

The Glaven Valley Newsletter



Happy Christmas

to all our readers... Thank you so
much, for all your continued
support...

December 2023

Blakeney Players Present

Christmas 2023

IT'S CHRISTMAS, CAROL

at

**BLAKENEY
VILLAGE HALL**

Curtain 8pm

Licensed Bar from 7:15pm

Thursday 4th Jan

With free glass of wine

Sunday 7th Jan

Matinée 3pm

Thursday 11th Jan

Tickets: Adult £10 Child £4

SUPPER SHOW

Saturday 6th Jan

£35 per ticket. 6 for 6:30pm

Max 8 tickets per booking



BOX OFFICE

Blakeney Garage

From 30th November

10am - 4pm weekdays

Coast Road, Blakeney

Telephone: 07704 220204

Please do not use Blakeney Garage landline no.

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THE GLAVEN VALLEY NEWSLETTER

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Copy for the January edition must be received by the 15th December at the latest.

Either via email, post or hand mail to:

editorgvn@gmail.com

GVN Post Box at 12 The Cornfield, Langham, Nr Holt, NR25 7DQ.

**The Editor does not necessarily agree with
views expressed by correspondents.**

GVN Web Address

<https://glavenvalleynewsletter.weebly.com/>

****CHECK OUT FOR EXTRA ITEMS****

Treasurer's Report

As we approach the end of the year the GVN finances are a lot more secure thanks to the magnificent response to our emergency appeal earlier in the year.

Regular donations are the best way to support us as it gives us greater certainty over our future income, so do please consider setting up a standing order to us – either use the form below or if you use online banking, you should be able to do it that way.

Other ways to donate are

- Cash or cheque to the Treasurer, Stonebridge House, Bridgefoot Lane, Wiveton, Holt NR25 7TP (cheques payable to Glaven Valley Newsletter)
- Cash or cheque dropped into the collection box at Blakeney Garage
- Online transfer or setting up a standing order to us (Sort Code 30-94-34 Account 00897099)
- or using the form below and sending it to your bank to set a standing order up

*Many thanks,
Martin Tyler, Treasurer, Glaven Valley Newsletter*

Standing Order Mandate

To	The Manager	
Bank (Your bank)		
Bank Address		
Bank details (your bank details)	Sort Code	
	Account Number	
Please Pay		
For the credit of	Glaven Valley Newsletter	
Bank details	Sort Code	30-94-34
	Account Number	00897099
	Reference	GVN Donation
Regular Amount (In figures)		
Starting on (enter date of first payment)		
Frequency Delete as appropriate	Monthly / Annually	
	And continue until cancelled by me in writing	
Signature		
Date		

GVN New Premises (Blakeney Village Hall)

When, last month, I wrote above the GVN production moving to Blakeney, I omitted a big thank you to our Glandford neighbour - Tariq Sharif. Tariq is a lovely man, a good friend, (and a brilliant upholsterer!!) and has been a great help to us over many years, including paying for our electricity.

Many thanks Tariq, and my apologies for the omission.
Oscar Haynes

(Please see Tariq's ad in the yellow pages)

GVN Bulk Distribution: Help Needed

Each month, 1500 copies of the GVN are delivered throughout the Valley. Numerous people are involved in this, all volunteers, and a big thank you to all of you.

> We are looking for additional help with the 'bulk deliveries': i.e., taking the first 'tier' of the magazines to a small number of people, who then pass them on to the door-to-door deliverers. If you think you could help with this (1/2 day every two months or so) please get in touch, and I can take you through what's involved.

Oscar Haynes: 01263 712693, Oscar.haynes@btinternet.com
Thank you.

Barton Reed Panel Fencing

www.bartonreedpanelfencing.co.uk

01692 535463 07881 717692

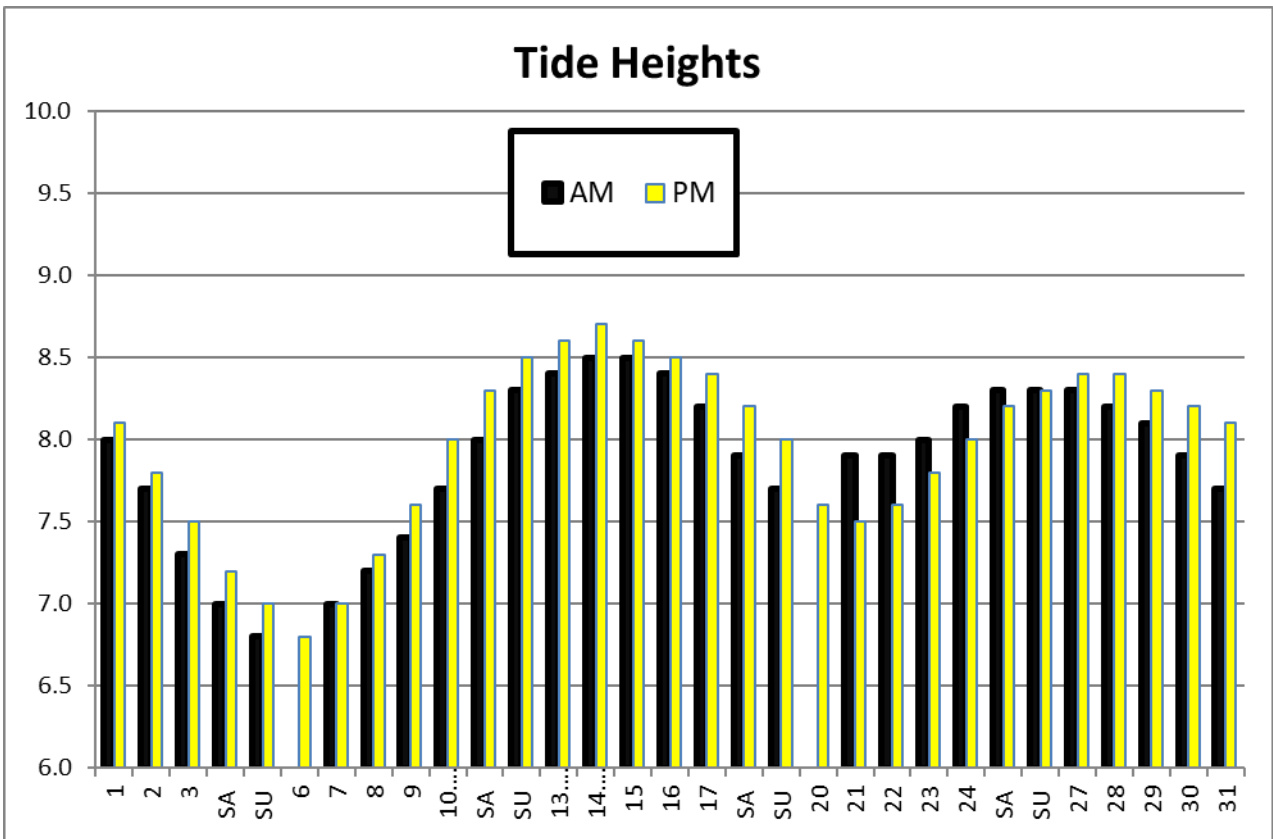
email: jon.moore61@btinternet.com

**Beautiful handmade Norfolk Reed Panel
Fencing made in our workshop
at Barton Turf**

- Standard and custom size panels available
- Natural/local sourced materials
- Design and planning services
- Professional and experienced workforce
- Customer reviews
- Free no obligation quotations
- All other types of fencing supplied/fitted on request



December 2023 - Tide Details



Tide Times

	AM	PM		AM	PM
Fri 01 December	08:53	20:54			
Sat 02 December	09:32	21:28			
Sun 03 December	10:13	22:07			
Mon 04 December	11:01	22:55	Mon 18 December	10:34	22:33
Tue 05 December	12:00	23:57	Tue 19 December	11:34	23:33
Wed 06 December		13:14	Wed 20 December		12:43
Thu 07 December	01:19	14:20	Thu 21 December	00:41	13:50
Fri 08 December	02:34	15:17	Fri 22 December	01:52	14:52
Sat 09 December	03:31	16:07	Sat 23 December	02:59	15:50
Sun 10 December	04:19	16:51	Sun 24 December	04:00	16:42
Mon 11 December	05:04	17:33	Mon 25 December	04:55	17:28
Tue 12 December	05:48	18:13	Tue 26 December	05:47	18:12
Wed 13 December	06:33	18:53	Wed 27 December	06:36	18:53
Thu 14 December	07:18	19:33	Thu 28 December	07:21	19:32
Fri 15 December	08:04	20:14	Fri 29 December	08:03	20:07
Sat 16 December	08:51	20:56	Sat 30 December	08:41	20:41
Sun 17 December	09:41	21:42	Sun 31 December	09:16	21:14

By Martin Tyler

Blakeney

News from Blakeney Church of England Primary School

One might think that a term of hockey, Rugby, and cross country running along the coastal path would have exhausted the children but I can assure you all that they have plenty of energy left!

The Hedgehogs class have been learning to add and subtract in columns, have visited the Sea life centre in Hunstanton and written some amazing instructions. Samphire class are concluding their Healthy body, Healthy mind learning theme with lessons on the organs of the body. The Year 6 cohort returned from their residential trip where they built rafts, went climbing and spent time with the other Year 6 children in the Federation. In Maths, we have just completed lessons on calculating fractions while the younger children have been ensuring their knowledge of the times tables.

Working in a school is a rewarding job at any time of the year but December is truly special. We try our best to limit the excitement of the season beforehand but as soon as December arrives the joy cannot be restrained any longer! Decorations go up and the nativity scene comes out. We have new advent candles and the whole school is practising carols. Singing is central to how we celebrate Christmas in our school and this year we have our amazing choir to lead us. Thank you so much Reverend Sarah for volunteering your time and expertise to guide the children. They are very lucky to have a trained professional teach them and I know they will learn so much from singing with you. The children will be singing at various places in the village, local churches, and even at Budgens in Holt. The idea is that some of our joy in the season is shared with the community.

The children are also taking part in a reverse advent calendar. For each day we open our class advent calendar, we will give a gift to the food bank. It is our hope that pupils look outside their immediate environment to begin to see how they can help others and make a difference. There is no better time to teach them this.

In the spirit of the season, Samphire class visited the Christmas Tree festival at Fakenham Parish Church. The children saved coins and were able to donate to the multitude of charities with trees on display. Many of the children wrote prayers for the prayer tree and visited the beautiful crib. All children were silent and reflective for the prayers and impeccably behaved.

This year the children have been given an extra special treat for Christmas. The PTFA have very generously arranged for the children to go on the Santa Special Steam Train. The journey itself, with mince pies, gingerbread, and hot chocolate, will be wonderful but we stop off at Weybourne and journey through a Christmas tree forest to meet Father Christmas himself. I am smiling just writing about it so

I am hoping for big smiles all round on the day itself. A huge thank you from the staff and children to the PTFA for funding this. It will be a magical day.

The whole school nativity and Christingle service is the highlight of our year and signals the end of the term. Parents, grandparents, friends and family all join together to hear the children tell the story of the birth of Jesus in St Nicholas' church. I smiled while writing of our planned trip on the railway but I know I am not the only staff member who gets emotional at this event.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the school this last year. We have had amazing donations, visits, volunteers and it has been lovely to see you at school and community events. Blakeney CEVA Primary School a very special place and the children, staff and families are so grateful for all of your help.

Wishing you all a happy and peaceful Christmas

Claire Thoday

News from the Glaven Centre

Glaven Caring December Dates

December promises to be a busy month at Glaven Caring in Blakeney. Our Christmas Cards are now for sale with lovely designs from the pupils of Blakeney Church of England Primary School. Pop by to buy from the centre or at Blakeney Church.

Happy Monday Christmas Lunch Monday 18 December

Our Happy Monday Lunches are so popular – every Monday 12.30 pm, just £5 for two delicious courses. Our Christmas special will be Roast Turkey with all the trimmings and a traditional Xmas pudding with Brandy Sauce. Not forgetting Jill's Christmas fruit punch. All for £5. Make sure you book in advance by calling 01263 740762.

Glaven Caring Christmas Lunch Party Wednesday 20 December, 12 noon to 2pm

This year we are serving up a Christmas buffet and laying on a party full of festive fun for our clients. Father Christmas will be paying us his annual visit and there will be songs and festive music in the afternoon. Party tickets, including lunch, cost £8 and must be booked in advance by calling 01263 740762.

Christmas Closing dates

Glaven Caring will be closed for Christmas from Saturday 23 December and will re-open on Tuesday 2 January 2024.

Finally, the busier we get, the more help we appreciate here at Glaven Caring. If you are interested in volunteering to drive our bus or help at the centre – please do get in touch. Just give us a call – we would love to hear from you.

Thank you all for your support over the past year – especially our volunteers who have helped make the wheels turn here at The Glaven.

Thank you too to our lottery supporters who help us fundraise. Feeling lucky? Find Glaven Caring at www.onelottery.co.uk – tickets are £1 each and we have a winner every week – good luck!

And do check out our latest news on Facebook @GlavenCaring

Wishing you all a Very Happy Christmas!

The Glaven Centre

Coastal Rowing Association of Blakeney

There have been some amazing rowing expeditions from Cox's Boatyard, Barton Turf. Broads rowing is at its most beautiful this time of year with the skiff surrounded by an incredibly colourful, ever-changing landscape. Of course, the recent weather has been very changeable, with winds and high water, but there has still been a regular programme of outings. See pictures of some wonderful Broads scenery on the club's website at crablakeney.wordpress.com. Recent posts to the site are particularly interesting with pictures of one club member trying out various types of rowing with a range of crews in Australia. Why not take a look?

Rowing for fun and exercise is a prominent and important part of the club's schedule. However, there is a competitive side as well. The next race of note will be the competition for The Carrow Cup in Norwich. This will take place on Saturday 9th December. The Carrow Cup is always a keenly anticipated event as it is an opportunity to race against a host of other crews from across the country. The course passes through the Riverside area of Norwich, attracting attention from onlookers and showcasing the exciting sport of rowing.

If you enjoy being active on the water, or simply messing about with boats, contact Humphrey at hborgnis@icloud.com. When you are part of a crew, coaching and friendly advice will always be available. You will be made very welcome. There is no obligation to participate in any competitive event. Come along for a gentle and sociable row.

Hope to see you on the water soon...

Barry Howes

Grace and Ease Meditation

Free friendly Zoom meditation classes
Less stress, More peace
Beginners and busy minds welcome

Please message for details
07799 328400

School Fund Raiser Thanks

Last month we were absolutely delighted with the number of generous donations for our Blakeney school fundraiser tombola which were left in a box on our doorstep.

Our fab fundraising team and youngsters raised over £260 on Blakeney Fireworks night despite it being a wet night and we have enough items left to run another tombola at the Blakeney Church Christmas Fair on 9 Dec. Our youngsters and teaches will also have a table to sell their school creations too. Some larger donations will be used towards our Family Fun Bingo Raffle night on 1 Dec at our Blakeney village hall. Blakeney School encourages our children to be community minded and look out for each other so its heartwarming to know our parish community like looking after us too. We hope to see you at the above events.

Warm wishes. Michala, Simon and Ethan

DECEMBER EVENTS AT BLAKENEY HARBOUR ROOM

BINGO - MONDAY 4th December and Monday 18th December at 7pm

A welcome return to the Harbour Room for this traditional game. Please call the Harbour Room for more details

SATURDAY 9th DECEMBER - 8pm Start (doors open at 7pm). Two bands will be performing for our last live music event of 2023.

8pm BANDWIDTH A Sharrington based 5-piece band which I joined earlier this year as a result of the Open Mic sessions that were held in The Harbour Room. They will be supporting:

9pm THE AFTER HOURS BLUES BAND One of the top Norfolk blues bands returns to the Harbour Room - they too have added a keyboard player to their lineup.
Only £5 entry on the door!

SUNDAY 10th DECEMBER 3 - 6 pm (Free entry)

The Folk Club acoustic sing around. An open session for performers and audience.

QUIZ NIGHT - Thursday 28th December 7pm

CHRISTMAS

Blakeney Harbour Room is a social club for all, and welcomes everyone (and their dogs) to come and celebrate the festive season this December. We are open every night (except Tuesday) at 5pm and 12 noon on Sunday. The pool table is free of charge every Wednesday night from 5pm till 9. Come and enjoy Fish and Chips on Fridays and a Roast on Sunday. We will be holding our annual Christmas raffle in December, with the proceeds going to Blakeney School this year.

On Christmas Day the bar will be open from 12 - 2 pm for drinks only.

NEW YEARS EVE HOG ROAST AND DISCO - 8pm onwards.

Following the great success of last year, The Harbour Room invites everyone to celebrate the end of 2023 with a Hog Roast followed by a Disco to take you into 2024. This is a free event, but **NO ENTRY WILL BE PERMITTED AFTER 10pm**

If you have any celebrations coming up in 2024 such as milestone anniversaries or birthdays, or are planning a function for your organisation, then the Harbour Room would love to hear from you. We can cater for large or smaller groups, making full use of our fully equipped kitchen. We can also arrange live music or other entertainment for your guests if required. Please talk to our manager Paul Cowell on 01263 741666 to discuss your event.

George Crawley (Club Vice Chairman)

BLAKENEY PARISH COUNCIL -
www.blakeneyparishcouncil.org.uk



A reminder: VISITORS/GUESTS/HOLIDAYMAKERS please be aware...

NO OVERNIGHT PARKING ON THE CARNSER CAR PARK – It has been brought to our attention that several people staying in holiday cottages in Blakeney, are told by the owners of the cottages that they can park overnight on the Carnser Car Park on Blakeney Quay. This is not true, the signs advise that **no overnight parking** is permitted on The Carnser, and this is due to the fact that the Carnser Car Park is liable to unpredictable tidal flooding. Many of the vehicles that are caught out and flooded have been parked overnight on the Car Park when they should not have been. There are alternative car parks for overnight car parking, including Coronation Car Park and Blakeney Village Hall Car Park.

Please do help us to spread the word, many thanks.

EXTRACTS FROM THE NOVEMBER FULL COUNCIL MEETING...

Chairman's Announcements – The **Blakeney Neighbourhood Plan** went to NNDC Cabinet this week and goes to Full Council on the 22nd November.

Planning Items – PF = Full Planning Permission, PM = Planning Permission – Reserved Matters, LA = Alteration to Listed Building & Appeals.

PF/23/2177 – *Proposal; First floor/two storey and single storey extensions to dwelling; alterations to external door and window openings; installation of roof lights to facilitate conversion of loft to habitable space; other external alterations at; Curlews, Morston Road, Blakeney. Resolved – No objection.*

LA/23/2199 – *Proposal; Internal and external works associated with renovation of dwelling at; Ivy House, 121 High Street, Blakeney. Resolved – No objection.*

IB/23/0036 – *Proposal; Notification of application for an Exempted camp site (Camping & Caravanning Club Ref. No 133/002 – for a maximum of 5 caravans/motorhomes onsite at any one time, plus no more than 10 tents unless express permission has been granted by The Club at; The Whins, The Downs, Blakeney. Resolved – Object; 1) Our District Cllr will write to each of the following; i) Our MP Duncan Baker, to say that this application is totally unacceptable given its prominent and significant location and the status level of the site. It is inconceivable that this could even be considered. The government needs to update the 1960 legislation which is entirely outdated, ii) the Camping & Caravanning Club in the same vein, iii) Russell Williams, NNDC Planning Assistant Director, & iv) BPC shall also write to the Camping & Caravanning Club.*

RV/23/2332 – *Proposal; Installation of two dormer windows (front and side), enlargement of first floor rear windows and rendering of property without complying with condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission PF/23/1577 to allow for amendments to approved design at; 8 Langham Road, Blakeney. Resolved – Object; We require an extension for consideration of this application as there was no detail on the NNDC website to consider, if we are not granted an extension, then we object due to lack of information.*

FINANCE -

Resolved that the **Accounts** totalling £24,958.47 are to be paid.

Resolved that we agree to the request from **B3CT** to add a sum to our budget each year (earmarked) to fund a new survey of the Blakeney Channel every 3 – 5 years or whenever a visible change is made. The cost is around £2k and that BPC will store the information regarding this project going forward, rather than the group.

Resolved that having received positive feedback on the proposed addition of new facilities on playing field; i.e.; **Pétanque/French Boules & Football Goal Posts** that we press on with quotes for both and see if we can obtain any grant funding. The goal posts were supposed to have been included in the most recent play inspection report, but were missed, hence the company is returning this week to undertake this important check.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER COMMITTEES/GROUPS -

Blakeney Surgery – *Cllr Rosemary Thew* advised that the ICB (Integrated Care Board) had acknowledged our formal complaint about the lack of services at Blakeney Surgery and that they intend to investigate and respond within 30 working days. Our complaint to the Care Quality Commission about Holt Medical Practice, advised us to report our concerns to our local ICB, which we confirmed we had done, they will however, keep the information we have provided under review.

CORRESPONDENCE –

Resolved that we are happy for the 2024 end of season **Bonfire & Fireworks Event** to take place on a) Saturday 26th October or plan b) Sunday 27th October.

Resolved that we note the proposed **Walking Tours** of Blakeney Village. All we would ask is that it is kept factual and if possible, promotes our local businesses/amenities.

Resolved we note that many months have gone by now, and the business that we approached for an alternative quote/option has now confirmed that they are in fact unable to assist us. We will therefore press on with North Norfolk Signs and pick up our proposals and plans with a view to making progress regarding the previously agreed Village/business Signage.

Resolved that we have worked through the **BPC Operational Project Plan** and that the Clerk will update it accordingly. We note that it is an ongoing working document.

For information only; NNDC Planning Decisions or Updates, or any Planning Inspectorate Appeals since our last meeting; most available on NNDC website.

PF/23/1657 – Hilltop Retreats, Langham

- i) **Road, Blakeney** – Alterations to office/storage building, comprising the installation of solar panels and rooflights on the south facing roof slope and alterations to windows and doors to the north elevation - **Approved.**
- ii) **APPEAL - PF/21/1524 – Storage Barn, Morston Road, Blakeney** – Change of use and extension to existing storage barn to form new dwelling and enable rare chalk grassland creation system including re-location of existing access – **Appeal part allowed; for the Creation of Chalk Grassland but New Dwelling Dismissed.**
- iii) **PF/23/0969 – Three Gables, 8 New Road, Blakeney** – Demolition of existing bungalow and garage & erection of 2 x two storey dwelling and outbuilding (home office) – **Approved.**

YOUR SERVING PARISH COUNCILLORS ARE: -

- Rosemary Thew – 740555 – Moonraker, Back Lane
- Nigel Sutcliffe – 741714 – Dallinga, 71 Morston Road
- Jenny Girling – 740792 – 11 Queens Close
- Samantha Arlow – 741297 – 40 Langham Road
- Alban Donohoe – 741741 – Ivy House, Back Lane
- Shirley Everett – 740819 – Southside, 87 Morston Road
- Barry Girling – 740792 – 11 Queens Close
- Willie Weston – 740910 – 27 Queens Close
- Iain Wolfe – via Parish Office
- Judy Pegden – 741497 – 8 Wilsons Way
- Mike Reed – 07760 162344 – 2 Memorial Cottages, New Road

Note Next Full Council meeting; MONDAY 4th DECEMBER 2023.

And finally, we wish each of you a Merry Christmas!



Christmas Market

Saturday 9th December

10.00am - 4.00pm

in St Nicholas' Church, Blakeney

34 Craft and Charity Stalls

Refreshments available all day:

bacon butties, homemade cake, sandwiches,

tea, coffee and mulled wine

Fund raising in aid of St Nicholas Community Support

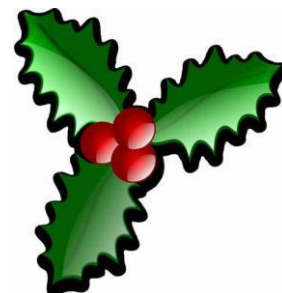
Fund/Food Bank

=====

BLAKENEY FILM NIGHT - VILLAGE HALL
Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all our film-goers from the Film Night
team.

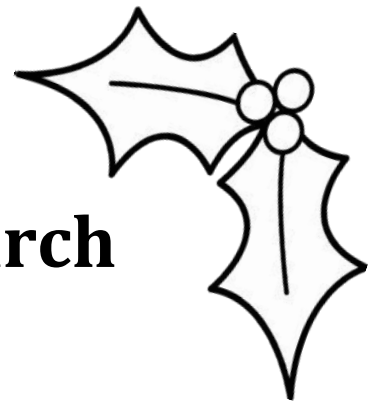
No Film Night in December - so we look forward to seeing you again next year!

www.blakeneyvillagehall.org.uk





**St Margaret's Church
Cley**



**Carols by Candlelight
for all the family**

Christmas Eve, 5pm

**A wonderful, festive
Christmas Celebration**

**Carols, Candles,
Mulled Wine & Mince Pies!**



Everyone Welcome!



COFFEE BREAK



December Sudoku: Easy

		8	2					
		6	4			3	8	
5	3					2	1	
6	2			1				
			3		7			
				5			3	1
	8	5					6	4
	1	9			8	7		
					3	5		

Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

Medium

		6				4		
	5		8		3		6	
2				4				8
			1				9	
7		8		6		5		2
	3				7			
4				2				7
	1		7		9		2	
		7				3		

Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

Hard

	3							9
1			2		6		3	
				3		5		
	6		1				9	
		9		7		1		
	2				9		6	
		5		2				
	9		8		3			7
4							8	

Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

Wordsearch

D	C	S	P	T	F	F	T	D	T	Y	W	C	M	I
V	S	O	F	H	M	R	E	P	P	P	H	H	O	J
P	Q	I	O	G	A	L	E	S	G	I	M	Z	X	H
M	R	U	F	G	E	A	L	E	L	G	A	N	D	L
D	L	D	J	M	R	S	S	L	Z	P	P	R	L	H
S	R	C	B	H	T	G	Y	A	N	I	A	Q	K	Z
K	E	T	F	R	S	J	W	U	L	Z	N	W	E	R
S	T	N	M	X	T	W	K	A	Z	K	N	G	I	U
U	P	S	O	T	E	S	X	I	S	B	Z	V	A	B
B	S	J	O	T	J	P	L	Y	V	V	K	N	M	W
Z	H	N	D	R	S	B	W	H	I	T	E	O	U	T
E	G	D	O	E	F	L	L	I	C	W	G	R	O	S
R	I	X	W	W	F	W	I	Q	E	X	I	J	X	B
O	S	M	R	O	T	S	C	A	Q	Q	O	Z	J	N
U	Z	Q	G	G	D	F	C	Q	H	Z	B	R	R	S

- BLIZZARD, CHILLY, DRIFT, FOG
 FREEZING, FROST, GALES
 HAILSTONES, ICE, JETSTREAM
 SLEET, SNOW, STORMS
 SUBZERO, WHITEOUT

Perhaps

Perhaps someday the sun will shine again,
And I shall see that still the skies are blue.
And feel once more I do not live in vain,
Although bereft of You.

Perhaps the golden meadows at my feet
Will make the sunny hours of Spring seem gay.
And I shall find the white May blossoms sweet,
Though You have passed away.

Perhaps the summer woods will shimmer bright,
And crimson roses once again be fair,
And autumn harvest fields a rich delight,
Although You are not there.

Perhaps someday I shall not shrink in pain
To see the passing of the dying year,
And listen to Christmas songs again,
Although You cannot hear.

But, though kind Time may many joys renew,
There is one greatest joy I shall not know
Again, because my heart for loss of You
Was broken, long ago.

Vera Brittain 1893 - 1970

Quotable Quotes on Love...

If I had a flower for every time I thought of
you, I could walk through my garden forever.
Alfred Tennyson

If you live to be a hundred, I want to live to be
a hundred minus one day, so I never have to
live without you.
A.A. Milne

Who being loved, is poor?
Oscar Wilde

The regret of my life is that I have not said "I
love you" often enough.
Yoko Ono

You are the best thing that was ever mine.
Taylor Swift

Colin Lloyd

Painter and decorator
Cley next the Sea

Wallpapering a specialty

Please Tel: 07790 580121

Lloyd.colin1959@gmail.com

LOOKING FOR PROPERTY

We are a retired couple,
looking for a two or three
bedroom property; a
bungalow or house; in
the vicinity of Blakeney
for a permanent home.
We have family already
living in Blakeney and
enjoy the community
spirit and amenities of
the village. We do not
mind if the property
needs improvement. We
are cash buyers.
**Contact Jill or Noel on
07837 280 377**

Babysitter Available in the Glaven Valley Area:

Weekdays from 5pm to 10pm
and Weekends from 5pm to
midnight
£5 per hour

Call Grace on **07966511340** for
more details or to book

Goodery

Organic fruit and veg boxes
delivered fresh from local producers
Here in Norfolk



01603 363806
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www.goodery.co.uk



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Christmas



Day

@

Wiveton Church

the One! the Only!

Wiveton

CHRISTMAS SERVICE

for ages 0 - 120

11am

Join us for the story, the singing and the joy,
as we celebrate Jesus's birth

A short Communion service will follow at 11.40

Thoughts from the Rectory for December

Dear Friends,

It's not easy to do justice to Advent! Advent is a wonderful season, but it's been rather sidelined in our culture. That's not the case everywhere: certainly not in Norway, or at least it wasn't ten years ago when we lived out there. The Norwegians go for Advent in a big way. You see purple everywhere (the traditional colour for Advent), and Advent decorations, including in the shops. The Norwegians love their demarcated seasons, and I don't think you'd ever see Christmas items in the shops in September, as you do here!

Part of the problem is that Christmas creeps further forward each year. Understandably retailers are keen to make the most of Christmas, and get people buying stuff as early as possible. And Christmas celebrations and parties seem to start earlier now, with more and more of them to squeeze in before Christmas. (It's not helped this year by Advent being as short as it's possible to be, with Christmas Day being on a Monday.) Even Advent calendars, helping us to count down to Christmas, are often now more like early Christmas presents, where you'll find chocolates or mini-bottles behind the doors.

Now I hasten to add, the last thing I'd want to do is be a Scrooge! I love the whole Advent and Christmas experience. But if we can make space for Advent, there's a different sort of wonder and mystery to enjoy, and it makes the experience of Christmas more profound, because we haven't peaked too soon! Advent, of course, means "coming" or "arrival." For Christians, we're preparing to celebrate the coming of Christ as an infant in Bethlehem, and the preparation is the thing. It's an illustration of what you might call Delayed Gratification Syndrome! Advent is a time to reflect on our humanity, and perhaps to think about our own priorities and shortcomings, and the needs of others, and our need of God. To look forwards, but also to look inwards. As a result, Advent can be a time for a deeper kind of gratitude.

Why not start your Advent by joining us for the Gresham's School Advent Carol Service in Cley Church at 4.00 on 3rd December? Always a great event.

And then look out for this year's "Cley Advent Windows" – a wonderful element in the Advent season. You may have seen information about this already. Every day (starting on 1st December), more and more festive windows will be lit in houses and shops in Cley. And each day more will be lit (until Christmas Eve), adding to that sense of build-up and anticipation.

Wherever you are, I wish you a truly wonderful Advent and Christmas, Richard.

More information, as always, is available on our benefice website: www.glavenvalleychurches.org.uk You may find you need to click "refresh" when returning to the website, to be sure of the latest information. Or please contact me on revrichardlawry@gmail.com or by phone on 740686, if you need information, advice, or help. Contact details are also on the website, and the contacts page of this magazine.

Other contact details are:

BENEFACTICE OFFICE 01263 740583
glavenvalleybenefice@yahoo.co.uk

ASSISTANT CLERGY

Revd Sarah De Bats	01263 710761
Revd Jo Fawcett	01328 830415
Revd Dr Claude Scott	01263 740573

LAY MINISTERS

Dr Roger Bland	01236 740806
Penny Thewlis	01263 715667

CHURCHWARDENS

Blakeney

Stephanie Green	01263 740788
Rosemary Thew	01263 740555

Cley

Hannah Stevenson	01263 741336
David Barron	07989 932468

CHURCHWARDENS

Glandford

Averil Monteath	01263 740179
Roger Combe	01263 713901

Letheringsett

John Pridham	01328 831851
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Wiveton

Stephen de Loynes	07975 813057
Charles Killin	01263 741744

Weddings:

November 4th saw the wedding of James Miller and Katherine Guinez Vildosola, in Cley Church. Our congratulations to them!

Funerals:

Among the funerals which took place locally last month was that of Ann Tillett, in Cley Church, on 14th November. Please remember Ann's family at this time.

St Peter's Catholic Church
Back Lane, Blakeney, NR25 7NP
Mass Sunday - 11am
Mass Wednesday - 9.30am
Holyday of Obligation 9.30am
www.catholicparishofwalsingham.org



DECEMBER 2023 SERVICE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY 3rd	<i>Advent Sunday</i>	
8.00	Holy Communion (BCP)	Wiveton
9.30	Holy Communion (CW) [<i>& live-streamed</i>]	Blakeney
11.15	Holy Communion (BCP)	Letheringsett
4.00	Gresham's Advent Carol Service	Cley
Wed 6th	Holy Communion (BCP) – 10.00	Cley
Thur 7th	Evening Prayer – 5.00	Blakeney
SUNDAY 10th	<i>Advent 2</i>	
9.30	Praise & Worship [<i>& live-streamed</i>]	Blakeney
11.15	Holy Communion (BCP)	Glandford
6.00	Service of Meditation	Wiveton
Tues 12th	Messy Church – 3.30	Blakeney
Thur 14th	Evening Prayer – 5.00	Blakeney
Fri 15th	Blakeney School Xmas Service – 2.00	Blakeney
SUNDAY 17th	<i>Advent 3</i>	
9.30	Celtic HC [<i>& live-streamed</i>]	Blakeney
11.15	Café Church	Cley
6.30	Evensong	Wiveton
Mon 18th	Carol Service – 4.00	Letheringsett
Tue 19th	Carol Service (Iceni Choir) – 6.30	Wiveton
Wed 20th	Holy Communion (BCP) – 10.00am Carol Service – 6.30	Cley Blakeney
Thur 21st	Carol Service – 5.00	Glandford
SUNDAY 24th	<i>Christmas Eve</i>	
9.30	Holy Communion (BCP)	Letheringsett
5.00	Carols & Readings by Candlelight	Cley
11.15pm	Midnight Communion [<i>& live-streamed</i>]	Blakeney
MONDAY 25th	<i>Christmas Day</i>	
8.00	Holy Communion (BCP)	Cley
9.30	Holy Communion (BCP) & Carols	Glandford
11.00	Xmas Morning Service [<i>& live-streamed</i>]	Blakeney
11.00	Family Christmas Service (ff. by short HC)	Wiveton
Thur 28th	Evening Prayer – 5.00	Blakeney
SUNDAY 31st	<i>Christmas 1</i>	
11.00	Benefice Communion [<i>& live-streamed</i>]	Blakeney

CW - Common Worship; BCP - Book of Common Prayer (1662)

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- Household Cleaning
- Holiday Home Change Overs
- Office Cleaning



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ekocleaningltd@gmail.com



Glaven Valley Bereavement Support Group

will meet on Monday 11th December
at Merchants House, Blakeney

4.00pm to 5.30pm.

Anyone who has suffered
bereavement is very welcome.

Refreshments at 3.50pm



THE FAKENHAM SOCIETY *Est. 1948*

LIGHT UP YOUR WINTER EVENINGS!

Our events start at 7.30pm at The Gallow at the racecourse.



14 DEC – AN EVENING OF FESTIVE FUN, ENTERTAINMENT & MAGIC

WITH

THE AMAZING ANTHONY MIND-READER AND MAGICIAN

£5 per event or become a member for £20 for the
23/24 season. For further details call 01328 887514,
visit www.fakenhamsociety.org.uk, or
email membership@fakenhamsociety.org.uk



Cley

Thursdays@Three December

Thursday December 7th: The Alluring Call of the Clarinet

Music for Clarinet and Piano with Jim Hough (clarinet) and Angela Dugdale (piano)

Thursday December 14th: Christmas in Words and Music

Readings and Carols for the Festive Season with John Simpson (narrator), Meg Starling (soprano), Wyatt Earp (flute) and Angela Dugdale (Piano)

Thursdays@Three takes a break for the Christmas period but our winter season restarts on **January 18th 2024**. I will circulate details if you are on our mailing list (please contact me if you wish these to be added to our database). A new printed leaflet will also be available either from Cley Church or from other local venues.

Thank you for your generous support to these weekly events. A date to look forward to will be Thursday February 22nd when we celebrate our 100th concert in some style, so please make a note in your diary!

Wyatt Earp (01263 740902 wejearp@gmail.com)



**NWT North Norfolk
Group
and
Cley Bird Club**



December meeting Norfolk's Wonderful 150

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society in 2019, a book was produced profiling 150 species of animals, plants and fungi that were in some way special to Norfolk. In this talk local naturalist **Tony Leech** will describe some of the less well-known species that were included, to open our eyes to some of the beautiful and intriguing species that live in Norfolk.

This joint event between the North Norfolk Group of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust and Cley Bird Club is on **Thursday 14th December 2023** at 7.30 p.m. in Cley Village Hall.

Entry £3.00 - refreshments included – no need to book.
The meeting is kindly sponsored by Oriole Birding.

Forthcoming meetings – dates for your diary:

Changing my perspective: small is beautiful – David North – 18th January 2024

The work of the Rare Breeding Birds Panel – Dawn Balmer - 15th February 2024.

HAPPY MONDAYS

At The Glaven Centre, Thistleton Court, Blakeney

Join us in good company for a deliciously nutritious homemade lunch every Monday at 12.30pm, for just £5.00

Please pre-book – call 01263 740762
info@glavencaring.co.uk

CLEY WI

Programme January–March 2024

- Jan 11th** **Craft Afternoon**
– preceded by discussion & vote on
WI Resolutions
- Feb 1st** **AGM – followed by**
A Nice Cup of Tea
*The dark history of the world's
favourite drink*
Terry Rollinson
- Mar 7th** **Scams & Fraudulent**
Doorstep Callers
Steps to take to avoid them
Angela Gifford

Cley Village Hall, NR25 7RJ, at 2.30pm

Members Free
Visitors Welcome – Recommended Donation £5.00
(includes afternoon tea)

Further details 01263 740225

Cley Parish Council's Chairman's Report November 2023

Our beat policeman, Graham Gower-Smith, reports rural crime is on the increase so please keep an eye out for any unusual and suspicious activity. He says he spends a high percentage of his time on anti-social behaviour but luckily there is none in Cley. Speeding into Cley has been raised again as an issue, this time down Holt Hill. We need to obtain and analyse data from our speed camera and speak with Highways.

Planning Consultant Tim Schofield spoke to us about the future Arcady proposals and will be bringing some preliminary designs to the next Parish Council meeting on the 14th December.

Following last month's floods on the River Glaven at Letheringsett, and the two storm overflows from Holt Sewage Treatment Works, Anglian Water will be coming to speak with us on 14th December about water quality and pollution. If you have any questions please do come along, and if you can't make it do submit questions for us to ask on your behalf.

Our allotment-grown pumpkin competition was hotly contested. Congratulations on the winners of the heaviest, fattest, best children's carved and ugliest.

By the time you read this we should have received a planning application for the Barn on Cookes marsh, to request permission for the render which has been applied. The land will returned to its original levels with consideration of any new habitats which have developed over the last few months.

The Three Swallows are kindly bringing in an engineer to see how the noise emitted by their extractor fan can be limited.

We have agreed the parish's budget for next year. We have tried to keep our spending as close to this year's as possible (only £146 more). However, we have slightly fewer houses now paying council tax so the cost per average sized property is up very slightly from £41.98 to £43.29, an increase of 3.11%. The Curloo and Community Café are not included in the parish budget as they are funded by donations.

We had a very successful loke working party on Longstone Loke, found lots of violets and wallflowers and cleared some of our lovely pebbles. We need to be more careful with handling poison ivy, so if you are kind enough to join us at a future work party, please wear gloves and goggles. We'll post the next dates on Spam and FB.

We are buying electric throws from our Community Support Grant and giving them out via the Community Café. If there are none left by the time you read this, we can get some more. Let us know. Tesco vouchers sufficient for a home delivery will be available on request from the Clerk,

clerk.cley@gmail.com or 07812384889. All enquiries will be treated confidentially.

The next Parish Council Meeting is on Thursday December 14th in the Village Hall at 6.30pm. The agenda will be published on the Notice Board, on the website (www.cleypc.info) and we'll mail it out to those on the Parish email list (if you want to be included in this please email the Clerk) and the village WhatsApp group. Please comment on or ask general questions about Agenda items before the meeting by getting in touch with the clerk or myself, or come along and participate. Minutes are posted as usual on the website.

Dr Victoria Holliday, Chair
avictoriaholliday@icloud.com
victoria.holliday@north-norfolk.gov.uk
07557054629



The UK premiere of James McConnel and Kit Hesketh-Harvey's *Olaf Schmid: A Cantata* on 11th November was absolutely breath taking. The musicians were outstanding and the piece completely mesmerising. We weren't surprised that we attracted an audience of just over 400 considering the evening's talent and skill. Huge thanks to all involved.

Do come along to our stall at the Cley Village Hall Christmas Fair on Saturday Dec 2nd 10-4pm. We will have smashing 'posh bric a brac', courtesy of a very generous donation, and a new range of Christmas cards.

The last Thursdays@Three in this season will be December 14th with Christmas words and music. Our musicians and bakers will then be taking a very well-earned break till January 18th 2024

Don't miss our Carols by Candlelight service at St Margaret's at 5pm on Christmas Eve, with mince pies and mulled wine afterwards. Now in our third year, it promises to be another bumper festive event and the perfect start to your celebrations.

Look out for our new Christmas cards in the church!

Our church book stall continues to thrive: thank you so much Hanne and Klausbernd for all the effort you put into this. Donations of books are very welcome; they can go in the box near the stall in the church or contact us for collection.

Thank you all very much indeed.

Victoria Holliday, Chair, Friends of Cley Church

CLEY COMMUNITY CAFÉ EVERY WEDNESDAY

You're sure of a warm welcome at the Cley Community Cafe, held every Wednesday (except for Dec 27th) from 10-4 in the Village Hall Club Room (round the back). Run by volunteers, it's a place to meet up with your friends and enjoy delicious home baking and tea and coffee. We love dogs.

We've knitting on offer, puzzles and games, and there is optional bingo with chocolate as prizes from 2-3.30! We don't charge, but any donations go towards the running costs.

The Monthly Memory Swap

Memories of Holt Christmases, on Tuesday 5th of December from 2.00 – 4.00pm.

Do you have any memories of Holt at Christmas which you would like to share?

John Jarvis will be showing a short film celebrating Holt at Christmas, as well as some found footage of the Thursford Christmas show.

We hope others might come along with images and memories to share that celebrate their own Christmases, whether as children or grown-ups.

This might include memories of people and events: in church or chapel, the school, the library, the community centre, streets, shops, parties, pubs, pantomimes, lights, decorations, fireworks, food; remembering Holt, over the years, at Christmas.

Perhaps some of you would consider bringing mince pies, and other Christmas fare, to share over tea and coffee.

Merry
Christmas



NEW OR VARIATION OF PREMISES LICENCES

State name of applicant/club
Carron Wright

Is seeking a new premises licence/variation to premises licence for
thelittletearooms ltd The Glaven Bistro

State name of Premises and postal address to which application refers
(In the absence of a postal address a description sufficient to identify the location and extent of the premises/qualifying club)

Unit 3-4
The Barns, Blakeney Road, Glanford, Holt, Norfolk,
NR25 7JP

State the proposed description of licensable/qualifying club activities and hours of operation

Monday to Sunday 9am till 9pm

If you wish to object to this application written representations with full contact details should be made to the Licensing Authority below:

Licensing Section, North Norfolk District Council,
Council Offices, Holt Road, Cromer, Norfolk,
NR27 9EN

Representations should be made by 28/12/2023 (28 days starting day after the day on which the application was given to the authority by the applicant)

This application may be viewed during office hours at the above offices.

N.B It is an offence, liable on conviction to a fine up to level 5 on the standard scale (£5,000), under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 to make a false statement in or in connection with this application.

Langham Christmas Fair
Saturday 2nd December, for all
your stocking fillers.
Venue Langham Village Hall,
10am-12noon.

MOLE CONTROL

Moles . Rats . Rabbits . Squirrels . Mice

No poison . No chemicals .

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harris.hawk@outlook.com

Blakeney Area Historical Society

No Meeting in December

**Tuesday 30th January at
2:30pm**

Cley Village Hall & Zoom

Talks By Members

Two interesting finds from Blakeney
and Salthouse by *Roger Bland*

Five Cley Men Went to War and
Died by *Richard Jefferson*

Free Entry

Donations welcome

*Receive Zoom invites by joining the
BAHS or sign-up for information
emails.*

Further Information & Updates

www.bahs.uk

Silence Peace Presence
Contemplation
and
Candlelighting
for
Peace Healing & Reconciliation

Every Tuesday and
2nd Sunday of each month
6.p.m in Wiveton Church



**The Focus of the Meeting
is 20 minutes of Silent Prayer**

Just turn up or contact Mary 07875 676663



Christmas Services
in St Nicholas' Church, Blakeney
Carol Service
6.30pm Wednesday 20th December
(also live-streamed)
Midnight Communion
11.15pm on Christmas Eve
(also live-streamed)
Christmas Morning Service with Carols at
11am on Christmas Day *(also live-
streamed)*

Wiveton

Any ¼ lb glass jars, labels washed off, would be very gratefully received (for candle-making for Wiveton church, from 30 years of saved candle ends!)

Please deliver to Welcome Cottage. Wiveton. Entrance in Chapel Lane. A candle-making working party in the kitchen, followed by soup and cheese lunch at 12.30 would be super! Please ring.

Also, there anyone in Wiveton who might be interested in an organic fruit/veg (and other essential foods) delivery in Wiveton on Fridays? See their advert here in the GVN or search Goodery online.

*Sarah Woodhouse, Welcome Cottage, Wiveton,
Tel: 740935*

Wiveton Quiz Evening

On Saturday 4th November a quiz was held in the Parish Room, it was a very successful evening, the meal was delicious and the quiz great fun. Many thanks to all who helped and especially to Graham, our excellent quizmaster.

BV

Wiveton Church Special Services at Christmas

Our renowned **Candlelit Carol Service** with the Icen Christmas Choir will be held at 6.30 pm on Tuesday, 19th December. This beautiful service is kindly arranged by Nigel Jenney, once again under the baton of Mark Jones. Mulled wine and mince pies follow the Service.

The Traditional **Christmas Day Family Service**, complete with stable, the Holy Family, angels, shepherds and much laughter and singing, will be held at 11.00 am on Christmas Morning. A short Communion Service will be held after the Family Service.

Please see the full-page notices about these two special services.

Stephen de Loynes, Church Warden

Wiveton Church Open Again!

Wonderful news at last! Following extensive restoration works to the medieval timbers in the Chancel roof, the church is now fully open and services have been resumed.

Emma Bridgewater Wiveton Church Mug



BRILLIANT CHRISTMAS PRESENT



I still have some of these very beautiful mugs, designed by Matthew Rice.

There were only 500 produced so they will definitely be Collectors' items in the future! If you would like to buy one/some and tick presents off your Christmas list, please contact me (details below).

The mugs are £25 each. Payment can be made either by bank transfer to:

Wiveton PCC Fabric Account
Sort Code 40-52-40
Account No 00012135

or cash, on collection.

200 Club



November's 1st Prize Winner was Roger Short, with a prize

of £65 

Can you help us get to 300, making it a 300 Club!? There's no minimum monthly amount and you have the chance to win one of 5 prizes each month, with a 1st prize of £65.

Just email me and I will let you have an application form.

*Anthea de Loynes
Chair of the Friends of Wiveton Church
antheadeloynes@aol.com
07746 018310*

Glandford

GLAVEN BISTRO

I'm pleased to report that there will shortly be a new addition to the Glandford Barns, if not already up and running by the time you read this. The Glaven Bistro is run by Carron and James who have recently returned to Norfolk, from running an award-winning cafe on the Llyn Peninsular in North Wales.

Now they have a young family (their son is at Blakeney primary school), they wished to return to family here. They are planning to open at the end of November, or beginning of December, with seasonal menus, for breakfast and lunches, top local produce, and their own brand of coffee and loose-leaf teas', they are also applying for an alcohol licence.

'Truly Rural'

Simply Delicious Cooking

Elizabeth Joycie Harrison

Tel: 01263 740318

Mob: 07850 588765

e-mail trulyrural@hotmail.co.uk

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE,,our annual Candlelit Carol service is to be held on Thursday 21st December at 5pm, with mulled wine and refreshments afterwards. Do come along and join in with all the lovely traditional carols and lessons, we hope to fill the church with children and their families, as last year.

Averil Monteath

Letheringsett

Letheringsett Village Clock

I have been overwhelmed at the kind and generous donations from residents, towards the cost of the essential repairs needed to the clock. We are now able to proceed with the work and hopefully it will be chiming again very soon. Thank you very much for your support.

Louise Stevens, 01263 713857

Thank you!

I would like to thank the Village Hall Trustees and all those who contributed to the Harvest Supper. A delicious meal and enjoyable evening was had by all.

G M L

St Andrew's Church

Remembrance Sunday

This year we were joined by some residents of Letheringsett Hall Care Home including Ted Briggs who most ably played his cornette for which we are very grateful. What a poignant sound it was too - he even led us through a hymn as well. I think we had the widest age range there too - four months to ninety-eight years!

Carols - please come and join us for our Carol Service on Monday 18th December at 4 pm followed by refreshments.

John Pridham

THE GREAT BLAKENEY BREAKFAST! in St Nicholas' Church, Blakeney

will be held on

Wednesday 6th December

8am to 11am

**Last orders for a cooked breakfast at
10.30am**

Please do come and join us for cereal, croissants, bacon and eggs, scrambled eggs on toast, and of course, great bacon rolls.

It is a great place to bring friends and to make new ones. Visitors to Blakeney are very welcome.

Donations welcome.

Let's do Lunch

in St Nicholas' Church, Blakeney
The Blakeney Lunch will be held on
on Wednesday 20th December
12noon to 2.00pm.

With the winter days fast
approaching we have changed
our menu to a variety of
delicious homemade soups
followed by a
choice of homemade desserts.
It is a great place to bring friends and
to make new ones.
Visitors to Blakeney are
very welcome.

COMMUNITY NEWS

News from the National Trust

Blakeney Point

The first seal pup of breeding season was spotted in late October, but it is really in November that things truly start picking up. This is when the cows will come ashore in large numbers and start to cover the Point. Eventually their numbers will reach approximately 4,500 - a remarkable sight that makes this the biggest grey seal colony in England.

An exciting development for this year is that we will have a remote wildlife monitoring camera situated in the heart of the colony. If all goes to plan, we will have a live stream of the seal colony that anyone can watch on YouTube.

One of the key factors in the success of Blakeney Point's grey seals is the relative inaccessibility of the Point and the fact that disturbance from people is kept to a minimum. Dogs are a particular concern when it comes to disturbance, and regular visitors to the Point will notice that dogs won't be allowed as close to the colony as they have been in previous years.

Morston Quay

We are at the early stages of plans to improve our facilities at Morston Quay. These would see the replacement of the two portacabins on site with a new, permanent single-storey building, providing modern, fully accessible toilets for our visitors, as well as spaces to support our on-site operations.

We also want to improve the surface and layout of the car park (with marked parking bays and a designated disabled parking area) and put in place a new accessible footpath connecting the new building with the lookout and café.

The aim is that the improved facilities will provide a better visitor experience, enabling everyone to enjoy Morston Quay with equal ease and dignity. Over the coming months we will be sharing our plans in more detail with local residents, businesses, boat owners who use the Quay, and all those with an interest in this special place.

Holt Area Caring Society

Holt Area Caring Society is looking for some new volunteer drivers. We are especially short of Blakeney drivers at the moment.

Volunteers use their own cars and drive any patient belonging to the Holt Medical Practice (which includes Blakeney and Melton Constable) to medical appointments. Holt Caring has its own insurance policy and drivers are reimbursed per mile.

Drivers can choose to do short or longer journeys (e.g., to Norwich) and can choose trips that are most convenient to

them.

The car service is much appreciated by people living in this rural area. Whatever happens with the Blakeney surgery in the future, we shall continue to take people from Blakeney and surrounding villages to appointments. We try and keep the cost of journeys as low as possible.

If you are interested, please ring our co-ordinators, Liz or Rachel, on 01263 711243 for an application form. You will be very welcome as we cannot function without drivers.

The same number applies to anyone wanting to book a car. (Please give as much notice as possible.) Very many thanks.

Peta Benson (chairperson)

District Councillor's Report

From NNDC

Coast

The contractor has been appointed for the Cromer and Mundesley coast protection schemes.

Planning

The dates for the Examination of the draft Local Plan will start 22nd Jan and run till week of 4th March. You can see the Inspectors' questions on the NNDC website. Everyone can respond to the Inspector's questions - if you can get any comments to me by 16th Dec, I will forward to NNDC. The Blakeney Neighbourhood Plan is formally adopted and will carry weight in planning decisions.

Benefits and housing

Discretionary housing payments support tenancies and prevent homelessness. Apply to NNDC if you think you are eligible or let me know. There are 2499 households on the housing list. There continues to be a mismatch between need and housing availability. As a result, homelessness is increasing at a horrific rate; at the end of October there were 75 households in temporary accommodation, an increase of 33% over the same date last year.

There are hopefully 350+ affordable homes in the pipeline but only 27 'will be built in 23-24. Don't forget NNDC has funding for improving the energy efficiency of 'off gas' homes. It's worth applying as eligibility criteria have eased. Almost £700k has been awarded for housing adaptations so do get in touch if you think we could help.

Sustainable growth

The majority of the £364k Rural England Prosperity Fund has been awarded to small rural businesses and community groups. There has been a high take up of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund by beneficiaries working with the Sustainable Communities Fund, Visit Norfolk, Go Digital and the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership.

Environmental services

From 2026 NNDC will be required to collect food waste weekly and may well bring it in earlier if possible.

The additional vehicles for trade and garden waste collections should be coming on stream soon which should help reduce missed collections.

Finance

A second home council tax premium of 100% is proposed from April 2025 now the requisite legislation being passed. An empty home council tax premium of 100% is proposed from 12 mths of being empty rather than 2 yrs, from April 2024. The projected deficit for this financial year is predicted to be £0.5mill.

Environment

NNDC has obtained funding to install EVCPs at three car park locations, to be decided. The North Norfolk Sustainable Communities Fund is open for applications up to £15k for sustainable schemes and initiatives, such as improving local biodiversity, the energy efficiency of community buildings etc.

Customer service

The new Chatbot is proving quite effective providing 89% contacts with automated assistance.'

Fuel poverty

The Financial inclusion team at NNDC are great at finding out if someone is missing payments they are entitled to and may have another suggestions for fuel poverty grants: their number is 01263 516221. They may be able to also provide emergency food support with Eden Red food vouchers within 48 hrs.

There is the Client hardship fund at Norfolk County Council Client Hardship Service (CHS) - Norfolk County Council

Client Hardship Service (CHS) - Norfolk County Council

The Client Hardship Service (CHS) provides support if you are in financial hardship and cannot pay your living costs. If you are eligible, we can provide emergency financial help, supply essential household goods and furniture, and put you in touch with organisations who can give advice and guidance.

www.norfolk.gov.uk

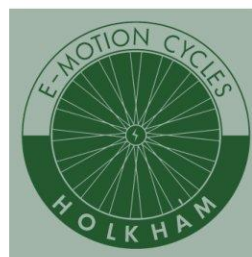
NNDC has this list of help with cost of living online :<https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/tasks/projects/cost-of-living/help-and-support-with-energy-bills/>

*Victoria Holliday, Member of Council
07557054629*

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We are located in Holkham Village, just along the road from The Victoria.

RALEIGH

HAIBIKE

Letter's & Articles

Rising Sea Levels

When I read Emma's letter about rising sea levels, I was reminded of a situation I once found myself in, which I would like to share.

About 20 years ago, I was on my own in one of the hides on the Cley Reserve when a boy, aged about 8, came into the hide. After looking out over the Reserve he said "this won't be here when I grow up." I tried to re-assure him, suggesting that it would be there, some changes might have happened, but not to worry. When I think back, I realise that child will be an adult now - and Cley Reserve is still there. My hope is that he too can still remember that day.

Predictions of ever-increasing sea level rise were frequent in those days, and if any had come to fruition, we would be living in a quite different world now. The point is predictions are only predictions and nothing more.

The 'Shoreline Management Plan' of 2009 produced by the Environment Agency was almost certainly prompted by similar predictions. This 'Plan' covered the whole of the North Norfolk coast and its adoption would have seen extensive destructive alterations along the coast, including the deliberate loss of Blakeney Fresh Marsh and Cley Reserve. Mercifully, the 'Plan' was withdrawn in 2014.

Our late Queen was fond of quoting something Winston Churchill had told her when she was younger, which went something like this "If you want to look forward, first look back." So, if we avoid predictions and look back at the mean sea level records measured by the tidal gauge at Newlyn since 1915, we find that historically the annual increase is limited to a steady rise of about 1.5 mm, or to put it another way, about 1 inch in 17 years. (The IPCC list it between 1 and 2 mm)

I have been an ardent conservationist for nearly 70 years and am conscious that today's younger generation have enough worries thrust upon them without us increasing their burden. Although there are real concerns about the state of our natural environment, I would prefer to offer hope by encouraging children to take an interest in wildlife, where they can experience and learn about its wonder, diversity and beauty. Not only would that be beneficial for their own well-being but could foster an active interest in conservation, providing a brighter future for us all.

Chris Wheeler

Happy Christmas, War is Over

"And so, this is Christmas, and what have we done?" Lennon taunts us through Spacetime, a 4-dimensional continuum of fundamental particles that are both one and the same thing, space and time.

Such an all-encompassing perspective might unite humanity, if it weren't for a paradox!

Because each life is unique, lived from its own perspective, right and wrong are subjective to that individual ... but consciousness is common to us all.

The Universe, Consciousness, Spacetime, call it what you will, it knows us all so well. It knows all the things we've done, throughout our evolution, from single celled organism to who we are today. All the good and all the bad. It makes no judgement, that's down to you. You evolve through consciousness, the truth you learn in that communion sets you free.

Wishing you all, paradoxically, A Very Merry Christmas.

Vaughn

broadviewcottages@btinternet.com

A Visit to Blakeney's St. Nicholas Church Graveyard in 1988

By George Chapman

I am writing this from Alberta, Canada, having emigrated in 1960. I have fond memories of Blakeney where I grew up, and want to share some of the interesting experiences that I had living there.

On a visit back to the UK 35 years ago when my father was still alive, I took him to visit Blakeney, where he served in the Norfolk Constabulary Police Force for an astonishing 17 years. Most postings at that time lasted about 4 years before officers were relocated. As a result of this I spent the first 17 memorable years of my life growing up in Blakeney. On this current visit, my father wanted to show me the grave of a young unknown German Luftwaffe pilot whose body was found washed up on the beach near Blakeney. At that time my father, my older sister Joyce and the rector, held a graveside funeral and were the only ones in attendance. For many years, on the anniversary of the burial, my father would place flowers on the grave. I remember my father, after placing the flowers, once told me that the airman would have had a mother somewhere in Germany who would never know what happened to her son.

He then showed me the grave of Tim Birkin, a famous race car driver, who burnt his arm badly against the hot exhaust pipe of his race car. The wound turned septic and he died of blood poisoning on June 22nd 1933 at the age of 36. One of his racing triumphs was winning the Le Mans Car Race in an Alfa Romeo in 1931. He received a telegram of congratulations from Mussolini for his "Great win for Italy." This must have gone down well. His real name was Sir Henry Birkin and he was well known for being one of the "Bentley Boys" of the 1920's. When I first visited the grave, it was adorned with vintage toy race cars. I saw these same adornments some years later on a subsequent visit.

He also showed me the grave of Air Commodore Brackley who resided in The Old Rectory in Blakeney with his wife Frida. "Brackles" as he was known, had a distinguished career in aviation dating back to 1915. He served in the newly formed RAF in World War I, and in 1920 he shipped a Handley Page V/1500 Bomber over to St John's, Newfoundland in an attempt to be the first person to fly the Atlantic. The plane had to be assembled and tested. Engine problems delayed their departure, and he was eventually beaten by Allcock and Brown. In 1924 Brackles joined the newly formed Imperial Airways, where he planned operations and route development. After World War II where he was assigned to RAF Coastal Command, he returned to civil aviation with BOAC, and while establishing commercial routes in South America, he drowned in a swimming accident in Rio de Janeiro. Churchill, who had a great respect for Brackles, had the RAF fly his body back to Langham Airfield where the plane circled over Blakeney and the Point before landing. I was 9 years old and remember the funeral procession when it came past our house on Langham Road as it made its way to Blakeney's St Nicholas Church, where the coffin was laid before the High Altar prior to the funeral service on November 26th, 1948.

WALKING RUGBY IS GROWING IN POPULARITY AMONGST NORFOLK CLUBS

Two clubs more rugby clubs have recently started their own Walking Rugby groups, and the county now has four teams playing this great sport. This is a far cry from the two clubs that have offered this variation of the game since Fakenham started in 2019. In addition to Fakenham and Yarmouth Rugby Clubs, we now have Diss and North Walsham with regular playing sessions.

What is Walking Rugby? It is a fun, team-based, game and a great way of introducing an element of light-hearted exercise into your weekly routine.

Walking Rugby is a relatively new sporting activity - in a similar vein to both Walking Football and Walking Netball - and it aims to attract both men and women, who are, in the main, in their 40s or older. At Fakenham 48% of members are ladies and most players are in the 50s and 60s.

As a form of "touch rugby" this is a much less physical and has minimal contact compared to its standard counterpart. Its main aim is participating, competing, and enjoying all the benefits of a team sport.

We have found that it is attractive to both ex-players and those who are completely new to the game of rugby; being a much simpler version of the traditional game.

Players do not need to have any specialist equipment to join-in; but they must wear some suitable clothing and footwear for playing on a natural grass pitch surface. We can help with advice on this before you attend.

Based at the Fakenham Rugby Club's Stringer Ground, off Old Wells Road, on the edge of Fakenham town itself, the

current group of members are drawn from across north and mid-Norfolk.

The Fakenham Walking Rugby Group are always on the look-out for more new members to join-in with this excellent team sport activity.

Our Walking Rugby Group sessions take place on Wednesday evenings throughout the year at the Fakenham Rugby Club ground, arriving at 6-45pm for a 7pm start.

Sessions last for an hour, beginning with a gentle warm-up before game-time.

There is also a great social side to the Group, and with new clubs starting we hope to have fixtures played against these other Walking Rugby Groups before too long.

Please do come along and join us on a Wednesday night - your first 'taster session' will be free-of-charge.

Contact the Organiser, Jeffrey Pearce, for any further information and details: jdpearce@btinternet.com

Jeffrey Pearce



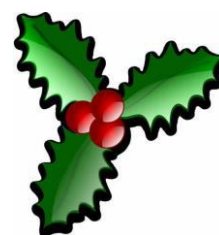
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Benjamin Court

Readers will be aware of the recent closure of Benjamin Court reablement service by Norfolk County Council. This decision has been strongly criticised by the public, Cromer Town Council, and Norfolk Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidate Steffan Aquarone, who has spoken out loudly against the decision. "Benjamin Court has provided thousands of people with essential care in between hospital and home," Steff told the Glaven Valley News. "All the evidence shows that convalescent settings speed up recovery and reablement, and reduce hospital readmission. It's naive and unrealistic to think that home-based care can provide the same support to everyone."

Norfolk County Council claim that allowing recovery at home will help more people receive care. But they had only recently reopened Benjamin Court, and it has been rated as 'good' since then. Steff is worried that many people won't be able to receive reablement care at home. But also, that the decision is part of a wider picture of cash-starved public services. "At one level this is poor, unrealistic decision-making from a County Council that has maxed out its borrowing and still has to find tens of millions of pounds in savings. But it comes from the same place as record waiting lists, the dentist crisis, and ambulance wait times: everywhere you look, things just aren't working. And yet the richest people have been getting even richer under this government."

If you've got experiences of, or views about, Benjamin Court get in touch with Steff on 01603 327827 or steff@norfolklibdems.org. You can also sign the petition against its closure set up by North Norfolk TUC Group here: <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/save-benjamin-court>

Winners and Losers

Walking on Blakeney Carnser, I look out at my childhood saltmarsh playground and nothing has changed, the creeks I swam through then I swim through now, every bend is familiar and loaded with images and recollections; where we left our clothes, made mudslides and where we could jump and dive, the core of the village is also little changed. Most rural villages will be the same and those who were born, grew up and live in such places are blessed to have so many hooks on which to hang their memories and ties to bind them to their home. I have friends who if they went back to where they were born and grew up wouldn't know where they were, their neighbourhoods demolished and built over; they have no home to go back to. Only when I drive down New Road can I imagine what it would be like for them as I pass the homogeneous mix of redbrick suburban boxes with their fortress walls giving the barest nod to the village's distinctive and easy-to-replicate vernacular architecture*. These changes can give a very strong sense of dispossession, not in the sense of a loss of ownership but more in that a part of you is being violated. Add to this the displacement of most of the village's people and it's not difficult to see why locals are up in arms about second homes, their world appears to have been invaded, and finding yourself in a minority in your own

village is a bit like having strangers coming into your house, rearrange the furniture and having a party. But there are two sides to this coin. The Head's side is all about money and it's not just a person buying a cottage and letting it out when they are not using it, there are some in the area who own 10- or more properties that are holiday lets. Many of the businesses that profit most from the village's remaining charm are owned by chains, they provide menial jobs and their profits go elsewhere. Others lie about their intentions when buying a property, assuring the owners that they can't wait to come and live here and then knock the property down reorganise the site and build two, three or more houses on the plot. All of this is profiteering at the expense of the precious place they are destroying and about which they clearly don't give a damn. Others stamp their ego on the landscape with large often brutalist architecture that dominates its surroundings.

Summer visitors coming from insular urban environments can often seem rude, and being shoved off the road by a £150,000 off-roader can really make it seem like an invasion. But there is another way of looking at this, by turning the coin over to tails and seeing it more pragmatically, i.e. as a demographic, then it looks a little different. Blakeney and all the other villages along this coast have undergone a fundamental change in a relatively short space of time, I have written here before of the village I grew up in; that world has gone and the employment that underwrote it has gone with it, in those days the population worked on the land, on the sea and in the many shops and other small businesses that thrived in a community that was essentially self-sufficient. As education has improved over the years more and more young people have moved away to better prospects, which is just as well as this village could not find occupations to support such a population today. Although having said that there is still a shortage of housing for many locals who wish to live here, but that has more to do with the above than with population numbers.

So, let us look more closely at the tail's side. In this new world of internet connectivity, there are some who can accomplish most or all of their work from a home office. If you had the choice to work in a busy noisy city, or in the peace and quiet of a north Norfolk retreat, which would you choose? Others with part-time holiday homes have a choice, they could rent their property to a local person for £150.00 a week or to a holidaymaker for £1000.00 a week, (which of course is why there is such a shortage of rental property). Can any of you honestly say that you would not do something similar? You can hardly blame someone for using their resources wisely.

The void left by those absent 'now citizens of the world' has been filled by others who have chosen to live here, many of whom I am lucky enough to count as friends, all have made positive contributions to village life, you wouldn't be reading this magazine without them. They also appreciate how special these places are and like the locals, perhaps even more than the locals, want to protect them. The way people respond to this dilemma has much to do with personal circumstances and values. Many locals have become rich on the backs of incomers, while others benefit in a whole variety of ways by their being here. But others feel totally disenfranchised as they see their villages and their way of life

being destroyed and feel helpless to prevent it. If you asked the first group if they thought North Norfolk was now a better place to live, I am sure they would say yes. Ask the same question of the second group and they would certainly say no. Oddly both groups would be right. In different ways both these statements are true. In a material sense, this is a much better place to live than it once was, but much has been lost in the exchange. The difficult question is how fair was the bargain? It is hard to argue that there is anything wrong with the new North Norfolk. Who can complain that there are now so many fine shops in Holt or so many wonderful places to eat all along the coast, or that many a tumbledown cottage has been re-built to stand in character with its neighbours?

Well, those who cannot afford to shop, eat or live in them can that's for sure, but the fishermen, builders, craftsmen and other suppliers of local products cannot. There are winners and there are losers but this story is not all about material things. Heritage and culture are definitely damaged by the head's side of the coin. On the tails side, many have gained through the new prosperity. But sadly, I suspect that in what has been lost we may all of us be losers.

G.S.

Fakenham Choral Society Christmas Concert

Fakenham Choral Society is thrilled to announce details of the first of its 50th Anniversary performances in Fakenham Parish Church on Saturday December 16th at 5.30pm. With an array of Christmas favorites and works by Pergolesi and Charpentier, it is sure to set the perfect festive mood. As a gift to the community, the concert will be free to attend with retiring donations gratefully received. Choir vice-chairman, Rosemary Dear says "We are indebted to the people of Fakenham and North Norfolk for supporting us over the years. Music has a unique way of bringing people together, and this free concert is our 'Thank You'."

The choir, directed by Mark Jones, will be joined by musicians and soloists to make the performance extra special. Audience participation in some much-loved Christmas carols promises to make the evening a memorable one filled with music, fun and the spirit of giving. As admission is free, the choir is expecting a full house so please arrive in good time to secure your seat. Information about the choir and its 50th anniversary can be found at www.fakenhamchoralsociety.org

St Nicholas' Church, Blakeney Food Bank



We would like to give a huge vote of thanks to everyone at Spar in Blakeney and the many kind people who purchase items while they are shopping for the donation box in aid of St Nicholas' Church Food Bank.

With Christmas just a few short weeks away we would be very grateful to receive 'Christmassy' items i.e., chocolate, sweets, nuts, crackers, Christmas fare, toys or Christmas Gifts. All items gratefully received will go straight back to the community, working together within the Glaven Valley.

Richard and the team at Blakeney



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*Mark Jones
and*

The Icení Choir

**Candelit Carols : Readings
and Congregational Hymns**



**Wiveton Church
6.30 p.m.
Tuesday 19th December**



THE CHRISTMAS ROBIN

The little bobbing Robin
Sat on my windowsill
And looked at me with sadness
As I lay in bed unwell

And as it flapped its little wings
To welcome Christmas Day
It hopped upon my table
To hear what I might say

'Hello my friend, good cheer to you
The snow has come at last
And much as I would like to play
My days of fun have passed

For my leg it is now broken
Said the doctor with concern
So, rest I must for many weeks
What a lesson to be learned'

Then Robin gave a wink to me
And flew around the room
And everywhere he went, he chirped
'Don't move, I'll be back soon'

Then in a moment he was gone
Through the window at great haste
And way beyond the curtain
He had picked up quite a pace

But in the distant echoes
The smell of embers burned
As Winter's chill descended
Robin suddenly returned

And in his beak were tiny twigs
Too small for me to see
But back and forth he came and went
To build a Christmas tree

And bit by bit it slowly grew
Taking shape where I did lay
As I looked on in fondness
At Robin's caring ways

And as a tear fell on my cheek
His present now emerged
With moss and fern to decorate
The sound of music could be heard

And with the ringing of the bells
A distant cry was made
As Robin flapped his wings once more
To start his big parade

For birds and animals countrywide
Stood in the snow below
To wish me a Merry Christmas
And good tidings on the go

The sparrows and the magpies
The pigeons and the crows
The foxes and the rabbits
Deers leaping high and low

The badgers and the drumming moles
The squirrels marching bold
As hawks kept watch across the ground
The mice hid from the cold

For Robin's friends had joined him
On this very special day
To put a smile upon my face
And blow the sorrows away

The gift of friendship they did make
In the garden of my home
Stirred up feelings of great happiness
That I was loved and not alone

And with this scene of wonderment
And Robin's endearing ways
A stocking full of magic
Arrived for me on Christmas Day

Maura Kelly



SAVE THE DATE

The Holt February Film Festival

'It's Love, actually'

weekend 16th to 18th February 2024

Holt Community Centre – The Venue

A festival of films,
plus interviews with authors
covering all aspects of love and romance,
with each author nominating and introducing
a romantic/love film of their choice.

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Arts Forum

(a conversation about writing and the arts)

with

Raffaella Barker (author)

on

Wednesday January 17th



An interview discussing the life of a writer; the importance of writing personally and professionally; Raffaella's background, as well as influences on her work, (illustrated with material from authors and others who are, or have been, important to her); how and why she became a writer; the challenges and rewards of being one; reflecting on life and living in Norfolk.

Each Forum lasts about an hour, after which there will be time for questions. It is held in the main hall and/or bar area of The Venue, depending on numbers.

Arrive at 6.30pm, (when the bar will be open), for a prompt 7.00pm start

The evening will finish 8.30pm-ish

Booking is helpful to gauge numbers.

But please feel free to just turn up on the night.

To book: contact The Venue on 01263 713427 or email: info@thevenueholt.com



Help someone smile, become a Befriender

Join our volunteer team and help us provide companionship and support to unpaid carers in Norfolk.

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- Provide practical support such as dog walking, shopping or gardening?
- Offer an unpaid carer a break by supporting their loved one in their own home?



Please get in touch to see how you can help someone smile. Thank you.

**Jane Hawkins 07843 327485
volunteers@caringtogether.org
caringtogether.org/befriender**