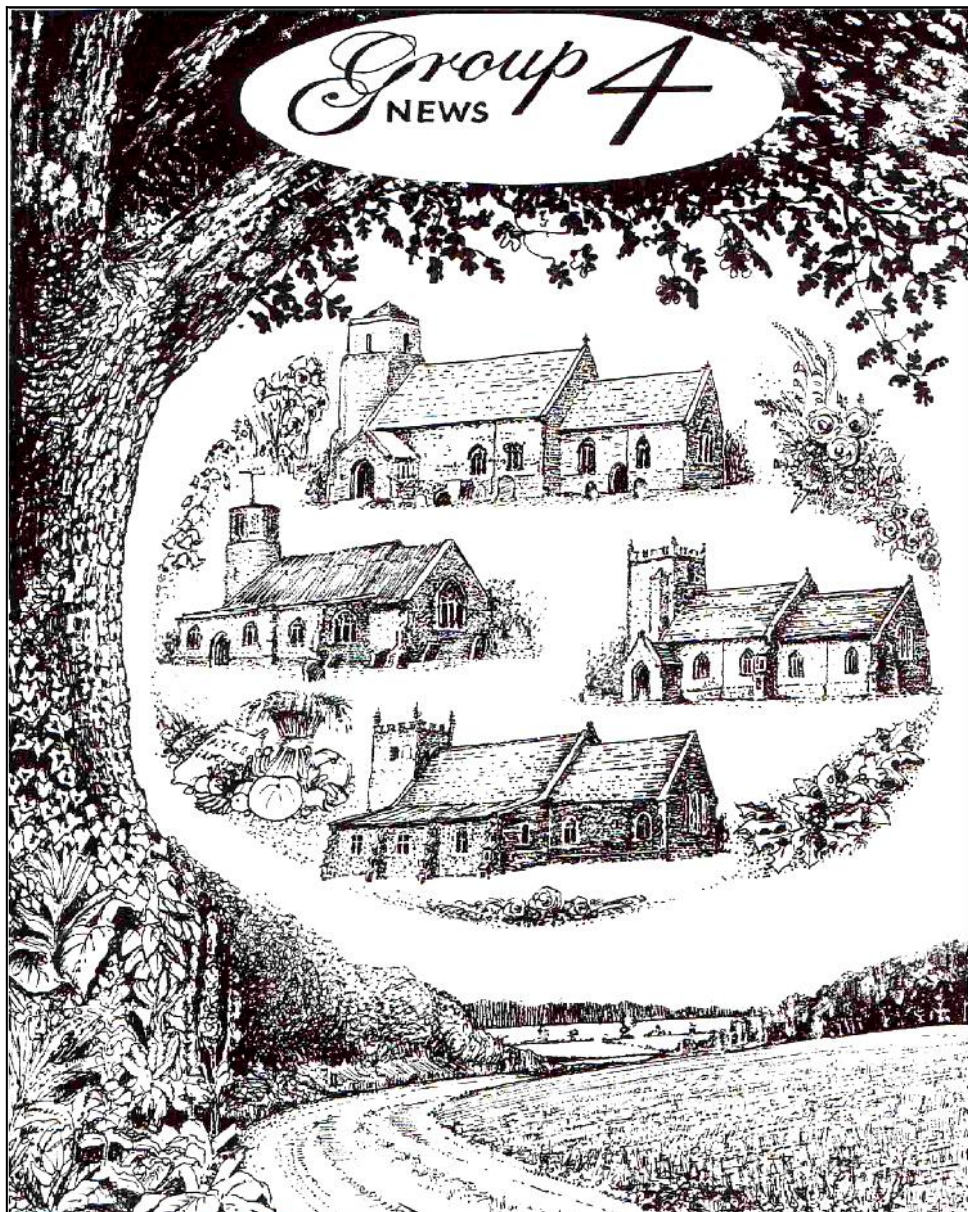


Group 4

NEWS



The Parishes of Barton Bendish & Eastmoor; Beachamwell, Shingham & Drymere;
Boughton; Wereha

April 2023

Cover illustration drawn by Mark Powell, Beachamwell ©

WELCOME

A thought from Desmond Tutu

"Every praying person, every person who has an encounter with God, must have a passionate concern for his or her brother and sister, his or her neighbour. To treat any of these as if he were less than the child of God is to deny the validity of one's spiritual existence."

• Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Enjoy your Easter holiday,
however you spend it.

As always, 'Happy Reading '
The Editorial Team
Eileen and Pam

Thanks to all contributors and
apologies to any whose work has not been
shown in this issue.

We promise to include your articles
wherever and whenever possible. Please
do keep them coming.

Many thanks to the distributors, we
couldn't do without you!!!

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Please submit all information through
your Village Contacts.

**Deadline for copy for the
May 2023 edition:**

11th April

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LET US BE THANKFUL, LORD

What does April mean to you? A four-day weekend, the chance to get away from it all? An opportunity to visit or receive visitors? By contrast, a busier time than usual because you work in industries that rely on tourism or entertainment. In agriculture and horticulture, you may well be really busy with new lambs and calves and growth in the fields. It could be an exciting month, with a new tax year (I jest). Or perhaps it could be an extra special time for you with preparations for a wedding? Your excitement may be about the new life within yourself or simply in your garden. Or that, this April, signifies the true beginning of spring with the hope of better weather. After all, the meteorological version of the beginning of spring last month produced the highest precipitation and the lowest temperatures of the year so far!

Easter does fall within April this year although Easter Day can fall in the latter days of March. You may well question why Easter is a variable Feast while Christmas is not so. Indeed, over the years there have been efforts made to regularise it. One of those I like to quote is about an Act of Parliament that has never come into force. And has the unenviable distinction of having the longest period of time that one has lacked enforcement. It is the Easter Act 1928 which depended on all the mainstream Christian Churches agreeing upon a date. No such agreement has ever been reached during the ninety-five years since the Act received Royal Assent. Hardly surprising given that the Churches have been debating (I'm using diplomatic language) the issue since the middle ages.

Easter is inextricably linked to the Jewish Feast of Passover. This is a spring festival which celebrates the ending of the slavery of the Israelites in Egypt. And commemorates the fact that God spared the Children of Israel from the death that He visited upon the Egyptians. The Angel of Death *Passed Over* the houses of the Israelites. For Christians, this link with the Passover is made in two specific ways. Firstly, Jesus with His disciples celebrated the Passover with the traditional Passover meal before His betrayal; the Last Supper. Secondly, that Christ rose from the dead on the third day after His Crucifixion. By His Resurrection He was freed from the tomb and in so doing freed us from the slavery of sin. In similitude to the ending of the slavery of the Israelites. A true cause for celebration.

However, to quote from the Collect for the Third Sunday of Lent – *Almighty God whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first He suffered pain and entered not into Glory before He was Crucified.* In the light of which we commemorate Good Friday. How can it be *Good* Friday? After all, we are remembering one of the most awful and humiliating forms of execution ever devised by mankind. Exposed to the elements and public scorn on a hillside outside the walls of Jerusalem. An execution reserved for common criminals who were not Roman citizens. The word good has been incorrectly assumed to have derived from God Friday. In fact, the word good attributes to the day a

sense of piety and holiness. In my view, it is a day when we have the opportunity to truly revere Jesus Christ's Sacrifice of Himself.

The Church's Season of Easter carries on for about seven weeks until Pentecost (Whit Sunday). Beyond the confines of the Church we return to work, to our studies or leisure time activities. I know from my own experience that it is difficult, sometimes practically impossible, to think about the events of Easter.

Of the Crucifixion and of the Resurrection. Indeed, it is very easy to dismiss them as fiction or fantasy. Or at any rate so remote from daily life or any current experiences that you cannot relate to them. If either of the latter two cases apply to you, then I can empathise with your point of view because those are ones that I adopted in my late teens and twenties. I found myself in the position of having to make up my mind about whether or not I believed in a God?

What inspired me to think of this matter was a deep feeling that I needed to give thanks. Thanks for life itself, for family and other relationships, for health and fitness, a good job and (in spite of the cold war) a sense of security. I had a lot for which to be thankful. But to whom or what? Was it just how things worked out in my favour? I spent a lot of time thinking about this. Hoping that I was not just obsessing about it and that these thoughts were not interfering with the very things which I was having that feeling of thankfulness. I also knew all these good things were essentially quite fragile and needed to be maintained!

Eventually I did come to the conclusion that I did have a firm belief in a Creator. And that *the* Creator was Almighty God. Incidentally, to me, God is *Almighty*. If you believe in Him being Almighty, then those things about which we naturally doubt become possible. That includes the events of Easter. Let us, then, allow ourselves some time to ponder about things beyond our immediate environment and concerns. To form a relationship with God that transcends those that we normally experience. One in which we may join in joyfully saying *let us be thankful, Lord.* Tony Mills

A Prayer of Anselm the 12th. Century Archbishop of Canterbury

Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to You;
You are gentle with us as a mother with her children.

Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness; through your
gentleness we find comfort in fear.

Your warmth gives life to the dead, your touch makes sinners righteous.

Jesus, in your Mercy heal us in your Love and tenderness remake us.

In your compassion bring Grace and forgiveness, for the beauty of Heaven
may your Love prepare us. *Amen.*

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Methwold	Alan Burbridge	01366 727 002
West Dereham	Graeme Pressley	01366 501 179
Wereham:	Sheila Smith	01366 858 165
Whittington	Susan Smith	07849 157 080
Wretton	Anita Horgan	01366 500 785
Whittington & Wretton	Elaine Taylor	01366 500 948

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Marham	Philip Fay	01760 444199
	Glenda Jayes	01760 339688
Shouldham	Brian & Ann Hullah	01366 347814
Shouldham Thorpe	Gordon Reid	01366 347253



COUNTRYSIDE NOTES - SOIL

We rarely give much thought to the earth beneath our feet and yet all life depends on it. It's either made up from stone or organic matter and generally categorised into six types: chalky, clay, loamy, peaty, sandy, or silty, all of which can be found pretty much within the Group Four area. Beneath is a base layer of chalk. The colour varies greatly. Organic peaty soil in the Fens is very nearly black, chalky soil is light coloured, clay can be red or yellow and in Devon soil is red as a result of iron chemicals. Soil is tested for its pH levels on a scale of 0-14 which measures soil acidity or alkalinity the results of which can be checked against a colour chart. A pH of 7.0 is considered neutral. Acidic soils such as peat have a pH value below 7.0 and chalk is alkaline and above.

Soil is packed full of organisms most of which are invisible to the eye. A balance of bacteria, protozoa, nematodes, fungi and algae along with organic matter is required to create healthy and productive soil. Mycorrhizal fungi play a huge part in plant health by increasing the uptake of water and nutrients. Soil is also home to many invertebrates and insect species in their larval stages which in turn provide food for wildlife. Many species of birds feed their newly hatched chicks on these. Earthworms play an invaluable part in improving soil quality through eating organic matter and producing compost which enriches the soil. Their underground activities spread nutrients around as well as helping with aeration and drainage, helping fields to absorb water which acts as a buffer against waterlogging and flooding.

In the last seventy years these organisms have been depleted by modern farming methods. Previously most lowland farms used to have a mix of livestock and arable. Pigs and cattle kept in barns for the winter produced straw-based manure which was spread on the land before it was ploughed. A good level of organic matter creates a healthy ecosystem of living organisms but these providers of old fashioned 'muck' have disappeared from most farms.

It now seems that at last farmers are becoming much more aware of how important it is to care for the soil and have reduced deep ploughing. This winter it's good to see that muck spreading is back and so many acres of turnips have been grown as winter feed for sheep which add fertility to the soil by scattering their droppings across the fields.

Growing green crops, such as mustard or buckwheat, to plough in is a natural way of replenishing and stabilising the soil and is being used more widely. Arable farmers use a system of rotating crops, some such as legumes put nitrogen back into the soil. Crop rotation is a well-recognised tool of management and has been practised for hundreds of years. Not only does it help preserve the structure and fertility of the soil but also helps prevent a build-up of pests and diseases. *Jill Mason*

The Electoral Commission

Borough Council of
King's Lynn &
West Norfolk



Borough Council elections

take place on 4 May 2023

You now need
photo ID to
vote at a
polling station



No ID? You can apply for free voter ID at

electoralcommission.org.uk/voterid

A wide range of photo ID will be accepted, including passports, driving licences and cards with a PASS Mark. If you don't have an accepted form of photo ID, you can apply for a free voter ID document known as a Voter Authority Certificate.

Visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/elections, call 01553 612200 if you need help.

Need more help?

The borough council has arranged drop-in sessions until 25 April 2023, no appointment necessary:

Borough Council office
King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn
Every Tuesday
2pm to 5pm and
Every Wednesday
9am to 12noon

Hunston Library
12 - 14 Valence Road
Every Wednesday
10am to 12noon

Downham Market Library
20 Priory Road
Every Thursday
2pm to 5pm

11/03/23

Nar Valley Ornithological Society (NarVOS)

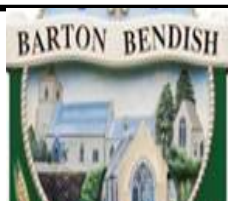
Wednesday 26 th April 2023 at 7.30pm

Indoor meeting at The Assembly Rooms, 1 Market Place, Swaffham PE37 7AB

"The Unique Life of a Ranger on Blakeney Point"

Presented by Ajay Tegala

Ajay Tegala is a wildlife presenter, conservationist, countryside ranger and naturalist. With a degree and a decade of experience in Environmental Conservation, Ajay has chalked up 20 television appearances across the five main channels, including the popular BBC nature programmes Countryfile, Coast and Winterwatch. In addition to presenting a film on Springwatch 2021, Ajay has also worked as a researcher and story developer on the series at Wild Ken Hill. Ajay has earned respect as the ranger on Britain's first coastal reserve, Blakeney Point in north Norfolk. This is the subject of his book "The Unique Life of a Ranger" first published in 2022, which gives an insight into his unique experiences



We welcome everyone to join us for a service on

APRIL 2ND AT 10.30AM

Our service for Palm Sunday will start at St Mary's Church, Barton Bendish (PE33 9DN), processing to St Andrew's Church (PE33 9GF) and continuing the service there.



You may join the service at St Andrew's if you wish.

Refreshments available.

NEWS RELEASE from the Borough Council

Help is at hand if you ask.

We all know that Christmas and New Year was a time for celebration but for people struggling with everyday living costs it can feel like an extra demand on a budget that already doesn't go far enough and we appreciate that the stress this causes for many people is overwhelming and they tend to live life from day-to-day or even moment-to-moment and this has the effect of storing up bigger problems for later. People often respond to money problems in one of two ways. They either avoid the problem altogether because they don't know how to get out of it or panic and go for a short-term solution like giving up their home or going to a money-lender – both of which usually make things worse in the long term.

But it doesn't have to be like that and the council's main message is: talk to us before doing anything else – we can help.

We can check that you are getting all the financial benefits you are entitled to. If you're in debt we have services that will help you get back on track. If you find yourself in crisis we may be able to arrange help with food and rent costs. If you're struggling with your mental health we can put you in touch with people who can help with that too.

We understand that it can be really difficult to think beyond today's problems but if you can just take that first step of talking to us, it could be the most important conversation you have this year.

Get money advice, don't go to money lenders, we know that going to a money lender means fast access to cash without having to fill out forms we know it can be a really tempting choice. But these people prey on desperation, charging huge amounts of interest and sometimes threatening or using violence to make you pay.

There ARE alternatives. If you get proper money advice they can help you maximise your income, making sure you are getting all the benefits you are entitled to and other help, such as discretionary support payments. They may be able to help you consolidate some of your debt or help you make payment agreements that you can manage. The council pays for a money advice service that's specially to help with this and free to use – visit moneyadvicehub.org.uk or call 01553 970004.

Hang on to your home? Rent is usually a household's biggest cost and recently we have had a lot of phone calls from people who have given up their tenancies because they think they can't afford it. They intend to go on the housing register to get an affordable home. What many people don't realise is that in many cases Government rules see this as making yourself 'intentionally homeless', which means that the council can't do much to help. Even if we can help, it could be a long wait as very few affordable homes are available and there are around 1,400 people on the housing register in this borough alone. Over the past three months only 19 homes with 3 or more bedrooms have become available – that's about 6 each month. For most people the best plan is to work out a way of staying in your current home. We can help with this.

Even if staying where you are isn't right for you, the most important thing you can do is talk to us before making any big decisions as this is when we can give you the most help.

We're here for you

If you feel ready to talk to us, you can call 01553 616200. Ask for housing options to talk about your housing situation or ask for Lily for anything else.

If you have internet access, have a look at our website pages on help with the cost of living at west-norfolk.gov.uk/costofliving. The pages are broken down into different problems you might be facing.

My Story



Thanks for taking the time to visit my JustGiving page. I'm ticking off one of my bucket list events this year to mark my 60th birthday by running the London Marathon on 23rd April and trying to raise some funds for the Motor Neurone Association.

As many of you may know my father, Bill Short, sadly died following an 18month battle with motor neurone disease. An illness with no cure or treatments that slowly takes away the ability to move your muscles resulting in the eventual need for mobility aids, feeding and breathing support. MND takes away so much from the people it effects and the families it touches, people who have a life to live. The MND association provide invaluable support to people who, like my father, need increasing physical and emotional support as their disease progresses. Not only do they support patients but their families. Many of whom are faced with their own emotional struggles as they watch their loved ones life change irreversibly. The research they undertake will change lives, maybe even the life of someone you know. It is a cause close to my heart and one I am proud to take on this challenge for. Please help support this incredible charity and the invaluable work they continue to do. through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. Your details are safe with JustGiving - they'll never sell them on or send unwanted emails. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to the charity. So it's the most efficient way to donate - saving time and cutting costs for the charity.



Charity Registration No. 294354

Charity Reg-

An appeal for support from Steve Short of Boughton.



Coffee Morning

in aid of



DISASTERS
EMERGENCY
COMMITTEE



TURKEY-SYRIA EARTHQUAKE APPEAL



at Wereham Village Hall
on Saturday, 15th April
10am - Noon



**Lots of Lovely Cakes, Tea, Coffee, Hot Chocolate
Side Stalls - Table Games - Raffle**

As a result of this natural disaster, OVER 30,000 PEOPLE have died and many thousands are injured in Turkey and Syria, with numbers expected to rise.

Many of the 17 MILLION PEOPLE in the affected area, are in urgent need of shelter, food and medical aid.

Organised by the Trustees of Wereham Village Hall.
For further details please contact Rosemary on 01366 501330 or 07742 246606,
or email: rosemary.pease@btinternet.com

Fincham Memorial Hall Diary Dates

APRIL 2023

ZUMBA takes place every **Monday & Thursday** at 6.30pm. Contact Russ at mmwelch13@hotmail.co.uk for information.

FINCHAM CHORUS meets every **Tuesday** at 7.00pm - Contact John on 01366 348136 for information.

PILATES FOR BEGINNERS is on every **Wednesday** at 11.30 am. Contact Carol on 07512 047430 for information.

FINCHAM W.I. will meet on **Wednesday April 12th** at 2 pm.

FINCHAM HISTORY GROUP will meet on **Wednesday April 19th** at 7.30pm

SLIMMING WORLD will meet every **Wednesday** at 5.30pm. Contact Mikayla on 07940 817539 for details.

THE HAPPY DOG CLUB will continue to meet every **Sunday** - Contact Kerry on 07903 409514 for details.

QUIZ NIGHT is at 7.30pm on **Friday April 7th** Entry £2 per person. 50/50 Raffle. Bring your own refreshments. Come join the fun - all welcome. Up to 6 in a team, either bring your own team or help make up a team on the night.

BINGO NIGHT is on **Friday April 21st** - . Cash bingo with raffle and other games. Just pay for the games you want to play. Doors open **7.30pm** with eyes down

8.00pm. Bring your own nibbles & drink.

NTL encore performance of **'The Life of Pi '** is on **Saturday April 8th** . Doors open 7pm, showing starts 7.45pm. Licensed bar available. Book through EVENTBRITE or pay at the door £5 entry.

A **MURDER MYSTERY EVENT** will take place on **Saturday April 22nd** at **7.30pm**. Entry £5 at the door, licensed bar available. *CAN YOU WORK OUT 'WHO DUNIT' FROM THE CLUES PROVIDED BY THE CAST?*

FINCHAM FILM FOR ALL is is changing to a Friday evening from **Friday April 28th** when we will be showing **LIVING** starring Bill Nighy, Alex Sharp, Aimee Wood .Doors open 7pm .Licensed bar available. Book through EVENTBRITE or pay at the door £3 entry.

We can also now accept card payments at all our Saturday events.

FINCHAM VILLAGE FETE this year will be on **SATURDAY JUNE 3rd**. Enquiries to Anne Saxelby - asaxelby@sky.com

Fincham Memorial Hall & Playing Fields now has a web site: <https://finchammemorialhall.org/> so keep up to date with all activities and events.

Check also our **Facebook** page (Fincham Hall) as well as the notice boards outside the hall for the latest information.



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Email: carlosthecab@gmail.com

Facebook: Carlos's Cab Service Norfolk or <https://en-gb.facebook.com/carlosthecab/>

Norfolk Against Scams Partnership

How to keep yourself and others safe from scams

- Be cautious and listen to your instincts. Never be afraid to delete, hang up or shut the door.
- Don't assume everyone is genuine, take your time and don't be rushed.
- Be very wary of offers made during telephone cold calls and **NEVER** give or confirm personal details.
- Know who you're dealing with and take a moment to think 'is my information and money safe?'
- **NEVER** deal with doorstep cold callers.
- **NEVER** click on links or open attachments in unexpected emails or text messages.
- Your bank or the police will never ask for your bank details, for you to withdraw cash to be collected or transfer money to another 'safe' account over the phone.
- Protect your financial information, especially from people you don't know. Think carefully before giving bank details and **NEVER** share your PIN number with anyone.

#NorfolkScamAware

Report or get advice on scams:



- **Citizens Advice**
consumer helpline.
Provides advice and shares
information with Trading Standards.
t: 0800 333 9123
e: www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer
- **Action Fraud**
Report all types of scams to Action Fraud, the
UK's national reporting centre for fraud.
t: 0300 123 3040
e: www.actionfraud.police.uk
- **Norfolk Police**
If a crime is happening now or recently occurred.
If the victim is vulnerable or unable to protect
themselves from fraud.
t: 101
e: www.norfolk.police.uk
- **Norfolk Scams Prevention Service**
Offers specialist help and support if you've been
the victim of a scam.
t: 0300 303 3766
e: www.norfolkscams.org

Please find public transport information links below. This is to assist with finding the latest information about what public transport services are operating in your area. It may also help when advising your constituents or parishioners. These links provide the best source of information as operators have been changing services at relatively short notice as they react to government guidance and the latest situation. In addition, if a member of the public in Norfolk is having trouble accessing essential services or supplies please call 0344 800 8020.

Broadland

First - <https://www.firstgroup.com/norfolk-suffolk/news-and-service-updates/coronavirus-covid19-service-information>

Konectbus - <https://www.konectbus.co.uk/coronavirus/>

National Express - <https://www.nationalexpress.com/en/help/live-service-updates>

Our Bus - <https://www.ourhire.co.uk/our-bus>

Sanders Coaches - <https://sanderscoaches.com/alerts>

Breckland

Coach Services - <https://www.coachservicesltd.com/2020/03/update-limited-timetable-from-30th-march-until-further-notice/>

First - <https://www.firstgroup.com/norfolk-suffolk/news-and-service-updates/coronavirus-covid19-service-information>

Konectbus - <https://www.konectbus.co.uk/coronavirus/>

National Express - <https://www.nationalexpress.com/en/help/live-service-updates>

West Norfolk Community Transport - <https://www.gtt-online.co.uk/news/2020/03/coronavirus-update/>

Great Yarmouth

Border Bus - <https://www.border-bus.co.uk/coronavirus-info/>

First - <https://www.firstgroup.com/norfolk-suffolk/news-and-service-updates/coronavirus-covid19-service-information>

Mega Bus - <https://uk.megabus.com/service-alerts>

National Express - <https://www.nationalexpress.com/en/help/live-service-updates>

Sanders Coaches - <https://sanderscoaches.com/alerts>

King's Lynn & West Norfolk

Coach Services - <https://www.coachservicesltd.com/category/news/>

Lynx - <https://www.lynxbus.co.uk/news/covid-19-timetables-monday-30th-march-until-further-notice/>

Mega Bus - <https://uk.megabus.com/service-alerts>

National Express - <https://www.nationalexpress.com/en/help/live-service-updates>

Stagecoach - <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/regional-service-updates/east-midlands/the-fens>

West Norfolk Community Transport - <https://www.gtt-online.co.uk/news/2020/03/coronavirus-update/>

North Norfolk

Our Bus - <https://www.ourhire.co.uk/our-bus>

Lynx - <https://www.lynxbus.co.uk/news/covid-19-timetables-monday-30th-march-until-further-notice/>

Sanders Coaches - <https://sanderscoaches.com/alerts>

Norwich

Border Bus - <https://www.border-bus.co.uk/coronavirus-info/>

West Norfolk Aviation Society March 2023

Andy Moore's talk last September portraying wartime events at RAF Bexwell was such a success that he was invited back to present part 2 of the Bexwell story: a catalogue of events, mementos and first-hand accounts which he has researched over a period of four decades. He began with a brief résumé of part 1 which is available on our website:

www.westnorfolkaviationsociety.org.uk

Although many references were made to the diversity of wartime technology (much of which is available on the internet), Andy's contribution this time had the human touch: his own personal accounts of individuals who made such a difference to the war effort. The air force itself at Bexwell had a multinational flavour with input from many European countries: Australia, New Zealand, India and even Sierra Leone in Africa; it also boasts 3 posthumously awarded Victoria Crosses. The Irish and the Welsh built the runways with help from the local women who also provided much of the accommodation. (Aren't we blessed as a nation that our racial tolerance should have been rewarded by so much support?). The effort stretched across the whole spectrum of social class, from the humblest labourer to royalty. Andy cited an instance when the King and Queen visited the Bexwell Hall mess and their schedule was inconvenienced by a WAF who was unable to convey a royal flight plan by telephone because she had broken her teeth; apparently women's voices are better suited to relaying information by wire.

One particular character who has become a friend of Andy's since 2017 is the 102 year old Flt/Lt Colin Bell who often drives up from Kent to visit his young friend. Douglas Bader, Guy Gibson and Bomber Harris are famous names synonymous with WW2 heroism and glory; Colin Bell should be among them. <http://www.militaryspeakers.co.uk/speakers/colin-bell-dfc/>

Andy learnt from Colin that motivation and moral boosting among the young pilots was an ambivalent process: on the one hand moderate drinking, good food and chasing women was available and encouraged. Low moral fibre, fear and cowardice were punishable offences. Another dilemma a pilot faced was the choice of whether he should equip himself with a side arm; it was not obligatory. Some thought they would be safer with a gun after they had crash landed or baled out, others thought that having a gun was a temptation for the enemy to shoot before capturing. Whoops, I'm using too many words! Nigel Tooth

EASTER QUIZ -answers on page 50

- 1.Who wrote The Tale of Peter Rabbit?
- 2.What kind of bird delivers eggs to children in Switzerland for Easter?
- 3.According to the Bible, how did Judas identify Jesus in the Garden of Geth-semane?
- 4.What is Easter known as in France?
- 5.Which company makes Creme Eggs?
- 6.What is the day before Good Friday called?
- 7.What is the name of the rabbit in Winnie the Pooh?
- 8.True or false – Easter is named after the pagan goddess Eostre?
9. What does the rabbit from Alice in Wonderland always carry?
- 10.What food is traditionally eaten on Good Friday?
- 11.What happens in spring to the clocks?
- 12.What did children traditionally wrap eggs in before egg rolling competitions?
- 13.How much is the most expensive Fabergé egg worth, to the nearest milion?
- 14..What are the only two mammal specie that produce eggs?
- 15..Which. comedian presents Channel 4's Junior Bake Off?
- 16..Name the beloved pig in E.B White's classic children's novel Charlotte's Web
- 17..In which month will Easter fall in 2024?





SWAFFHAM AND DISTRICT LIONS CLUB

,Our traditional fun Pancake Race was held on Shrove Tuesday on Campingland outside the Swaffham Community Centre, the winners of the Frying Pan trophy being The Sacred Heart School. Plenty of fun was had by all. (photo)

Socially we had an excellent Sunday Lunch at Swaffham Golf Club, which 20 of us attended and all thoroughly enjoyed.

In March the Lioness Branch Club held a Cardcraft afternoon at their meeting room at the Catholic church, with tea, coffee and cake. Some excellent Birthday and Easter cards were made, and the money raised will go to support Muscular Distrophy.

On the fund-raising front we met at Lion George's home to prepare the Easter Egg baskets to be raffled. They have been distributed to local businesses, clubs and pubs, along with a card of 59 squares at £1 each. The winning square will be the number drawn as the National Lottery bonus ball on Easter Saturday. , 8th April. We will also be having our usual lionesses Easter Egg tombola on the Saturday market.

Swaffham & District Lions and Lionesses.

06/03/23

NORFOLK FREEMASONS VISIT THE MAGPIECENTRE

The Magpie Centre, home of West Norfolk Riding for the Disabled Association, was recently awarded a £10,0000 grant from the Masonic Charitable Foundation, (MCF) and welcomed a group of Norfolk Freemasons on a fact-finding visit.

Mr Stephen Allen, Head of Norfolk Freemasons; Mr Robin Shaw, Provincial MCF representative and Mr Michael Spalding, Norfolk Freemasons' Provincial Communications Officer, visited the Centre, at Wallington Hall, South Runcton and met Mrs Bee Ford, West Norfolk RDA Chairwoman, plus several trustees and volunteers.

After tea and cakes, they spoke to Mr Aynsley Calvert and Ms Michelle Alflatt, two of the Magpie Centre's adult riders, and heard from them the difference that riding had made to their lives.

Mr Allen then presented them with rosettes, awarded by RDA National Office, for their participation in the RDA Dressage Championships, which were held 'virtually', owing to the pandemic.

RDA riders are grouped according to their levels of disability, and Ms Alflatt gained 6th place in Grade 1 (for the most disabled riders), while Mr Calvert placed in Grade 7 (Intellectual Disability).

The presentation took place in the Sensory Garden, opened by HRH the Princess Royal in July 2021, and the visitors met WNRDA Trustees Mrs Jan Calvert, whose idea it was, and Mr Andy Beeston, who, with his team of volunteers, undertook the construction work.

The wheelchair-friendly garden forms an excellent venue for the Centre's Tea With a Pony initiative, whereby older people, those with mobility issues, dementia, or who just like to socialise, can meet for tea and cakes and stroke some of the Centre's gentle ponies. This programme runs from April to October. To book, call the Magpie Centre Office on 01553 810202.

Trustee Mr Gerry McKenna was also on hand to outline the work of Equine Assisted Learning Therapy (EALT), a non-mounted activity which helps people with mental health issues to develop confidence, self-esteem and communication skills.

Highlight of the day was meeting RDA rider Isaac Everitt, aged 6, riding

Ginger.

Isaac's mother, Ms Jennifer Reeves, explained that Isaac, who is on the autistic spectrum and has Global Developmental Delay, had progressed rapidly since starting to ride in September 2022.

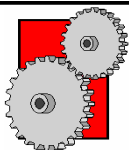
'I've noticed a huge improvement in Isaac's listening, communication and speaking skills since he started riding at the Centre,' she said.

At present the Centre has 12 equines, ranging from mounts suitable for tiny children, up to Irish Draft horse Ava, who carries the bigger riders. However, we are on the lookout for more horses, from 15.2 hh to 16.2 hh, for riding and/or carriage driving lessons.

We deliver 72 riding lessons per week, split 50/50 between child and adult riders, plus 19 carriage driving lessons, but there are currently 16 applicants on the waiting list.

Our next major fundraising event is a Quiz and Hog Roast, (with vegetarian option), plus a huge range of salads and desserts, to be held Saturday April 22 at Stowbridge Village Hall, Downham Road, Stowbridge, PE34 3PW. Doors open at 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start. Bring Your Own Drinks! Teams of 4 – 8 people are usual, but please feel welcome to come along and make up a team on the night. To book tickets: £12.50 each, call 07715 467866 or email: magpiecentrewnrda@hotmail.co.uk. All proceeds to the Magpie Centre, West Norfolk Riding for the Disabled Association.





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SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK IN WISSEY VALLEY

Monday 3rd April

7.00pm Boughton Evening Prayer

Tuesday 4th April

7.00pm Wretton Compline Rev Ian Mack

Wednesday 5 th April

7pm Barton Bendish Tenebrae Rev Burman

Thursday 6 th April Maundy Thursday

7pm Wereham Service Washing of the feet & Holy Communion followed by vigil

Rev Ian Mack & Rev Burman

Good Friday 7 th April

11.00am Stoke Ferry Walk of Witness. Meet by Stoke Ferry War Memorial Tony Mills

1.00pm Methwold Good Friday Service Diane Mantle

2.00pm Wretton Seven Last Words from the Cross. Music, readings and prayers Rev Ian Mack

April 8 th Easter Eve

7 pm Boughton Pascal Vigil and First Communion of Easter Rev Ian Mack

April 9th Easter Sunday

9.30 am Methwold Holy Communion Rev Burman

9.30 am Whittington Holy Communion Rev Ian Mack

11.00 am West Dereham Easter Day Service Janet Tanton

11.00 am Wereham Holy Communion Rev Burman

11.00 am Beachamwell Holy Communion Rev Ian Mack



FINCHAM AND DISTRICT WI

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8th March 2023

Eleven members met in the memorial hall for the March meeting, Mrs C Dungay presiding.

Apologies

J Gabrielson, J Lynskey, V Hudson, S Amies, T Daly.

Minutes of the last meeting were read, agreed to be correct and signed.

Matters arising

The walk for ACWW will take place on Tuesday 18th April, meeting at the residence of I Delderfield at 10am and walking in Shouldham Warren.

AOBMembers were asked for help at the Craft event – desserts and raffle prizes. Numbers were taken for the Federation Annual Meeting.

Members agreed to provide and serve refreshments , together with a cake stall, at the village fete – June 3rd.

The AG will take place, for the first time, next month and subs will be collected.

A birthday posy was presented to S Westwood. The table flowers were given as a raffle prize,

Speaker for the afternoon was Juyna Lewis telling of “Inside Tales,” about her time as a teacher inside prison. She focussed on her time at Norwich prison, reminding members that the prison was originally housed in the castle, with the cells open all year round to the elements. Interested in helping at the prison Joyna contacted the prison authorities and was invited to attend an induction course. She was particularly impressed with the ethos of the prison which was to punish prisoners for their misdemeanours but also to help them make use of their time to equip them for life after release. She was a very impressive speaker.

The raffle was organised by S Batterham, prizes were presented to C Dungay and W Baines.

The competition – Decorate an egg for Easter – was won by W Bell, 2nd - I Delderfield Refreshments were provided and served by A Bloy and I Delderfield.

Next

Pop-up Café

April 5th 12 – 3:30pm



Barton Bendish

Village Hall (PE33 9GF)

Drop by for lunch or afternoon tea and have a chat with
friends!



**Everyone welcome no need to
book**

In aid of Marie Curie UK

bartonbendishevents@gmail.com



VILLAGE CORONATION CELEBRATION

MAY 7TH

*A village 'bring and share' picnic in the Village Hall
at 12:30pm*

Everyone is welcome

Further details are included on the

Barton Bendish News page



'The Bernie' Pop-up Pub

Barton Bendish Village Hall

Friday 14th April 7:00 – 10:30pm

Fine selection of Ales, Wines, and Spirits

Pub Games

Host and Licensee: Barton Bendish Village Hall Trust



PLEASE! PLEASE! Can you Help????

We're clearing up St Andrew's Churchyard!

Please come along on



Saturday April 1st at 10am

Jobs to suit all ages and abilities



Refreshments will be available

BARTON BENDISH NEWS APRIL

Whither the Hot Hub?

"When we break bread and give it to each other, fear vanishes and God becomes very close."

Henri J.M. Nouwen

By the time you are reading this the Winter months will have passed, late snows notwithstanding, and the funding for warm spaces will be at an end. We still have £600 approx. of the county's generous grant yet to spend but we have three more afternoons of the Hot Hub and a Fish and Chip Evening scheduled for March.

I will be asked for an evaluation of the project but it very much depends on what we choose to measure. The Fish and Chip Evenings have attracted upwards of forty of our neighbours to eat together in the Village Hall. The afternoons have ranged between twelve and twenty three people, depending on the weather, other activities and personal circumstances. There have been a number of regulars and some of those have made it clear how much they look forward to the sessions. In the first place the scheme was designed to provide a warm space for those struggling with heating bills but increasingly I think that it has been more to do with combatting isolation and loneliness. In my opinion you can't begin to quantify what should be done to combat loneliness or to encourage everyone to feel a sense of belonging.

There are those who feel that it has been a waste of taxpayers' money but I believe that the Government's attempt to encourage social cohesion, after the terrible fragmentation brought on by the years of Covid, was very brave. Was it worthwhile?

I believe it was. If only a few people have felt the benefits of meeting regularly and have felt listened to, that is justification enough. Whether it continues or not will not be up to me of course. It would require the community to want it, some extra funding and some more volunteers. I am enormously grateful to Liz, Graham Read and Maureen Buck for making the sessions possible. Others have helped out too but I believe that there are many possibilities in the future with more funding and goodwill. Many older people, including me, are increasingly targeted by scammers and need to be educated in how to defend ourselves from this scourge. We are more and more driven towards technology. Older people need help with computing skills or even with using mobile phones better. Without these skills we risk being disenfranchised. Might it be possible to use drop in sessions to provide help as well as a cup of tea, a cake and a listening ear?

Whatever happens in the future, I have to say that these afternoons have been a real joy to me and a real indication of what might be possible.

Andrew Stephen

Beachamwell

24 Public Rights of Way? Where are they?

Come and explore with the

Wednesday Walkers

On the first Wednesday each month,

leaving the Memorial Hall at 10.00 a.m.

All welcome

*dogs on leads
please*



Beachamwell Book Group

**Tuesday 4th April
7.30**

Beachamwell Village Hall

The Museum of Broken Promises'
by Elizabeth Buchan
to be discussed over a glass of wine

New members welcome
Enquiries: 01366 328960

Beachamwell Afternoon Tea and a Chat.....'

**Wednesday
April 19th
2 - 4pm**

Village Hall



Enquiries:
01366
328108

Beachamwell Pop Up Pub



**Friday 28th April
7.00 -11.00
Last orders 10.45**

**Beachamwell Village
Hall**

Enquiries: 07818453323

BEACHAMWELL, SHINGHAM & DRYMERE VILLAGE NEWS

Mobile Post Office

Monday and Thursday 13.00 – 13.15: Tuesday and Wednesday 11.10 – 11.30

St Mary's Church

Open Gardens Day Sunday 25th June 2023

We will be holding an Open Gardens meeting on Saturday 22nd April at 11.00 am in the Village Hall. Please do come along if you are interested in helping in any way or if you are contemplating opening your garden. All welcome. Tea, coffee, biscuits and chat.

We look forward to seeing you if you are free.

With many thanks in advance **Susie Rix (PCC Secretary)**

Beachamwell Parish Council

SAM2 Update

A SAM2 (Speed Awareness Monitor) is a vehicle activated sign that displays the speed of an approaching vehicle and flashes a warning when the speed limit is exceeded.

The Council are awaiting the delivery of a SAM2, training for Councillors involved in moving the monitor will take place in the coming weeks and it anticipated the SAM2 will be in full operation during the late Spring.

Mrs Sharon Sweet PSLCC Clerk to the Council:

beachamwellparishcouncil@gmail.com

Councillors:

Cllr. Richard James (Chairman)

01366 328968 rjj1james@gmail.com

Cllr. Diana Lambert (Vice Chairman)

01366 328227

Cllr. Pat O'Donnell

01366 328385

Cllr Geoff Siddons

01366 328204 geoffsiddons1@gmail.com

Afternoon Tea and Chat

A reminder that on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, Gaye Patterson very kindly organises a thoroughly enjoyable 'Tea and Cakes'. Everyone is welcome so if you haven't yet managed to get there do try to do so – you won't regret it. It is a lovely way to catch up and meet with people. The cakes, made by Gaye and donated by various people are delicious.

BEACHAMWELL, SHINGHAM & DRYMERE VILLAGE NEWS

Beachamwell Village Hall

We have been fortunate enough to get a £500 grant for our Coronation Celebrations. This will take the form of a shared lunch on Sunday May 7th from 12 onwards. This means that there will be no charge for food or soft drinks. There will be a Crown Competition for all ages so get your creative juices flowing! There will be a pop up pub so those who wish can toast the King. It was thought it might be nice to bring a desert to share.

The AGM is our next meeting on April 13th at 7.30pm. There was notification about this in last month's magazine and all villagers are welcome to attend.

April's pop up pub is on Friday 28th so hopefully see you there. 7pm until 11pm with last orders at 10.45 pm. It shouldn't be snowing then as it is today!

Cathy Friend 07818453323

Wednesday Walkers – March 2023

Beachamwell is fortunate in having 24 public rights of way for parishioners to explore. All these paths, where the public can legally walk, are numbered and recorded on the Definitive Map which is held by the Norfolk County Council. They are also shown on the Ordnance Survey map for the area.

The 1st March, 2023 found the Wednesday Walkers covering parts of footpaths numbered 6, 14, 15, 17 and 21 and bridleways numbered 9, 11 and 16.

These rights of way took us along the field edge to Sawpole Plantation, and to the Chapel on the Shingham Road. Then we walked along what is fondly known locally as 'Shingham Bypass, and on to the Warren. Here the skies darkened throwing light to make the lines of plantation trees stand out in sharp relief from the surrounding landscape – very beautiful! As we turned towards Larch Wood, the dark sky let loose its rain and wind, making us thankful for gloves, hoods and water-proof boots.



From Larchwood we passed through the arboretum where daffs were beginning to flower, and down the track to Shingham. There was a quick detour at St Botolph's to look at the fine Norman doorway, before we crossed the field and into Stamble's Plantation and so back to the village. We covered just under four miles.

Our next walk is on Wednesday, 5th April, leaving the Memorial Hall at 10.00 a.m. Do come and join us! **Sue Pennell**

WEST NORFOLK PRIORY GROUP SERVICES FOR APRIL

2nd April (Palm Sunday)

09.30 am Runcton Holme

10.00 am Shouldham

11.00 am Marham

11.00 am Watlington

9th April (Easter Sunday)

09.30 am Shouldham Thorpe - Holy Communion

11.00 am Fincham – Holy Communion

11.00 am Marham – Holy Communion

11.00 am Stowbridge – Holy Communion

11.00 am Watlington - Holy Communion

6. 00pm Online Evening Prayer

16th April

09.30am Wormegay

11.00am Marham

11.00am Shouldham

11.00 am Watlington

6.00pm Online Evening Prayer

23rd April

9.30 am, Fincham

11.00 am, Marham

11.00 am, Tottenhill

11am, Wimbotsham

11am, Watlington

6pm, Online Evening Prayer

30th April

11am, United Benefice Service – Runcton Holme

6pm, Evening Prayer - Online

WISSEY VALLEY SERVICES FOR APRIL

April 2nd 5th Palm Sunday

- 9.30 am Methwold Palm Sunday Service
- 9.30 am Wretton/Stoke Ferry Palm Sunday Holy Communion
- 10.30 am Barton Bendish Palm Sunday Procession and Service
- 6.00 pm Wereham Evensong

April 8th Easter Eve

- 7 pm Boughton Pascal Vigil and First Communion of Easter

April 9th Easter Sunday

- 9.30 am Methwold Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Whittington Holy Communion
- 11.00 am West Dereham Easter Day Service
- 11.00 am Wereham Holy Communion
- 11.00 am Beachamwell Holy Communion

April 16th Second Sunday of Easter Benefice Service with Archdeacon Richard Harlow

- 10.00 am Wretton Holy Communion

April 23rd Third Sunday of Easter

- 9.30 am Whittington Holy Communion
- 9.30 am West Dereham Service of the Word
- 9.30 am Methwold Service of the Word
- 11.00 am Boughton Holy Communion
- 3.00 pm Barton Bendish Heritage Service

April 30th Fourth Sunday of Easter

- 6.00 pm Boughton Benefice Evensong

Holy Week services in Wissey Valley on page 24

BOUGHTON VILLAGE NEWS

The year is passing so quickly! We are almost at Easter, when Boughton starts the Easter celebrations with the service on the evening of Holy Saturday - the day before Easter. It's not quite the same service as originally, but still an important part of the celebrations. We will need readers! If you would like to take part, please contact me asap.

The church year is almost over and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting is to be held on Monday April 24th at 10 am in the church. Everyone is welcome, but only members of the church electoral roll are eligible to vote if this is needed. It's the time when church officers report on the events of the past year. I must pay tribute here to the dedication of the PCC members, who undertake many tasks which once fell to me. We rely very much on visitors to the church as well, so the friendly welcome and atmosphere is vital. More events are planned, so why not come along and see what it's like?

By the time you read this, the church will have had a spring clean, so an advance thank you to those who have given their time. You will also have noticed that the rowan tree near the gate has been removed. This is unfortunately necessary because the roots are causing the wall to bulge out, with potential consequences for the road and traffic.

The Annual Open Gardens event is planned for Sunday 11th June and we'd like to know who is prepared to open up in aid of the church. I can no longer open mine, and we are all becoming older, but it's a good way to have fun and get to know others in the village. Look out for more details or ask one of the PCC for more information.

We have a Marathon runner in the village. Steve Short, who is also part of the Cricket Club, is running in aid of MND, (Motor Neurone Disease) which claimed his father last year. I hope many of us will support him – more details elsewhere in the magazine.

Get Set for Gardening 2023

Calling all gardeners, Good Friday 7th April is a date for your diaries. There will be a selection of garden paraphernalia and plants for sale at Tapestry Cottage, Chapel Road, Boughton. From 10 am until.....everything sold!

All proceeds towards the rebuilding of the boundary wall at All Saints' Church and yes, if you have any items to donate they will be greatly appreciated.

Angela Faherty 501335

Boughton Book Brocante

Saturday 29th April

An opportunity for you to buy some bargain reads for the summer on Saturday 29th April at All Saints' Church, Boughton between 10 am and 1 pm. There will be an abundance of books to choose from and we will be serving tea and cake.

All proceeds towards the repairs of the church boundary wall.

**Angela Faherty – Boughton
PCC**



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WEREHAM VILLAGE NEWS

Wereham Parish Council Next Meeting Date (Annual Parish Council followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council Meeting) - Wednesday 10th May 2023 at 6.30 pm (To be held in the Wereham Village Hall - Community Room). Agenda items must be received before the end of the month prior to each meeting, items received after this time will not be possible to discuss. Please send to the Parish Clerk at werehampc@gmail.com. The Agendas for meetings are always published on the Wereham Village Notice Board three clear days before the meeting, and notified via the Wereham Parish Council Facebook Page and on the website www.werehamparishcouncil.co.uk You will also find minutes of all meetings here too.

Community oil buying The other thing we wanted to highlight is community oil buying: more members = more savings. Thinking Fuel is a community oil buying scheme offered by Community Action Norfolk, which is a charity working across Norfolk. Following an advertising campaign last year they now have nearly 550 members in west Norfolk. The more members they have, the more members can save when buying oil and we understand that people signed up for Thinking Fuel are currently saving around 20p per litre on oil purchases compared to some other commercial providers. It's free to join and there is no obligation to buy. As the borough council we don't recommend one supplier over another but we are sharing this information to give borough residents the opportunity to think about the options available to them. For other questions about ThinkingFuel please call 01362 698216 or email office@communityactionnorfolk.org.uk www.communityactionnorfolk.org.uk/sites/content/thinkingfuel

New bus service for Wereham

<https://www.gtt-online.co.uk/bus-routes/66/>

DOWNHAM MARKET - STOKE FERRY

66

Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday

West Norfolk residents need photo ID to vote at elections in May

For the first time, residents in King's Lynn and West Norfolk will need to show photographic ID to vote at this year's local elections. Residents are being urged

to make sure they are ready to vote in May by checking they have an accepted form of ID.

Accepted forms of ID include a UK, European Economic Area (EEA) or Commonwealth passport; a UK or EEA drivers' licence; and some concessionary travel passes, such as an older person's bus pass or an Oyster 60+ card. Voters will be able to use expired ID if they are still recognisable from the photo.

Anyone who does not have one of the accepted forms of ID will be able to apply for free ID online at www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate or by completing a paper form.

The full list of accepted ID is available on the Electoral Commission's website, along with more information about the new requirement and details of how to apply for the free ID, at www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id

Lorraine Gore, Returning Officer at the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk, said:

"With borough elections taking place on 4 May 2023, it is important that those who want to vote make sure they have an accepted form of ID. It may seem early but checking now means you will be ready to vote in May.

"Residents who do not have one of the accepted forms of ID can apply for free ID either online or by completing a paper application form and sending this to the electoral services team at the borough council. If you need any help with applying for the free ID or want to request an application form, contact the electoral services team by calling 01553 616773 or e-mailing elections@west-norfolk.gov.uk"

Anyone who wants to have their say in the elections this May must also be registered to vote. It only takes five minutes to register online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. Voters wishing to apply to their council for free ID should first make sure they are registered to vote. The requirement to show photo ID at the polling station, is a new requirement, introduced by the UK Government's Elections Act which was passed last year and comes into effect for the first time this May.

Grass Cutting - The Wereham Parish Council have agreed a new Grounds Maintenance Contract starting mid-March. Including in the contract are four cuts four times a year to the verges that are in the central places of the village around the A134. The Clerk is awaiting confirmation from Highways on timings

of these cuts. The Parish Council arranges a contract to cut grass within the St Margaret's Churchyard; Pond Area; Play Area; Playing Field and Cemetery.

Local Police - Wereham is part of the 'Watlington' Geographical area in terms of Police Coverage. Stats on their community meetings, team contacts and latest crim stats can be found on their website. <https://www.police.uk/pu/your-area/norfolk-constabulary/watlington/>

Wereham Pond - Ducks (Written on 8th March 2023)

o The Parish Council found a deceased duck on the Wereham Pond grass today 8th March. It was necessary for the Parish Council to report the deceased duck to DEFRA due to avian flu circulating amongst wild birds at this time.

o The duck has been taken away for DEFRA to test for avian flu. Should it be Avian flu the Parish Council will take the lead from DEFRA on the matter from that point.

o In the meantime, please report any deceased birds found at the pond to the Parish Clerk by phone 07795006811 straight away (not Facebook or email), and they will officially report to DEFRA under the open report that the Parish Council now has.

o As posted in the last few weeks and signs placed at the pond, please do not feed the ducks at the pond. With no feeding it will encourage them to disperse rather than travel to the pond and group together at the pond, encouraging grouping together by feeding puts them at risk of getting and spreading avian flu.

o Please ensure that if you see deceased wild birds at the pond not to touch them or move them and keep pets away. Please share this information with friends and neighbours who are not on Facebook.

o And to note that the Parish Council are not advising you that there is avian flu at the pond, but there might be and this is all precautionary.

o Please see a link on this post to the Government website which contains advise for the public on avian flu. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/bird-flu-avian-influenza-latest-situation-in-england>

Highways - Paths and Roads - Defects Please report anything that you see

verges, trees, pot holes, main holes, drains to Norfolk County Council Highways via their defects page of their website. You need to set up a login, and once on the site you can easily report issues and upload pictures of the issue. They will then arrange inspection. You are also able to track the report. The Parish Council will report issues that it finds, but if residents do this also we can increase the repairs that we need doing. <https://apps.norfolk.gov.uk/HighwaysDefect/>

Helen Richardson

Wereham Parish Clerk and Finance Responsible Person

Email werehampc@gmail.com or Phone/Text: 0779 500 6811

CAR BOOT AND CAFE.

The next car boot is on 30th April. We had a fabulous car boot on Feb 26th. A full house of stall holders and plenty of customers walking round. The cafe was also very busy so we are looking forward to the end of April. For further details please contact Philip on 01366501330,

07759033492, Rosemary.pease@btinternet.com.

SHORT MAT BOWLS. Would you like to play bowls but are uncertain about coming into the village hall in a wheelchair no need to worry the hall has easy access for wheelchairs and mobility scooters, there is also easy access to the toilets. If you are a little unsure just let me know and I will meet you at the front door. We are a small friendly group of 12 players. For details please contact Philip on 01366 501330, 07759033492, rosemary.pease@btinternet.com.

WEREHAM CRAFT GROUP. We meet on the second Tuesday of every month. On 11th April we have a lady coming to try and teach us crochet. I have now booked the dates for this year's craft fairs, they are on 17th June and 18th November. I have already sent out a lot of booking forms and have got a dozen confirmed bookings already, if you are interested in having a table please get in touch as soon as possible. Another date for your diary is sat 15th April when we are holding a coffee morning for the TURKEY and SYRIA DISASTER. 10am until 12 noon, we hope to see a good number of you, there will be a raffle, 3 craft stalls and various table games. We have a giant teddy bear to raffle. If anyone would like to donate a raffle prize or a cake I will be eternally grateful. Raffle prizes can be dropped off at the village hall on weekdays between 10am and 3pm. For further details please contact me on 01366 501330, 07749240606, rosemary.pease@btinternet.com.

St Margaret's Church Wereham Summer Festival - Sunday 16th July 2023

Here we are, well into 2023, and time to begin planning our Summer Festival, which together with Open Gardens, helps to keep our grand old lady St Margaret's shining down on our village.

Thinking back to Christmas Eve, we know the good voices we have in Wereham and beyond. We now need to know who the artists are. We are planning to hold an art exhibition in the church alongside the festival, so we need artists, of all ages to get in touch and show us your art. Application forms will be circulated later in the year.

Due to popular demand, we shall be having the traditional stalls and games, plus some new ones especially for the children. Each year you are all so generous, and hopefully we can depend on you to please help us with donations, when you do your shopping.

Please contact Tom on 01366 500052 or Chris on 01366 500976

WEREHAM OPEN GARDENS JUNE 18TH

Each year Open Gardens, together with the church festival in July, is a major fund raising event which helps to keep open our Grade 2 listed church of St. Margaret. There is a dedicated group of gardeners and helpers whose efforts are greatly appreciated but it is also a real pleasure to welcome new gardens to add extra variety to the event. Your garden doesn't have to be a show garden and it's certainly not some kind of competition. You meet a lot of friendly visitors who are genuinely interested in what you have done or plan to do because they are gardeners too. So, if you would consider opening your garden or helping with the organisation, I would be very pleased to hear from you and you will be helping to raise vital funds for our beautiful village church. Many thanks, *Greg Baddock*.



WEREHAM VILLAGE HALL



WEREHAM SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

Every Thursday, 2pm to 4pm



£2.50 per player - free refreshments

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Current regular activities/events include Yoga, Line Dancing, Zumba Gold, Pilates, Seated Fitness, Short Mat Bowls, and weekly Cash Bingo. We have a monthly Craft Group (second Tuesday); the monthly Pop-up Café (first Tuesday) with tasty, home-cooked food at a very reasonable price; plus monthly indoor car boot sales and movie nights too.

There's a range of activities for youngsters, with Dodgeball, Multi-Sport Mash-up, Little Movers and Little Rugbiers running each week.

To look at what opportunities we offer for you to have fun, socialise, get physically active, learn new skills, - or to volunteer - please go to www.werhamvillagehall.co.uk or check out our Facebook page

HIRING THE VILLAGE HALL

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VILLAGE HALL CAFE

The Village Hall Cafe is open from 10am to 3pm every weekday, serving a range of hot and cold drinks, confectionery, biscuits and crisps, plus delicious home-made cakes when available.

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With the current economic climate, please do feel free to pop up for a cuppa and a chat, possibly make new friends, please don't be cold and alone, there's always a warm welcome at Werham Village Hall

If you can spare a few hours and would like to join our team of volunteers helping to run the Cafe, please contact us on 01366 502214 or just pop into the Hall for a chat ...

For more information on activities, cinema listings or to book, please go to www.werhamvillagehall.co.uk/whats-on

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Wereham Village Hall

Saturday, 22nd April
- starts at 7pm -

Tickets £5 per person
(includes hot dog supper, so please pre-book your ticket)
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For more information and to book/buy your tickets please pop in to the Village Hall office, call 01366 502214 or email villagehallwereham@gmail.com - or call John Eastgate on 01366 500766



All Proceeds to Wereham Village Hall CIO - Charity Registration No 1168472

Easter Recipe courtesy of Norfolk WI 2022

'Pots au Chocolat'

Ingredients

75g plain chocolate
25g butter
3 eggs
1 tbsp warm water or rum
150ml double cream
Little grated chocolate
Chocolate pearls if liked



Method

1. Put chocolate and butter in a basin over hot water to melt.
2. Separate the eggs and beat in the yolks until smooth.
3. Stir in the warm water or rum.
4. Whisk egg whites until stiff then fold into the chocolate.
5. Pour into 4 individual dishes or ramekins and chill.
6. Decorate with whipped cream,
7. Top with grated chocolate and chocolate pearls.

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20 Wereham 12:45 13:05 Village Hall N/A

2nd and 30th September

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2 Beachamwell 09:45 10:00 Old Post Office PE37 8BD

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10 Barton Bendish 11:10 11:20 Hatherley Gardens PE33 9DR

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22 Marham 14:25 14:40 Hillside PE33 9JJ

24 Marham 14:45 15:00 Villebois PE33 9JD

26 Marham 15:05 15:20 Village Hall PE33 9JA

28 Shouldham 15:30 15:45 Woodward Close PE33 0DE

30 Shouldham 15:50 16:05 Hallfields PE33 0DN

32 Shouldham 16:10 16:20 Ryes Close PE33 0AG

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Answers to quiz on page 18

1. Beatrix Potter 2. Cuckoo 3. By kissing him 4. Pâques
5. Cadbury's 6. Maundy Thursday 7. It's called Rabbit
8. True 9. A pocket-watch
10. Hot cross buns 11. They go forward 12. Onion skins 13. \$33 million (£23.9 million) 14. The platypus, and the spiny anteater. 15. Harry Hill 16. Wilbur 17. March

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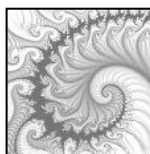
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A HURRICANE HITS MARHAM

One of the delights of living in Marham, especially to a former city dweller like me, is the brightness of the stars on a clear winter night. But this winter, Marham has been following a rising star of its own, a race horse called Hurricane Bay. Hurricane Bay was bred at Eastgate House in Marham, and is owned by a group of friends called the Hanseatic League, which includes Mrs Vicky Wales, a long term resident of Marham, and member of the



congregation at Holy Trinity Church. Hurricane Bay spends the summer months at Eastgate House, but during the winter he is in training at Newmarket with Lucy Wadham. Lucy, and the jockey Bryony Frost, have worked their magic and it is great to see an all-female team of owner and breeder Vicky, trainer Lucy, and rider Bryony make such a mark in what is still a predominantly male environment.

Last year, Hurricane, or 'Hurry' as he is aptly nicknamed, was injured, and it seemed his career might never take off, but he is quite a character and made a good recovery, and this year he has amazed and delighted everyone with his success. In his first race over hurdles at Wetherby on October 29th, he came second and narrowly missed out on first place. Since then, he has run at Doncaster three times, and at Huntingdon on Boxing Day, and has been placed each time, two firsts and two thirds. The drawback of this record, of course, is that he is now a favourite with the bookies. Any hopes of paying for the upkeep of the church with a successful flutter on our rising star are now in vain; my last £2 stake made a profit of just 89p!

Before Hurricane Bay returns to Marham for his summer break, it is hoped that he will run at Aintree, at the best known National Hunt meeting of the year, although not in the Grand National itself – maybe that's for next year! This depends on the going, but if he is entered, the race will certainly be on the television, so do look out for Hurricane Bay, and for Mrs Wales; everyone in the village wishes them both continuing success, and many thanks for cheering up our winter with a 'good news' story.

Pat Blyth

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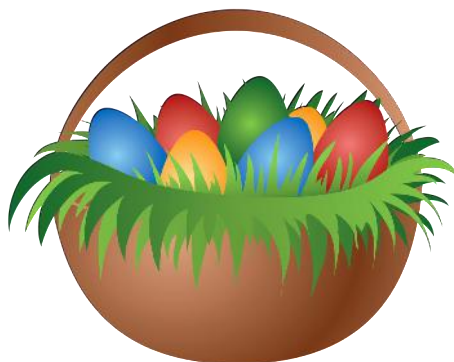


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