

TOWN and AROUND

ISSUE 251 SEPTEMBER 2026

PRICELESS!



Local News • Events • Great Outdoors • Features

Last word

I am delighted to tell you that Town and Around and KL1 Radio are coming together from 1st September.

After two decades of producing and distributing a magazine every month, the move secures the future of Town and Around whilst allowing my husband Richard and I to retire. And there's something powerful about combining the reach and immediacy of local radio with the trust and staying power of the magazine.

For local businesses, it means the opportunity to be seen and heard across West Norfolk - reaching people at home, in the car, at work and online.

For our community, it means even more local stories, events, people, businesses and everything that makes our part of Norfolk special.

On the cover I am raising a glass to everyone who has contributed, advertised or read the magazine since we started it in 2005. Thank you all; we couldn't have done it without you. You can read about the new team on page 39.

Elsewhere in this 251st edition there interesting articles like the Red Register on page 6, Hunstanton Hall and P G Woodhouse on page 28, The Rise of the Urban Muntjac on page 41, and a Traditional grassland management project on page 22. Political news from James Wild MP, Terry Jermy MP and Councillors Jo Rust, Terry Parish and Alexandra Kemp plus sport, gardening, theatre, clubs, business, events, history and the monthly diary of events (centre pages). Local news and features are covered by Dani Crawshaw throughout these pages.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this issue, especially all our advertisers; please consider them first when you are able.

Good luck to everyone starting a new school, college, apprenticeship or university this September (including two of our granddaughters).

So, it's goodbye and very best wishes from us both,

Elaine

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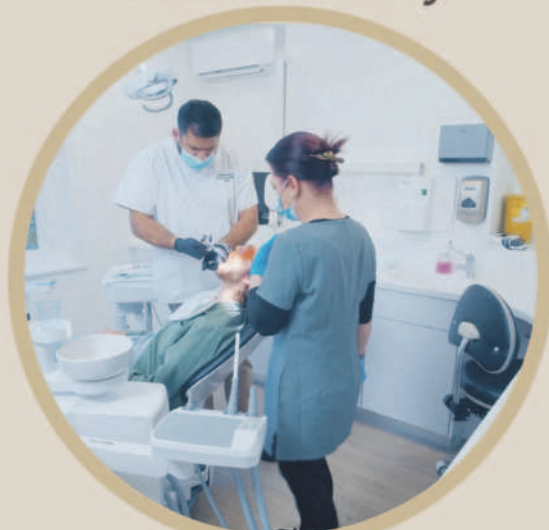
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Stabilising Hunstanton's coastal defences

Dani Crawshaw



February's sinkhole
Image Borough Council

It could slide forward and slump down if we didn't do anything," says Dave Robson, who's West Norfolk Council's environmental health manager.

The council's been closely monitoring sections of the coastal defences, and more than a metre of sand has been washed away from the beach in front of the Green at Hunstanton, around 40cm this summer alone.



The ongoing beach erosion has exposed more than one metre of the sheet piling along the structure, and digital level monitoring's identified cracks and movement in sections of the sea wall.



Exposed sheet piling
Image Borough Council

Engineers say repairs need to 'be carried out to prevent further deterioration and potential structural failure of the seawall over time'.

Mr Robson wants to reassure residents and visitors it is safe for now, "We are always checking on the condition of the prom and have detected this early - but if there's a significant change - we will adapt. It is safe to

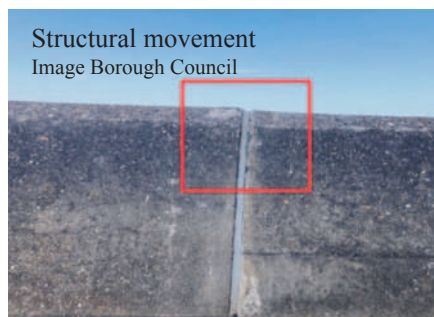
use."

The work being proposed is for around 10 thousand tonnes of rock to be piled in front of the seawall to prevent further movement, starting with smaller stones which would then be capped off with 10-tonne boulders.



The 200m section of seawall between the Rock Shop Slipway and Pier Head Building (referred to as Section F and G) on the North Promenade that requires interim works

The 'rock armour structure' will be around 9 metres wide and between two and three metres high - which will stabilise the seawall and prevent further movement, until there's a more permanent solution.



Structural movement
Image Borough Council

It'll cost around 2 millions pounds, and take around 10 to 12 weeks - parts of the prom and beach will be cordoned off once work is in progress, the exact date of which has yet to be decided.

Cllr Sandra Squire, Cabinet Member for Environment and Coastal, is reassuring local business, "It will be out of season work, so they'll be less of impact. We will try and keep disruption to absolute minimum."



Image Borough Council

The vulnerability of our sea defences was all to clear in February, when a sinkhole appeared along the stretch between the Waterside Bar and the Oasis leisure centre.

The void measured about the size of a single decker bus. Repairs in March closed part of the walkway for two weeks while tonnes of concrete were poured in to fill it.

The Council's currently progressing the necessary consenting process for the interim works.



Cllr Squire adds, "The situation now requires intervention beyond routine maintenance, which is why we are taking proactive steps.

"We recognise that work of this scale will generate interest locally, and we are committed to keeping residents, businesses and stakeholders informed throughout the project."

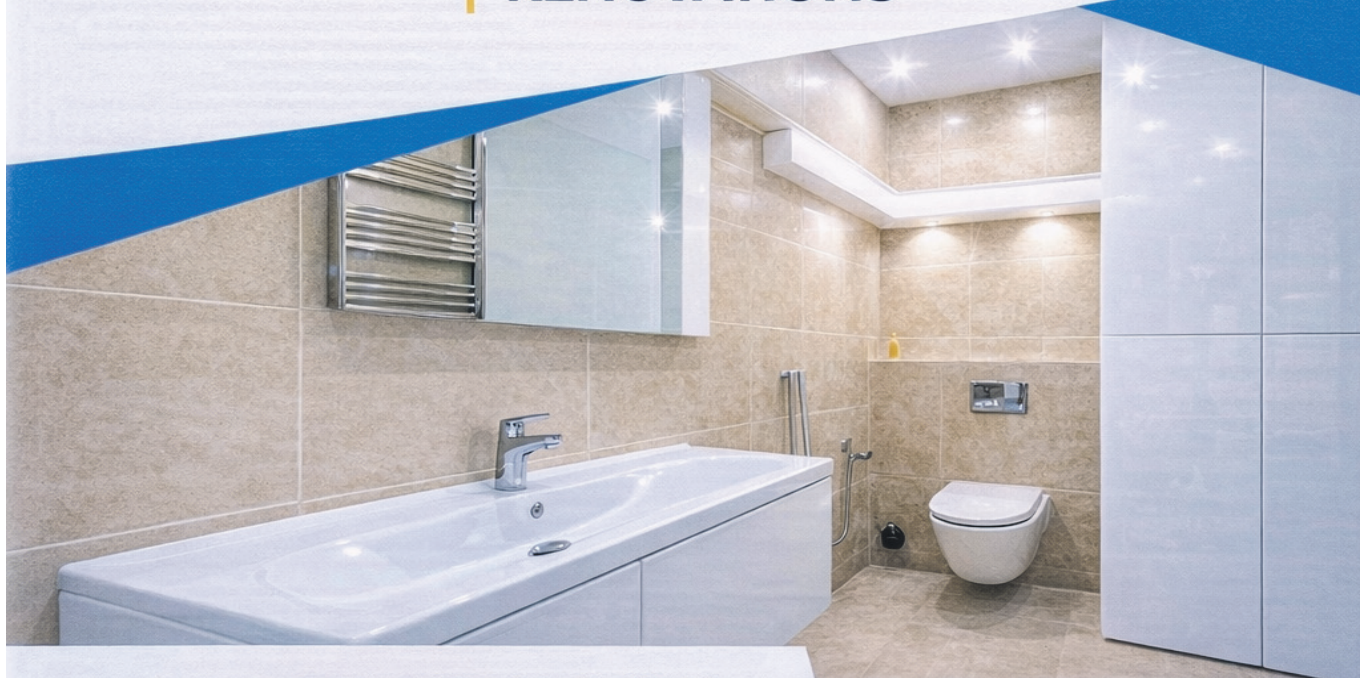


Long term, the town's entire sea defences are expected to be renewed in a £40m government-funded refurbishment - although plans are yet to be drawn up.



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King's Lynn Book Festival and the Red Register

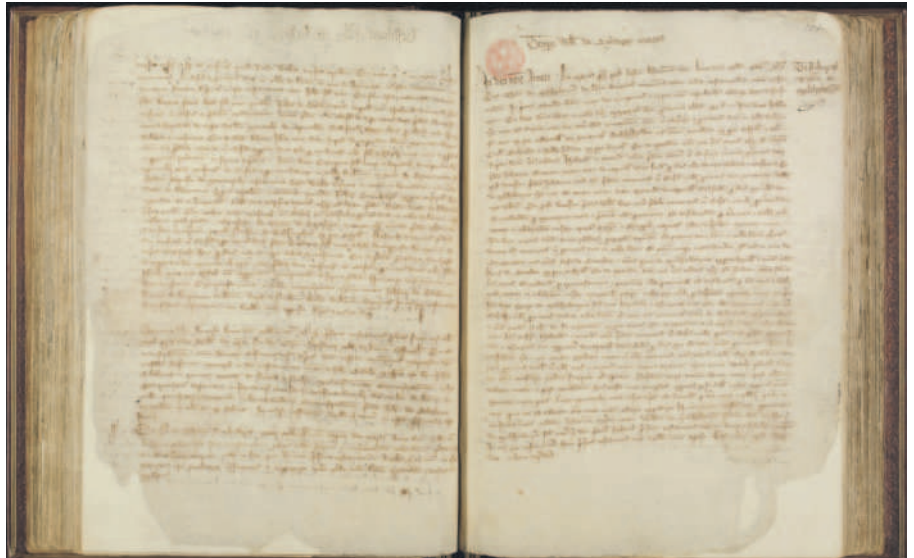
Sherie Naidoo, Chairman and Festival Director, King's Lynn Book Festival

The Red Register of King's Lynn c.1300-1395 has been accepted into the UNESCO Memory of the World. It joins such documents as the Domesday Book and the death warrant of King Charles I. We shall be showing the exceptional, original Red Register at the King's Lynn Book Festival.

The Red Register is reputedly the earliest paper book in England. It is the core record of the borough's government for almost the whole of the fourteenth century. It contains not only memoranda of the matters which came before the mayor and the community in the Guildhall but also copies of wills of local and foreign merchants with property and interests in King's Lynn. As the UNESCO entry states:

This makes the Register an outstanding source for studying life and society in the fourteenth century, a period when Lynn was England's third most important port, acting as a hub for international trade with France, the low countries, Scandinavia, Iceland and the Hanse in Germany. As an archival document the Red Register is unique and irreplaceable.

On the morning of Saturday 3rd October the doors of the Town Hall will open earlier than planned, at 10am. At 10.15am Dr Paul Richards FSA, noted historian of Lynn and of the Hanse, will give a short talk about the Red Register and you will be able to view the book itself. By kind courtesy of the Borough Council and the Norfolk Records Office, the archivist, Luke Shakell, has permission to



show us this wonderful artifact. This is an extraordinary opportunity as the book is normally protected in the archive and only a facsimile can be viewed by the public. This showing will be followed at 11am by the scheduled session: 'Scandi Noir : How it All Began'. There is a rather interesting segue joining the two sessions, come and find out.

The Red Register session is open to all who have King's Lynn Book Festival season tickets and to those who buy tickets for 'Scandi Noir':

How it All Began' featuring Stein Ringen and Orjan Karlsson and chaired by Christopher Page. Tickets for that session are £16.50 per person and include this bonus viewing of the Red Register. Tickets are available at <https://klbookfest.littleboxoffice.com/browse>

I am really excited about this and look forward to your company at the talk, the viewing and the subsequent session - you must not miss this opportunity!

Walking Sober: A Man on a Mission

Dani Crawshaw



Meet Daniel near Old Hunstanton, this morning the ex-soldier's hiked from Thornham. But that's nothing compared to the nearly 600 miles he's done already.

"I started from Maidenhead, Berkshire, hiked down to Worthing, and I'm going anticlockwise around the whole of the UK.

"I'm on day 62 at the moment, and I feel incredible, like I haven't done for years and years."

He takes his heavy backpack off, and we sit down for a chat. He tells me more about his alcohol addiction and depression.

"I come from such a beautiful family, but I've just suffered, I've suffered since the first time I picked up a drink. Just my addictive personality over the years has led me down a very dark and painful route."

The 37 year old talks so openly, it's easy to see why so many people have wanted to help. There have been coffees, meals, and even a few nights in a caravan. And plenty of chats.

"Every single person I've met has been absolutely incredible, I started this journey really low on confidence, my anxiety was through

the roof - I just hiked and didn't talk to anyone, I just needed to clear my head."

"But now I talk to people," he continues, "And every single one I've met has helped me along this journey, they've actually got me to where I am today. It makes me feel loved, wanted, worth living."

A few months into the hike, which he's calling Walking Sober, there's no specific end date in sight, "I reckon it's going to be over 2 years, but it could take longer.

"Every day is a healing journey, every day I'm better than I was yesterday, and healthier in my head, so if it takes 3 years - then that's 3 years in the right direction."

On social media he's documenting his travels, hoping it'll raise awareness and money for mental health charities.

We chat about his family some more, who he says are incredibly proud of him doing this hike.

I ask if he's proud of himself. "Some days. But when my mental state goes down, my bag gets four times heavier, and I'm dragging my feet - it takes me back to all the silly mistakes in my past.

"But each day I'm getting prouder, I've still got a lot of work to do on myself."

As Dan gets ready to leave, heading to a campsite in Heacham, he has this advice for anyone who's also struggling. "Get out hiking, get into nature, and talk to people. There is so much help out there, so much generosity. Do not give up.

"I hit a brick wall every single day of my walk, physically and mentally, I go out of my way to talk to someone now, and that person pushes me on."

If you see him, stop to chat. You won't regret it - and it could be the boost he needs that day. Good luck Dan!

A video's on our instagram page @townandaroundmagazine
You can follow Dan's journey @walkingsober

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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Protecting our Chalk Streams

Dani Crawshaw



Gaywood River near watery lane (left) King's Lynn, the impact of pollution
Credit: Peter Clitheroe

We need real and full protection for these chalk streams now, from source to end," Mark Dye tells me, who's one of the co-founders of action group Gaywood River Revival.

Since 2022, it's been campaigning to protect and restore the rare chalk stream which flows from near Derby Fen into King's Lynn.

I ask what he thinks about the new All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG), which aims to conserve one of England's rarest natural habitats.

Mark Dye, thinks it's a 'step in the right direction'.



Mark Dye by Gaywood River

"These globally rare ecosystems are a matter of national importance. When it's free from political point scoring, that's key,

because it means they can debate and move forward together and hopefully put things towards parliament.

"Here in Norfolk I personally believe we need to move more quickly in offering real protection for our chalk rivers," he continues.

"For instance, there are parts of the Gaywood and its headwaters which are up in Grimston, that are identified as having pristine chalk stream ecology, which are labelled as drains, that's fundamentally wrong, and part of the problem that allows them to be continually mistreated.



River Gaywood

"Why have a SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) downstream at Derby Fen and fail to protect the headwater and spring sources. What we say matters. And the lack of proper classification leaves them

unprotected."

Currently, only 11 of Britain's 220 chalk streams have any form of legal protection. The spring-fed waterways provide a home for wild brown trout, water voles, and unique water plants.

MP James Wild, who has been advocating greater safeguarding, is a member of the new APPG.



Members of the new APPG on Chalk Streams

"Norfolk is home to some of the finest chalk streams in the world," he says, "Including the Nar, Gaywood, Babingley, Heacham and Ingol, and as a county we have a special responsibility to protect and enhance them.

"These are globally rare habitats; England holds around 85% of the world's chalk streams, and Norfolk alone accounts for around 15% of that total, making ours some of the most important anywhere."

The APPG is campaigning to secure stronger legal protections through the forthcoming Clean Water Bill, that it plans to raise political awareness, shape policy, and promote their recovery.

Mr Wild says there needs to be a multi agency approach, "As the forthcoming Water Bill is developed, there is an important opportunity to move beyond piecemeal protection and towards a more coherent, catchment-based approach that brings together water companies, farmers, landowners and regulators to deliver genuine improvements for these rivers, here in Norfolk and across the country."

Campaigner Mark Dye thinks we should all be worried about our chalk streams, and ends by telling me, "Their rarity and their environmental significance needs to be protected - now."

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Buying a property with an unadopted road

By Marion Oliver, Conveyancing Executive, Hayes + Storr

Most homeowners expect to drive straight onto a public highway without giving it much thought. However, if a property is accessed via an unadopted road, there can be additional legal and financial considerations. With around 40,000 unadopted roads in England and Wales, it is important to understand the access arrangements before you buy.

What is an adopted road?

An adopted road is maintained by the local highway authority at public expense. It is open for public use, and homeowners have a legal right of access without being responsible for its maintenance.

Roads may remain unadopted for several reasons. They may serve private estates, be part of unfinished developments or be found in rural areas where they have never been brought under local authority control.

Finding out whether a road is adopted

During the conveyancing process, your solicitor will carry out a local authority search to establish whether the road is adopted. If it is not, further enquiries may be needed to confirm your legal right of access, whether adoption is planned and whether there are any obligations to contribute towards future works. An experienced conveyancer will explain the legal

position and identify any potential concerns before you commit to the purchase.

New-build developments

On new-build developments, roads are often awaiting adoption by the local authority. Developers will usually have agreements in place to construct the road to the required standard before responsibility transfers. Your solicitor will review these arrangements to ensure appropriate protections are in place.

Older properties and private roads

Older properties, particularly in rural areas, are often accessed via an unadopted road or shared private driveway. Ownership arrangements vary considerably. The road may belong to one of the neighbouring properties, be jointly owned by those who use it or, perhaps surprisingly, its ownership may be unclear altogether.

Whatever the ownership position, your solicitor should confirm that the property benefits from a legal right of access, establish who else has rights to use the road and investigate responsibility for its maintenance. You do not want to discover after moving in that a neighbour can restrict your access or that repairs are needed but there is no clear agreement about who should carry them out or pay for them. Every property is different. By reviewing the title documents, neighbouring titles and the seller's replies to enquiries, your solicitor can



explain your rights and responsibilities and identify any potential risks.

It is also worth asking your surveyor to comment on the road's condition. A shared driveway requiring only occasional maintenance is very different from a heavily worn private road serving several properties where responsibility for repairs is uncertain. Understanding both the legal position and the likely maintenance costs will help you make an informed decision.

How we can help

Buying a property with an unadopted road requires careful legal investigation. For further information, please contact Marion Oliver in the residential property team on 01328 863231 or email marion.oliver@hayes-storr.com.

This article is for general information only and does not constitute legal or professional advice.



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COLLECTING TAX - HOW MUCH AND WHEN?

By Mapus-Smith & Lemmon LLP incorporating
Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton

As we are all aware, there are two angles to paying (or receiving money). How much, and when?

There has been much talk in the press recently concerning the “how much?” element of the equation, with much ink being spilt on proposals to align Income tax and capital gains tax rates or implementing some sort of property/wealth tax to replace council tax and/or stamp duty land tax. There is of course also a regular discussion about the promises made before the last election not to raise the main taxes. This is all regularly aired in the press and easy to follow.

However, there is also the “when?” part of the picture. Whilst employees pay their tax as they earn, it is more difficult to tax the self-employed in the same way since their income flows are irregular and their true income may not be determined until well after the end of the financial year. For a cash strapped chancellor, though, the possibility of accelerating the payments is an attractive one. With this in mind, it is well worth considering three papers which were issued by HMRC on 26 June:

- We were told that the “tax gap” (the difference between what HMRC think they should be getting and what they actually receive) is some £59.2 Bn. This is only 6.4% less than they think they should be seeing. But it is still an attractive figure, and despite the fact that the gap has been reducing in recent years, they would clearly like it to fall further – this is a “how much?” question.

- In a further paper issued the same day they are opening a consultation on whether businesses should be legally required to make their VAT and PAYE contributions solely by direct debit, with penalties where businesses fail to do so. This would both speed up the receipt of funds but would also have some effect on whether the money is received at all, because in some cases a business defers paying over

the deductions because of tight cashflow but eventually finds it is simply unable to pay them at all (and becomes insolvent). Making the contributions collectable by direct debit might help HMRC in some cases, but in others might push such businesses into insolvency at an earlier stage.

- A third paper took up the intention to accelerate the collection of tax payments by the self-employed. This was first raised in the 2025 Budget when proposals were made to tax self-employed income under PAYE where taxpayers have income from both sources. This would largely supersede the existing “payment on account” (POA) system by charging the tax in equal monthly instalments rather than by half yearly POAs. The paper also explores the possibility of introducing monthly POAs during the year of assessment for those who do not also have a PAYE source of income and would therefore lead to a considerable acceleration of tax. Again, this is primarily a “when” rather than “how much” question.

These are, of course, all proposals at a consultation stage, but it seems clear that HMRC are looking to accelerate tax collections and extract a sizeable sum from the self-employed without actually increasing tax rates (though of course that may also follow). Since the proposals are not scheduled to go live until 2029, there will be plenty of time to think about them. Given that they would potentially take place just before the next general election. It is also not inconceivable that there might be some delay between now and then. What is certain though, is that an already complicated taxation system for the self-employed will become even more tortuous.

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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K Brown Autos celebrate 500 Google reviews

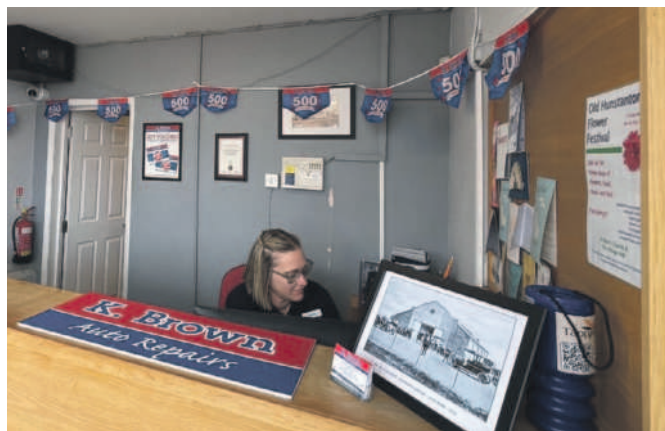
The Hunstanton garage, opposite the Police Station on King's Lynn Road, celebrated hitting the incredible milestone of 500 reviews on Google in July.



One five star review reads: 'I can't recommend this family-run garage enough. Every time I bring my car in, I'm met with genuine concern and expert advice rather than a sales pitch. They are incredibly honest and their prices are always fair.'

Most recently I took my car in after an accident. Their kindness and helpfulness turned a stressful situation into a manageable one. Truly grateful for this team!

Marketing & Creative Director Abigail Brown said: "The amazing Sunny Hunny team have worked so hard to deliver exemplary customer service to achieve the reviews they do - particularly the fabulous Aimee on reception who we know this means a lot to."



"Speaking of Aimee, she is our resident baker and how amazing is that cake?!"

The team enjoyed a Domino's pizza, a slice of cake and were each given either a voucher or bottle of champagne on Friday 31st July to commemorate the occasion.

"This is an extraordinary achievement, and we are very proud of them all," Abigail added.



Anita's Salon

It is with some sadness that we have to say good by to Jane who has been a stylist with us for 10 years. She has decided to retire in September 2026 to enjoy her hobbies of horse riding and painting and just take things a bit easier. We wish her all the best on her retirement and thank her for all her hard work and support.

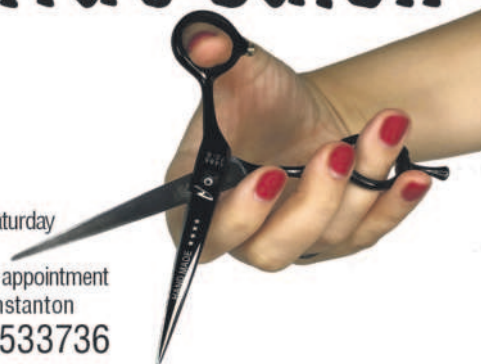


On a positive note we are very pleased to announce that from October 5th 2026, Bozena and I will be joined by two very experienced hair stylist in Mandy and Angela from Fusion which will be closing.

We continue to welcome all clients both old and new and will assure you of our very best at all times.

We are very much looking forward to this new move at Anita's

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Wendy Warner's plant of the month - Pennisetum Grasses

As the colours of summer fade, Pennisetum grasses, commonly known as fountain grasses, reach their peak. They are among the most attractive ornamental grasses for adding movement, texture and late-season interest in the garden. These grasses are perennial although their hardiness varies considerably.

A mass of soft, bottlebrush-like flower spikes are held upright or arching like fountains above slender, graceful clumps of foliage. The flower heads shimmer in the light and breeze creating an airy, natural effect. As they mature, the flower heads become paler and remain attractive into the winter.



Pennisetum generally grow best in a sunny, open position in well-drained soil. Poor drainage in heavy soil can be improved by the addition of organic matter and horticultural grit. Once established most Pennisetum will become quite tolerant of the drought conditions of our hotter, drier summers, but will need regular watering when freshly planted. They lend themselves to being planted in groups or drifts as several plants together will create a soft, flowing mass that will give the appearance of movement in the breeze. Combine them with Echinaceas, Rudbeckias, Salvias and Verbena bonariensis to create a prairie planting scheme. They can also be used as architectural specimens in gravel gardens or be grown in pots or containers.

There are many species and cultivars of Pennisetum. Pennisetum alopecuroides 'Hameln' is a popular compact, clump forming variety reaching a height and spread of 60-90cm. Its narrow green leaves turn golden yellow in autumn and it has masses of fluffy pinkish-white plumes from mid-summer onwards. 'Red Buttons' has dark red, bristly flowers fading to biscuit brown and reaches 90cm x 90cm. Pennisetum advena 'Rubrum' has feathery panicles of silver and red plumes above dark red foliage and is one of the larger varieties reaching up to 1.5m but is also less hardy so best grown in a pot which can be moved to a sheltered position. Probably the most spectacular is Pennisetum advena 'Fireworks' which will reach 1.2m and has burgundy-red leaves with pink margins and red flower plumes which will gradually fade to brown. This one is also less hardy.

If you are looking for low maintenance, elegant plants to give a different look in your garden this autumn, why not choose a Pennisetum or two.



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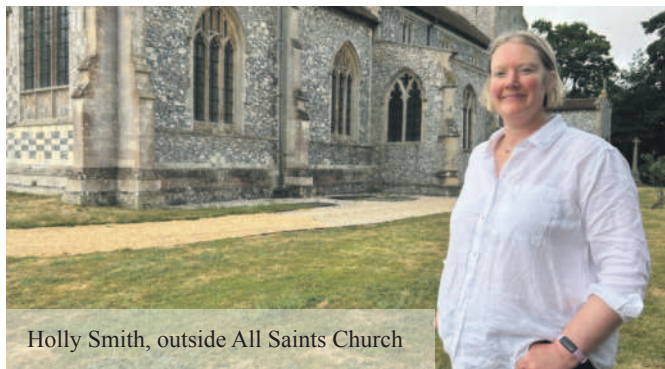
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The Village Behind the Legend

Dani Crawshaw



Holly Smith, outside All Saints Church

I meet such interesting people. Everyone I take on a tour adds something to it," says Holly who runs Nelson's Village Tours.

"In many respects I don't consider myself a Nelson expert, I consider myself a village expert - because this is a village tour."

Since April, Holly, who's lived here all her life, has led almost 30 tours.

The two-hour walk around the village, stops at various significant places, and as we walk along Church Lane, the 52 year old captivates me with her knowledge.

"This road is really important, this road is the very steps that Nelson would have taken, as he went from his home at the rectory to Burnham Overy - where we know he learnt to sail as a boy."

Born in Burnham Thorpe in 1758, Nelson left for the last time in 1793.



We stop at the wooden carving of the legendary British naval commander - on the village green.

"He spent 5 years here on half pay when he was out of work, and worked the Glebe land for his father," Holly continues.

"He really became an individual who was a bit of a champion of the men in rural Norfolk, he was never short of people to go to sea with, because people respected him."

We're now outside the Nelson Memorial Hall, built in 1891, using stone and flint from the Admiral's childhood home. After a quick look inside, full of paintings and items of memorabilia, we walk past the village pub.



The Memorial Hall

"Before Nelson left to take command of HMS Agamemnon, he threw a meal in the upstairs room of that pub for all the men of the village."

It's then on to All Saints' Church, which houses the graves of his parents, and various keepsakes, such as the HMS Nelson crest and ensign flags.

"At the time that Nelson's father was the rector of this church, it was a complete wreck," Holly tells me, "There was a period of time where the tower had collapsed and come through the roof, and it had landed on the font - the font that Nelson was baptised on, and broke the pedestal."

"He was baptised when he was only a few hours old, as he was a very poorly child, and they didn't think he was going to live."



The font

Holly describes discovering new things about the village, and its links to Nelson, as 'addictive'.

"For example, finding out what had happened to the font after it had been damaged - that it had been taken to the rector's garden to be used as a planter, before being reinstated hundreds of years later. It really has an amazing story."

"I had some people from the Nelson's Society come on a tour, who said, 'Wow, imagine Nelson being baptised in this font. What an amazing thing it would be to have been baptised here too,' and I said, my children were!"

Holly ends with, "It's a funny thing, I've lived in this village all my life and often take it for granted, you don't realise how exciting it is, because it's your every day."

She certainly passes on that excitement - of how this small Norfolk village helped shape the legend Lord Nelson became.



And I walk away with a desire to learn even more - the sign, surely, of a great tour.

A video's also on our instagram page @townandaroundmagazine



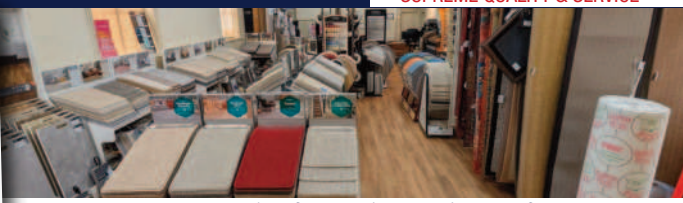
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Unbe-leaf-able! Old Hunstanton Flower Festival delights

Dani Crawshaw



Images Ian Burt

Before I even make it to St Mary's I overhear lots of compliments for this year's festival.

Emma, from Yorkshire, is buying some plants by the duck pond, and says she feels inspired, "This is exceptional, I've been before and this is my second time, it's great - there're loads of exhibitions in there, my favourite was My Garden and Harvest.

"And I've bought some flowers, which my partner will be happy about," she jokes.



At the church door a couple come out smiling - I ask what they think, Richard tells me, "I think it's better than ever, we come every year, and this is the best one we've ever seen.

"The displays are bigger, better and more inspired than ever before."

Finally inside, I'm also impressed.

St Mary's is full of people admiring the 26 arrangements - which are nothing short of delightful. This year's theme is 'A Few of our Favourite Things'.



Jean from Lincolnshire, is sitting on a pew, taking a moment to admire it all, "I think this is our fifth year. And it's just lovely, it never fails to please."

I wander around with my two year old, who's delighted with the scarecrow (Harvest).

We stop (along with other children) to admire the Tiger That Came To Tea (Celebrating Books).

Behind us a lady says, "I almost tripped on the step - looking at that display!" (My Garden).

I stop and chat to Gary Bocking, the festival coordinator, "I think it's amazing, when you look around at some of the things that people have created.

"The buzz when we are setting up is brilliant, everyone pitches in and we are like a family really - which is lovely."

And it's all been organised with a wedding on the Saturday afternoon too!



Outside Andrew Golding, from Goldings of Outwell near Wisbech, says "It's very pretty, very quaint, lovely setting - it's a beautiful little show and it's lovely to be here."

And the fun isn't over - it's off to the village hall, which, for the 3 days, has provided refreshments, stalls, games, a dog show and a fly past!

Key organisers Simon Carter and Caroline Richardson say a record sum's been raised, almost £23,000, for St Mary's Church and Old Hunstanton Village Hall.

They add, "None of this would have been possible without the incredible support of those in the village - and beyond - who gave their time so generously. Around 140 people played their part, from erecting marquees to clearing tables and countless other jobs behind the scenes."

Congratulations to everyone involved, the 51st Flower Festival continues to bring joy to all who attend.

Blooming brilliant!



A video's also on our instagram page @townandaroundmagazine



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Our Village Fayre store in August was very well supported with plants, books and some fruit and veg. We raised well over £150 towards our charity for 2026, Macmillan. Many kindly donated more than the asking price. It was good to see so many local people enjoying the day which the Events Committee and Memorial Hall team had worked so hard to bring together.

Our September meeting will be on Wednesday 30th when Barbara Williams will be talking about the Norfolk Plant Heritage Group.

Our October Meeting on Wednesday 28th will see Chris Durham telling us about Anglia in Bloom and gardening in other public places.

Monthly meetings in the Memorial Hall, Old Church Road begin at 7.30 pm. As always visitors and guests are welcome to join us at our meetings -£2 for the first visit and £10 for full membership which also gives discount at Ward's Nurseries and Moulam & Horn. For more info call Gail on 07899933840 or Addie on 01485 544754

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St Nicholas Dersingham - Flower Festival 2026

17th - 20th September 2026

Anne Hynde

The Flower Festival is an annual tradition in Dersingham church and has been running since 1962, with a brief interruption for covid and a recent re-ordering project.

Traditionally the festival was held in the third week in July but with rising temperatures making the display of fresh flowers a challenge, the festival has been moved to September in recent years and linked to our Harvest Thanksgiving.

This year we're kicking off our Flower Festival with:

Comedy Night Thursday 17th September 7pm

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FLOWER FESTIVAL

Comedy Night

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We will be welcoming Paul Kerensa - a writer, comedian and broadcaster, working in TV, radio, print and the stage for an evening of fun and laughter for all the family!

There will be a bar, plus non-alcoholic and soft drinks available, along with snacks and sweet treats.

Tickets - available via the QR code on

posters - are priced at £10.00 adults, £5.00 under 18s and are also available from our website: <https://stnicholasdersingham.org.uk/>

You may not recognise his name but you will recognise his work.

Paul has been on the writing team for over 100 episodes of BBC1 sitcom Not Going Out, the British Comedy Award-winning Miranda, as well as Top Gear, Buble at the BBC, TFI Friday, CBBCs Andy and the Band and The Royal Variety Performance.

Check out Paul's website for more: paulkerensa.com

The theme of this year's festival is:

A B C - a journey along the Alphabet

Our dedicated team of flower arrangers will once again be bringing their flair and imagination into church to create floral displays that explore the world of letters - how many Alphabets can you name?

There will be over 40 floral displays around the church decorated by enthusiastic amateurs from all walks of life, including the Dersingham Rainbows, Brownies & Guides, Dersingham Beavers, Cubs & Scouts, Dersingham WI and the Mothers' Union Dersingham Branch.

Children from Ingoldsthorpe Church of England VA School and Dersingham Primary School have been invited to take part by creating a "Letter on a Plate" - giving each child an opportunity to choose their favourite letter and decorate it to make it look really special.

There is also an open invitation for anyone in the village, or beyond, to take part by making an arrangement to include a "Letter from the Alphabet" or a "Letter received or sent by You".

The Church will be open 10am - 4pm Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 12 noon - 4pm Sunday.

There's plenty going on in the church during the Flower Festival:

- Local musicians will be playing in church each day
- Refreshments will be available all day

- There will be a Pause for Prayer at 12 noon
- Friday morning under 5s are invited to join us for a Carpet Picnic with songs and story time
- Saturday afternoon there will be children's activities including a "We're making a Banner!" workshop and other craft, aimed at children 4-10 years
- Sunday 10am we will be celebrating with our combined Harvest Festival service
- Sunday evening we will be closing with a Hymns and Pimms service of praise - with the hymns chosen by the congregation.

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH DERSINGHAM

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FRIDAY 18th - KIDS "CARPET PICNIC" WITH SONGS & STORYTIME

SATURDAY 19th - CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

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**We would love you to come along
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If you would like more information please go to the church website: <https://stnicholasdersingham.org.uk/>

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You never know what you're going to see in a garden you haven't visited before, and the same garden can look very different in another season. A guided walk is ideal, to learn about both the garden and its plants, and get the opportunity to ask questions. The photograph shows a stunning *Euphorbia mellifera* (the canary spurge or honey spurge) at West Acre gardens which we visited back in May.

I was planning to report on our long-awaited visit to Corpus Christi gardens in Cambridge, scheduled for 29 July. However, due to the extremely high temperatures forecast for that day (up in the 30s), the decision was taken to postpone it. I think everyone was relieved in the circumstances! One of our members is the Head Gardener of Corpus Christi gardens, and he has kindly rescheduled our visit to 21 October, when hopefully the weather will be more suitable.

Our next visit, which hopefully will go ahead, is to Peckover Gardens in Wisbech in September. The diverse range of styles showcased by the Peckover family is maintained by the gardening team to this day. Their head gardener gave us a fascinating talk on the history of the gardens earlier in the year, and will be leading a guided walk.

Afterwards, we will have the opportunity to buy plants and enjoy the ever-popular coffee and cake in the atmospheric Reed Barn café.

I am now planning our visits for 2027. On my list is another Cambridge college, opening as part of the National Garden Scheme; a medlar orchard; a compact but interesting town centre Victorian garden; a blueberry farm; and a previously forgotten Victorian garden in Norwich, now being restored by volunteers.

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

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. At only £10 per year, it is a real bargain!



Euphorbia mellifera

Traditional grassland management project boosts biodiversity at The Willows, Downham Market

A community-led conservation project took place this week at The Willows in Downham Market, showcasing the benefits of traditional grassland management using a scythe, an age-old, low impact technique that is once again proving its value for modern biodiversity recovery.



Experts in traditional scything joined the council Biodiversity Officer and volunteers from the Downham Market Wildlife Group to cut and collect the summer sward using a scythe, a traditional method that forms neat windrows and allows the forage to dry naturally into hay.

Cllr Michael de Whalley, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Biodiversity, explained the benefit of doing this: "Unlike

standard mechanical cutting, which leaves cuttings to rot down and enrich the soil, this method removes the material entirely, reducing soil fertility and creating the ideal conditions for wildflowers and diverse plant species to thrive.



"This approach is quiet, fuel free, and gentle on ground nesting wildlife. By lowering nutrient levels and preventing dense grass growth, scything helps open up the meadow, encouraging a wider range of species and improving the ecological health of the site year after year. This project is an excellent example of two of our council's key priorities to protect our environment and support of local communities."

The Willows has historically been cut but not collected, resulting in a species poor meadow. Today's project marks the beginning of a long term shift in how the area will be managed. As part of this commitment, The Willows site will be managed in co-operation with the Borough Council, Norfolk Wildlife Trust and Downham Wildlife Group. The Council will continue to oversee management but Downham Market Wildlife Group will lead on future conservation work and continue restoring the site's natural richness.

Over the coming years, this traditional method is expected to bring visible improvements to the grassland, with increases in wildflowers, pollinator activity, and overall plant diversity. The project highlights how heritage techniques can play a vital role in modern environmental stewardship and how community involvement can help make local green spaces even more special.



All images Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk



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Busting the myths about migrants, visas, care homes and social housing

By Jo Rust

West Norfolk is a beautiful place to live. Picturesque villages, coastal areas which have outstanding natural beauty and our market towns full of history and with plenty to do.

I'm so fortunate to be able to call this place home, moving here from Norwich when I was 12 years old.

Many people relocate to our area, and who can blame them. I've known people who originated from London, Nottingham, Scotland and even further afield – Europe.

Many people come to West Norfolk to retire and following what I hope was an action packed and enjoyable retirement, require care: whether that's care at home, or care in a home.

There's a huge need to staff to fill these roles in health and social care, but due to the profession being a relatively low wage one, recruitment can be a real challenge. This is one of the reasons why overseas recruitment is such an important factor.

Many companies that provide domiciliary homecare or residential care rely on staff coming from overseas on a work visa. The person must have sponsorship by a registered company in order to be able to come over to the UK and work and that sponsorship has legal requirements associated with it. It's what's known as a Restrictive Visa. It ties the visa holder's right to live and work in our country to a specific job and a sponsor. It also limits the worker's access to welfare support, so despite the myths, people coming over here to work can't access benefits that people from the

UK can. These visas also mean that the worker can't properly enforce their rights at work and neither can they easily leave their exploitative job.

This visa system has been expanded hugely due to growing labour shortages and they're predominantly used for jobs that have low pay and poor terms and conditions. Those working in health and social care already have a lack of bargaining power, which usually comes through trade union membership. But if you're in a low paid job, paying to be a member of a trade union isn't often a payment you can afford to make; and working in domiciliary care means you don't have an actual workplace or colleagues that you see on a regular basis. It also gives employers a high level of power over the migrant worker.

I was given an example of a domiciliary care worker who lived in Wisbech and was instructed by her employer to go and do 2 hours work in Great Yarmouth. She got no pay for either the time it took to travel from Wisbech Yarmouth, nor the costs involved. This sounds unbelievable, but it's true. This is why I'm supporting a UNION campaign against changes to the visa system which would see it made even worse than it currently is.

Many staff from overseas came here on the promise that after 5 years working, they would be granted settled status and would have the right to remain in the UK. Proposed changes will see that extended to 15 years before they can gain that status. It also totally removes the right to access public funds in any instance. So



if a person is experiencing domestic abuse, or becomes homeless, the government and councils would have no obligation to help them.

The staff in the care home that my step-mum lives in are absolutely wonderful. They're kind, they're caring and many are significantly over qualified for the role that they perform. But that doesn't stop them doing the work to the best of their ability. They show the residents kindness and compassion and from what I can observe, they appear to enjoy their work and being there. So I'm hopeful that this care home is one of the good ones. But sadly, there will be others who are not and the workers in those environments may face significant challenges with the way that they are treated.

So, my request is that you don't believe the myths that migrants come over here and take our benefits and our social housing, as it's just not true. They work hard in difficult circumstances doing jobs that many who were born in the UK refuse to do. I say to them thank you.

Fayre-share of fun on a sunny day in Snettisham

A quintessential part of English country life, the village fayre in Snettisham organised by the Snettisham Events Committee is a proper community event involving local organisations and charities.

The festivities began with a Fun Dog Show with 15 separate classes judged by Hoochy Pooch Parlour and Westbury Walks and commentary from KL1's Paul Baker.

Much needed shade came in the form of the refreshment tents and the food trucks and stalls were kept busy throughout the day, the games and inflatables were a great hit and Ken Plasters was on hand in his First Aid capacity.



YOUR Choir, conducted by Mike Tandy provided the entertainment in the afternoon.

An addition this year were tours of the renovation works in the Pavilion. Stuart Dark and project architect Steve Sharp took small groups around the building, which although



Steve Sharp is pictured right

retaining the original footprint seems so much bigger. Steve explained that the building has had the roof angle increased to 45 degrees and a first floor has been added that can accommodate up to sixty people.



The balcony is yet to be completed, however a small window had been made to show what a wonderful view the building will have of the field and St Mary's Church once the windows are installed and balcony added. Incidentally

there will be space for 30 people (of the total of 60 allowed on the first floor under fire regulations) on the balcony.

Downstairs there are four changing rooms, a 'tuck shop' and separate changing facilities for sports officials.

Stuart was keen to show visitors how flexible the design was, and he's pictured here showing one visitor where the lift would be installed. The whole building is accessible to everyone, the doorways have been widened for wheelchairs and accessible toilets are to be installed.





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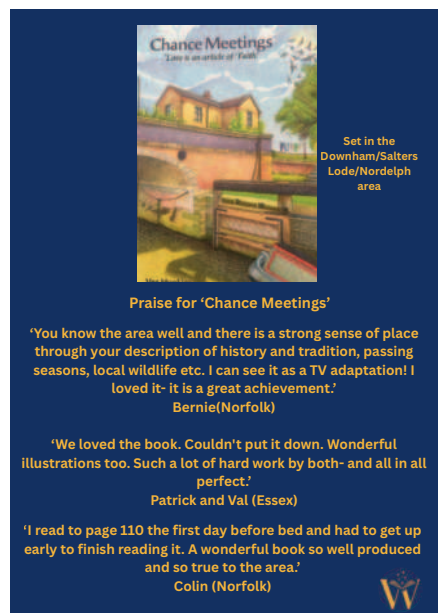
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Chance Meetings by Vee Hopkins, illustrations by Bob Larking

Set across two time zones, Chance Meetings is a story of love, friendship and devotion against a backdrop of the Second World War and the present.



Located in the Fenland Landscape, on the borders of Cambridgeshire and Norfolk, it brings to life the drama and beauty of an area and community steeped in its agricultural and wetland history.

Commenting on the book Vee said, 'I am from the Fens and have always been unhappy that the Fenland landscape rarely is featured in a novel. It has an innate beauty and Tranquility that is not celebrated enough and the wildlife is spectacular'.

The book has been illustrated throughout by the artist Bob Larking who said 'it has been a pleasure to work on this project'.

Primarily a love story it brings into focus the dilemmas and effect that war can have on everyday life and people. Vee was writing the book as the world was emerging from the pandemic and the start of the Ukrainian War. She said 'It is the closest the average person has been to rationing, restricted movement and separation and loss especially at the point of death. It made me consider what had happened to the War time generations'.

The book also looks at the local history of the area. Its history of resistance, change and adaption and highlights the key roll of Bexwell Aerodrome during the war years.

'It is important to us that this book is a branded Norfolk Project. We have used editors, typesetters and printers that are based in our wonderful county and it is our hope that we have done justice to the area and it's people.'

The book is available from independent bookshops and retail outlets in Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire and has received the warmest of welcomes from Words and Wonder in Downham Market and by the book

in Hunstanton.

Vee said 'Both these shops are run by people who have a true love of books and have made their shops the centre of their communities. Their efforts should be widely applauded.'



Vee

Win a copy of Chance Meetings

Adrian and Anna at by the book have two copies to give away. Simply answer the question below and send it by email to Adrian: adrian@buyanotherbook.com by 14th September or drop off your answer at by the book in Hunstanton's High Street by the same date.

Question: 'what type of bicycle is ridden by the RAF navigator that is a central character to the book.'

The winners will be invited to meet the author and collect their signed copy on Saturday 19th September.



by the book

September Saturdays from 11am

12th - Daisy Line - The Judas Goat

Golden Age Crime novel set in the shadow of WW2

19th - Vee Hopkins – Chance Meetings

A love story set in the Fenland landscape

26th – Admiral Nelson birthday weekend celebration with

Maritime Historian David Higgins

Contact: Adrian at the bookshop - 9 High Street Hunstanton,

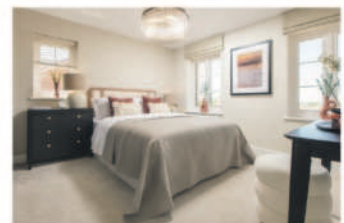
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Brancaster Village Hall (BVH) news

Geoff Wingrove

This month's report has a different emphasis in that it concerns the future of BVH. The village hall was built in 1905 and has provided entertainment, amusement and community activities for more than a hundred and twenty years. It was closed in 2018 to allow a complete refurbishment and extension and reopened in 2019 with an attached shop and Post Office. Throughout its time it has operated as a not-for-profit charity, relying heavily on charitable donations and volunteers to manage the facilities and the various fundraising-events. BVH has been very successful in providing for its community but, along with other village halls, is facing pressures in the future. These include rising costs for staff and premises and a dwindling group of volunteers to look after BVH and organise events.

To assist in these matters, the Trustees and Management Committee of BVH have appointed a manager to take responsibility for all aspects of management of the site. They are also developing a Friends of Brancaster Village Hall charity to invite contributions and to help with the building standing costs. A series of public meetings were held in August to discuss the new charity and assess support for the initiative and future events.

Our regular groups continue throughout the summer: in particular, do come along to Porky's Hot Rockin' on 19th September. For further information about these and all our activities, along with the Friends of Brancaster Village Hall initiative, please contact us at bvhsetup@gmail.com

**FROM THE BRANCASTER PARISH
ARCHIVE: HUNSTANTON HALL AND
P.G. WODEHOUSE**



Hunstanton Hall, situated in Old Hunstanton, was the home of the Le Strange family from the time the Doomsday Book was written in the 11th century until after the Second World War. The current hall building dates from several periods, the original probably 15th century with the gatehouse dating from 1487. The wings were built in the 17th century with later Victorian additions when the building suffered a serious fire in 1853 and needed some major restoration.

Today Hunstanton Hall has been divided into several apartments but still retains features from the 15th, 17th and 19th centuries. It is a moated property essentially built in the Jacobean style. The Hall and

Gatehouse are Grade 1 listed while the stables, cottage, game-locker, barn, gardens, parkland and summerhouse are all Grade 2 listed.

Guy Le Strange probably arrived with William the Conqueror and was granted substantial lands in Norfolk as a reward for services in the conquest of England. By the 15th century the Le Strange family were established as powerful local magnates. Significant family members included Sir Thomas, 1494 to 1545, who attended the coronation of Anne Boleyn in 1533: she visited Hunstanton Hall on several occasions. Later he served in the reign of Henry VIII on the commission looking into the revenues of the Abbey at Walsingham during the Dissolution period. Sir Thomas had his portrait painted by Holbein and continued to perform roles at Henry's court, for which he was knighted in 1529 and made High Sherriff of Norfolk in 1532.

Harmon Le Strange, 1583 to 1654, undertook the construction of the Hall's Jacobean wings between 1625 and 1640. He served as the MP for Norfolk and was a committed Royalist; his story during the English Civil War is the subject of another article. Harmon's wife managed the Le Strange estates and kept meticulous records which were published by the Norfolk Record Society in 2015, giving us much information on life and estate management in the 17th century.

Roger Le Strange, son of Harmon, was an enthusiastic supporter of Charles the Second and consequently prospered following the Restoration. Henry Le Strange Styleman, 1815 to 1862, founded the town of Hunstanton, originally called New Hunstanton, as a Victorian seaside resort. He also promoted the rail link with King's Lynn but died shortly before it was opened; his story is the subject of a separate article.

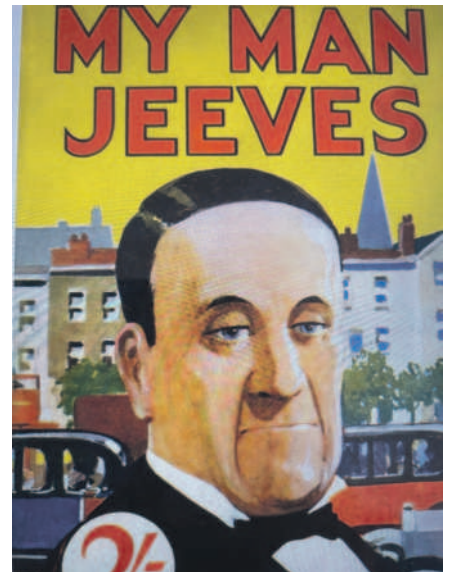
Pelham Grenville Wodehouse, 1881 to 1975, was born in Guildford, the son of a magistrate based in Hong Kong; he was therefore raised by relatives and educated as a boarder at Dulwich College. On leaving school he worked in a bank and took to writing stories in his spare time, based on life in schools. Most of his early stories were set in England, although early on he moved to America where he scripted musical comedy films and worked for MGM, one of the biggest film studios in the world.

In 1934 Wodehouse moved to France for tax purposes, where he still lived when the Second World War broke out in 1939: he was interned by the Germans when France fell in 1940. Following his release, he made several ill-advised broadcasts for German radio. Although the broadcasts were completely non-political, they went down very badly in the UK, which was fighting for its life at the time. Many people in the UK regarded Wodehouse as a traitor and for a time after the war there was a threat of prosecution. Wodehouse never returned to the UK and returned to live in America until his death in 1975.



During his lifetime Wodehouse wrote ninety books, forty plays and two hundred short stories. In the early 20th century Wodehouse, a friend of Charles Le Strange, was a regular visitor to Hunstanton Hall and knew this part of Norfolk very well. Wodehouse used the Hall and the surrounding area as settings for some of his stories, including his famous series Jeeves and Wooster and Blandings Castle. The Hall was used as the basis of fictional country houses such as Rudge Hall in the 1928 novel Money for Nothing. It may also have been the basis for Blandings Castle, although other country houses make this claim. Wodehouse did use the Octagon room at the Hall in his story "Jeeves and the Impending Doom" and invented characters such as Lord Brancaster, Jack Snettisham and J. Sheringham Adour.

Wodehouse, during his stays at Hunstanton Hall, clearly took his surroundings very much to heart and used them in his classic stories of life and leisure for the monied classes in the 1920s.



The pictures show a young P.G. Wodehouse, his famous literary figure and Hunstanton Hall.



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News from The Barking Bugle

Ziggy Bear Repawts from the Old Hunstanton Flower Festival Dog Show!



What a pawsome day we had at the Old Hunstanton Flower Festival Dog Show, organised by your friends at The Barking Bugle. The sun was shining, tails were wagging and there were smiles everywhere as dogs and their humans gathered for a wonderful afternoon of fun.

First of all, a huge thank you to the Old Hunstanton Flower Festival for inviting us to be part of their fantastic event. It was lovely to see so many people enjoying the festival and we were delighted to add a little canine magic to the day. We'd also like to say a big thank you to Anchorage Barn Vets for kindly sponsoring our beautiful rosettes. Now, on to the important bit the winners!

Prettiest Girl – Blondie & Daniella

Most Handsome Boy – Pesto & Jonathan

Most Appealing Eyes – Dottie & Ella

Waggiest Tail – Mick & Shaun

Best Rescue – Bonbon & Jo

Dog the Judge Would Most Like to Take Home – Tessie & Neil & Vicky

Then came the big moment that had every tail twitching with excitement

Reserve Best in Show – Dottie & Ella

Best in Show – Bonbon & Jo

A massive round of appaws to all our winners! Of course, every single dog who came along was a winner in my eyes. Whether you strutted around the ring like a seasoned show dog or simply enjoyed making new furry friends, you all helped make the afternoon so special.

I also have to give a special wag of appreciation to our wonderful judge, who had the impossible task of choosing between so many gorgeous dogs. Believe me, I wouldn't have wanted that job—I'd have given everyone a rosette (and probably a biscuit too!).

Thank you to everyone who entered, cheered from the sidelines, helped behind the scenes or simply stopped to say hello. The Barking Bugle loves bringing our local dog-loving community together and events like this remind us just how lucky we are to have so many wonderful dogs and dedicated owners.

Until next time, keep those tails wagging, noses sniffing and paws muddy!

Love,

Ziggy Bear, Chief Repawter, The Barking Bugle

Copy date for the October issue is 12th September.

Please send your articles and separate photos to:

editor@townandaround.net

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NATIONAL COASTWATCH BRANCASTER

Summer is always a busy time for Brancaster Coastwatch Station as thousands of visitors pack the beach and use the coastal waters.

Recent events have included difficulties with kite surfers, whose usage is confined to a designated stretch of the beach and coastal waters. Some surfers have strayed into the waters used by bathers and paddleboarders, with the potential danger of collisions, as surfers travel downwind at very high speed. Coastwatch volunteers have had to speak to surfers to ensure they remain within their own area.

The first beach day held in July was very successful; two others are organised in August to meet the demand from families using the beach. Brancaster Coastwatch volunteers were also at the Hunstanton Family Fun Day and represented National Coastwatch at the RHS Sandringham Flower Show.

The main fundraising event for the Coastwatch Station takes place at the Brancaster Staithe Shanty Festival, to be held on 12th and 13th September; Coastwatch volunteers will be on hand serving hot drinks, cakes and savouries at Brancaster Staithe and Deepdale Village Hall. Do come along and join in the fun at this joyous annual festival!

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.

Planning, parking and the Council

From Cookie of Sunny Hunny

I often wonder if the Council knows what it is doing. The previous administration council got rid of the Tuesday Market then wonders why not so many come into King's Lynn; other towns have a thriving market. They then got rid of the market in Hunstanton.

Then planning passes a rectangular building which does not fit in with the belief that Hunstanton is a Victorian Seaside Town.

Then they pass what a lot of people say is the Benidorm flats which apparently have fire safety problems. I spoke to a local councillor who stated that it was Art Deco; sorry but that is nothing like.

This administration then reduces the parking by 100 places, stating that they are moved onto the other existing car park, then builds three story houses that block out the light from small houses opposite, which also have problems and are not selling.

Also, in the build programmes they were going to give Hunstanton an up-to-date Library, by removing the Bus Station to where, oh they were not sure. But never mind, we got the houses that nobody wants. Then they come up with the plan to pedestrianise the High Street and part of Westgate, that's OK for the older people, they have come up with a plan that means you can park on the main car park and walk up the hill to the town centre, if in the summer the car park is full, that's also OK as you can park at old Hunstanton and catch the Bus.

Then we hear that we are going to get a Premier Inn. Where? Well, on the car park opposite Tesco's of course, this will mean a loss of another 100 plus car spaces. but never mind people will come by bus, oh yer.

POSH AFTERNOON TEA

Holme-next-the-Sea

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday 24 October

Get ready to reserve your table!

More details to follow in next month's edition.

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September events - see also <https://townandaround.net>



Tuesday 1st

Anmer Club PE31 6RN
NORFOLK and WAVENEY
MIND GROUP MEETINGS
EVERY TUESDAY – 11:00am-
6:30pm. For further information
and to book please visit
www.norfolkandwaveneymind.org.uk
or email:
ruralmentalhealth@norfolkandwaveneymind.org.uk
or
telephone: 0300 330 5488

Thursday 3rd

Creative Arts East present
Classically Untamed –
Bowjangles turn classical music
upside down! Hunstanton town
Hall 2pm. Or people aged 50+
tickets are 'pay what you can'.
ticketsource.co.uk/creative-arts-east
More info 01953 713390

Stanhoe and Barwick WI 2pm
at Stanhoe Reading Room PE31
8PS Diane Clark will be talking
about Norfolk Accident Rescue
Service. Visitors and new
members always welcome (£5
visitors incl refreshments).
stanhoebarwickwi@gmail.com
for further details.

Friday 4th

Open Air Film Night 5-9pm –
free film screening of Hook
(1991) in the Tuesday Market
Place. Street Food available.

Fri 4th-Sat 5th

The King's Lynn Globe Trotters
running group in conjunction
with the Terrington Runners,
will be holding a special 24
Hour Marathon, in The Walks,
starting at 9 am, on 4th Sep.
Details can be found on the
Globe Trotters facebook page.

Sunday 6th

Indoor Car boot at Wereham

Village Hall from 8am £5 per
table. Booking 01366 501330 or
07593 953907

60's & 70's weekend in the
Tuesday Market Place 11am-
4pm. Music and food.

Hunstanton Concert Band
performing in the Bandstand,
The Green Hunstanton 2-4pm

Monday 7th

Anmer Club PE31 6RN Coffee
morning 10-midday. Coffee; tea;
cakes & biscuits available to
purchase. For information
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for a "Cash Accumulator" card.
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telephone; text or WhatsApp
07899872351

Tuesday 8th

Anmer Club PE31 6RN
NORFOLK and WAVENEY
MIND GROUP see Tues 1st

Wednesday 9th

Parent, Baby and Toddler Group
9.30-11am at Hunstanton
Methodist Church, 5 Austin St
PE36 6AJ. The cost is #2.50,
including a hot drink for adults
and fruit snacks for the children.
We have a wide variety of toys,
including a doll's house, soft
play cubes, an indoor slide, play
dough, puzzles and a blackboard
and white board. We usually
have bubbles and/or singing at
the end. Please come and join us
with your little ones!
Info 07963 181573.

Thursday 10th

Caley Hall Hotel is delighted to
once again be hosting a Coffee
Morning in aid of Tapping
House Hospice from 10.00am to
12.00 noon. Everyone is warmly
invited to come along and enjoy
a relaxed morning with freshly
brewed coffee, a tempting
selection of homemade cakes,
and some fantastic prizes in our
fundraising raffle.

Echoes of Buenos Aires 7-
9.30pm An evening of
Argentinian tango and folk

music presented by tango
singing star Martin Alvarado and
four acoustic guitarists from
Buenos Aires. Thornham Village
Hall. Info 07530 549570

Friday 11th

Anmer Club PE31 6RN Film
Night THE DEVIL WEARS
PRADA 2 – starring Meryl
Streep, Ann Hathaway, Stanley
Tucci. Club opens 7.00 p.m. –
Film starts 7.30 p.m.
£5 at the door.
enquiries@anmerclub.co.uk or
telephone 01485 579465

Fri 11th-Sun 13th

Brancaster Staithe Sea Shanty
Festival. Sea shanty groups from
across the UK are gathering in
Brancaster Staithe for a weekend
of live music, singing songs for
the sea.

Saturday 12th

Church of St Andrew Little
Massingham Heritage Open Day
'Village life and work through
the ages'. On display: Village
research, old parish magazines
and old photographs. 10am-4pm

Anmer Club PE31 6RN Family
BBQ plus entertainment with
Mike Terry 7pm £14 per person
including Dessert. Vegetarian
option available advise when
booking. Advance booking
essential for catering purposes.
farmboy24@sky.com or text,
phone or WhatsApp
07899872351 by Wednesday 9th
September. Fully Licensed bar
and Raffle

Sunday 13th

Classic Car Day in the Tuesday
Market Place, King's Lynn
10am-4pm

King's Lynn Heritage Open Day
Explore more than 50 historic
buildings; many normally closed
to the public.

The annual Mods and Rockers
rideout to Hunstanton. Departing
The Farmers, South Wootton
PE30 3HQ at 11am

Waterbeach Brass Band
performing in the Bandstand,
The Green Hunstanton 2-4pm

The Wolf Folk Club at Flitcham
Community Centre PE31 6BU
7.30-11pm Info 07803 725583

Monday 14th

The Battle of Britain service of
commemoration will be held in
Tower Gardens, King's Lynn

starting at 10.45am. All
welcome to attend.

Tuesday 15th

Anmer Club PE31 6RN
NORFOLK and WAVENEY
MIND GROUP see Tues 1st

Knit and Natter at Old
Hunstanton Village Hall 10am-
noon Coffee & cake provided
£3. Info: Carol 07763 466325

Curry and Quiz night at The
Golden Lion, Hunstanton 8pm
start. Max 6 per team £3pp.
Curry £9 for quiz players.
Booking 01485 532688

Wednesday 16th

Parent, Baby and Toddler Group
9.30-11am see Wed 9th

Hunstanton Society Talk by
Andrew Jamieson of Drove
Orchards. Heritage Centre,
Hunstanton 7.30pm. Members
£1 Visitors £5.

Thursday 17th

Comedy night with Paul
Kerensa (award winning
comedy writer – Miranda, Not
Going Out, Top Gear, TFI
Friday) at St Nicholas Church
Dersingham 7-9pm. Tickets:
stnicholasdersingham.org.uk

Thurs 17th-Sun 20th

Dersingham Flower Festival at
St Nicholas Church – Thurs-Sat
10am-4pm Sun 12noon -4pm

Friday 18th

Dersingham Social Club PE31
6JY. ABBA Night 8-11pm. We
would love you to embrace the
theme and wear sequins, flares,
and platform boots but it's not
compulsory 01485 543380

Saturday 19th

North Wootton Village Market
PE30 3PT 9am-2pm

The Burnhams Market, St
Mary's Church PE31 8DH
9.30am-2.30pm

Wereham Village Hall Quiz
Night 7pm. Advance Tickets £6,
or £7 on the door. Jacket Potato
& topping included. Info &
tickets 01366 502214/01366
500766 or
villagehallwereham@gmail.com

Sunday 20th

Hunstanton Soap Box Derby, the
Green, Hunstanton. 9am-5pm

ANMER AUTUMN FAYRE
10.00 - 4.00PM Car boot, stalls,

around.net/whats-on/september

church tour, Penalty shoot out, family activities, refreshments & raffle. Church tour starts at 2.00pm at the church car park Car boot pitch - £5 Stall pitch - £10 To book your pitches or more info please call 07942 720433

Norfolk Family Walk 10am to 4pm Holkham Hall, NR23 1RH Various lengths of walks in aid of brain tumour research www.astrofund.org.uk More info 01485525279

RAF Bircham Newton Open Day Heritage Centre, Bircham Newton PE31 6RH 10am-4pm. Free entry. Info 07807 098348

Live music in the Bandstand, The Green Hunstanton 2-4pm

Monday 21st

Anmer Club PE31 6RN Coffee morning 10-midday. Coffee; tea; cakes & biscuits available to purchase. For information: farmboy24@sky.com or telephone, text or WhatsApp 07899 872351

Tuesday 22nd

Anmer Club PE31 6RN NORFOLK and WAVENEY MIND GROUP see Tues 1st

EYFS Open Day at Ingoldisthorpe C of E Primary School Come and visit our Nursery and Reception 1-3pm.

Wednesday 23rd

Parent, Baby and Toddler Group 9.30-11am see Wed 9th

Macmillan Coffee Morning, South Creak Memorial Pavilion NR21 9PD 10-12.30

Thursday 24th

A musical afternoon with Dinky David playing 50s and 60s

Country in aid of East Anglian Air Ambulance. Hunstanton town Hall 1-3pm £4 cash only.

Thurs 24th-Sun 27th

Deepdale Festival. Deepdale Camping & Rooms hosts a small but perfectly formed Music Festival with a Heart of Folk across 3 stages. 40 superb acts. Info 01485 210256

Friday 25th

Glebe House School Open Day PE36 6HW 8.30-11am Registering for 2027. Info 01485 532809

Snettisham Coffee Morning at the Memorial Hall PE31 7LX 10am-noon. Info 07491 643807

Charity Quiz is being held by Soroptimist International of King's Lynn at South Wotton Village Hall. Start at 7pm. £5 per person. Maximum 6 to a team. BYO drinks and nibbles. Raffle and 50/50 (cash payments only) Prize for the winning team of six vouchers for a two course Sunday lunch has been kindly donated by the Dabbling Duck at Great Massingham. Book your team in by 20th September—sikingslynn@gmail.com

Anmer Club PE31 6RN Quiz Night Club opens 7.00 p.m. Quiz starts 7.30 p.m. Entry £3 per person. Bar Raffle enquiries@anmerclub.co.uk or telephone; text or WhatsApp 07899872351

Saturday 26th

Merchants Market in the Tuesday Market Place 9am-3pm info@discoverkingslynn.com

Snettisham Flea Market at the Memorial Hall PE31 7LX 50p entry. Info 01485 543608

Craft Fair, Hunstanton Town Hall PE36 6BQ 10am-4pm Dersingham Social Club PE31 6JY Country night 5.30-11.30 Info 01485 543380

Sunday 27th

Run Sandringham Half Marathon 5K and Community Mile 9am on the Sandringham Estate. <https://totalracetiming.co.uk/race/646>

RAF Bircham Newton Open Day Heritage Centre, Bircham Newton PE31 6RH 10am-4pm. Free entry. Info 07807 098348

The Wolf Folk Club at Flitcham Community Centre PE31 6BU 7.30-11pm Info 07803 725583

Tuesday 29th

Anmer Club PE31 6RN NORFOLK and WAVENEY MIND GROUP see Tues 1st Snettisham Bingo Night 6.30-9.30pm at the Memorial Hall PE31 7LX

Dersingham Village Cinema presents The Roses (15) starring Olivia Coleman and Benedict Cumberbatch. Dersingham Village Centre 7.30pm £6, U13s £3. 07943 499786

Parent, Baby and Toddler Group 9.30-11am see Wed 9th

parkruns

Hunstanton Promenade parkrun start at 9am every Saturday from The Salad Bowl. T: 07804 927764

Sandringham parkrun Sandringham Royal Park Every Saturday at 8:40 for a 9:00 am start First Timers Briefing 8:45 am Start and finish on the vista near children's play area.



Scan here for more events and up to date information



Car parking for parkrun is free until 11:00 am.

To volunteer or for further information contact: sandringham@parkrun.com 07913 439222

Saturday 26th

5K Your Wy – Move Charity Last Saturday of every month Sandringham Royal Park 8:40 for a 9:00 am start. For anyone affected by cancer, friends and healthcare professionals. To come and walk, talk, run or simply be part of the lovely parkrun community: sandringhamgroup@5kyourway.org 07913 439222





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No one should face life alone

Laura Evans

From young service leavers taking their first steps into civilian life to older veterans who may be living alone, The Bridge for Heroes is committed to ensuring that every member of the Armed Forces community has somewhere to turn for support, friendship and expert advice.

Based in King's Lynn, the charity has become a vital lifeline for serving personnel, veterans, reservists and their families, providing practical assistance alongside a welcoming community where people can feel understood, respected and valued.



One of the specialist services available is access to a dedicated Veterans Services Case Worker, offering free, confidential, one-to-one support for service leavers, veterans, families and dependants. Whether someone is transitioning into civilian life or seeking support many

years after leaving the Armed Forces, expert guidance is available every step of the way.

The Case Worker provides advice on Armed Forces pensions and compensation, medical discharge, Department for Work and Pensions benefits, housing, bereavement and wider welfare issues. They also help people navigate government departments and specialist charities, ensuring individuals receive the right support at the right time.

Alongside this specialist service, The Bridge for Heroes recognises that some of the greatest challenges facing the Armed Forces community are not always practical. Loneliness, social isolation and the loss of identity after service can have a profound impact on wellbeing, particularly for older veterans who may have lost partners or become disconnected from the military community that once surrounded them.

While the Veterans Services Case Worker provides specialist advice and advocacy, The Bridge for Heroes offers something equally important—ongoing support once the immediate issue has been resolved. People can return to enjoy a cup of tea, take part in activities, build new friendships and remain connected to a community that understands the unique experiences of military life. Together, these services ensure that support does not end when the paperwork is complete.

Helen Taylor, CEO of The Bridge for Heroes, said: "Support looks different for everyone. A young veteran may need help finding employment or understanding their pension, while an older veteran may simply need somewhere to belong and someone to talk to. Families may be coping with the challenges of military life or the loss of a loved one. Whatever someone's circumstances, our aim is to provide practical help, compassionate support and a welcoming community where everyone feels valued. No one should feel forgotten."

Working closely with Veterans Services, military charities, local organisations and government agencies enables The Bridge for Heroes to provide joined-up support that addresses both immediate needs and longer-term wellbeing, ensuring members of the Armed Forces community can access the help they need with confidence.

If you are a member of the Armed Forces community and need support—whether with housing, pensions, benefits, employment, welfare or bereavement, or if you are simply feeling lonely or isolated—The Bridge for Heroes is here to help. You do not have to wait until problems reach crisis point. Sometimes a conversation over a cup of tea is the first step towards finding the right support.

To find out more or arrange a confidential appointment, contact The Bridge for Heroes on 01553 760230, email contact@thebridgeforheroes.org, or visit 52A South Clough Lane, King's Lynn, PE30 1SE. You're also welcome to drop in during opening hours for an informal chat. More information can be found at www.thebridgeforheroes.org.



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Village life and work through the ages

Heritage Open Day will be celebrated at Little Massingham Church on Saturday 12th September between 10.00 - 16.00.

There will be plenty to see including old photos of Little Massingham and the original bound copies of the old parish magazines, dating from 1908 to 1933!

Do come along as there will be lots to discover. Heritage Open Days are free events!



Church of St Andrew

Little Massingham

Village life and work through the ages



Saturday 12th September
10.00am - 4.00pm

Free entry - everyone welcome

On display: village research, old parish magazines and old photographs of Little Massingham

www.heritageopendays.org.uk

Blind tandem stoker's 100k challenge

Rosemary Jewers

Blind tandem cycling is the ultimate test of faith: Michael steers the ship, while Robert provides the horsepower and hopes for the best.



Robert Taylor, local author and blogger, and resident of Great Massingham, will be taking on a 100km bike ride in September for

charity. Robert, 66, is almost totally blind, only having a small amount of periphery vision remaining, he is registered as Severely Sight Impaired. He will be riding on the back of a tandem, along with Pilot Michael Jay. Robert had not ridden a bicycle in well over fifty years when he mounted Vision Norfolk's tandem in late May. From the first push down on the peddle he said he loved it, regretting it had been missing from his life for so long.

It was thanks to Vision Norfolk, one of the charities they are supporting, who advertised for blind stokers to put themselves forward to take part in cycle rides with West Norfolk CTC. Robert answered the call and has never looked back.

Robert said, "I was a bit on the wobbly side to start with but soon got the hang of it. The worst thing about it was I discovered as the bloke on the back it was down to me to make the directional hand signals. I hadn't even contemplated taking my hands off the handlebars. We got there in the end."

Robert is now riding in excess of fifty miles and believes he has plenty left in the tank.

Robert and Michael will be taking part in the annual Norfolk Churches Trust Charity Bike Ride on 12th September, raising funds for Norfolk Churches Trust, St Andrew's Church in Little Massingham and Vision Norfolk. They are aiming to complete 100km and visit 25 different churches in the process. Their journey will begin at Thoresby College, King's Lynn Hub of Vision Norfolk, and end at St Andrew's.

Link to Robert's fundraising page: <https://givewheel.com/fundraising/19880/roberts-blind-bike-ride/>



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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 Explanade Gardens and watch the sun set over Lincolnshire.

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Borough Council news

Cllr Terry Parish, Heacham Ward which includes Sedgford and Fring

Hello to you all. At the time of writing, 10th August, I have just returned from a holiday in North Yorkshire where I enjoyed much more pleasant weather and had to make use of a mac and umbrella for 30 minutes.

I don't believe anything of note has shaken the foundations of the Borough Council though the same can't be said about the sea defences at Hunstanton. I have just learnt that McDonalds has made an application for a drive through and restaurant on the stupid site they picked and this will appear on the planning portal imminently. There has been a Borough Councillor by election in Heacham. Confirmation that an application will be made for a 108-bedroom Premier Inn in Hunstanton has been received. Drought continues in our area and no significant rain is forecast in the near future.

I will take these matters up in my interpretation of their priority for Heacham Ward.

McDonalds: I hope there will be a public meeting for residents to state their stance. However, every interested individual needs to comment on the planning portal when the application is live. You can do this on line (Google Kings Lynn planning) or in a letter or email to planning at West Norfolk Council. The address is, BCKLWN, King's Court, Chapel St, King's Lynn, PE30 1EX. Email is borough.planning@West-Norfolk.gov.uk (no full stop at end in case it appears here).

McDonalds are, naturally, being biased in their interpretation of public consultation. The facts are, there were 1,478 responses including an unspecified number from none residents. Of this number, 680 approved though some had reservations. 798 people were opposed.

Examples of positive comments, received from those consulted, have been sent to me and the Parish Council and will no doubt figure in the planning application. No negative comments have been provided. The positive comments appear to boil down to three; it will save driving to King's Lynn or Fakenham; it will provide more variety of food choices; it will improve job opportunities for local people.

If I can make personal responses to these: Anyone who drives, from the Heacham area, a

return journey of 24 miles for a burger should look at what is already on offer locally or buy the requisite makings from Tesco or Nisa or Jennings and cook them. There are sufficient food choices already available from local outlets within the Heacham, Hunstanton area. Use them or lose them. There is a difficulty in recruiting local employees already. They will be more likely recruited from further afield which is not bad but not a reason to build a McDonalds here.

Further comments, made by McDonalds, include: (the development) 'will transform this vacant site into an employment generating facility'. I dispute that the site is vacant as it is used as an overflow car park for Heacham Lavender which owns it. I wonder what impact there will be on the Lavender business and whether, 'be operated by a local McDonald's franchisee with strong community connections', is a reference to Norfolk Lavender whose owner is rumoured to have links to McDonalds? The development will, 'include at least three daily litter patrols within 150m from the site'. Well, the Parish Council operative already picks up McDonald's litter sourced from Kings Lynn or Fakenham so 150m is a little short of need.

Though I have yet to see the full planning application I am opposed to this development on this site. I would prefer not to see it anywhere but will bend if necessary. Reasons include the obvious; traffic at that junction; disturbance to properties in close proximity, and littering. They also include impact on the setting, that includes two grade 2 listed structures, and on the nearby river. I will be more detailed in my objections on the planning portal.

The by election brought about by the resignation of Cllr Andrew Jameison: The number able to vote in Heacham Ward is 4,344. 17% took part, Paul Powers, Reform, won with 289 votes. The Liberal candidate, the only one to actually live in the ward, got 219 votes. Conservatives achieved 163, and Labour 93. I have no idea what Cllr Powers will bring to the Borough Council and doubt anyone else does either. I hope it is something useful to the ward he now represents.

The Premier Inn application in Hunstanton is

not unconnected to consideration of water supply and to the dire state of the Heacham River between Fring and Sedgford. The river is fed from springs at Fring and that's where Anglian Water pumps water from the ground to serve the surrounding area, including Hunstanton. It doesn't take many brain cells to realise that if too much water is pumped then the river will suffer and the ecosystem that relies on it will die. This has been happening on a regular basis over the past few years. The river is still flowing at Heacham due to springs below Sedgford. The fact that the dry season, summer, is also the time when the population doubles due to tourism, does not help.

It is blatantly obvious that to pursue policies which increase the number of tourists will only worsen the situation. The same goes for government insistence that we build far more houses than are required for local needs. There is currently insufficient water available. The impact on farming is horrendous and we will see problems in food supply this coming year. Farmers are restricted in the amount of water they can abstract whereas tourism providers (and fast-food restaurants) can literally tip it down the drain.

A year ago, Anglian Water stated they could support no new developments because of lack of capacity at Heacham sewage works. They rejigged their figures and now say they can support some development, including the proposed hotel. As far as potable water is concerned, they have no restrictions on development which shows little commonsense to me. They caveat that with plans to build two new reservoirs in the Fens and in Lincolnshire which are in the final consultation stages. Say at least 10 years for those then.

Sea defences at Hunstanton: Major capital works are being developed but some structural movement means a temporary solution has to be made along 200m of them. This will be 10,000 tonnes of granite rock armour sourced from Norway. It will most likely trundle along the A149 at 300 tonnes/day for about 30 days. Perhaps the lorries will pause at McDonalds should that atrocity come to pass at the lavender junction.



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Coffee Morning for Tapping House

Caley Hall Hotel is delighted to once again be hosting a Coffee Morning in aid of Tapping House Hospice on Thursday 10th September, from 10.00am to 12.00 noon.

Everyone is warmly invited to come along and enjoy a relaxed morning with freshly brewed coffee, a tempting selection of homemade cakes, and the chance to win some fantastic prizes in our fundraising raffle.

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Art Exhibition at Thornham Village Hall Supporting the Hunstanton Stroke Group

On Saturday and Sunday, September 19th and 20th, eight local artists will be exhibiting at Thornham Village Hall from 10am to 4pm. Paintings by Jill Ilett, Helga Joergens, David Lendrum, Keith Powell, Lesley Williams and Julie Witt range from the abstract to very detailed realistic landscapes. Also, Tom Sharp has produced a mosaic and Jo Halpin Jones displays her photography and examples of damaged and faded photos that have been digitally repaired. We can also see the work of stroke survivors who attend a local gathering.

Above left: Jill Ilett

*Below: Keith Powell
Three Shires Head*





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Thank you for everything

John Maiden

It is no surprise that Town & Around is going to change hands, but I can't let your well earned retirement happen without wishing you and Richard all the very best and offering my thanks for printing so many of my words on contentious issues, ever since T&A began as the Hunstanton Newsletter. For this I am truly grateful.

You are one of those all-to-rare individuals in today's world who say "why not?" when most people are still wondering why. John Cushing has given Norfolk and further afield The Thursford Spectacular Christmas Show.



Ian Brown flanked by Lt Col Brooke Kelly and Lt Col William J Kelly



More recently Ian Brown and his team of hard working volunteers have put new life into RAF Sculthorpe. When the younger Maidens drove me to the third annual America Day at the Sculthorpe Heritage Centre, the number of cars heading in the same direction reminded me of the film starring Kevin Costner called 'Field of Dreams'.

For your part it was the need for residents to be well informed of events and people in Hunstanton and its surroundings, including the north coast. I still believe that my hometown would be better served by a local authority responsible for most, or all of Norfolk's seaside towns and villages.

Shakespeare might have trod the boards of Lynn's Guildhall, but Hunstanton should make more of the fact that Sir Alec Guinness starred in the 1957 film: 'Barnacle Bill' - and our Festival of One act plays should set Hunstanton on course to become a small town of Culture, if Great Yarmouth can qualify as a larger helping of the same thing...



KL1 Radio owner Richard Dix leads the next chapter for Town & Around magazine

Town and Around is entering an exciting new chapter, as Richard Dix, owner of KL1 Radio, together with Darren and Andrea Shortt, take ownership of Town & Around magazine.

The move secures the future of the magazine with the retirement of Elaine and Richard, whose dedication over more than 21 years and 250 editions has made the magazine a trusted and valued part of community life across West Norfolk.

Richard Dix said: "Elaine and Richard have created something truly special, and we feel incredibly privileged to have been entrusted with its future. Town & Around has an outstanding reputation, a loyal readership and a proud heritage. Our aim is to build on those strong foundations, continue supporting local businesses, charities and community organisations, and ensure the magazine remains at the heart of West Norfolk for many years to come."

The acquisition brings together two established local media brands, with KL1 Radio and Town & Around sharing a common commitment to championing the people, businesses, events and organisations that make West Norfolk such a special place to live and work.

The new owners have paid tribute to Elaine and Richard for their remarkable contribution to the local community.

"Producing more than 250 editions over two decades is an incredible achievement," Richard added. "We would like to sincerely thank Elaine and Richard for everything they have done and wish them a long, happy and thoroughly deserved retirement. They leave behind a publication that is respected throughout the area, and we are honoured to be continuing that legacy."

Richard and Elaine said: "We are very pleased with the new team and are confident that they have the skills, experience and enthusiasm to steer the magazine into the future."

The team is already hard at work preparing the October edition, which will be the first issue published under the new ownership. Production is already well underway, ensuring readers and advertisers will continue to enjoy the magazine they know and trust while looking forward to an exciting new chapter for Town & Around.



From left: Darren Shortt, Dani Crawshaw (Journalist & Features writer), Andrea Shortt, Lou Terry (advertising) and Richard Dix
Note: the telephone number and email address at the top of every page is being taken over by the new team from 1st September



Richard and Elaine (centre) with Dani and the new owners



TOWN and AROUND

A New Chapter Begins

TOWN AND AROUND IS NOW PART OF KL1 RADIO

We're delighted to announce that Town and Around has been purchased by KL1 Radio.

The October 2026 edition will be the first created by our new local team – and we can't wait to share it with you.

THANK YOU ELAINE, RICHARD AND THE TEAM

To Elaine, Richard, Dani and the whole team – thank you for your incredible dedication, hard work and passion over the years.

You've built something truly special, and your legacy in our community is enormous.

We wish you all the very best for the future.

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HERE'S TO THE NEXT CHAPTER!

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OCTOBER 2026

OUR FIRST ISSUE CREATED BY THE NEW TEAM

Dark skies of West Norfolk

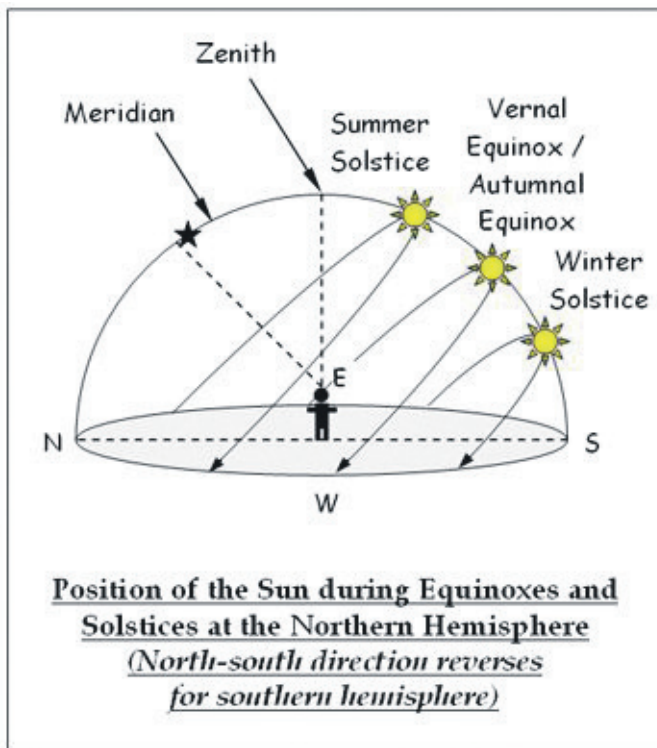
Terry Parish

I am writing this on the 11th August to meet the copy date for Town and Around. There may be additional material in the Heacham Newsletter as that copy date is a week away. Tomorrow, the 12th, is the date of the solar eclipse and the peak of the Perseid meteor shower. I hope clouds do not make an appearance.



Internet

September brings nothing so exciting but finding planets and stars in an increasingly darkening sky will be good enough. The Autumn Equinox is on the 23rd and nights begin to draw in, become longer. The Sun is moving South of the equator or, rather, our orbit around it makes it so. The moment the Sun dips below the line is 1.05am.



mydarksky.org

The sun is getting lower, hip hip hooray, the sun is getting lower and soon it will be dark in the day

Venus is still bright in the WSW after sunset but it sets about 8pm and is lost on the horizon by the 22nd. The orbits of Earth and Venus contrive to move Venus further between us and the Sun and its crescent phase becomes thinner. It should be possible to observe this over several nights through optical instruments but BEWARE, do not point any such at the Sun. On the 24th, a crescent Moon will be to the left of crescent Venus.

As Venus leaves us for a while, Saturn is rising earlier in the NE at around 8pm so will be high enough to observe by 10pm. It's not bright with a magnitude of +0.4 but find it and it will be obvious. Good, steady, binoculars will enhance it but a small telescope is needed to

see the rings. A decent birding 'scope should do it. On the 26th and 27th the Moon is close.

Once you have found Saturn, make a fist at arm's length and hold it so it just touches the ringed planet on its right side. Neptune will be at the other side of your fist. You won't see the most distant planet although it's as close as it will be this year at just 4,470 million km away. The 25th is the date of Neptune's opposition when a line can be drawn from the Sun, through Earth, to the ice giant.

The next planet in towards the Sun, Uranus, rises around 9.30pm and should be high enough between 11pm and midnight. Sharp young eyes might find it in a very dark sky but I doubt it. Its magnitude is +5.7 and good, steady binoculars will be needed. Look for a hazy blue green dot.

Turning to the early hours: Look for Mars realistically from 2am. It will be a red dot with a brightness similar to that of Castor and Pollux, stars of Gemini where the god of war is residing. If you are up and about then, the brilliant thing in the sky is Jupiter with a magnitude of minus 1.8.

Locations of all planets are best found using an app on your 'phone. Stellarium is good. Otherwise remember that planets are found along an arc in the sky, the ecliptic, starting in the NE and finishing in the SW. Earth's rotation 'carries' them along it and they are best observed when they are highest in the sky. They are then above earthly obstructions like a tree and, importantly, their light has less atmosphere to penetrate.

There is a small meteor shower on the 9th I have never heard of. It is named 45P-id and is from the debris of comet 45P/Honda-Mrkos=Pajdisakova observed in 1947. So now you know.

Hope you saw the eclipse and a few Perseids.

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Alien Invasion - The rise of the Urban Muntjac

There has been a lot in the press just lately about growing wild deer numbers across the country and the damage they are causing to agricultural crops, forestry and in deer vehicle collisions. Indeed, the figure banded about of two million deer nationally is now 'old hat' as no real, scientifically quantifiable population estimate exists, and up to now damage caused by deer has had no real monetary or mental anguish values attached. But there is now a secondary, and perhaps more serious side to the unprecedented growth in the invasive species of Muntjac (*Muntiacus reevesi*). Deer populations are likely to be double that of any estimate if current figures being collated by the Norfolk Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group's (FWAG) Norfolk Regional Deer Strategy are anything to go by.



Forty years ago, muntjac were rarely seen across the Norfolk landscape, but today there is hardly a field, wood, garden, hedgerow or even large roundabout without at least one present. This very adaptive non-native invasive species breeds throughout the year. They are very brazen animals and will defend themselves against dogs and humans if cornered. They graze the road verges and take little notice of passing traffic, often aimlessly wandering out into the road to cause serious damage to cars and their passengers.

There is now a growing incidence of these animals moving from wood and farmland into urban gardens, allotments and playgrounds. Areas are being fenced, which is often no deterrent for these twenty-four raiders especially when hungry, thirsty, or driven by mating urges. They are not like our native deer species which are usually only active after dark and are generally very shy of human interactions.

Financial losses run into hundreds of thousands of pounds as public and private nature recovery projects and environmental actions on Norfolk's farms are being decimated. On one farm alone in North Norfolk £29,000 has been lost in newly planted hedgerow destruction. Mental wellbeing is being eroded as generational gardens are being eaten and allotment self-sufficiency crops are destroyed. Many make-shift fences have been erected to stop this invasion but these often fail, and many homeowners don't want unsightly and very expensive prison style fencing around their homes and gardens. Councils are without solutions and regulations bar many options that traditional pest controllers could use.

So, what are the solutions and is the 'perceived' negative feeling to control real? One North Norfolk area canvassed every villager about the growing muntjac problem; no one was against control to protect their homes, gardens and pets and to make the local roads safer.

Solutions come from recognition of a problem (or an impending one); this problem is present and real. Awareness and acceptance bring about actions, and positive actions bring people together so that majorities can agree and act. Every stakeholder has a voice, and all must be considered, but positive actions are the only ones that will bring the required solutions. It is time to really start the conversation, to get real about the problem and act to reach the solution.

Four necessities;

- All stakeholders, including local government, must recognise and talk publicly about the growing, present and real problem.
- Awareness and acceptance through education and understanding of why deer management is an essential part of balancing wildlife, farming, forestry and nature, and the present and future needs of people across Norfolk.
- Investment in research for alternative control measures to combat growth in invasive species that threaten native wildlife, local ecosystems, mental health and national food and timber security.
- Eat more locally sourced venison: in schools, in hospitals, in prisons, everywhere. It is healthy, low in fat, high in protein and it will help save Norfolk from the Alien Invasion.

Article compiled by Michael Anker MCIEEM. Project Lead for Norfolk's Regional Deer Strategy in conjunction with Norfolk Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group: www.norfolkfwag.co.uk


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YOUR CHOIR SMASHES £30,000 FUNDRAISING MILESTONE!



A West Norfolk community choir has plenty to sing about after taking its fundraising total for local causes past an incredible £30,000.

Your Choir celebrated its latest success following a packed biannual concert at the Alive Corn Exchange in King's Lynn, where members raised more than £5,000 in a single afternoon.

The money is being donated to two important local causes – the Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn Charity, supporting the hospital's Stroke Unit, and the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, supporting the Colney Centre and patients living with brain tumours.

And that latest fundraising effort has pushed Your Choir's overall total to an impressive £30,000+ raised for good causes across Norfolk and Cambridgeshire since the choir began just over four years ago.

Founded by Musical Director Mike Tandy, Your Choir has grown into a thriving community of singers who come together each week for music, friendship, laughter and plenty of fun – while also using their performances to give something back to the communities around them.

Mike said: "I'm incredibly proud of what we've achieved. When Your Choir started, the aim was simply to bring people together, get them singing and create something that people genuinely looked forward to each week.

"To see what it has become – and to know that along the way we've now raised more than £30,000 for local causes – is pretty special.

"Our members put so much enthusiasm, time and energy into everything we do, but we also couldn't achieve these totals without the fantastic support we receive from our audiences, families, friends and local communities.

"The fact that we can have such a brilliant time singing together while also helping organisations that make a genuine difference to local people is really what Your Choir is all about."

Now in its fifth year, Your Choir shows no signs of slowing down, with more performances and community events ahead.

And after passing the £30,000 fundraising milestone, there's every reason to believe there will be plenty more to sing about in the future.

Thornham Village Hall Chair appointed Deputy Lieutenant of Norfolk



Thornham Village Hall & Playing Field has welcomed the appointment of its Chair, Andrew Jamieson, as a Deputy Lieutenant of Norfolk.

Andrew, who is pictured above with his wife Linda, chairs the Hall's Board of Trustees, and has a long-standing involvement in public and community life in Norfolk. In his new role, he will support the Lord-Lieutenant in representing the Crown and the Lieutenancy across the county.

Andrew gives a huge amount of his time and energy to Thornham Village Hall, working alongside fellow trustees and volunteers on everything from its day-to-day operation to its longer-term future.

For the Hall, his appointment is therefore also an opportunity to celebrate something that happens rather more quietly every day: the contribution made by people who give their time to village halls, charities, clubs and communities across Norfolk.

Andrew said: "It is a great honour to be appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Norfolk. I know from my own involvement with Thornham Village Hall & Playing Field, just how much time, energy and commitment people give to their communities, often without a great deal of recognition.

"Village halls, charities, clubs and voluntary organisations play an enormously important part in life across Norfolk, and I am very much looking forward to supporting the Lord-Lieutenant and the Lieutenancy in this new role."

Sue Herbert, Vice Chair, at Thornham Village Hall & Playing Field, said: "We are absolutely delighted for Andrew. He gives an extraordinary amount of his time to Thornham Village Hall and brings enormous energy and commitment to everything he does here.

"His appointment is richly deserved, but it also feels like a lovely recognition of the wider spirit of community service that Andrew represents and that we see among volunteers here at the Hall."

Thornham Village Hall & Playing Field is a registered charity serving Thornham and the wider North Norfolk coast. Run by a volunteer Board of Trustees, with the support of many people from across the local community, it provides facilities for community activities, sport, entertainment and events throughout the year.

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Summer listening tour

Terry Jermy MP

Over the past few weeks, I have been thrilled to hold my annual summer listening tour, where I travel to as many of South West Norfolk's 72 villages over the summer to meet with local residents.

This complements my year-round work holding surgeries and engagement events in Swaffham, Downham Market and Thetford. I am always pleased to be able to meet with constituents in their local community to discuss issues of concern and talk about how I can provide support, and also share details of the work I have been doing as your MP.

When I stood for election, I made clear my commitment to being a constituency MP. Being accessible is a key part of my work and is something I am acutely aware has not always been afforded to us by my predecessor. This was one of my motivations for standing to be your MP and was also front of mind when building my constituency team.

I regularly share details about the meetings I have with South West Norfolk residents, charities, community groups and businesses, and the work I do in Parliament, but a huge part of my work and

that of my team relates to casework and direct support for local residents.

Casework is when residents get in touch, either in person at one of my constituency advice surgeries, at a local coffee morning or via email with a matter that needs the support of my office. It can range from providing support to residents in need of housing repairs, to pushing Norfolk County Council to reconsider a Blue Badge application, to support farmers in accessing Government schemes, to securing appointments with local health services, to discussing my stance on a particular policy issue.

Much of this isn't shareable publicly but can be life-changing for the people involved.

Casework is a crucial part of my role, and the issues and matters my team and I help to support and address often highlight not only the rural inequalities our area faces, but the impact and interconnectedness between the difficulties facing our services and situation today, and the decisions and policies implemented going back years and even decades.

Over the past few weeks, I have held surgeries in Narborough, Marham, North Pickenham, Ashill,

Great Cressingham, Ashill, Great Cressingham, Hilgay, Southery, Wereham, Stoke Ferry, South Lopham, Kenninghall, East Harling, Foulton, Watlington, Stow Bardolph, Shouldham, Wigganham St Mary Magdalen, Marshland St James, Tilney St Lawrence, Weeting, Feltwell, Methwold, Northwold, Emneth, Outwell, Upwell and Welney.

As is so often the case, many of the conversations centered on how our local services continue to cause concern, particularly at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, which serves the north of the constituency. These concerns and constituency casework formed a large part of my recent meeting with Jo Segasby, the Deputy Group Chief Executive and Chief Delivery Officer of the Norfolk and Waveney University Hospitals Group, which the QEH is part of.

Some of the challenges relate to the building itself, which is why I was delighted to attend the recent ground-breaking ceremony for the new multi-storey car park. This represented a significant step forward for healthcare in West Norfolk as it will free up the land needed to allow the construction of the new £1.4 billion hospital to



take place.

Other key discussion points included local planning issues and how we can create the communities we need for the future, the environment and climate change, adult social care, immigration and asylum, support for Palestine, business rates, anti-social behaviour, and perhaps unsurprisingly, given the national news, plenty of residents were praising the positive start made by our new Prime Minister, Andy Burnham.

Should you or someone you know need support, please do email me: terry.jermy.mp@parliament.uk

Wild in Westminster and West Norfolk

Over the summer there have been some great events taking place in Hunstanton on the Green and around the coast. One of the topics many people have raised with me has been the dire state of the train service from Lynn. That dissatisfaction has been reflected in my mailbox and when I have been out and about across North West Norfolk.

Little wonder when 380 services on the Fen Line were cancelled in July alone. Only one day - 27 July - saw no cancellations, although even then 12 services were delayed by more than five minutes.

Weekend engineering closures and rail replacement services are already disrupting journeys, but the daily uncertainty about whether a train will run is causing huge inconvenience for commuters, people trying to get to medical appointments, or simply wanting to enjoy a day out.

That's why I met senior executives from Great Northern (GTR) and Great British Railways (GBR) Anglia to demand urgent action to restore reliable services on the King's Lynn to London line following months of disruption affecting passengers across North West Norfolk.

I met Emma Pickard, Chief Operating Officer of GTR, and Martin Beable, Chief Operating Officer of GBR Anglia, to challenge both organisations on the continued poor performance, the action being taken to restore reliability, and how they will be held accountable for delivering improvements.

Clearly the heatwaves we have been experiencing are causing real issues. Recent disruption has been driven by a combination of factors leading to soil moisture deficit causing the peat beneath sections of track to shrink, requiring ongoing realignment and strengthening works, and overhead power line issues which remain under investigation.

In terms of the trains, there have been fleet reliability issues on the class 379s including air conditioning and safety camera faults.

Nonetheless, the current service is unacceptable, disrupting passengers, and damaging the local economy. So I pressed GTR and Network Rail

to produce a clear improvement plan for the Fen Line, setting out how they will address the route's challenges and deliver a more reliable service. I also called on GTR to consider discounts for rail replacement services and ensure passengers' delay repay claims are paid promptly.

Both companies apologised and set out their plans: new timetable changes from 3 August which will reduce speeds on part of the line to reduce damage to the track; new prioritisation of King's Lynn services rather than other services through Cambridge which previously exacerbated delays or cancellations; work to improve the reliability of the trains; and further infrastructure improvements to the line.

It is vital steps being taken to improve reliability of the trains and the tracks are effective and we see sustained improvement. That's what matters to passengers and I will keep pressing GTR and Network Rail until people in North West Norfolk get the reliable service they deserve.



James with Martin Beable, Chief Operating Officer of GBR Anglia and Martin Darby, Senior Stakeholder Manager, GTR

Campaigns

County Councillor Alexandra Kemp

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WEST LYNN FERRY

No More Delay, Fund it Today

Over 70 residents rallied to the cause at West Lynn Ferry Landing Steps on Saturday 8 August, to ask Norfolk County Council to do its bit for Lynn and fund its share of the much-needed new West Lynn Ferry Landing Stage. While light sparked on the river in the glorious sunlight, residents signed an emergency Petition, No More Delay, Fund it Today. It's terrific value for money, replacing an 80-year-old crumbling strategic asset, with new infrastructure to last 120 years. It's about improving safety and accessibility, access to work and local shops, reducing congestion and reliance on the car, Modal Shift, health and climate change, supporting development, with value-for-money Public Transport.

County has a public sector equality duty, as Transport Authority, to help improve access for older residents with disabilities. A resident who has just had a hip replacement, said what hard work it is, climbing up the current steep concrete landing stage. Even more residents will be able to use the Ferry again, when the Landing Stage complies with the legal gradient.

100 miles away, silence reigned at County Hall as Officers were writing a "Value for Money" report about the Ferry. The Reform Administration is bankrolling the multi-million pound overspend on Norwich Castle, raiding the Highway and Fire Service budgets to plug the gap, but pontificates about value for money when it comes to contributing to small, necessary projects that residents and the economy are crying out for.

After all, the Ferry is Public Transport, just like the Bus. The Ferry is more punctual, more reliable, more frequent and much quicker than the bus from the West side of the Ouse into Lynn's town centre, as residents will tell you. Take the Ferry into Lynn, avoid the congestion and difficulty parking.

The Ferry runs continuously to and from Ferry Lane in Lynn to Ferry Square in West Lynn, during the rush hour, from 7-9am and 5-6 pm, and every half-hour, between the peak times. The Bus is less frequent and only runs



every half an hour but is unreliable due to congestion and missing buses.

An extension to the Ferry Car Park, for a Park and Sail, is in the Borough's pipeline.

West Lynn Ferry is the People's Transport, part of our way of life for 800 years. Connecting people to work and shops in the town centre, transport to the pharmacy, health care and education. A lifeline for residents without cars. It boosts footfall and custom in Lynn's struggling retail economy.

Campaigning with residents, for a new Landing Stage, since cracking in the concrete became evident back in 2019, and following my Transport Survey in West Lynn in 2023, County and Borough went halves on a feasibility study for a brand-new landing stage. I pressed County and Borough to equally share the cost of last year's emergency repairs.

If Norfolk County Council understood the local geography and the need, it would put up the funding immediately. I have written to the Leader of the County Council.

CARE HOMES

Norfolk County Council refuses Councillor Call-In of Overseas Takeover over Norfolk Care Homes

Question; Why is Norfolk County Council investing £34 million in Norwich Castle Museum, but nothing into the Council's Care

Homes?

To give you the heads-up, I wrote a Call-In for scrutiny of the County Cabinet Member decision extending the Norse contracts just until the completion of due diligence to sell off all 20 Norse Care Homes to an American firm. The Call-In was supported by Green County Cllrs Webb, Neale, Adams and Lib Dem Cllr Colwell. But County Hall refused the Call-In.

The sale of all Norse Care homes could be devastating to Norfolk, leading to higher fees, potential cherrypicking, asset-stripping and closures of Care Homes in areas that need them, and represent extremely poor value for money for Norfolk taxpayers. We won't know until it's too late.

Remember the Incinerator contract the Cabinet signed a decade ago, without proper scrutiny, that turned out to be a terrible deal; a casualty of not listening.

Reform claimed it would be more transparent. Why isn't it stopping takeover of Norfolk assets by an overseas firm? The loss of control.

Will the sell-off lead to much higher fees and financial impact on the new Unitary Councils, when they place residents into care?

Who will take responsibility for the lack of transparency, when Norfolk regrets the sell-off?

Mediaeval Baebes return to King's Lynn in December

The Mediaeval Baebes are excited to announce that as part of their Twelfth Moon concert series, they will be performing at St Nicholas' Chapel on Wednesday 17th December.

Starting with song and dance, pomp and pageantry, a torchlit procession will herald the start of this remarkable evening of harmonious music, stories, poetry and theatre.

Performing tracks from their new and upcoming album The Spinning Wheel, alongside well-known Christmas carols and traditional folk songs, the classical chart-topping choir will further captivate the audience with storytelling that uncovers the origins and folklore behind the lyrics too.

Look out for a competition to win tickets to the concert in the October issue of Town and Around!



The Wolf Folk Club:

Twenty years plus and still howling
David Potter



The Wolf Folk Club started over 20 years ago and is still going strong. Originally meeting at Wolferton, the club rapidly gained a reputation for encouraging and providing a friendly public platform for all genres and abilities that could loosely be described as 'folk' together with featured monthly special guest performers.

Growing from strength-to-strength matters came to a halt when Covid hit and, in common with other similar venues, lockdown meant shutdown.



Emerging at last the club relocated to its current venue at the Fritcham Village Social Centre and is now back to its original ethos i.e. providing that friendly and encouraging eclectic platform to Sing Say Play or just enjoy proceedings, not only for the experienced performers but most certainly new and emerging ones too at all levels.

It's also gaining a wider reputation for welcoming the many visitors to our area from all over the country and even from abroad to join our regulars.

Meetings are now fortnightly on Thursdays and for the specific dates and any other information you're most welcome to contact 07803 725583 or find us on Facebook at The Wolf Folk Club.

The go-Between

On 1st September at 7:30pm, Eastern Angles brings L.P. Hartley's much-loved classic *The Go-Between* to Kings Lynn in a powerful new stage adaptation by acclaimed playwright Ben Musgrave. With an outstanding professional company of seven actors and directed by Jake Smith this will be the perfect start to the forthcoming season of exciting events for The Workshop at The Old Library on London Road.

To book tickets simply go to theworkshop.org.uk Ticket Price - £20 (Concessions £15)



Hunstanton Croquet Club

Zena Penty

Club afternoons, which consist of 3 x 30 minute friendly games of mixed ability golf croquet, continues to be very popular despite some particularly hot days. The Tuesday evening session introduced this season and casual play has given members more flexibility to play friendly games and practice to improve their game.



As usual August has been dominated by tournaments both internal and various level national Association and Golf Croquet Competitions. Most are handicapped which makes games particularly competitive, often leading to an unpredictable outcome. Thank you to everyone involved in making the tournaments enjoyable and efficient.

The hot weather has partially parched the lawns – making the ball run very fast in places. Johnny Ives and the club volunteers have done their very best to maintain them to a high standard.

Training sessions covering rules, faults and skills have been really useful and thanks go to David Boxell, Club Coach and Simon Carter, Club President for passing on their expertise.



For more information about the club see our website www.hunstantoncroquetclub

See the News and Events page for tournament reports.

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Sporting corner with Tim Keogh

Football round-up

After a busy Summer of World Cup football the new season is already upon us, with King's Lynn Town and Heacham FC having kickstarted their campaigns in the National Conference League North and Thurlow Nunn Premier Division respectively.



King's Lynn v Harborough Town Credit: Adrian Morton

On Saturday, 8th August, Paul Caddis' new-look King's Lynn side opened their account with a 1-1 home draw against Harborough Town. Newly promoted sides can often prove tricky opposition to overcome, usually continuing the momentum from a successful previous season, as Spalding Utd and Hebburn Town both showed with opening day wins. Lynn were unlucky not to take an early lead, with the very impressive Tom Scott hitting the post and Harborough keeper, Elliott Taylor, in fine form. However, the visitors soon settled before they, too, hit the woodwork and then took the lead through Riley O'Sullivan with home keeper, Ronnie Hollingshead, found wanting.



*Lynn player Jesse Nwabueze celebrates his goal
Credit: Adrian Morton*

In the second half the Linnets began to impose themselves and found a deserved equaliser through the lively Jesse Nwabueze. Despite being the better side, Lynn had to make do with a point in the end in front of over 1,500 spectators. A curate's egg of a performance maybe, but there are signs Lynn will improve on last season, although the expectation of the Lynn faithful for a play off place is a big ask. New signing Ryan Tunnicliffe looks like a coup and Lynn definitely missed the services of the injured Ross Crane.

Heacham's season began on the 25th July and they have already played four matches. Two home league defeats against Soham Town Rangers (5-1) and Downham Town (4-1) and an away loss at Harleston Town (6-1), have left the Magpies bottom of the table. Granted, they have not yet been able to field a full strength eleven yet, and there were signs of improvement in their unlucky 2-1 FA Cup defeat at Woodbridge Town, where they succumbed to a last minute goal.



Heacham FC v Soham Rangers Credit Phill Gwilliam

Mark Hunter

Town & Around took some time out with Heacham manager, Mark Hunter, to gain his insight and aspirations for the new season.

TK: What are your expectations for the coming season?

MH: We want to win every match we play, but our main expectation



is to focus entirely on building a consistent process of improvement.

At this level, you can't look at the end of the road before you've taken the first steps. The standard in the Thurlow Nunn Premier is incredibly high, so the only realistic approach is to prepare meticulously, demand total commitment on the training pitch, and stay true to our identity through every 90 minutes.

TK: Any key new signings? Any others expected?

MH: The club works incredibly hard behind the scenes in this area, but I don't like to talk about individual names. For me, the most important thing is the profile of person we bring into this dressing room. Our recruitment strategy is very straightforward: we focus heavily on recruiting young talent. We had three new signings completed at the start of the season who fit this mould exactly. We target players who are coachable, open-minded, and hungry to improve. When you bring in individuals with that specific drive, it naturally elevates the whole group. We are, however, always keeping an eye on the market, but anyone coming in has to fit that philosophy. It's a development process, and it requires real patience from everyone involved in that process, the player, the staff, the club and our supporters.

TK: This is Heacham's third campaign at this level, do you feel the younger players are acclimatising better each year to compete?

Cont'd on page 48

They are adapting well, but football doesn't give you any favours just because you've spent a couple of years in a division. Experience isn't just about age; it's about understanding the tactical concepts, managing spaces, and adjusting to the tempo of this league. We probably play the most youth-focused team in the division, and the younger players are showing a massive desire to learn, but we have to remember they are still developing. To compete here consistently, they have to continually learn and adapt their game to the needs of the league. They are getting closer, absolutely, but you can't force the natural timeline of a player's growth it's a patient process.

TK: It's plainly been a tough start, but you have been hampered by injuries and changes to the squad?

MH: It is what it is, and I refuse to use injuries or squad changes as an excuse. In football, if you spend your time looking at who isn't here, you lose focus on the players who are actually on the pitch. Over the summer and early part of the season, some players have made decisions to leave the club. We wish them well in their future football, unless it is against us in a game! But look, it opens the door for someone else to step up and show they can adapt to our ideas. The schedule is demanding and challenges happen to every club. We have to find solutions through our collective structure.

TK: The league table already seems to be taking form in order of those with a higher budget, how can you compete with the big spenders?

MH: Money can buy top-tier talent—that's just the reality of football at every single tier. Additionally, our geographical position brings its own unique set of travel and recruitment challenges given where we are located on the coast. If we try to match the big spenders financially, we lose before we start.

The football club and everything it has achieved and built over time has an enormous value, and we must always remain sustainable. We focus entirely on what is within our control and means.

TK: It is a similar start to last season, where Heacham began to improve in the Autumn and, particularly, after you joined. Can you see a similar trend this season as you get to full strength?

MH: The past is great to look back on if it's favourable. It also offers us experience, but it doesn't give us a single point today. Every season

has its own unique rhythm and its own specific challenges. Do I believe we will improve? Yes, because I see how hard the squad works. But it's not a magical switch that automatically flips just because the calendar changes to Autumn. It requires relentless work. As we get the group fully up to speed, the internal competition for places will grow, and that's when real progression happens.

TK: Which players are going to be pivotal this campaign?

MH: The squad as a whole. The team is the only pivotal element. If we rely on one or two individuals to save us, we will struggle. The player who tracks back for his teammate, the player who drives energy from the bench, the player who trains at 100% even when he's frustrated—those are the pivotal players. Our strength comes strictly from the collective group working together, not from isolated moments of individual brilliance.

TK: Historically it has been one of the toughest divisions nationally at this level. How far can you risk talent versus proven players who are familiar playing at this level?

MH: That is the ultimate balance you have to find. Proven players give you stability because they know the traps and physical demands of this league, but raw talent brings an unpredictable energy. We can't rely solely on one or another. Ultimately, player buy-in is absolutely key to making any group work. My rule is simple: I don't look at a player's resume or how many games they've played in this division. I look at how they react when we lose the ball or when we issue advice or instruction. If a talented young player is coachable and hungry, he plays. If an experienced player shows that same desire and mentality he plays. The risk disappears when everyone on the pitch understands our core principles.

I am very fortunate to have a very talented group of players that I have the opportunity and pleasure of working with on a football pitch and sharing a dressing room with. That's our true club value.

The Anglian Combination and North West Norfolk Leagues do not start until early September, where Dersingham Rovers and Ingoldisthorpe FC will be looking to put in serious promotion challenges in their respective divisions after missing out last year. Snettisham FC have also re-formed and will be participating in the NWNL this coming season.

Sporting corner with Tim Keogh

Snettisham Cricket Club on the verge of a Historic Treble

A cracking cricket season is reaching a pulsating climax as all local senior teams have something still to play for with the final programme of league games all scheduled for Saturday, 29th August.

Snettisham Cricket Club are looking to make it an unprecedented and historic treble with their 1st, 2nd and Women's XIs all in serious contention to win the title races in their respective divisions.



Back row from left: Aaron Herbert, Damian Twiddy, Kieran Herbert (C), James Hearmon, Jonathan Forder, Sachin Rathnayake
Front row from left: Richard Southgate, Jamie Wing, Gary Forder, Jack Cotton, Danny Arnold. Credit Ian Burt

The 1st XI remain in pole position in Division Four of the Norfolk

Cricket Alliance (NCA) with just three games to go. The destiny of the title remains firmly in their own hands, although two tight losses against Hethersett & Tas-Valley 2nds and Rocklands have left them looking tentatively over their shoulder. A relatively favourable run in should see them over the line.



Credit Ian Burt

Their 2nd XI also lead the way in Division One of the Norfolk Cricket League (NCL) with three matches remaining. This is quite a remarkable turnaround of their fortunes as they were bottom of the table in May, struggling to find runs.

Not to be outdone, Snettisham Women are emulating their male counterparts, topping the Shell UK Norfolk Women's League. They

are looking to retain the title they impressively won for the first time last year. A key recent win over Horsford Women (Kath Johnson 40, Ebony Palmer 3/5) means they now travel to bottom side Denver in their final league outing of the season knowing a victory will secure the honours which would cap off another fantastic season for Michelle Knott and her cohorts.

In Division Two of the NCA, Bircham and Sandringham & Dersingham 1st XIs have flattered to deceive this season after such high expectations at the start of their campaigns, both surprisingly finding themselves dragged into a relegation battle.



Bircham Team Photo

Back row from left: Kevin Crompton, Ned Coke, Michael Durrant, Archie Case, Thomas King, Will Faulkner, Sam Witton
Front row from left: Sam Hyatt, Harry Ward, Liam Crompton (C), Peter Matthews, John King. Credit Ian Burt

On Saturday, 25th July, they faced one another in a crucial relegation battle at Sandringham's picturesque base, overlooked by Princess Diana's birthplace, Park House. Bircham opened the batting and looked to be in trouble until Ned Coke's 90 not out meant the visitors set a respectable 172 target. Despite a late rally by the home side, Harry Ward's 4/28 thwarted any real threat by the hosts as Bircham ran out convincing winners in the end by 69 runs.

Bircham also secured superb wins over Dereham (Sam Hyatt 76, Pete Matthews 3/27) and Norwich 2nds (Pete Matthews 76 & 4/15) recently but it has proven to be too little too late, whilst Sandringham & Dersingham's key victory over Topcroft (Chris Smith 4/12) has now



Sandringham Team Photo (fielding) - Image 1

Back row from left: James Hurst, James Havers, Sanjula Alahakoon, Chris Smith, Daniel Coggin, Callum Lee
Front row from left: James Hurst, Brad Tennent, Lloyd Richmond (C), Jack Southgate, Darren Bunn. Credit Ian Burt

given both sides some legroom over bottom side, Garboldisham 2nds, alleviating any real relegation concerns.

Thornham CC 1st XI still have a very slim hope of promotion. Connotations higher up the cricket pyramid system - where North Runcton look likely to achieve promotion into the East Anglian Premier League - mean the top two in each division might get promoted. Thornham are presently 4th and know wins in their final three fixtures could mathematically steal a second-place berth. All still very much to play for.

They also have the Mid-Norfolk Sunday League Hunts County Junior 20/20 Cup Final to look forward to where they will face Norwich on Sunday, 6th September at Sprowston CC.

In Division Two of the NCL, Neil Irwin's 5 wicket haul for Sandringham 2nd XI against Norwich Association of Malayalees 2nds impressed in a recent 7 wicket home win, securing their status at this level next year.

In Division Three, Thornham 2nds (Peter Rose 58) overcame local rivals Bircham 2nds (Shaun Fisher 73) in an exciting 13 run victory which should guarantee a top half of the table finish, whilst Snettisham 3rds and Sandringham & Dersingham 3rds will go head-to-head on the final day of the season in a potential wooden spoon decider.

EAAA King's Lynn Fundraising Group

By Trevor Dane, Volunteer

On 19 July, we attended an event at Stow Bridge Village Hall for fundraising and raising awareness of East Anglian Air Ambulance. A total of £116.64 was raised. Thank you to everyone who supported us!

We would also like to thank Carl, who recently has raised a fantastic £1,402.70 from his 90th birthday celebration. Happy Birthday, Carl.



On 7 August, I attended a cheque presentation at Downham Market Conservative Club for funds raised from the annual Phil Wood Golf Day, which was held on 5 June at Middleton Golf Club. A brilliant £4,048.09 was raised. We would like to thank Glen Bishop and Chris

Thorpe for their time and hard work in putting the event on again this year. Our thanks also go to thank Lyn Thorpe, the golfers who took part, Downham Market Conservative Club, those who generously donated raffle prizes, and to everyone who supported the event.

Air Ambulance Week 7-13 September

Air Ambulance Week is the national week dedicated to raising awareness and funds for the lifesaving work of the UK's 21 Air Ambulance charities. Organised by Air Ambulances UK, the national charity supporting these services, this campaign highlights the vital role air ambulance crews play in bringing emergency hospital care directly to patients at the scene. Every year, air ambulance charities in the UK collectively respond to over 50,000 emergency missions.

In 2025, your support enabled East Anglian Air Ambulance to treat 1,845 people. The charity carried out 1,573 taskings by helicopter and 1,165 by critical care car. The average cost of an East Anglian Air Ambulance mission is £4,250, with the crew delivering advanced critical care to people suffering life-threatening injuries or medical emergencies - anytime, anywhere.

East Anglian Air Ambulance helicopters can carry: two pilots, up to three clinicians and one patient.

With a cruising speed of around 140mph, the aircraft can cover 20 miles in under 10 minutes - getting critical care to the scene fast across the 5,326 square miles we serve. 25 minutes to anywhere in East Anglia with a range of 400 miles and a top speed of 167 mph.

King's Lynn Fundraising Group can be contacted by emailing myself or my colleague Terri trevordane104@gmail.com tfaye.100@gmail.com

East Anglia Air Ambulance general enquiries: 03450 669 999



Hunstanton Society

We are pleased to report that we have arranged, or to be honest, almost arranged a series of talks for the next season. For our first talk taking place in just about one month we shall be welcoming Andrew Jamieson to the Heritage Centre to talk about Drove Orchards – Then and Now. You will all know that there have been a lot of things going on at the orchards – there is now quite a village siding onto the orchards full of shops, restaurants etc providing some really good quality products of many varieties.

We are certain that you will find this particularly interesting.

Heritage Days

We are asking for extra help to open the Heritage Centre for extended hours on the Heritage Days on Friday 11 September and Friday 18 September when the lighthouse is open for tours. We plan to offer 'coffee and cake' to the visitors of the lighthouse if they come to the Heritage Centre between 1100 and 1600 so need some additional support to keep the centre open and the kettle boiling. Jo and Jane will be there to make the drinks but need help with front of house. If you would prefer to help at the lighthouse, either meeting or greeting, or helping take people up to the top, let us now and we will pass on your details. See below for information about the Heritage Open Day tours of the Lighthouse and Hunstanton Hall.

Snettisham Quarry Tour



Andrew Murray arranged the visit to Snettisham Quarry which was extremely interesting, with a good number attending, hearing about how the quarry came about, how it operates and where the rock and stone is used.

The Quarry will be submitting a planning application to extend the quarry in a northerly direction (marked yellow in the overhead photo). They will be seeking support. Without this additional land, they will run out of

Carstone in just a few years.

They also showed us the land that has been quarried but since been back filled and we were pleasantly surprised how normal the reclaimed land is. You would not have known that it had been quarried.



BARRY SLEMMINGS

Our fossil person Barry has provided us with a write up of what are his interests – much wider than you might have thought, and not just fossils.

Society members may be aware that Barry Slemmings is our 'fossil person' and hosts our weekly fossil events. He is also a general historian with wide interests in military, naval, aviation and architectural history.

As a medieval historian he provides occasional free tours to visitors of English Heritage sites such as Baconsthorpe Castle, Castle Acre and Castle Rising. He is proposing to host a guided tour of Castle Rising on Sunday August 23 at 10 am. If you are an English Heritage member site entry is free otherwise it will be £5.25 or concessions at £4.40.

The site is essentially Norman but Barry's tour will look at the extant Roman material to be found in the Saxon or early Norman church within the castle grounds. He will also discuss

Hunstanton Society

Presentation by
Andrew Jamieson

Drove Orchards

Then and Now

Andrew came and spoke to us some years ago about his father who won the VC in WW1. Now he is coming to talk about the Orchard that he inherited and has developed in more ways than one. Not only will you learn about all the different varieties of fruit that he grows but a lot more besides having diversified into providing a home for shops, restaurants and artisan businesses.



Wednesday, 16th September 2026 @ 7.30pm

in the Heritage Centre (doors open 7.00pm)

Admission £1.00 Members, £5.00 Non-Members

Refreshments included

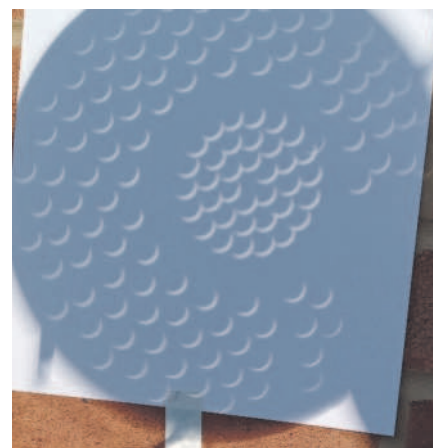
an often repeated theory that Castle Rising is a reworked Roman fort or Saxon burgh.

He says that if this first visit is successful he would be willing to host a 'church crawl' in September to take in South Creak parish church and the little Norman church at Waterden. This first is a soaring example of English Gothic complete with angels in the rafters and a statue of Charles I, King and Martyr. The second is a neglected Norman gem hidden down a country lane and only recently renovated and reopened. The village itself is a DMV - a Deserted Medieval Village. Only the church and rectory remain today.

If you are interested in the castle tour contact Barry on barry.slembo@gmail.com

Solar Eclipse – 12th August 2026

Taken from Hunstanton through a collander.



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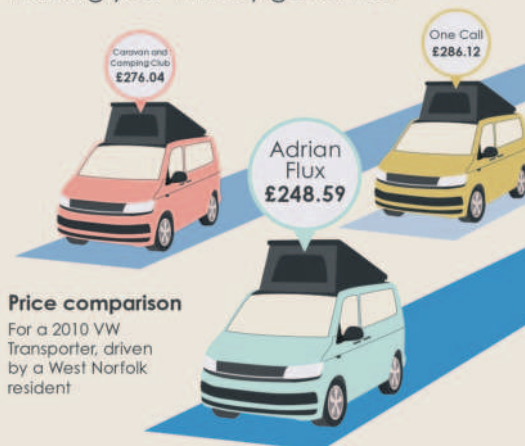
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Sandringham parkrun & 5K Your Way celebrated 'LOVE WEST NORFOLK'

Saturday 1st August with a gentle breeze and the sun shining Sandringham parkrun no. 244 celebrated 'Love West Norfolk'. This year Love West Norfolk runs from Wednesday 22 July to Saturday 22 August 2026, celebrating absolutely everything that makes West Norfolk so special and parkrun is very special!! Saturday August 1st was also the week that parkrun linked up with '5k Your Way - Move Against Cancer' group, which is for anyone living with or beyond cancer, their family, friends, and health professionals. If you know anyone who might be interested in walking some, or all of the 5k with this lovely friendly group, please let them know that we meet the last Saturday of every month. Maybe just come along for cake and a natter with the group, you can be sure of a warm welcome. The flag will always be on display at the meeting point. Very appropriate Ellie Hall was having a charity bake sale, raising funds for Guy's Cancer Charity for her London Marathon pledge. A massive Thank You to all who purchased or donated.

Parkrun cannot go ahead without our helpers today we had 33 marvellous volunteers ;Ruth O'Donnell and Sophie Hanwell completed her 25 volunteering this morning. Please consider volunteering email Sandringham@parkrun.com or sign up on the roster sheet if you would like to join our sociable volunteer community.

A busy morning at Sandringham parkrun

with 465 finishers, an enormous 172 first timers to Sandringham and 20 first timers to parkrun. The first four were all in close order with the first three all first timers to Sandringham led home by Johua ENTWISTLE in a time of 17.30, in 2nd place Thomas HARPER JM11-14 time 17.50, next Oz WEDMORE 17.51 and a regular to Sandringham Ben KEELEY 17.53. The first lady was 8th overall another first timer to Sandringham Ellie HARPER JW15-17 in a time of 19.51. Highest age grade was Jane MUNRO Hi Runners 82.01% and for the men Thomas HARPER Bedford & Country AC with a 79.53%. Forty-six finishers achieved a PB and milestones were achieved by Gary INGLEY/ Alexander TAYLOR/ Louise WRIGHT/ Alice KNAPTON/ Kayleigh BENNIFER/ Iain WILSON/ Trish Kaye – 25, Rebecca KEELEY – 50, Carol ARMSTRONG – 200, Mark MERRIMAN – 300, Izzy BENNETT – 400 parkruns. An excellent morning well done to everyone and thank you for choosing Sandringham International tourists from Singapore, other tourists from far and wide Barry Island, Newark, Nottingham, Market Harboro', York, East London, Blickling, Gillingham, Aberdeenshire, Sutton, Bedford, Bracknell, Barnsley, Manchester, Huntingdon, Warsop, Coventry, Cumbria, Dunstable, Gateshead and Farnham.

Photos by Sandringham parkrun event director Sarah Byatt



Trinity Rotary Club of King's Lynn

Trinity's New President for 2026

Trinity Rotary welcomed a new President for the Club. The handover took place at King's Lynn Golf club over an excellent dinner. John Hardy handed over the role to Dorothy Pulsford-Harris for the year. John Hardy, looking back at his year, commented on the strength of the Club and the programme of activities carried out, especially for youth services. "Our giant Easter eggs were even more successful and raised lots of money for schools and charities. Charitable work continued well during the year and many local and some international charities benefitted. None of this would be possible but for all the work and support of members and friends of the Club for which I

am extremely grateful. It is now time to hand the baton on to our new President Dorothy Pulsford-Harris, and I wish her a successful and rewarding year."

President Dorothy thanked John for his year and confirmed her commitment to the work carried out by the Club. "I Look forward to the year but not forgetting the fun and friendship we get from what we do. We will be particularly looking to support local charities and carry out our projects especially with schools and colleges. We don't forget those suffering from the many disasters abroad, such as in Ukraine, where we can help."

Any person interested in joining us and helping in the community as well as having some fun, please contact Malcolm Wood on 07710 762588 or www.trinityrotarykingslynn.co.uk. You would be most welcome.



John Thorpe (also a past President) handing over the Presidents chain to Dorothy Pulsford-Harris.

Mendelssohn's proposed Norfolk visit

By Christopher Tew

In August 1846 Felix Mendelssohn enjoyed great success in Birmingham with his new oratorio "Elijah". A year later the committee of the Norfolk and Norwich Festival decided that they too would like to commission a new choral work from him. They wrote to the composer and his response was discussed by the committee when drawing up plans for the 1848 Festival. This was reported at length in the Norfolk News of 16th October 1847.

In his reply Mendelssohn mentioned that "he found it necessary to rewrite a considerable portion of 'Elijah' which was scarcely finished at the time of the first performance. However flattered he might feel by the proposal of the Norwich committee, he could not make a positive promise to produce a work worthy of their acceptance by that time."

A second application was made, accompanied with an intimation that "in case Dr Mendelssohn should not be able to produce a new work, the committee contemplated the performance of his "Elijah" and his "First Walpurgis Night", accompanied with an earnest expression of their desire that the composer would honour the festival by coming to conduct his own music."

There followed a portion of the composer's reply: "I am afraid I shall not be able to offer a new oratorio or sacred cantata for performance next year, for although I have begun a new work of this kind, I have the winter so entirely taken up with performances in different parts of Germany, and with other occupations, that I shall not be able to finish that work in time for your festival."

"But as you intend doing my 'Elijah', in that case, I have only to say that it would afford me great pleasure if I could find the opportunity of being present, and having something to conduct at such a festival as yours, of which I always heard the most interesting and brilliant accounts, and from which I may anticipate so great a musical treat - Leipzig, 2nd October 1847."

Sadly, the Norfolk project came to nothing as Mendelssohn suffered a series of strokes in late October 1847 and died on 4th November, aged only 38.

By coincidence, the same edition of the Norfolk News contained an account of a dispute troubling some people in Norwich: whether the Bishop of Norwich and his wife should have attended a concert given by the celebrated Swedish singer Jenny Lind - 'The Swedish Nightingale' - and then invited the singer to dine with them at the Bishop's Palace.

This was all too much for the Reverend E. Cobbold, a Norfolk vicar, who had written that such fraternising was inappropriate, a strange attitude from someone employed by the organisation responsible for the great English choral tradition.

The friendship between the bishop's family and Jenny Lind developed. Two years later Jenny Lind returned to Norwich to give a charity concert with all proceeds for the benefit of the city. The concert raised £1,253 - equivalent today to £207,000 - and it was decided to use the money to build the Jenny Lind Children's Hospital which

opened in 1854.

Eventually the hospital was merged with the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, but Lind's name continues with the Jenny Lind Children's Department and the Jenny Lind Paediatrics Theatres Complex. In the spirit of Jenny Lind, young classical musicians from across Norfolk have given concerts in recent years to raise money for the hospital.

But back to Mendelssohn, a dear and close friend of Jenny Lind. After Mendelssohn's death, she wrote: "He was the only person who brought fulfilment to my spirit, and almost as soon as I found him I lost him again."

As at Norwich, Jenny Lind was equally generous in establishing the Mendelssohn Scholarship Foundation in 1849. Today it is based in London and continues to make awards to outstanding young musicians.

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Shoplifter Shot Dead in Kings Lynn (1821)

Russell Lyon

Shop owners are so used nowadays to shoplifting and petty thieving (not so petty sometimes) that many have to make provision for daily losses by factoring into their pricing structure a percentage cost to help balance their losses due to theft. Too many people think nothing of stealing and pillaging from shops without apparent thought for the consequences or the penalties if they are caught. It was so different in the past. Going back not so long ago to 1821 shoplifting was just as common but for one shoplifter in Kings Lynn his thieving had fatal consequences.

Henry Pond had a fabric shop at 39 High Street which sold expensive items including silk, linen, woollen curtains and clothing. It is now the premises of Vision Express and the present modern façade hides the horror which took place there just over two hundred years ago. Like most towns Kings Lynn had a system of night watchmen patrols which passed by the shop at 4.45am regular as clockwork and you can presume the town "ne'er do wells" knew their routine all too well. Pond's shop had a peculiarly vulnerable weak spot which made it less secure than some other premises. It had a fan light above the front door and the thieves had exploited that fact on two separate occasions. It was quite high up but a thief could be easily lifted by accomplices, break the window, reach through and steal valuable silk handkerchiefs. These were easily concealed and sold on quickly.

The first time the shop was robbed and the skylight broken was about two weeks before the fatal shooting. Pond thought of an ingenious plan to thwart future robbers. He left the broken window unrepaired and connected a handkerchief to a bell making a crude alarm system. It did not work. Thieves came again at just before 5.0am a week later and the bell didn't sound for some reason and more stock was taken.

This thoroughly upset Mr Pond and he decided that he would keep watch himself and thwart any further theft from his property. His

plan nearly failed that fatal morning as he overslept and stumbled down the stairs in a hurry from his sleeping quarters just after 5.0am and he thought he was too late. He was just going back to bed when he heard footsteps outside that could only mean one thing. Burglars! He grabbed his fowling gun loaded with pellets suitable for bringing down ducks and geese and let fly at an arm which appeared just reaching through the broken window. Just as he pulled the trigger the thief altered the position of his arm to reach further in and exposed his armpit. The pellets were discharged into his armpit and the man fell backwards out into the street bleeding profusely from a severed aorta. His accomplices didn't wait to help their partner in crime and ran for their lives perhaps thinking they would be next. Henry Pond when he opened his shop door found the young man outside collapsed with blood spilling all over the cobbles.

Henry Pond to his great credit didn't run away and hide – where would he go anyway? He opened his shop door and did his best to stop the bleeding. He carried the man into his premises and tried to staunch the violent haemorrhage but seeing his efforts were in vain, ran for a doctor. The thief died very quickly, bleeding to death and nothing could be done. The man's identity was quickly established. He was a young man about twenty years old and the known head of a gang which were notorious in the town. He was called Robert Roberson and he had been tried and convicted before for various petty crimes and had turned Kings Evidence on an accomplice to get leniency. His friend was sentenced to deportation to Australia while Roberson got off after giving evidence against his partner in crime. There was little sympathy despite his young age from the town's people who were thoroughly fed up with the gang's tyrannies especially when it was learned Roberson had grassed on a friend but still carried on his bad ways.

At the inquest held in the Queens Head, the authorities suspected that the thief must have



had accomplices as the window was too high to reach without being hoisted but as far as we know none came forward – why would they? Two were arrested but without evidence they were released without charge.

The case went to the Quarter sessions and a jury of town's people recorded the death as justifiable homicide. This meant that in the jury's opinion they believed that Pond had not intended to kill Roberson but had merely intended to wound and capture the thief. One wonders what a modern jury would make of the verdict now.

Then it was thought that it was legally defensible (however accidental) to take a human life in these circumstances. Quite the effect of the shooting would have had on Pond is unknown as history is silent on the matter although we do know he continued to trade from the premises and normal life continued. His daughter Maria was christened in 1824 and by 1841 he relocated his business to bigger premises at 76 and 77 High Street. But once you know what happened just outside the Vision Express shop in the High Street even now as you pass by it's an image that's hard to forget. I wonder if the body of the dying man on the cobbles outside his shop ever troubled Henry Pond and did he have any remorse for his action? Perhaps not as for Pond, life carried on as normal.

Probus Club visit Magpie Centre

On 12th August a group of members and friends of the Probus Club of King's Lynn visited the Riding for the Disabled's Stables at the Magpie Centre, Wallington Hall, Runcton Holme.

The Staff told them about the history and present situation of the Centre, followed by a tour of the Centre and the indoor riding arena and explained how the Centre caters for a large number of people, with various problems, every week. Even with 70 plus volunteers, it cost over £7,000 per week to maintain the Centre and the services it provides. There are currently 11 horses and ponies but because the carriage driving is now so popular, there is an urgent need for a suitable horse to pull the carriages.

At the end of the tour, the group enjoyed 'tea and cakes with a pony' – 20 years old Pebbles – who apparently 'eats for England'! The Probus Club then donated £250 towards the Centre's funds.

Anyone interested in joining the Club can contact Bob on 01553 617374, Alan on 01553 672837 or Ivan on 01553 670228



The photograph shows Centre volunteers Scilla and Jan with Probus Club President, Bob Ward (centre), Vice President Alan Porter (right) and Secretary, Ivan Jordan (left).

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Wednesdays: Scrabble 10am, U3A Chess 10am, Whist Drive 7pm
Thursdays: Strength and Balance Class 1.00pm.
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Runners Set to Take on the 2026 Round Norfolk Relay in Support of EAAA

Jeremy Navrady

Over a thousand runners from across Norfolk and beyond are preparing to take on one of the county's most iconic endurance running events as the Round Norfolk Relay 2026 returns on the weekend of 12–13 September 2026, with fundraising once again supporting the East Anglian Air Ambulance (EAAA).

The Round Norfolk Relay is a unique 200-mile team relay race, split into 17 stages around the county, bringing together running clubs, volunteers and supporters for a weekend that celebrates teamwork, resilience and community spirit. Since its inception in 1987, the event has become one of the UK's most respected relay races. This year the event welcomes over 60 teams from Norfolk and surrounding counties.



This year's charity partner is once again the East Anglian Air Ambulance, with organisers encouraging participants and supporters to help raise £4,250—the average cost of a single life-saving emergency mission. Every donation will help EAAA continue providing advanced critical care across Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The partnership highlights the vital role the charity plays in saving lives across the region. EAAA's specialist doctors, critical care paramedics and pilots respond to an average of eight critical emergencies every day, delivering advanced treatment at the scene of serious incidents before patients reach hospital.

Event organisers are encouraging local businesses, residents and spectators to support the fundraising effort by donating online or



giving along the route during the event weekend. Every contribution, large or small, will help ensure the charity can continue delivering rapid emergency care when every second counts.

As runners pass through towns, villages and coastal communities across Norfolk, the relay promises another memorable weekend of determination, camaraderie and community fundraising—all united by a shared commitment to supporting one of East

Anglia's most essential emergency services.

Martin Ive, Race Director of the Round Norfolk Relay, said: "The East Anglian Air Ambulance is a charity that touches the lives of so many people across Norfolk. We are honoured to support them through the 2026 Round Norfolk Relay. The event has always celebrated teamwork and community spirit, and this year we're asking everyone to get behind our fundraising efforts to help keep this essential service flying."



Armchair Sports Trivia

Win a delicious afternoon tea for two (worth £19.95 pp, total £39.90) courtesy of Berni Beans.

QUESTION: Only three players in history have scored a hat-trick in the Premier League, the FA Cup, AND the UEFA Champions League, who are they?

ANSWERS TO: editor@townandaround.net

or by post to: The Editor, Town & Around,

Unit 1 Marea Farm, School Rd, Heacham, King's Lynn PE31 7DH

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

CLOSING DATE 15.09.2026.

Last month's question was: Which team's stadium has the lowest altitude in professional English football? The answer is Grimsby Town (Blundell Park). Simon Duval from North Wootton is the luck winner.



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A look ahead to the new season at Westacre Theatre

Liz Brewer www.westacretheatre.com Box Office: 01760 755 007 Email: admin@westacretheatre.com

This summer has been a celebration of creativity in every sense and, quite simply, the best season Westacre has ever had. From the actors and musicians who brought our stories to life, to our dedicated volunteers, technicians, front-of-house team and supporters, every production has been a true labour of love. We're especially grateful to the remarkable team who lovingly designed and handcrafted the beautiful costumes for our Summer Season - every stitch, every detail, every splash of colour helped transport audiences into another world.



We're also incredibly proud of this year's Bursary Company. Their enthusiasm, commitment and talent filled every rehearsal room and performance with energy and joy, and watching emerging artists grow in confidence on our stage remains one of the greatest privileges of what we do.



Images from
Sense and Sensibility



If you gave towards our outdoor Theatre Tent campaign, sponsored a ticket pole, or simply bought a ticket: thank you. Because of you, live music by the lake and extraordinary drama unfolding under canvas happened again this year, and Norfolk's best-loved outdoor theatre stayed standing.

A hard truth, honestly told

We won't pretend it's easy. This year we've applied to more than twenty funding pots, from £2,500 to £200,000, and so far we've been successful with two - £4,000 from the Geoffrey Watling Charity and £1,000 from the Suffolk & Norfolk Community Fund, which helped us give free theatre tickets to young people who'd never set foot in a theatre before. It costs £160,000 a year simply to keep our doors open, before a single ticket is sold. Every "no" still costs us the weeks it took to apply - but every "yes", however small, keeps the lights on and the stage lit.

Ditch Netflix - the best seat in the house is here

And that's exactly why we're so excited about what's coming. As the evenings draw in, we won't be hibernating - quite the opposite. Our fire will be lit in the foyer, our small yet mighty Studio will be glowing, and there's no better reason to leave the sofa behind than an evening of outstanding theatre on our doorstep.

Christmas brings something truly special: a proper, story-led, magical adaptation of Cinderella by Philip Wilson. Forget the pantomime clichés,

this is an ending that gives Cinderella far more say in her own story. Our much-loved friends The Pantaloon's simply can't stay away, returning twice this season: their gloriously bonkers Twelfth Night this September, then the riotously funny Every Christmas Movie Ever! in December. Harold Pinter fans won't want to miss our in-house Pint Size Pinter, while fresh from the Edinburgh Fringe, our Off the Fringe Double Bill brings two outstanding comedy shows - the perfect alternative to another evening at the local.

We're also thrilled to welcome touring companies A Brief Case of Crazy (Shoddy Theatre), the part-play, part-magic spectacle The Final Secret of Lazarus Drauger, and Sister Queens from Play On Words. Families are well catered for too, with our frightfully fun Monster Mash-Up during October half-term, alongside creative workshops, our youth theatre programme, 40 in the Foyer fundraising evenings, craft fairs, quiz nights, Author's Hour and much more.

As always, we're a small theatre - which means performances sell quickly. Gather your friends, choose your favourites and book early; we'd hate for you to miss the best seats in the house.

Looking ahead

With the tent secured for another year, we're now turning our attention indoors, to a project we've dreamed of for years: extending our Studio Theatre seating from 83 to 120. That number changes what Westacre can be - whole primary school year groups welcomed instead of turned away, larger touring companies able to visit, and better accessibility for performers and audiences alike.

None of it happens without you. So, huge thanks for buying tickets, spreading the word, volunteering your time, and believing in what this small rural theatre can achieve. As we leave the lakeside and move back indoors, we promise another season filled with imagination, laughter, surprises and stories that bring people together.

We can't wait to welcome you back.

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What's on in September

TWELFTH NIGHT

The critically-acclaimed Pantaloon's Theatre Company present their own brand of Shakespearean mayhem.

Saturday 19th September, 3pm & 7:30pm

Tickets £20 | Under 21s £10

NT LIVE - THE MISANTHROPE

Award-winner Sandra Oh plays the title role in this razor-sharp reimagining of Molière's classic dark comedy.

Tuesday 22nd September, 7pm

All tickets £14

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The Arts Society King's Lynn

The Arts Society King's Lynn begins the 2026-27 season on Thursday 10 September 2026 when they welcome James Smallwood give a talk on The Life and Work of William Moorcroft.

James Smallwood has an established and successful lecturing career speaking to gardening and horticultural groups and at Royal Horticultural Society shows and events on a number of gardening topics. He has been a keen collector of Moorcroft pottery for over 30 years and has an extensive collection. These are primarily examples of William Moorcroft's early work dating back to 1897 and he takes some of these pieces with him to illustrate his talks. He has been a member of the Moorcroft Collectors' Club for a number of years and is fortunate to have two former employees of the pottery amongst his friends. He has visited the pottery on a number of occasions and has an in depth knowledge of past and present processes of manufacture. He is in regular contact with Moorcroft and has generously been given access to their archive material.



William Moorcroft 1872 – 1945 was brought up in the back streets of Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent. He knew tragedy from an early age losing his sister when he was 8, his mother a year later and his father when he was just 12. Perhaps it was this tragic upbringing that helped develop his strength of character and resilience that saw him establish himself as the most accomplished studio potter of recent times.

Important: There is a change of venue for this lecture due to roof repairs at West Winch Village Hall. The venue is South Lynn Community Centre, 10 St Michael's Road, King's Lynn, PE30 5HE

The talk starts at 2.30pm. TASKL meets once a month on the second Thursday from September to May and anyone is welcome to become a member.

The annual subscription is just £60 or you can go along to individual talks as a guest for £10. Anyone interested in finding out more about TASKL can visit their website at www.theartsocietykingslynn.org.uk or to join the Society contact the membership secretary on 01760 724823 or via email at info@theartsocietykingslynn.org.uk.

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Deeppdale Festival

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Deeppdale Camping & Rooms hosts a small but perfectly formed Music Festival with a Heart of Folk across 3 stages on the last weekend of September. The Brick Barn, Orchard Stage & Courtyard will host more than 40 superb acts.

Chris, our festival director, has put together another superb lineup. We are hugely proud of the high-quality acts that come to perform at Deeppdale Festival, thank you to them all for choosing to play our stages.

Deeppdale Festival 2026 will be our 8th annual music festival.

The dates are set, limited day tickets are available, the programme is partially announced, and you can book your accommodation.

We hope you'll join us for a brilliant weekend of music including - Hope & Social - Noble Jacks - Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman - Sam Kelly & The Lost Boys - The Shackleton Trio - 3 Daft Monkeys - Blackbeard's Tea Party - Christina Alden & Alex Patterson - Floral Image - Honey & The Bear - Neev - Wilswood Buoys - Brian Stone & The Masters of None - Detta Kenzie - Langkamer - The Rabbitts

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/102309>

HDFA final project completed

Ann McKimm

The HDFA is happy to announce that the last panel of ceramic tiles painted by local people, children and holiday visitors is now up on the seafront. This is the last project from the Hunstanton and District Festival of Arts who finished last December after their grant had been removed by Kings Lynn Borough Council.

The HDFA had been serving Hunstanton since 1942 when it was formed during the war years to keep Art alive in Hunstanton and its Surrounding areas. It started with a Concert and later formed the local Drama Festival of one act plays, a Community Pantomime Robin Hood (Norfolk Style) in 2010, Many Art exhibitions and the Hunstanton Music Festival which is still running.

The Ceramic tile project was thought up by Artist Kate Dunbar in 2012 who was then a member of the Committee and began with workshops in local primary schools with children painting their thoughts about Queen Elizabeth 2nd's Diamond jubilee. Many colourful and imaginative designs appeared including Corgis on the beach and royal jewelry. All were signed by their creators. There are 9 panels in all, each containing 90 tiles.

Later designs included Norfolk Wildlife panels containing birds and animals found in the area and these were painted by local residents and visitors. Next came Wildflowers and later Sea life and local memories. There was also an impressive Mural panel of a ship at sea designed by Smithdon High School students. Most of the tiles are signed by their designers and will be up on the sea wall for many generations to come and enjoy.

You can find them down on the Seafront on the North prom next to the road down to the ice cream kiosk and under the beach huts and they brighten up a what was once a very drab wall.

We, the HDFA thank everyone who took part in this scheme and hope they will remind everyone of some very happy times painting tiles by the sea in beautiful Hunstanton.



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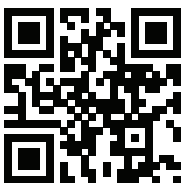
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In The Limelight

The hazy days of summer are lingering behind us as we venture forward into Autumn. The town loaded with visitors is not to be taken for granted, because it reminds us of how lucky we are to have the seaside and the attractions here on our doorstep.

Looking back at this season's Seaside Summer Special. That's Entertainment Productions and the Theatre would like to thank all our audiences. By supporting shows like this we are keeping live entertainment and variety alive.

Huge thanks to this year's Sponsors. Lovell Homes – Lavender Chase. I took the cast up to see the utterly gorgeous show homes. They are next level fantastic, beautifully positioned and well worth looking around. We were all impressed and I almost talked the cast to moving to Hunstanton! Finally, a big congratulations to our Cast, Crew and Rollason Stage School for all your hard work. Collectively you have been an inspiration and joy to work with and a huge part of the Princess Theatre family.

The show will be back next season, so make sure to book and see what we bring to the stage next year. As always, *bigger and better*. As with the annual Panto we hold a bucket collection at the end of every show for EACH, East Anglia Children's Hospice. After our final show on the 2nd September, we will be able to report the fund raised to EACH. Thank you for all donations thus far.

Talking of Charity, The Princess Macmillan Coffee morning is a little earlier this year on Friday 11th September. 10am – 2pm. Homemade cakes, tea, coffee and plenty of fundraising fun, including our 100 Prize Tombola, Grand Raffle and Guess Teddy's Birthday.

Raffle tickets (£1 per strip) are available now from the Box Office.

We begin the month on Wednesday 2nd September with the final performance of our much-loved Great British Seaside Summer Special. On Saturday 5th September, rock fans can enjoy ZZ TOPPD, followed by the legendary Herman's Hermits on Sunday 6th September.

Irish folk favourites The Kilkenny's take to the stage on Thursday 10th September, before the iconic show The Drifters arrives on Saturday 12th September. The following day, Sunday 13th September, relive the sounds of the Ska revival with Too Much Too Young – The Story of 2 Tone & Beyond.

Prepare to be amazed on Thursday 17th September as Wonders Of Our Universe – The Next Chapter takes you on a breathtaking journey through space and time. Then, on Saturday 19th September, experience the music of Phil Collins with the spectacular In The Air Tonight.

As the month draws to a close, enjoy the soulful sounds of The Music of Motown by Candlelight on Friday 25th September, followed by The Manfreds on Saturday 26th September. We round off September in style with The Stars of the Irish Country Show on Sunday 27th September, bringing another month of outstanding entertainment to a fitting close.



Calling all musical theatre fans! Live musicals don't come along too often on this stretch of the coast, so don't miss The Picture of Dorian Gray – The Musical on Thursday 22nd October – perfectly timed for the haunting atmosphere of late October.

Based on Oscar Wilde's classic 1890 novel, this brand-new musical follows the story of Dorian Gray, a young man granted eternal youth while his portrait bears the consequences of his increasingly dark and immoral life. Inspired by the powerful sung-through musicals of the 1970s and 1980s, this dramatic production promises a haunting score, classic staging and an unforgettable evening at the theatre.



The excitement is building as our pantomime cast join us this month for the official press launch of *Cinderella*. It's always a special occasion and marks the beginning of the magic of panto at the Princess Theatre. With the enchanting story of *Cinderella* taking to our stage this festive season, we can't wait to share more with you over the coming months.

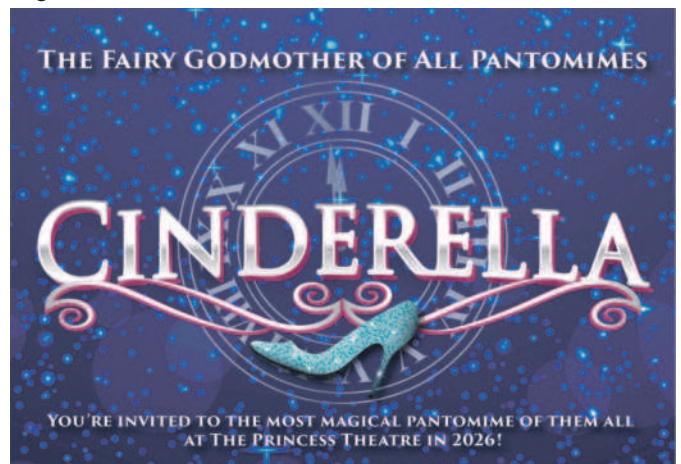
Did you know that *Cinderella* is also known as The Little Glass Slipper? The story has existed for centuries, with versions dating back to Ancient Greece, before later being retold by the Brothers Grimm. Their version was considerably darker than the heart-warming rags-to-riches tale we know and love today.

The first theatrical production of *Cinderella* was staged at Drury Lane, London, in 1804. Described as "A New Grand Allegorical Pantomimic Spectacle", it was very different from the family pantomime audiences enjoy today, but it laid the foundations for one of Britain's best-loved festive traditions.

Over the years, *Cinderella* has inspired countless stage musicals. Rodgers and Hammerstein created the much-loved Broadway version, while more recently Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Cinderella* premiered in London's West End before transferring to Broadway under the title *Bad Cinderella*. Today, audiences can also spot *Cinderella*'s story woven into the acclaimed musical *Into the Woods*, which cleverly intertwines several Brothers Grimm fairy tales.

Of course, *Cinderella*'s magic hasn't been confined to the stage. Walt Disney's 1950 animated classic introduced the story to generations of families around the world, while for many, *The Slipper and the Rose* remains the definitive film adaptation. Starring Gemma Craven, Richard Chamberlain and Annette Crosbie, the 1976 musical film captured the romance and charm of the fairy tale in a way that still resonates today.

It's remarkable to think that one story has travelled through so many centuries, cultures and art forms and this Christmas, we're delighted to bring our own magical version of *Cinderella* to the Princess Theatre stage.



With the evenings drawing in, there's no better time to enjoy live entertainment. Pop in, call the box office, take time to peruse the shows we have online, join as a *Friend of the Princess* with our super membership offer or book tickets as a group? We are always happy to assist.

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Anna



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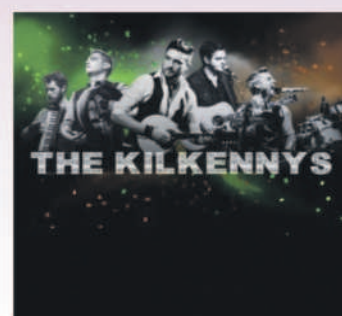
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 SUNDAY 13TH TOO MUCH TOO YOUNG – THE STORY OF 2 TONE & BEYOND
 THURSDAY 17TH WONDERS OF OUR UNIVERSE—THE NEXT CHAPTER
 SATURDAY 19TH IN THE AIR TONIGHT
 FRIDAY 25TH THE MUSIC OF MOTOWN BY CANDLELIGHT
 SATURDAY 26TH THE MANFREDS
 SUNDAY 27TH THE STARS OF THE IRISH COUNTY SHOW



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

