala can be pre-booked by e-mailing secretaryDC2025@outlook.com: adult tickets are £18 each, children £7.50. Alternatively, tickets will be available on the door on the 18th October, adult tickets £20 each, children £7.50. There is free parking at St. Mary's and the church has full wheelchair access. Money raised by the gala will help support Dersingham choir, which is a registered charity.

For more information please contact Kate, the choir secretary, email secretaryDC2025@outlook.com or phone 07513 986858.

NEW FESTIVAL MANAGER UNVEILS AUTUMN CONCERTS

King's Lynn Festival is set to captivate audiences this autumn with an exciting programme of concerts, while also marking a new chapter with the appointment of Ben Horden as Festival Manager.

Ambrose Miller, Artistic Director of King's Lynn Festival, said, "I am immensely looking forward to working with Ben as the new Festival Manager. He brings a wealth of experience in arts management and administration, and an active portfolio as an accomplished classical musician."

Ben already has strong connections with the festival town through his work as Music Director of King's Lynn Festival Chorus. He joins the festival from being an Artist Manager, representing celebrated international conductors and instrumentalists. He balances arts management with a freelance career as a classical music conductor and keyboardist.



Ben Horden Credit Matthew Johnson

Ben said, "I am thrilled to be joining a festival with such a distinguished history and vibrant future — one that strives for diversity in its programming.

From emerging talent to internationally renowned performers and academics, the artists of our autumn series share a remarkable gift for communicating, engaging, and inspiring.

As the autumn concerts approach, I look forward to working with the festival team, local community and audiences, and world-class artists in developing the future of this important arts festival for the people of Lynn and beyond."

The ever-popular series of morning Coffee Concerts returns from October. As well as hearing familiar repertoire by Chopin, Beethoven, and Liszt, you can discover rarer music by Dvořák and Philip Glass.

For the curious and open minded, a "Lie Down & Listen" event offers a completely different approach to connecting with music: a guided meditative listening experience. The initiative comes to King's Lynn following sell-out performances at Greenwich's Painted Hall and The Natural History Museum. Mats are provided!

King's Lynn will also host the lecture From Kabul to Kyiv at the Corn Exchange Cinema, which focuses on war and peace in the 21st century. Former British Ambassador to Afghanistan and Russia, Sir Laurie Bristow, will be joined by Ms Zahra Joya, Afghan journalist and founder of Rukshana Media, a media organisation dedicated to amplifying the voices and stories of Afghan women.

The Box Office is now open. Details of every event are online at <https://www.kingslynnfestival.org.uk/>.

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I was glad!

A celebration of the English anthem

7pm, Saturday 1 November 2025 St Nicholas' Chapel

As they open their season, join King's Lynn Festival Chorus for an uplifting evening celebrating the rich tradition of the English anthem. At the heart of the programme is Parry's coronation anthem *I was glad!*, a cornerstone of sacred music and royal ceremony across the ages.

The concert also features choral gems including Elgar's *Benedictus*, S. S. Wesley's *Ascribe unto the Lord*, and works by Stanford, William Mathias, and contemporary composer Jonathan Dove — showcasing the enduring beauty and evolution of the English anthem from its Victorian grandeur to vibrant modern-day expressions.

Rooted in centuries of cathedral and collegiate worship, the English choral tradition combines rich harmonic language, lyrical beauty, and spiritual depth. Join us on a musical journey through devotion, ceremony, and national identity.

The chorus is conducted by Music Director Ben Horden and joined at the keys by acclaimed organist Francesca Massey.

King's Lynn Festival Chorus
Ben Horden Conductor
Francesca Massey Organ

Francesca Massey (right)



King's Lynn Festival Chorus
Ben Horden CONDUCTOR
Francesca Massey ORGAN

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The King's Lynn Community Cinema Club have the last two showings of the summer session in screen 2 at The Majestic in October. On Thursday 9th October 7.30pm an Irish comedy *Four Mothers* and on Thursday 23rd October at 7.30pm *The Penguin Lessons* starring Steve Coogan and Jonathan Pryce. The bar will be open half an hour prior to the screenings.

Four Mothers was the winner of the audience award at the London film festival 2024. A film about a struggling novelist who ends up taking care of his own plus 3 other mothers for the weekend, Donald Clarke of *The Irish Times* wrote 'the experienced cast sell each of their characters with gusto'.

The Penguin Lessons is based on the memoir of Tom Michell regarding his time as a British teacher in an Argentinean boarding school in the 1970's and what occurred when he discovered a penguin alive amongst many who had died contaminated by oil on a trip to a Uruguayan resort. When interviewed Steve Coogan said the penguin was predominately played by a mated pair Abbot and Richard with a group of back ups plus a robot and puppet to ensure there was not too much stress.

KLCCC is open to anyone over 18 and costs £20 a season. There are 2 seasons a year each with 8 scheduled films that are free for members. Membership can be arranged by emailing communitycinemaclub@googlemail.com. Alternatively, you can just come along to any film as a day member for £6 cash on the door. Full details of all the club's films and events can be found on the club website www.klccc.uk and Facebook page.

King's Lynn Community Choir has chosen Tapping House as its charity of the year

Jill Bennett

The chairman of the choir, David Gerrard, presented a cheque for £1,250 as the first contribution from the choir.

Even though their first concert had to be cancelled because of problems with the roof of St Nicholas's Chapel, many of the audience members wanted their ticket money to go to Tapping House.

So, the community choir was delighted to hand over the cheque to Clara Smith at Tapping House in the summer.

The next concert will be at St Nicholas's Chapel on December 6th, and it will include a wide range of music and some Christmas favourites.

If you fancy trying some choral singing you can join the choir - there is no audition and you don't have to be able to read music. The first two sessions are free. Rehearsals are at 6.30 on Thursday evenings at London Road Methodist Chapel in King's Lynn. You will be made welcome!



King's Lynn Community Choir chairman David Gerrard with Clara Smith of Tapping House.

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The Passion of the Art Collector

Lesley Nadel

Starting at great art can stimulate the brain to the levels of when we fall in love. We may just buy for decorative purposes; we may be invested in a visual story, essentially a part of the artist's life and experience that inspired the creation of the work. We buy art that reflects our own heritage from artists that may have similar backgrounds to our own. When we collect a limited edition of a well-known artist, we may be claiming a right to some of the artist's history.

Art collecting can be used to communicate identity, status and cultural sophistication. Passionate art collectors often have general personality traits, often people very open to experience, with a range of interests, curiosity and a real concern and appreciation for beauty. They may be driven to the desire to explore and understand. They tend to be conscientious individuals who research, curate and maintain their collections methodically.

Collections often depend on whether the individual is an extrovert or an introvert. Some like the community with other dedicated collectors, attending openings and art auctions. Getting together with fellow enthusiasts to discuss the artists, artistic styles and what's new can play a major role in how collections are developed. They are often skilled researchers - they know who owns what, and to find something previously undiscovered can be an incomparable thrill. Not all collectors are just out to maximise profits or avoid paying taxes. An introvert collector may get their satisfaction through a more private relationship with art, just to own, to gaze and to appreciate.

Collectors and dealers play important roles in the art market. They pay close attention to all market changes and if they are a major collector/dealer, they will be aware of all the new things needed to stay a leader and not to be overtaken by another. Their knowledge and influence can decide whether an artist will have a place in the market and the value of the art. The collector's support and influence have a role in determining the artist's future.

"... the true collector's only home is his own museum." (Orhan Pamuk.) Great collectors can be very secretive about their artworks, but some are very collaborative and have a desire to share their collections through public exhibitions and loans to museums. Francois Pinault, the French billionaire, who is quoted saying, "The desire to possess - born at the moment I first came into contact with art - has been transformed into a profound need to share." Museums have been major beneficiaries of some of the world's prestigious art collections and some of the most modest. Many collections in American museums have been gifts from private donors. Recently, contemporary artworks have been bought in such large quantities by the super-rich that new private museums are being built. Rather than just leave their extensive collections in storage they are choosing to share them with the public in these new 'ego-seums'. They may have narcissistic traits for recognition and admiration through their collections. Art collections can become a status symbol and a means of social differentiation, a demonstration of power, privilege and cultural sophistication. A collector's personality will shape their



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George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham

Lecturer:
Lucy Hughes-Hallett

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approach to collecting and each approach will be as unique as their personality.

On Monday 13th October at 2pm in Sedgeford Village Hall, The Arts Society North West Norfolk will be hosting a lecture by Lucy Hughes-Hallett on George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, known as "the handsomest man in 17th century Europe". He was a passionate patron of the arts and fashion and an avid art collector. New members are warmly welcome, details on our website www.artsocietynwnorfolk.org.uk

The Arts Society King's Lynn

The Arts Society King's Lynn continues the 2025-26 season on Thursday 9 October 2025 when they welcome Pamela Campbell-Johnson to speak on the topic of "Art Deco: Celebrating the Centenary of the 1925 Paris Expo".

Our lecturer will be Pamela Campbell-Johnson who has an MA Hons in Art History from St Andrew's University. She has over 30 years of lecturing experience to undergraduates, adult groups, and to Friends and Patrons of the Royal Academy of Arts as part of the RA's Adult Education Department. She has also conducted numerous guided tours, residential trips and focused gallery talks on individual works of art. Pamela specialises in British Domestic Architecture and Modern British Art - with a particular love for the 1920s and 1930s. She is now a freelance art consultant and lecturer.

In 1925, 16 million visitors witnessed PARIS'S EXPO - The International Exhibition of Modern Decorative and Industrial Arts. What would we have seen in this landmark exhibition, if we had been one of those visitors? What drew the Crowds? And how did this seminal exhibition play a fundamental role in giving rise to a new



international and truly GLOBAL style that we have come to know as ART DECO?

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

The annual subscription is just £55 or you can go along to individual talks as a guest for £10. Anyone interested in finding out more about TASKL can visit their website at www.theartsocietykingslynn.org.uk or to join the Society contact the membership secretary on 01760 724823 or via email at info@theartsocietykingslynn.org.uk.

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Art Exhibition supporting Hunstanton Stroke Group

Six painters, a printmaker and a photographer are holding an exhibition at Thornham Village Hall on October 4th and 5th from 10am to 4pm in support of the Hunstanton Stroke Group. A selection of work by stroke survivors is also on display.

The stroke group meet weekly and once a month participate in art classes where they have the freedom to explore their creativity.

A variety of work has been produced by artists Kay Bolton, Jane Brun, Jillian Ilett, Barbara King, Keith Powell and Julie Witt, and by printmaker Liz Hawkins and photographer Jo Halpin Jones.



Hunstanton Beach by Jo Halpin Jones



November Light by Keith Powell

Tennessee Twin delight audience with exceptional vocal harmonies

Memorable melodies, gritty lyrics, fabulous acoustics and beautiful lighting in St Mary's Snettisham made this a night to remember **Richard Dix**

The very first Country Night at St Mary's proved a resounding success last night, as around eighty people gathered in the historic church to enjoy an intimate evening of live music.

Hosted by KLI Radio, the concert was presented as a side project of the Wild West Norfolk Festival, which returns to Hunstanton on 4th July 2026. Taking centre stage were Victoria and Geoff Meads, the duo better known as Tennessee Twin, who are well known and loved within the ever growing UK country music scene.

Over the course of two sparkling 50-minute sets, Tennessee Twin shared their own heartfelt songs alongside captivating stories and a few cheeky covers, all delivered with rich harmonies and a Nashville-inspired sound. The church's natural acoustics gave the music an extra warmth, while the relaxed atmosphere and lighting helped make the evening feel welcoming and intimate.

For those in the audience, it was a memorable way to mark the close of summer in West Norfolk, with the glow of the church surroundings adding to the overall charm. Judging by the smiles, applause and praise, this debut Country Night will be remembered as the start of a tradition worth repeating, and a fine showcase of two of the UK's standout country performers.



Opening of the Air Raid Shelter

Laura Evans

On Sunday 14th September, The Bridge for Heroes proudly hosted the official opening of the air raid shelters, welcoming visitors to step back in time and experience a vital piece of wartime history. The event formed part of the national Heritage Day celebrations, drawing a strong community turnout and raising just over £900 to support the charity's ongoing work with veterans and their families.

Guided tours were a highlight of the day, with tour guides leading guests through the shelters and sharing fascinating insights about life during the Blitz. The immersive experience was brought to life even further with a dramatic air raid simulation, giving visitors a glimpse of the tension and resilience of those who endured such times.

In addition to the tours, The Bridge for Heroes delivered engaging health and safety talks, ensuring that the crowds both enjoyed the event and understood the importance of preserving such historic sites responsibly.

Thankfully, the rain held off until the very end of the day, allowing visitors to enjoy the occasion in comfort.

The Bridge for Heroes extends its heartfelt thanks to the Borough Council for enabling the opening of the air raid shelters, as well as to all the dedicated volunteers whose time and effort made the day such a success. Their commitment helped create an unforgettable experience for visitors while raising vital funds for the charity.

The event was not only a celebration of history but also a testament to the power of community spirit. With the support of the Borough Council, local people, and volunteers, The Bridge for Heroes continues to honour the past while working to improve the lives of those who have served our country.

Welfare - 0300 111 2030
Bridge Centre - 01553 760 230
Bridge Activity Centre - 07429544293



A glimpse inside the grounds and gardens of Hunstanton Hall

Dani Crawshaw

A tour by Heritage Open Days gives rare access to the grounds, the ancestral home of the Le Strange family from the 15th century.

I've walked around the grounds outside Hunstanton Hall a few times when it's open to the public on a Thursday, which has sparked my curiosity about its history - and I'll be honest what the gardens are like and the courtyard you can just get a glimpse of. So a Heritage Open Day tour through the grounds - across the moat and into the courtyard (access to which is only granted once a year) - I have been looking forward to.

It starts at nearby St Mary's Church, where I meet around 30 others who're on the tour. A few have interesting links to the area. Andrea Wicks from Oxfordshire tells me her ancestors lived in Old Hunstanton, "They were baptised in this little church and some of them lived in the Le Strange Hall grounds, so I thought it would be nice to see."

Nick Torry, who's leading the group, then gathers us outside. And the history begins. As we walk he tells us the hall was the ancestral home of the Le Strange family from the 15th century, but was split up and sold off in the late 1950s. The family (now descendant Charles le Strange) still owns a significant portion of the surrounding estate and gardens.



Nick Torry giving the tour

"The gardens were very famous before the first World War," Nick explains, "You'd have visits from and articles in The Illustrated London News for example. But in the 1930's they really got neglected tremendously, so they were really overgrown. Until lockdown and Charles le Strange decided to clear all the rubbish out, and renewed them and they're now superb."



Courtyard, where part of the Elizabethan hall still stands

Before we get to see the gardens though, we are lead to the front of the Hall, and get to enter through the 17th century arched gateway. It's here we are told a ghost story (I knew they'd be at least one) about 'the grey lady'.

"The widowed Armine Le Strange Styleman inherited the Hall after her brother Henry died childless," Nicks says, "The wealthy family owned many treasures and Armine loved a carpet she had been given by the Shah of Persia."

He goes on to say that on her deathbed she issued a threat, that if the carpet was removed she'd come back to haunt. Nearly a century

later a new mistress (oblivious to the threat) chopped it into pieces to distribute to the local poor.

"Her and her husband said candles would blow out and footsteps plodded the corridors - they even saw a menacing face at the window," Nick adds. I'm pleased to say as we get closer to the Hall, I don't see anything other than impressive curtains at the windows.

We're then lead across the moat and through the archway of the brick gatehouse, where a small part of the original Elizabethan Hall still stands - most was destroyed by a fire in 1853, but a small section of the porch remains.

In the courtyard I ask Andrew Murray (also a guide) if he knows who lives in parts of the house now. Andrew tells me he has a friend who does, "I've been inside his home, and it is very impressive". He also informs me that part of the Hall is currently for sale. Sadly I don't have a spare 2 million.



View from the garden

Then we are taken to the gardens - part 17th century and part Victorian. It's where in the 1920's and 30's P. G. Wodehouse, a cousin of the le Stranges, often wrote, "With his typewriter on a punt in the moat," says Andrew.

Julia, who's on the tour with her son Max tells me she played in the grounds as a child, "A friend's brother knew the groundsman here, he used to let us in - we'd run around and have adventures."

We are shown a tunnel entrance, that the family used as a shortcut to get to and from church. "I remember this," says Julia, "It had a grill at the other end - and we'd grab hold of the bars and say 'we're trapped'. I also remember running around the maze, and panicking we couldn't get out."



As I stand and take it all in, imagining what it must have been like all those centuries ago, Linda Nudds, who's taking photos says, "In a few weeks my friend's daughter is getting married here - well at St Mary's and then they'll be a marquee here in the garden." She's asked Charles le Strange to take the wedding party on a mini tour the day before, which he's agreed to. How wonderful.

When the tour ends I walk back to St Mary's with Julia, who continues to reminisce, "A friend lived in this house by the main gate, today's been quite sentimental for me."

I think how important stories are - especially those that can bring a place to life. And how vital custodians like Charles le Strange are as well, to preserve and maintain these marvellous places steeped in local history.

Thank you Heritage Open Days for a lovely tour.

Sound Advice Hearing Open Week in

Free hearing tests, expert advice, and exclusive offers available

Sound Advice Hearing, your trusted local independent audiologist, is delighted to announce an Open Week at our King's Lynn branch from Monday 13th to Friday 17th October.

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As part of the event, we are also offering up to £500 off a set of hearing aids – an exclusive offer available only during Open Week!

Appointments can be booked by calling the King's Lynn branch on 01553 760250 or by visiting www.soundadvicehearing.co.uk.



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Westacre Theatre: More than just performances

When most people hear “Westacre Theatre,” they think of captivating plays, open-air productions, and evenings of live entertainment. But step a little closer, and you’ll discover that Westacre is so much more than a performance venue - it’s a creative hub, community resource, and cultural lifeline in the heart of rural West Norfolk.

A home for young creatives

At the heart of Westacre Theatre’s mission is a commitment to empowering children and teenagers through inclusive creative opportunities. Every year, hundreds of young people - many from low-income or geographically isolated backgrounds - discover their voice through our programmes.



From Drama Clubs and Musical Theatre workshops to Scriptwriting, Art Club, and Forest School adventures, Westacre offers safe, inspiring spaces where young people can build confidence, learn collaboration, and explore big ideas through creativity.

For those seeking something more formal, Westacre also provides 1:1 tuition through LAMDA (London Academy of Music & Dramatic Arts) qualifications, led by Camilla from MissAdventures Theatre Company. With a 100% pass rate and students regularly achieving Distinctions, this tailored coaching not only develops acting talent but also valuable communication skills that last a lifetime.

As one parent put it: “Westacre have helped us hugely providing a safe and supported environment for us to thrive. Between all of the facilities that are crucial to the local community, the opportunity to rediscover who we are whether through regular classes, workshops, performances, and opportunities to volunteer with the running of the theatre café, along with many other fantastic opportunities. It really is a magical place.”

A venue like no other

But Westacre Theatre isn’t just about nurturing young talent. Our beautiful café, light-filled art gallery, versatile studio spaces, and stunning grounds make us the perfect setting for a wide variety of events. So if you’re looking for somewhere unique to make your event shine, Westacre has hosted it all:

- NHS training days
- Weddings and private celebrations
- Art exhibitions and book signings
- Community meet-ups
- Even a Land Rover fundraising event for Norfolk Fire & Rescue (complete with bacon sarnies and fresh coffee!)

Whatever your vision, we have the space, the charm, and the expertise to make it happen.

Beyond the stage

Our calendar is alive with activity: creative workshops for the Home Ed community, after-school clubs, and even the chance to bring in your precious jewellery and antiques for valuation by BBC Bargain Hunt expert Charles Hanson on one of our popular Valuation Days.

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About Teechers...

Fast-moving, highly entertaining, and as relevant now as when it was written in the 1980s, Teechers evokes the highs and lows of life at a modern high school. Inspired by their new drama teacher Mr. Nixon, who ignited in them a passion for theatre, the three year 11 leavers tell the story of their time at Whitehall through a play within the play.

What's On
westacretheatre.com

Find Us
River Road
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Norfolk
PE32 1UA

Get In Touch
admin@westacretheatre.com

Registered Charity No. 1057258

This breadth of programming is vital in a rural area where arts access can be limited. We are proud to be a space where creativity, confidence, and connection thrive across generations - from early years to older adults.

A place to belong

At Westacre Theatre, the impact is clear: young people flourish, families connect, and communities facing rural isolation find belonging. As one of the only purpose-built community arts centres in the region, we are dedicated to keeping culture alive and accessible in West Norfolk.

So next time you think of Westacre, don’t just think “theatre.” Think hub, workshop, gallery, classroom, café, venue, lifeline. Because here, creativity doesn’t just happen on stage - it happens everywhere.



Snettisham Bobtails Pre-school

It has been a busy year at Bobtails with lots of children registered for morning, afternoon and all day sessions. We have had a wonderful donation of a new mud kitchen for our garden from Snettisham Cricket Club and the Queen Victoria public house. They also came and put it together for us. The children love playing outside using all the equipment. The Snettisham WI also sent us a donation which we used to purchase a new sofa for the reading corner. These donations are always welcome and they add to the resources we can offer all our children.

In July we had our Ofsted inspection – it was a busy day with lots of parents attending our activity sessions where parents come and see their children in the setting and take part in the activities set up inside and out in the garden. The day went well and we received a GOOD rating. The full report can be viewed via the link on our website

www.snettishambobtails-preschool.co.uk

We are a charity preschool managed by a volunteer committee and are located at Snettisham Primary School. We have sessions for children aged 2-4 yrs. For more information, please visit our website.



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*Take a look at our Yell or Facebook page where more pictures
and reviews can be found.*

October events - see also: <https://townandaround.net/whats-on/october>

Wednesday 1st

Vera's Dementia Café at Old Hunstanton Village Hall 10am-12noon. It is a free to use service for people with dementia and their carers, run by specialist staff trained in dementia communication. Heritage House 01328 711333

RNLI Bridge Drive with Cream Tea at Old Hunstanton Village Hall 1.30 for prompt 2pm start. £20pp To book: Lois Carrick via loiscarrick21@hotmail.co.uk or Angie Coker on 07775 775362.

SWAG (Snettisham Wednesday Activities Group) Quiz at the Queen Victoria Snettisham PE31 7LW 2.30-4pm

Charity Quiz night for Tapping House at the Coach & Horses Dersingham Food 5.30-7pm Quiz 8pm 01485 522745

Friday 3rd

Carpet bowls at Sedgeford Village Hall. 2 pm to 4 pm relaxed atmosphere taster session free tuition available for more details : 07938442790 or 07708567674 or just turn up 2 pm

Docking Heritage Group talk and short film: The story of T R Waggs the Baker. 7pm St Mary's Church Docking Non members £3.



THE STORY OF T R WAGGS THE BAKER

An illustrated talk including a short film by Paul Hewitt

From millers and bakers in Docking to one of the largest bakeries in Norfolk.

This talk will tell the story of the well-known bakery business, from its simple beginnings to one employing over 100 people with a chain of shops and coffee houses across Norfolk.

The bakery closed in 1975, so the talk will also mark the 50th anniversary of its closure.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 3RD - 7PM
ST MARY'S CHURCH, DOCKING

Admission
Docking Heritage Group members - Free
Non members £3

Fincham Village Hall Quiz night - £2 per person, max 6 persons per team. 50/50 cash raffle. Bring your own refreshments and nibbles. Starts at 7.30pm. Contact Pete on 07782 335165

Saturday 4th

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

Docking Community Café High St PE31 8NG 9am-12pm 07483 233553

Gayton Craft Fair at St Nicholas Church 01553 636629
Coffee morning and cake sale in aid of Ukraine. St Cecilia's Church, Mountbatten Road Dersingham PE31 6YE 10.30-12.30.

Brewery tour and beer tastings at Duration's farmhouse brewery. Booking: <https://shop.durationbeer.com/product/brewery-tour/> T: 01760 755436

Ingoldisthorpe Sports & Social Club Eyes down Bingo - Cash prizes! Doors Open 7.00pm Contact Diane 07901924223

United Services Club Hunstanton Hi Definition Band 60s 8.30pm 01485 533360

Sat 4th- Sun 5th

Art exhibition by six painters, a printmaker and a photographer at Thornham Village Hall 10am-4pm, in support of the Hunstanton Stroke Group. Work by stroke survivors is also on display.

Sunday 5th

Indoor Car boot Sale at Wereham Village Hall PE33 9AP from 8am £5 per table. Café. Enquiries 01366 501330 or 07759 033492

United Services Club Hunstanton Find the Joker Draw. Great Cash Prizes. £1 a ticket drawn at 2.30pm Karaoke 8pm 01485 533360

Monday 6th

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

Tuesday 7th

Anmer Social Club: Norfolk and Waveney Mind Group Meeting - 11:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. norfolkandwaveneymind.org.uk T: 0300 330 5488 nikki.nourse@norfolkandwaveneymind.org.uk

Wednesday 8th

Vera's Dementia Café at Old Hunstanton Village Hall 10am-12noon. Info see Wed 1st

Annual General Meeting of the Snettisham RBL Branch is at 7-30pm at the RBL Hall in Church Road.

Thursday 9th

Holme History Group, Holme Village Hall, Kirkgate, PE36 6LH. Talk by Debbie Bradley, a professional genealogist. 'More than just names on a page'.

Tickets are £3 on the door including refreshments.

The Arts Society King's Lynn Lecture at West Winch Village Hall 2.30pm . Pamela Campbell-Johnson to speak on the topic of "Art Deco: Celebrating the Centenary of the 1925 Paris Expo". 01760 724823 or email info@theartsocietykingslynn.org.uk

King's Lynn Community Cinema Club. screen 2 at The Majestic 7.30pm showing an Irish comedy Four Mothers. £6 on the door communitycinemaclub@googlemail.com

Friday 10th

King's Lynn Coffee concert at King's Lynn Town Hall 11am. Nicholas Walker (piano) BEETHOVEN Sonata in D Op.31 No.2 "Tempest" CHOPIN Ballade No.2 in F major Op.38 DEBUSSY Estampes LISZT Liebesträume, Réminiscences de Lucia Di Lammermoor. Tickets £16, under 25 £8: <https://www.kingslynnfestival.org.uk/whats-on/coffee-concert-nicholas-walker-piano>

Carpet bowls at Sedgeford Village Hall. 2 pm to 4 pm See Fri 3rd for details

Anmer Social Club Film Night THE SALT PATH - 12A - The true story based on the controversial memoir by Raynor Winn. Club opens 7.00 p.m. - Film starts 7.30 p.m. Admission £5 at the door. For further information email enquiries@anmerclub.co.uk or telephone 01485 579465

Saturday 11th

Hunstanton Promenade parkrun 9am. See Sat 4th for details.

Ingoldisthorpe Sports & Social Club Oktfeast! Including BBQ, Sausage/ Sauerkraut different beers, music! 4.00pm onwards Members free non Members £2.50 entry. Contact Diane 07901924223 for details.

Fincham Village Hall National Theatre Live - 'Inter Alia' - Doors open 6.45pm, performance starts 7.15pm. Admission £5, licensed bar and snacks available.

United Services Club Hunstanton Charlotte Sayer. Great vocalist. All eras 8.30pm 01485 533360

Sunday 12th

RAF Bircham Newton Open Day PE31 6RH Open 10am-4pm Info: 07807 098348

United Services Club Hunstanton Find the Joker Draw. Great Cash

Prizes. £1 a ticket drawn at 2.30pm Karaoke 8pm 01485 533360

Monday 13th

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

The Arts Society North West Norfolk will be hosting a lecture by Lucy Hughes-Hallett on George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, known as "the handsomest man in 17th century Europe". 2pm in Sedgeford Village Hall. New members are warmly welcome, details: www.artsocietynwnorfolk.org.uk

Old Hunstanton Village Hall Film Night Doors open at 6.15pm and film starts at 7pm. Bar open. A feel-good film with seaside living, romance and shanty music

Tuesday 14th

Anmer Social Club: Norfolk and Waveney Mind Group Meeting. See Tues 7th for details

King's Lynn Society of Arts & Sciences presents Sir Gawain and the Green Knight by Christopher Page. Knights Hill Hotel PE30 3HQ Doors 6.45. Talk 7.30-9pm Non members: £7 on the door

Curry and Quiz Night at The Golden Lion, Hunstanton. £3 quiz £9 curry for quiz players. 8pm Pre-booking essential 01485 532688

Wednesday 15th

Vera's Dementia Café at Old Hunstanton Village Hall 10am-12noon. Info see Wed 1st

Hunstanton Society Talk by Nick Torry: Hunstanton before the New Town. Heritage Centre 7.30pm

Friday 17th

Carpet bowls at Sedgeford Village Hall. 2 pm to 4 pm See Fri 3rd for details

Fincham Village Hall Cash Bingo & Games Evening - £6 per book of 5 plus flyer, optional cash games of Sticky 13's and Stand Up Bingo £1 each. Doors open 7.30pm, Eyes Down 8pm. Bring your own refreshments and nibbles. . Contact Pete on 07782 335165

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

Saturday 18th

Hunstanton Promenade parkrun
9am. See Sat 4th for details.

Evening music gala at St. Mary's Church, Snettisham 7pm.
Classical music and opera performed by some of the most talented artists from our community, hosted by Dersingham Choir.

Tickets £18 in advance; £20 on the door. Contact choir secretary, secretaryDC2025@outlook.com or phone 07513 986858

United Services Club Hunstanton
Just Us Duo. Fun & Dancing
8.30pm 01485 533360

Sunday 19th

Marriott's Warehouse Trust Talk:

A Career in Photography by Graham Spark 2.30pm. Talk followed by Q&A. Free entry, donations welcomed.
info@marriottswarehousetrust.co.uk

King's Lynn Town Band Autumn Concert at London Road Methodist Church PE30 5EJ
Doors 2pm and concert at 2.30pm. Free Entry with retiring collection. Raffle and Refreshments

United Services Club Hunstanton
Find the Joker Draw. Great Cash Prizes. £1 a ticket. Drawn at 2.30pm Karaoke 8pm 01485 533360

Monday 20th

Hunstanton u3a Annual General Meeting at the Community Hall, Avenue Road, Hunstanton PE36 5BW at 2.00 pm when our committee for the next year will be voted in, followed by the usual refreshments. Info website www.hunstantonu3a.org

Tuesday 21st

Hunstanton Wellbeing Walk. 10.30am meet outside Princess Theatre for gentle stroll along the clifftops and a stop at the Old Beach Café before returning.

Anmer Social Club: Norfolk and Waveney Mind Group Meeting.
See Tues 7th for details

Creative Arts East: Movement and Dance for people 50+ with XenArts, London Rd Methodist Church King's Lynn PE30 5EJ
'Pay what you can' pricing.
01953 713390

Snettisham prize Bingo at the Memorial Hall PE31 7LX Doors 6.30, eyes down 7.30. Rebecca Chilvers 07876 687423

Wednesday 22nd

Vera's Dementia Café at Old Hunstanton Village Hall 10am-12noon. Info see Wed 1st 01328 711333

SWAG (Snettisham Wednesday Activities Group) activities at RBL Hall Snettisham 1.30-4.30pm

Thursday 23rd

Creative Arts East present National Theatre Live: Mrs Warren's Profession 2-4pm
Hunstanton Town Hall PE36 6BQ
'Pay What You Can' pricing structure.

This event is suitable for anyone aged 50+ including those with long-term health conditions such as dementia, carers and people looking to create new connections!

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/w-hats-on/hunstanton/hunstanton-town-hall> 01953 713390

King's Lynn Community Cinema Club. screen 2 at The Majestic 7.30pm showing The Penguin Lessons starring Steve Coogan. £6 on the door
communitycinemaclub@googlemail.com

Friday 24th

Carpet bowls at Sedgeford Village Hall. 2 pm to 4 pm
See Fri 3rd for details

Anmer Social Club Quiz Night – Club opens 7.00 p.m. Quiz starts 7.30 p.m. Entry £3 per person. Fully Licensed Bar Raffle. For information email: anmer.club@outlook.com or telephone; text or WhatsApp 07899872351

Ingoldisthorpe Sports & Social Club Open Mic night Comedy, Poetry, Singing, Musical, whatever it maybe! Or sit back as the audience & enjoy our local talent! Contact Diane 07901924223 for details.

Saturday 25th

Hunstanton Promenade parkrun
9am. See Sat 4th for details.

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

HDEFA Craft Fair, Hunstanton Town Hall 10am-4pm Info: 07729952297

Barn Dance with Whirligig Ceilidh Band and Hot Supper at Dersingham Village Centre Adults £18, Under 16s £10. Tickets from Dersingham News or call 01485 540271 or 07943 499786. Licensed bar, raffle. In aid of new sports pavilion. Doors 6.30 Supper at 7pm.

Syderstone Cinema presents Black Bag (15) Amy Robsart Village Hall. Doors: 7pm £4 on the door or advance booking: syderstonecinema_arvh@outlook.com Info 01485 578244

United Services Club Hunstanton
Dr Phil Motown & Soul Man
8.30pm 01485 533360

Sunday 26th

RAF Bircham Newton Open Day
PE31 6RH Open 10am-4pm Info: 07807 098348

Guided Fossil Hunt to Hunstanton 12noon -2pm.
Booking only 01354 278089

United Services Club Hunstanton
Find the Joker Draw. Great Cash Prizes. £1 a ticket drawn at 2.30pm Karaoke 8pm 01485 533360

Monday 27th

Anmer Social Club Coffee Morning – 10:00 a.m. to Midday.
See Monday 13th for details.

Tuesday 28th

Anmer Social Club: Norfolk and Waveney Mind Group Meeting.
See Tues 7th for details

Dersingham Village Centre Village Cinema presents The Penguin Lessons (12A) Entry £6, under 16s £3. Bar. 7.30pm

King's Lynn Society of Arts & Sciences presents The Kindest Cut of All, The Making of Gravestones by Lida Kindersley. Knights Hill Hotel Doors 6.45. Talk 7.30-9pm Non members: £7 on the door

Wednesday 29th

Vera's Dementia Café at Old Hunstanton Village Hall 10am-12noon. Info see Wed 1st

Snettisham Gardening Club, Memorial Hall Martin Shone who will speak about the life cycle of Willow and give a Weaving Demonstration. Info Gail on 01485 541279 or Addie on 01485 544754.

Thursday 30th

A musical afternoon with John Harris on Piano in aid of East Anglian Air Ambulance.
Hunstanton Town Hall 1-3pm. £4 entry cash only. Dinky David 07787 966000

Friday 31st

Carpet bowls at Sedgeford Village Hall. 2 pm to 4 pm
See Fri 3rd for details

Fincham Village Hall Film Night - 'The Penguin Lessons'. Doors open 6.45pm, Film starts 7.15pm. Admission £3, licensed bar available Contact Pete on 07782 335165

Ingoldisthorpe Sports & Social Club Halloween celebrations with the fantastic 'Bourban Jacks'! Doors open 7.00pm for music event. non members £2.50 Contact Diane 07901924223

United Services Club
Hunstanton Pagan (Shane Gould) R&R + MORE 8.30pm
01485 533360



Mental Health & Wellbeing support drop-in sessions

Every Tuesday 10am – 2pm

Alternate Friday mornings
Sept 19th, Oct 3rd, 17th, 31st, Nov 14th, 28th
10am – 12noon

St. Faith's Community Hub
Gayton Rd, Gaywood
Drop in for a cuppa and a chat

Looking ahead..**1st November**

Snettisham Memorial Hall
Halloween UV Disco 6-10pm
Adults £6, Children £3.
Cocktails, Hot Dogs, Fancy Dress Competition. Tickets and info 07491 643807 or beckachilly@gmail.com

7th November

Old Hunstanton Village Hall Race Night. This lively night returns. Doors open at 6pm and first race starts at 6.45pm. £20 includes a two course meal. Bar open. Join us and see if you can back a winner! Tickets from Nell Bailey on 07918 911716

8th November

Hunstanton Promenade parkrun moves to its winter course. 9am outside the Sailing Club.
hunstantonpromenade@parkrun.com. Info: 07804 927764

29th November

Kings Lynn Flower Club and the Sandringham WI are holding a joint coffee morning in West Newton Village Hall, PE31 6AT, 10am until 1pm books, jigsaws, Xmas basket arrangements, crafts, bric a brac and cakes.
Irene Laws (01553 671312)

31st December

Old Hunstanton Village Hall New Years Eve Disco. Join us for dancing and a two course meal. Bring your own drinks. 7.30pm- 12.30am. £50 tickets available from Nell Bailey on 07918 911716

*Please note
copy date for the November
listing is 12th October*

In the Limelight

The programme for October showcases 17 different events! The month begins with a sinister tone. Strange But True Crime: the world's most shocking and hard-to believe crime cases is presented on Friday 3rd October by ex-forensics lecturer Jennifer Rees, the presenter of the Psychology of serial killer show.



ABBA Reunion on Sunday 5th October will give Abba fans, old and new, the opportunity to once again get together and re-live the addictive Abba phenomena. We welcome back Brandon McPhee the Scottish Accordion Champion on Wednesday 8th October followed by The Magic of Motown on Friday 10th October.

On Saturday 11th - A musical biopic tribute to the so-called "quiet" Beatle. "Something about George". Starring *West End* actor and musician Daniel Taylor, Featuring a five-piece band performing beautiful songs such as "My Sweet Lord", "Something", "Got My Mind Set On You" and "Handle With Care". From heartbreak to hedonism and song writing to instant success, *Something About George* will show you a life that was anything but quiet.

The Opera Boys are back with A Night at the Musicals, a fabulous evening of power-house vocals, immaculate 4-part harmony, breath-taking musical medleys, stunning solo performances... and a few surprises on Sunday 12th October.

Now for something totally outrageous! Baga Chipz – Chip Off The Old Block Tour. Join the nation's favourite tart this autumn for a night of live vocals, big ballads, disco classics and pub singalongs, plus a special tribute to her dear friend, Vivienne. Expect filthy jokes, outrageous stories, and all the sequins, wigs, boas and bling you can handle. From royal encounters to backstage goss on RuPaul's Drag Race, Baga spills all in this X-rated comedy extravaganza. With a live audience Q&A, it's the knees-up of the year. So grab your mates, grab a drink, and get ready to party with the council estate princess herself on Tuesday 14th October.

Back by popular demand, Showaddywaddy on Thursday 16th October, then, on Friday 17th October, Under The Boardwalk, paying tribute to all the vocal groups of the 60s with all the greatest hits from The Drifters, Temptations, Stylistics, Tavares, the O Jays, the Platters, Gladys Knight and the Pips, along with the greatest hits of Stevie Wonder, Sam Cooke, Otis Redding, James Brown and Wilson Pickett.

Didn't get tickets to see Oasis? "Oasish – The history of Oasis and beyond" for Oasis fans. Could this be the best show charting "The Rise", "The Rift", and "The Reunion" of arguably one of the biggest bands to come out of the UK? It Definitely Maybe... a date for your diary on Saturday 18th October. The Freddie & Queen Experience, perform on Sunday 19th. The tribute band deliver a passionate and energy packed show full of all QUEEN's greatest hits.

The icon, a revolutionary and an immortal. John Lydon – aka Johnny Rotten, Thursday 23rd October. He will talk about how he sees life, along with his unique and extraordinary career, and take audience questions during a pyrotechnic, one-off tour. Lydon will be sharing his thoughts with audiences. He Could Be Wrong. He Could Be Right. VIP meet & greet packages are available.

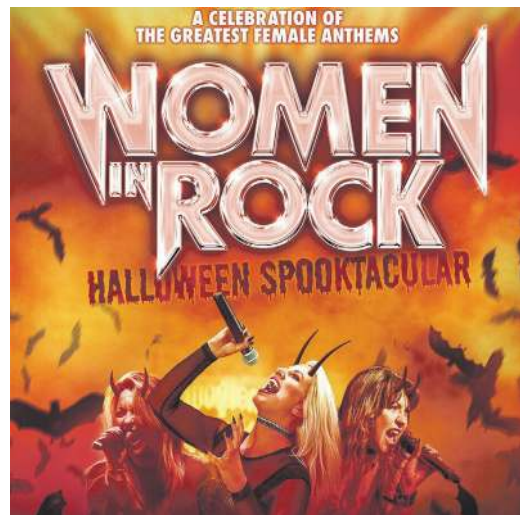
It's time to *shake it up baby* with the concert show of the year, The Magic of The Beatles, *come together, right now* on Friday 24th October.

Looking for a Halloween treat? Women In Rock Halloween Spooktacular on Saturday 25th October. Journey through 5 decades of the world's greatest female rock legends. Featuring soaring vocals,



John Lydon – aka Johnny Rotten

slick choreography, striking costumes and backed by a band of world-class musicians. Country music will live on in these shows. Country Suprstars, a must see for fans on Sunday 26th October, then to wrap up the month Claudia Buckley ** With Special Guest - Country Music Legend - Tony Allen ** on Wednesday 29th October.



Cinema Live on Tuesday 28th October - "Love Never Dies", the sequel to The Phantom Of the Opera! Screening from 7pm.

Are you planning on coming to this year's Pantomime – *Aladdin*?

Here at the Princess Theatre, we've had our *three wishes* this year...

Wish One – that *Sam Hague* would return in the lead role of *Aladdin*. And guess what? The genie granted our wish! Sam has been a star in our last three pantos, and we're thrilled to have him flying back onto the magic carpet once again.

Wish Two – that ticket sales would soar – and they are, with seats being snapped up daily.

Wish Three – that our theatre becomes part of *your* world. Even after nearly 14 years of living in Sunny Hunny, I still meet people who say, "Wow, I didn't know the Princess had such an amazing line-up of shows!"

Don't miss out on the magic – the carpet is waiting to whisk you away on a spectacular adventure full of laughter, sparkle and festive fun.

Panto runs from Saturday 6th December to Sunday 4th January, so gather your family, make a wish, and join us for the most magical show of the year!

As Always, Thank you for reading!

Best Wishes Anna ***

SAT 6th DEC - SUN 4th JAN

THE PRINCESS THEATRE

Proudly Presents

Aladdin

MAY ALL YOUR CHRISTMAS WISHES COME TRUES

2025

Silver Ticket Prices

Adult	£22.50
Child/Conc	£20.50
Family of 3	£57.00
Family of 4	£73.00

Gold Ticket Prices

Adult	£24.00
Child/Conc	£22.50
Family of 3	£62.00
Family of 4	£80.00

OPENING WEEKEND OFFER
All tickets £18.00

Children's Groups (10+) £13.00 per child
1 in every 10 goes FREE
(not available Christmas Eve or Boxing Day)

For Group or School Bookings
please contact the Box Office directly.

Box Office: 01485 532252

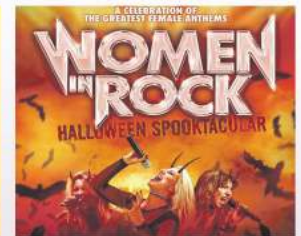
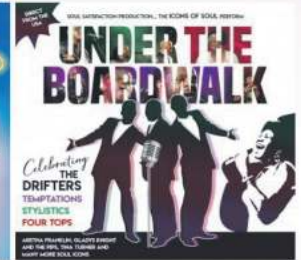
BOOK ONLINE
princesshunstanton.co.uk



Princess theatre October

What's on

FRIDAY	3RD	STRANGE BUT TRUE CRIME
SUNDAY	5TH	ABBA REUNION
WEDNESDAY	8TH	THE BRANDON MCPHEE SHOW
FRIDAY	10TH	THE MAGIC OF MOTOWN
SATURDAY	11TH	SOMETHING ABOUT GEORGE
SUNDAY	12TH	OPERA BOYS
TUESDAY	14TH	BAGA CHIPZ – CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK
THURSDAY	16TH	SHOWADDYWADDY
FRIDAY	17TH	UNDER THE BOARDWALK
SATURDAY	18TH	AS WE WERE (THE HISTORY OF OASIS)
SUNDAY	19TH	FREDDIE & THE QUEEN EXPERIENCE
THURSDAY	23RD	JOHN LYDON
FRIDAY	24TH	THE MAGIC OF THE BEATLES
SATURDAY	25TH	WOMEN IN ROCK SPOOKTACULAR
SUNDAY	26TH	COUNTRY SUPERSTARS
TUESDAY	28TH	CINEMA LIVE - LOVE NEVER DIES
WEDNESDAY	29TH	CLAUDIA BUCKLEY & GUEST, TONY ALLEN



Live Music, Concerts, Panto, Tributes, Plays & Comedy, all here to Entertain you! Book your seats and support your local Theatre.



Looking for a Gift with some Sparkle? The Princess Theatre Gift Vouchers are available to purchase as a present. Buy online, pop in or give us a call.



Sunset Wine Bar & Box Office

boxoffice@princesshunstanton.co.uk

Open 7 days a week.

01485 532 252