

February
2026

The Holt Chronicle

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THE HOLT CHRONICLE

The deadline for the March Issue is Noon Tuesday 3rd March
The Next Issue will be Published on 13th March 2026

Your local Editor for Holt Chronicle is Jo 01263 821463

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A Note from the Editor

January is out of the way and spring is beckoning with the days lengthening and green shoots appearing. Time to start planning your gardening year and get out into the fresh air. If that is not your thing, remember to book your lunch out for Mother's Day on 15th March before all the reservations are gone. There is Valentine's Day, of course. One of this month's recipes is an easy pudding to impress your partner, and let's not forget Pancake Day on 17th February, your chance to show off your pancake tossing skills!



There are lots of new interesting groups starting up, from crafts to cafes, photography and many more, see the magazine for details. Ideal for getting out and socialising as well as learning a new skill or taking up a new hobby.

Whatever you are doing this month, enjoy your magazine.

Jo – editor.

Here are the deadline dates and publishing dates for the next 3 magazines.

Month	Copy deadline	Publishing date
March	Tuesday 3rd March	Friday 13th March
April	Tuesday 7th April	Friday 17th April
May	Tuesday 5th May	Friday 15th May

Aylsham and District Flower Club

Having held our AGM last month, we begin our New Year with a demonstration by Moira Neville entitled "Whatever the Weather" on Wednesday 11th March. The meeting will be at Aylsham Town Hall, NR11 6EL, 7pm for coffee with a 7-30pm start.

There will be the usual sales table, flower of the month and raffle for the arrangements.

Please come and join us for fun, friendship and flowers, visitors are always welcome, £8. We look forward to seeing you then.

For more information please contact: crystalldball57@gmail.com

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We often are asked "What do I do with an old stamp collection?" It may be that a collection has been passed to a relative or friend, or that an interest in stamps has waned, or that a collector simply wants to dispose of a surplus. The market is the decider. A high face value, or a fancy price in a catalogue or on eBay means nothing unless a buyer can be found. Sadly, disappointment can follow a visit to a stamp dealer or even contact with us – not sharp practice but honest reality. Rarely, a discovery can exceed hopes.

It works both ways. Our January meeting was a busy trading session for members. Buyers identifying "bargains" to fill gaps in collections and sellers delighted to clear "clutter" = one transaction. On the downside, as one member commented, "We all seem to collect different things": so, some duplicated stock went unsold. So, what do we do with that? There are charity outlets and auctions who are delighted recipients – it seems that one person's trash may still be another's treasure. Not all charities want stamps, but we can advise.

Our new programme will be revealed soon – as yet, the Secretary is keeping us in suspense over 10th March onwards! Our monthly Tuesday meetings always start at 7.30pm at West Runton Church Hall – all are welcome.

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WHAT'S ON

FEBRUARY

Saturday 14

Michael Jackson Tribute

Doors 7:30pm | Starts 8:30pm
Tickets £10 | Door | Online | HCC

Tuesday 17

Memory Swap

2pm - 4pm | Free entry
Donations greatly appreciated

Wednesday 18

Leg - endary Quiz for Kylie

Doors 6:30 | Starts 7:30pm
£3 per person | Maximum 6 per team
BOOKING ESSENTIAL: Contact HCC

Friday 20 - Sunday 22

February Film Festival

For programme see copy
Weekend ticket £30 | Single view £5

Saturday 28

Savannah Gardner

Doors 7:30pm | Starts 8:30pm
Tickets £12.50 | Online | HCC | Vinyl Vault

MARCH

Saturday 7

The Glamastics

Doors 8pm | Starts 9pm
Tickets £10 | Door | Online | HCC

Wednesday 11

Cash Prize Bingo

Doors 6:30pm | Eyes Down 7:30pm

Saturday 21

Marc James Country 'n' Western

Doors 7pm | Starts 8pm
Tickets £5 on the door

See website for up-to-date details

51 Years at the Heart of Our Community

As some of you may remember, HCC opened on the 8th of March, 1975, which means that in less than a month, our lovely community centre will be 51 years old.

Last week, I found a flyer tucked away in a box of old files advertising the opening of the centre 51 years ago. The Centre was officially opened by the Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk at 3pm, and to celebrate there was a Grand Opening Buffet and Dance from 8pm until midnight. I can't help but wonder whether the people who attended that night knew that, over half a century later, we'd still be hosting nights full of music, laughter, and fun.

So, what's in store for the 51st year of HCC? Firstly, we'll be saying goodbye to our 50th anniversary logo and colour scheme. But don't worry, the next edition of the Holt Chronicle will reveal our brand new logo and colours, which we're sure you'll love.

We've also got a whole host of bands and music acts coming to HCC this summer. From familiar favourites like the Lee Vasey Band and Marc James, to exciting new faces such as Halo's Edge and Skatopia, there's truly something for everyone. And after the huge popularity of last year's tribute acts, we're bringing even more! This month, David Boakes will bring Michael Jackson to Holt, and in June the award-winning Wrong Jovi will be rocking the Centre all night long.

Most importantly, throughout our 51st year and beyond, we'll continue doing what we've done every day since opening our doors: supporting our community.

Sam Riches, Centre Manager

February Film Festival Celebrates Life by the Coast

The Holt February Film Festival returns this month with a rich and varied programme inspired by life at the water's edge. Running from Friday 20 to Sunday 22 February, this year's theme, COAST – Stories from the Shoreline, celebrates the beauty, challenges and communities of coastal living.

Audiences are invited to enjoy a weekend of classic and contemporary films exploring resilience, humour and hardship by the sea. Alongside the screenings, the festival will feature special talks from Coastwatch and acclaimed author Jim Ring, offering insight into the environmental and cultural significance of Britain's coastline. A free continuous film screening will also run in the bar throughout the festival.

The Holt February Film Festival committee commented: "With COAST – Stories from the Shoreline, we wanted to curate a programme that captures the richness and complexity of coastal life. These films explore beauty, resilience, humour and challenge, and we're delighted to pair the screenings with talks that root those stories firmly in our local landscape."

We will also be showing some beautiful short films by the Coastal Exploration company based in Wells. The Festival Programme is as follows:

Friday 20 February

6.30pm – Bar opens | 7.00pm – Talk by Coastwatch | 7.30pm – Local Hero (1h 51m)

Saturday 21 February

11.00am – Limbo (1h 43m) | 2.00pm – Seaside Special (93 mins), followed by a talk from Jim Ring | 7.00pm – Fisherman's Friends (1h 52m)

Sunday 22 February

11.00am – Ballad of Wallis Island (1h 40m) | 2.00pm – Bait (1h 29m)

4.00pm – Whisky Galore (1h 22m) | 6.30pm – Empire of Light (1h 55m)

Season tickets, priced at £30, allow access to all eight films and are affectionately known as "Deckchair Tickets". Individual film tickets are available at £5 each. Tickets can be purchased from The Holt Bookshop.

For bookings and enquiries contact The Holt Bookshop sales@holtbookshop.co.uk or 01263 715858. All profits from the festival will go towards supporting the Holt Community Centre.

Keith Britten

Room to Rent at Holt Community Centre

We have a 5m x 3.5m office space available to rent at the front side of the building, ideal for small businesses or organisations. Be apart of a welcoming and well-used community space. For more information please get in touch.

John Jarvis' Monthly Memory Swap

The next John Jarvis's 'Monthly Memory Swap' is Tuesday, the 17th of February from 2.00pm-4.00pm, in the large hall at Holt Community Centre, hope you can make it. Just turn up for this free event, no booking necessary. Donations to the Community Centre always welcome.

Phil Barrett

Call for Tales:

The North Norfolk Folklore Project

Black Shuck, Hikey Sprites, Eel Men or local ghosts!

Do you have a story, memory or know of a local belief that has been passed down in your family or the community? Perhaps a tale of a ghostly encounter, a warning not to stay out late 'else the Hikey Sprites will get you', do you remember 'Beating the Bounds' on May Day morning or did your parents or Grandparents use any peculiar Norfolk sayings?

The North Norfolk Folklore Project is an independent research initiative gathering stories, memories and traditional knowledge from the area. Led by local writer and folklore researcher Tahnee Beck, the project aims to explore how folklore continues to exist and change in our everyday lives; everything from local legends (Black Shuck), good luck charms, seasonal customs to Norfolk sayings.

Although East Anglia has a rich folklore record overall, North Norfolk remains surprisingly under-documented. This project aims to change that by creating a living record of the folklore still remembered, retold and adapted today.

Please email: folklorefieldwork@gmail.com with any contributions or for further information.

Examples:

- A ghost or fairy story you heard growing up
- A local saying or superstition
- A traditional recipe or seasonal customs
- Black Shuck encounters

Material gathered may be used for research, talks and articles and may later be offered to a recognised heritage archive (with permission). No submissions will be published without the contributors' consent, and you can choose to remain anonymous.

Help ensure North Norfolk's folklore is remembered, recorded and celebrated for generations to come.

The Arts Society Glaven Valley Cley Village Hall

The Arts Society Glaven Valley meets for lectures on arts-related subjects, once a month on the third Tuesday from September to June, at 2.15. We meet at Cley Village Hall, and there is free parking in the car park next to the Hall.

Tuesday 17 January 2026

THE RESTORATION OF NOTRE DAME

by Jonathan Deeming

Membership of TSGV costs £55 a year with reduced rates for those joining later in the society's year. New members are welcomed, and you can find out how to join on our website www.theartsocietyglavenvalley.org.uk

If you wish to sample a lecture, please email the Secretary at tasgvsecretary@gmail.com

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1 Tied Derby County, and so far this season Wolves on 1 each
2 Norwich City (from 42 games, First Division, 1978-79), Exeter City
(from 46 games, Fourth Division, 1986-87), Hartlepool United (from 46
games, Third Division, 1997-98), Cardiff City (from 46 games, Third
Division, 1997-98) 3 Preston North End (First Division, 1888-89; final
record P22 W18 D4 L0), Liverpool (Second Division, 1893-94; final
record P28 W22 D6 L0),
4 Bobby Moore 5 Dunfermline 6 Blackburn, Bristol, Doncaster and
Tranmere 7 The Ivory Coast 8 Chris Sutton, Norwich City to Blackburn
Rovers 9 Portugal 10 France (1-0)

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At Coastal Health & Wellbeing, based at the Old Cottage Hospital, we're passionate about supporting people to live healthy, happy and connected lives. And at the heart of everything we do are our dedicated volunteers, whose time, kindness and commitment make such a difference to our community.

Our volunteers can be found in many corners of Coastal life, whether it's serving in the café, tending the garden, welcoming people into the community shop, supporting families at the Bumble Bees 'stay and play' group, or helping by delivering prescriptions. Whatever the role, they all share the same aim: to offer practical support alongside a friendly face and a listening ear.



I've been volunteering in the community shop for around two years now, and through it I've met people I might never otherwise have crossed paths with. One of my favourite things is when someone pops in to shop and ends up staying for a chat. Those moments, simple as they are, really strengthen that sense of belonging and community spirit.

Life is tough for many people at the moment, and that's exactly why places like Coastal Health & Wellbeing, and the people who support us, matter so much. By looking out for one another and offering what we can, we help build a kinder, more resilient future for Wells. After all we all want to see our community thrive, not just in the summer months, but all year round.

Trustee Recruitment

We are currently looking for new trustees to join our committed board. If you feel you have the skills to sit on our finance committee and could head up our Coastal Champions to support fundraising events and initiatives we'd love to hear from you.

In the first instance please write to our chair- Tim How, C/O Coastal Health and Wellbeing at The Old Cottage Hospital, Mill Road, Wells next the Sea, NR23 1RF or email with the title, Trustee Position attention Tim How using the email address- emma.johnson@coastalwells.org.uk

Support Services

We have a wealth of services at Coastal that offer people support through difficult times.

Dementia Support on Wednesdays

We're delighted to host The Alzheimer's Society on a Wednesday morning. If you've got concerns about memory loss or have a dementia diagnosis of any sort – whether for yourself or someone you care for – pop into the café between 10am and 1pm for a relaxed chat and some friendly advice.

Mental Health Matters

We host Mind Norfolk and Waveney and the NHS Talking Therapies at Coastal. You can self-refer to the talking therapy team through an online form, there is a link on our website or pop in and we can help refer you. Sessions run on a Tuesday.

Talking Elephants – Bereavement Support

Our monthly Talking Elephants group offers a safe, supportive space to share experiences and talk through grief with others who understand. Get in touch with Emma for a friendly first chat.

Bumble Bees Stay & Play – Friday Mornings

Our garden is the place to be on Friday mornings (9.30–11.00), when our lovely volunteer team runs a free playgroup for children aged 0–5. There are crafts, outdoor play, healthy snacks for the little ones – and a hot drink for the grown-ups!

Creative Wellbeing Group

Fancy unlocking your inner artist? Join our volunteer Carole on Wednesday mornings in the café from 10 o'clock for some relaxing chat and create time. No pressure – just a bit of mindful art, conversation, and creativity.

Cancer Care & Share

For anyone living with cancer – or supporting someone who is – our friendly drop-in group meets every second Monday in the café. Come along for a chat and some understanding company. For dates, call 01328 711996 or email us.

Together, we can keep our community thriving.

For more info on any of the above contact: admin@coastalwells.org.uk/ 01328711996.

Lisa Reynolds (volunteer and board member)

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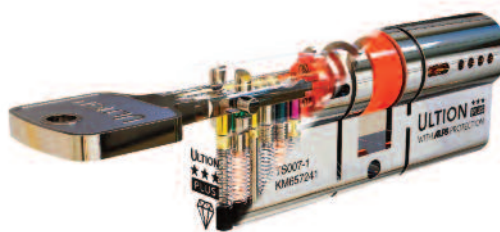
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Holt and District Probus Club



After Christmas, Holt Probus Club met for their monthly lunch and talk at The Feathers in Holt on January 7th. Duly sustained, they listened to a most interesting talk from John Allan. John was already well known to the club as he spoke to them last year about Bomber Command and entertained them at the Norwich Aviation Museum when several

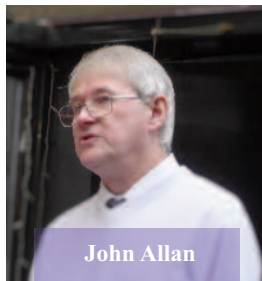
members visited there.

John's talk was about the history of the Avro Vulcan bomber, bringing into the story the development of the other V-Bombers at the same time – the Vickers Valiant and the Handley Page Victor. In fact, the Government of the day invited 6 aircraft companies to design bombers to handle the nuclear bomb being developed at the time, though in the end just the three classes were built.

The Vulcan was a delta wing plane originally designed for high altitude use – 60,000 feet or so. But when it was discovered that the USSR had devices that could attack at such height, it was re-purposed for low level use. Although the Vulcan was typically armed with nuclear weapons, it could also carry out conventional bombing missions, which it did in Operation Black Buck during the Falklands War between the United Kingdom and Argentina in 1982.

The Norwich Aviation Museum has a Vulcan on display, one of the few remaining out of some 136 built.

Holt Probus Club meets for lunch followed by a talk on the first Wednesday each month at The Feathers Hotel in Holt. Always on the lookout for new members, any interested gentlemen should contact Dave Wyeth at dave.wyeth@icloud.com or find the club on the web at holtprobusclub.com.



John Allan



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There are 2 different types of Lasting Powers of Attorney – one for financial and property decisions and the other for health and care decisions. Setting up Lasting Powers of Attorney can be likened to the purchase of a home insurance policy. You hope that your house won't burn down, but if it did, then knowing that you have house insurance in place can make a real difference in putting your mind at ease.

We are all living longer and statistics show that 1 in 3 of us will develop dementia. Covid and lockdowns have made Lasting Powers of Attorney even more important, especially if you become housebound or are isolating.

It is vital to release the burden from loved ones to allow them to access your money and pay for your care. Banks can freeze accounts if capability is lost, even if in joint names.

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Editor's Recipes

It is the season for comfort food and what is more pleasing than a simple baked gratin using seasonal veg? I love leeks, especially when combined with a tasty cheese sauce, comfort on a plate. The first dish goes very well with a roast dinner, sausages or is great as a veggie main course with a chunk of crusty bread.

The second recipe is for those who have always thought fondant puddings too risky to try making, with warnings of the need for precision and exact timing, well these are simplicity itself and the runny middle works every time. Just the thing to impress your date on Valentine's Day!

Cheesy Leek Gratin

Serves 4 – 6

Ingredients

100g butter
3 leeks, halved lengthways, washed and chopped into 1cm slices
3 tbsp plain flour
500 ml whole milk
200g grated mature cheddar
1 tsp Dijon mustard
salt
ground black pepper
dried breadcrumbs (I use panko breadcrumbs)

Method

Preheat the oven to 180C/170fan/G4

In a large saucepan or sauté pan melt the butter and add the chopped leeks, sauté on a lowish heat with a lid on for about 5 minutes until tender but not coloured, stirring frequently. Add the flour and stir continuously until the flour is incorporated. Add the milk a little at a time whilst continuing to stir until the mixture is thickened. Bring to the boil briefly then turn down the heat to low, add the mustard and stir. Take off the heat and stir in the cheese, reserving some for the topping. Place in an ovenproof dish, scatter the top with an even coating of the breadcrumbs and the rest of the cheese. Bake in the oven for 30 minutes. Remove from the oven and leave to settle for a few minutes before serving.

Holt WI

The first meeting of 2026 was an extremely busy one for Holt WI. Lots of members attending and seven visitors! Our speaker was Malcolm Baker from Bakers and Larners. He gave a fascinating talk on the history of Holt's famous department store. From its origins to how we recognise it today. It is always rewarding to hear about local history and everyone enjoyed listening to him. An added bonus was little goodie bags for everyone. On a very wet and windy Tuesday several members attended a craft afternoon held by Mundesley WI. There were different crafts available to try and of course lovely refreshments.

Our next speaker will be talking about The True Price of Fish. We have varied speakers throughout the year so there is usually a topic to suit everyone. We meet the third Wednesday of the month at the Community Centre 2-4pm. Come along to see us, you will be made very welcome.



theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Cheat's Chocolate Fondant Puddings

Makes 4 puddings. You will need 4 x 200ml dariole moulds or ramakins (even teacups will do)

Method

Preheat your oven to 190C/170fan/G5
Grease your moulds well with butter and place on a baking tray.

Ingredients

100g butter
100g 70% dark chocolate
4 eggs
50g caster sugar
15g plain flour
4 Lindor chocolates (or any other truffle type chocolate)

Melt the chocolate and butter in a bowl set over simmering water and stir until smooth then set aside to cool slightly. Crack 2 of the eggs into a bowl and add just the yolks from the other 2 eggs, add the sugar and whisk until pale and fluffy. Fold in the chocolate, sift in the flour and fold in. Divide the mixture evenly between the 4 moulds and press one chocolate into each mould, making sure it sits in the middle of the batter. Bake for 8 – 10 minutes, remove from the oven and leave to stand for a couple of minutes.

Gently loosen the puddings by running a knife around the moulds and turn out onto a serving plate and serve with double cream and berries.

Enjoy – Jo.



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Diary of a Wildlife Garden

Walking around the garden this morning, looking for inspiration on what to write this month, it all looked

The water is looking nice and clear, despite the number of leaves that managed to get past the netting I put over in the autumn and hopefully will look enticing to any frogs looking to spawn in the next few weeks.

a bit soggy and sad. We have had so much

rain and snow the ground is saturated, what a contrast to summer last year when everything was parched and dry. It just goes to show how adaptable all the plants and wildlife must be, and there is always something overcoming the elements and flourishing. I potted some wild cyclamen and my first snowdrops (pictured), and buds are swelling on my fruit trees, a sure sign that spring is just around the corner.

The pond is coming to life, after spending the best part of a week locked in a thick layer of ice, the plants are starting to grow (pictured).



I have started to put up some more nest boxes (pictured), much easier when the trees and bushes are bare, and of course they provide roosting sites before they are occupied for nesting later in the spring.

I took part in the Big Garden Bird Watch, and the results were much the same as last year, I had 17 different species and 34 individual birds in one hour, including a redwing and a black cap in addition to my usual visitors. It was nice to see several healthy greenfinches,



which have been badly hit by trichomonosis in recent years, and lots of goldfinches and long-tailed tits.

The seed sowing and planting is underway and as we start to get some warmer and sunnier days, I'm on the lookout for the first early bumble bees to emerge. If you took part in any of The Buzz Club's projects last year, it is time to sign up to this year's projects. Go along to <https://www.thebuzzclub.uk/projects> to register your interest in monitoring your bee hotels, hoverfly lagoons and new this year the pet waste watch, looking at the effect of flea treatments on the environment. All helping to inform research into our vital pollinators.

Jo – editor.



THE WINDOW REPAIR MAN

Hi, I'm John Claxton and I'm a UPVC Window, Door and Conservatory Repair Specialist.

I started as a fitter in 1986 and I've been fitting, manufacturing and repairing since then.

With all that experience, there isn't much I can't repair or replace.



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Holt Library

Special Occasions and Grief

Somehow, we've got through Christmas and New Year, with so much focus put on the hopes and wishes of what it might bring. With this month it's Valentine's Day and next month Mother's Day, these occasions and other anniversaries - maybe of

a birth, wedding, or death - it can feel particularly lonely if, like me, you are grieving for the loss of a loved one. While other people seem to be getting on with their lives, facing the prospect of another year or anniversary without the one(s) we love can be a particular challenge.

Spending time with others who are also learning to live with loss can help the grieving process. That is why more and more Grief Cafes are being set up throughout the country. And there is a weekly café here in Holt in our local library. It provides a safe space where people can come together for a hot drink, a chat and feel supported.

It may seem like quite a daunting prospect to meet with people you don't know, especially when you may feel at your most vulnerable. So, as the Café host, I asked one of our members to tell us about her experience.

'Coming to the Grief Café was one of the best things that I did after my dear husband died. Being able to talk to friendly, supportive people who have been through the same trauma has helped me to cope with each day as it comes. My advice would be to take the first step, come and join us and you will be listened to by people who really understand.'

Friday Grief Café 11.00 – 12.00 at Holt Library

No need to book

For more information call the library on 01263 712202



Healthwatch Norfolk

Healthwatch Norfolk is Coming to Your Village We'd Love to Hear from You!

On Thursday 26th February, the Healthwatch Norfolk team will be visiting Sharrington Village Hall from 10am to 12pm, and then Wiveton Village Hall from 2pm to 4pm.

Who are we?

Healthwatch Norfolk is your local health and social care champion. Our role is simple: to make sure your voice, the patient voice, is heard. By sharing your experiences—what worked well and what could be better—you help shape services for everyone in our community. Every single piece of feedback we receive is shared with the NHS and local decision makers, as well as the wider public. We're here to keep you up to date with, and connected to, an evolving NHS, whilst helping you to navigate a complex health and social care system.

Why YOUR voice matters

There's a lot of change happening in the world of health and social care right now, both locally and nationally, with more to come in the future as the Government puts its 10-Year Health Plan into action. Your input is vital to making sure that the patient experience is kept at the heart of these changes going forward. It's easy to believe that your individual views and experiences won't make an impact - but they can and they do.

So why not pop in for a chat and a cuppa with one of our friendly team? Tell us about your experiences, ask questions, and help make health and social care better for all.

Where to find us:

- Sharrington Village Hall
Melton Constable, NR24 2AB
- Wiveton Village Hall
Holt, NR25 7TH

Come along and have your say!



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More Than a Cup of Tea A Day at Sheringham Day Services

For many older people staying active, social and connected can become more challenging with age. At Sheringham Day Services we are proud to offer a welcoming space where older people are not just supported but encouraged to thrive. The day centre provides a friendly relaxed environment where attendees can enjoy companionship, take part in a varied programme of activities and look forward to a hot nutritious meal enjoyed together around the table encouraging lots of conversation.

Each day is carefully planned to support both physical and mental well being and activities include arts and crafts, animal visits, entertainment, reminiscing sessions, hand massages and gentle exercises, games and quizzes. These activities help keep minds active, build confidence and most importantly create opportunities for laughter and friendships. For many it becomes the highlight of a person's week and a vital link to the community, some of our clients affectionately call us "the club"

Staff and volunteers play a key role in creating the warm atmosphere that defines the centre. They take time to get to know each person as an individual offering support and encouragement with a friendly smile.

In a time when loneliness among older people as a growing concern, day centres like ours provide an essential service. The centre welcomes new attendees and encourages anyone who may benefit, or who knows someone who might, to get in touch. A visit could be the first step towards new friendships, enjoyable activities and a delicious hot meal shared in company.

For more information please contact the office on **01263 821188** or email enquiries@sheringhamdayservices.co.uk



Extra Hands Established 1993
Providers of Home Care in Norfolk

Keeping You & Your Loved Ones Safe At Home

We are a local award winning independent Home Care Specialist, providing carers trained to the highest standards including Dementia Care. We offer a wide range of services within the home setting which are tailored to suit individual needs from personal care to shopping and companionship.



Our services can be arranged on either a short term or long term basis, we offer flexibility when organising care packages and can assure our customers that we will meet their requirements every step of the way.

If you or anyone you know may be interested in our services please do not hesitate to contact us on the number below for further advice and information.

Thinking of a career in Social Care? Why not join our award winning team

We offer: • Good rates of pay • Various hours available
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www.extrahandshomecarenorfolk.co.uk

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www.lifesheringham.co.uk



life church

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Ten village churches offering prayer,
hospitality and a warm welcome:

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St Edmund Swanton Novers, All Saints Thornage

Contact Rev Trudie Morris: revtrudie@gmail.com

or visit our website: www.bandbchurches.co.uk



St Mary's Church, Kelling

Services are based on the Book of Common Prayer

1st and 3rd Sunday of every month

Matins – 11am

2nd and 4th Sunday of every month

Holy Communion – 11am

Fourth Sunday of the Month Evensong 4.00 pm
Fifth Sunday in a month Holy Communion 11 am.

ALL WELCOME. PARKING IN THE CHURCHYARD.

For further details please see Weybourne Group Website
or call Revd Ian Doble: 01263 741235 or
Revd Angela Dugdale: 01263 588389



Roman Catholic Churches Mass Times

The Church of The Annunciation, **Walsingham**.

Sunday 11am, Monday-Saturday 9.30am.

Our Lady Star of the Sea, **Wells**.

Saturday 6pm, Sunday 9.00am, Thursday 9.30am.

St Henry Walpole, **Burnham Market**. Sunday 9.30am, Friday 9.30am.

St Andrew's Church, **Holt** at 9:30am on Thursdays.

The Catholic Parish of Our Lady & St. Joseph, **Sheringham and Cromer**

Saturday: 6pm at Our Lady of Refuge, Cromer

Sunday: 9am at Our Lady of Refuge, Cromer

11am at St. Joseph's, Sheringham

For more information visit: www.ourladyandstjoseph.info



NWT North Norfolk Group and Cley Bird Club The Mystery of Migration

An illustrated talk by Andy Clarke
Thursday February 19th 2026

Cley Village Hall at 7.30pm

Refreshments provided

Entry £3.00

Kindly sponsored by Oriel Birding



† Church News †

LEATHERINGSETT CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW

There are currently two services a month at St Andrew's,

- 1st Sunday of the month:

Holy Communion

(Book of Common Prayer) at 11.15 am

- 3rd Sunday of the month:

Morning Prayer

(Common Worship) at 9.30 am



HOLT METHODIST CHURCH NOTICE BOARD

Holt Methodist Church is open for Worship each
Sunday at 11am

Friday Prayers each Friday at 9.30am

You are assured of a warm welcome.

Next afternoon teas: 20th Feb & 20th Mar 2026

The Loades Hall is available for hire.

Email: loadesbookings23@gmail.com

Please contact Sally Jones, Mobile: 07792 548221

MINISTER - Revd J Bell - 01263 710009

Senior Steward - Mrs J. Bunting - 01263 712068

Mass times for St. Peter's RC Church, Blakeney

These are: Sundays 11am

Wednesday's 9.30am

For more information go to catholicparishofwalsingham.org

The Salvation Army

Cremer Street, Sheringham NR26 8DZ

A Celebration of Music Ministry



Saturday 9th May 7pm

Kettering Citadel Band in Concert

(Bandmaster Richard Phillips)

Dudley Bright (former Principal Trombone LSO)

and Sheringham Songsters

Free admission: a collection will be taken for the work
of The Salvation Army in Sheringham

Sunday Worship at 11am Led by Dudley

All welcome



The Salvation Army is a Christian church, and registered charity in England (214779)



SAINT ANDREW'S & ALL SAINTS NEWS

The Parish of Holt with High Kelling

Rector: Fr. Howard Stoker SSC, The Rectory, Church Street, Holt NR25 6BB Tel: 01263 712048
email: holtrectory@tiscali.co.uk

Churchwarden: Tim Bennett Tel: 01263 713039, Licensed Lay Minister John Allen Tel: 07771363176
Parish Office Tel: 01263 713479 E: standrewsholt@btinternet.com website at www.holtchurch.org



FROM THE RECTOR.

Dear Friends,

Characterised by prayer, fasting and acts of charity, the season of Lent is an opportunity for all of us to take time to pause and reflect. Mirroring the 40 days Christ Jesus spent in the wilderness being tested, properly used, Lent calls Christians to prepare for Holy Week and Easter by drawing closer to God and seeking to grow in the likeness of Christ.



By spending time in prayer, study of scripture and partaking of the sacramental life of the Church, Christians, with God's help, seek to be better than we are. I remember making a baptism

preparation visit to a young family when the father of the child remarked that one reason he was not attracted to church was because it was full of hypocrites! I may well have replied, "don't let that worry you, there's always room for one more!" You see, those who go to church do so, not because they think that they are in some way better than anyone else, or because they are holier than the next person. We go to church because with God's help we are trying to be better than we are! No-one is perfect.

Surely, we would all benefit from trying to be better than we are. You only have to read some of the current news headlines to realise that people fall short of our best. War, conflict, violence and scandal make for depressing reading and the sad thing is that we can be better than this. Heroic stories of love and compassion, simple acts of kindness, generosity to good causes, and the willingness to volunteer to help others, all reflect what humanity is capable of and goes some way in restoring faith in humanity.

Taking time to reflect on who we are and what we do is time well spent if it leads us to seek to be and do better. Christians believe that we are made in the image of God, whose image is one of love and we will could all be better than we are if we learn to love that little bit more.

Every blessing for a holy Lent.

Fr. Howard

FROM THE REGISTERS.

Funerals:

5th February: Priscilla Hunt (St Margaret's Cley)

19th February: Jane Sands

Memorial Services:

7th February: Shirley Ratcliffe

19th February: Donald Ould

20th Memorial: Jean Gooden

SHROVE TUESDAY: Parish Pancake Party 17th February 2.00pm-5.00pm in the meeting room at St Andrews. All Welcome.

OPEN THE CHURCH FOR LENT: FREE CHILDREN'S EVENT

Wednesday 18th February 2pm – 4pm. A FREE craft based, creative, fun filled children's event. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

ASH WEDNESDAY 18th February

10.00am Said Eucharist at All Saints, High Kelling. 7.00pm Sung Eucharist at St Andrew's, Holt.

Both services will include the imposition of ashes.

LENT EUCHARIST WITH ADDRESS:

Every Wednesday at 12noon followed by **LENT LUNCH** in aid this years Lent Appeal commencing 25th February.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Every Friday during Lent at 3.00pm at St Andrews commencing Friday 27th February.

FREE WINTER TALKS organised by Eco Church & Greening Holt in the St Andrew's Meeting Room.

Thursday 19th February 6.30pm – 8.30pm

"Deepdale Conservation Trust" New Film Screening

Thursday 19th March 6.30pm – 8.30pm

"Revitalising Ponds AND the Plight of Eels

Professor Carl Sayer- UCL Geography Lecturer & Lake, River, Pond Restoration in Norfolk

LITTLE LAMB'S PARENT & TODDLER GROUP meets every

Wednesday during term time 9.15am – 11.00am in the Parish

Church Hall in Street Hall. All parents/carers are welcome to come along and meet with friends and make new ones.



FAMILIES AT ST ANDREWS: Young families are always welcome at Church. Every Sunday at the

10.30am service provision is made for children and they are able to make use of the children's corner. Families are also encouraged to approach us to have their children christened.

MENS GROUP AT ST ANDREWS: meets on Wednesdays 1.30pm-3.00pm in the meeting room at the Parish Church. An inclusive, non-judgemental, welcoming group which offers support, friendship, and conversation and is concerned for men's wellbeing. Come along and find out more.

LOCAL FOOD BANK COLLECTION:

A collection point for donations of non-perishable food goods is now available in the Parish Church. Open every day.



HOLT & COMMUNITY DISTRICT SUPPORT FUND (Energy).

Local support for local people. FUNDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

to help those struggling to pay their energy bills, require a winter fuel allowance and/or purchase white goods and winter **PLEASE DO NOT STRUGGLE IN SILENCE.**

Contact the North Norfolk Food Bank (Energy) (07826 376343). Or the Rector 01263 712048

TIMES OF WORSHIP:

Sunday Services

8am Book of Common Prayer Eucharist

9.15am Said Eucharist at All Saints, High Kelling

10.30am Parish Sung Eucharist.

5.00pm Choral Evensong (2nd Sunday of the month)

Week day services Mon – Sat

Morning Prayer 9am. Evening Prayer 5.30pm

Eucharist 9.30am / Wed 12noon.

Thurs 10am at All Saints

LIVE STREAMING: The Sunday Parish Eucharist continues to be live streamed on YouTube at 10.30am.

YOUTUBE: St Andrew the Apostle, Holt

Please see our website or facebook page for more details.

www.holtchurch.org



Readers Write....



A column where you can write in. Write to us - share your news or views on issues that concern our community. Just e-mail your letter to info@holtchronicle.co.uk or leave it in THE HOLT CHRONICLE collection box in Feeney's Newsagents. **ALL letters must have a contact name, full postal address and telephone number** so that we may be able to contact you if necessary but please note that we will publish your name but not your address or telephone number unless requested to do so.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR LETTER TO A MAXIMUM OF 300 WORDS so that we may be able to publish it in full.

Please note: The views expressed in this column are not necessarily the views of the editor or publishers of The Holt Chronicle but those of the author's submitting the material.

Disappointed Visitor Reply

Dear Jo,

As a resident of Holt, I was grieved to read "Disappointed Visitor" in January's Holt Chronicle. Norfolk has a tradition of welcoming strangers as befits an East Anglian County founded on peoples from all over Europe and I am not only proud of the county but of my root in Holt which was a refuge for a family in the 16th century.

The name Akers is one of a couple of dozen Dutch families who were refugees from Holland in 1568 at the time of the Duke of Alba's persecution of the Protestants in their native land. They had landed at Cley-next-the-Sea and my own line found its way to Holt where, in the 18th century, my 3xGreat grandfather, John Akers, had his business as a glover in Church Street, Holt. The premises are still there, now an estate agents, but older generations will remember them as the dry cleaners.

But I must wonder if our disappointed guest has met with the old native Norfolk folk or well-heeled settlers from outside. Holt is often described with epithets such as 'genteel' or 'posh' which savour of snobbery and is anathema to me. Anything pretentious is, I feel, beyond the Norfolk character. There is even an idiomatic word in Norfolk dialect "botty" for the bumptious, self-important and--perhaps--discriminatory. Our visitor is clearly an erudite gentleman and will be familiar with the name of Thomas Paine (1737-1809). Paine was the first among the Founding Fathers in the American War of Independence of 1776, but he was a Norfolk native from the town of Thetford. His creed: "I am a citizen of the world; all mankind is my brethren; and my religion is to do good" is something that transcends all differences and discriminations. I hope the gentleman receives this spirit of generosity when he visits Holt again.

*Yours sincerely,
Richard Shephard.*

Dear Jo,

As for many residents of Holt, I was disappointed at the anonymous, mischievous and critical letter in January's edition. What a contrast this letter was to the gracious words of the other writer who witnessed as to

how his loneliness was addressed by those he met at the Community Centre.

The retired professor, irrespective of his colour, based his experience on a brief period spent in our town. He seems to have disregarded the fact that Holt is a popular place for visitors from many parts of the UK and even far afield. It is likely that most of those he observed were, perhaps, not even from Holt.

Having visited many parts of the world where the population is predominantly "non-white", it has not been uncommon for the locals to appear to stare at a stranger. This certainly did not imply that the locals were unfriendly.

Being raised in Norfolk and having lived in Holt for fourteen years, my wife and our family have been so impressed by the friendliness and care available. It is such a shame that the learned professor did not bother to consider the services and care offered from the Holt Caring Society, the Holt Youth Project, the Community Centre, the Poppy Group, Mothers and Toddlers groups coupled with the warm welcome from the Parish church and the Methodist church.

With apologies to Shakespeare "Methinks the learned Professor doth protest too much"

*Yours sincerely
Derek Godfrey*

Wagon Wheels Christmas Lights

Dear Jo,

After a great deal of help we were again able to do a display and are pleased to say that the donations to Woodfield School was £200.

We would like to thank all our supporters for their kind donations but in particular DENNYS CONSTRUCTION and Nathan for the use of their cherry picker.

Both Brenda and I were pleased with the comments we received.

Again, THANK YOU.

P.S. If the Dickens family are passing please call in
Dave Taylor



Salthouse History Group

Salthouse History Group was re-launched in 2018 with a view to adding to the amazing work by local historian Val Fiddian who built on the original research by Frank Noel Stagg in her book, 'Salthouse - The story of a Norfolk Village' which was released in 2003. The group have displayed a number of artifacts through the years in Saint Nicholas' Church which were kindly provided by the local and surrounding communities and archived. We would love to further our research and would like to know if you have anything you could share with the group to enhance our knowledge about the village - photos, newspaper clippings and anecdotes are all welcome. Please email: hi@salthousehistory.co.uk
Katrina Mousley



Salthouse History Group
celebrating Remembrance Sunday,
2025 (Photo by Isla Mousley).

Pancake Day Facts

Pancake Day is also called Shrove Tuesday — "to shrive" means to confess sins, so it was the last big feast before Lent began.

The largest pancake ever made was over 15 meters wide and weighed more than 3 tons.

Pancakes exist in almost every culture — crêpes (France), blini (Russia), dosas (India), and injera (Ethiopia) are all pancake cousins.

Toppings vary wildly by country — lemon & sugar in the UK, syrup in the US, jam in Scandinavia, and even cheese or meat elsewhere.

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February Events

Booking required.

2nd & 16th February 10am - 12 noon: North Norfolk

U3A Computer & Associated Technologies. For more information, please go to: www.northnorfolku3a.org.uk

2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd February 5pm - 7pm: NGMA—Lil Nippers (4-7yrs) 5pm - 6pm. Karate Kids (8-12) 6pm - 7pm.

www.ngmamartialarts.com or just send us a message on Facebook @ NGMA Nate Gregory Martial Arts.

4th & 18th February 7pm—10pm: North Norfolk Photographic society. Visit nnps.uk for more information

6th & 20th February 10am - 1pm: Sewing Group

9th February 9.30am - 1.00pm: Yoga Suitable for mixed abilities, booking essential.

Nikkibalding@gmail.com. Call 07935 250114

10th February 4pm - 6pm: Sound Bath—Help you relax and unwind. Contact Annette for information and bookings 07872 328109

17th February 2pm - 4pm: Shrove Tuesday - Pancakes in the Village Hall. Pop in for a Pancake and a chat.

24th February 10:30—12:30: Bodham Art Workshops – Experimental Drawing (Taster Session). With Art teacher Jennie Picton for a relaxed,

inspiring Experimental Drawing session at Bodham Village Hall. This workshop is especially welcoming for beginners.

Email: jenniearttutor@gmail.com

26th February 2pm - 4pm: NNU3A Music Appreciation Group. For more information visit www.northnorfolku3a.org.uk

Regular Events

No need to book, just come along.

3rd, 10th & 24th February 3pm - 5pm: Toasty Tuesdays - Toasties & Games Yr 7-11 (Ages 11yrs - 17yrs). Email: leonard@weybourne.church
7th February 10am - 12 noon: Saturday Morning Monthly Drum circles for all ages!

The sessions are sensitively guided by a local drum maker, musician and artist, in a way that is inclusive and fun! Beginners welcome. Free drum hire. You are invited to bring a drum if you already have one.

8th & 22nd February 4pm - 5pm: Bodham Church. Come and join us for our lovely, welcoming Church Service.

11th & 25th February 2pm - 4pm: Craft and Chatting. If you enjoy knitting, crochet, artwork or other crafts why not join us. £3 per meeting includes refreshments. For info contact Carolyn on 07748 933250

28th February 10am - 12pm: Community Café. Join us for a cuppa and cake with a good natter.

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Email: lloyddurham@northnorfolkfuneralservices.co.uk
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From Holt Holistic Centre

Helen Selby, Founder of Nurture Health & Wellness since 2011

Helen is bringing her bespoke clinical aromatherapy massage treatments and coaching sessions to Holt Holistic Centre from February.

Helen has been working in the wellness space since 2011 and specialises in women's health and wellbeing.

Aromatherapy combines the therapeutic power of touch with the chemical properties of essential oils to help enhance physical and mental wellbeing. Aromatherapy can offer many health benefits including boosting circulation and supporting the immune system. The massage combined with essential oils may also help to ease tension, relieve pain and calm the nervous system. In turn this could help to reduce anxiety and aid more restful sleep.

Each treatment is totally bespoke, and a detailed health assessment will be taken to ensure the right blend of oils is made to meet your unique requirements. You can choose your massage as well as Helen offer's a treatment menu which includes a back massage, or feet and legs, head neck and shoulder or abdominal massage.

Also on offer is a unique rejuvenating facial called 'Megami' which comes from Japan and means 'goddess'. This facial is a luxurious treatment using Japanese inspired oils and tools alongside organic products. Designed to lift, sculpt and tone the skin it incorporates lymphatic drainage techniques which help to reduce puffiness and aid detoxification. All the products used, including the essential oils, are organic and soil association approved.

Helen also offers health and wellness coaching which is all about bridging the gap between clinical advice and making sustainable lifestyles changes. This type of coaching helps by empowering people to recognize their unique strengths and then works with them to make lasting changes. Helping to put knowledge into action, to create healthy habits and make small step progress which can help with managing a wide range of health conditions.

If you would like to know more about aromatherapy massage or health and wellness coaching then contact Helen Selby 07821 197541 or Holt Holistic Centre on **01263 711898**. Alternatively, you can find out more information on Helen's website www.nurturehealthandwellness.com



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Local Toads and Toad Patrols

There are several ponds in the local area that are used by toads, as well as frogs and newts, for breeding. Unlike the other two amphibians, toads are faithful to their birth pond. They migrate up to a mile or more at night during February and March back to this pond to breed, then back again afterwards to their 'home patch'.

For some ponds, this makes them particularly vulnerable to road traffic on migration to and from the pond if they have to cross a road, and they often use roads and tracks as it's easier for them to crawl along these than through thick vegetation. Also, male toads will often sit in roads where they can see around them, waiting for a female to grab and hitch a lift to the pond where they can fertilise her eggs.

There are organised toad patrols all over the country where volunteers help toads and other amphibians get safely across roads near breeding ponds – locally these are at Hempstead, Edgefield and Selbrigg. If you are interested in helping with these and would like to find out more, contacts are:

Edgefield – Simon Gooding and Wendy Middleton, wmsg@btinternet.com

Hempstead – Tim Venes, timvenes01@gmail.com

Selbrigg – Trevor Bland, jandtbland@gmail.com

But you can also help by:

- Being aware of where toad patrols take place during February and March, watch out for warning signs, and drive carefully near these, to help both the toads and the patrollers.

- Develop 'toad awareness' if you are driving on rural roads at night, especially in February and March, but also any time over the spring and summer, as toads still come out to hunt at night when migration is over. They're most likely to be out in mild and wet or damp weather. If you drive reasonably slowly and watch the road carefully, you can see them on the road in the car headlights and hopefully avoid them with your wheels.

Not all local ponds with breeding toads have a patrol – please also be especially careful in early spring near Pond Hills, Hempstead, Plumstead Green and Plumstead Hall Farm up to Baconsthorpe. Thank you for helping our local toads!



For more information on toad patrols in Norfolk, see www.toadwatch.org



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How to avoid problems with Lasting Powers of Attorney

By Yasmin Knock, Solicitor, Hayes + Storr.

Lasting Powers of Attorney ("LPAs") are legal documents appointing one or more people ("attorneys") to help manage your affairs. There are two main types. A Financial Decisions LPA allows your attorneys to manage matters such as bank accounts, investments, paying bills, and buying or selling property. A Health Decisions LPA allows your attorneys to make decisions regarding daily routines, medical care, where you live, or whether life-sustaining treatment should continue.

Once registered with the Office of the Public Guardian ("OPG"), Financial LPAs can be used while you have mental capacity (with your consent), and after capacity is lost. In contrast, Health Decisions LPAs can only be used if you lose mental capacity. LPAs offer benefits including control, flexibility, financial security and peace of mind. The Mental Capacity Act 2005 contains safeguards to help prevent abuse. Because attorneys are given substantial authority, it is vital to appoint individuals you trust completely.

What are an attorney's duties?

Acting in your best interests

Attorneys must always act in your best

interests and make decisions reflecting your values, beliefs and preferences. They should follow any instructions you have given them.

Assessing your mental capacity

Attorneys must allow you to make your own decisions whenever you are able to do so. Mental capacity can fluctuate. A medical professional may be asked to assess your capacity.

Duty of skill and care

Attorneys are required to perform their role with a reasonable level of care and skill and should seek professional advice when appropriate.

Conflicts of interest

Attorneys must not use their position to benefit themselves or others at your expense. They are generally not permitted to take fees, aside from reasonable expenses. If a conflict arises - for example, an attorney has a financial interest in a care provider - they must disclose this and seek professional advice.

Accessing your personal information

Attorneys can access necessary personal information, such as medical or financial details, to make decisions they are legally authorised to take and to act in your best interests.

Record-keeping

Attorneys must keep your finances and



property separate from their own and maintain clear records of decisions made. Supporting documents such as receipts and statements should be retained, as the Office of Public Guardian may request them.

How can you safeguard against abuse?

Further measures you can put in place to minimise the risk of LPA abuse include:

- Clearly specify within your LPA what your attorneys can and cannot do
- Appoint more than one attorney
- Use a professional certificate provider to confirm your understanding and capacity to make the LPA
- Use an experienced solicitor to draft and register your LPAs to ensure appropriate safeguards are included

For further information, please contact Yasmin Knock in the Private Client Department team on 01263 712835 or email Yasmin.knock@hayes-storr.co.uk.

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

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From Bestsellers to The Crown

Two book launches with The Holt Bookshop in March

The Holt Bookshop is presenting two special literary events this March, welcoming Sunday Times bestselling novelist Sally Page and acclaimed author and journalist Justine Picardie to two distinctive local venues.

Sally Page Book Launch at Cley Windmill – Wednesday 11 March

On Wednesday 11 March, Bestselling Sunday Times author Sally Page will be celebrating the launch of her latest novel at Cley Windmill, from 6.00pm, in association with The Holt Bookshop.

The new book is a warm and uplifting story about creativity, second chances and the quiet power of kindness. It follows Kate, who gave up her dream of becoming a painter years ago, until a series of mysterious Shakespeare quotes begin appearing on the noticeboard of her local café. Alongside Bardy, a retired English teacher struggling with writer's block, Kate follows a trail that leads to a community rediscovering its creative spark — and perhaps a new beginning for them both.

Pam Horrocks, co-owner of The Holt Bookshop, said: "We're absolutely delighted to be welcoming Sally Page to Cley Windmill. Her books are always hugely popular with our customers, and this new novel is full of warmth, hope and beautifully drawn characters. Launching the new novel in such a special local venue will make it a really lovely evening." From the author of the bestselling *The Keeper of Stories* and *The Book of Beginnings*, the novel promises to be the perfect armchair read.

Tickets cost £5, which includes a drink, are available from The Holt Bookshop:

sales@holtbookshop.co.uk | 01263 715858

Justine Picardie at St Andrew's Church – Thursday 12 March

On Thursday 12 March, The Holt Bookshop welcomes award-winning author and journalist Justine Picardie to St Andrew's Church for an evening exploring her richly illustrated new book, *Fashioning the Crown: A Story of Power, Conflict and Couture*.

Published ahead of the centenary of Queen Elizabeth II's birth, the book uncovers the hidden history of royal fashion, revealing how couture, diplomacy and visual symbolism shaped the monarchy through two world wars and beyond. It also brings to life the designers behind the Crown, including Hardy Amies, Cecil Beaton, Norman Hartnell and Edward Molyneux.

Keith Britten, co-owner of The Holt Bookshop, added: "This is a fascinating and beautifully illustrated book, and Justine Picardie brings the subject to life in a really engaging way. It's a great opportunity for anyone interested in royal history, fashion or design, and we're very pleased to be welcoming her to Holt."

Tickets for the event (£8 or £30 including the sumptuous book) are available online or directly from The Holt Bookshop.

<https://buytickets.at/theholtbookshop/1962196>
sales@holtbookshop.co.uk | 01263 715858



The poster features a blue background with a white lighthouse icon in the top left corner. Below the lighthouse are three small circular icons: a tree, a recycling symbol, and a flower. To the right of these icons is the Holt Town Council logo, which consists of a stylized blue owl head and the text "HOLT TOWN COUNCIL". In the center, there are two black plastic litter bags. To the right of the bags, the text "Tuesday 24th February '26" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font, followed by "10am - 12pm" in a smaller font. Below this, the text "Meeting 10am at St. Andrew's Church" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. On the left side, the words "HOLT LITTER PICK" are written in a large, bold, white, sans-serif font. In the bottom right corner, there is a yellow starburst shape with the text "Everyone Welcome!" inside it. At the very bottom, a white banner contains the text "Litter Picks & Bags provided - Please bring your own gloves".

Tuesday 24th February '26
10am - 12pm

Meeting 10am at St. Andrew's Church

HOLT LITTER PICK

Everyone Welcome!

Litter Picks & Bags provided - Please bring your own gloves



The advertisement has a blue border. At the top, the text "Andy Brown Ltd" is written in a large, bold, blue, sans-serif font, followed by "Windows ~ Doors ~ Conservatories" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font. Below this, there are four white rectangular boxes with blue borders. The first box contains the text "For everything from sealed units to small extensions & everything in between" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The second box contains the text "Bespoke, custom-made warm roof systems, designed, manufactured and installed to complement your property" in a blue, sans-serif font. The third box contains the text "Over 25 years Experience Why move when you can improve? Call us now using this code HC1F to receive best rates" in a blue, sans-serif font. The fourth box contains the text "Home - 01692 500169 Mobile - 07899 911 035 email: browns127@hotmail.co.uk www.andybrownewindows.co.uk" in a blue, sans-serif font. To the right of these boxes are four small images: a conservatory, a room with a conservatory, a house with a conservatory, and a door.

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NWT Centenary Exhibitions 2026 by John Hurst

Cley. Now and Then Wild Geese and Hollyhocks

This twentieth watercolour exhibition at NWT Cley Marshes Visitor Centre by acclaimed local artist, John Hurst is a centenary celebration and retrospective glimpse into the changing Norfolk coastal landscape and ecology of this iconic area. John has been associated with area since his first visit in 1972 as an art student and birdwatcher, composing his very early coastal watercolours in the figurative, evocative style still evident today.

Professional artist, John invites you to his 2026 exhibitions to be staged in the Simon Aspinall Room and Dick Bagnall Oakley gallery from 1st – 22nd March and 8th – 21st April. As the titles imply, The Artist's original, figurative watercolours and prints represent the essence of the Norfolk coast. Collected worldwide, particularly by those passionate about the area, John's patrons enjoy his statement of 'distance', created by subtle horizon tones and strong foreground brushstrokes. As with all his previous exhibitions, John is pleased to pledge a significant percentage commission to the NWT.

A new collection of original watercolours and fine prints will feature in the exhibition, along with John's memoir, Watercolour Words. Fifty Years and a selection of environmental lino prints by his wife, Jacqui. As a passionate birdwatcher, some of John's new original paintings feature passing weather patterns and the manner in which migratory wildfowl flight between the saltmarshes and their inland feeding fields. There will also be a filmed painting demonstration and PowerPoint presentation every day during the first exhibition showing John's painting techniques and extensive, local historical catalogue. John enjoys presenting his work to the public so envisages invigilating the events each weekend and on occasions midweek. Also, as part of the event, there will be a lunchtime lecture by David North, the well-

WILD GEESE AND HOLLYHOCKS



JOHN HURST'S WATERCOLOURS

**NWT CLEY MARSHES
VISITORS' CENTRE
Sun 1st—22nd March
and
WED 8TH - TUES 21ST
APRIL 2026
10-4 daily**



respected NWT ambassador, guide and author taking place on 6th March, 1.30-3.00pm about the history of Cley Marshes under the themes of changing wildlife, people and landscape.

The exhibitions are open from 10.00am to 4.00pm daily. This extensive nature reserve with accessible hides often occupied by knowledgeable, volunteer staff, along with the welcoming café overlooking the coastal landscape, creates an enjoyable experience.

Visitors please note. During the exhibitions, they will be closed to the public as follows, due to courses and workshops.

3rd, 5th and 10th March – half the exhibition is available for viewing.

19th March. Exhibition closed.

For further information about John's work – www.marshlandarts.co.uk

February - March 2026



All walks commence at 10.00am unless otherwise stated.

If you wish to bring a dog on any walk, please contact the Leader beforehand.

Wednesday 18th February 5.5-mile circular walk between Overstrand and Northrepps led by Paul. Street parking in Carr Lane or High Street, Overstrand. Walk commencing from the junction of Carr Lane and Mundesley Road, Overstrand. Nearest Post Code NR27 OPS. Walk Difficulty: Moderate. Contact 07740 869933.

Sunday 1st March: 8.7-mile circular walk from Southrepps, via Frogshall, Overstrand along the coastal path to Trimmingham and back on Paston Way and quiet lanes led by Graham, commencing from Southrepps Village Hall. Parking at the village hall (donation £1.00 per car), NR11 8AN. Walk Difficulty – leisurely. Contact 07957 813862.

Wednesday 4th March 4.8-mile circular walk between Holt and Weybourne led by Tina and Julia. Free parking at Holgate Hill, Kelling Heath near Holt Garden Centre. Nearest Post Code NR25 7ER. Walk Difficulty: Leisurely. Contact 07925 589962 or 07766 546476.

Wednesday 18th March: 5.8-mile circular walk from Glandford Manor Farm Barns led by Jim and Debbie via Wiveton Downs and Bayfield. To park drive past the café and park in the field on the left. Nearest Post Code NR25 7JP. Walk Difficulty – leisurely. Contact 07752 642913.

Sunday 29th March: 5.5-mile circular walk from Mannington Hall main car park, taking in Baningham led by Mike. Most of the walk is on quiet country lanes and clearly defined footpaths with hardly any field edges. So underfoot conditions in early spring should be very good.

Mannington Hall car park has an 'honesty box', maybe £1 or £2 (NO standard fee required). Walk Difficulty – leisurely. Contact 07850 441724

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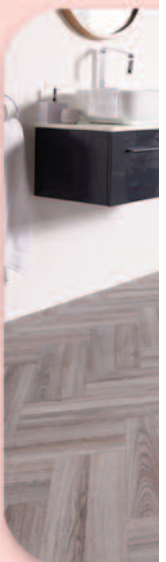
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Museum of The Broads

It's hard to believe, but this is the warm-up! 2026 got off to a very cold start, didn't it? As this article goes to press the January snow is still on the ground. Winter in Broadland can be stunningly scenic and weather such as we've seen recently can't help but remind us of winters past.

1947 saw skaters taking to the frozen Broads. Not an activity we would condone today, but it's a story of the Broads that - you might say - is frozen in time. (Sorry!). And of course there was the legendary big freeze of 1963. As Beatlemania swept the country it was the weather charts that mattered most in Norfolk.

If you're venturing out for a walk by the Broads (and why wouldn't you?) you might find it odd to hear us say we're warming up - but we are. We're getting ready to see you again when we open in March. We're well advanced with our huge programme of cleaning, restoring and refurbishing existing exhibits whilst planning and presenting new ones.

There is always a lot to do. So much so that we're still seeking new volunteers. Why not contact us to see if you can help? It's fun and



rewarding. There are opportunities to help with general and boat maintenance as well as doing research for new displays and display installation work. There's lots to do as we prepare to reopen. There are activities to finalise too.

They kick off in March with our Spring Trail ~ Secret Signals! From Saturday 28th March to Sunday 12th April (10.00am - 4.00pm) you'll be able to explore the museum to discover 12 hidden messages. Crack the code and claim your reward!

We can't wait to see you again. When you visit don't forget to check out our wooden 'Ice Yacht' in the Oulton building. Built in the late 1920s this splendid craft saw service in the winter of 1929 and was still working in the 1963 freeze. In fact, after repairs, it was out on the Broads in the 1980s. She was donated to the Museum in 2019. It's a fascinating part of Broads history. And we love to bring the stories of the Broads alive.

Hopefully when you visit it the Ice Yacht the winter will be gone and the coldest thing around will be your ice cream!

Come and see us in 2026. We're well and truly in the warm-up to reopen and make your visit as exciting and fun as possible.

Check out all the details at - www.museumofthebroads.org.uk

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Wherry Yacht Charter Introduces Tea at Twilight as Part of 2026 Sailing Programme

Wherry Yacht Charter will be launching its summer season on 1st May 2026 with an expanding variety of sailing experiences, including a new Tea at Twilight sail.

Customers can experience a magical 3-hour trip sailing towards sunset on the beautiful Norfolk Broads... a quieter, relaxing time of day, all whilst enjoying delicious tea and homemade cakes.

The first Tea & Twilight trips leave from Wroxham at 4pm on the following dates:

- Thursday 21st May
- Tuesday 9th June

Other trips include sailings whilst enjoying morning or afternoon tea and cakes and the much in demand fish and chip supper at Wroxham Yacht Club.

For nature lovers there are several sailings which stop at a nature reserve only accessible by river and other trips include a visit to the Museum of the Broads.

People who just want to relax and enjoy the beautiful views and wildlife on the Norfolk Broads are also catered for with many day sails setting out from Wroxham, How Hill, and some from Ranworth and Stalham.



An ever-popular highlight in the schedule are the full day sailings including a delicious buffet-style lunch and snacks on Hathor, the flagship Egyptian themed pleasure wherry.

The charity also organises a programme of free events including musical performances at How Hill where Hathor is moored from 1st May to 30th September and open to the public for guided tours during the summer months.

Day trips and charters are the main source of income for WYC which restores, maintains and operates five of the remaining eight wherries in the world.

Visit www.wherryyachtcharter.org for more details and to book a wherry trip or charter.

WYC Trustee Judith Keogh says:

"We are looking forward to yet another successful sailing season with an even wider range of trips and events on offer than ever before. As a volunteer-led organisation we are always looking for more people to join us and with a busy summer ahead there are plenty of volunteer roles available for anyone wishing to get involved with our charity to help us "Keep History Sailing".

To find out more Judith can be contacted by emailing: jk@wherryyachtcharter.org

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23rd-27th February 2026

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*Terms & conditions apply and subject to availability.



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Join us for a storytime with a difference: meet Code-a-pillar and learn some early coding skills. Recommended for ages 3-6.

Where: Holt Library
Church Street

When: Saturday 28 February
11am - 12 noon

Booking essential at
www.norfolk.gov.uk/digifest
or speak to library staff



DigiFest
The Norfolk County Council

February is Dental Awareness Month At Toll Barn Vets!

Dental disease is one of the most common health problems we see in our companion animals — and it affects both cats and dogs. The tricky part is that dental disease often develops slowly, meaning many pets suffer in silence until problems become advanced. Dental Awareness Month is the perfect time to check in on your pet's oral health and start building simple habits that can make a lifelong difference.

Why dental health matters

Poor dental health isn't just about bad breath. Dental disease can cause painful inflammation of the gums, infected teeth, and abscesses. Pets may struggle to eat comfortably, drop food, chew on one side, or become quieter and less playful. Cats may show more subtle signs such as reduced grooming, irritability, or a change in appetite. In more severe cases, infection and inflammation in the mouth can contribute to wider health issues and may exacerbate existing medical conditions.

The gold standard: tooth brushing

The best thing you can do for your pet's dental health is daily tooth brushing. Many cats and dogs are reluctant at first, but with patience, training and positive reinforcement, most will learn to tolerate it. We recommend using a pet-safe enzymatic toothpaste (never human toothpaste). For dogs that enjoy chewing rubber toys, toothpaste can also be applied to the toy as an extra way to support oral hygiene.



Before



After

If brushing isn't possible

While brushing is the most effective option, there are other helpful tools such as dental diets, gels, water additives and dental chews (dog-specific). For evidence-based choices, the Veterinary Oral Health Council (VOHC) lists approved products proven to reduce plaque and tartar.

Dental checks and treatment

At your pet's annual health check, our vets can assess the teeth and gums and advise if treatment is needed — from a scale and polish to extractions of painful teeth. We may recommend dental X-rays, as much of each tooth sits beneath the gum line. Our veterinary nurses also offer free of charge dental checks and dental advice clinics.

Some pets are particularly prone to dental disease, including small/toy breed dogs, greyhounds and other sighthounds, and many older cats so regular checks are particularly important for these patients. This Dental Awareness Month, the team at Toll Barn Vets is here to help keep your pet's smile healthy. If you would like a free of charge dental clinic with our veterinary nurses give our team a call on 01692 407126.



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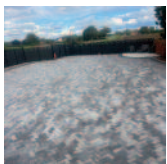
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6th March 2026.

13th March 2026.

20th March 2026.

27th March 2026

Course total cost Adults: £30.00 Under 16: £20.00

Further information please email events@nnas.co.uk or visit www.nnas.co.uk



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Active Fakenham Reflects on the Loss of Benbow's and Calls for Support for Local Shops

Benbow's – Our Local Greengrocer

This section usually highlights Active Fakenham's current sponsors and supporters, but on this occasion, we are making an exception. Benbow's, Fakenham's long-standing greengrocer, has supported Active Fakenham for many years. Their support has taken many forms: sponsoring prizes, selling our bags, making donations, distributing leaflets, and displaying posters. Just as importantly, their friendly and helpful staff were always ready to share information—and even offer a dog treat or two. It is therefore with real sadness and disappointment that we have seen Benbow's close its doors for the final time. Competition from supermarkets, changing shopping habits, and perhaps changing eating habits have all played a part in the closure of Benbow's, along with other small independent shops in the town. The fact that it accepted cash only may not have helped. For me personally, it means the loss of familiar, friendly faces I met several times a week—often at least once while being gently dragged in by the dog when I was trying to walk past. This closure made me reflect on what Benbow's meant not only to me (and the dog), but to Active Fakenham and to Fakenham as a town. Without the ability to pop in for mushrooms or fresh fruit, I will undoubtedly walk into town less often. Active Fakenham will need to find alternatives, and there will clearly be a loss to the town centre as a whole. Benbow's closure is symbolic of how our towns are changing. While new businesses are arriving, some valued services are disappearing. If town centres are to survive and thrive, they must adapt—and community events like those organised by Active Fakenham are becoming increasingly important in giving small towns something special to offer. Our programme of fun, inclusive events focused on wellbeing, the arts, sport, and culture play a vital role in keeping the town centre lively and connected. We can only continue this work with the support of local people and businesses, just as Benbow's supported us so generously over the years. A call to action



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Quiz Night

FRIDAY 17TH APRIL 2026

VENUE: HOLT COMMUNITY CENTRE
QUIZ STARTS: 7:00PM
BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL BY EMAIL:
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TEAMS OF 4-6

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REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1068288

Family Days Out in Norfolk with The National Trust this February Half Term

From seasonal crafts and activities to outdoor trails and winter wildlife, there's lots to keep young explorers busy this half term at the National Trust's places in Norfolk.

The National Trust's cosy tearooms offer warming treats and kids lunch packs, and the shops have lovely selections of pocket money toys for little ones to browse.



Blickling Estate

'Hop into the wild' family trail, inspired by Disney and Pixar's "Hoppers" From Saturday 14 February until Monday 9 March, the National Trust is celebrating the release of Disney and Pixar's "Hoppers", in Cinemas 6 March. Discover the 'Hop into the wild' family trail, with storytelling and outdoor play. If you're a family (with children aged 6-11years), come and enjoy the great outdoors, guided by cutouts of the "Hoppers" gang. Collect your discovery passport, explore the animal kingdoms, and most importantly, unleash your wild side!

Adventure awaits out in the parkland. Stroll along the bike and buggy-friendly multi-use trail and discover the striking pyramid-shaped Mausoleum. Afterwards, warm up with delicious seasonal food and drinks at the Stables or Muddy Boots Cafés.

The House is open daily from 11am–3pm, and the garden and cafés from 10am–4pm, last entry 30 minutes before closure.

Felbrigg Hall, Gardens and Estate

The doors of Felbrigg Hall will be thrown open this half-term, ready to transport you and your family to centuries gone by.

The Felbrigg Estate is free to visit (parking charges apply for non-members) and with 520-acres there's plenty of space for little legs to roam. Go on the family-friendly 2.6-mile circular church and icehouse trail through rolling parkland, past a lake and into the woods. Get stuck

into den building in a dedicated area located just off the 'Victory V' avenue of trees. Warm up after your adventuring with a hot drink or treat from the Squire's Pantry tea-room.

Sheringham Park

With the park and woodland stirring back to life, February half-term is a great time for families to spend some time together outdoors and connect with nature. From Saturday 14th to Sunday 22nd February, we will be inviting children to follow our hibernation trail.

Starting at the events field, this free trail explores which animals have been hibernating during the winter, and how and why they do this. The welcome team will be on hand to direct visitors to the start and give out a learning sheet to accompany the trail.

The Courtyard Café is open throughout half-term (10am-3.30pm daily, and from 9am-3.30pm on Saturdays). Dogs are welcome on leads.



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DISCOVER WHAT'S ON

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From Holt Consulting Rooms

Echo Ear Care

Here at ECHO Ear Care, we have only highly qualified Nurse Practitioners to help you with your needs, trained to Masters level in Advanced Clinical Practice as being and trained in Ear Care as a specialism.

What is Microsuction?

The term Microsuction is used to describe a procedure carried out by Nurses and Audiologists to remove wax, dead skin, foreign objects and even infection, from your ears.

A microscope is used to look into your ears and a very small suction tube to "hoover" out the debris.

Anyone can have microsuction - there is no upper or lower age limit, as long as you are able to remain still throughout the procedure.

Microsuction is used for patients who cannot safely or easily have the debris removed from their ears by irrigation (syringing) or manually removed using instruments.

It may be noisy and you may feel some strange sensations, there may be slight discomfort but if it is painful the procedure will be stopped immediately.

At ECHO Ear Care Centre we perform microsuction on hundreds of patients each year and many feel the benefits instantly.

If you have any concerns or worries, just speak to the nurse who will be happy to allay your fears.

Did you know?

Ears are just as important as eyes and teeth. Most people have their eyes and teeth checked regularly, but not their ears. Good hearing and healthy ears play an important part in your quality of life.

If your ears are causing a problem, visit your doctor or nurse or call us at ECHO Ear Care on 01263 711712

We will be able to examine your ears and give you advice.

Veterans Central

The Veterans Voice project aims to help veterans and family members find how to access veteran organisations and support groups, such as breakfast clubs and social hubs, identify opportunities for social interaction with other veterans, and provide information about support resources.

Veterans Central, as part of the Veterans Voice project, will be running a monthly drop-in hub in Swaffham.

Come along for a FREE hot drink, cake, and a spot of chat and banter, or to ask question about veterans' support.

Venue: The Regency Room, Swaffham Assembly Rooms, Swaffham

Tuesday 24th February 2026

Tuesday 24th March 2026

Tuesday 28th April 2026

Tuesday 26th May 2026

Time: 10.30 – 13.00 hrs



Location: The Assembly Rooms are located in the centre of Swaffham and there is adjacent 2 hours free parking (but use machine to get a ticket). You are welcome to bring partners or carers.

More information? Contact: ops@veteranscentral.co.uk

Mobile: 07713 860040

Charity #: 1208763, Veterans Central West Raynham SHQ, 5 Blenheim Way, West Raynham Business Park, Fakenham, NR21 7PL

Osteopathy in Holt

Mr John Davis BSc Hons

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For further information or to make an appointment please call:

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The safest method of ear wax removal is by professional micro-suction.

ECHO Ear Care is a new service, which is now available in **Holt Consulting Rooms** for clinic appointments.

Professional Advanced Nurse Practitioners

Mari-Anne Jones & Debbie Perez Selsky

From Steff Aquarone MP

January has been a full-throttle start to the year, both in Westminster and across my constituency of North Norfolk, but there's nothing I value more than getting out and meeting you where you live. That's why January marked the start of my new door-knocking schedule where I can have honest conversations with you about what matters most - not from behind a desk, but face to face. Time and again you've told me that you need access to healthcare you can rely on, transport that actually works, strong local services, and community spaces that bind us together. Too often, rural areas like ours feel overlooked and making sure that your voice is heard, loudly and clearly, continues to drive everything I do.

So many vital services in North Norfolk are powered by passionate volunteers who give so much of their time to our communities and I was honoured to be welcomed at North Walsham Rugby Club, where I met the volunteers who keep grassroots rugby going. They told me how urgently clubs like theirs need fairer access to funding and I'll make sure that the



Government understands the positive impact that organisations like this have on communities and how urgently they need more financial support. I also met the Mundesley Inshore Lifeboat and Flood Rescue Team, whose volunteers provide a vital emergency response along our coastline, keeping residents and visitors safe. If you've got some time on your hands and want to support your local community, please consider a volunteer role – a couple of hours a week could make a huge difference to a crucial service.

It's clear, even as we're just starting the year, that rural services and rural businesses are being faced with increasing pressures and I'll keep fighting their corner to create a North Norfolk where they can thrive. I met with North Norfolk pub landlords and managers who told me about the pressures they're facing, and the strain that rising costs are placing on them. Local pubs do far more than serve drinks – they provide jobs, bring people together, and anchor village life. That's why I'll continue championing our rural pubs and raising the issues that impact them in Westminster every chance I get.

Too many people are being held back by buses and trains that just don't line up with real lives.

This month, I challenged the Government on how a lack of public transport limits access to work, education and healthcare in rural areas and I've stepped up calls for more frequent services on the Bittern Line, where long gaps between trains keep us from getting where we need to be.

I'm grateful to everyone who's taken the time to speak with me this month – on the doorstep, in meetings, or out in the community. When you tell me how I can be of service, it really shapes my work and allows me to voice your concerns and your challenges in Parliament, with a view to making your life a little bit easier. As always, if there's anything that I can support you with, please get in touch at

steff.aquarone.mp@parliament.uk



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'Floral Innovations'

Tuesday, 14th April 2026

at

Fakenham Community Centre

Oak Street, Fakenham, NR21 9DY

Doors Open at 7pm

Members £15 Guests £20

Includes a welcome drink on arrival

For tickets contact:

Christine Hardman on 07825 150546

christine.h.hardman@gmail.com

Barbara Etteridge on 07778 748073

bm2etteridge@gmail.com

Club BACS

Account: FAKENHAM & DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

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Seeking Answers: Navigating the Inquest Process with Confidence

By Mario Anastasiades, Director Solicitor



The loss of a loved one is always a profound tragedy. When a death is sudden, unexplained, unnatural or occurs in a way that requires an Inquest, the emotional burden is often compounded by a complex and daunting legal process.

At Clapham & Collinge, we understand that during these times, families don't just need a lawyer, they need a guide, an advocate, and a source of clarity.

Why the Inquest Process Matters

An Inquest is a fact-finding mission conducted by a Coroner to determine who died, and where, when, and how they came by their death. While the Coroner's Court is there to "apportion blame", the evidence uncovered is often the only way for families to get the full picture of what happened.

Crucially, an Inquest can:

- Identify systemic failings for example in healthcare or workplace safety.
- Provide the necessary evidence for future civil claims or medical negligence cases.
- Result in a "Prevention of Future Deaths" report, ensuring other families do not suffer the same heartbreak.

The "Mario Advantage": Insight from the Bench

What sets our service apart is our specialist lead, Mario Anastasiades. Unlike many solicitors who only see the process from one side of the room, Mario brings a perspective that few can match:

- Former HM Deputy Coroner: Having sat as a Coroner in the Coroners Court (for Leicester and South Leicestershire), Mario knows exactly what a Coroner is looking for, how they weigh evidence, and how to frame questions that get to the heart of the matter.

- Expert Advocacy: As a former President of the East Midlands Coroners Society, his reputation and deep technical knowledge of coronial law ensure your family's voice is heard with the authority it deserves.

- A Holistic Approach: Mario's background across clinical negligence and dispute resolution means he doesn't just look at the Inquest in isolation. Mario looks at how the Inquest findings will impact your wider legal rights.

How We Support You

Navigating the "Interested Person" status and the Pre-Inquest Review hearings can be overwhelming. We handle the heavy lifting so you can focus on your family:

- Disclosure & Evidence: We meticulously review medical records, police reports, and witness statements to ensure no detail is overlooked.
- Questioning Witnesses: We act as your voice in court, questioning doctors, employers, or state agents to uncover the truth.
- Compassionate Guidance: We explain every step in plain English, ensuring you are never left wondering what happens next.

Talk to Us

If you are facing an Inquest, you do not have to do it alone. With Mario and the team at Clapham & Collinge, you have the benefit of judicial-level insight and a firm committed to your peace of mind.

Contact us today for a confidential discussion and to book an appointment. Call 01603 693500 or email enquiries@clapham-collinge.co.uk

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

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A snippet of wisdom
Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits

Makes you think?
Is our mind our greatest ally or biggest obstacle?

Humour
Unfortunately, there is no lifeguard in the gene pool



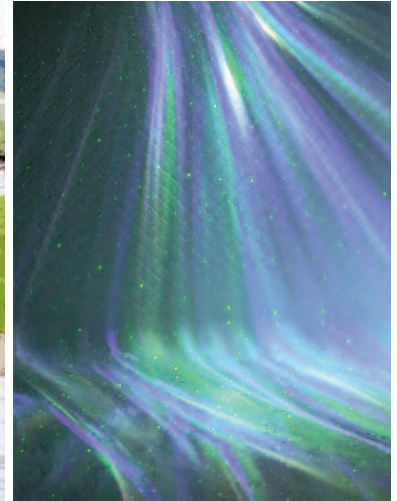
FireDance VP Launches

A new Viewing Platform has just been launched in North Norfolk enabling photographers of all talents, ages and abilities to display a personal picture portfolio on any subject that they have chosen. It's called FireDance VP.

It features just one portfolio at a time thereby allowing viewers time to fully appreciate the photographer's depth of interest in their subject. Displaying photographs today often relies on sites such as social media where they're available for a very short time and therefore only relevant to very recent events or experiences. Or they may be displayed in galleries to be shown on subjects often chosen by others. FireDance VP is different. Each subject is chosen solely by the photographer, and each portfolio includes their own comments on the background as to how the pics were created. This gives the viewer a better insight into the motivation that led to their production.

Here's a few examples from the first edition, - a portfolio on 'Artistic Filters'.

To see the complete portfolio visit www.firedance-vp.weebly.com
For details of how you can join in, e-mail: firedancevp@timfolkes.com



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ITEMS FOR SALE

This space could be used to sell **your** unwanted goods and make you some money. If you've got something to sell, LET EVERYBODY KNOW. Email your FOR SALE items to: info@holtchronicle.co.uk or leave the details in The Holt Chronicle collection box in Feeney's Newsagents, Holt and we will advertise it for you **FREE OF CHARGE** for items totalling £300.00 or less, 50 words maximum. **Items above this amount, or if you would like to include a photograph, will incur a charge.** Vehicles, cars, caravans, trailers, boats, property, business etc not accepted without charge. Animals - pets, livestock, live fish etc not accepted. Please contact Jo on 01263 821463 for further details.



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Tumble dryer, Hotpoint Aquarius TCM 580 BP condenser dryer. Hardly used from new, £45. 07836 543304
Set of 6 John Lewis dining chairs, dark brown leather look, high back, ex cond. £10 each or £50 for 6. **Tower kettle and toaster** in grey, £15. **Kenwood electric carving knife**, as new, £8. **Kenwood mini chopper**, as new, £8. 01263 713049
Morris Marina mk2 Haynes Handbook all models 1095cc 1275cc, **2 Leyland alternators** & other spares, £25 the lot. **Pair of Maestro king pins**, new boxed, £15. **Armchair**, wooden arms, fabric seats, extends to 43", £20. **Fork, hoe, shears, broom** etc. £10. 3-core black cable and garden red 2-core cables, various white others fixed on new red & timers, £25 the lot. **Mondeo steering lock**, £10. Wheeled lockable suitcase, £25. 01263 710067
Old Charm dark wood adjustable **swivel desk chair** with tweed effect back and seat excellent condition bought for £700 will accept £130. **Light brown men's overcoat** from Next size large 42-44" chest never worn bought for £99 will accept £35. 07910 520959
Kenwood food mixer with Liquidizer and assessors etc Very good condition, £50. A bargain. Weybourne 01263 588587
7 Sturdy plastic storage boxes with lids, colour 4 x clear & 3 x blue. Size 17.5(44cm) Deep x 22(56cm) wide. £2 per box. Must be collected. 01263 823623
2 Paramo cramps for sale 150mm maximum opening between jaws. £15.00 ovno each buyer to collect hardly used as have enough cramps. 07534 353431
FREE Cot bed only used a few times at grandparents' house, also duvet and various covers, collect N Walsham. 07818 573406 or 01692 404332
Powakaddy - **Electric Golf Trolley** complete with battery and charger £170. Phone after 4pm 01263 710616
Bath Chair Lift: As new condition used less than 10 times, powered rise and fall. Manufactured by Ashore, complete with instruction guides, less than half new price. Collection from Holt or could deliver locally. £150. 01263 586027
1 pair lawn bowls Size 5 Hemselite £50 ono. **1 pair lawn bowls** Size 3. Rinkmaster £50 ono. 07733 077287
Realistic Optiflame electric fire, as new, £25. 07949 348084
John Lewis low tub chair purple colour very modern with matching cushion. £30 buyer collect can send photos. Lovely addition to modern room or large bedroom and excellent condition. 01263 836762
Bosch washing machine, good working order £200. **Panasonic silver microwave**, good working order, £20. **Marco Tozzi black leather boots**, size 6, as new £25 ono. Pavers tan flat shoes, size 6, unworn £15. 07956 347293
Large Jack's Farm mixing bowl. Perfect condition. Sought after as now discontinued. £20. **Rolling water containers** with handles. Ideal for caravans, camping etc. £10 each. Collection from Briston. 01263 860272
Neo Ventilator Leslie Simulator - £50. **CD/DVD High Speed Duplicator** - £50. **50W Channel Stereo Amp and Speakers** - £80.00. **Panasonic Camcorder** - £150. Phone 01263 860844
Two 'Peter England' men's shirts, brand new still in original packaging. Collar size 17"/43 cm. Polyester/cotton non-iron. 1 x Oatmeal 1x Pale Blue. Originally cost £24.95 each. £10 each or £17 for both. Phone after 6pm, 07717493437
Bosch Universal Kitchen Machine (Mum59) comprising Mixer, bowl with whisks, dough hook, blender, shredder, citrus press and mincer. Vgc. Hardly used. £75. 01263 713099 or. 07398 263648
Oak dresser cupboards/draws at bottom and display units with lighting and shelving on top £275. **Epson XP Printer/Scanner** £20. Buyers collect from Sheringham 07769 718421

WANTED

Wanted by collector 00-gauge N gauge **Railway / dinky toys**, buildings anything considered cash/instant Bank transfer 01362 422451/ 07747 097798
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Any original items of Second World War Homefront/Norfolk/RAF/ARP /Home Guard items & memorabilia for a new display at the RAF Marham Aviation Heritage Centre opening this summer. Tel 07919 182990.
Wool for Norfolk (Sheringham) Knitters, can be left at Sheringham Library or contact Kate Davis on 01263 824781
Any donations of wool gratefully received. Whatever we receive will be knitted into baby hats to donate to the Norfolk and Norwich Premature Baby Unit or hats and gloves for the Christmas Shoebox Appeal. 07796 638020 or sallylee35@hotmail.co.uk
Air Rifles wanted for restoration. Any condition, rusty or not working. Contact R. Shorten 01603 720400
Old footballs and rugby balls for two rescue donkeys to play with. 01263 713014
Scalextric or **Airfix** model slot cars, any age/any condition. Loft finds or 1960's cars particularly sought. Please contact Tim on 07981-092169
Car with wheelchair access via ramp wanted, any make or age but must be in good running order Tel. 01263510044
Old bmx bikes or parts. 07534 504037
Old Beehive trade bike, butchery and other trade items. 01263 833269

OLD AUDIO HI-FI SYSTEM OR SEPARATES OR COMMODORE/ BBC/ATARI COMPUTERS AND GAMES Record player, amp, CD, speakers or parts etc., valve radios, valve equipment, radio parts and valves - used/unused for collector. Also unwanted record collections. 07979 384246

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Switzer 1 ton folding hydraulic engine crane, good condition, used for one lift and replace only. £140. Sheringham 826834

Samsung 41" TV, working order, £50 ono. 07929 913499

Vintage Italian WP pasta machine in original box, sturdy with clamp £10. Pressy white potato ricer & 3 multi-purpose disks used twice £10. 01263 710117

Z Bed old but good clean condition no longer needed. £30 ono. Sheringham 01263 823654

Induction Hob. Hisense model 16421C. 4 rings, touch control panel, black ceramic glass, electric. 59.5cm x 52cm.

3 years old but in excellent condition. £100 Holt 01263 713334

AIWA Digital hi-fi unit, comprising radio, graphic equaliser, 2 tape decks and cd player - £20 ono. Gent's Moss Bros evening/dinner suit- in immaculate condition - £20 ono. 01692 402869 / 07712 086343

LEITZ 67170095 Mobile Foolsap Filing Case/Briefcase with combination locks. New with labels RRP £95. Offers around £38 01263 823914

Vintage 1940's/50's SINGER tailors dummy-mannequin £45 01263 823914

2600W Electric Blower/Vacuum £15. Electric Corded Pressure Washer with attachments £30. Holt 01263 715657

1 Black and white jacket and 1 green shacket both size 20. Sold as new from M&Co shop tags still attached £20 each or pair for £35. 4 x 250 xl piece jigsaws £4 each and 8 x 500 xl piece jigsaws £4.50 each. Cash only. 01263 802240

Excellent pair of Spalding & Co 10x50 binoculars; as new condition; quality optics giving a bright clear image. ideal for birdwatching or general use; complete with case. any trial welcome. £25. Holt 07717 160783

Bunk beds - solid pine bunk beds 3 feet wide, with pocket sprung mattresses. Only used for the grandchildren hence in good condition, also suitable for adults. £80. 07486 867747

Unisex Electric Bike. Excellent condition. Hardly used. Adjustable height. Soft gel saddle. Includes manual, locking cycle lock, spare keys, toolkit and pannier. Buyer collects. £175. 01328 822034

Yamaha PSR9000 keyboard, stand, bag and bench - £300. 01263 860844

FREE to collect divan beds single x 2 with metal headboards. 01263 733430

Men's 18 gear Apollo Slant red bike. Excellent condition hardly used. £80.

Women's 3 gear black tricycle with carrier frame. Good condition. £50. Or best offers for each. 01263 502073

New Coopers small base tetrapod £20. New Redwood Sand Nubuck Steel Midsole/Toe Boots Size 10 (44) £25. 4 No 2.44m lengths Tileasy Chrome 10mm Cat 10 Ang Tiletrims £40. Single headboard in light green chenille, vgc £40 ono. 01263 823483

Mobility scooter, as new, £250 ono. 07586 005240

Pine dresser with glass top doors, £150. Also, sideboard to match, £150. We had it made 40 years ago by a pine specialist. 01692 580583

Tom Tom GPS Golf Watch - as new. Cost £180 now £90. 07500 846699

Pair of mudguards to fit 26" wheels with accessories and instructions, used twice, £10. 07722 678920

Canon Pixma MG5250 printer. Good working order, includes some inks. £20. 01263 837365

Worn motorbike jacket with removable lining. Wrap around padded cover for motorbike & rider in cold weather. Ultrasport indoor hexagonal exercise trampoline. Donations for the homeless please. 01263 577468

Carpets with quality underlay, oatmeal colour. Step ladder, sink and quality chrome mono tap, toilet, seat and cistern. All items free to collect. 01362 688280

Forthcoming Events

Sunday 15th February. Folk at Weybourne Village Hall NR25 7AH.

3pm until 6pm..Singers, musicians in the folk style and audience all welcome. Join in the choruses or just listen. 'Hotspot' from 'The Southrepps Crew' this month. Bring your own drinks/snacks if you wish. Tea/coffee available. Entrance £1.00. Further details from Tony Baylis 01263 588781 or tonyandcarmen@btinternet.com or johnandpaulinmusic@gmail.com

Saturday 14th March. Ryburgh March Market and Book Sale at St.

Andrew's, Great Ryburgh at 9.30 - 12 noon. Flowers for Mothering Sunday and Gifts. Details from 01328 829413

Saturday 21st March. Fakenham Choral Society will perform Louis Vierne's Messe Solonnelle and Matthew Coleridge's Requiem at its Spring concert at 7pm at Fakenham Parish Church.

Details here: <https://www.fakenhamchoralsociety.org/forthcoming-1>



**Sheringham Band
of The Salvation Army
presents
Music from Walt Disney's
The Jungle Book**

Sunday 31st May 3pm

The Salvation Army, Cremer Street, Sheringham NR26 8DZ

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Sheringham Band**

The Salvation Army is a Christian church and registered charity in England (214779)

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Blakeney Bar High Tides

Date	GMT	Height	Date	GMT	Height	Date	GMT	Height
12-Feb	01:55	4.10 m	22-Feb	09:21	5.30 m	05-Mar	07:43	5.50 m
	14:34	4.20 m		21:30	5.60 m		19:44	5.80 m
13-Feb	03:20	4.20 m	23-Feb	10:00	5.10 m	06-Mar	08:14	5.40 m
	15:42	4.40 m		22:16	5.30 m		20:18	5.70 m
14-Feb	04:24	4.40 m	24-Feb	10:46	4.80 m	07-Mar	08:41	5.30 m
	16:34	4.70 m		23:14	4.90 m		20:49	5.50 m
15-Feb	05:11	4.70 m	25-Feb	11:50	4.50 m	08-Mar	09:05	5.20 m
	17:17	5.00 m	26-Feb	00:33	4.50 m		21:18	5.30 m
16-Feb	05:51	5.00 m		13:24	4.30 m	09-Mar	09:31	5.00 m
	17:55	5.20 m	27-Feb	02:25	4.40 m		21:48	5.00 m
17-Feb	06:28	5.20 m		15:01	4.40 m	10-Mar	10:03	4.70 m
	18:31	5.40 m	28-Feb	03:59	4.60 m		22:26	4.60 m
18-Feb	07:03	5.30 m		16:13	4.80 m	11-Mar	10:44	4.40 m
	19:06	5.60 m	01-Mar	05:05	5.00 m		23:20	4.20 m
19-Feb	07:38	5.40 m		17:06	5.10 m	12-Mar	11:52	4.10 m
	19:40	5.70 m	02-Mar	05:54	5.30 m	13-Mar	01:08	3.90 m
20-Feb	08:12	5.50 m		17:51	5.50 m		13:49	4.00 m
	20:15	5.80 m	03-Mar	06:35	5.50 m	14-Mar	02:53	4.00 m
21-Feb	08:46	5.40 m		18:30	5.70 m		15:09	4.30 m
	20:51	5.80 m	04-Mar	07:11	5.50 m	15-Mar	03:59	4.40 m
				19:08	5.80 m		16:04	4.60 m

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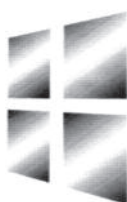


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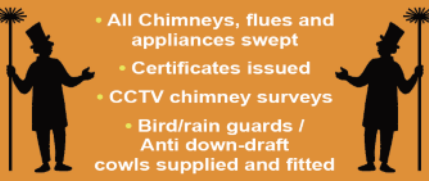
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0945 MORNING PRAYER

SUNDAY 22 February 2026

The First Sunday in Lent

0945 HOLY COMMUNION

SUNDAY 1 March 2026

The Second Sunday in Lent

1830 CHORAL EVENSONG

SUNDAY 8 March 2026

The Third Sunday in Lent

0945 HOLY COMMUNION

at St Mary, Great Snoring

SUNDAY 15 March 2026

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

0945 MATINS

SUNDAY 22 March 2026

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

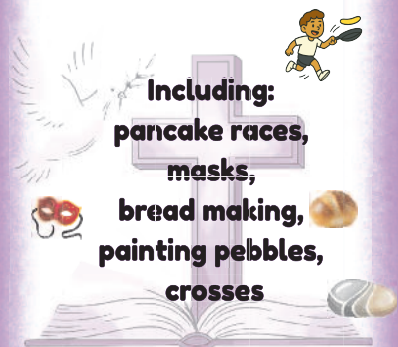
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Why, what's the matter, that you have such a February face, so full
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Even though February was the shortest month of the year,
sometimes it seemed like the longest. - J. D. Robb

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Dance your way to fitness. Every Tuesday from 1-2pm at The Copeman Centre, Briston. BellyFit4Fun uses belly dance moves to aid fitness, core strength and FUN! No experience needed. No need to book, just come along. Suitable for all ages. Call or text Gwenyth on **0758 222 9696** for more information.

Guided Tours of the Chapel Icons. St. Seraphim's, Station Rd, Little Walsingham. NR22 6EB. **Wednesdays and Saturdays 2pm**

Quiet Garden Group. Last Friday of the month - 10.30am to 2pm. The Quiet Garden Group meets monthly for talks and reflection in the Garden Room. Bring a packed lunch; tea, coffee, squash and biscuits provided. New members always welcome.

Gardening Group. Every Monday - 10.30am to 1pm. New members always warmly welcomed! Tools and refreshments provided. For further information or if you would be interested in hiring our Garden Room for your own activities, please call 01328 820610 or email saint.seraphims@gmail.com.

Holt Bridge Club meets every Wednesday at 6.45pm for 7pm till approximately 10pm. We meet at the very nice High Kelling Village Hall, Avenue Road, High Kelling, NR25 6RD. We are a friendly club, affiliated to the English Bridge Union and play Duplicate Bridge, and always happy to welcome new members. For further info contact the Secretary Robert Smith 01328 822120.

Sheringham and District Philatelic Society meet at West Runton Church Hall, 2nd Monday each month at 7.30pm. Contact Andrew for more information on 01263 513433 or Jim on seamussar@btinternet.com

Saturday Cafés at St. Andrew's Church, Thursford, NR21 0BW. The first Saturday of every month 10am-12 everyone welcome to enjoy tea, coffee homemade cakes in this beautiful church. Also no need to book just turn up!

Little Star. Every Thursday 10-12 at The Venue, Holt. A friendly and relaxed, mixed crafting group where we get together 'Making things to make a difference'. Knitters, Stitchers, Crocheters and Card makers - all ages and skill levels are welcome. Refreshments are available so do pop along and join us. Equipment provided.

St. Mary's Church, Kelling (a mile outside the village on the Holt Road)

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Blakeney Church of England Primary School are starting a Stay and Play group for pre-school children and their parents/carers. Every Thursday 9-11am during term time. There will be toys, refreshments, craft activities and stories in our friendly village school. For more information contact Trace on 01263 740531.

Binham Village Hall social evenings are held on the last Thursday of each month at 7pm. Bar, jacket potatoes, games.

Abacus Bridge Club meets every Thursday at 6.30pm at the High Kelling Village Hall. Play begins at 7 p.m. and finishes between 9.30 and 10. We play traditional Duplicate Bridge and welcome all players and new members. Table money is only £2 per session and includes refreshments. The first three sessions are free. For further information please contact the Chairman, Robert Smith on 01328 822120 or the Hon Secretary, Gillian Bolam on 01263 822070.

The North Norfolk Backgammon Circle (NNBC) meets once a month in Gresham Village Hall, usually the 3rd or 4th Sunday in the month. All skill levels are welcome from beginners to experts. For dates and details call Chris on 07434 989228.

Open Circle, an informal women's group, meets to learn, make new friends and support local charities on the second Thursday of each month at 7.15 pm in Binham Village Hall. For further information: Shirley Collyer at collyershira@gmail.com.

Your Choir Holt, meets weekly at The Venue on Friday mornings, 10am-12pm. Contact Mike on 07485706345 or visit www.yourchoir.co.uk

Weybourne Bridge Club. A friendly Bridge Club held every Tuesday afternoon, 1.45 p.m. for a 2.00 p.m. start - 5.00 p.m. at Weybourne Village Hall, NR25 7AH. We play Chicago Bridge so no need to bring a partner. All standards welcome. Please contact Michelle at theacolbridgeclub@hotmail.com or 01263 585049

Book Sale at St Peter's Church, Sheringham. Coffee and freshly-baked scones. 3rd Saturday of every month from March until November. 10a.m until 12.

Folk at Weybourne Village Hall, third Sunday of every month, 3pm until 6pm. Singers, musicians and audience all welcome. Join in the choruses or just listen. £1.00 entrance. Bring your own drinks/snacks if you wish. Tea/coffee available. Further details from Tony Baylis 01263 588781 or tonyandcarmen@btinternet.com

Scottish Country Dancing takes place at Blakeney Parish Hall Nr25 7NG on Monday afternoons 2pm to 4pm. Please contact Penny Ransome on 01263 741026.



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North Norfolk Photographic Society Involved in Three Way Photography Battle

Internal and external photography competitions are a key activity for every camera club, and the North Norfolk Photographic Society is no exception. Our club has a strong record of doing very well in both local and national external events and the club has won many of them including in 2023 & 2024 when we were the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain's Wildlife Cup Champions.

This year we got off to a great start at the Cambridge Inter-Club competition. This annual event saw us put five especially chosen images up against images submitted by twenty-eight other clubs from around the country. At Cambridge the pictures are projected onto a big screen and are then marked out of twenty by an experienced independent judge who in this case was the very witty David Lowe from Smethwick. We actually scored an excellent ninety-five points which placed us a fantastic second by only one point!

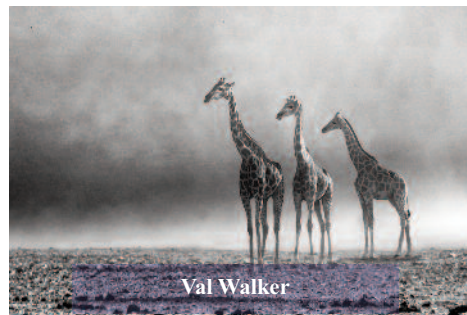
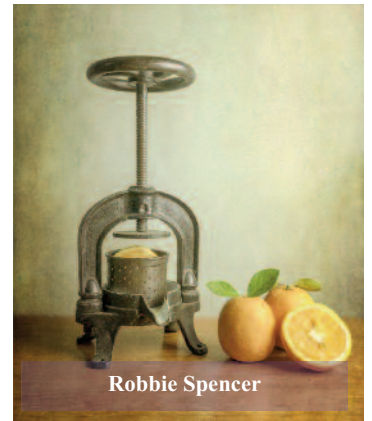
On January 26th we took part in a three-way photography battle in Kings Lynn. Our opponents were the Wayland and District Camera Club and the Kings Lynn and District Camera Club. The format for this one was different as each club submitted ten projected images and ten mounted prints that were judged by the excellent David Steel. It was a very tight contest with Kings Lynn winning and North Norfolk a close second. We hope to go one better next year when we will host the battle at Bodham.

If you would like to know more about these battles and even get involved, then do please come along to the club. Your first visit is free of charge with no obligation to join and the meetings take place on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of each month from September to June starting at 7.30pm in the Bodham Village Hall, Bodham, NR25 6AD

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Bob Johnson - NNPS Publicity Officer





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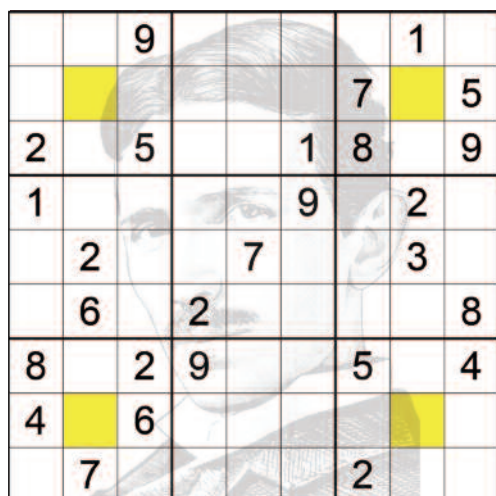
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THIS ISSUE'S PUZZLES

SUDOKU Fill all empty squares so that the numbers 1 to 9 appear once in each row, column and 3 x 3 box. The numbers in the four yellow boxes are the ones needed as the answer that will be published in the next issue.



11th February was the birthday of famous inventor Thomas Edison. This issue's word search theme is 'Famous Inventions'. Between **FOUR** and **TWELVE** letters. One or more words. There are 14 entries in this issue's **CHRONICLE WORDSEARCH**.

How many can you find?

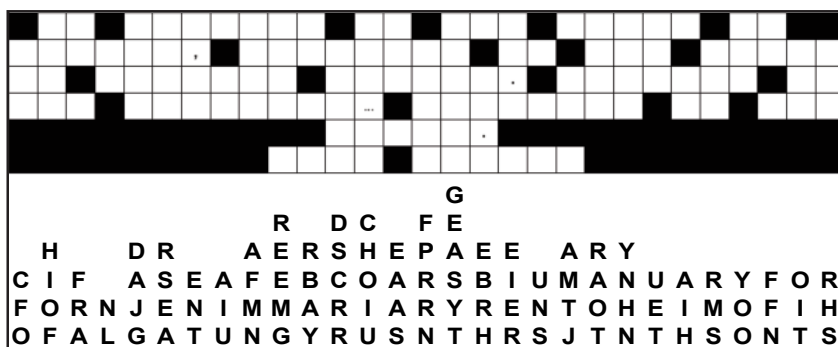
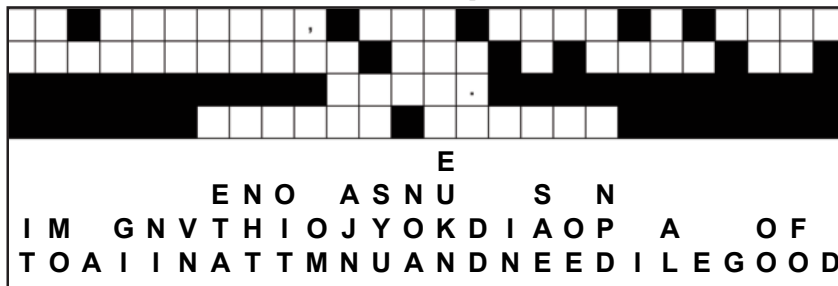


NUMBER CRUNCHER

9 19 5 8 3 1 = 187

Using all FIVE arithmetical signs, + - x ÷, fill in the spaces to make the equation true, as if they were being entered into a calculator.

All the letters in our grids below have fallen out and mixed themselves up, although they are still in their original columns. Can you put them back in their rightful place to reveal a QUOTATION and the NAME of the person who said it.



The Last Issue's Answers

The **FOUR YELLOW SQUARES** in the **SUDOKU** were 1 8 4 2

The **FALLEN PUZZLE** answers were:
THE COSMOS IS WITHIN US. WE ARE MADE OF STAR-STUFF. WE ARE A WAY FOR THE UNIVERSE TO KNOW ITSELF.
CARL SAGAN

TO READ A POEM IN JANUARY IS AS LOVELY AS TO GO FOR A WALK

IN JUNE.
JEAN PAUL

The 'Mountains & Mountain Ranges' themed words featured in last issue's

CHRONICLE WORDSEARCH were:

ASTEROID
BLACKHOLE
COMET
ECLIPSE
GALAXY
METEOR
MILKYWAY
MOON

NEBULA
PLANET
SATELLITE
SOLARSYSTEM
STAR
SUPERNOVA
UNIVERSE

The **NUMBER CRUNCHER**

8 - 6 + 17 ÷ 19 x 20 + 9 = 29

There may be others.



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Broadland Model Railway Club



Happy New Year to all our friends and followers. We hope the new year will see us continue to grow and to exhibit more of our efforts in creating model railways.

We are fortunate in that we have potential new members applying to join, they are always welcome as it provides new ideas and experience and widens our capabilities. The various teams are very busy with updates and construction on a number of our layouts, and we are looking at some ideas for new layouts. Our challenge as always is finding room for them but with some careful juggling of the space and learning how to work with layouts which are partly stored away, we are coping quite well. As ever, you can follow our progress via the website, each layout has its own page, and we update this formally after every quarterly meeting. We also have an active Facebook page where more frequent updates are posted - www.facebook.com/BroadlandMRC/ and we welcome followers to this.

Our exhibition calendar is already growing, please check it out on the website as it is constantly under review. Do please note that we are open to invites from other exhibitions to display our layouts, contact details are on the exhibition page.

We are very fortunate in having 24/7 access to our club rooms something few other clubs have and a number of us take advantage to work in a group or alone outside our regular sessions on a Tuesday and Friday evenings. A regular group meet on Mondays, splitting the day's modelling activities with lunch in The Swan Inn in Stalham, a very enjoyable day with good friends.

As always if you are interested in joining us and getting involved, full contact information is on the website:
<https://broadlandmodelrailwayclub.co.uk/>



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History of The Blakeney Players

The tradition of acting in Blakeney dates back to the Victorian era, before cars and buses, with the nearest railway station at Dereham and the only means of transport being horse drawn.

The merchant and farming families of Blakeney, the Pages, Turners, Hills, Templelines, Hudsons and the Woods of Morston met in one another's houses for musical evenings.

Anyone who could play did so and others would sing or recite poems with the most popular activity being charades.

In the 1930's a Dramatic Society was formed in Blakeney which met monthly for play readings, lectures, debates and mock trials. Membership was drawn from surrounding villages and for a while were called "The Gay Caballeros" and performed short plays for the public under the guidance of Eric Burrows, who at that time was performing as a professional. During this time Miss Irene Johnson, or Johnnie as she was generally known, and Miss Velda Sprott moved into Blakeney and had a great influence on the dramatic scene as they were both excellent actresses and splendid producers.

The formation of The Women's Institute added further opportunities for drama including the annual drama festival in Norwich that Blakeney entered and regularly won. The Second World War ended dramatic activities until 1945 when Velda Sprott started evening classes in Blakeney School with performances at the British Legion Hall. In 1956 it was decided to name the group "The Blakeney Players", and this has continued until the present day.

In the early days they would put on Music Hall shows and sketches led by Eric Burrows, Irene

Johnson and Velda Sprott until another formidable talent moved to Blakeney, named Josie Eaton. She wrote a show with Margaret Loose called "Out of the Red", which literally took the Players into credit. That was the first of many collaborations over the years boosted by the piano playing leadership of Mike Curtis who chaired the Players for many years and the dancing input of Marjorie Davies as The Players put on two shows each year with many of the cast helping with the writing and production with Peter Franklin, Sue and Mike Andrews, Ralph Wiggins, Lavinia Finn with Katie Franklin all making great contributions.

In 1963 The Players gave entertainment after the Blakeney Twelve charity lunch for the more senior of the parish, a tradition which has continued every year since. The Players under Johnny and Velda were unique in as much as there has never been a membership subscription or auditions and this has also continued through the years allowing the writers to choose the cast according to talent and ability.

Blakeney Village Hall has been the home of The Players for the last 40 years with a proper stage and lighting and an audience of up to 200. Early productions were led by John Ratcliffe and Richard Newton who handed on to John Seymour and his team continuing to produce sets and stage effects of West End standards.

There is another whole story relating to The Blakeney Wardrobe Society and a vast collection of theatrical and authentic costumes that for many years were in the hands of Janet Harcourt who then handed on the reins to Barbara Franklin and her team some 25 years ago to meet the ever-increasing demands of the productions.

Peter Franklin (Chairman).



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BLAKENEY PLAYERS NEED YOU!

The Blakeney Players are 70 this year and continue to enjoy putting on our own shows, twice a year, to our lovely audiences.

We are looking to add to our numbers across the board from back stage through to the actors, singers and dancers.

We particularly need anyone with any technical interest to look at covering the lighting and sound equipment. We would love a musical director or choirmaster to help us with the songs.

Our Stage Manager would love some more help with the building and changing of sets both before and during the productions.

If you have a script hiding away and would like to see if we can bring it to life then let us know.

We have a magnificent wardrobe collection and would love any enthusiasts who would enjoy helping to create the spectacle of live theatre.

Our main aim, along with putting on award winning shows, is to enjoy every aspect of the mad world of local theatre..... and we do just that!

If you have even a flicker of interest please email :

blakeneyplayers@icloud.com

Here's looking forward to the next 70 years!

Peter Franklin., Chairman

Manager Wanted, Cromer Girlguiding HQ

We're looking for a volunteer to take on the role of Manager of the Girlguiding headquarters in Cromer.



Girlguiding UK is a voluntary organisation that gives girls age 4-18 the chance to have fun and adventure, and the space to discover their potential.

Rainbow, Brownie and Guide units meet weekly in the Cromer headquarters in Overstrand Road, which is owned by Girlguiding. The HQ also offers a space for local community groups and clubs to meet, and a venue for Girlguiding groups from all over the country to stay.

The role is expected to take 3-4 hours a week on average. The Manager is in charge of building maintenance, upkeep and safety, handles bookings by Guiding and external groups, and manages the accounts.

This role would suit a woman or man wishing to take on a meaningful project of great benefit to Girlguiding and the local community. For more information, please email Jackie Sonsino, local Girlguiding Commissioner, at holtrainbows@gmail.com
Thank you

Entertainment and Events at Weybourne Village Hall

Weybourne Village Hall is an ideal venue for family functions and parties, look at our website for more information,
www.veybournevillagehall.org.uk



Film Night: Friday 20th February 2026.

Please see website or posters for film title. Doors open 7pm for a 7.30 start. No booking necessary. You are welcome to bring drinks and nibbles with you, and please bring your own glass. Ice creams available to buy. Proceeds to Village Hall. Next film Friday 20th March.

Tea and Tech: Wednesday 25th February 2026. Hollie, Community Tech Coach from NCC will be available between 2 and 4 pm to help you with online shopping, banking, NHS services and more. Bring your device and charger with you, or if you don't have a device NCC may be able to help you. Tea and coffee provided; the session is free but donations welcome. For more information email secretary@veybournevillagehall.org.uk
The next **Bingo session** will be on Friday 27th February 2026. Doors open at 7pm, eyes down 7.30pm. No booking necessary. £1 entry with tea and coffee provided. Please bring other drinks and nibbles if required and your own glasses. Proceeds to Village Hall.

Ceilidh: Saturday 7th March 2026 7 – 10 pm. Come and enjoy a fun evening with music and calling from the Keel Band. No experience necessary. Bring your own drinks, glasses and snacks. Complimentary tea and coffee available. Tickets must be purchased in advance, £9 per person. Call Emma on 07940 963414

Table Tennis: every Wednesday 9.30 – 11.30 am. Interested in playing? Come and join us at the Village Hall, Beach Lane, Weybourne, NR25 7AH. We are a friendly and sociable group who play to a reasonable standard. We welcome players of all ages. So if you want to keep active, meet others and enjoy yourself come along and see if it is for you, or for more information contact Phil Sheridan on 07799 500278 or Mick Bowman on 07710 606100.

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Footie Quiz – Another mixed bag

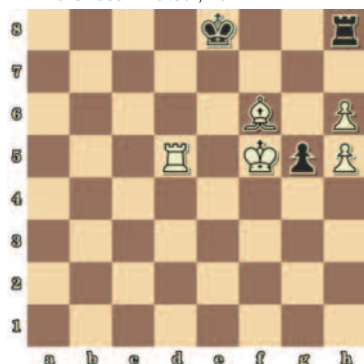
- 1 Which club has lowest number of wins in a Premier League season?
- 2 Which teams have the highest number of draws in a top 4 league season? There are 4.
- 3 Only 3 teams have been unbeaten in a top 4 league season - who are they?
- 4 Who was the first footballer to be voted BBC Sports Personality of the Year?
- 5 Which Scottish Premiership club are nicknamed 'The Pars'?
- 6 Which four English league clubs have 'Rovers' as part of their name?
- 7 For which African nation has Kolo Touré played international football? (Pictured)
- 8 Who was the first £5million transfer between two British clubs.
- 9 Who did Germany beat for third place in the 2006 World Cup finals?
- 10 Who knocked Brazil out of the 2006 World Cup finals?



Answers are upside down in this issue elsewhere
- No cheating!

CHESS PROBLEMS by Dr Cedric Lytton

347. W. Langstaff
The Chess Amateur, 1922



347. Mate in two moves

348. Zhao Jun – Chan
Shenzhen, 2025



348. White to play and win

Solution to No. 347: If Black has not moved his K or R, he must have just moved his P. He cannot have just captured as f6 and h6 are both occupied, nor can he have just moved from g6 where the white K would have been in check with Black to play. So the P must have moved 2 squares directly from g7, and White can capture it: 1. hxg6 ep. threatening 2. Rd8, and after 1... 0-0 2.h7 is mate. Contrariwise, if Black has not just played ... g7-g5 (and after White tries the capture Black says "You can't do that there here"), then he must have moved his K or R, he cannot castle, and 1. Ke6 with 2. Rd8 to follow. This problem holds the economy record for a conditional Retro.

We are planning a mixture of stipulations this year, and No. 348 above is from an actual tournament game, White winning a piece or mating quickly. **Difficulty perhaps 2**, but readers shouldn't need to set up a board for this one.

Solutions and comments to me at 16 Lime Grove, Sheringham NR26 8NX, or e-mail to lestershaw7@gmail.com

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The Write Stuff

The Write Stuff met on 16th January. We had previously set a writing prompt for this meeting as "Mother-in-Law". That resulted in some wonderful pieces which took us off in many directions in the discussion!

Readings this month were:

Sue Crossman: "Mother-in-Law" and a short poem.

Letitia Knight: "Mother-in-Law".

Monica Tobias: "The Favourite Knife of Mrs Brown"

Steve Lee: "Reading Waves" and a song/poem "My Little Snoring Garden".

Next Meeting: Friday 20th February 2026, in The Gallery Room, Holt Community Centre 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. We still have room for more members in our group so if you think we might be the right stuff for your writing (any standard / experience!) contact Steve Lee the coordinator: steveleeresources@gmail.com

Writing prompts: for the next meeting:
"A Ghost Story" or "Under-cover Woman"

My Little Snoring Garden

by Steve Lee of the Write Stuff Writing Group

How many Winter nights do I dream of my Little Snoring Garden?
Leafing through brochures for Winter cures amongst the horticulture
ja-ar-gon.

Nitrogen, potassium for rose and pelargonium

Bulb fibre, grit, horse poo and chicken shit...

...to manage moisture, crumb and car-ar-bon.

I promise that I'll feed and hoe, buy expensive seed and sow.

Use all the tricks in my books that I know.

And then I'll water love and care.

Spread colour everywhere.

To fill my Little Snoring gar-ar-den.

Ah! The garden!

Rhubarb, spuds and Raspberries. Beef tomatoes, lettuce, peas.

All gathered in with the greatest of ease.

And a hammock in the shade,

and cooling lemonade,

in my Little Snoring gar-ar-den!

But - let's not forget the honest toil and sweat ...

...in the digging and the mow-ow-ing.

Crawling on all-fours, controlling the outdoors

And every rampant strangler go-o-ing.

Endless mindless numbing work. Controlling stuff that grows berserk

Weeds, seeds and Wars, settling of old scores

On all of these my heart doth ha-ar-den.

A battalion of moles, excavate their holes. And pan the plan I set my
hear-art-on

They dig from dusk to dawn, undermine my lawn. It makes me put my
boots and hard-hat-on.

The big fat pigeons laugh at me from the safety of their tree

Poo on my greenhouse and eat the robin's seed.

Vermin pests and bugs, slimy snails and slugs

I'll exercise my credit car-ard-on.

Theres scratchy spikes and sharp-end things with horns and thorns and
sap that stings.

Green fly, horse fly, things with teeth and wings.

I need napalm not a spray to keep the sods at bay

I really need to keep my gua-ar-rd on!

And the second Spring time comes - out come all the little bums

It's them v. me in the trenches and the trees.

Bugger forks and spades! I need grenades!

Not one of 'em gets a par-ar-don.

What about the bodies?.....

I need to hire some squaddies...

Gotta get a gardener...

County Councillor Report

Dear Readers,

There has been much speculation and discussion regarding the possible postponement by the

Government, of this year's County Council elections. I say possible because there has been a request for a judicial review on this process. I hope this helps inform your understanding of what has taken place.

Eric Vardy

County Councillor for Holt Division (Aylmerton, Barningham, Bessingham, Cley-next-the-Sea, East Beckham, East Runton, Gresham, High Kelling, Holt, Kelling, Matlaske, Metton, Runton, Salthouse, Sustead, Upper Sheringham, West Beckham, West Runton, Weybourne).



Norfolk County Council Elections

A document was prepared by NCC that outlines information requested by the government ahead of a decision expected to confirm the postponement of local elections scheduled for May 2026 in specific councils undergoing reorganisation.

On 22 January, the Government announced that it had decided that this May's county council elections would not go ahead, so that the council can focus on local government reorganisation and devolution. Norfolk County Council Leader Councillor Kay Mason Billig said: "The Government has decided that our elections won't take place this year, so that we have time and capacity to deliver devolution and local government reorganisation.

"We note the Government's decision and will now focus on continuing our detailed work to deliver both these major changes, alongside our partners in the district and borough councils and also with our colleagues in Suffolk."

Norfolk County Council Leader Councillor Kay Mason Billig wrote a comprehensive letter detailing the views of 'Norfolk County Council Leader Councillor Kay Mason Billig, and whether we could release essential capacity from Norfolk County Council to deliver Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution effectively. Within Norfolk you have also written to the leader of a District Council - Norwich City Council.'

The letter was too lengthy to print here, but covered the following topics:

- Elections
- Leadership, Authority and Capacity
- Local Government Reorganisation
- Devolution
- Financial

Conclusion of the NCC response

There are, as stated above, obvious implications regarding capacity for our council in implementing Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution within the required timescales. However, it is important that government's decision is also mindful of the very strong perceptions of those that see cancelling elections as anti-democratic, and therefore any decision to do so must be carefully considered and done for the right reasons. I believe the wording that has been consistently used by government ministers is "elections will go ahead as scheduled unless there are good reasons not to", therefore any "good reasons" must be clearly explained and justified.

To sum up and to be explicit, as you have asked me to be, if our elections go ahead in 2026, I cannot guarantee that my council will be able to deliver Devolution because of the governance restraints. In the case of implementing Local Government Reorganisation successfully, we will face significant challenges in the reorganisation of 8 councils into a

currently unknown number of unitaries. In both these cases there is the added issue of the political will and capacity of the new administration to implement the governments priorities. I trust the above is helpful as you consider the implications of following or not following the precedents set by previous governments and hope that I have been explicit enough in outlining the risks and challenges now facing us.

In reaching your decision, you will of course consider the relative weighting of the issues raised in this letter and whether there is further scope for realigning the Mayoral election and others, in order to enable capacity in the system to be able to deliver both Devolution and Local

Government Reorganisation as you require.

I would like to reiterate that although you have sought my opinion on this matter, for which I am grateful, the decision and of course legal ability to postpone elections is a matter for national government.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Kay Mason Billig, Leader of Norfolk County Council

Letter from Rt. Hon. Steve Reed OBE MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government

Dear Leader, 22 January 2026

Re: Decision on the Postponement of Local Elections Scheduled for May 2026.

I am writing to follow up on the Minister for Local Government and Homelessness' letter of 18 December 2025 regarding the potential postponement of local elections in areas undergoing local government reorganisation.

This Government remains steadfast in its commitment to streamlining local government by replacing the outdated two-tier system with single-tier unitary councils, a landmark reform essential to ending the two-tier cost for local taxpayers and creating stronger local authorities equipped to drive economic growth and provide exceptional services to the public we serve.

We are grateful to you for your quick and helpful response to the Minister's last letter, and for the hard work that went into the representations that were submitted. I appreciate that for many of you it has been a challenging process for which you, like me, had to consider a wide range of factors before sharing your representations.

After carefully considering the representations made by councils, parliamentarians, residents and wider local government stakeholders, I have decided to bring forward legislation to postpone the local elections scheduled for 7 May 2026 for a period of one year for the following councils: (There followed a list of 29 councils including those of Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex).

This decision follows a comprehensive consideration of all the evidence available to me. I have listened to concerns regarding the resource pressures of running intensive elections for councils proposed for abolition shortly thereafter. By delaying these elections, I am confident that we will be releasing essential capacity within councils to allow your teams to focus their full energy on the complex reorganisation process, while also addressing concerns regarding the cost of holding elections for bodies that will soon cease to exist.

This move ensures our continued delivery against an ambitious timetable that sees new councils going live in April 2028, delivering on our promise to create sustainable, effective structures within this Parliament. For a number of councils, we received representations indicating that they had the capacity required for elections to proceed during the process of local government reorganisation; representations indicating postponement would be helpful but without sufficient evidence of the impact on capacity; or postponement was not sought. For these councils, elections will go ahead as planned. A full list of May 2026 elections in areas undergoing reorganisation and their status is attached to this letter.

Next steps

The legislative process to postpone these elections will now commence, and the necessary Statutory Instrument will be laid as soon as possible. An Explanatory Memorandum will be published alongside the Statutory Instrument, which will give more detail about the 2 representations received. We will write to you again to share this with you once it has been published.

Town and Parish Council elections

Please note that I am making no provision for the postponement of town or parish council elections. As these bodies are outside the scope of the local government reorganisation, those elections will proceed as scheduled.

I am copying this letter to your Chief Executives, the other Leaders and Chief Executives of councils in the local government reorganisation programme, and to local MPs, Combined/Combined County Authority Mayors, Police and Crime Commissioners and Best Value Commissioners in local government reorganisation areas. Many thanks once again for your continued hard work in delivering this important reorganisation programme.

Yours sincerely, **RT HON STEVE REED OBE MP Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government**

Active Fakenham Announces Packed Programme of Community Events for 2026

Active Fakenham has announced an exciting programme of community, health, wellbeing and cultural events taking place throughout 2026, marking what is set to be one of the organisation's busiest and most ambitious years to date.

Building on the success of its 2025 programme and more than fourteen years of community delivery, the volunteer-led, not-for-profit organisation continues to focus on inclusive, affordable and accessible activities that benefit both residents and visitors to Fakenham.

Active Fakenham has no paid staff and no core income, meaning that all grant funding and sponsorship is directed straight into frontline community activity. Around 200 volunteers supported events last year, underlining the strength of local involvement and commitment.

Key Events in 2026

Easter Sunday Funday & Races Festival – 5 April 2026

A firmly established highlight in Fakenham's calendar, this UK Athletics-accredited festival of running returns with a closed-road 5K race, 1K fun run, and under-5s race. New for 2026 are chip lap timing and age-category awards. The event combines sport, stalls, food vendors and strong volunteer support, creating a vibrant Easter celebration in the town centre.

More information and entries:

<https://www.activefakenham.org.uk/2026-easter-sunday-5km-race-1km-fun-run>

Fakenham Riverside Community Festival – 21 June 2026

A free or low-cost family day featuring cardboard raft races, duck races, inflatables, live music, games and fitness activities. Delivered in partnership with local groups including Fakenham Rotary Club and the Ospreys Canoe Club, the festival focuses on accessibility and community participation.

<https://www.activefakenham.org.uk/2026-riverside-community-day-raft-races-and-duck-races>

Fakenham Arts Festival – August 2026

Following the success of FAF25, the Arts Festival returns throughout August with artwork displayed across over 60 venues in the town. The programme includes a town-wide art trail, a free children's art trail and activity pack, creative workshops, and new initiatives to be announced.



The festival remains free to attend and celebrates local creativity while encouraging people to explore Fakenham in new ways.

<https://www.activefakenham.org.uk/new-fakenham-arts-festival-for-2026>

Ride North Norfolk – Festival of Two Wheels – 30 August 2026

A nationally promoted, non-competitive cycling event with routes ranging from 15 to 102 miles, welcoming cyclists of all abilities. Set against the stunning backdrop of North Norfolk, the event offers some of the most enjoyable, scenic and accessible cycling routes in the country.

Registrations now open:

<https://www.activefakenham.org.uk/2026-ride-north-norfolk>

Fakenham Film Festival (FFF26) – October 2026

Returning to Fakenham Central Cinema, the Film Festival will feature competitions, filmmaker Q&As, red-carpet events and screenings celebrating Norfolk and regional talent. Entries to the competitions are now open.

<https://www.activefakenham.org.uk/my-postccd6ce29>

Ongoing Community Support

Alongside major events, Active Fakenham continues to support the town year-round through:

- The Fakenham Info Hub, social media, noticeboards and leaflets
- Management of the Love Fakenham Facebook Group
- Equipment loans for local groups and events
- Wellbeing activities such as garden meditation and Pilates
- School projects, guided walks, pop-up events and digital initiatives
- Ongoing development of its website and social media channels

Richard Crook, Chairperson and Project Manager of Active Fakenham, said: "Our focus is on bringing people together, improving wellbeing and creating positive experiences in Fakenham. The 2026 programme reflects what we've learned, what the community has told us, and what volunteers are passionate about delivering."

Active Fakenham is keen to hear from anyone interested in volunteering, partnering or sponsoring events in 2026.

For more information, visit:
www.activefakenham.org.uk

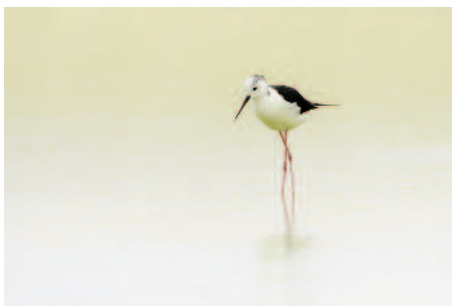


Nature Photography Exhibition

Local wildlife photographer Paul Richards is showing off some of his fine art nature images in an exhibition entitled 'The Art of Nature Photography' at the Norfolk Wildlife Trust Cley Marshes Visitor Centre starting February 25th - 10th March.

Paul, who lives in West Runton, has been one of the finalists in Bird Photographer of the Year, British Wildlife Awards and Wild Art Competitions. He also won the Norfolk Wildlife Trusts Calendar Competition with Chasing Hares in 2023 - a stunning image of three hares in a blizzard.

After a career in countryside management Paul is now following his passion for wildlife through photography.



Paul will be on hand at the Centre throughout his exhibition to give advice to any budding wildlife photographers. Paul is also available for one-to-one workshops for those wanting to improve their wildlife photography.

Some of Paul's prize-winning images (which are available for sale at his exhibition) include: Sleepy Sanderlings, Simply Stilt, Chasing hares. Some of Paul's work is available to view at www.pronature.co.uk and you can find his latest work on Facebook under Pronature Photography.

From North Walsham and District Branch of Cats Protection

It has certainly been busy on the rehoming front since last time with Gypsy, Pip, Pop, Posy, Sadie, Shadow, Smokey and Sully leaving for new home and Gigi probably having left by the time you read this article. We also have other people waiting to go and see the remaining cats in care that are available at present. Some are still receiving care from our vets and will not be available until they have been given a clean bill of health.

Fortunately, some of those rehomed were together which means that their pens are now free to take new cats. Already in care are Kato a handsome 14-year-old noisy boy who arrived because of behavioural issues which we hope will be resolved once in a new environment. Another new arrival is Sky a very friendly 17-year-old grey cat whose owner sadly died recently. Both these cats are now waiting to see the vets for their routine check-ups. Another two 7-year-old females will hopefully be settled in a pen by the time you read this. At present we do not know their names so more information on them next time. They too will be coming into care because their owner has died. We will also be contacting some more people with cats on our waiting list to advise we now have space for their pets.

I am pleased to be able to report that the operation on Bunty appears to have been successful. At present the medication she is on in gradually being reduced so we are hoping that once she comes off this, she will be ready to be put up for adoption again. Little Angel is still receiving treatment but



This is Sky a very friendly and healthy 17-year-old boy

also needs to put on some weight before she can have her vaccinations. We are hoping that Alvin and Annie who came into care with Angel will soon be available for homing,

If you are interested in receiving help to neuter your cat/kitten, please ring 07880 256948 (to see if you are eligible for a voucher). This number is for vouchers only and will not be able to help with any other enquiries. However, the number also applies for those wishing to take advantage of our special neutering campaign and covers micro-chipping your cat if this has not already been done.

If you are looking for a cat or kitten (or have any other queries) please call 01692 535858. Could callers please call at a reasonable time as the phone is in my home. It is not very pleasant to be woken during the night by someone ringing with a cat related query.

Please be aware that if you are interested in giving one of our cats a home, we prefer contact by phone rather than by the contact form on our website,

www.northwalsham.cats.org.uk.

Unfortunately, at present we are unable to show details of the cats on the website. However, all enquiries for cats and kittens should be received via the phone number or email address. Although I use a computer for cat work, I only check the contact forms once a day, so there is a delay in responding to enquiries this way and as we deal with enquiries on a first come first serve policy, I may have already spoken to someone who is interested in giving the cat you are interested in a home. If someone has already shown an interest in the particular cat you are interested in, we may wait until they have made a decision before contacting you.

We are on Facebook. You can find us under Cats Protection North Walsham



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