

TOWN and AROUND

ISSUE 252 OCTOBER 2026

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LAUNCHES
**2026
PANTO!**



Local News • Events • Great Outdoors • Features

First word



Welcome to our 21st anniversary edition. For many of you, Town & Around will already be a familiar sight. This certainly isn't the first edition of the magazine, but it is our first, and we're delighted to be taking it forward.

And what an edition to start with. This month Town & Around celebrates its 21st birthday. For more than two decades the magazine has been sharing the stories of the people and communities that make this part of Norfolk special.

We'd like to thank Elaine and Richard Bird, whose hard work and commitment have made Town & Around what it is today. Judging by the messages wishing them well in retirement, you love it too.

On page 54, we talk to Elaine about the magazine and the past 21 years.

We're not here to reinvent Town & Around. It will remain a genuinely local magazine, celebrating local people, businesses, events and communities.

Of course, turning 21 means Town & Around can now legally have a beer in America, although we think we'll stick to celebrating with a bumper anniversary edition!

On page 12, Dani Crawshaw brings us the remarkable story of a visitor to Hunstanton who stepped in to save two young boys struggling in the sea.

On page 11, Dani speaks to the fire service about this summer's local wildfires.

Then it's panto time! On pages 16 and 17 we head to the Princess Theatre in Hunstanton for the Cinderella launch and meet the cast taking to the stage this Christmas.

As we begin Town & Around's next chapter, we want you to be part of it.

If something is happening in your village, there's a local person with a story to tell, a club looking for new members or an event coming up, please get in touch. We really do want to hear from you.

We've also given townandaround.net a major overhaul, including a new video section where you can see the videos behind some of our stories and meet the people you read about.

We understand how much affection there is for Town & Around, and we intend to make sure it remains a magazine you look forward to every month.

Richard, Andrea, Lou and Darren
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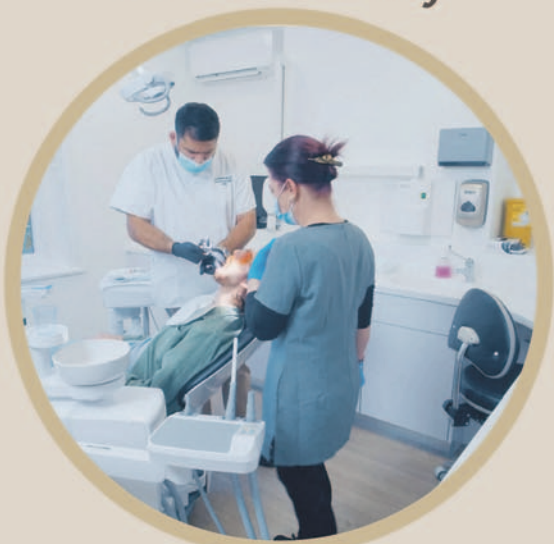
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RayBan Meta AI specs have arrived in Hunstanton!

Annette Ball - Hunstanton Eye Care

Well, you can't say we don't have the latest gadgets. I've no doubt that many of you have heard of these interactive specs. It's certainly new to me, but I have to say I was impressed that they can read and translate a text for you, just by saying "Hey Meta, read what's in front of me". AI is a part of our lives whether we like it or not these days, and apparently, it's been around far longer than we think in many walks of life.



I had to smile yesterday. I had been invited to speak at the Macular Society meeting in Dereham, a lovely group of people who for some reason love me coming to chat about Low Vision Aids and assist them in coping with Macular Degeneration, it was my fourth visit yesterday. Anyway, I took Meta specs with me and gave a brief run down on what they can do. One lovely lady said that she had grown up on a farm and "AI" certainly didn't mean Artificial Intelligence! To give you a clue it had something to do with cows and being in Norfolk I'm sure I don't have to spell it out! That gave us all a laugh.

Anyway, back to Meta Specs. If any of you have an Alexa, I could describe them as being a wearable Alexa. The specs must be paired to the App on a mobile phone, this enables the wearer to make and receive calls and messages without having to physically access the phone.

You can ask Meta anything you might ask Alexa or search in Google. There are tiny speakers in the sides of the frame so the wearer, but not all the neighbours, can hear the response, and the voice could even be the lovely Judi Dench.

If you store music on your phone, it can play it through the specs, Nicky wants to hear her music while she walks Teddy, her dog! The spectacle frame also contains a camera for taking photos and videos which are stored on the phone.

As I am particularly interested in Low Vision, I was curious to see the benefit it may provide to the sight impaired. I think the best facility is that Meta can read any text it's looking at, so letters, small print on

packaging etc are easily accessible.

There is Feature called "Be My Eyes", just ask Meta to connect. Meta will then put the wearer in touch with a real live human person, and by using the camera in the specs they will be able to see the surroundings and guide them accordingly, clever! I'm sure this would help a sight-impaired person be more confident to get out and about knowing help is easily accessible.

We have Meta specs in the practice, and you are welcome to come and play with them. Like all technology, it takes a little patient practice to make the most of them. Like my Mum used to say to me, "You read the instructions and then tell me what I have to do!"

See you soon, Annette.

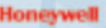
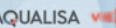




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Paul Tees Up Success on the World Stage

Dani Crawshaw

Paul Innocent recently won the US Blind Golf Open and says the sport 'saved' him after being diagnosed with a rare disease, "If it wasn't for golf, I'm not ashamed to say I'd be struggling, I really would," 3 years ago Paul had perfect eyesight, he's now registered as blind.



He recalls getting back from a holiday with his wife, and having blurry vision, Soon after the 43 year old was diagnosed as having a rare disease, called Leber's Hereditary Optic Neuropathy, which causes rapid sight loss.

"It very quickly attacked my right eye, leaving me with 97 per cent blindness, and it's slowly catching up in my left now - I'm left with about 27 per cent vision."

"It was very, very tough to be honest with you, I was a very active person, running kids to and from school, and self employed - I had my own business as an electrician.

"And more or less over 6 weeks everything changed, I had to stop working, had my driving licence revoked.", Paul describes his wife, Kelly, as his 'rock'.

"She pulled me together. I've played golf since I was 11 years old and she said come on, what can we do, what can we still do to keep your spirits up - and she found blind golf, which I never knew existed."

Paul is now among the top four blind golfers globally, although the modest way he chats - you wouldn't know it, Assisted by a guide, his first win was the British Blind Open in Scotland in 2025 (he retained the title this year), he's since won the US Blind Golf Open, and similar competitions in Spain and Sweden.

"I practice every day. Along with my wife at home, the kids and the dogs - golf is more or less my life. I'm a much happier, better person, I don't know where I'd be without golf to be honest with you, it doesn't bear thinking about, I'm lucky that I've found golf, but it can be anything, just find something positive and stick with it.

"My condition isn't life threatening but it is life changing, I'm not going to die from blindness - but for some people it can really take away their lives, their skills, their enjoyment of life, I want to get the message out that opportunities, interests and ambitions don't have to disappear."

He ends by acknowledging the love and support his wife continues to give, "I can't really put into words what she's done for me to be honest with you, she's an absolute diamond."

Find out more about Paul and how to sponsor him here: paulinnocent.co.uk

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We are proud to welcome Audiologist, **Lee Mason** (left) as our **hearing care partner** at Wigram and Ware Optometrists and Opticians.

Lee is a familiar face in King's Lynn, having been providing hearing care services in the area for the past eight years. Lee welcomes patients old and new to visit him for their hearing care needs.

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You can make an appointment with Lee by contacting the practice on the details below or by scanning the QR code.



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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.



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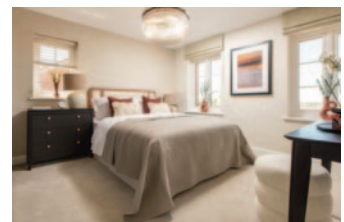
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What Help is Available For First Time Buyers?

Jodie Kessler, Conveyancer, Hayes + Storr.

According to research by Skipton Group, the parent company of Skipton Building Society, the average age of a first-time buyer in England has risen from 29 in the mid-1990s to 34 today, the highest in decades.

More than half now rely on two or more full-time incomes, while a similar proportion of those with a mortgage have repayment terms of 30 years or more. Just six per cent of first-time buyers are now under 25, compared with almost a quarter in the mid-1990s.

Buying your first home can feel daunting, but there is more help available than many people realise. Whether you're struggling to save for a deposit or wondering what support you may be eligible for, there are several options that could help you get onto the property ladder.

Lifetime ISA

A Lifetime ISA (LISA) can help you save for your first home, with the government adding a 25 per cent bonus to your savings, up to £1,000 each year. There are restrictions on withdrawing the money and the account generally has to have been open for a minimum of 12 months before the funds can be withdrawn without penalty.

Help from family

Many first-time buyers rely on financial support from family to fund their deposit. If

the money is a gift, your lender will usually require written confirmation that it does not need to be repaid. If it is a loan, it could affect the amount you are able to borrow, so it is important to seek legal and financial advice before proceeding

Low-deposit mortgages

Many lenders now offer mortgages requiring just a five per cent deposit through government-backed mortgage guarantee arrangements. These can make buying sooner a realistic option, although it's still important to ensure the repayments remain affordable if interest rates or your circumstances change.

Stamp Duty relief

First-time buyers may qualify for Stamp Duty Land Tax relief. Currently, no SDLT is payable on purchases up to £300,000, with reduced rates available on properties costing up to £500,000. Your solicitor can confirm whether you meet HMRC's eligibility criteria.

Shared ownership

If buying outright is not affordable, shared ownership may be worth considering. It allows you to buy a share of an eligible property while paying rent on the remainder, with the option to increase your share over time. Shared ownership homes are available across Norfolk through a number of housing associations.

How we can help?

Buying your first home is one of the biggest financial commitments you are likely to make. At Hayes + Storr, we will guide you through the conveyancing process, explain each stage clearly and help your purchase progress as smoothly as possible.



For further information, please contact Jodie Kessler in the residential property team on 01328 863231 or email

Jodie.kessler@hayes-storr.com

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



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Battling Summer Wildfires

Dani Crawshaw

Arduous and non-stop, how King's Lynn North's station manager describes the wildfires. Paul Edwards tells us more resources are needed, if long dry summers continue to worsen.

In just one day alone in July, Norfolk crews tackled dozens of wildfires. The heat and the prolonged dry weather, adding to the severity and complexity of the blazes.

"It's been horrendously busy," King's Lynn North's station manager Paul Edwards tells me, "The crews have been out non-stop for the last 6/7 weeks.

"From a physical point of view wildfires are very arduous, very hard work and they deplete our resources."

One, at Blackborough End, took crews days to deal with. The huge plumes of smoke closing the A47 - a mile of farmland and outbuildings were damaged.



"The issues you have with Blackborough End is very, very quickly you have a rapidly developing fire, you also have the involvement of domestic properties nearby - of people.

"Normally the first 30 minutes are the most critical, it's so important for us to get an idea of what's going on, and how it could spread.

"Firefighters have their personal protective equipment, 30 degree plus heat, and running around trying to put out fires as well - it can become very, very exhausting, very quickly." "There are many problems with wildfires, but one is the duration of them. We also recently had one at Shouldham Warren, that ended up being nearly a week of deployment," continues Paul.

"We were calling on crews from all over Norfolk, just to keep applying water on the scene. It was in woodland, so it was very difficult to get access, and there were two fires very close to each other.

"We try to give the crew relief periods, but whilst we are doing that and there are other incidents going on, it means that sometimes we're only giving them the minimal amount of break, before we're calling on their resources again."

This summer the fire service asked for our help, our vigilance. The government issued an emergency text alert, urging against any activities that could start a blaze - such as the use of disposable barbecues - saying resources were 'stretched to the very limit'.

"We would expect a certain amount of field fires, standing crop, because that happens when the farmers go out to harvest. But what we've seen is an increase of other fires," Paul goes on to tell me.

"Some of that is natural, things like broken glass refracting the sun. But some of it can also be carelessness, people just not putting thought into what they're doing.

"We went to some incidents where people were just having a fire in their backyard garden, burning off waste or whatever, and that then



spread, because the conditions were so dry."

With climate experts predicting heatwaves will continue to worsen, becoming significantly more frequent, intense, and long-lasting - the pressures on the fire service will only increase.

"We've had hot summers in the past, but we probably haven't gone



that long without any rain.

"And obviously when the ground is getting that warm, and everything is getting that dry, then it does become an issue as everything will catch fire much, much quicker.

"If it is the new normal, then obviously I think from a funding point of view we need to be looking at more resources going into the fire service."

All images NFRS

Tourist saves two children

Dani Crawshaw

Do I feel a hero? I just feel did the right thing," I meet Caroline along Hunstanton beach, where she helped save the lives of two brothers.



"I was on the beach with my dog, chatting to a family, and all of a sudden I could hear this shouting, I couldn't really see what was going on - I saw two figures way out.

"I kept hearing this shouting, and people were saying no it's seagulls, others said it's two lads messing around, but then a few people said I think they are shouting for help."

When Caroline realised they could be in danger she quickly got into the water and managed to reach the elder brother - a 15 year old.

"I starting wading and swimming and I was shouting lie on your backs, stop struggling. I was getting closer to one of the boys, he had a look of terror on his face but he was calm, and I got on my back with him."

She gets emotional when telling me how it felt seeing the other boy, a 12 year old, further out.

"I keep asking myself should I have gone to the other boy first, and I honestly remember thinking this is a decision that I'm going to have to live with for the rest of my life, if the other lad doesn't make it."

"He was shouting please help me I can't swim, and I was shouting lie on your back, stop struggling."

"When I got to the shore I was saying to people I couldn't get the other boy, is he okay? And I think at that point the RNLI were coming."



"I stayed here and watched the helicopter land, and I saw the two boys being carried to the ambulances. And I saw who was clearly the mum, who was obviously in a terrible, terrible state."

The 60 year old, who was here on holiday when it happened, has since been in contact with the siblings' mum, "The boys went for a check up at the time, the boys are absolutely fine, the mum, bless her, called me their guardian angel.

"She genuinely believes I saved both those boys lives, whether I did or not I'll never know, but for someone to tell me that - that means so much. We actually live near each other, so we are hoping to meet up."

Caroline may not feel like a hero, but I'm sure she'll get a heroes welcome when the families meet.

Watch the interview - townandaround.net

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Battle Of Britain service

Kings Lynn

The annual wreath laying service, commemorating the 86th anniversary of the Battle of Britain took place in Tower Gardens King's Lynn on Monday 14th September 2026, 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 Nigel Savory DL, the Mayor of the BCKL&WN Cllr Steve Bearshaw who, whose attendance not only as Mayor, but as a serving member of the RAF based RAF Marham was particularly befitting.

Also in attendance was the Deputy Mayor Cllr Vivienne Spikings, James Wild the MP for West Norfolk, together with, representatives from RAF Marham who gave readings, senior members of the Borough Council, Police, Veterans Associations and pupils from Greyfriars Academy who joined in the wreath laying ceremony.

The service was followed by a reception at Marriotts Warehouse, kindly arranged by the King's Lynn Branch of the Royal Air Forces Association and Marriotts Warehouse Trust.



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In a world where Inheritance Tax (IHT) can be chargeable at 40% on relatively modest estates – perhaps as little as the family home, taxpayers are often keen to devise a cunning plan which will enable assets to be passed tax free to the next generation whilst remaining at least partially within the control of the donor. In general terms this isn't going to work.

Where assets are transferred but the donor retains an interest it is known as a "gift with reservation of benefit (GROB)" and will only be effective for IHT purposes when the reservation is lifted.

The high cost of housing and the difficulties experienced by first time buyers can often lead to parents wishing to help children buy their first house – but because they do not wish to completely lose control of the money (or are not completely happy with their potential son/daughter in law) there is a temptation to create some sort of "loan" arrangement in the hope that they can call in the loan if anything goes wrong in future, but if not, it will simply be forgotten and treated as a gift.

This type of arrangement can turn into the proverbial can of worms in a number of different ways. On a practical level, there will always be a fear either that a relationship will turn sour, or the parents will unexpectedly find that they want the money back. If there is no evidence that the transaction was a loan rather than a gift, the parents and the (by now) estranged in-law may have different recollections of the original arrangement (particularly if there is a divorce involved), so it is highly likely that there will be some sort of paper trail.

Further complications can emerge if one sibling has been treated or is THOUGHT to have been treated more favourably than others, who might also have differing recollections of what the original transaction meant, and whether the loan should be brought back into the estate for the purposes of computing the residue. There might even be a possibility that at some stage the parents told the donee that they were waiving the loan and now considered it to be a gift. Again, if that information is not shared with the siblings there may be friction, but there is also an issue here from a tax perspective. A loan waiver is only effective if it is done by a formal deed. From the date of the deed, it will be a potentially exempt transfer and remain on the IHT record for seven years, but more to the point, it will not be effective at all unless it is made under a formal deed of gift.

Finally, there can also be an issue where the loan is waived, and the donee is subsequently assessed by a local authority for care home purposes. Notwithstanding that the loan may have been made many years previously the waiver might be considered a voluntary deprivation of resources in a care cost assessment.

In addition to the practical difficulties during lifetime, the real "can of worms" will explode on death. At that point the executors will discover the paper trail (and the possible absence of a formal deed or waiver) and will then have to decide whether or not to recover the "debt" if it has not properly been released. They will also be obliged to include the loan within the estate for probate. This may mean:

- An asset which everyone thought would be outside IHT will now be chargeable
- The siblings who didn't get the gift will potentially have a larger share of IHT on the remaining estate
- The previous donee may not be able to repay the loan
- It is entirely possible that the previous gift may upset careful Will planning, and/or lift the estate over the £2m level at which the additional main residence allowance is lost
- Where a charitable legacy is intended to bring the reduced 36% IHT rate, the newly discovered asset may reduce the charitable element below 10%, leaving the whole estate within the 40% charge

There can be ways of using family loans, but it is important that the consequences are considered, and the waiver rules fully understood by both parties. As ever, professional advice is essential if unexpected consequences are to be avoided.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact Nicola Tarry FCA at Mapus-Smith & Lemmon LLP, Hunstanton office on 01485 534800 or ntarry@mapus.co.uk



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Cinderella is going to the ball

Dani Crawshaw

It's coming up to that time of year already - panto season. And this year, at The Princess Theatre, it's Cinderella, The much-loved fairytale will be taking to the Hunstanton stage this Christmas, complete with all the characters you'd expect, plenty of laughs and, of course, a pair of Ugly Sisters determined to make sure Cinderella doesn't steal all the attention. "I always love panto, it's just so much fun," Josh says. "It's a classic fairytale, so much you can do with it, and it's going to be fun having a fellow dame alongside me."



The Ugly Sisters - Michael Diamond & Josh Reetie



Cinderella, Lucy Galloway

And while the Ugly Sisters might think the ball should be all about them, there is, of course, someone else with rather different plans.

At the heart of the story is Cinderella herself, one of the best-known characters in pantomime. From life at home with her rather less-than-helpful sisters to the excitement of the ball, it's a story generations have grown up with, and this Christmas it's Lucy Galloway who gets to step into those famous glass slippers.

"I'm very excited to play Cinderella," Lucy Galloway tells me. "She was one of the first princesses I watched when I was younger.

"I think she's strong, independent, but then it's also really nice that she does get that happy ending and that little love story that everyone dreams of having one day.

For Lucy, taking on such a familiar role also means bringing something of herself to a character audiences already know and love, while keeping all the warmth, magic and excitement that makes Cinderella such a Christmas favourite.

And perhaps that's part of the reason Cinderella continues to work so well as a panto. Beneath the magic, costumes and comedy is a character audiences want to see get her chance at happiness, even if there are a couple of Ugly Sisters determined to make life difficult along the way.

Sam Littlewood returns to the stage, his fourth year appearing on stage in the Princess Theatre Panto. This season Sam will be playing Buttons, who will be sure to keep Cinders safe from the mischief of the Ugly Sisters.

Sam has been working overseas and will join the cast for rehearsals in mid-November. Last year Sam played Aladdin and certainly knows how to bring the house down with his inimitable comic flair and cheeky stage presence.

It is a story that has everything a traditional panto needs, from a little bit of magic and romance to characters the audience can cheer for, and a few they can happily boo as well.

For Lucy, stepping into the title role also means becoming the character at the centre of all that Christmas mayhem, And while everyone knows how Cinderella's story is supposed to end, getting there is half the fun.

There are still Ugly Sisters to contend with, a Fairy Godmother ready to lend a helping hand and, somewhere along the way, a certain Prince Charming waiting in the wings.

There are some familiar faces returning to The Princess Theatre too, although not necessarily on the same side of good and evil as audiences might remember them.

Jess Broadbent, who last year played a baddie, has gone good - and is the Fairy Godmother.

"I used to be a fairy a long, long time ago, but then I took the evil road, but now I'm back to being a fairy.

"I'm really looking forward to it, Cinderella is my most favourite pantomime of them all, and the Fairy Godmother is a wonderful role and I can't wait to play her."



Fairy Godmother, Jess Broadbent

Every Cinderella needs her Prince Charming, and this year that job falls to Tyler Sargent, who already knows the story rather well.

"It's my third time doing Cinderella, playing the prince, and it's one of my favourite pantos.

"I went to a panto every single year when I was younger, and absolutely loved it - so for me it's all about the enjoyment of the kids and carrying on the traditional stories.

"And reliving that excitement that I had as a kid."



Prince Charming, Tyler Sargent

Scripts have been handed out to all the actors and rehearsals are due to start soon. If you want to join Cinders on her enchanting journey, performances run from December the 5th until the 3rd of January.

The Princess Theatre says, "Grab your little pumpkins, dust off those glass slippers, and get ready for a ball you'll never forget!"

Oh yes you will!!

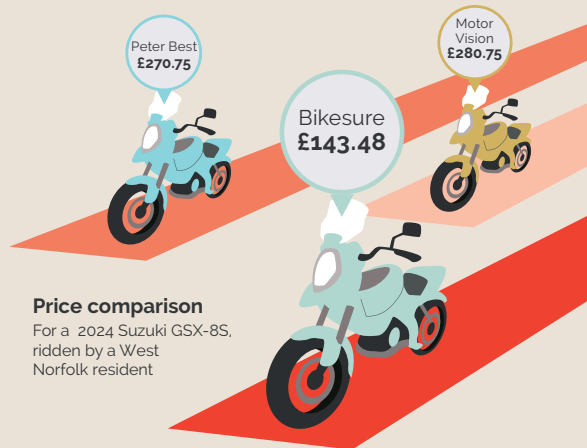
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Downham Market & District Horticultural Society

Affiliated to: Royal Horticultural Society / Carolyn Hayes

Our Society's year runs from March, when our AGM takes place, to the following February. Over the last few weeks I have been researching and signing up a wide variety of speakers to give talks at our monthly meetings from March 2027 right up to February 2028. I like to start early with this task as I never know how long it will take to set them all up, and I need confirmed details of all talks by the end of the calendar year for our new membership cards, and for our Summer Show schedule, where the talks are listed on the inside back cover.

As I write, I still have several talks to be finalised, but I am pleased to report that so far I have nine confirmed and very varied talks, including growing vegetables in small spaces and containers; fuchsias; trees; insects in the garden; open gardens; and Taylor's Seeds. I am delighted that two of our members are amongst the speakers.

I think the key is to start early each year, so there is plenty of time to research, liaise with and sign up 12 new speakers. There are many other aspects to think about – liaising with Town Hall staff to confirm the set-up required; checking the speaker's payment requirements; checking with the speaker as to what (if any) AV equipment they will bring, and whether they will bring any items (eg plants, books etc) for display or sale. Tables will need to be set up at the front for these items. It all keeps me busy!

DIARY DATE: Next year's Summer Show is on Saturday 3 July, in Downham Market Town Hall again.

Further details

If you'd like further details about our Society or our Summer Show, or if you'd like to come along to see what we're all about (with no obligation to join), please contact our membership secretary, Judith, on 01366 501466 or email: jt.mazur@tiscali.co.uk.

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Christmas magic in West Norfolk

Luminate returns to Sandringham



Sandringham's Royal Parkland will once again be transformed into an illuminated winter landscape when Luminate returns from Friday 20 November to Thursday 24 December.

The annual after-dark trail changes each year, and the 2026 edition brings several new installations alongside returning favourites. Visitors will make their way through areas including the Frozen



Kingdom, intergalactic Star Alley and the Valley of Light.

Among this year's additions is a new laser show in the Valley of Light, while the Enchanted Glade combines projections with fairies hidden among the landscape. The Celestial Tunnel has also grown, this year stretching for 100 metres.

There is plenty designed to be more hands-on, too. Light Play, Ride the Lights and the Luminate Battle of the Lights return, while younger visitors can follow a reindeer path through the new Christmas Corner to a cabin, where letters can be posted to Lapland in the Luminate Post Box.

Creating the trail is a substantial undertaking. Around 600 hours are spent building the site, with ten miles of cable and some 120,000 lights used across the parkland.

One of the installations created specifically for this year is Shifting Visions, designed by specialist light designer Adam Povey. Using mirrored batons, changing colour and movement, the piece alters the appearance of the woodland as visitors move through it.

Adam said: "Shifting Visions invites visitors to slow down, explore and experience the landscape as something fluid, cinematic and ever changing."

Food and drink are also part of the evening, with mulled wine and hot chocolate available along the route and firepits where visitors can toast marshmallows. Chipperfield's traditional fairground will also be returning.

Another familiar feature is Make a Wish, where visitors can add their own wish to the wall. One will later be selected by the Luminate fairies to be made a reality.

Luminate co-founder Janine Maycock said almost half a million visitors had made Christmas memories at the Sandringham event since it first arrived in 2020.

She added: "We're delighted to be returning to Sandringham with our best Luminate yet. The light trail is in the Royal Parkland, a truly incredible setting."

The event will include dog-friendly sessions and a dedicated event for visitors with Special Educational Needs, while the paths are accessible for mobility scooters and pushchairs.

Luminate runs at Sandringham from Friday 20 November until Thursday 24 December.

Images: Luminate.live and Sandringham Estate

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East Anglian Air Ambulance

EAAA News

On 14 August we held a bucket collection at Tesco, Gaywood, Kings Lynn raising a fantastic £641.87, including a very generous single cash donation of £500. Thank you to Tesco staff for their help and their hospitality. We will be holding another bucket collection at this store on 17 October 9.00 am to 4.00pm.

On 16 August, we attended our first Pentney Car Show me Kings Lynn, raising £148.50 thank you to everyone who supported EAAA.

On 22 August, The Second Frontline Festival was held at the Walks Park in Kings Lynn. The event showcases the region's emergency and frontline Services, such as Norfolk Police, Norfolk Fire and Rescue Services, Ambulance Service, Coastguard and many others. We raised £247.84. Thank you to everyone who supported EAAA. We also met Stella Westbury who is on a Half marathon walk raising funds for EAAA. Stella is making very good progress. Thank you Stella for supporting EAAA.



One in four of the emergencies EAAA is tasked to are cardiac arrests.

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 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 0345 669 999.

KLFG can be contacted by emailing myself or my colleague Terri:

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Banking and Post Office Services Vital for our Rural Communities

Terry Jermy MP

Banking and Post Office Services are Vital for Our Rural Communities, Earlier this month, I spoke in a Parliamentary debate about the much-needed provision of essential banking and post office services in rural areas like ours. As a rural MP, one of my core focuses is ensuring that residents across South West Norfolk's 3 market towns and 72 villages can easily access these services in-person. Over the last decade, we have seen many banks reduce their high-street footprint, impacting rural areas like ours, without much consideration from these companies about what the impact will be. A point I repeatedly stress in my meetings with banks and Post Office Limited, is that rural communities cannot be unfairly impacted by decisions that are made in inner-city offices, without assessing what that removal of services will mean for the communities they are there to serve.



Unless you have lived in a rural area, you do not understand the impact of a post office or bank closing. In South West Norfolk, it could mean having to travel two villages over, which, if you don't have a car or can't drive, adds another layer of rural inequality.

Whilst it can be argued that many of these services can now be accessed online, not everyone has that option. Poor broadband speeds and unreliable connectivity can mean that large parts of rural communities still rely on physical locations for these services. I understand that for many companies, they operate in a digital-first approach, but holding a conversation with a real person about something as intricate and important as one's own personal finances, should, I feel, be given greater importance by these organisations.

It is estimated that 25% of people aged 55 and over still use cash as their primary method of payment. In South West Norfolk, the median age is higher than the UK average, so this is a particularly important issue for us here.

ATM access is another aspect I regularly raise in my meetings with banks and Cash Access UK – the organisation that operates banking

hubs. I was pleased, following my calls for them to do so, Cash Access UK added an ATM to their Downham Market banking hub earlier this year and Nationwide increased their ATM capacity across South West Norfolk.

The Government is clear on its commitment to ensuring access to these essential services, which is why it pledged to roll-out 350 banking hubs by the end of this Parliament in 2029. Already, more than 235 have been opened.

The Treasury also launched an Access to Banking Services Review in May, which has gathered evidence on the impact of changes to in-person banking services and will help inform recommendations to Government on ways to improve in-person banking services.

One recommendation I called for in the debate is for the Government to require a Rural Banking Impact Assessment before any rural branch closure, with a banking hub or equivalent alternative in place before – not after – closure.

Terry Jermy MP.



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Mediaeval Baebes 30th Anniversary Tour

Kings Lynn



The internationally acclaimed Mediaeval Baebes are marking an extraordinary milestone: thirty years of timeless song. Celebrating three decades of ethereal music, haunting harmonies and genre-defying artistry, the ensemble are performing at St Nicholas' Chapel in Kings Lynn on Sunday 20th December, as part of their special 30th Anniversary Tour.

Embrace the magic, breathe in the atmosphere and join the Mediaeval Baebes, as they start the evening with a torchlit parade

accompanied by a fanfare of medieval instruments and drums. Exulting in the true spirit of Christmas, this enchanting evening of music, theatre and dance will feature tracks from their new album 'The Spinning Wheel,' alongside much loved seasonal favourites.

Dressed in beautifully flowing robes, stunning headdresses, and accompanied by a unique collection of exotic and period instruments, join them on a journey of celebration and song. Alongside much-loved Christmas carols and traditional folk songs,

captivating storytelling will reveal the folklore and stories woven through the lyrics, as music, myth and tradition intertwine.

Renowned for the theme tune of ITV's hit TV show 'Victoria', audiences can expect voices that shimmer, Stories that linger, And music that feels at once both centuries old and strikingly new!

For more information and to book your place at this exceptional event, visit:

www.mediaevalbaebes.com/live

A promotional image for the Mediaeval Baebes 30th Anniversary Tour. Six women are standing in front of a stone castle with arched windows. They are all wearing matching light blue medieval-style dresses with long, flowing capes. The text "Mediaeval Baebes" is written in a large, stylized font at the top, with "30th Anniversary Tour" below it. At the bottom, the event details are listed: "20th December - St. Nicholas' Chapel - King's Lynn" and "Tickets online at mediaevalbaebes.com/live".

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Dark skies of West Norfolk

Terry Parish

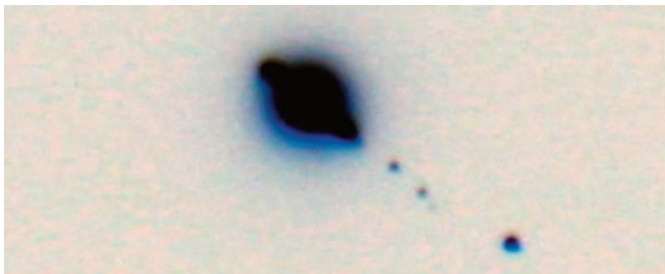
The Earth continues on its orbit around the Sun and that dips lower in our northern skies. Human intervention will accelerate the path to darkness by putting the clocks back on the 25th when 6pm will become 5pm. No doubt there will be complaints from the Scots as the further north you are the earlier darkness falls.

Take advantage of the early darkness to do some planet spotting. Saturn is at opposition on the 4th which means it is as close to us as it will come (1262million km) and be on the end of a line drawn from the Sun, through Earth. In other words, it is exactly opposite the Sun in the sky. Put your back to the sunset at 7pm and Saturn will be just above the eastern horizon. Trouble is, we enjoy a western horizon on this part of The Wash. Cromer cliffs

have a good eastern one.

However, from 9pm, the Earth's rotation will raise Saturn in the sky above roof tops and it will be in the ESE and, by 11pm, in the SE. As the month wears on, so Saturn will appear higher in the sky earlier. By the end it should be visible from 6pm. Get out binoculars, birding scopes and anything better. Saturn will have a magnitude of +0.3 so clearly visible and its rings have begun to open up from their edge on presentation last year. They will be tilted about 80 towards us. Their icy particles will be reflecting light straight back to Earth and the rings will appear brighter than when Saturn is not in opposition.

Saturn has 293 confirmed moons, more than any other planet (this was a question on a recent University Challenge). They range in size from Titan, bigger than the planet Mercury, to many that are lumps of material about the size of a McDonald's site. If you can see the rings, you can see the spark of light which is Titan that was first discovered in 1655 by Huygens. Others of the larger, brighter, moons followed between 1671 and 1898. Good eyes, through a telescope, might see one or two of these but a photographic image is really needed.



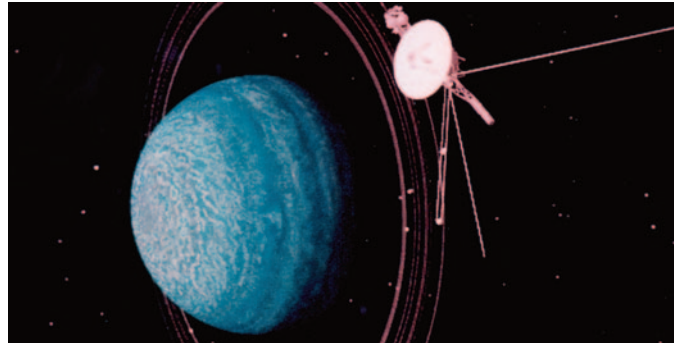
A fuzzy, over exposed image of mine taken in Wolverhampton years ago, It picked up 4 of Saturn's moons.

Though elliptical orbits make Earth to planet distances change depending upon where planets are in their orbits, Saturn is typically twice as far from Earth as Jupiter. Consequently, Saturn's satellites don't stand out like Jupiter's 4 Galilean moons, discovered in 1610.

Saturn is close to the Gibbous Moon on the 23rd, look to the left about a fist, at arm's length, away. On the 24th it is a similar distance below the Moon.

The two ice giants beyond Saturn are in the sky. Uranus is closest and just on the edge of visibility in a very dark sky if you have young, very good, eyes. So that means decent binoculars for many, a telescope for some. I would leave it to the middle of the month to observe it from about 10.45pm. It will be above the bright star Aldebaran, separated from it by the distance a fist makes at arm's length.

Uranus was first recognised as a planet in 1783 when William Herchel finally acknowledged that the comet he had discovered in 1781 was, in fact, a planet. Other astronomers had implied that it was so in the intervening two years. Uranus is twice as far away as Saturn so it's not surprising that it took several observations by several people to determine its orbit. The darker skies of hundreds, thousands of years ago would have made Uranus an easier object to see with unaided eyes and it was seen, many times. Hipparchus catalogued it in 128 BC but as a star. This error carried on right up to Herchel who had the benefit of a telescope.

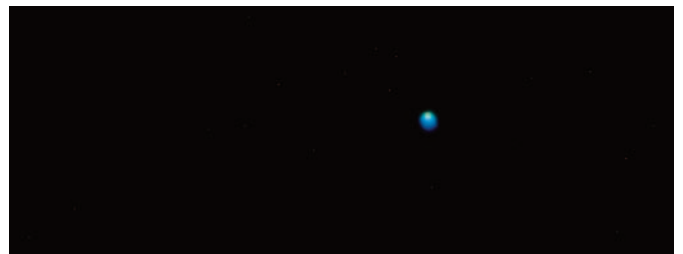


Impression of Voyager at Uranus showing rings and tilt.

Uranus has 29 moons, a very dark ring system and is tilted over by almost 90 so one pole always faces the Sun and the other, obviously never faces the Sun. A theory that a large planet collided with the proto-Uranus long ago and knocked it over was used in opening credits for Third Rock from the Sun (a decades old tv comedy), and illustrated it well.

The only spacecraft that has flew by Uranus was Voyager 2 in 1986. The craft sent back information about its atmosphere and magnetic fields, found more moons and rings and carried on past Neptune and beyond. It is still in contact with Earth but energy supplies will end by 2030.

Uranus will appear as a fuzzy bluey green dot in your eye, albeit through binoculars or telescope and is worth the effort; it is around 1.76 billion miles away.



Uranus from Heacham. Parish

Neptune is much harder to observe as it is around another billion miles beyond Uranus. Its apparent magnitude is +7.7 which is 1/7th the brightness of dim Uranus at +5.6. An astronomical telescope is needed to see it but you can imagine the greenish coloured world when you look at Saturn. It will be in the same area of sky, to the west, right, of the ringed planet about the width of a fist at arm's length away.

So far you have been able to see planets at reasonable times in the evening. Early hours of the morning are now necessary to see mighty Jupiter shining brightly with a magnitude of minus 1.9. It rises in the NE at 2am but is high enough to observe at 4am when it will be due east. (Times are for the middle of the month, observation improves as the month progresses). Use large objective lens binoculars or a bird 'scope to spot the Galilean Moons.

Whilst spotting Jupiter you may as well seek out Mars. The red planet rises in the NE by 1am and is always above and to the right of Jupiter. In the middle of the month, they are about two fists away. They close to about one fist by the end of the month. Both planets should still be visible in the lightening sky around 6am, not so bad but don't leave it later. They will be SSE, well to the right of the soon rising Sun.

On the 5th, at 6am, the fat Crescent Moon will pass just over Mars; on the 6th it will pass over Jupiter. In the early hours of the 11th, the red planet will be in front of a pretty star cluster, Praesepe or The Beehive



The topical Bayeux tapestry. Comet at the top.

The second pass of the Earth through the debris from Halley's Comet occurs on the night of the 21/22nd. It will be the peak of the Orionids meteor shower best looked for in the early hours but take a look from 9pm towards the NE. Between midnight and 1am the radiant, point from which meteors appear, has shifted to the east and is to the left of Orion. However, you see meteors when they hit the atmosphere and this can happen almost anywhere across the sky, notably behind you. The recommended technique is to lie on your back looking straight up but I usually look NE whilst darting my eyes to either side. Remember to get your eyes dark sensitive and not use white light torches.



Halley's comet in 1986 photographed in very dark skies. I saw a faint white blur in my Wolverhampton sky but managed to track it over several nights. Next appearance is in 2061. Say hello from me.

You won't see Mercury as it is hidden in the glare of the Sun but spacecraft Bepi Colombo arrived close to it on the 3rd September after an 8-year journey. Falling towards the Sun makes a spacecraft speed up so BepiColumbo had to spend 8 years braking. To lose speed it used the Gravity of Earth, Venus, and Mercury in 9 planetary flybys. Spacecraft flying the other way, towards distant Jupiter, for example, use planetary flybys as sling shots to accelerate them.

BepiColumbo will make its final orbit insertion in November and start mapping the planet. More then.

Enjoy the dark by catching some planets and a meteor or two. And don't forget mighty Orion now rising into the sky before dominating it in the winter.

Terry Parish

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Plans for 8,500 New Homes Spark Concern

Dani Crawshaw

I think it's all a bit of a panic causing thing really, the way they've gone about it, says Holme resident Martin. In their village, 5 potential development sites have been put forward, with the scope for more than 70 new dwellings.

"I think people are panic stricken about how many sites are available. The big board, on the way in, says we need these houses, I live in a village where so many of the homes aren't occupied because they're second homes or holiday lets.

"Why build more houses when some of the ones we've got are empty most of the time?"

8,500 new homes are being proposed across King's Lynn and West Norfolk, over the next 15 years.

This month residents are being asked 3 things; to comment on the current proposed sites, to suggest any other sites that may be suitable, and to fill out a survey on what they'd like to see in the plan

Alex Fradley, planning policy manager at the Borough Council, says, "Today is the first part of us launching this new local plan, called 'The Scoping Consultation'.

"So basically the scope of the plan - in terms of housing, infrastructure services and facilities."

In Hunstanton the suggested sites are for more than 400 new homes.

22 year old Bobby (main picture), who's lived in the town all his life, says he's not against more houses - but is worried they won't benefit locals.

"I'm all for having properties in Hunstanton, however, I'm also in favour of them going to local people first. Rather than having them sold on to second, third, fourth home owners, because if they're going to be empty most of the year what's the point in having them? It's not really going to do anything for the local economy."

"Getting an appointment at doctor surgery here, or at the dentist, is like trying to get an audience with the pope! And you've got to consider the local schools and employment - the majority of jobs around here are seasonal."

For Martin too, infrastructure is a big concern, "What about the roads in Holme? There's no school, there're no shops, parking's a problem, traffic's a problem, the sewage is a problem. The village is already built, it's just not suitable."



The Borough Council says all the information will then be collated, a draft plan drawn up, which will be discussed by councillors. It says by next summer another public consultation will take place, and then a final draft.

To have a look at the proposal: www.west-norfolk.gov.uk

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Maintaining a Legacy

Dani Crawshaw

Friends of Titchwell Church gains charity status and pledges to keep the 1,000 year old building open, "We must maintain these ancient buildings, they're part of our a history and tradition - of East Anglia, of England - a tradition of which we should be proud," says Mike Hughes.



Mike Hughes, at St Mary's, Titchwell

He recently started Friends of Titchwell Church, and the day we meet outside St Mary's to chat about the charity, the sunshine and blue skies do the beautiful building justice.

"Round towers are so typical of Norfolk," he continues, "The great majority in the world are in Norfolk. The bottom of our tower, the bottom 15 feet, is certainly built before 1000 AD.

"It was on the orders of the first King of England at the time, who required all land owners in Norfolk to build circular towers, we think as defensive towers against Viking longboat invasions.

"They soon became associated with the local community, and a church sprang up with the tower as the starting point - it took about 500 years to build the rest of the church."

Mike leads me inside, and if you haven't been, it is simply charming. "The whole church is small but peaceful - it feels loved. The Victorians made improvements, in particular they put in lovely stained glass in the chancel windows.

"I love it, particularly when the sunlight comes through, and is reflected onto the walls." Which it is today.

For all its charm though, being more than a thousand years old, St Mary's needs maintenance.

Since gaining charity status, the organisation has raised more than £10,000 in a few months alone. The first project will be to refurbish the 19th century organ.

"It's a chamber organ and produces a beautiful sound. It was installed about 130 years ago, so really nothing has been done for it since then."



Stained glass inside St Mary's Church

And the list of work is long. The last quinquennial inspection, which is carried out every 5 years on UK churches (in use), highlighted a number of issues.

"Defects relate very much to damp, keeping the water out, making sure the water can drain away, a lot of money will have to spent maintaining the fabric of the church."

"Also undoing what was done in the past. Often inappropriate materials were used, often with the best of intentions, but they will have to be undone and redone.

"Even the steel frames of the stained glass will need replacing. So there's plenty to do, in the last inspection there were at least 20 different items, when you add them all up - you're getting into 5 figure sums."

As we walk outside I ask why Mike's so passionate about maintaining the building.

"If nothing is done, the church will soon become uninhabitable, leaving nothing but a picturesque ruin.

"It's why churches like Titchwell need friends, and why Friends of Titchwell Church was formed.

"To us, this church matters more than just the weekly services, it matters because we are our past, and we must maintain that."

Thank goodness for people like Mike and his friends. Helping maintain a much-loved legacy for future generations to enjoy.

Find out more about Friends of Titchwell Church

friendsoftitchwellchurch.co.uk

info@friendsoftitchwellchurch.co.uk



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What's on in October

Thu 1st - Tue 6th

Dalegate Market Pop Up Shops
DALEGATE MARKET, MAIN ROAD,
BURNHAM DEEPPDALE, PE31 8FB
Weekly beach-hut pop-up shops
10am - 4pm · Free · 01485 210305

Fri 2nd - Sun 4th

King's Lynn Book Festival
KING'S LYNN TOWN HALL, SATUR-
DAY MARKET PLACE, KING'S
LYNN, PE30 5DQ
Six sessions across the weekend covering
law, Scandi Noir, espionage, storytelling,
Narnia and Lord of the Rings, plus three
poets.
Tickets £16.50 · 07356 065362

Fri 2nd

Macmillan Coffee Morning
TOWN HALL, THE GREEN, HUN-
STANTON
Coffee and cake with Hunstanton Town
Council's Friday Friendship Group.
Tombola, craft stall and children's colour-
ing competition.
10am - 12.30pm · £2 · 07927 467984

Dersingham Craft & Gift Fair
DERSINGHAM VILLAGE CENTRE,
83 MANOR ROAD, DERSINGHAM,
PE31 6LN
A wide range of stalls including art,
books, cakes, candles, cards, jewellery,
photography, skincare and more. Pop-up
café, free entry and parking.
10am - 3pm · Free · 07952 229796

Sun 4th

Wereham Indoor Car Boot Sale
WEREHAM VILLAGE HALL,
CHURCH ROAD, WEREHAM, PE33
9AP
Monthly indoor car boot sale with café
serving bacon rolls, sausages, eggs, tea
and coffee. Tables £5 per pitch.
8am - 1pm · Free · 01366 501330

Mon 5th

Coffee Morning
ANMER SOCIAL CLUB
A community coffee morning at Anmer
Social Club.
10am · farmboy24@sky.com · 07899
872351

Bingo Night
ANMER SOCIAL CLUB
Books of ten cards plus Flyer and Cash
Accumulator cards available.
7pm · £6.50 / £1.50 / £2 · 07899 872351

Wed 7th

Mah-Jong
Old Hunstanton Village Hall
Mah Jong for beginners, from 6.30pm.
More details:
Nell Bailey -
0791891176

Thu 8th - Tue 13th

Dalegate Market Pop Up Shops
DALEGATE MARKET, MAIN ROAD,
BURNHAM DEEPPDALE, PE31 8FB
Weekly beach-hut pop-up shops
10am - 4pm · Free · 01485 210305

Fri 9th

Film Night
ANMER SOCIAL CLUB
Film night at Anmer Social Club.
7.30pm · £5 on the door · 01485 579465

Sat 10th

Live Music - Uche Eke
WEREHAM VILLAGE HALL,
CHURCH ROAD, WEREHAM, PE33
9AP
International soul singer Uche Eke re-
turns, Bar available, with funds raised for
the Alzheimer's Society and National
Multiple Sclerosis Society.
7.30pm - 11.30pm · Tickets £12.50 ·
01366 500218

Sun 11th

RAF Bircham Newton Open Day
RAF BIRCHAM NEWTON HER-
ITAGE CENTRE, BIRCHAM NEW-
TON, PE31 6RH
Explore photographs, personal memories
and memorabilia from the former RAF
station through two world wars and the
Cold War. Run by volunteers.
10am - 4pm · Free ·
07807 098348

Trust Talks: Stitching the Past
MARRIOTT'S WAREHOUSE,
SOUTH QUAY, KING'S LYNN, PE30
5DT
Textile artist Anita Rayfield explores how
historic King's Lynn photographs can be
reinterpreted through embroidery and dig-
ital textile art. Talk around 45 minutes
plus Q&A.
2.30pm - 4pm · Free · 01553 818500

Mon 12th

Drumming with Les Chappell
HUNSTANTON COMMUNITY CEN-
TRE, AVENUE ROAD, HUNSTAN-
TON, PE36 5BW
A friendly hands-on percussion session
for people aged 50+.
1pm · Organiser: Creative Arts East

**The Bayeux Tapestry -
international relations, then and
now**
SEDFORD VILLAGE HALL
A talk exploring the Bayeux Tapestry and
international relations, then and now.
2pm

Tue 13th

44mph, no engine, no brakes!
SMALL BARN, KNIGHTS HILL
HOTEL, SOUTH WOOTTON, PE30
3HQ

An evening talk at the Small Barn,
Knights Hill Hotel.
6.45pm · £8 (non-members)

Curry & Quiz Night
GOLDEN LION HOTEL, THE
GREEN, HUNSTANTON, PE36 6BQ
The Golden Lion's monthly quiz night,
with teams of up to six and curry avail-
able for quiz players. Pre-booking a table
is essential.
8pm · Quiz £3 per player · Curry £9
01485532688

Thu 15th - Tue 20th

Dalegate Market Pop Up Shops
DALEGATE MARKET, MAIN ROAD,
BURNHAM DEEPPDALE, PE31 8FB
Another week of beach-hut pop-ups from
independent traders, local artisans and
producers.
10am - 4pm · Free · 01485 210305

Thu 15th

The Secret Life of Plants
HUNSTANTON COMMUNITY CEN-
TRE, AVENUE ROAD, HUNSTAN-
TON, PE36 5BW
Jim Pain from Walnut Tree Garden Centre
gives a talk on The Secret Life of Plants.
Refreshments available and visitors wel-
come.
2.30pm - 4pm · Visitors £2 · 07958
184477

Fri 16th

George and the Drag Queen
SHOULDHAM VILLAGE HALL
Pipeline Theatre presents George and the
Drag Queen for one night only, hosted by
Shouldham Entertainments Committee
and Creative Arts East
7.30pm · Tickets £12

Sat 17th

**Race Night with Fish and Chip
Supper**
ANMER SOCIAL CLUB
St Mary the Virgin Church
OLD HUNSTANTON
2.30pm · Free

A Night at the Movies
LONDON ROAD METHODIST
CHURCH, KING'S LYNN, PE30 5EJ
King's Lynn Town Band performs songs
and soundtracks from the movies,
7.30pm · Free entry · Retiring collection

North Wootton Village Market
NORTH WOOTTON VILLAGE HALL,
PRIORY LANE, NORTH WOOTTON,
PE30 3PT
Fresh local produce and handmade goods
from more than 20 local traders,s.
9am - 2pm · Free · 01553 886140

Mon 19th

Anmer Social Club Coffee Morning
ANMER SOCIAL CLUB
10am · 07899 872351

Tue 20th

Knit & Natter
OLD HUNSTANTON VILLAGE
HALL, PE36 6HS
Monthly knitting and crochet group for
all abilities.

Drumming with Les Chappell
LONDON ROAD METHODIST
CHURCH, KING'S LYNN, PE30 5EJ
hands-on percussion for people aged 50+
1pm · Pay What You Can

Thu 22nd - Tue 27th

Dalegate Market Pop Up Shops
DALEGATE MARKET, MAIN ROAD,
BURNHAM DEEPPDALE, PE31 8FB
Weekly beach-hut pop-up shops.
10am - 4pm · Free · 01485 210305

Thu 22nd

**Charity Mediumship Evening with
Sue Hind**
BARTON BENDISH VILLAGE HALL,
CHURCH ROAD, BARTON
BENDISH, PE33 9GF
An evening of mediumship with Sue
Hind.
7.30pm - 9.30pm · £12 · Friends of As-
pires

Fri 23rd

Snettisham Coffee Morning
SNETTISHAM MEMORIAL HALL, 13
OLD CHURCH ROAD, SNET-
TISHAM, PE31 7PB
Coffee and a chat with others from the
local community. Everyone welcome.
10am - 12pm · Free · 07491 643807

Acoustic Night
ANMER SOCIAL CLUB
7pm

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Sat 24th**Snettisham Flea Market**

SNETTISHAM MEMORIAL HALL, 13 OLD CHURCH ROAD, SNETTISHAM, PE31 7LX

Vintage, antique and collectable items, with light refreshments and a charity stall or collection.

9am - 3pm · Admission 50p · Under-16s free · 01485 543608

Sun 25th**RAF Bircham Newton Open Day**

RAF BIRCHAM NEWTON HERITAGE CENTRE, BIRCHAM NEWTON, PE31 6RH

Photographs, memories and memorabilia tell the story of the former RAF station War.

10am - 4pm · Free · 07807 098348

Charity Horse Rides

SANDRINGHAM ESTATE, SANDRINGHAM, PE35 6AB

Explore the Estate's woodlands, parkland and tracks on horseback, choosing a scenic five or ten-mile route.

9.30am - 1pm · £20 · 07768 865918

Tue 27th**Snettisham Bingo Night**

SNETTISHAM MEMORIAL HALL, OLD CHURCH ROAD, SNETTISHAM, PE31 7LX

Family-friendly monthly bingo

Doors 6.30pm · Eyes down 7.30pm · 07491 643807

I Swear (15) - Village Cinema

DERSINGHAM VILLAGE CENTRE

7.30pm · Adults £6 · Children £3

Thu 29th - 3rd Nov**Dalegate Market Pop Up Shops**

DALEGATE MARKET, DEEPPDALE, Beach-hut pop-ups featuring independent traders, local artisans and producers.

10am - 4pm · Free · 01485 210305

Fri 30th**Quiz Night**

ANMER SOCIAL CLUB

7pm · 07899 872351

Sat 31st**Hunstanton Craft Fair**

HUNSTANTON TOWN HALL, THE GREEN, HUNSTANTON, PE36 6BQ

Handmade crafts from Norfolk makers, with a wide range of items for sale. Refreshments available and dogs welcome.

10am - 4pm · Free

Sat 31st**Halloween UV Disco**

SNETTISHAM MEMORIAL HALL, OLD CHURCH ROAD, SNETTISHAM, PE31 7LX

Family Halloween UV disco with fancy dress competitions, spooky cocktails, hot dogs and treats. Bar open.

7pm · Family £10 · Adults £4 · Children £2 · 07876 687423

Halloween fun**ASCARIUM: TRICKS & TREATS**

3 October - 1 November · SEA LIFE Hunstanton

SEA LIFE Hunstanton gets a Halloween makeover for Ascarium: Tricks & Treats. Families can meet the Sea Witch or Warlock, tackle magical challenges around the aquarium, complete an activity trail and collect a reward at the end. The Halloween activities are included with normal SEA LIFE admission.

THE HALLOWEEN GARDEN

27-31 October · Holkham

Holkham's Walled Garden takes a spooky turn for half-term, with pumpkin carving, creepy crafts, Halloween trails, spooky storytelling...

PUMPKIN FESTIVAL AFTER DARK

29 & 30 October · 5.45pm-9.30pm · Pensthorpe, Fakenham

Pensthorpe's Pumpkin Festival continues after sunset for two special evenings. The pumpkin patch and maize maze will be floodlit, alongside pumpkin carving, fire performers, outdoor play, fire pits, marsh-mallow toasting and street food.

MAGIC SCHOOL

26-31 October · North Norfolk Railway

Things get magical aboard the North Norfolk Railway during half-term. Young witches and wizards can travel by steam train before heading to Magic School at Weybourne for Charms and Potions classes.

FEAR IN THE FENS

23-25 October · Cornmarket Cinema, King's Lynn

Something altogether darker for horror fans. Fear in the Fens returns for three days of classic films, locally made shorts, talks and special guests.

HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL NIGHT

31 October · 4.30pm · Adrian Flux Arena, King's Lynn

Halloween goes out with a bang at the Adrian Flux Arena. The evening combines banger and stock car racing with Reliant Robins, a Halloween fancy-dress parade and a huge fireworks display to finish the night.

Parkruns**Hunstanton Promenade parkrun**

Where: Hunstanton Sailing Club, North Promenade, Hunstanton, PE36 6GB

When: Every Saturday, 9am

Distance: 5km

Format: Run, jog or walk

Facilities: Toilets nearby at the Salad Bowl Café

Dogs & pushchairs: Permitted

A flat, accessible weekly 5km event along Hunstanton's promenade. Participants are advised to arrive a few minutes before the 9am start.

Sandringham parkrun

Where: Sandringham Royal Park, PE35 6AB

When: Every Saturday, 9am

Distance: 5km

Format: Run, jog or walk

Start/finish: The Vista, near the children's play area.

Parking: Free for parkrun participants until 11am

A free, timed 5km event through Sandringham's Royal Parkland, open to all ages and abilities.

King's Lynn parkrun

Where: The Walks, King's Lynn, PE30 5NG

When: Every Saturday, 9am

Distance: 5km

Format: Run, jog or walk

Organisation: Run entirely by volunteers

One of the area's busiest parkruns, regularly attracting more than 300 participants. Recent events have topped 400 runners, walkers and joggers, with visitors joining local participants each week

King's Lynn Junior parkrun

When: Every Sunday, 9am

Where: The Walks Café, King's Lynn

Who: Ages 4-14

Cost: Free — registration required

Renegade Runners

When: Every Tuesday, 6pm

Where: Gannock Gate, The Walks

Cost: Free

Jimmy's Joggers

When: Every Thursday, 6pm

Where: Gannock Gate, The Walks

Cost: Free

Weekly Markets**King's Lynn Market**

When: Every Tuesday

Where: Tuesday Market Place, **Downham Market**

When: Every Friday and Saturday
Where: Town Hall car park, **Downham Market**

Hunstanton Indoor Market

When: Every Tuesday, 10am-2pm from October

Where: Hunstanton Town Hall, The Green

Useful Numbers**EMERGENCY**

Emergency Services: 999

Police non-emergency: 101

NHS urgent medical help: 111

Power cut: 105

Gas / smell of gas: 0800 111 999

Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111

Samaritans: 116 123

HOSPITALS / DOCTORS

Queen Elizabeth Hospital, King's Lynn:

01553 613613

Hunstanton Medical Practice: 01485

532859

PHARMACIES

Hunstanton Pharmacy: 01485 532829

Boots Pharmacy, Hunstanton: 01485

532228

Fairbrother Pharmacy, Dersingham:

01485 540792

COUNCIL

Borough Council of King's Lynn & West

Norfolk: 01553 616200

Council out-of-hours emergencies: 01553

616601

Hunstanton Town Council: 01485 532402

Hunstanton Resort Services: 01485

535150

Household bin enquiries: 0330 109 9220

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NEWS FROM BRANCASTER VILLAGE HALL (BVH)

Geoff Wingrove

As usual, BVH has had a very busy summer, with many fun activities organised for the village. In particular, the Disco Bingo and the Bank Holiday Party were both tremendously successful and also raised funds for charity.

There are two very pleasing things to report this month. Firstly, the launch of the "Friends of Brancaster Village Hall" group has been enthusiastically received and supported by the community. Secondly, our resident artist, AJ, has once again been selected from contributors nationwide to exhibit in the highly prestigious Society of Wildlife Exhibition "The Natural Eye 2026" in London in October. This year AJ has been invited to show not just one, but three of his paintings: we offer him many congratulations

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 24th October: Brancaster Sea Festival: Doors open at 10.00am for the static display, main event begins at 2.00pm.

Saturday 28th November: Brancaster Winter Fair: Details to follow.

REGULAR GROUPS: These continue through the autumn period.

BAR 71: Quiz Nights and Pizza Nights on Thursdays and Fries on Friday Nights are new initiatives.

For further information please contact us at bvhsetup@gmail.com

FROM THE BRANCASTER PARISH ARCHIVE: THE ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION (RNLI) A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE HUNSTANTON AND WELLS LIFEBOAT STATIONS

The RNLI can trace its origins back to a meeting in London in 1844 attended by Sir William Hillary, who lived on the Isle of Man where he had witnessed many shipwrecks and taken part in the rescue of crew. In the early nineteenth century, there were about 1800 shipwrecks a year around our coasts; this had a very marked influence on Hillary's future actions.

Hillary lobbied many influential people and founded the National Institution for the Preservation of Lives and Property from Shipwreck. This attracted very powerful patrons: eventually King George IV agreed to become a patron, and the National Institution became "Royal". A meeting in Bishopsgate in 1824 agreed a number of resolutions to form a Charter for the Royal National Institution which constitute a part of the RNLI's Charter today. In October 1854, the Royal National Institution became the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, based in Poole in Dorset and funded by legacies and donations. Today, the RNLI consists of mostly unpaid volunteers, operating 400 lifeboats and 238 stations

across the country; it also provides volunteer lifeguards on 250 beaches.

In the 1990s, an operational study identified a need for the RNLI to concentrate on prevention, in addition to its lifeboat/lifeguard services. This led to information, guidance and campaigns about water safety aimed at all water users. The inland RNLI services were also formed, including those on the Thames.

The RNLI does not deal with crewless vessels, but only those with people aboard; in some circumstances, it will tow boats with people aboard to safety. Since its inception, 600 lifeboat crew have died in service. The RNLI awards medals – gold, silver and bronze – to crews for bravery: some 2500 have been awarded. The most-decorated crewman was Henry Blogg GC, BEM, who was the Cromer coxswain for thirty-seven years, and awarded three gold and four silver medals.

In 2022 there were 238 lifeboat stations, housing 48 rescue craft; there were 9312 launches that year. There were 202 lifeguard units, with 10,000 volunteers and 1591 lifeguards.

RNLI HUNSTANTON

RNLI Hunstanton is located at Old Hunstanton; it received its first lifeboat in 1824 under the auspices of the Norfolk Shipwreck Association. In 1867 the station came into the RNLI, and work began on constructing a new boathouse close to the existing building. The first RNLI lifeboat was the Licensed Victualler, which served from 1867-1887, being replaced by a second vessel bearing the same name from 1887 to 1900. Both were sponsored by the Royal Victuallers, who also sponsored a third lifeboat, which was in service from 1900 to 1931. These boats were launched over the beach by teams of horses, and were powered by oars, with the use of sails when possible; the vessels were self-righting.



The difficulty of launching in this laborious manner led to the RNLI assessing the use of a motorised tractor. Due to the infrequency of launches, the station was closed in 1931, as it was felt that the Wells and Skegness stations could handle any emergencies in the area.

With the increase in marine incidents in The Wash in the 1970s, it was felt that a lifeboat station in Hunstanton was required again. It was therefore reopened in 1979,

firstly with an inflatable lifeboat; in 1982 an inshore craft was provided, along with a drive-on/off tractor for the lifeboat.

In 2001, Hunstanton station was chosen to evaluate the use of a hovercraft lifeboat; following the successful trial, one was installed permanently in 2003.



RNLI WELLS

The Norfolk Shipwreck Association provided a lifeboat in 1830 to begin the story of the Wells station. The station was closed in 1851; in 1869 it was reopened by the RNLI and housed in what is now the Harbour Master's office. The station was relocated in 1895 to the western end of Wells, to be much closer to the sea and less influenced by tidal conditions.

In 1880 the lifeboat was launched to rescue the people on the stricken Ocean Queen; in the course of this rescue the lifeboat lost eleven crew members due to the extreme weather conditions.



Although the RNLI had motor lifeboats from 1911, Wells was not provided with such a craft until 1936 because of the challenging beach conditions during launches. The first motor vessel was light enough to be launched from the beach and was joined in 1960 by an inshore boat.

The station has continued to be involved in a number of hazardous rescues, and the lifeboats have been upgraded when improved vessels have become available

The boathouse was upgraded and extended in 1983 to accommodate a larger class of inshore lifeboat. In 1990 the station acquired an inflatable lifeboat as well as an inshore craft, and the boathouse had to be extended again, and groynes built to protect the beach. In the 2020s a new Shannon class lifeboat necessitated the replacement of the boathouse: a new one was built, opening in 2022, and the old 1895 boathouse was demolished.

The pictures show an early Hunstanton lifeboat and the current hovercraft, together with the former Wells lifeboat station.

NATIONAL COASTWATCH BRANCASTER

As anticipated, the summer has been very busy for the volunteer Watchkeepers at Brancaster Station, with the warm weather bringing thousands to the beach and coastal waters. A further six reportable incidents have occurred in the last month, bringing the total to nineteen this year to date.

People have been cut off on Scolt Head Island by the swift-flowing tides and on the sandbanks in front of the Royal West Norfolk golf course. The Watchkeepers also had to deal with a missing three-year-old and two paddle boarders, in distress when caught out by the tide and wind conditions. All the incidents ended without harm, thanks to the rapid action taken by the Watchkeepers on duty at the Station.

Watchkeepers have been busy this month in the community, attending the Hunstanton Fire Station Open Day, events on Brancaster beach and the Uniformed Services Frontline Festival in King's Lynn.

They also attended the Brancaster Staithe Shanty Festival and held a barbeque at Brancaster Village Hall for the whole team. Watchkeepers will be present at the Brancaster Sea Festival on 24th October.

If you would like more information on National Coastwatch Brancaster please contact Richard Burrows, Deputy Station Manager, on 07535 612777.

You can also find us on Facebook at #nationalcoastwatchbrancaster or on our website, www.nci.org.uk/Brancaster for our webcam and up-to-date information on weather and tides.

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As always visitors and guests are welcome to join us at our meetings at a cost of £2.00 for the first visit and £10.00 for full membership, which also gives discount on purchases at Ward's Nurseries and Moulam & Horn.

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Michael de Whalley



If you have not heard the stories doing the rounds about the stealthy attempts to strip the Queen Elizabeth Hospital of some of its vital services then get your head out of the sand and get informed before it is too late.

The QEH King's Lynn, the N&N in Norwich and the James Paget in Gt. Yarmouth form the Norfolk Waveney University Hospital Group (NWUHG). The story so far starts with whispers that elements within the Eastern parts of the group were plotting to downgrade the QEH by removing key elements from the services it currently provides. Worse still, it seems that these plans may have been being developed behind the backs of the QEH Board. More recently the powers in the East have attempted to reassure West Norfolk's residents and their representatives that there is nothing to fear and that it's all part of considering future options for appropriate levels of service. So it's just looking forward, good planning practice and managing the budget etc., in fact nothing to worry about at all, what could possibly go wrong?

I leave it up to the reader to form a judgement on the faith that they may or may not have in those in NWUHG with the power over our hospital services, which can translate into power over life and death.

Consider a few brutal facts of Geography which those in the more metropolitan areas of the East may have missed. King's Lynn is a very long way from alternative centres of care such as Addenbrookes 65km away and the N&N at 65 km distant. So West Norfolk residents without intensive care, maternity services, comprehensive A&E, acute care etc. (depending on what you hear and fear) face a long trip for help.

Ah but no of course not, the air ambulance will speed you on the way instead of an ambulance trip on the region's appalling roads. The men, women and machines of the air ambulance provide a wonderful service to the community but they are a charity and to suggest that a charity takes up the strain is a totally unacceptable way to even think about strategic decisions over hospital capacity! You will have heard of the golden hour, that period of time within which patients needing urgent care have their outcomes decided.

Ambulances are well equipped and staffed, paramedics are very capable people BUT an hour into your heart attack or labour would you rather be in hospital critical care or careering down the A47 or A10? It is worth noting that if the James Paget was to suffer downgrades of the sort rumoured for the QEH then Great Yarmouth patients would be just 25km from the N&N. Are you surprised by this, well you probably should not be.

Norfolk has always been a County dominated by its Eastern centres of power and there is no reason to think that this should not apply to medicine, the country cousins to the West are out of sight, out of mind and may soon be out of hospital care.

Michael de Whalley, Gayton and Grimston Ward
Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Biodiversity
King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council

P.S.

As for central Government's position on all of this, how are we supposed to square the demands for tens of thousands of new homes in and around King's Lynn with any thoughts of reducing the capacity of our QEH hospital?

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Robert Walpole and the South Sea Bubble

Russel Lyon

Robert Walpole, as most avid quizzers will know, was de facto Britain's first Prime Minister. He was a Norfolk man, but what had he to do with the South Sea Bubble? What was the South Sea Bubble?



Walpole was born in 1676 at Houghton Hall. He came from landed gentry and was a country squire. He became an MP for Castle Rising, which was a rotten borough. This meant he was elected to parliament by a very small constituency, with its few voters under the influence of Lord Howard, whose estate owned all the houses in the village.

Initially, Walpole's parliamentary career was a bit rocky as he was impeached on political grounds by his opponents and imprisoned in the Tower of London for six months. When the Whigs came back to power he was released and re-elected. He was a man of great qualities and resolution, which was just as well as he was able to stabilise the Government after the South Sea Bubble burst.

I had heard of the South Sea Bubble at school. I didn't understand it then and not much better now, but it has been described as the first financial crash and the world's first Ponzi scheme.

It all began in 1711 and was presented to, and came to be promoted by, the Government of the day as a way of raising money and reducing fiscal debt. Sounds a bit like now! Nothing changes it seems, but no modern Government would ever allow such a scheme because the profits to be made were based on the returns available through slavery.

An Act of Parliament was enacted to allow private/public ownership of a company to increase trade and profits to the Americas. Spain's exploitation of South America's gold and silver required increasing amounts of labour and, as disease and terrible working conditions took their toll on local workers, it turned to the African slave trade.

When the Spanish War of Succession came to an end and trade to South America opened up, a trade bonanza was expected and the South Sea Company was set up to take advantage of this new opportunity.

The new company offered shares initially at 6% interest and the British, who had no experience of buying shares, were hopelessly naïve about the perils of "easy money." Many famous people put money into the scheme and King George I took on the Governorship of the company. Others, including Isaac Newton, got involved and the share price rose to ridiculous heights, reaching a peak of £1,050 per share. It was a disaster waiting to happen, with money from new investors being used to pay dividends to the initial investors.

Unfortunately, the bountiful trade that was envisaged never happened. The Treaty of Utrecht had awarded Britain monopoly rights from the Spanish Crown to import African slaves into Spanish-held America. This in turn was given by the British Government to the South Sea Company in return for it buying up £11



million of Government debt. Shares were also given to Government contractors instead of cash payments.

From the outset some far-sighted people, including Robert Walpole, were against the scheme, but that did not stop him investing his money at the time. Walpole was unaffected when the value of the shares fell dramatically as, with insider knowledge, he cleverly sold his stock when it was at its height and made a lot of money.

The problem was that Spain, notwithstanding the treaty, would allow only a limited amount of trade and even took a percentage of the profits. Spain also taxed the importation of slaves and put strict limits on the number of ships allowed for "general trade." This could only affect profits badly, but despite this the Company continued to trade and sell shares.

The bubble had to burst, and it did. The value of shares fell suddenly and disastrously by up to 80% of their original value. Many people were ruined, some committed suicide and family fortunes disappeared.

The House of Commons demanded an enquiry and Robert Walpole was given the job of exposing the scale of bribery and corruption that had taken place. His main job, however, was to restore trust in the Government which had so badly failed. He was made Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Bubble Act was passed to stop these events ever happening again. Thereafter, joint-stock companies were not to be allowed except specifically by Royal Charter.

Walpole became 1st Lord of the Treasury and Prime Minister for over twenty years and played a vital role in restoring Government credit. He was given the nickname "Screen Master General" as he was very adept at shielding prominent people and political allies from any share-dealing scandals.

He died in London in 1745.



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Wendy Warner's plant of the month - Parthenocissus

As summer fades, a group of plants which can look green and mundane throughout the summer come into their own with their unrivalled autumn colour. Parthenocissus are self-clinging, vigorous, climbing plants which can be used to cover walls, fences and other structures. They are deciduous plants producing lush green leaves in spring and summer which gradually transform into brilliant shades of bright red, crimson, orange and purple in autumn as temperatures fall and daylight hours shorten creating a dramatic display that can last for many weeks during September and October before finally dropping, leaving bare stems. They are grown primarily for their foliage, as their green flowers are inconspicuous, although they do produce blue-black berries which birds will consume.

Commonly known as Virginia creeper or Boston Ivy, Parthenocissus can be grown in any position; full sun, full shade or partial shade in most types of well-drained, fertile soil. As with most plants with our changing climate, they are best planted in autumn or spring so their root system can establish before the heat of summer. They will need to be watered regularly during their first growing season but once established are relatively low maintenance. Allow them plenty of space as they make vigorous growth and can reach many metres in height. They are capable of covering a considerable area, making them particularly suitable for covering large walls, fences, sheds, outbuildings or mature tree trunks, but could equally be grown over pergolas where their dense foliage would produce shade in summer. They use tendrils to attach themselves to surfaces so will not require much support. Where control is required, pruning should be carried out in late winter or early spring, and wandering shoots can be trimmed during the growing season.

Parthenocissus combine well with ground level late-flowering plants that also give autumn interest such as asters, rudbeckias, echinaceas, sedums and ornamental grasses.

There are a number of varieties of Parthenocissus and they should

be chosen carefully for the position required. It may sound dramatic, but certain varieties are listed as "invasive non-native species" and it is an offence to plant or cause them to grow in the wild in Great Britain. This is not a problem if they are grown in your garden and not allowed to wander into the countryside. Parthenocissus quinquefolia (Virginia creeper) has five ovate leaflets and can reach heights greater than 12



metres and a spread of 4-8 metres. Parthenocissus henryana (Chinese Virginia creeper) is less vigorous and better suited to smaller areas but will still reach 9m high by 3m spread at maturity. The green leaves of this variety have a velvety texture with silvery-white veins. Parthenocissus tricuspidata (Boston ivy) leaves are three-lobed and will reach a similar size to quinquefolia.

If you are looking for a plant to provide height, coverage and spectacular autumnal colour, Parthenocissus will tick all the boxes and can be planted straight away.



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Heart Warming Musical to land in West Norfolk

Kings Lynn Players

Fresh from their acclaimed productions of The Sound of Music and Titanic the Musical, award-winning King's Lynn Players are bringing the Olivier and Tony Award-winning Come From Away to King's Lynn Corn Exchange for its West Norfolk premiere.

Come From Away tells the remarkable true story of 7,000 passengers stranded after the 9/11 terror attacks and the small Newfoundland town of Gander that welcomed them. Celebrating kindness, friendship and humanity at its best, the musical shows how strangers became friends in the wake of one of history's darkest days.



Wendy Fisher, Chairman of the Players said 'Everyone can remember where they were on 9/11 and all eyes were on the United States, but have you ever thought about what was happening around the world on the same day, outside of New York. The musical will transport you to the town of Gander, Newfoundland where many planes were diverted on this tragic day.'

She added 'Partnering with the KL Corn Exchange and VocalEyes, we are also pleased to present a touch tour at 6.30 pm followed by an audio described performance on Saturday 14th November at 7.30 pm. We hope that our visually impaired audiences that have grown over the last two years will join our cast and live band for an experience not to be missed.

Come From Away runs from Wednesday 11th to Saturday 14th November at King's Lynn Corn Exchange, with evening performances at 7.30 pm and a Saturday matinee at 2.30 pm.

Tickets are £18.00 to £20.00 and are available now by calling 01553 764864 or booking online: <https://www.kingslynncornexchange.co.uk/theatre/whats-on/theatre/come-from-away/>

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Paving the way for inclusive arts in rural West Norfolk

Westacre Theatre

Westacre Theatre is much more than a place to watch a show. In the heart of rural West Norfolk, it has become a vital community arts hub, providing a creative lifeline for children, families, young people, older residents and emerging artists. In an area where access to arts and cultural opportunities can be limited by distance, cost and rural isolation, Westacre is determined to make sure creativity remains something everyone can experience. Increasingly, that means making sure people don't simply come to the theatre to watch, but have the opportunity to take part, learn, create and belong.

From drama and scriptwriting to visual art, LAMDA tuition and Arts Award accreditation, Westacre provides an extensive programme of creative opportunities for young people throughout the year. There are after-school clubs, holiday workshops, youth theatre, home education sessions and specialist courses.

For aspiring performers, that can mean learning how to create a professional self-tape, developing an audition reel or preparing for university auditions. For others, it may simply mean finding somewhere they feel comfortable being themselves.

More than 500 young people access the arts through Westacre's programmes, many from the local home-educating community and surrounding schools.



One Westacre parent, Amy, describes how her daughter arrived at the theatre withdrawn and struggling, having lost her love of drama after an experience that had become too rigid and exam-focused.

Over three years at Westacre, she was encouraged to participate in classes and performances without pressure, eventually performing with Westacre Youth Theatre in Saba's Swim at both Westacre and The Garage in Norwich.

"To see her perform on stage, I really felt I had finally got my daughter back," Amy says.

She describes Westacre as "a magical place" where young people can spend time together, role-play and simply be themselves in a safe and supportive environment.

The theatre also works closely with local secondary schools, helping students experience live theatre who might otherwise have little opportunity to do so.

Steven Hatfield, Drama Teacher at The Nicholas Hammond Academy, says:

"To be able to give opportunities like this to our students and their families is a brilliant way not only to reward their amazing commitment and hard work in school, but to expand their horizons and to gain positive new experience in the arts. A huge thanks to Westacre Theatre who always support us brilliantly."

Charlotte Oram from Downham Market Academy describes the opportunity to experience live theatre as "invaluable" for young



people, adding that it can "spark intrigue, interest, passion and creativity."

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This October half term, young creatives (8-11 yrs) can get stuck into a Monster Mash-Up, with a secret spooky art club, creep'tastic drama and wild outdoor adventure workshops, including toasted marshmallows on Westacre's secret island, where the Weeping Willow Ghost might just be listening.

With Christmas approaching, the theatre is preparing to welcome audiences for its much-loved festive production of Cinderella Christmas Eve has already sold out, so do book your favourite seats as tickets are flying out the door.

Become a Friend of the Theatre: www.westacretheatre.com/friends
Box Office: 01760 755 007

What's On: www.westacretheatre.com

Rotary Member's Poppy Ride Supports Royal British Legion

West Norfolk

Rotary Club of King's Lynn member Andy Kerr and his wife Debra have once again taken to their bicycles to raise money for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and remember those who gave their lives in service. The annual initiative began some four years ago and involves visiting Commonwealth War Graves in the Downham Market area and placing poppies at the graves. There are 147 war graves throughout the district.

This year, Andy and Debra cycled around 30 miles, visiting war graves at Watlington, Marham and Downham Market. They were supported by Royal British Legion Chairman Frank Bridgman and his daughter Natalie, who assisted with placing the poppies ahead of the ride. Andy said: "This is something we hope to continue every year. It is a simple way of remembering our fallen while also raising much-needed funds for the Poppy Appeal. Fundraising becomes more challenging each year, so we would be delighted to hear of any ideas for developing the event and involving even more people in the future."

Thanks go to everyone who donated, particularly Bond Funeral Directors, Watlington Parish Council and Barker Brothers of Downham Market for their generous support. The Rotary Club is pleased to support and recognise initiatives within the local community that combine remembrance, service and fundraising for worthwhile causes. The Club itself donates £300 each to the Poppy Appeal.



Downham Market Rotary donates £3000

Tapping House



the four local charities selected for our support during his Presidential

Several members of Downham Market Rotary visited Tapping House, Norfolk Hospice, on Monday 14th September, to present a donation of £3,000 which will help towards new syringe drivers. The money was raised at our annual golf tournament and the organiser, John Ebbage (far left), especially thanked Janet Rice and her colleagues for their splendid help and assistance on the day.

The annual tournament is an important event in the Rotary calendar, bringing people together not only to enjoy the day but also to raise valuable funds for organisations providing essential services within the local community. Members were delighted that this year's event had enabled such a significant contribution to be made to the Hospice and its work.

Robert Waring, our President Elect (fourth from the left), particularly asked everyone in West Norfolk to remember the superb work that the Hospice does serving those in need in our area. Lyndsey Atkin from the hospice fund-raising team (third from the left) received the cheque and thanked Rotary for their continued support for this vital service. Lyndsey went on to give our Rotarians a tour of parts of the Hospice.

Downham Rotary President, George Morton, was unable to attend but wanted to stress our continued support for the Hospice – it being one of year which will end in June 2027.

Want to be in next month's edition?

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

Send it to:

editor@townandaround.net

Copy deadline: 12th October

Town & Around — Your Local Community Magazine



by the book

November & December Event

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Macmillan Coffee Morning raises £1500

Hunstanton

The Princess Theatre, Hunstanton, is celebrating another fantastic fundraising success after its annual Macmillan Coffee Morning raised an incredible £1,500 for Macmillan Cancer Support. The popular community event welcomed local residents and visitors to the theatre for a morning of cakes, cuppas and fundraising, with a 100-prize tombola, grand raffle and plenty of delicious treats helping to boost the final total.

The theatre would like to thank everyone who came along, donated and helped raise the fantastic £1,500 total.

Anna Hallard, Marketing at the Princess Theatre, said:

"Macmillan Cancer Support is a charity very close to my heart, so to see our community come together and raise an incredible £1,500 means such a lot to me personally.

"Our Macmillan Coffee Morning is always a very special occasion at the theatre, and I'm incredibly grateful to Jenny, Jill and all our wonderful volunteers who put so much time and effort into making it happen.

"A huge thank you must also go to everyone who joined us, donated and supported the morning. It's a wonderful example of our local community coming together for such an important cause."

The Princess Theatre is proud to continue supporting charitable and community events in Hunstanton and would like to congratulate everyone involved on another hugely successful Macmillan Coffee Morning.



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Fishers, Hunstanton, Norfolk

There are newer, more fashionable chippies on the north Norfolk coast, but I've eaten at them all, and the best is the shop on the Green that has been serving since the 1950s. Most fryers make a big deal about their "signature batter", but Fishers is the lightest and crunchiest I've tasted this year. There's a charming restaurant, but unless it's raining you'd be mad to use it when you could sit on the Green overlooking the sea, or walk for five minutes up Cliff Parade to find a bench in Esplanade Gardens and watch the sun set over Lincolnshire.

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Hunstanton's 'Whacky Races'

Dani Crawshaw

Hundreds line the streets to watch the Hunstanton's 'whacky races', the new rattler ramp giving an extra thrill for both racers and spectators!



Phil Doughty, driving Rusty Nutz

"It's really great fun," Phil Doughty tells me, who's on The Green waiting to race in this year's Soap Box Derby.

This year we've got the new rattler, bit dubious about that, I'm kind of expecting most of it to fall off - but it should keep rolling!"

It's windy - but the sun starts to shine - and the races (split into four age categories) begin. At the start the teams giving the karts the biggest push they can - as it's just gravity and design that'll help them build speed down the hilly terrain.



The crowd near to the chicane shouting, "Do the ramp! Do the ramp!" Some do, some don't - but those that do, get the biggest cheer.





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The first ever Soap Box Derby in the town took place in 1953, for reasons unknown it stopped - but thankfully it was reintroduced in 2017.

Well done to the 65 teams that took part.

See the results and more more photos at townandaround.net

All Images Ian Burt

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October is a busy month for King's Lynn Community Cinema Club, with two special events and two club screenings, all in Screen 2 at the Majestic.

The first special event is Power Station on Thursday 1st October at 7pm, a funny and heartwarming British film about two artists trying to install solar panels on every house in their street. The screening will be followed by a Q&A with the director and a light supper at Groundwork Gallery.

On Saturday 3rd October at 6pm, the club joins the Steampunk Society for a sing-along screening of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. Expect plenty of singing, costumes, a flying car and, of course, the Child Catcher.

Club screenings continue at 7.30pm on Thursday 8th and Thursday 22nd October. The Christophers, directed by Steven Soderbergh and starring Ian McKellen, Michaela Coel, Jessica Gunning and James Corden, follows the children of an ageing artist who hire another artist to complete his unfinished paintings.

The second is a subtitled South Korean film about a man who, after losing his job, decides to eliminate the competition to secure another. The film has received 109 award nominations and 23 wins to date.

KLCCC is open to anyone over 18. Membership costs £20 per season, with two eight-film seasons each year and scheduled screenings free to members. Alternatively, day membership is £6 cash on the door.

For membership email communitycinemaclub@googlemail.com. Full details are available at www.klccc.uk and on the club's Facebook page.

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Regular Events

Mondays: Strength and Balance Class 4.30pm.

Tuesdays: Seated Yoga 12.45pm -1.30pm. Cash Bingo 7.30pm.

Wednesdays: Scrabble 10am, U3A Chess 10am, Whist Drive 7pm

Thursdays: Strength and Balance Class 1.00pm.

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

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

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Hunstanton & District Rotary Update

Rotary Club



It has been a busy few months in Hunstanton and District Rotary 50th Anniversary Year; starting with a very successful Burnham Market Craft Fair on the 15th August

It was a sunny and bright start to the day on The Green at Burnham Market as traders arrive to set up at 6am for the start of Burnham Market Craft Fair. Over 100 stalls had been set up as the first of many visiting shoppers started to arrive by 9am.

Throughout the day the atmosphere was happy and enjoyable, with many visitors commenting on how friendly everyone was. A vast range of crafted products were on show ranging from jewellery and glassware to woodcraft and metalwork. Trading was brisk and shoppers had time to talk to the traders, discussing their approach to their crafting techniques with some traders having sold out by mid-afternoon.

Hunstanton and District Rotary had set up an information desk in a

gazebo - running a 'name the dog' competition for younger visitors.

During the fair Rotary received many comments of congratulations from both visitors and traders for their excellent organisation of the Craft Fair event with requests for next year's Craft Fair on August 21st, 2027

Breast and Prostate Cancer Bucket Collection – 31st August

Rotary members went onto the High Street in Hunstanton to collect for these two very worthy causes.

Finally, we would like to thank the Agents Belton Duffy, King's Lynn and Abbotts, Hunstanton for allowing us to use their empty shops for our 50th Anniversary displays and that we invite others to join Rotary by telephoning the president, Marie on 07866 889967.





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Springwood Year 9 annual awards

Kings Lynn

There were celebrations across the board, when Lynn students came together to mark the end of the academic year and their Key Stage 3 studies.

The Year 9 cohort from Springwood High School assembled at St Nicholas Chapel for the Presentation Evening, where they were joined by the Mayor of King's Lynn, as well as Chair of Governors Roger Livesey, parents, department heads, and teachers.

There was also a special guest speaker, former Springwood pupil Mackenzie Whitehouse-Baker, who is currently reading Politics, Philosophy, and Economics at Oxford University, and spoke about his journey through the school.

Head of Year 9 Oliver Denton hosted the event, alongside Executive Headteacher Andy Johnson and Deputy Headteacher Richard Thompson.

"There were over 70 awards presented on the evening, most notably the subject awards, which acknowledged the best attainment and progress in every subject," he said.

"We also acknowledged every Year 9 pupil with a certificate to mark their completion of Key Stage 3 at Springwood High School.

"A range of other certificates and acknowledgements were made, for attendance, transition leaders, school

councils, and highest achievement points."

Among those receiving accolades were Adrianna Lee with an impressive 100 per cent attendance record for the full three years, and Elodie Blackmore, who won the award for Contributions to Extra-Curricular Activities.



The annual ceremony was organised by Sam Kempton, Year 9 Manager at Springwood, which is part of the West Norfolk Academies Trust.

Mr Denton added: "Events like this are so important to the pupils of Springwood High School. This particular occasion is a moment

for pupils to reflect and take stock of their achievements to date.

"They also get the opportunity to be proud of completing another phase of their education, whilst also looking ahead to their future educational and career pathway.

"Taking moments like this to recognise our

wonderful young people is so important to building and maintaining the amazing culture our youngsters have built along their journey so far. It is a great way to close one chapter and prepare for the next."

Image Ian Burt



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News from The Barking Bugle

The Canine Guide to Surviving October

Hello fellow doggies. Ziggy here, October is upon us, and I think we need to have a little chat about what lies ahead. At first, things look promising. The weather gets cooler, the leaves start falling and the walks become wonderfully muddy. What's not to like? Unfortunately, this is also the month when our humans start behaving strangely....It all begins with Halloween.

Suddenly there are pumpkins everywhere. They're put outside doors, on windowsills and in gardens. Some even have candles inside them. Now, I'm not saying a pumpkin doesn't look interesting, but apparently we're not supposed to eat them, knock them over or stick our noses anywhere near the candles.

Humans seem to find it hilarious to dress dogs as pumpkins, witches, ghosts and hot dogs. Personally, I think we look perfectly good without all that nonsense. If you enjoy dressing up, that's absolutely fine. But if you don't, make your feelings known. A firm look, a strategic lie-down or simply refusing to move can be surprisingly effective. Then come the visitors, The doorbell rings, We bark, The door opens and some strange-looking creature is standing there asking for sweets, They leave, The doorbell rings again, And again, Honestly, it's exhausting.

Some dogs love visitors, but others find a constant stream of strangers rather worrying. Now let's talk about chocolate.

There will probably be more of it in the house than usual, and it will smell absolutely fantastic. You may even see small humans wandering around with bags full of the stuff. Do not be tempted, Chocolate is poisonous to dogs, and the darker the chocolate, the more dangerous it can be. If you manage to find some that a human has carelessly dropped, resist the urge and alert your human immediately. Yes, I know. It's a terrible burden being responsible.

Next comes fireworks. Humans may call them beautiful, but we know they're loud explosions for no obvious reason.



Some dogs are terrified of them, and fireworks can start well before Bonfire Night.

If loud bangs worry you, make sure your humans know. Find your favourite safe place indoors, close the curtains, put on some music or the television to help cover the noise and stay with the people you trust.

Those lovely evening walks can suddenly become much harder to see us. So remind your humans that reflective collars, coats or little lights can help keep us visible, particularly near roads. And don't forget that wet leaves can be slippery, although I'm sure most of us will discover that for ourselves.

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So, fellow dogs, my official October survival plan is:
Enjoy the muddy walks. Investigate the leaves. Avoid the chocolate. Survive the doorbell. Politely reject ridiculous costumes if they're not your thing.

October might be a little strange, but with a sensible human, a warm bed and plenty of walks, we'll get through it.

After all, someone has to keep the humans under control.

Stay safe and keep wagging.

Woofs Ziggy Bear

Chief Repawter - thebarkingbugle.co.uk

Hunstanton Ski Cafe Charity Fundraiser

For Great Ormond Street Hospital

Hunstanton fundraiser raises nearly £4,750 for Great Ormond Street Hospital, A fundraising afternoon in Hunstanton has raised an incredible £4,747.43 for Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity, after more than 600 people turned out to support the event.



The fundraiser was held at the Hunstanton Ski Café and Bar on Sunday, August 30, bringing together local residents, businesses and volunteers for an afternoon of live music, entertainment and fundraising.

The idea for the event came from Peter at the Ski Café after an encounter with a customer last year left a lasting impression on him.

Café manager Allison explained that the customer had “truly touched Peter’s heart”, inspiring him to organise an event which could give something back and support the work of Great Ormond Street Hospital.

With £4,747.43 raised in a single afternoon, the event also provided another impressive example of Hunstanton’s community pulling together for a good cause.



And the community certainly got behind the idea, Just over 600 people attended during the afternoon, with money raised through donations, a big raffle and VIP tables on the café’s decked area.

Live singer Cecil Farayi provided the music and kept the crowds entertained throughout the event, with plenty of singing and dancing alongside the fundraising.

Hunstanton’s local fire brigade also joined the afternoon, bringing along a fire engine which proved particularly popular with younger visitors, who were able to have their photographs taken with it.

Confirming the final figure after the event, the team said the support would make “a huge difference to so many children and families” supported by Great Ormond Street Hospital.

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Project Nourish & Connect

The Bridge For Heroes

The Bridge for Heroes is tackling loneliness and isolation within the Armed Forces community through Project Nourish & Connect, providing nutritious meals, companionship and opportunities to build friendships.

At its King's Lynn drop-in centre, home-cooked meals are served six days a week, giving people a welcoming place to meet, talk and access peer support. Regular activities also help visitors make new friends and strengthen connections within the Armed Forces community.



One beneficiary said: "Coming to the drop-in centre has changed that. I've met people, made friends and now have somewhere I can come where I feel welcome. Sharing a home-cooked meal and having a chat with others might sound like a small thing, but it has made a huge difference to me."

The project is supported by the Norfolk Community Foundation through the Connecting Older People Fund, helping The Bridge for Heroes provide practical support while bringing people together.

The drop-in centre at 52A South Clough Lane, King's Lynn, PE30 1SE, is open Monday to Friday, 10am–3pm, and Saturday, 10am–2pm.

The welcoming drop-in centre is open to veterans, serving personnel and their families, offering a friendly and relaxed environment where people can simply call in. Alongside meals and activities, visitors can find practical support, advice or simply enjoy a cup of tea and conversation with others who understand the Armed Forces community. No appointment is needed, and newcomers are encouraged to drop in, meet the team and discover what support is available.

The centre aims to provide more than somewhere to visit. For some members of the Armed Forces community, leaving service or experiencing a change in personal circumstances can mean losing many of the everyday connections and routines they once relied upon. Having somewhere familiar to go, where there is always a friendly face and someone willing to listen, can make an important difference.

Project Nourish & Connect helps create those opportunities naturally. Sitting down together over a home-cooked meal can start conversations, build friendships and help people who may have become isolated feel part of a community again.

The Bridge for Heroes also provides a range of activities designed to encourage people to get involved at their own pace. Whether someone wants practical support, company, a regular activity or simply somewhere to enjoy a cup of tea and a chat, the emphasis is on providing a welcoming environment.

The charity hopes the project will encourage more people who may be spending too much time alone to come through the door and discover the friendship and support available.

Members of the Armed Forces community are welcome to visit during opening hours or call 01553 760230 for more information

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21 Years of Town & Around

Dani Crawshaw and Elaine Bird

October Town & Around celebrates its 21st anniversary, it also marks the end of an era. Founder Elaine Bird, who launched the magazine in Hunstanton back in 2005, is beginning her retirement after more than two decades spent celebrating the people, businesses and communities of West Norfolk.

What began as an idea for a small local magazine covering Hunstanton, Old Hunstanton and Ringstead has grown considerably over those 21 years but the principle behind it has remained remarkably simple: tell local stories about local people.

From lifeboat crews and village organisations to schools, businesses and some unforgettable front covers, Elaine has chronicled a changing community while building a magazine that has become part of it.

Dani Crawshaw sat down with Elaine to look back at how it all began, some of the moments she'll never forget, and what comes next.

Can you believe it's been 21 years?

Actually no, I don't think I'm that old!

Why did you start Town & Around?

We were living in Hunstanton, a lovely place, but it was missing things. And one of the things it was missing was a local magazine, that told people what was going on in the area, that celebrated what was great about the area, and celebrated the individuals as well. I felt that if it did have something, it would improve people's lives - if they knew what was going on more. But after approaching several different organisations, just to say would you like to do one I would volunteer to help, there were no takers. So I decided to do it myself.



How did you go about it?

I remember walking down Hunstanton High Street saying this is what I'd like to do, would you back it, would you advertise your business - and people didn't just say yes, they said it's a great idea, and shall I pay you upfront, because I know it's going to be costing you money to print. Which was lovely. There are still advertisers in the magazine that were in issue number one, which is a really lovely testament to what they feel they've got out of it as well.

What sets it apart?

It's changed a lot over the years, but the things that we've chosen to focus on are really the people in the area, telling human stories. And a lot of the stories have come from things like the lifeboat, the fire service, the schools, the WI - the organisations and what they do in the area, and what they do for their community. I don't think those human



interest stories are covered elsewhere, and people like to read about them. I think it makes everybody value their community more, and that's really what the magazine's about celebrating.

Are you proud of the magazine?

I am actually, is it wrong to feel proud of it?! I think because it's made a contribution, locally. And it's provided businesses with a vehicle for them to tell people about what they do, it's provided local people with somewhere to air their own views - before social media came about. It creates discussion, and tells people what's happening, and I think it encourages people to use local businesses, and that strengthens local communities. Over the years we've spread and spread, when we started it was just Hunstanton, Old Hunstanton and Ringstead - it now includes news from other villages, King's Lynn and Downham Market as well. It's great to include more places and more communities.

Most memorable moment?

I think it was probably the Freedom Parade in Hunstanton, when the US Air Force unit, that saved lives during the East Coast floods of 1953, was granted the Freedom of the town. The way people turned out for that, that was a really memorable time (2014). And then when we had the Edfest in Hunstanton (2008), and all the children from Glebe School did a reenactment of the landing at the lighthouse, and the TV cameras turned up for it, and it was just wonderful. Another is me interviewing Chris Packham.



Any front covers that stand out?

Of course there are. The lifeboats have been important. It was lovely to celebrate Ed Napolitano and Charlie Parfitt's engagement - both pilots at Hunstanton's RNLI, that was last year's cover in April. You'll probably notice that I use people on the cover a lot of the time, and it's because people tell stories, don't they, and everybody loves stories. If there's something that looks interesting on the front cover, it makes people pick it up. My favourite cover of all time, which people may think is a bizarre choice, is from April 2022. I put a chap called Graham Eley on the cover, he'd been at an event at Dersingham and he was carrying stuff to his car. He'd pulled on a hat and was carrying a huge bunch of pink flowers, and he's got such a wonderful smile - I just loved the picture.



Advice for the new team?

Rather than giving advice, I wish them all the best; their great skills and energy will drive the magazine forward and the combination of print, video, online and radio is a winning formula for readers, advertisers and the business. Of all the enquiries we received, this team was the best fit by miles.



Carrying the Torch

For 21 years, Elaine has poured her energy, enthusiasm and love of the local community into Town & Around, creating something that has become a familiar and much-loved part of life across West Norfolk.

As Elaine begins her retirement, we are all incredibly proud and excited to carry that legacy forward. We know we have big shoes to fill, but our aim is simple: to protect everything that has made Town & Around special, while bringing new ideas and energy to its next chapter.

Most of all, we want to say thank you, Elaine for everything you have created, and for trusting us to carry the torch, now you and Richard enjoy your well earned retirement.



Parkrun Marks 15th Anniversary

Kings Lynn



Last Month, King's Lynn parkrun celebrated its 15-year anniversary in The Walks. From its humble beginnings on 10th September 2011, when just 61 runners and 9 volunteers gathered for the inaugural event, the King's Lynn parkrun has grown into a local phenomenon.

On Saturday, 430 participants donned their parkrun milestone t-shirts supported by 38 volunteers, for the birthday run before gathering at the Walks Café for an after-run birthday party.

The anniversary also welcomed back original pioneers from the very first run, including local runner Liz Thomson, who holds the course record with having completed an astonishing 592 parkruns.

To mark the celebration, participants also took on an endurance testing "24-Hour Marathon," attempting as many extra laps of the park

as possible following the morning 5k.

By the close of the event at 9:00 AM on Sunday, more than 150 runners had taken part, collectively completing an outstanding 1,050 miles, this being particularly memorable being all laps of The Walks!

Event Director Gary Walker praised the collective effort saying "parkrun is a fantastic community event for individuals of all ages and abilities, where runners and walkers alike are warmly welcomed. Being free and entirely volunteer managed makes it simply unique. The 24-hour event allowed our 5k regulars to really test themselves".

He also praised the Terrington St Clement Running Club, who this year provided outstanding volunteer support and whose runners, in addition to completing their own individual runs, staffed the event throughout.

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News From Hunstanton Croquet Club

Zena Penty

A busy August included internal competitions, various level national Association and Golf Croquet tournaments and also saw the light-hearted Men's V Women's competition which this year was dominated by the men's team who were worthy winners. This event included competition entry donations and a fundraising raffle towards the croquet club's chosen charity for this season, Breast of Friends.



This charity was nominated by club member Maria Crompton who went over and above by personally raising well over £1,100 for the charity by doing a skydive! The traditional Members Day also falls in August and in addition to the friendly half hour games of croquet, members enjoyed croquet associated skills games and a delicious afternoon tea.

Throughout the season certain mornings are designated for essential tasks, one of which is 'Hoop Setting'. The ground in front of the hoops gets worn and therefore they need to be repositioned.

Fortunately we have some very skilled members as precision is key - but all help is very welcome. In fact members volunteering their help throughout the season is essential and we are so grateful to the people who donate their skills and time for the benefit of the club. Proving that it's never too young to start, a big thank you to Tommy who helped swish

the lawns in preparation for the start of the annual historic three-day 127th Association Golf Tournament where a special congratulations go to Downham Croquet Club whose members won 3 out of the 4 trophies.

There are plenty of opportunities to learn to play croquet and to improve your game. If you're looking for a new sport to take seriously, with some committed practice and a good eye some members have started to be involved in competitions (nationwide venues) reasonably soon after joining so do come along at the beginning of next season and take part in the beginners course (in April 2027) or pop along to take a look before the end of October when the club shuts down for the winter.

For more information about the club see our website hunstantoncroquetclub.co.uk

See the News and Events page for tournament reports.



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Memories of Hunstanton Seaside Past

Philip Thomas - Hunstanton Society



A well attended performance on the North Promenade in the 1950s.

Summer Visitors to Hunstanton are still treated to one of the Seaside resort “staples” – The Punch and Judy show. This picture in front of the “Hangar” on the Green is from 2026.



This will have been ongoing in Hunstanton’s Victorian heyday, the time in which it became a children’s entertainment. Before that it was a show intended for adults, First appearing in England in 1662 after

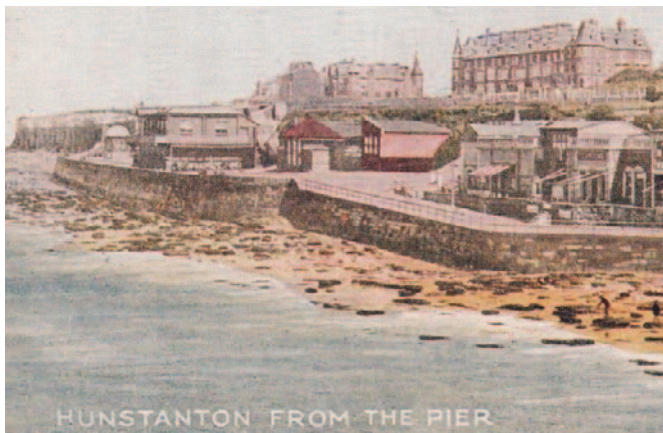


the bleak days of Cromwellian restrictions. The origins go back further to “Pulcinella” in the 17th century Italian commedia dell’arte.

The show may be considered tame these days, Punch will still fail to carry out his babysitting duties, but the children of the 1950s might have seen a less sanitised version. These picture at the top of this page shows a Punch and Judy show from 1952 in the theatre then known as “Children’s Corner” and the same stage used in a different event (well attended – there was less choice of entertainments for children in those days) where you can see the amphitheatre shape of the Theatre.

This was on the North Promenade and had previously briefly been known as “Palm Court” (The Lynn Advertiser of 1948 promoted the Lynn Band at the venue).

The origins of the site go back to the end of the 19th century, when there was an excavation made in the cliff for what was to be the public baths. This never happened and the site became a theatre.



The original theatre was called the Lounge Theatre (look for the red building in the middle of this postcard image) and was in competition with the other busy theatres in the town such as the Mikado, the Pier

F. Miss Mabel Ashton's Repertoire. 1. Don't go too fast, little girl. 2. In Bedcham. 3. Fustian. 4. I always come back to you. 5. In the Sun. 6. I want a little star like you. 7. Ravens Queen. 8. Come and make love to me. 9. Cook out. 10. Arras Watkin. 11. Stoker. 12. Only a Poony. 13. Mr. Moon. 14. Parting. 15. How ashamed I was. 16. She didn't know. 17. On the Pier. 18. Seaside Girl.		19. Isn't that like a man. 20. Cuckoo Coo. 21. As sweet, my little Hyacinth. 22. Once hit away shy. 23. Boney. 24. Mr. Grondy. 25. Peter Penock. 26. Good night, Mr. Brown. 27. The lady wasn't taking any fish. 28. The Brain game pitter patter down. 29. Jemmy Lily. 30. Bickelack Queen. 31. Captain Bigfield D'Arcy. 32. Master Joon. 33. Under an Umbrella. 34. Extra.	
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Pavilion and the Town Hall.

The Heritage Centre has a collection of Victorian and Edwardian programmes featuring the travelling productions that were popular in those days. This programme is from 1904 and has been marked, presumably showing which songs Miss Mabel Ashton

selected from her repertoire. Alongside is an advert from a local business.



The site was eventually leased to the Hunstanton Sailing Club, and in due course the building that you can see today was built.

The amphitheatre is still clearly visible at the back.

Hunstanton Society - News and Events

Keeping Hunstanton history alive

Coffee Morning at the Heritage Centre

The next Coffee Morning will be held on Wednesday 30 September 2026, from 10.30am to 12 noon at the Heritage Centre.

We hope to see many of you for a sociable cuppa, a chat and, no doubt, some quiz challenges.

The Summer Quiz is still available in the Heritage Centre, with answers hidden around the various displays and prizes from the 'Lucky Dip' for those who complete the challenge.

There is one answer that is not related to any of the questions and, if this is found, the participant gets an additional prize. Happy hunting!

If you have any ideas for future events, would like to help with an event or want to join the events team, please email hunstantonsocietyevents@gmail.com.



Refurbishment of Smithdon High School

In October, Andrew Murray suggested that we ought to invite someone from the team redeveloping Smithdon High School to talk about everything currently going on at the school.

Andrew visited the site and met representatives of the redevelopers who were very helpful and, in due course, arranged for one of the team to come and tell us all about the works.

In view of the interest this may generate, we have arranged for the talk to take place at Hunstanton Town Hall rather than the Heritage Centre. The presentation will be given by Terence Hill of Bowmer + Kirkland on Wednesday 21 October 2026 at 7.30pm. Doors open at 7pm.

Admission is £1 for members and £5 for non-members, with refreshments included.



Christmas Lights Switch-on

The Heritage Centre will be opening on Sunday 29 November 2026 to join in the celebrations for the Christmas Lights Switch-on, organised by the Town Council.

We will be offering fun, puzzles and games to visitors and would appreciate your support in donating prizes for the games. Anything large or small will be gratefully received.

We would also welcome volunteers to help staff the event. If you have a couple of hours to spare and would like to help, please let Jane know so that a rota can be organised.

Email secretaryhunstantonsociety@gmail.com.

Heritage Centre Winter Closure

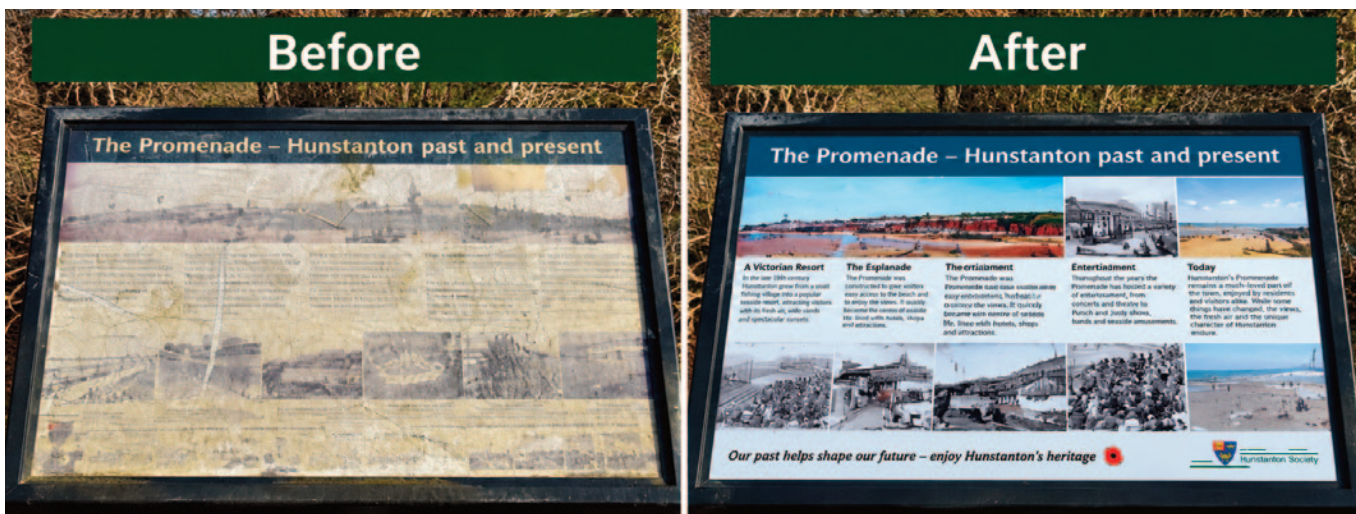
The Heritage Centre will close for the winter in November, with the last normal opening day on Remembrance Sunday, 8 November 2026

Following the Remembrance Service at the War Memorial, the Centre will be open for extended hours from 12 noon until 4pm.

Interactive Boards Around Hunstanton

We asked Paris Print if it would be possible to have one more of the interactive boards reprinted, as it had faded to the extent that it was completely unreadable. Thankfully, they did this literally overnight and we were able to install the new board in its slot on the prom outside the Oasis Swimming Pool. We are very grateful for this and hope that, when you take a leisurely walk along the prom, you will stop to admire it.

We now need to identify the remaining boards that probably need replacing.



Borough Council News October 2026

Terry Parish Bourough Councillor

Well, McDonald's has stirred public interest. The number of public comments at the time of writing, is just over 600 and the proportion of objectors v supporters is well over 3:1. The message is clear, it is not wanted at this site and, for many, anywhere in this area.

Consultees, again at the time of writing, have been slow to respond. Councils 'close down' over August as many key officers are on holiday so that might be the reason. As of 8th September, Lynx buses have objected, as have Norfolk Wildlife Trust and Wild Ken Hill. Environmental Health has a holding objection. Public Health, after citing several reasons why it could be refused, leaves the decision up to the planning authority. Heacham Parish Council's objection was delayed by a Borough technical 'glitch'.

Two related planning applications have been made. One for an 8m (26feet 3 inches) high illuminated totem pole, application number 26/01395/A, the other for multiple illuminated signs, application number 26/01394/A.

Although the totem pole is identified, in the application for the restaurant, by a labelled dot on a complex lighting plan, it is omitted from the pictures purporting to show how the site will look. I assume the agents realised that it would put the site in a bad light.

If you haven't already done so, object to these two applications too. I see no sensible reason to agree with any of the applications so am not encouraging supporters. No doubt, the story will continue.

Now for something which may have encouraged an even higher number of responses – the revelation of the Borough's call for potential development sites. Well over 700 sites came forward. You could comment on them all up until the end of September and I hope the efforts of the Borough Council to engage with you didn't fall on stony ground.

There are 20 potential sites in Heacham, 2 more just over the border in Hunstanton, 5 in Sedgeford. Fring is the place to be because there are none.

Within Heacham, sites offered include a total of just over 500 houses whilst just up the A149, across the border another 400 pop up. Sedgeford has sites to hold around 60.

A big plot of land towards the Snettisham island is offered for retail including a builders' supply yard. Whilst on the Heacham village side, it is more retail food outlets, and/or a care home, and/or a hotel. There are several offerings of more caravans, camping or other tourist facilities. Essentially, if it is green and empty fill it in.

The next stage is for planning officers to consider all the sites in detail, mull over any responses from the consultation and then submit the shorter list to further consultation. If you missed your chance last month, get ready for the next one.

The end of this month sees the death of local democracy for planning decisions. This government has castrated planning committees and they will only be used in a very limited manner now. The default position is that applications will be decided by planning officers with only significant cases meeting certain, well defined, criteria possibly being referred to planning committee. To facilitate this, the right of Borough Councillors to call in planning applications to planning committee has been curbed. Until now, Borough Councillors have been able to support the concerns of residents about applications which they feel will adversely affect them. If officers recommended such applications should be accepted, councillors could get them heard before planning committee. The committee might still agree with officers but concerns would have been voiced and, likely, planning conditions written in or amended to make consent more palatable. And, often, the committee would refuse the application resulting in its dismissal; a subsequent, modified, fresh application, or an appeal to the planning inspectorate by the applicant. On many occasions that appeal has been lost and the planning committee's decision proved correct and the officers' recommendation wrong. All that mechanism has gone yet the government, the Prime Minister, witter on about local power, devolution, the need to listen to the public. Never believe a politician.

Very local matters concerning water: Sedgeford Parish Council has been attempting to get some sense out of Anglian Water and the Environment Agency about the loss, in recent months, of the Heacham River between Fring and Sedgeford. Drinking water for much of the area north of Snettisham comes from water stored in the chalk beneath Fring. Anglian Water pumps it out of the ground. The same underground aquifer feeds the Heacham River though there are other springs just beyond the Wash Pit, Sedgeford, on the Heacham side. Those maintain some flow through the Lavender site, under the A149, alongside the site of the proposed McDonald's, past Heacham Park, the Salting's nature reserve, and to the sea at South Beach.

Logic suggests that if you pump water out of the same source that feeds the river, then the river will suffer. In their latest missive, the Environment Agency seem to suggest that the loss of the river is due to dry weather. That that is a major factor, none can dispute but, if pumping were reduced, surely the water table would rise and the river receive some of its due?

I cannot advocate not providing drinking water to meet existing needs but I can say that any significant planning developments should be put on hold until at least there is an



additional water supply (and sewage treatment) for them. So, the call for sites which has created possible opportunities for hundreds more houses and extensive tourist sites in the Heacham / Hunstanton area should be considered fiction unless and until water is piped from elsewhere including new reservoirs.

Anglian Water and mains repairs. Anyone in Heacham will have noticed multiple roadworks in recent months. A significant number have been due to broken water mains and their quick repair has been necessary. However, sometimes clearing up leaves a lot to be desired. The excavation which closed the Broadway for several days left sand in the road gutters and on the pavement whilst the barriers and cones were left in place for days after work had finished and became a hazard. Another excavation on Station Road left a road drain partially blocked with chippings stuck in the grid. I have reported both matters to AW in the hope they will ensure their contractors clear up better in future.

The pool of water that plagues Station Road by the bus stop close to the pub still exists. The system that was installed years ago to take water away was broken and NCC Highways have not resolved it.

I have commented, many times, on the impending Local Government Reorganisation which I have supported and still consider necessary as long as it is the preferred model of three unitaries. The Labour government which initiated it has now put the matter on hold and elections next May will be as normal, for Borough Councillors not for shadow unitary councillors. Though that won't change (I think) the unitary proposals will reemerge at some point within the next two years. What will overtake them is devolution, the election of a mayor for a combined Norfolk and Suffolk. I don't know anyone who wants that.

You, the public, will have to raise your voices more often and louder. Politicians blink if votes are in jeopardy.

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



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In The Limelight

Fifteen shows in October and what a month of entertainment we have coming up at the Princess Theatre! From legendary music and spectacular tribute shows to musical theatre, comedy and something a little more daring, there's a fantastic night out waiting for you!

We kick off with Under the Boardwalk on Friday 2nd October, followed by Diana Ross – Queen of Motown on Saturday 3rd and Rave On on Sunday 4th. Then we welcome McCartney – All the Best: Beatles & Beyond on Thursday 8th, The Rod Stewart Songbook on Friday 9th and The Glam Rock Show – Get It On on Saturday 10th.



The hits keep coming with Man in the Mirror on Friday 16th, Bee Gees & ABBA in Concert on Saturday 17th and Freddie & The Queen Experience on Sunday 18th.

Later in the month, The Picture of Dorian Gray – The Musical arrives on Thursday 22nd, West End Divas on Friday 23rd and An Evening of Burlesque on Saturday 24th. Folk-rock legends Steeleye Span join us on Sunday 25th, followed by Tits Up Comedy on Thursday 29th, before Dave Finnegan's Commitments bring October to a fantastic close on Friday 30th.

Three October Shows in the Spotlight!

Perfect for a haunting time of year, The Picture of Dorian Gray – The Musical comes to the Princess Theatre on Thursday 22nd October. Based on Oscar Wilde's timeless gothic tale and starring Kevin Kennedy (Rock of Ages, We Will Rock You, Coronation Street), this brand-new musical combines a powerful original score with a dark story of beauty, temptation and secrets.

Then, why not enjoy a cosy night in the West End without leaving Hunstanton? West End Divas arrives on Friday 23rd October, bringing together three exceptional musical theatre vocalists for an evening of



powerhouse performances and showstoppers from favourites including Les Misérables, The Phantom of the Opera, Wicked and Mamma Mia!

And finally, a comedy play about cancer! Tits Up. Because people going through cancer don't suddenly stop laughing. They don't stop being wives, mothers, brothers, sons, daughters or best friends. Life carries on. There are frightening days, emotional days and days when everything feels completely Tits Up. A story filled with heart, humour, friendship and the reality of carrying on when life throws something at you that you never saw coming. 29th October, starring Crissy Rock.

The Best Seat in the House

We're often asked, "What's the best seat in the house?" The answer

is simple, everyone has their favourite! Although, in our opinion, every seat is the best seat in the house and they're jolly comfortable too

But have you ever wondered why we call it "the house"? The term dates back to early theatres, often known as playhouses, where audiences gathered under one roof. Over time, "the house" became the theatrical term for the part of the theatre where the audience sits.

Did you know you can take a virtual look around our auditorium on our website? Head to Plan Your Visit and explore the views from different areas before choosing your seats.

Or pop into the Princess Theatre, enjoy a warm drink, browse the shows we have coming up and have a chat with our friendly Box Office team. Not sure where to sit? Just ask, we're here to help you find your perfect seat in the house!

A Big Thank You

Big thanks to Jenny Chapman and her team of volunteers who organised the annual Macmillan Coffee Morning in September. Thank you to all who joined us. The cakes were superb, along with the raffle and tombola, loaded with lovely donations from Theatre staff and the community.

Cinderella Cast Brings Panto Magic to the Princess Theatre



There was plenty of magic, sparkle and laughter at the Princess Theatre, Hunstanton, as the cast of this year's pantomime Cinderella came together for the official Press Day.

This year's cast features Lucy Galloway as Cinderella, Sam Littlewood as Buttons, Jess Broadbent as the Fairy Godmother, Josh Reetie and Michael Diamond as the Ugly Sisters, Thomas Fage as Dandini and Tyler Sargent as Prince Charming. They were joined by professional ensemble performers Tegan Frary and Summer Neave from Rollason Stage School.

The Press Day brought the company together for plenty of fun in front of the camera as excitement builds towards the festive season. A huge thank you goes to Ian Burt, who captured the official photographs. Produced by Tom Rolfe Productions, Cinderella promises all the ingredients of a traditional family pantomime: spectacular costumes, comedy, music, dancing, plenty of sparkle and, of course, a little bit of magic!

Cinderella runs at the Princess Theatre, Hunstanton from Saturday 5th December to Sunday 3rd January!

Finally, we have it on good authority that Santa will be in Sunny Hunny for his annual winter break before the big day and this year, we hear he's staying in a luxury safari tent just down the road!

A team of elves are already working hard to get him from the North Pole to the Princess Theatre on Sunday 29th November, where he'll be meeting and greeting everyone from 1.30pm–4.30pm before the Christmas lights switch-on at 5pm, followed by DJ Zola on the Terrace.

Looks like Santa's swapping the North Pole for the Norfolk coast!

Have a wonderful month of October.

Thanks for reading,

Anna H



The Fairy Godmother of All Pantomimes

The clock is ticking, so book your tickets now before it's too late!
YOU'LL HAVE A BALL AT HUNSTANTON'S PANTOMIME!

*Princess
theatre*

Silver Ticket Prices

Adult	£23.00
Chil/Conc	£21.00
Family 3	£57.50
Family 4	£73.50

Gold Ticket Prices

Adult	£24.50
Chil/Conc	£23.00
Family 3	£62.50
Family 4	£80.50

From 5th December until January 3rd 2027

Opening Weekend All Tickets £19.00.

BOX OFFICE: OPEN

10AM - 4PM 01485 532252

For Group or School Bookings - please contact the Box Office directly.

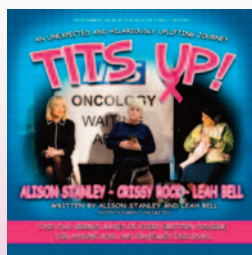
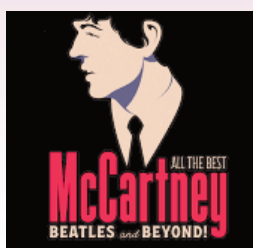
WWW.PRINCESSHUNSTANTON.CO.UK

October - Whats On

FRIDAY	2ND	UNDER THE BOARDWALK
SATURDAY	3RD	DIANA ROSS - QUEEN OF MOTOWN
SUNDAY	4TH	RAVE ON
THURSDAY	8TH	McCartney - All the Best - Beatles & Beyond
FRIDAY	9TH	THE ROD STEWART SONGBOOK
SATURDAY	10TH	THE GLAM ROCK SHOW - GET IT ON
FRIDAY	16TH	MAN IN THE MIRROR
SATURDAY	17TH	BEE GEES & ABBA IN CONCERT TRIBUTE
SUNDAY	18TH	FREDDIE & THE QUEEN EXPERIENCE
THURSDAY	22ND	THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY THE MUSICAL
FRIDAY	23RD	WEST END DIVAS
SATURDAY	24TH	AN EVENING OF BURLESQUE
SUNDAY	25TH	STEELEYE SPAN
THURSDAY	29TH	TITS UP COMEDY
FRIDAY	30TH	DAVE FINNEGANS COMMITMENTS



**Book your seats and support
your local Theatre**



Book to experience some great shows or come along to sip and savour a beautiful view or catch a *sunny hunny* sunset!

Live Music, Concerts, Tributes, Musicals and More !

Sunset Wine Bar - Open 7 days a week.

Box Office: Open 10-4pm / 10-8pm on show

www.princesshunstanton.co.uk

