

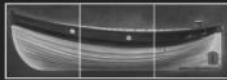
LOCAL LYNX

BALE - BINHAM - COCKTHORPE - FIELD DALLING
GUNTHORPE - LANGHAM - MORSTON
SAXLINGHAM - SHARRINGTON - STIFFKEY

ISSUE 155

April - May
2024

This Spring, the Lynx is talking rubbish... and it makes sense.



MARITIME : HERITAGE : CENTRE

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**ADS DIRECTORY now on back page and at
www.locallynx.co.uk**

Church Services for Bale and Stiffkey Benefice for April and May 2024

HC=Holy Communion. CFS=Church Family Service. MP=Morning Prayer. BCP=Book of Common Prayer CW- Common Worship

Parish	7 th April	14 th April	21 st April	28 th April
Bale	9.30am HC			
Field Dalling		11.00am CFS	At Saxlingham	11.00am MP BCP
Saxlingham		At Field Dalling	11.00am HC	At Field Dalling
Gunthorpe		11.00am MP BCP		
Sharrington	9.30am MP BCP	9.30am HC	9.30am MP CW	9.30am HC
Binham	11.00am HC	11.00am MP	11.00am MP	9.30am HC
Morston	9.30am HC BCP		9.30am MP BCP	
Langham	At Stiffkey	9.30am MP BCP	At Stiffkey	9.30am MP BCP
Stiffkey	9.30am MP BCP	At Langham	9.30am HC BCP	At Langham

Parish	5 th May	12 th May	19 th May Whitsun	26 th May Trinity Sunday
Bale	9.30am HC		9.30am HC	
Field Dalling		11.00am CFS	At Saxlingham	11.00am MP BCP
Saxlingham		At Field Dalling	11.00am MP	At Field Dalling
Gunthorpe		11.00am MP BCP		
Sharrington	9.30am MP BCP	9.30am HC	9.30am MP CW	9.30am HC
Binham	11.00am MP	11.00am MP		9.30am HC
Morston	9.30am HC BCP		9.30am MP BCP	
Langham	At Stiffkey	9.30am MP BCP	At Stiffkey	9.30am MP BCP
Stiffkey	9.30am MP BCP	At Langham	9.30am HC BCP	At Langham

Additional Services

9th May (Ascension Day): Langham, Ascension Day Service 12 noon.

Zoom services: 7th April and 5th May at 5pm. For details please contact Ian Newton on 07979 598020 or iannewton46@gmail.com.



RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends and Parishioners,

After what seemed an interminable winter, we are at a lovely time of the year, despite the horrors of the world, and we remember what we are called to do – from the First Epistle [Letter] of St. John, chapter 2 verse 28: 'And now little children, abide in him'.

From this position of absolute Security, we can then serve our fellow men and women and work to save the beautiful world which we've been lent. And after fourteen years in these lovely parishes, my gratitude simply becomes greater.

From that position we can reach out to people we might not like, or understand – not to make them like ourselves, but to share the love of God, revealed to us in our Lord Jesus Christ in whose light and love we stand, at ease with non-believers and friends of other Faiths.

Twenty six years ago I left The Hague, where eight hundred people came to church, my church (plenty go to other places!), but whether it's eight or eight hundred our constants are the same. A very long time ago in Cambridge one church had a huge poster saying 'Alleluia. Christ is Risen'; and another one said 'Don't let worry kill you. Let the Church help.' Unforgettable. Let us love.

Yours most truly,
Ian Whittle The Rectory, Langham 01328 830246

*Composed upon Westminster Bridge,
September 3, 1802*

Earth has not anything to show more fair:
Dull would he be of soul who could pass by
A sight so touching in its majesty:
This City now doth, like a garment, wear
The beauty of the morning: silent, bare,
Ships, towers, domes, theatres, and temples lie
Open unto the fields, and to the sky,
All bright and glittering in the smokeless air.
Never did sun more beautifully steep
In his first splendour valley, rock, or hill;
Ne'er saw I, never felt, a calm so deep!
The river glideth at his own sweet will:
Dear God! the very houses seem asleep;
And all that mighty heart is lying still!

William Wordsworth (1770-1850)

ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Back Lane Blakeney NR25 7NP

Mass Sunday - 11am

Wednesday - 9.30am

Holyday of Obligation 9.30am

www.catholicparishofwalsingham.org

LOOKING AFTER LOCAL LYNX

Local Lynx is a not-for-profit community paper covering the villages of Bale, Binham, Cockthorpe, Field Dalling, Gunthorpe, Langham, Morston, Saxlingham, Sharrington and Stiffkey.

Published every other month, it contains community news as well as news and articles from each of the villages together with details of church services and news from the local school in Langham.

Currently distributed to over 1,100 households it has an estimated readership of over 2,000 as well as over 800 readers on-line at www.locallynx.co.uk.

The paper is produced entirely by volunteers with the editor supported by village reps who collate the stories, distributors who pop the paper through each letterbox, proof readers who try to catch the typos, a designer who can add style and of course those that write the interesting articles and news.

Financially the paper is supported by the parish councils and parochial church councils of the villages concerned and by the wonderful local businesses who place their adverts with us. We also have great support from our readers. If you like what you read and would like to make a contribution to the running costs of the paper then these can be made by contacting the editor at lynxeditor@pobox.com or by direct bank transfer to: Local Paper a/c 65004288 sort code 09-01-54.

Lynx Internet Banking and Standing Orders
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HIRE YOUR LOCAL VILLAGE HALL

If you are planning a public event or private party, our benefice's village halls cater for all shapes and sizes at very reasonable rates. Think "community" and get in touch to find out more.

Binham Memorial Hall (max 150) contact: see **page 26** for details

Field Dalling & Saxlingham Villagers' Hall (max. 100) contact: booking@fdands.org

Gunthorpe Village Institute contact: 01263 860051 toni_lin@btinternet.com

Langham Village Hall (max. 100) contact: 01328 831829

Morston Village Hall (max. 70) contact: 01263 740038

Sharrington Village Hall (max. 90) contact: see **page 11** for details



COMMUNITY NEWS

RURAL LITTER

One Sunday in February walking to Bale I noticed with horror how much litter there was on the verges of Bale road. You notice much more when you walk than when you drive, not least because on our narrow road you are too busy looking out for oncoming cars to gaze out of the car window. On my return journey, having been given a bin liner by a friend, I decided I had to attempt a clear up. By the time I got to the church, less than a mile away, the bin bag was bursting at the seams, beer cans, coke cans, sweet and chocolate wrappers, polystyrene coffee cups, including two marked 'McDonalds at Aldiss' (who knew?). I don't think for a moment the culprits live in my village of Sharrington, or indeed in any of the other villages in the benefice. Readers of the Lynx by definition care about the state of our communities and the lanes that link them. So I realise this complaint will probably go unheeded or even unread. But on the off chance it doesn't, if you are driving through, please could you take the packaging of your snacks home with you. It's not a very big ask.

AS



PINPOINT INFO

How to be a Litter Champion

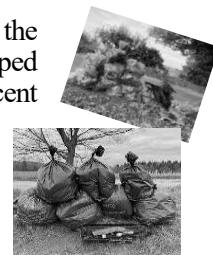
With spring and summer on the horizon, the dropping of litter popped into our conversation at a recent editor's meeting. Spurred on by several good articles received from the villages, I have asked our very own litter expert, Binham rep Paul Bailey, if he would tell us all how we might help. Paul is a volunteer litter champion for our area, working closely with NNDC's specialist team. All the photos of rubbish in this issue are examples of his extraordinary commitment and determination to keep our countryside litter-free.

So, here is how you can do it on a grand scale but remember, picking up just one piece of litter means there is one less piece of litter for animals and plants to battle.

Hi Roberta,

I've had a response back from my contact at NNDC's Environmental Services Team, in terms of whether the support that is extended to me, could be made available to others.

Basically, if someone wanted to organise a group litter



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picking session, they could contact NNDC , fill in a form and they would be afforded the following support:



- A supply of free bin bags
 - The free loan of litter picker sticks and hoops
- Go to <https://forms.north-norfolk.gov.uk/outreach/contactus.ofml?prepopulate=true&Type=Enquiry>.

Put "community litter pick request" in the subject box and it will be sent through to the correct department.

Good luck, Paul

You can also contact CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) on their very friendly, easy-to-follow website at <https://www.cpre.org.uk/what-we-care-about/litter-and-recycling/cleaner-countryside/>.

Although they don't provide the kit, they have lots of good ideas and ways to get started. The CPRE contact phone number is 02079 812800.

EAST ANGLIAN FILM ARCHIVE

If you are harking back to a time when there was far less litter, do try out the vast East Anglian Film Archive at <https://eafa.org.uk>. I typed in 'Morston' and found my brother-in-law, Dick Hammond [sic] explaining his work as a marine biologist in 1964. *R.Hamond (ed.)*

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

...from Cllr Michael Dalby

County Council Agrees Budget

Councillors have backed a budget that "delivers for Norfolk", in the face of major challenges facing local government.

The key headlines from the budget agreed today are:

£122m of investment to meet demand and cost pressures next year - including £34.6m for inflation, £38m for legislative requirements, £39.7m for demand and demographic issues and £9.6m for policy decisions.

£41.5m of new savings, including £9.6m from transforming how the council operates.

A proposed 4.99% increase in the County Council's share of Council Tax, in line with the Government's capping level (2.99% for general Council Tax and 2% for adult social care). This would increase the Council's share of band D bills to £1,672.11. A 4.99% rise would generate £24.9m.

A small number of the budget proposals have been identified as requiring consultation, as they may relate to a policy or service change. Cabinet will take decisions on these proposals in the summer, after considering the consultation results.

Cabinet to vote on a £457m plan for Norfolk's

Highways and Transport.

The proposals, which are due to be discussed at Norfolk County Council's Cabinet at its meeting on Monday 4th March, cover investment in highways maintenance, cycling and walking schemes, traffic management and public transport infrastructure across Norfolk between now and 2027.

Further allocations from the £10m investment in highway maintenance by Norfolk County Council are proposed, alongside £4.51m from the Network North Road Resurfacing Fund 2024/25. These works include resurfacing roads and footways, bridge maintenance and regular activities such as surface dressing.

The investment, set out over the financial year 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27, includes funding from Norfolk County Council, the Department for Transport, developer contributions such as Section 106 and CIL funds and other sources of funding. The element to be paid by Norfolk County Council in 2024/25 was approved earlier this week as part of Norfolk County Council's budget, which councillors voted on at the Full Council meeting on Tuesday 20th February.

The Capital Programme also covers work on major schemes, including the Long Stratton Bypass, Norwich Western Link and West Winch Housing Access Road.

The three year plan follows the Government's 2023 autumn statement, which proposed funding allocations for 2024/25 through to 2026/27. The plan also includes funding from a number of other streams, including the Transforming Cities Fund and the Bus Service Improvement Funds from which Norfolk County Council has successfully secured funding.

The council's cabinet is recommended to approve the latest schemes when it meets at 10am on Monday, 4th March. The papers for the meeting are available online. The meeting will be livestreamed and a recording available to view afterwards on the County Council's Democratic Services YouTube channel.

Have your Say on Norfolk Saving Proposals

These proposals are part of £41.5m of savings that Norfolk County Council needs to make to balance its budget for 2024/25. The Council faces difficult decisions to deliver on its ambitions for the people of Norfolk against a difficult economic climate and more than a decade of reduced funding.

These proposals fall within the councils' Community and Environmental Services department, which includes Norfolk Highways, Libraries, Museums, Waste Management and the Norfolk Record Office.

The three proposals being launched today are:

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PILATES

Binham Memorial Hall

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Advanced Pilates 8:30 - 9:30
Intermediate Pilates 9:45 - 10:45
Beginners Pilates 11:00 - 12:00

Contact Susi on 07515 834729 or
thereflexologystudio@hotmail.co.uk

1. Street lighting: To switch off some streetlights across Norfolk in areas where it is considered safe and appropriate to do so.

2. Norfolk Record Office (NRO): To introduce pre-booking of visits and change opening hours.

3. Recycling centres: To reduce opening hours at some recycling centres to deliver a more consistent approach, in line with neighbouring authorities.

Between them these proposals could save approximately £457,000 a year.

The council is consulting the public on these proposals from today, 15th February, to midnight on 22nd March 2024. The consultation survey is available on the council's Citizen Space platform at: www.norfolk.gov.uk/savingsproposals.

Proposals on streetlighting involve switching off 2% of streetlights across the county to save money and reduce carbon emissions. Norfolk County Council has identified 34 locations where the council plans to switch off some street lights. This represents 1.35% of the Council's target of 2%. Further locations will be identified at a later date.

Approximately 1,000 of the 54,000 street lights that the county council manages across the county would be switched off under these plans. It is expected that this could save up to £200,000 per year and cut carbon emissions annually by 76 tonnes, providing an environmental benefit and significantly contributing towards the council's climate strategy.

The proposal for introducing pre-booking and changing the opening hours of the Norfolk Record Office would extend the current limited Friday service to a Thursday with the same 10am to 4pm opening hours and maintains a full service on Tuesday and Wednesday from 9.30am until 5pm.

Finally, proposals to reduce the opening hours at some recycling centres in Norfolk would see 13 recycling centres close on a Wednesday, in line with the centres in neighbouring Suffolk. The additional six recycling centres in Norfolk operate part time and are already closed on Wednesdays. This proposal could save around £200,000 a year.

Michael.Dalby.cllr@Norfolk.gov.uk 07306886552

COUNTY COUNCILLOR NOTES

...from Cllr Steffan Aquarone
Flooding, Tidal Surges and Sewage

As many of you will be aware, flooding, tidal surges, and sewage spilling into fields and river have been severe issues in parts of North Norfolk recently, increasing in frequency.

I have no doubt that many of you can think of

somewhere locally that has been affected in the past few weeks, with the situation not improving. The impact this has had on communities across Norfolk is huge, with many residents worried about these issues and reaching out for help, yet unable to get preventative measures put in on their properties to reduce risk. This is clearly unacceptable, especially considering bacteria risks from Norfolk waterways post-sewage spills.

It's clear that there is a great disparity between what the County Council can afford to invest in, and the size of the job that needs to be done. It's one reason I've called for a dedicated Coastal Minister, who could work to combat erosion, stop sewage spills, improve flood prevention and ease the housing crisis. Some temporary solutions are being brought forward for those areas most at risk, and least safe, however it is clear we need a real change when it comes to how water management is dealt with, across sectors. In the meantime, I'm interested in exploring what other solutions could be used.

I'd Be Grateful for Feedback from Readers

Flood prevention has often focused on getting water away as quickly as possible into the river systems. But with the likelihood of longer, drier summers, there could be cause to consider greater use of water storage too. I'd be grateful for feedback from readers on any of these three questions: - What aspect of flooding and water management is causing you greatest concern? - To what extent do you think central vs local government should be funding measures to combat flooding and coastal erosion? - Are there opportunities near you that could help with water attenuation (slowing or indeed storing)?

Though coastal erosion and flooding have been longstanding common issues in North Norfolk, as they are part of the natural system, it's clear these issues are being exacerbated by climate change. As things stand, we need to work quickly and effectively to reduce the risk in the foreseeable future of land loss across the Norfolk coastline. I look forward to hearing from you.

steffan.aquarone.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk 07879 451608.

County Councillors' contact details:

Michael Dalby: County Councillor Wells Division - Glaven, Priory and Walsingham Parishes (incl. Binham & Cockthorpe, Brinton & Sharrington, Field Dalling & Saxlingham, Langham, Morston, Stiffkey) michaeljdblues@outlook.com

Steffan Aquarone: County Councillor Melton Constable Division (incl. Bale and Gunthorpe Parishes) steffanaquarone@gmail.com or 07879 451608



NORTH NORFOLK OPEN STUDIOS

.....◇..... ROSAMOND ULPH◇.....

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JUNE 1·2
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DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

...from Dr. Victoria Holliday

Democratic Services for Parish Councils

Democratic Services can now help with temporary clerking support for councils and providing advice to chairmen and Cllrs and procedural matters.

Planning

The long awaited 10% Biodiversity Net Gain is now required for major developments, and still comes in for other developments on 2nd April this year.

Councils affected by nutrient neutrality can share in £9.6m awarded on their behalf to Broadland DC who are the formal decision makers with input from the various planning directors to ensure distribution across all areas affected.

Norfolk Environmental Credits (of which NNDC is a shareholder) has started selling its first nutrient neutrality credits. Hopefully this will start housebuilding in affected areas.

Part of the Planning Service Improvement Plan is to introduce a new Local Validation List to set out what information and documents are needed to submit a planning application. This will go out to public consultation.

Benefits

The Financial Inclusion team has generated £680k in additional income for households struggling financially in North Norfolk. They increase income to households by unclaimed benefits, council support and food and energy grants and vouchers. If anyone would like to be referred, please email financial.inclusion@north-norfolk.gov.uk.

Almost £86k has been awarded in Discretionary Housing Payments to support tenancy queues, homelessness prevention, and to support people to stay within the community.

As of 31st January, there were 2,546 households on the housing waiting list. 197 homes were let so far this year. There were 61 households in temporary accommodation and 7 rough sleepers in January.

NNDC was able to purchase 11 additional affordable homes with government funding some of which are now available to rent. Another four were purchased for refugees.

There are 350 affordable homes in the pipeline of which 38 will be completed in 2023/24.

I am chairing a Task & Finish Group (a sub group of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee) looking into causes and prevention of and solutions to homelessness. We hope to report back in a couple of months which will

explain what more we can do to reduce the number of homeless households in our district.

The Integrated Housing Adaptations Team have spent over £1m of the Disabled Facilities Grant.

Sustainable growth

Grants of £389k from the Rural England Prosperity Fund have been offered to businesses and community groups for net zero infrastructure, diversification of rural businesses, funding for community groups and volunteering.

Grants of £311k from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund have been awarded to community infrastructure projects, the local visitor economy, supporting digitalisation and developing a business support programme.

Environmental Services

Serco is proposing another rounds change starting 8th April, caused by the change in location of the waste disposal site for recyclables. There will be information coming out from Serco very shortly. Let's hope that it's better implemented than last time! As ever, contact me with problems though apparently the Serco Customer Care Centre is working well.

Blakeney Surgery Update

Health bosses (in the form of the Integrated Care Board) met in January to decide the fate of Blakeney Surgery. The good news is they didn't agree to close it, but, unfortunately, they didn't decide to keep it open. What they did agree was another round of consultation with patients, which sounds good except that it will only be about how and where we Blakeney patients get our medication.

Let me explain how this is wrong.

Our ability to see a GP or nurse at Blakeney was taken away before Covid. If we had been consulted at that time - as was our right - we would have protested strongly. But we weren't given that opportunity.

We asked health bosses if they would do that consultation now, but so far they have refused, saying it would be inappropriate to do this now for something that happened in the past. They have only offered to ask our opinion regarding the meds collection which is all that Blakeney now offers.

This is hugely disappointing. Blakeney Parish Council has been fighting for three years to keep Blakeney Surgery open and offering doctor and nurse appointments as well as meds. We know how much this means to you. After all, 1,500 of you signed our petition to Save Blakeney Surgery and many hundreds wrote letters and filled in questionnaires. We know you don't

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at a *Keitidh!* that makes a difference with Chris Davis calling...
in
Cley Village Hall
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7.00 - 11.00pm
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want to make a major expedition to get to one of the other surgeries, or feel you live in a healthcare desert.

A med's service in Blakeney is essential but we don't think it's enough. We want some way of seeing a doctor or nurse in Blakeney, even if it's not at the surgery. We want some form of transport to take us to Kelling or Melton for urgent or specialised appointments. We want well-being clinics in the community. Given how much better off the practice should be if it closes Blakeney Surgery, we think these are the least they can offer.

We will keep fighting to get you all we can. *VH*

District Councillors' Contact Details:

Sarah Butikofer e:sarah.butikofer@north-norfolk.gov.uk
(Binham/Cockthorpe, Field Dalling/Saxlingham, Gunthorpe/
Bale, Langham)

Andrew Brown e:andrew.brown@north-norfolk.gov.uk
(Sharrington) 07970 298695

Victoria Holliday:(Morston & Stiffkey)
victoria.holliday@north-norfolk.gov.uk

GLAVEN CARING DIARY DATES

April is a busy month at Glaven Caring - both at the centre in Blakeney and at our fundraising events.

Our Spring coffee morning will take place in the Harbour Room Blakeney on 6th April from 10am to 12 noon. Delicious cake stall, a fabulous raffle, tombola and bric-a-brac. Bring your family and friends – all welcome for a coffee or cuppa. Lots of parking.

We will be hosting on the first Tuesday of every month a Coffee and Cake Morning at the Glaven Centre - starting Tuesday 2nd April 10am – 12pm with coffee, simnel cake and hot cross buns to tempt you. Bring your friends for a chat – and pop a donation in our box.

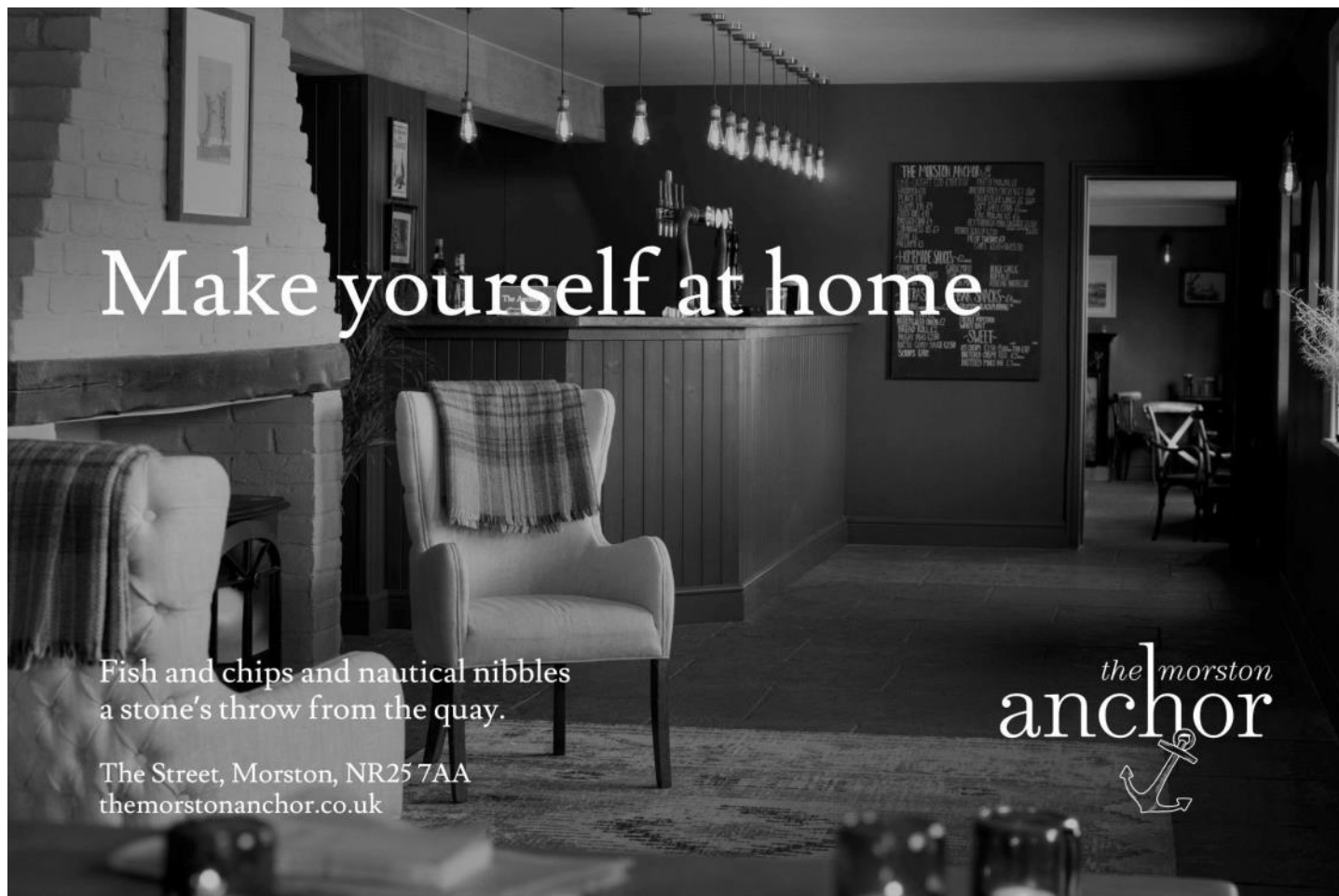
Our Glaven Caring 50th celebrations are well under way – save the date for our 50th wine and cheese evening in the grounds of Bayfield Hall on 22nd June from 6pm to 8.30pm. Tickets will be on sale shortly and if you would like to be added to our 'interested list' please do email us at rsvp@glaven.caring.co.uk.

Thanks as always to our volunteers and clients – we do so enjoy seeing you all. And if you know of a friend or neighbour who might like to come along to Glaven Caring, please do get in touch. Please do follow us on facebook @GlavenCaring for regular updates and all our daily news.

HEALTHWATCH NORFOLK

It has been a busy start to 2024 at Healthwatch Norfolk. We started the year with the launch of our SMI Carers survey alongside Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust to find out more about the experiences of carers of adults with serious mental illness in Norfolk. Hearing directly from them will create a better understanding of their experiences and will help provide recommendations on how their experiences can be improved. The term serious mental illness, or SMI, is often used in healthcare settings and refers to psychological problems that are often so debilitating that people's ability to engage in functional and occupational activities is severely impaired. Common diagnoses associated with SMI include schizophrenia, bi-polar disorder and psychosis.

Our engagement team have also been busy visiting various communities across the county. We recently appeared at the 'Cuppa Care' morning at Northrepps village hall, hosted by 'Hear for Norfolk'. Other teams recently attended a careers fair at Thomas Clarkson



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Academy in Wisbech and visited students at Fakenham sixth form to gather feedback from young people on their experiences of health and social care.

We would love to hear from you if you have any feedback to share with us. If you or someone you know cares for someone with a serious mental illness our survey can be completed at healthwatchnorfolk.co.uk

Alex Stewart

FAKENHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

Tickets are in high demand for the highlight of Fakenham Choral Society's 50th anniversary season. Performing Verdi's dramatic Requiem, this highly regarded choir's concert is sure to be a sell out. The event will take place at Fakenham Parish Church at 7pm on Saturday, 20th April.

"We are delighted to have attracted such prestigious singers to join us." says choir vice-chairman, Rosemary Dear. "It's only very rarely that a concert on such a grand scale comes to Fakenham and it's a real privilege to be able to perform this amazing work for our local community." Mark Jones, the choir's musical director, will lead the chorus, full orchestra and international soloists Claire Weston, Beth Mackay, Daniel Bartlette and Alex Ashworth, in what is sure to be an unforgettable night of music making.

Tickets are £20 and can be purchased by calling 01485 544335, or online at www.fakenhamchoralsociety.org

Fiona Thompson



BALE

Contact: David Bridge
david@bridgeifa.co.uk

THOUGHTS FROM BALE

It was the floating Costa cup that first drew my attention to it. Then as a passing car drove through it, I



knew from the resulting thump that this pot hole was a deep one. I wandered down Field Dalling Road and retrieved the discarded cup, presumably from a passing

Morston Boat Yard

Indoor and outdoor storage for boats and trailers
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vehicle but okay to be chucked unceremoniously into the english countryside. Seems to be standard practice these days, keeps your car or van tidy after all.

It was only then that I realised the size of the hole in the road. This was very likely to be seen from space and it was going to take some filling. Luckily we are about a year out from local and national elections so, this was going to be easy. Low and behold two days later, after further thumps and probably much cursing from the drivers, a flat bed official vehicle arrived. Once he had shooed the ducks away from the 'pond', the operative set to work on the technical stuff. Tarmac was shovelled in the hole and then the shovel was employed to 'smack it' (a technical term), which has surprisingly worked as the pot hole has not yet returned, although time will tell.

Pot holes and litter do now seem to be a constant problem, like speeding, particularly down the road through our village to the coast at Morston. It seems that because sat navs are sending vehicles down the shortest routes we are getting increasing volumes particularly in the summer months. I suppose as a population we do deserve this, as sat navs are now part of the driving test rather than road maps and reading road signs. Probably explains why people drive into rivers and down bridleways. Don't you just love technology?

As a consequence of all this we also appear to be getting an increase in HGV's & delivery vehicles on this road, which is not designed for the increase in volume, rather than them taking the signposted routes to Blakeney and the coast. Seems to me measures need to be taken to reduce the damage caused by this increase in traffic whether it be speeding, littering or pot holes. Let's hope we can get it done this year before the elections or we will have to wait for another electoral

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SUNDAY 5th MAY

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cycle, until they are interested in us again.

Anyway Happy Easter to you all and please dispose of any Easter Egg packaging responsibly. *David Bridge*

WILD BALE

Littering along the 260,000 miles of roads found in the UK kills three million birds and mammals each year. Much of this litter is in the form of fast food and takeaway packaging which is attractive to animals. Many animals and birds are killed outright by vehicles. Though the dangers of becoming entangled, trapped and poisoned are also the cause of many deaths.

60% of water pollution is caused by littering with cigarette butts, these have both arsenic and formaldehyde, which is released when they are wet. Micro-particles, which are present in many items and cause the death of over 100 million marine animals each year, are also a very common pollutant of our water ways mainly from plastic bottles.

A 45 minute walk around Bale will normally result in the collection of twenty items once a week. The main source is alcohol containers, beer cans, cider bottles as well as Red Bull and plastic wrappers from sandwiches and other food items. These are almost certainly thrown from moving vehicles by visitors or often tradespeople.

Shrews, mice and hedgehogs can be cut or even trapped by metal cans and food items can be sources of diseases and bacteria. Birds get tangled in plastic bags, netting and in particular balloons.

When I visit Blakeney Point on my bird watching trips I take a litter bag with me to collect the balloons caught along the shingle ridge and saltmarsh. The long streamers on the balloons can wrap themselves around the unsuspecting legs of gulls, wildfowl and the larger waders, which often results in their death. I often collect five to seven balloons on each trip. Last year I picked up 432 balloons which are often used for celebrating a birthday, wedding or even school events. The release location of these balloons can sometimes be found as they may have corporate logos embossed on them or there are notes inside. In April one year I found two balloons within 500 metres of each other on Blakeney Point. One, or I should say a group of seven balloons with two



National Highways campaign featuring three of the animals most vulnerable to harm and death by roadside rubbish; a rabbit, a squirrel and a hedgehog.

metre streamers, from a wedding in the Netherlands and one from a holiday park in Belgium. The balloons had travelled 500 km over night on a south east wind. The wedding balloons had a note in which included the wedding date and location. I emailed both but received no reply, though a solicitor in Manchester did email me to say that they would no longer offer balloons to customers after I found one of theirs in Blakeney Harbour.

All of you reading this do not litter but perhaps we could all be better at picking litter up when we see it. *Paul Laurie*

BALE BOOK GROUP

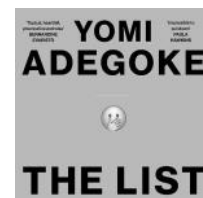
The List by Yomi Adegoke

The List is the debut novel from Yomi Adegoke. The main character is Ola Olajide, a high-profile journalist who is marrying the love of her life in one month's time. Young, beautiful, successful – she and her fiancé Michael seem to have it all. That is, until one morning when they both wake up to the same message, ‘Oh my god, have you seen the list?’

It began as a list of anonymous allegations about abusive men. Now it has been published online. Ola made her name breaking exactly this type of story. She would usually be the first to cover it, calling for the men to be fired. Except today, Michael’s name is on there.

With their future on the line, Ola gives Michael an ultimatum to prove his innocence by their wedding day, but will the truth of what happened change everything for both of them?

The novel received superlative reviews, ‘The Book Of The Summer... Sure to inspire frenzied debate’, ‘A page-turner that you can’t second guess’, ‘Impossible to put down. The hype is real’, ‘Fun and thought-provoking... A book that’s just right for our times’, ‘Punchy, topical and



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hugely thought-provoking', 'The hottest book of the summer... an incredible commentary on the internet' and 'Every book club should read this'.

It was just before Christmas and the group wanted a not too challenging read for the period. So far so good. Unfortunately *The List* just didn't live up to the expectations. I broke my principle that you should have read a book before putting forward to the book group and when we met I had to apologise profusely for choosing such a dire read.

I had thought it may offer some intelligent post Me Too insights but there were none. Only shallow, unlikeable characters and a plot that came to nothing. I won't spoil the ending, should anyone want to read the book after this unflattering review. Nor was there any exploration of lives destroyed by similar allegations.

We did end up having a good discussion although more about what could have been rather than what was. The book offered no depth of thought, the character's motivations and reasoning were difficult to grasp, and it brought nothing sensitive or fresh.

It seemed like a lost opportunity to bring something that benefited the overall conversation. I guess the author wasn't up to the challenge.

Victoria Kurrein

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Bale village hall is becoming quite the meeting place these days. The Committee's plan since the refurbishment a few years ago, has been to establish our hall as the hub of the village and, little by little we seem to be reaching this objective. 21st January saw the first Sunday brunch, thanks to John and Ann Wall (and helpers), who provided a feast which attracted around 30 people, enjoying the wide-ranging menu and socialising with others from Bale and beyond. This "experiment" was universally acknowledged to be a success and will be repeated on 7th April, from 10am with last orders at 11.30am. There will again be a full buffet plus cooked option & tea/coffee, for £7 per person. To assist in planning, please let John and Ann know via the village WhatsApp if you intend to drop in, with approximate arrival time.

Another new addition to the village offering is a pilates class, with the inaugural session on 6th March, taught by Tracey Mulcahy. Classes are from 10-11am and cost £7.50 per session, payable termly in advance. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Alastair via the village WhatsApp or 07501 834038.

On Wednesday 24th April at 6.45pm there will be an opportunity to meet our local councillors, including our

County Council representative Steffan Aquarone, at the Annual Parish Meeting. This is a chance to talk about issues of local interest or concern in an informal atmosphere (the bar will be open) so please come along and air your views.

This year, it has been decided that our "charity event" will be a coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer Care on Saturday 18th May from 10.30am. Please come and enjoy coffee (other beverages also available) and delicious homemade cakes, have a chat and try your luck in the raffle, all in support of this excellent cause.

Our regular Fish & Chips will be on 12th April and 10th May at 7pm. Please note, Anne would like orders by 5pm (i.e. an hour earlier than previously) so that she has time to collate all the various requirements before phoning them through at 6pm. Your cooperation is much appreciated.

The Bale Oak Bar will be open for business 6.30-9.30pm on 26th April and 24th May. Don't forget that if you would like to channel your inner barman/barmaid, volunteers are welcome to join the staffing rota. *P.Moore*

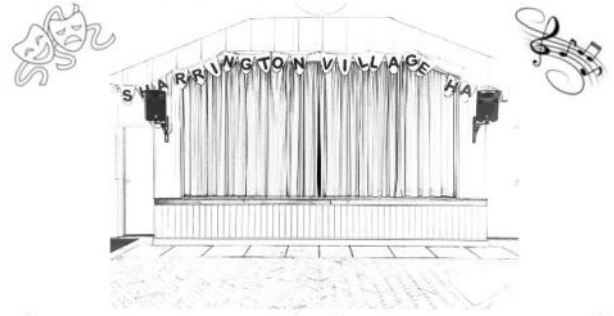
BALE 100 CLUB

The annual subscription to the 100 Club is £12 per number and there is no limit to how many numbers you can buy. Each month four prizes are awarded, first prize being £25. The draw is held at Fish and Chips evenings on the second Friday of each month in the village hall.

To join online, pay £12 per number into account 20510658, sort code 82-11-07, using 100 and your surname as the reference. The account name is Bale Village Hall and it is a business account.

If you prefer to pay by cash or card, please speak to a Bale Village Hall Committee Member at Fish and Chips (second Friday of each month) or Bale Oak Bar (fourth Friday of each month).

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100 Club Results

January	February
1 st Jude Ryan	1 st Rebecca Cebrat
2 nd Naomi Doye	2 nd Katie Jewitt
3 rd Freddie Powney	3 rd Anne Peppitt
4 th Cameron Thomas	4 th Julian Head

BALE PAINTING GROUP

The Bale Painting Group is still active at the village hall, which is a warm, safe space to create art.

Dramatic landscapes, both real and imaginary, and also Chinese style ink painting has been the focus of recent weeks. We are always looking for additional people so if you or someone you know would like to come along everyone is welcome.

The sessions are every Monday from 1pm to 4pm, running currently through until 22nd July, excluding bank holidays. You can contact us using the email address: TheBalePaintingGroup@outlook.com or just pitch up at the village hall on a Monday afternoon. *Peter Jones*

BALE FETE 2024

This year's Bale Fete will be on Saturday 1st June, fittingly the official first day of summer. Let's hope this bodes well for the weather. There will be the usual array of stalls, sideshows and refreshments, all to the accompaniment of the excellent Cromer and Sheringham Band. For anyone who is new to the area, the occasion takes place in the garden of Manor Farm, gates opening at 2pm.

The fete is a great village tradition, with a coming-together of all those who help with stalls, raffles and catering. Also those from far and wide who come to find a bargain or simply enjoy a traditional afternoon out.

We look forward to seeing a good crowd in the sunshine,

raising funds for the church and the village hall. Walter would be pleased to hear from anyone who is able to lend a hand before or during the afternoon, so if you are available and willing please contact him on 07778 620015. Donations of plants, preserves and home-made cakes will be very welcome on the day and any other donations for sale (bric-a-brac, books, jumble and "nearly new" items) can either be given to stallholders (a list will be available on WhatsApp) or dropped off at Manor Farm in advance. Many thanks. *Paula Moore*

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

At time of writing, our church is looking quite drab – on the exterior because of the relentless gloomy weather and in the interior because it is the season of Lent, so all flowers have been removed. However, Easter Sunday is 31st March (very early this year) and whereas we can hope that the sun will be shining on the building and churchyard, we can guarantee that the inside will be a riot of colour with beautiful arrangements by the altar and atop the font, accompanied by flashes of golden daffodils on windowsills. There will be a "sung" Holy Communion service on Easter morning at 9.30am.

In April and May, our Communion services will be at 9.30am on 7th April, 5th May and 19th May. Please note there is no service on 21st April as Tim Fawcett will be away and no replacement is available. *Paula Moore*

BINHAM

Contact: Paul Bailey 07401 315714
paulbailey04@aol.com

BINHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The months seem to be whizzing by. March is here and the meteorological spring has commenced as the weather forecasters keep reminding us. The question is, will the weather change to brighter spring days rather than the gloom and wet of February over the next few months?

Following on from my last report there are one or two updates and reminders. Firstly, water still seems to appear from nowhere especially after yet another downpour, gentle constant drizzle or rainfall. The water table is high and hence large pools/ponds appearing in the roadside fields, finding its way off the fields via the full roadside ditches to form rivulets running downhill to the nearest drain. This has been especially noticeable on the Hindringham and Field

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Dalling roads, Front Street, Back Street and Langham Road, pooling by the river. Unfortunately, the road edges (repaired many times) are collapsing into some nasty potholes making driving tricky as often camouflaged by pooling water, so care is needed. Despite all of this, the main drainage system of the villages seems to be holding up, running freely, but in some instances overwhelmed by sheer volume. Do please keep an eye on the road drains near you and clear away accumulated vegetation and silt if possible or notify Highways of such problems (www.norfolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roads/report-a-problem). Secondly, and because of the rain, the village green is wet. May I remind those who have permissive access to properties via the green to be mindful of the damage that crossing or parking on the green may cause in such circumstances. Similarly, parking on or passing close to the green's edges creates furrows and break down signalling it's okay to do that as a matter of routine, which of course it is not.

The PC will be discussing with the Parochial Church Council how both councils can work together to maintain the churchyard and parish cemetery to ensure a safe and peaceful place to visit the graves of family and loved ones. Interestingly, the rules and regulations for the upkeep and presentation of both are not dissimilar. Recently, whilst strimming around headstones, a camouflaged glass vase shattered, resulting in a piece of glass caught under the gardener's visor. Thankfully no major damage was done. However, it does prompt consideration of what can be left on headstones plinths and for how long. The intention is to place a notice of simple reminders on the churchyard notice board. The cemetery brown bin as all such bins is for disposal of biodegradable vegetation and not plastic wrapping, ribbons, wire or water bottles. A smaller black bin for non-biodegradable rubbish has recently been placed and should be used accordingly. Both bins are emptied monthly.

I hope that if anyone has a problem, or feels the need to draw something to the parish council's attention that they would not hesitate to contact either myself (Lizsdavenport@gmail.com), or Mrs Sarah Hayden, the PC Clerk (sarah352hayden@btinternet.com). Unless we are informed, it is impossible to act appropriately on behalf of the parish. *Elizabeth S Brady, Chair Binham PC*

BINHAM PRIORY CHURCH

The February/March weeks of the new year are generally a quiet time for the church. The regular cycle of Sunday services is maintained and the church is open daily by 10am, to at least 4pm, and often a little later as the evenings get lighter. We are getting a few visitors daily who

are leaving some lovely comments in the visitor's book. It's worth looking through and realising we have such a very special 900 year old building on our doorstep.

As we look forward to the build up to Easter, the enthusiastic team of floral decorators will be hunting for flowers and greenery. We would be delighted for new volunteers to join in, so the church can be awash with floral decorations for the 31st March, Easter Sunday Service, including Holy Communion starting at 9.30am. We will be delighted to welcome parishioners and visitors, and refresh all with tea or coffee afterwards. *David Frost*

BINHAM MEMORIAL HALL

Now the days are lengthening and spring flowers are bringing life and colour to our village again, hopefully we can start to get out and enjoy all the forthcoming events at our village hall.

If you need to refresh your wardrobe with some designer and high street brands at discount prices, then the Fashion Evening at 7pm on 20th April, is for you. Come and grab a bargain and enjoy an evening with friends. Tickets cost £5 and must be purchased prior to 6th April, from any committee member. Bar available.

We have just marked a year of social evenings at the village hall, 7pm - 9pm on the last Thursday of each month and they continue to be well attended. It would be great to see some new faces, so do come along and enjoy an evening of fun and games, chat and refreshments. With the longer evenings ahead, maybe we can have a game of something outside too.

The Cosy Club is also a chance to get together, from 2pm - 4pm on the third Wednesday of each month, for a cuppa and a piece of cake.

The village hall's AGM will be held at 7pm on Tuesday, 23rd April, when we can come together to talk about our past year and our plans for the future. New ideas and suggestions are always welcome. The AGM will be followed immediately afterwards by a meeting of the Parish Council.

Finally, a note of thanks from all of the VH team to Nigel Brown, who is stepping down from his role on the committee. We thank Nigel for his help, enthusiasm and commitment to the village hall and its events, since joining in 2022. We hope to see Nigel "on the other side of the bar" soon. *Kevin Howard*



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BINHAM PRIORY CONCERTS

Please make a note in your diaries of these forthcoming concerts:

Saturday, 22nd June, (time TBA)

Viva Voce Singers - This Norwich-based chamber choir of around 25 singers are previous winners of the BBC Radio Norfolk Choir of the Year Competition.

Saturday, 29th June, 6pm

Norfolk Chamber Ensemble are proud to present Pergolesi's Stabat Mater, performed alongside orchestral and vocal works by Handel, Vivaldi and Bach. Performers include the soloists Zaira Palumbo and Jodie Wiggins, sopranos and Dave Ballard as orchestral leader.

Tickets (£18, unallocated) available from 1st May from Wells Maltings Box Office, 01328 710885 (10am-4pm), www.wellsmaltings.org.uk.

Summer Concert Series

Tickets, £20 per concert, with allocated seating, from 1st May from Wells Maltings Box Office, 01328 710885 (10am - 4pm), www.wellsmaltings.org.uk.

Saturday 20th July 6pm

Norwich Baroque - A programme of music to celebrate Musical Flower Gardens of the 17th Century.

Saturday 24th August 6pm

Xuefei Yang (classical guitar) - A programme entitled "From Opposite Sides of the World" including music by Yang, Barrios, Sakamoto, Houghton, Jobin, Piazzolla, Merlin.

Saturday, 31st August, 6pm

Lumas Winds - "The French Connection" features music by Ibert, Sivestrini, Taffanel, Villa-Lobos, Gerhard, Piazzolla.

Saturday 7th September 7.30pm

Pavlo Beznosiuk (*baroque violin*) & Paula Chateaneu (*theorbo*) - A candlelit concert entitled "Viva il Virtuoso – the violin in Italy 1600 – 1750". Music by Marini, Pandolfi, Viviani, Lonati, Corelli, Vivaldi and Tartini *Geoff Scott*

BINHAM ART GROUP

Binham Art Group continues to meet each Tuesday morning from 9.30am to 12.30pm.

The winner of our "Picture of the Month" this time was Robin Townend and his painting will shortly be displayed in The Chequers Gallery. The Gallery has recently had all the pictures changed over in our quarterly sequence and if you have not been there recently it is well worth visiting to take a look at the wide variety of pictures for sale. We also have the opportunity to display some of our work at The Venue in Holt as they are in the process of making space available

to us to display paintings.

We are currently thinking ahead to our Summer Exhibition, which this year will be on 12th 13th & 14th July. Members are already preparing their creations so that they can be ready to display at the exhibition. The exhibition will follow its usual format and will again include a craft table as members of our group often do other artistic craft work as well as painting.

For more information please visit our website at www.binhamartgroup.weebly.com. *Sue Edwards*

BINHAM & HINDRINGHAM OPEN CIRCLE

At the Open Circle's meeting on 18th January a discussion took place on feedback on the questionnaires about the future of the group. We agreed we would continue, would take steps to widen membership and that we would transfer our meetings, where possible, to Binham Village Memorial Hall.

The first meeting at Binham Village Memorial Hall on 15th February was a great success. Upholsterer Lil Priestley shared her journey to becoming an upholsterer and showed us some impressive examples of her work.

Our second meeting was held on 21st March at Hindringham Village Hall. Our speaker was Linda Cripps from Blakeney Neighbourhood Housing Society, which was founded 1946, and aims to provide affordable housing for local people.

On 18th April, back at Binham Village Memorial Hall, we will hear from Sophia Williams, impressionist oil painter from Stiffkey, about her approach to painting, her role as the volunteer trail coordinator for the North Norfolk Open Studios, how to get the most out of Open Studios and the upcoming series of Maritime Mingle events for the charity Rescue Wooden Boats in Stiffkey.



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Open Circle an informal group of women who get together to make friends, learn new things and to raise money for local charities. We meet on the third Thursday of each month at 7.15pm. Annual subscription is £20, visitors are welcome to attend for £3 per meeting.

For further information, or to book a place at a talk, please contact Shirley Collyer on collyershirley@gmail.com or 07711 142147.
Shirley Collyer

BINHAM YARD SALE

This year's yard sale will be held on Sunday 28th July to raise funds for the upkeep of the village's flower boxes.

Anyone wishing to register their intention to join in, should contact Liz Brown on 07435 788221 or Jan Hewitt on 07739 013068.
Liz Brown

THE CHEQUERS COFFEE MORNING

The Chequers will once again be hosting a coffee morning, from 10am - 12pm on Saturday 6th April. All money raised will go towards funding this year's Christmas tree and lights and the Carols at The Chequers event.

There will also be a £20 Challenge, so to find out more, why not come along and join in.

For more information contact Liz Brown on 07435 788221, or Sarah at The Chequers.
Liz Brown

BINHAM MEMORIAL HALL 100+ CLUB WINNERS

January

Paul Woodman £25
Karen Lawrence £10
Alex Wales £5
George Bond £5

February

Anthony Hunt £25
Christine Rand £10
Neil McArthur £5
Jacki Agg £5

Alex Wales £5

John Able £5

Not to put too fine a point on it, for a variety of reasons, month by month we are slowly haemorrhaging members. The 100+ Club contributes vital funds to the village hall's income stream, at a time when our electricity costs are rocketing. For those of you who are currently members, please do stay with us and for those wishing to join, please email paulbailey04@aol.com or call 07401 315714. *PB*

COCKTHORPE

Contact: Maurice Matthews 01328 830350
maurice.matthews@peppard.net

MICHAEL CASE

It is with great regret we announce the death of our farmer Michael Case. Condolences and sympathy are extended from all in our village to Juliet and her family.

FIELD DALLING

Contact: Julie Wiltshire
julie_wilson75@hotmail.com

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

Zoom service Sunday 5th May

A real treat for us as Bishop Jane is preaching on Sunday 5th May at our Zoom evensong. You can enjoy the beautiful words and music of evensong, sitting in the warmth of your



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Do join us by emailing iannewton46@gmail.com. We will show you how easy it is, but you will have to pour your own glass of sherry or make your own cup of tea. And there is also a Zoom service on 7th April.

Farm Walk

Wednesday 29th May (half-term week) 6pm

Come and learn about James Duncan's farm and meet his sheep. £5 a head (children free). Suitable clothes and footwear. Meet at St Andrew's Church, Field Dalling. All welcome.

Annual Church Meeting Sunday 14th April 12 noon

This is our annual meeting to hear about all that has happened during the year; it will follow the family service which is at 11am.

200 CLUB WINNERS

February: £50 Pauline Stanton, £25 Jeannette Moir, £15 Graham Burnett-Hall.

March: £50 David Dumpleton, £25 Scout Moore, £15 John Kirby.

GUNTHORPE

Contact: Jane Paton 07989 534145
jacarwardine@googlemail.com

FOGPC

50/50 Club Draw Results

January		February	
Lynn Marr	£20	Helen Clare	£20
Jeremy Denholm	£15	Collie Sinclair	£15
John Clark	£5	Jeremy Denholm	£5
Dorothy Tomic	£5	Etta Sinclair	£5
Bill Hill	£5	Pat Groves	£5
Mike Whyman	£5	Nuala Howard	£5
Nigel Worthington	£5	Mike Whyman	£5

We still have more draws until the end of the current subscription year in May 2024, so if you have not yet joined why not see if you can join this year's winners' list. If you would like more information on the Friends and 50:50 Club, please contact either Myfi Everett on 01263 860035 or John Blakeley on 01263 861008.

John Blakeley

ST MARY'S CHURCH NEWS

Vivienne Wilson

We mourn the loss of Vivienne Wilson who died on 19th February. She had celebrated her 90th birthday, in fine form, three days before Christmas; and had come to church at Gunthorpe on Sunday the 14th January; but fell terminally ill shortly afterwards.



She faced her death with absolute faith and confidence, looking forward to being reunited with her beloved husband Michael. She was able in her last days to say goodbye at a swiftly convened gathering from over the globe of her large family, including all of her five daughters and thirteen grandchildren. She also had two great grandchildren, and five devoted sons-in law.

Michael retired from their last parish in Rutland in 1997. He was a much loved and widely respected Canon and Rural Dean. They then made their final home in Swallow Cottage in Blakeney, enlarging it into the warmly hospitable house which for decades they and their family had enjoyed in its smaller state for holidays.

On his retirement Michael and Viv promptly adopted Gunthorpe church, Michael assisting the then Rector the Reverend John Penny. He regularly took our services, (including memorably one at Christmas in the Institute when the church tower was undergoing major repairs). They and their family rarely missed the Gunthorpe Fête and other village functions. They were a source of strong solace and help to many of us in the village when needed.

After Michael died in 2015 Viv continued steadfastly to support the church and the village. Her generosity, kindness and enthusiasm were unbounded. She had a special affinity with the young and they adored her. We will all miss her greatly.

The funeral will be at Morston Church at 2pm on Friday 22nd March.


A Talk on the History of the Church

On Sunday 21st April at 5.30pm we greatly look forward to a talk on the history of the church organised by Norfolk Churches Tours, to be followed by Evensong at 6.30pm. All will be very welcome.


FRIENDS OF GUNTHORPE PC


It's 'all go' for the Fete on Sunday 28th July in the Gunthorpe Hall Gardens from 2 to 4 pm.


Jane is already on the case gathering volunteers and booking the band etc. Please set aside items for the stalls




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and volunteer to help setting up before, on the day and clearing away after if you can. This is organised and supported jointly, as in the past, by the village committees and residents. The takings are split half each to the Village Institute and Church. Meetings will start soon to stream-line the efforts and gather as many as possible to help – so please volunteer and add the date to your calendar.

You can contact Jane on 07989534145 or Marie on 01263-861373.

It is with great sadness that I mention Vivienne Wilson's death on 19th of February, shortly after her 90th birthday. Both she and her husband, Cannon Michael Wilson, were great supporters of Gunthorpe Village, Church and The Friends, and will long be remembered for their enthusiastic kindness, leadership, participation and support. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to all the Wilson Family.

Marie Denholm, Friends chairman

SPRING CLEANING?

This is an ideal time of year for a spring clean and if you are embarking on such an endeavour, do consider putting aside anything that might be suitable to sell or make a prize at the Village Fete on Sunday 28th July 2-4pm at Gunthorpe Hall.

As usual all donations can be dropped off at the Village Institute on the Thursday preceding the Fete weekend.

Jane Carwardine

WELCOME

David Cox

A big welcome to David Cox who has moved into Quince Cottage, 20 Swanton Road from Bedford.

He has his own property maintenance business and works part time for Aston Martin as a security co-signer.

Presently, he is still working a few days a week in Bedford but is hoping to be in Gunthorpe full time when he can transfer his work to Norfolk.

Leslie Facer

Another welcome is due to Lesley Facer who has moved to Greengage Cottage, 21 Swanton Road.

Born in March, Cambridgeshire, she worked at Gresham School Sanatorium and looked after two boys in Cawston before moving to London. After nearly 30 years working for British Gas, she relocated to Plymouth and has now made the round trip returning to her East Anglian homeland.

We wish them a very happy time here in Gunthorpe.

Jane Carwardine

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WILDFLOWER APP

Following on from the Merlin Bird App that I recommended last year, for bird identification, here is one for wild plants; Flora Incognita: tried and tested by the charity Plant Life.

This is free to download with no intrusive adverts or other costs involved.

The aim of the Flora Incognita research project is mapping plants; therefore, they record and use the location of where the plants are found.

That means using this app is not only beneficial to your learning, but also makes an important contribution to biodiversity monitoring and research.

This app combines traditional plant identification with the latest methods of AI. To identify, simply click on the plus symbol which takes you through your options.

It is a great way to remind yourself of the names of those wildflowers that you can't quite remember.

Jane Carwardine

GUNTHORPE CHARACTERS

The following article is taken from the "History of Gunthorpe" written by Ray Steffens and completed in the 1970s. This is Part 1 of the section on "Gunthorpe Characters".

There are not many characters or eccentrics in Gunthorpe today. And it would not be polite to mention any, even if you may think there still are. In the past, however, there were characters such as William Fuller, John Peck and Old Alcock. whose names only have to be mentioned, even now, for memories to be stirred and tales to be told.

William Fuller (1865-1945), otherwise known as "Willie Muggins" or "Wiley Willy", was probably the



outstanding character in the village within living memory. Usually a “muggins” is taken to mean a simpleton, but although his life was simple, William Fuller was truly not that. Certain aspects of his life and behaviour seemed to show that his alternative nickname of Wily was the more apt. Although unusual and eccentric, he is not believed to have caused harm to anybody.

William Fuller was born at Gunthorpe in 1865, his parents being Robert Fuller (1838-1921), and Emily (1836-1891). His father Robert, believed to have been called Brewer, was a carpenter on the estate here. The family lived at No 7 Swanton Rd, or nearby, for 50 years or more. There were several other sons in the family, one of whom Ernest (1862-1916) was disabled. William attended the Gunthorpe Methodist Chapel and much enjoyed the singing. He used to have the garden opposite No 7. Fred Morley said that William would cut the long grass in the churchyard and cart away the hay and cuttings for use in his garden. Often, he was to be seen riding his bicycle through the village on his way to Cley, Blakeney or Salthouse.

Fuller was a herbalist who tried to cure people of their various ills by the use of herbs. For his own part, he lived frugally, mostly on a diet of herbs and bread and milk. Heat was not a regular feature of his meals unless he was clever enough to get a meal given to him. He does not seem to have had a regular job, although he gave seasonal help to farmers such as Mr Guby of Woodhouse Farm. His hobby, which became almost a part time trade, was to clean and repair clocks and watches. He would call at people’s houses for this purpose, often managing to be around at mealtimes so he could have a free feed. It was not unknown for him to spin out a job, leaving all the bits and pieces strewn around so that he could wangle more than one free meal.

Many instances of his clock repairing activities have become part of Gunthorpe folklore, although his fame had spread beyond the confines of this village. On one occasion,

he called at a house in Field Dalling to clean and repair a cuckoo clock. After he had finished the job, and put the many pieces together again, it was found that there was a wheel leftover. It is reported that on the hour instead of “cuckoo”, the clock sounded out “peewit”. Some say that when he dismantled a clock and put it together again, there was enough left over to make another clock. Perhaps this explains the message of an old postcard that still survives, dated December 1918, and simply addressed to Mr Fuller, Gunthorpe, Holt. It reads, “Please, Mr Fuller, come and see to Mrs Francis’ clock, Home Lane, at once”.

He had two special eccentricities. Often, he dyed his hair with the juice from berries - as a result of which his hair was a bright red. Also, when shaving with his cut-throat razor, he would pretend to look into the mirror, but he did not in fact have one. One story about his toilet arrangement cannot politely be told fully here. It appears that a man from the council called on him to see what sort of facilities William had as there seemed to be no signs of a “loo”, either inside or outside. The man said perhaps rashly, “tell me, Mr Fuller, what do you do when you need to go to the toilet”? Billy Muggins’ reply was, “well, I just goes down the garden, digs myself a big hole and...”. This graphic reply seems to have terminated the interview.

William was unpredictable and his behaviour was believed to vary with the state of the moon. It was not unusual for him to go through the village in the early hours of the morning, sometimes at about 4am, shouting away as though urging on horses. He was very fond of his many violins, which he would play until quite late into the night. Often, he would be singing one tune and playing another. Two of his violins were left to Mr. Cooper, and it is believed that one still survives to this day in Melton Constable.

He kept a donkey and one story about this is that when he went up a tree to saw off a large branch, he arranged that it should drop straight onto the donkey cart. The field where he did this is known to older people even today as Muggins’ Field. It is a narrow strip running up the Guybone Wood near the Thursford end of the old railway line. Legend has it that he once tarred his donkey. For a long time after that, children would shout out after him “who tarred the donkey Muggins?”

In 1945, whilst living at No 6 Swanton Road, Billy Muggins became ill. He was taken to the “institution” at Gressenhall, where he died a few weeks later in his 80th year. He is buried in our churchyard with other members of his family. Being fond of herbs, he had planted some of them around the graves of his parents. For many years after his death, they still flowered, reminding those who knew him of the character he was. *John Blakeley*

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- 1st. £30 84 J.Dickinson
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- 3rd. £10 110 S.Ramplsey

VILLAGE HALL

Edward Allen has been Chairman of the Langham village hall (VH) committee for most of the last 36 years. With a huge thank you on behalf of all of the village, the committee have finally let him retire from the chair. Edward, and the rest of the committee are keen to see the VH used more often.

The VH committee, with support from the Friends of Langham and others, open it for a coffee morning on the first Saturday of each month from 10am-12noon. The Friends of Langham use it for fundraising events during the year and Langham Village Recreation Ground has recently raised funds through two very successful bingo evenings there. Other organisations use it ad hoc. The VH is open for bookings from organisations, families or individuals in Langham or other villages, for morning, afternoon or evening events. Bookings can be made with Frances Smith at frances.mackay@btconnect.com Thank you.

Richard Gozney, Chair

WELCOME

We would like to welcome Hannah and Aaron into the village and hope that they will be very happy living in Langham.
Langham P.C.C.

NCT BIKE RIDE AND WALK 2023

We were very grateful to receive £175.84 from the above event. This represented a half share of both sponsorship monies and Gift Aid amounts.

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A very big thank you to all who manned the church and welcomed visitors on the day. Refreshments were very much appreciated.

The next Sponsored Bike Ride and walk will take place on Saturday 14th September 2024. *Langham P.C.C.*

LANGHAM DOME

Happy Easter from all at Langham Dome Museum

The Dome will be opening again for the 2024 Season on Good Friday, 29th March. The winter has whizzed by, and the team are all very excited to be back on the job! We shall be open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays until June, when we shall be open from Wednesday through to Sunday each week from 10am-4pm.

As you will probably have seen, the Spitfire was left on its pedestal for the first time this winter, and it has faired well, dealing with everything that the harsh winters on an airfield can throw at it. Before we open again we shall be using a cherry picker to give it a thorough wash and polish, to be ready to greet our new visitors this season. It needs to be gleaming, as this year is our 10th Anniversary of the Dome being opened to the public as the amazing museum that it is today. We shall also be celebrating the 80th Anniversary of RAF Langham re-opening as a fully fledged airfield and the arrival of the 455 and 489 Anzac Squadrons to Langham.

The BIG Anniversary Open Day 2024

To celebrate, on Sunday 21st July we shall be having an Open Day with **free entry to all**.

We have a fantastic day lined up for you all. A Spitfire fly-past display, an array of military



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vehicles and equipment, and there may even be a promise of a Sherman tank arriving. Sarah Mai will be headlining our live entertainment, together with John Drury of Timescape, and Zaira Palumbo accompanied by Jane on keyboards. DJ - 3 Bits of Rhythm will be playing well known hits from the '40s. We have delicious food kiosks coming along, as well as an array of military and vintage inspired stalls, classic vehicles and of course, the wonderful re-enactors will be there to keep us amused and entertained throughout the day. Dancing is optional, but I'll bet you will want to join in.

We shall be holding our raffle again this year, with a whopping cash prize totalling £950.

So we hope you will all put Sunday 21st July in your diaries, and please spread the word.

If you want to join in the atmosphere of the 1940s come dressed in your best WWII attire.

Scott Eltringham, our new manager, is always looking for new volunteers to join us. If you are interested in joining our happy crew please contact Scott on manager@langhamdome.org. We shall need all the help we can get this year. *Deborah Preston. Administrator*

NEWS FROM LANGHAM VILLAGE RECREATION GROUND (LVRG)

The Langham Village Recreation Ground team would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported us at our valentines prize bingo night on 16th February at Langham village hall. We all had so much fun and managed to raise over £1,000 on the night, which has been spent on brand new swing seats that already sit proudly at LVRG. In addition, our Christmas bingo night on 13th December raised enough money to purchase new five-aside football posts, which are also now in situ, and have been enjoyed by quite a few villagers already.

Prior to our bingo night on 16th February we joined forces during the day with approximately 25 of the "eco-council" students and their teachers from Langham Village School to do litter picking and planting of 88 new tree saplings. The eco-council did such a sensational job and we were thrilled that they came and helped out. Unfortunately we have noted that there has been a few cases where people have deposited unwanted waste and garden waste on the recreation ground, so the additional help provided by the eco-council was invaluable. We would like to say a very big "thank you" to everyone who took part and we hope to



work on more projects together with Langham Village School in the future.

In addition to all of the children's hard work they also gave us some great tips for the future makeover of the recreation ground. We have taken on board all of their fantastic ideas and we are hoping to incorporate as many of them as we can over the coming months. We continue to discuss plans and designs for LVRG and hope to finalise a masterplan that we are able to share at some point soon.

Big News: We are thrilled to announce that Duncan Baker, Member of Parliament for North Norfolk, will be including LVRG as one of the charities that he will be raising money for during his Double Marathon Challenge in April. We are incredibly grateful and would like to say a massive thank you to him. We wish him good luck with all of his training and much success on both marathon days.

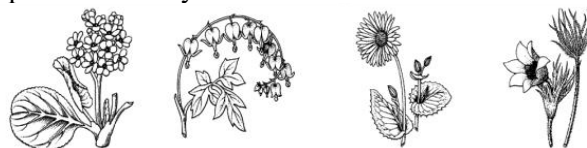
We always welcome any fundraising ideas that Langham villagers and those living nearby have for LVRG, so please do get in touch with us on langhamvrg@gmail.com.

Best wishes, The LVRG Team ☺ xx

LVRG EASTER EVENT

Saturday 23rd March, 2pm

LVRG are planning to hold a family Easter egg hunt and BBQ fundraiser event on Saturday 23rd March at 2pm. Starting from LVRG in Hollow Lane (NR25 7BY), we look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible. Adult entrance free, children @ £4 per child, and there will be prizes on the day.



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BRING AND BUY COFFEE MORNING

27th May Bank Holiday Monday 10 - 12 noon

Do come and join us at this annual event for coffee and cake in the village hall. Items on sale in the church with access to look around the Rectory garden.

Small bric-a-brac welcome (no furniture please). We look forward to seeing you. Free entry and all proceeds for Langham Church General Fund. *Langham P.C.C*

FROM THE REGISTERS

Holy Baptism

Romilly Rosa Stafford Allen on 27th January 2024.

CHURCHYARD TIDY UP

27th April 2024

Following the success of last year's three Churchyard clear up sessions, let's get an early start to the season. Please join us and come along with stout gloves, gardening tools and your willingness to help.

On Saturday 27th April from 9.30 to 11.30am, free coffee will be provided. *Edward Allen*

CHURCH CLOCK

Thanks to Alan Smith, you hopefully heard and noticed that after some months, the church clock is now up and running again. The clock repairer from Ipswich serviced the mechanism and tightened a keeper that had come loose. It will continue to need small adjustments to get it back to time but it's nearly there. *Edward Allen*



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STREET FAYRE 2024

Plans are now well underway for our next street fayre but we are still looking for things and hope you can help.

We are looking for artisan food producers for our food hall - namely baked goods (not cakes), cheeses, breads and other speciality foods. If you know of anyone who would be interested in having a stall, please ask them to contact someone from the committee and book a place. We also have some spaces left for craft stalls so please spread the word.

We also need more volunteers to help out (man a stall, sell raffle tickets or be on the carparks) for an hour or so on the day. We will also be looking for donations to our bottle tombola and bric a brac stall - details will be circulated nearer the time about how to get those to us.

Finally (for the moment) can we remind you that Holt Road will be closed to through traffic for the whole day.

LSF committee

CREATIVE WORKSHOP

Ruth and I ran our third Creative Workshop on 2nd March. It was well attended and enjoyed by all those who came. In brief, the workshop was in two sections. In the first, our 'students' pick a reference photo to work from and are given about half an hour to make a painting which is not a copy of the photo but a sketch of elements within it which attract their attention and suggest a back-story.

After a short break they are invited to make notes, based on their sketch and the photo, summarising what that back-story might be.

As we found in the first two workshops, the results from every member of the group were amazing and inspiring, giving them some idea of the thought processes experienced by every painter or writer which form the foundation for what may eventually be worked into a completed narrative painting or piece of creative writing.

Already we are planning to run a fourth session, which will be similar to the last three but based on different materials and suggestions. The date provisionally booked for this is 5th October.

In the meantime, a video is being produced which will be published on YouTube in due course. If you would like to see this - free of charge - just email me at bobclockhouse@gmail.com and I will send you the link when it becomes available.

The event raised £200 as a donation to the Voices charity which provides support for the victims of domestic abuse, of which my son Peter is a trustee and fund-raiser.

Our thanks to Maureen and Peter Dennis for their warm welcome and providing us with refreshments. *Bob Brandt*

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FINISTERRE OPENING

(PIC) Despite having quietly opened its doors two months earlier, Finisterre, the sustainable outdoor apparel and surfwear company, publicly announced its arrival in Holt by holding a get together and knees up on Thursday 25th January for friends, family, and supporters in its new store in the centre of the town at 23 Market Place. Those attending, and it was a packed store, enjoyed drinks and refreshments, delicious snacks and canapés, prepared by Bayfield Catering, together with sea shanties from the Sheringham Shantymen.

Tom Kay, Finisterre's founder, was on hand to talk a little of the journey so far and expand on what it meant to him to return to the coastline that started his lifelong affair with the sea and open his 11th store. Following his welcome, it gave Tom enormous delight and joy to invite his mother, Gill Kay, a Morston resident, forward to cut the ribbon and officially declare the store open for business. We all wish it great success.



FMC MORSTON QUIZ Morston Pishmires Triumph

On Saturday 24th February the Friends of Morston Church held the annual Morston quiz, this year celebrating its 20th anniversary, at the village hall. Opening the contest to a battling cry from David Osborne, last year's winning captain of the Morston Macaroons, of "Bring it on!", the quiz involved nine rounds of eight questions each, with topics ranging from the 'Countryside' and 'Food and Drink' to 'Puzzles'. The intense rivalry between the eight teams culminated with four teams being within two points of each other going into the last round. The ultimate and thoroughly deserved winners, by one point, were the Morston Pishmires (ants in the Norfolk dialect), who in the past had been captained by the much-missed Mary Athill, but this year were captained very successfully by Roberta Hamond.

Many congratulations to the Pishmires, who received the coveted shield as well as a bottle of wine each. The 90 or so participants attending were treated to a delicious dinner of cottage pie with salad followed by a wonderful assortment

of puddings. Thank you so much to all the volunteers who produced the wonderful food and particularly to Jill Tibbetts for organising and washing-up with much help from Sally Metcalfe. Thank you also to Pete Tibbetts for acting as Quiz Master and pulling the challenging questions together, Rob Metcalfe and Sue Smith for scoring, Carol Bean who managed the raffle and David Beale, who did a superb job as manager of the bar.

We are delighted to announce that the event raised just over £1,550, so thank you to all attendees, for their generosity, and particularly to the team captains for assembling their teams.



The Pishmires Team Captain receiving the coveted quiz trophy.

VIVIENNE WILSON

It was with enormous sadness that we learnt, on 20th February, of the death of Vivienne Wilson. She has been such a valued member of our Church congregation over many years and was a great friend of Morston. Viv often attended village events and was usually energetically involved in the workforce. Her vitality, and wonderful engaging friendship, will be hugely missed. We all send our sympathy, love, and prayers to her family at this sad time.

MERSTONA QUIZ

A Quiz Celebrating Spring

1. *Who is the Roman Goddess of Spring?*
(a) Flora (b) Fauna (c) Nora (d) Vera
2. *What is a Spring Roll often referred to as?*
(a) A Forward Roll (b) An Egg Roll (c) A Custard Roll (d) A Sausage Roll
3. *In which Shakespeare play is the poem 'Spring' performed in the closing scene?*
(a) Romeo & Juliet (b) Hamlet (c) A Midsummer's Dream (d) Love Labour's Lost
4. *Who wrote the music for the ballet 'The Rite of Spring'?*
(a) Mozart (b) Tchaikovsky (c) Stravinsky (d) Prokofiev
5. *Brinsley Forde, who played 'Spring' in children's TV's 'The Double Deckers' (1971) went on to have a successful musical career as the member of which reggae band?*
(a) Bob Marley & The Wailers (b) Aswad (c) UB40 (d) Musical Youth
6. *What is another name for Spring Onions?*
(a) Medallions (b) Battalions (c) Scallions (d) Galleons

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7. Richard (Dick) Martin Spring (born 29.8.50 in County Kerry) is most well-known as what?

(a) An Irish businessman and politician (b) 'The Edge' - guitarist for U2 (c) The Irish High-Jump record holder (d) Author of three Irish Eurovision song contest winners

8. Alice Springs, in central Australia, takes its name from whom?
(a) The girlfriend of Ned Kelly (b) The wife of an ex-postmaster of South Australia (c) The great, great-grandmother of Dame Edna Everage (d) The sister of Captain James Cook

9. 'It Might as Well Be Spring' is an Academy Award-winning song from which Rodgers and Hammerstein film score?

(a) Carousel (b) South Pacific (c) State Fair (d) The King and I

10. Utilising the concept of a spring, George Nissan invented what in 1935?

(a) The Pogo Stick (b) The Trampoline (c) The Slinky (d) The Driving Range Golf Ball Retriever

MORSTON MEANDER

Save the Date & Please Help Out

On Saturday 22nd June the PCC is organising a village event to raise funds for Morston All Saints Church – 'Open gardens' and a 'Self-guided meander exploring our historic village'. To make this a great success we need your help. As well as the self-guided walk around the village, we will put on a small exhibition in the village hall with old photographs of Morston, maps, details of the history of any properties and any recollections of changes to the village over the years.

If you have any information that you can contribute, then please do contact us. On the day we are looking for volunteers to help for an hour or two to assist in welcoming people to the gardens which will be open, helping with refreshments in the village hall, acting as road marshalls along the busy road and putting up signs. If you can help in any way, please contact either Sara Wingfield (740431), Gill Kay (740063) or Sally Metcalfe (07813 369145). Thank you so much in advance.

DIARY DATES

FMC AGM & Mary Athill Crab Supper

Having studied this year's tide table, it has been agreed that the date for the 2024 AGM of the Friends of Morston Church will be held on Saturday 15th June at Morston village hall starting at 6:30pm. The committee look forward to seeing you there.

This year's Mary Athill Crab Supper and Seal Trip will



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be held earlier than its usual September slot and will be on Friday 5th July. Further information on tickets and timing will be posted in the next edition of the Local Lynx.

MORSTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the January Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 31st, Rob Metcalfe was duly elected and welcomed as a MPC councillor. This brings the number of sitting councillors up to seven.

The last games night until the autumn was held on Monday 11th March in the village hall (VH). These evenings have proven to be most enjoyable, well attended and have provided the opportunity for a great mardle as well as taking part in traditional pub type games. We hope to have more in the winter months.

Work has been completed in the VH on the installation of Wi-Fi. This is available free to those using the premises. In addition, smart new fencing has been erected along Quay Lane as work continues to improve and maintain the village hall and caravan site.

The next PC meeting will be held at the VH on Wednesday 27th March at 7pm.

SWAMP

Work is truly swamped by the weather

Hopefully as the land dries out, we will be able to start this year's work on Morston Pond. Our aim continues to be to remove the invasive weeds and upgrade the surrounding area creating a biodiverse and welcoming space for all to enjoy. Please check our social media for the next working parties and events.

Website – www.morstonpondswamp.org

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RALEIGH HAIBIKE

AFFORDABLE ART SALE

Hundreds of Works of Art for Sale in May

Friends of Morston Church (FMC), the charity dedicated to preserving All Saints, Morston, has received hundreds of works of art from local donors for its first Affordable Art Sale. The event will be staged at Morston Village Hall across the early May Bank Holiday, opening from 10am to 4pm, Saturday 4th to Monday 6th May. Admission is free.

“We have been delighted by the generosity of so many people,” commented organiser and FMC trustee Sandra Morris. “We have been given original artwork and prints old and new in a wide variety of styles by lots of well-known artists, so art lovers will be in for an affordable treat when they come along.”

The sale is sponsored by Glandford-based auction house Bishop & Miller and includes a ticketed preview on the evening of Friday 3rd May for those keen to have first choice of the works on offer. Any remaining tickets are available on <https://buytickets.at/morstonaffordableartsale/1154009>.

There is still time to donate art for the sale by contacting Sally Metcalfe on 07813 369145 or Sandra Morris on 07941 238618.

NATIONAL TRUST

Update from Morston Quay

The first signs of Spring are all around. With the change of seasons comes a wide variety of countryside management tasks to help our coastal wildlife thrive during the year ahead.

Blakeney Point now feels rather empty following the end of grey seal pupping season. Even with healthy survival rates among the pups, the sheer size of the colony means we are left with a significant number of dead seals at the end of each season – not just small pups, but some weaned, some sub-adults, and also large fully grown seals. We are concerned that the carrion is then food to rats and other predators and an increase in their numbers is not conducive to high productivity in ground nesting birds. So, for the past few years, the team have donned protective gear and removed carcasses – not a pleasant task, but one that is definitely character building and team building!

Although the number of seals on the beach and dunes is now greatly reduced, they are still present, and there is an ongoing need to remind visitors of the basic steps to avoid causing disturbance. We ask all visitors to observe seals from a distance, using binoculars or telephoto lenses, to keep noise to a minimum and avoid making sudden movements, to follow signs and avoid any areas that have

been fenced off. It is particularly important that dogs are kept under control and away from the seals.

The Lifeboat House, which provides residence for three of our rangers for a large part of the year, is having some important structural maintenance work carried out. Some of the building’s wooden piles are being replaced – important for the long-term preservation of the building, for its ability to withstand tidal surges, and for its day-to-day use as a place of work and accommodation for our staff. The end of Blakeney Point is clearly not the most accessible of locations for building works, and we are working closely with our contractor to overcome the logistical challenges.

Elsewhere, we have been working to prepare Blakeney Freshes for breeding waders. With the help of one of our contractors, we have been carrying out maintenance work on some of the wader scrapes. Wader scrapes are shallow depressions that hold water for only part of the year. They support large numbers of invertebrates, providing a rich food source for wading birds and their chicks. Meanwhile, over at Morston Quay, the hedges have been trimmed – a job we need to do before the end of February, before birds are in ‘house hunting’ mode, ensuring nests aren’t disturbed.

Hopefully the spring weather will afford you plenty of opportunities to get out and enjoy the wonderful wildlife and inspiring landscapes of this stretch of the Norfolk coast. If you would like to learn more about the wildlife of the area, and the conservation work we do here, pop along to our next ‘Meet the Ranger’ event at Morston Quay on Wednesday 10th April (9.30am-11.30am).

SAXLINGHAM

Contact: John Pridham 01328 831851
jcwpridham@gmail.com

WELCOME

At Sidney House Farm we welcome Darren and Kate Gill who have moved in recently together with their dogs Fudge, Aggie and Betty.

Darren is a dog trainer and Kate is Head of Sports at Greshams Prep School.

We hope that they will be very happy living in the village.



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READING THE RIOT ACT

Protests against George I becoming King of England in 1714 led to Parliament hastily pushing through a law preventing groups of 12 more from assembling "unlawfully and riotously". The Riot Act of 1715 allowed local officials to read a proclamation ordering illegally assembled groups to disperse. Refusal to disperse was an offence carrying the death penalty.

Bread was a key foodstuff in 18th century England; the main cereals used for bread flour were rye and wheat. Riots became widespread as crops failed and wheat prices rose. The Norwich Mercury reported on the reading of the Riot Act in 1795 at Wells when hungry locals tried to obtain flour being shipped out of Norfolk. The Riot Act was read twice to no avail and the Pembroke militia marched into the town to protect the flour being loaded. Fixed bayonets were used to quell the rioters, many of whom were women with starving children.

Mary Hardy of Letheringsett writes in her diary of "some poor people" stopping five loads of flour at Sharrington belonging to Zebulon Rouse the Glandford miller. Mr Rouse was trying to bypass the riots at Wells by shipping his flour out of Kings Lynn. On December 18th 1795 a great many people gathered together in Sharrington and unloaded the flour and set it in the White Swan Inn, part of the estate of the Jodrell family of Glandford. In 1778 the inn consisted of outhouses, yards, an orchard and three quarters of an acre of adjoining land.

On December 19th Mary recorded that the Hardy family brewery at Letheringsett delivered beer to the White Swan as usual. The justices of the peace sat for a great part of the day to settle the mob but nothing was done and no other business was transacted. They sent for a troop of horses from Norwich, dragoons from the Inniskillen regiment and a party of foot soldiers from South Wales who were camped at Aylsham. The troops arrived at Holt at about 8am on Sunday morning. 20th December and Mary records soldiers passing through Letheringsett at about 1pm on their way to Sharrington. The Swan was put under armed guard but beer deliveries were still made from Letheringsett. The flour was moved again on 21st December 1795. By this time the local ringleaders had been arrested. A call, by Mr Jodrell, saw

nearly 100 gentlemen, farmers and High Constables assemble on horseback in Holt market place to escort the flour safely through to Stock Heath, south of Gunthorpe. Farmers then were not all tenant farmers so did not want their flour stolen either, or they did not get paid.

At the quarter sessions in Norwich on 13th January 1796, the Sharrington rioters were found guilty but received light sentences. Thomas Bunn of Gunthorpe, a supposed ringleader, with Robert Park of Saxlingham were committed to Aylsham Bridewell for six months. Thomas Harris of Field Dalling and Thomas Fuller of Saxlingham were committed to Wymondham Bridewell for six months and Martha Pleasance was fined 20 shillings. Ann Horne, Mary Horne and Peter Sutton were acquitted.

The Swan Inn beer deliveries to Hannah Porter, licensee from 1783-1803, settled back down again to their pattern of roughly nine a year. The White Swan Inn was eventually closed in 1953 when the owners, the White family of Salle, sold the property. Still visible today, the White Swan is situated on the old piece of the A148, now a layby, near the Sharrington Strawberry stall.

But the Riot act stayed in place until it was repealed in 1973.
Ann Abrams

GET TOGETHER WITH CRAFT

Our April workshop on Friday 5th April 10.30am-12.30pm will see the return of needle felting which is always very popular with our regulars and really good fun. This time we will be making a little hedgehog, just as they begin to emerge from hibernation. Do check our website www.sharrington.org.uk/craft for more details on upcoming workshops. Our May event takes place on Friday 3rd May from 10.30am-12.30pm. As

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always, the price is £2 to join in with the activity with a further £2 towards the upkeep of the village hall. Tea, coffee, biscuits and great company is provided. *SLB*

STAGE DIRECT "EDUCATING RITA"

Willy Russell's "Educating Rita" comes to Sharrington village hall for one night only on Saturday 25th May.

Local drama group, 'Stage Direct' brought "Deckchairs" to the venue in 2023, reintroducing live drama to the village hall after two decades and, after an excellent response, return with Willy Russell's critically acclaimed comedy.

Frank, played by David Starling, is a fifty-something English tutor whose disillusionment with life has driven him to drink, and to bury himself in books. Enter Rita, played by Anna Ryan, a forthright 26 year old hairdresser who is eager to learn. Rita slowly begins to win over her initially hesitant tutor with her innate insight and her blunt refusal to accept no for an answer. Can Frank, through Rita's energy and passion, rediscover his sense of self-worth? Can he help Rita acquire the knowledge she so craves. It won't be a smooth ride...

The play became a successful film starring Michael Caine and Julie Walters and is presented here in association with Concord theatricals.

Tickets are £10 and are available via www.ticketsource.co.uk/stage-direct or are on sale on the door on the day, from one hour before the 7.30pm performance begins. *DS*



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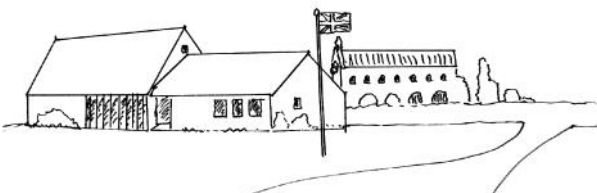
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SPRING COFFEE MORNING

Everyone is welcome at a spring coffee morning in aid of All Saints church on Saturday 13th April from 10am-12noon in Sharrington village hall. Come along and enjoy home-made scones with coffee or tea and meet up with friends and neighbours for a leisurely chat and a relaxing morning.

There will also be stalls selling home-made cakes, preserves and books. Any contributions to the cake and preserves stall are always welcome. Just bring them along on the day. *CD*

CHURCH NEWS

The most recent issue of KL magazine contains an article about All Saints church together with some lovely photographs. This came about in response to our 700th celebrations last year. There are some copies of the magazine at the back of the church if you haven't seen it.

We meet every Sunday at 9.30am and serve coffee and cake after the service on the second Sunday of each month. Do come and join us. We also have activities for children. *TP*

SHARRINGTON AND DISTRICT GARDENING GROUP

We opened our 2024 season with our AGM in Field Dalling Villagers' Hall and followed it with an illustrated talk by Jan Smith on the hedgehog in your garden. Jan was a very enthusiastic and friendly speaker and is very knowledgeable about her subject. Her passion for protecting our hedgehog population springs from her years of work as an RSPCA volunteer and with the team of volunteers who looked after the peregrine falcons at Norwich Cathedral.

She took us through the statistics of the sharp decline in hedgehog numbers, particularly in rural areas, the lifecycle of the hedgehog, hibernation, their habitat and where it all goes wrong, which includes a lengthy list of hazards. She showed us how to deal with the various issues which cause them harm and explained that if you find a hedgehog in trouble you should call any of the rescue centres and they will come and collect it. Jan and her fellow volunteers carry a hedgehog emergency kit at all times. The two key points to remember if you do have a hedgehog in your garden is to make sure it can travel through the fences into neighbouring gardens and leave out water all the year round. To learn more visit Hedgehog Street at www.hedgehogstreet.org.

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Forthcoming events include on Wednesday 10th April at 2pm a visit to Chestnut farm, West Beckham, for members and guests, by kind permission of Judy Wilson, with tea and cake.

Also, on Wednesday 1st May Dr Twigs Way returns with another entertaining and informative illustrated talk, this time on "Poison in the borders, death in the beds". From dead man's gloves to monkshood, our gardens are dangerous places. This will be held in Field Dalling Villagers' Hall, 6.30pm for 7pm. To complete our May programme we have on Wednesday 22nd, also at Field Dalling, an illustrated talk by Pauline Harper on "Growing vegetables in small spaces and containers". Everyone can grow vegetables, whatever the size of their plot, even among the flowers in the border. This talk will be at the usual time of 6.30 for 7pm. We look forward to seeing members, old and new and guests are welcome.

BW

STIFFKEY

Contact: Sophia Williams 07800 590262
stiffkeylynx@gmail.com

GENERAL NEWS

The Stiffkey Red Lion hosted their inaugural quiz of the year in February. The winning team kindly donated their winnings to charity. This April, it's the return of the wonderful North Norfolk Fish Company's Oyster event at the pub on 12th April. It is bound to be a delicious affair.

Rather than update about the Stiffkey Bridge in my introductory column, I have given it its own section in this edition as lots of things have happened over the past couple of months.

Stiffkey Parish Council moved their meeting start time forward to 7pm this year. Their next meeting will be on 13th May. To read their meeting agenda in advance of attending visit their website www.stiffkeyvillage.org. Hopefully see you there.

Warborough House is participating in the open garden scheme again this May. Please show them your support as they are raising money for fantastic local causes. Once you've looked around the gardens please take a look at visiting artists who are opening their studio doors as part of the North Norfolk Studios event.

Did you know that the old wooden fishing boats of the North Norfolk are unique to this coast and no two are the same? Our local maritime heritage centre is hosting an open day, on Saturday 13th April from 2-4pm. Pop in and discover the history that they are conserving, along with an opportunity to have a guided visit to David Hewitt's boat workshop.

This Month's Seasonal Recipe

Pasta with Artichoke Sauce

Serves 2

400g can artichoke hearts, drained

70g freshly grated parmesan cheese, plus more to top

1 lemon, zest freshly grated and juiced


4 garlic cloves, minced

4 tablespoons olive oil

250g spaghetti or bucatini

4 tablespoons reserved starchy pasta water.

4 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley, for topping



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 Little Greene  

Local to your area

Firstly, bring a pot of salted water to a boil for the pasta. Then place the drained artichokes, cheese, lemon zest and juice, garlic, olive oil and a pinch of salt and pepper into a food processor. Blend until combined and creamy. It won't be totally smooth, but you do want it combined and sauce-like. This can be stored in the fridge for 3 to 4 days before using. Cook the pasta according to the directions, making sure to reserve some of the starchy water. Drain the pasta and place it back in the hot pot. Immediately pour the artichoke sauce over it and toss to combine, this will take a few minutes to fully toss it. Add in a few tablespoons of the pasta water to bring it all together. This will not be overly creamy or saucy as it is like a pesto that coats the pasta. Sprinkle on more parmesan cheese and the parsley, serve immediately.

Sophia's sommelier recommendation would be a glass of the zesty, Alvarinho, from the Vinho Verde region of Portugal, or a dry Riesling from Germany or Austria would be delicious too.
Sophia Williams

TALES FROM THE RIVERBANK

Throughout January and February the river remained very swollen and at times overflowed its banks. It ran through the meadows right down to the bridge. A long term local told me it was the highest they had seen it in 30 years. It has been interesting to see how the wildlife adapted and took advantage of this.

The water has pushed high up the bank of our and neighbours' gardens, creating opportunities. We got a long look at a water vole nibbling at the tips of new plants which were at convenient swimming height for the cute rodent. The flag iris seemed a particular favourite, the growing tips of which would normally be inaccessible to him. It is always lovely to see a vole, and they do remind me of a miniature beaver.

Although we keep our stretch of riverbank as natural as possible, there is lawned grass leading down to it. The water had easily covered this, and we were surprised to see a little grebe hunting for fish over the lawn. Even more surprised when he caught not one but three, and strange to think we had fish quite happily swimming around over our lawn.

I have seen quite a few fry, very small fish, patrolling in the shallows recently. It is hard to tell what they are. They are not sticklebacks which are distinctive. These fish are providing food for the grebe, and the kingfishers who are frequent visitors. They use the overhanging low branches of the alder tree as a hunting perch.

Another opportunist was a green woodpecker who found plenty to eat, probably insects, amongst the debris left behind when the flood receded. It spent a long time sifting through everything that had been deposited on top of a neighbour's wall, so I got a very good look at the wonderful colouring, particularly on its head. This male had a red moustache which complemented his red crown. Combined with the varying greens across his body, he makes an impressive spectacle topped off by an absolute weapon of a beak.

Our local kestrel has been doing its osprey impression again, skimming along the river very low to the water. I've no idea why it does this, but it is impressive flying and great to see.

The standing water on the meadow has brought in lots of waterfowl, and along with the big flock of widgeon there have been lots of curlews, some black tailed godwit, egyptian geese and of course our now resident glossy ibis. There have also been a lot of gulls, in particular black-headed gulls, but also a couple of a herring gulls which you hardly ever see down there. Although these are very common along the British coastline, they are not as common along the soft sandy coasts around here. What drew my attention was seeing one herring gull bring a piece of food to another, both fully grown adults, and following the handover a big display of calling and synchronised dipping movements. I can only assume this was some type of bonding, possibly a prelude to mating. I looked it up in my trusty guide and they do build nests together so maybe a romance was blossoming.

By the time of my next column the water may well have receded and cleared, which will hopefully allow for a trout report. Fingers crossed, I've missed the trout.

Martin Williams



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NORTH NORFOLK BOOK WORMS

Stiffkey Book March Review



The two books reviewed by the Stiffkey Book worms are *So Late in the Day* by Claire Keegan, 2022 and *A Terrible Kindness* by Jo Browning Wroe, 2022.

So Late in the Day is a short story by Irish author Claire Keegan who specialises in this and has several award-winning collections. This revolves around a long weekend in the life

of Dublin office worker Cathal as he thinks about a woman Sabrine, whom he could have spent his life with, had he behaved differently. Although the story starts with a beautiful summer day, there is a sense of foreboding that seeps into the writing. Keegan creates an intelligent story with subtlety through flashbacks but allows the reader to figure out the clues. The book reveals what a lack of generosity does to a relationship both with money and love. Keegan tackles misogyny, how it can be ingrained, and can a person hold up a mirror and see that misogyny reflected within?

We felt the writing beautifully focussed on the small moments in life and that no words are wasted. The words flow and are artfully nuanced providing us with an insight into the moments that formed Cathal into the man he has become. Some of those moments are fleeting but shocking. Those in the group who had listened to the audiobook felt that it was a poor version and that they missed out on reading the elegance of the prose on the page. Sadly, it is the author reading it who has a sombre tone of voice. Score 4.5/5

A Terrible Kindness is the debut novel by Josephine Browning Wroe. It is initially the story of a young, newly qualified embalmer, William Lavery who answers the call for embalmers to attend the Aberfan disaster. The novel is really a family saga about a young man's struggle with family conflict, childhood trauma whilst joining the family embalming business. The story deals with the mental scars that William carries following the Aberfan tragedy, resulting in him behaving selfishly to those around him. There are flashbacks to his chorister childhood in Cambridge and choral music is woven throughout the novel.

It was a book that seemed to divide us as a group. Several members found it captivating and enjoyed the themes of how trauma can impact a life, the love of those around us and ultimately, redemption. The section dealing



with how the embalmers worked in the disaster was carefully handled, as was the grief of the families, although it was a difficult read. It also tackled attitudes towards homosexuality as they would have been in the 1960s in a sensitive manner.

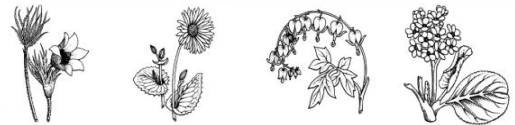
All of us struggled to like or have a great deal of sympathy with William. He treated people badly, yet they all stuck by him. Perhaps that was the author's intention. Some felt the writing was a little clunky in places and contrived, although the idea of music as a salve to suffering **was well received and the choral pieces that the novel.** There was debate whether Aberfan needed to be used or a fictional disaster? Score 3.5/5. *Jane Hiscocks*

COASTAL MARSH ARTISTS

North Norfolk Studios steering committee decided to revamp all of the artists trails for this years open studios event, giving them all a location based name. Very difficult to do for our trail as we're not geographically linked by a single place, like say, Wells or Holt.

This year our trail is being called the Stiffkey to Salthouse District trail. Several of our artists are participating this year, including, Rosamund Ulph, Kat Wheeler and Sophia Williams. We have been allocated new artists to the trail including the lovely Fuff Allen in Field Dalling.

We're all looking forward to seeing you at the open studios event, which is running from Saturday 24th May until Sunday 2nd June 2024. For more information take a look at the North Norfolk Studios website, www.northnorfolkstudios.co.uk. *Sophia Williams*



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We are hosting a unique Open Day on Saturday 13th April from 2 until 4pm at our Maritime Heritage Centre. You are warmly invited to come along to explore our new displays, sample refreshments and hear details of our new events programme.

In May we are holding two events. Our first talk will be on Sunday 12th May at 2pm when Chris Bell, storm chaser, BBC Look East weather presenter, UEA lecturer on meteorology and professional weather forecaster hosts a talk. Chris answers the question, "What weather will be cast?", whilst exploring modern weather forecasting techniques.

On Sunday 19th May at 2pm Tim Jickells OBE will speak on "Examining the ebb and flow of the North Norfolk intertidal saltmarshes, how this complex system supports itself and the habitat that surrounds it." Tim is an Emeritus Professor in the School of Environmental Sciences at UEA, retiring in 2018 after more than 40 years of teaching and research work all connected to the natural environment. He has published many scientific papers on wetlands and oceanography. He now lives in Wells-next-the-sea enjoying walking and cycling and is also a member of the Broads Authority and a trustee of How Hill.

Tickets are £5 and we have limited numbers available, as all attendees will be seated. To purchase tickets please see this page on our website: www.rescuewoodenboats.com/events/maritimemingle.

Our Dunkirk Little Ship, Lucy Lavers has been smartened up over the winter and can be booked for trips and charters. <http://www.rescuewoodenboats.com/lucylavers/trips-on-Lucy-Lavers> or call her skipper, Liam, on 07512 086794. *Wendy Pritchard*

CHURCH NEWS

St. John's held a funeral on 17th January for Mrs Joan Sutton who passed away on Christmas Eve, 2023, aged 93. The service was led by Reverend Jonny Bell, from the Methodist Church in Holt.

January saw the conclusion of the 2023 accounts for the church and confirmation that we were able to contribute our parish share in full, an important part of our obligations to

the Church of England. The role of treasurer has for many years been fulfilled by Heather Harrison, who has stepped down now that we have more members in the parochial church council (PCC). We would like to thank Heather for her support as Secretary and Treasurer over many years and are very glad to have her continuing as a member of the PCC. We are working on the replacement for the treasurer role and that should be ready for the PCC AGM in April.

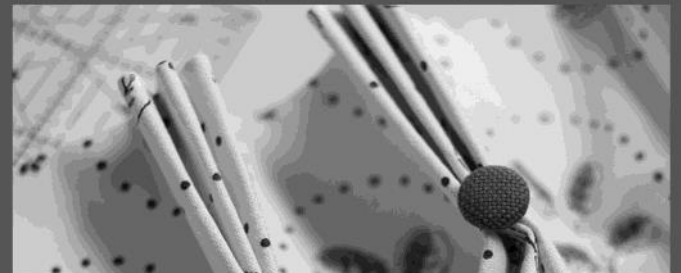
Thanks to Adrienne Cooke, we also have planned a musical evening event presented by Gresham's School on Friday 3rd May, tickets will be £15 and they will include a glass of wine and nibbles. You can buy the tickets in advance by calling 07769 734428 or purchase on the door. It is one of many ways we can raise money to support our church. We are grateful to many financial supporters and those also contributing to the cleaning of the church and providing flowers. We'll be seeking further help for a spring clean in May in anticipation of a wedding service at the end of the month.

We received notification from the Norfolk Churches Trust (NCT), that their annual bike ride, walk or drive will take place on Saturday 14th September. This event encourages sponsorship for typically more than 500 participants to visit as many of our 284 churches and chapels as possible. The money raised is divided between the NCT and each church according to their visits and nominations. Last year's event raised £300 for our church thanks to the energy of our village participants.

You can contact me on stjstiffkey.sec@outlook.com if you have any enquiries or can offer support. *Alan Duff*



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On Sunday 26th May from 11am until 5pm head to our open garden event. Tickets can be booked in advance via the National Garden Scheme website or pay on the day cash and card payments accepted. Adults are £6, children are free and dogs will be welcomed on their leads.

The National Garden Scheme is the largest donor to nursing charities in the UK and in 2023 donated more than £3 million to its chosen charities, Macmillan, Marie Curie and Horatio's garden are among those they support. All monies from ticket and plant sales are donated to the charity.

Home made teas and cakes will be sold in aid of St Johns Church, Stiffkey.

We will be hosting a children's trail too.

Please follow the signs at the garden gate on the main road to the parking area which is within the garden. Please do not park on the main road as this causes congestion. The Coasthopper bus service stops outside the garden, just ask for the Stiffkey Stores/Post Office stop.

Arabella Morgan

STIFFKEY BRIDGE NEWS

On 24th January Norfolk County Council gave notice they were creating an order in response to a planning application, made by Stiffkey Parish Council, to designate a new footpath across the bridge at the end of Stoney Road and out on to the marsh. Provided no objections or representations were received before the 28th March, the order will be confirmed. This is significant because it means for the footpaths to be viable a bridge needs to be maintained across the creek.

The National Trust held a drop-in meeting at Morston Village Hall on 25th January where they published their plans for the bridge. It is a substantial steel built design, with the trust explaining they hoped to submit a formal planning application this Spring and complete the build by the end of Autumn. It will be a single span with clearance at either end to allow for future erosion. Many locals visited the display and used the opportunity to discuss the plans with the representatives from the National Trust. *S. Williams*

MERSTONA QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1.(a) Flora 2.(b) Egg Roll 3.(d) Love Labour's Lost
- 4.(c) Stravinsky 5.(b) Aswad 6.(c) Scallions
- 7.(a) Irish businessman and politician
- 8.(b) The wife of an ex-postmaster of South Australia
- 9.(c) State Fair 10.(b) The Trampoline



LANGHAM VILLAGE SCHOOL NEWS

It is now the Spring term and we have lots of exciting learning to look forward to. We have enjoyed frisbee, football, netball and dodge ball tournaments with other local schools.

This half term Jet Class are learning about how life in Britain has changed since 1948. They will be learning about one of the most exciting and fast moving centuries of all time with countless technological, social and political developments. They will focus on home life, work life, population, culture and technology through the decades. They will be setting up a museum in their classroom of household artefacts from the past.

Quartz Class are learning about Anglo Saxons Picts and Scots. They will be learning about the burial at Sutton Hoo and where the Anglo-Saxons came from, how they came to settle in Britain, along with the Picts and Scots of the north. They will be constructing their own Anglo Saxon Village in a shoebox.

Amber Class are learning about The Great Fire of London. They will be learning about 1666 and the era of the Stuarts as they find out about the Great Fire of London and the effect it had on the people of the time. They will find out when, where, how and why the Great Fire happened, and explore how we know about it through the diary of Samuel Pepys and other sources.

The Eco Council have been involved in planting trees at the Langham village recreation ground. They had a lovely afternoon and helped to plant nearly 100 trees. They also did a super jog at collecting litter around the area.

This week has been 'Reading Week' and the children have been involved in a variety of different activities to celebrate reading and books. Monday was a Fairy Tale Day and we were involved in a live Zoom with the author and poet Michael Rosen who showed the children how to write an innovated Fairy tale. On Tuesday, we had a special reading celebration assembly. Wednesday was a 'Little People, Big Dreams' themed day, Thursday was World Book Day and on Friday parents were invited into school to read with the children. The week finished with a book swap after school. Next week we have an author called David Oates visiting us to share his books and help us to write our own stories.

To celebrate World Book Day everyone dressed as a favourite book character. Amongst many other brilliant and inventive costumes, there were a few Harry Potter characters, a Gangster Granny, Super Worm, Mary Poppins, Willy Wonka and a pirate. We held a special assembly to admire everyone's efforts and talk about our favourite books. The children were excited to be given a book token to take home to exchange for a free book.

Langham Village: *'A place for fun, creativity, friendship, ambition and discovery.'*

Polly Kossowicz - Head teacher

For further information please visit our website www.langham.norfolk.co.uk or follow us on twitter @langhamvill.



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IF SOMEONE COLLAPSES FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS

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The Community HeartBeat Trust

D DANGER ENSURE THE SCENE IS SAFE
 FOR YOURSELF AND OTHERS. IF IT IS NOT SAFE OR YOU ARE UNCERTAIN CALL 999 AND WAIT FOR HELP TO ARRIVE

R RESPONSE CHECK THE CASUALTY NEEDS HELP
 CHECK RESPONSE BY TALK AND TOUCH. SPEAK TO THE CASUALTY IN BOTH EARS, TAP COLLAR BONES. DO NOT SHAKE THEM!

S SHOUT SHOUT FOR HELP
 IF THE CASUALTY DOES NOT RESPOND, SHOUT FOR HELP. DO NOT LEAVE THEM AT THIS STAGE. DIAL 999 NOW!

A AIRWAY ENSURE AIRWAY IS OPEN AND CLEAR
 OPEN THE AIRWAY BY LIFTING THE CASUALTY'S CHIN AND TILTING THEIR HEAD BACK. DO NOT PUT YOUR FINGERS IN THE CASUALTY'S MOUTH. YOU MAY PUSH AN OBSTRUCTION FURTHER DOWN.

B BREATHING LOOK, LISTEN & FEEL FOR NORMAL BREATHING
 KEEP THE HEAD TILTED BACK AND LISTEN FOR BREATHING & LOOK TO SEE IF THE CHEST IS MOVING FOR AT LEAST 10 SECONDS. IF THE CASUALTY IS NOT BREATHING NORMALLY OR YOU HAVE ANY DOUBT, CALL 999!

C COMPRESSIONS NOT BREATHING NORMALLY? START COMPRESSIONS!
 PLACE YOUR HANDS IN CENTRE OF THE CASUALTY'S CHEST AND PRESS DOWN HARD. JUST DO COMPRESSIONS. YOU CAN DO BREATHS IF YOU FEEL CONFIDENT - 2 BREATHS FOR EVERY 30 COMPRESSIONS - PUSH TWICE PER SECOND

D DEFIBRILLATION GET SOMEONE TO FETCH A DEFIBRILLATOR
 IF YOU ARE ALONE DO NOT LEAVE THE PATIENT, DO CHEST COMPRESSIONS AND WAIT FOR HELP TO ARRIVE, IF SOMEONE IS AVAILABLE SEND THEM TO GET YOUR NEAREST COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR

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