

The Glaven Valley Newsletter



A sunny Winter's morning on Blakeney Quay

February 2024

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH, CLEY

WinterFest

THREE WINTER EVENTS
TO FEED THE SOUL
MUSIC, WORDS, FOOD & WINE

THURSDAY 1 FEBRUARY 3.00 - 3.45pm

'A Wintry fireside'

The regular Thursday@3 series presents
a celebration of Winter in words and music by Adrian Taunton
Julian Godlee (bass) Brenda Blewett (piano)
Wyatt Earp, Sarah de Bats (flute)
Harriet Cooper & John Glasspool (narrators)

FRIDAY 2 FEBRUARY 6.00 - 8.30PM

'A Winter Warmer'

Pie, Mash & Sticky Toffee Pudding Night at 'THE THREE SWALLOWS'
A great community event – book your table anytime between 6-8.30pm
£20

Advance booking: The Three Swallows 01263 740816 (Winterfest Menu)

SATURDAY 3 FEBRUARY 7.00 - 8.15pm

'A Winter's Journey'

Schubert's legendary song-cycle

'WINTERREISE'

in a special performance with projected images.

*Wrap up warm, sip mulled wine or hot chocolate and eat apple cake
whilst you listen to this haunting journey of lost love.*

German Hot Dogs available from 6pm!

Julian Godlee (bass) Brenda Blewett (piano)

£15 including all refreshments

CLEYCHURCHWINTER.EVENTBRITE.CO.UK

FIND OUT MORE: glavenvalleychurches.org.uk

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THE GLAVEN VALLEY NEWSLETTER

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Copy for the March edition must be received by the 15th February 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

We are in a much healthier financial position as a result of the generosity of a growing number of our readers – the number of people donating to the newsletter rose by over 50% to just over 350 last year.

Do think if you are able to join this group – if you can then the best way is by Standing Order – either on a monthly or an annual basis. It gives us greater certainty over our future income - 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);
- Online bank transfer to us (Sort Code 30-94-34 Account 00897099);
- Collection box at Blakeney Garage

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 Urgent help needed

The number of people helping with the production of the magazine each month is becoming worrying low. Without adequate help we will not be able to continue as now.

If you think you could help with the printing and/or stapling and would like to join our small team for 3 hours or so each month in Blakeney Village Hall, please do get in touch. I'll be happy to explain what's involved. Thank you.

Oscar Haynes, 01263 712693,
07721 435703

oscar.haynes@btinternet.com

Barton Reed Panel Fencing

www.bartonreedpanelfencing.co.uk

01692 535463 07881 717692

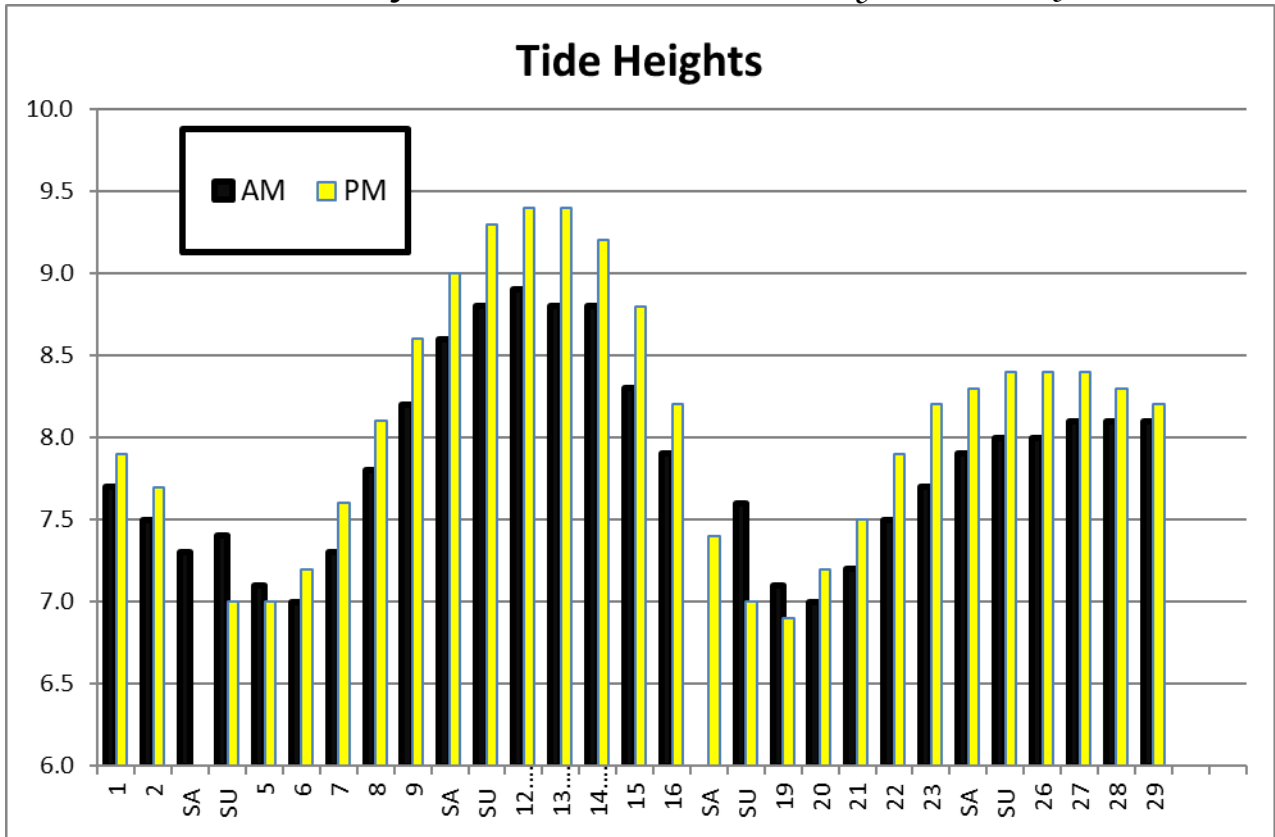
email: jon.moore61@btinternet.com

**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



February 2024 -Tide Details *by Martin Tyler*



Tide Times

	AM	PM		AM	PM
Thu 01 February	10:33	22:36			
Fri 02 February	11:11	23:19			
Sat 03 February	11:57				
Sun 04 February	00:09	12:56			
Mon 05 February	01:12	14:19	Mon 19 February	02:00	14:47
Tue 06 February	02:45	15:42	Tue 20 February	03:27	15:58
Wed 07 February	04:16	16:43	Wed 21 February	04:39	16:57
Thu 08 February	05:19	17:34	Thu 22 February	05:37	17:46
Fri 09 February	06:13	18:20	Fri 23 February	05:33	18:27
Sat 10 February	07:03	19:05	Sat 24 February	07:01	19:02
Sun 11 February	07:48	19:48	Sun 25 February	07:32	19:33
Mon 12 February	08:31	20:30	Mon 26 February	08:00	20:03
Tue 13 February	09:11	21:13	Tue 27 February	08:28	20:32
Wed 14 February	09:51	21:56	Wed 28 February	08:57	21:01
Thu 15 February	10:31	22:41	Thu 29 February	09:27	21:32
Fri 16 February	11:15	23:30			
Sat 17 February		12:07			
Sun 18 February	00:31	13:21			

Blakeney

BLAKENEY REGATTA 2024

****Dates for your diary****

Saturday 27th July - Aquatic sports - kicking off about 9am with Tug of war, Swimming races, Greasy pole, Gillie catching and Sandcastle competition.

Sunday 28th July - Rural sports - 1.30pm start with Long Jump, High Jump, Races and Tilt the Bucket.

Spread the word!!

Coastal Rowing Association of Blakeney

Some bright and beautiful winter sunshine has been a feature of a series of really enjoyable rows on the water around Barton Broad. Of course, some excellent weather has been interspersed with rain, high winds and the threat of ice and snow. However, members of your local rowing club continue to plan for outings, undaunted by the unpredictable elements.

A perusal of the booking calendar will show that many mid-week and weekend rowing expeditions are planned for the remainder of the winter season. Surf the club's website at crablakeney.wordpress.com to see some pictures of well clad "Crabbers" enjoying their sport. 2024 promises to be a busy year.

At the time of writing, preparations are underway to move *Bluejacket*, one of the club's skiffs, into Barrie Borwell's Bayfield Brecks workshop for its winter makeover. Many thanks to Barrie for allowing the club to use this facility and also for all his hard work on the boat itself. Thanks also to Catherine Temple for allowing *Bluejacket* to be stored in her barn whilst the craft awaits refurbishment. Soon, club members will devote time to rubbing down and painting under cover. The effort required to help maintain the skiffs to a high standard is always appreciated.

You too could be a part of the club's experiences – social and competitive. 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, out for a gentle and sociable row, coaching and friendly advice will always be available. You will be made very welcome. There is no obligation to participate in any competitive event.

See you on the water in 2024 ...

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

Noel and Jill are still looking to buy a property in Blakeney as a primary residence. We are aware of the properties advertised on Rightmove as we check every morning! We are cash buyers and can respond quickly. Please call us if you wish to discuss a property in Blakeney on 07837 280 377.

Special Thanks!

We would like to give a special thanks to the following businesses who donated raffle prizes for our school Bingo fundraiser in December: Glaven Bistro, Blakeney Hotel, Blakeney Manor, Blakeney Garage, Liberty Hair, ATA Turkish Barbers, Magpie Bakery, Westons Fish Shop and Edgefield Nurseries. With your help and others within our caring community we raised over £1,000 that night and £200 at the Christmas Fair. Our next fund raiser will be a Sausage & Mash Quiz night at 6pm on 2 March at Blakeney Village Hall. It should be fun!

Blakeney School Parents & Friends

News from Blakeney School

The children of our school are looking forward to a well-deserved half term break. A flurry of activities and a full time-table means that they have worked hard and have truly earned the chance to recharge.

However, their hard work has been reaping rewards as we were recently informed that 8 of our children had won a national competition to see their short stories published. This was reported in the Eastern Daily Press and has given them and us all-a real boost. We are so proud of the children and their learning and to have this recognised has brought a smile to everyone.

Our wonderful PTFA are working equally as hard and have organised a bangers and mash quiz night. This will be held

at the Village Hall on Saturday, March 2nd. Teams of 4 can book a table at blakeney.school.ptfa@outlook.com. It would be lovely to see you there if you are able to join us.

The parents of our school, as well as organising quiz nights, have been busy in school too. I mentioned in the January letter that the parents would be joining us for our “Bring your grown up to school morning.” Many of them joined us for Spelling and Grammar, English and Maths lessons and completed the same learning as their children. We keep the parents updated regularly with curriculum news but there is nothing quite like first-hand experience! It was lovely for the children to have their adults in school and I am happy to report that other than being quite chatty-they were impeccably behaved!

For us, Lent began with Pancake races! If there is one thing that our children and parents haven’t given up for Lent-it is their friendly competitive spirit. We had lots of fun with the races themselves and then all shared pancakes with the families back at school.

Our friends from Langham Primary School recently visited us for Valentines Day craft activities. We are hoping that this is a relationship we can foster to strengthen community ties for our children. It is vital for them, in a modern society, to feel a connection to the people around them. We aim to give them the connections and roots to grow into caring and active members of the Glaven Valley community. We understand that this doesn’t happen in isolation and will do all we can to ensure that they are happy at our school and in the wider community.

Coming up in March we have; World Book Day, Number Day, Bikeability training, Federation Sports Morning, a visit from the Guide Dog Association, the Year 5 residential trip and our Easter Egg Hunt and Service. Thank goodness none of the staff team have given up sugar for Lent!

Claire Thoday

Glaven Caring welcomes in 2024

We have opened our doors to welcome all in this new year - a very special year for Glaven Caring as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary. Watch this space for news about parties, outings, and fundraisers later this year.

We also say a happy hello to our Nurse Janine’s bonnie babies – twins Florence Winter and Poppy Willow - who arrived safely in December.

December was a busy month with visits from the local school children and Father Christmas and now we are keeping warm and enjoying good company at Glaven Caring. Plough Monday was the theme of our first Happy Monday lunch – and our guests marked the start of the agricultural year with a Plough Pie lunch.

Easter is early this year and on Shrove Tuesday our clients will be enjoying traditional pancakes.

Happy Mondays lunches – every Monday - are just £5 for a delicious two course meal. Visitors are welcome for lunch other days also when the cost is £8. Please do book in by 10am by calling 01263 740762 or leave a message on the answerphone.

A recent visitor joined our Happy Monday lunch with her 92-year-old mother – ‘We loved it – everyone was so warm, friendly, and welcoming. The food was delicious beyond expectation, so much love went into the designing of the menus and place names. Nothing was too much trouble for the staff and volunteers who were so kind and attentive. All in all, a lovely experience!’

Hope to see you soon.

Glaven Centre

Blakeney Area Historical Society

In the January GVN there was a Notice calling for Volunteers for the BAHS. I am glad to say we have had some positive responses. If, however, you missed the opportunity to volunteer do get in touch with the Secretary to discuss joining the Committee or to offer support in other ways (from archives to publicity and beyond!).

R Kelham, Chairman, secretary-bahs@bahs.uk

PAWESOME

**Blakeney Dog Walking
Service**

Call Charlie 07467 542227

c.tidmarsh@icloud.com

BLAKENEY PARISH COUNCIL -

www.blakeneyparishcouncil.org.uk

(01263 741106)

Email: clerk@blakeneyparishcouncil.org.uk



FUNDING OPPORTUNITY!!!! Blakeney Parish Council Community Fund 2024 – Calling all local Community Groups, don't miss out! Would your local Community Group like some funding? Does your group help and support the people of Blakeney? If so, then read on...

Many of you will know by now, that each year we give out grants to local groups, charities and organisations by way of our Community Fund. If you would like to apply for a grant or simply wish to find out more, then please contact the Parish Clerk, who will happily email you a form, or you can call into the Parish Office and collect or download from our website. **All applications must be received by Monday 26th February 2024.** (See application form and poster for full details.)

2024 - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Annual Parish Meeting – Thursday 7th March 2024 – 6pm at Blakeney Village Hall

Party on The Pastures: - Sunday 18th August 2024

End of Season Bonfire & Fireworks: - Saturday 26th October 2024. (Plan B is Sunday 27th October)

If you are interested in helping at either event or joining us in some capacity, then do get in touch and we will keep your details on file, until we start planning in earnest.

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 JANUARY FULL COUNCIL MEETING...

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

PF/23/2598 – Proposal; Erection of car port and alterations to access/boundary walls at, **Southgate, Wiveton Road, Blakeney. Resolved – No objection**, although we do endorse the comments made by both the Conservation & Design Team and the Landscape Team.

PF/23/2642 – Proposal; Erection of two-storey front extension, raising of roof of single-storey side extensions, insertion of dormer windows on front and rear and external alterations at, **29 The Pastures, Blakeney. Resolved; No objection**, but we do wish to include the CPRE Standard Light Pollution Clause; i.e. **Standard Light Pollution Clause;** National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Clause 191c and Norfolk County Council's Environmental Lighting Zones Policy both recognise the importance of preserving dark landscapes and dark skies. In order to minimise the light pollution, we recommend that, if this application is permitted, any outdoor lights associated with the development should be:

- 1) Fully shielded (enclosed in full cut-off flat glass fittings)
- 2) Directed downwards (mounted horizontally to the ground and not tilted upwards)
- 3) Switched on only when needed (no dusk to dawn lamps)
- 4) White light low-energy lamps (preferably LED's*) and not orange or pink sodium sources.

**Ideally with a colour temperature of 3,000K or 3,500K.*

FINANCE

Accounts totalling £13,885.91 were approved.

Agreed to request the sum of £48,015 from NNDC as the **2024/25 Precept** figure.

Reports from Representatives on Other Committees/Groups;

Blakeney Surgery – Cllr Nigel Sutcliffe firstly wished to note his formal thanks to Rosemary Thew, for stepping in during his absence.

- We have now received a response from the Nfk & Waveney ICB to our letter dated 6th Oct 2023. Their response is unsatisfactory and hence we will be replying to them accordingly, and suggest that they reply within a week, before we go to the media.
- The Clerk will ask Katie Franklin for a copy of the formal submission of Holt Medical Practice. The final decision is due on 13th February 2024. This will be an open meeting

- held in Norwich and our District Cllr is due to attend.

permission PF/23/1577 to allow for amendments to approved design – **Approved.**

Dinghy Park Committee – Cllr Rosemary Thew advised that the committee met last week, and mentioned a number of items, i.e. the future of winter permits, security/thefts and prevention and charging v donations. (All in DP minutes.)

CORRESPONDENCE –

Members noted the information from NNDC regarding the **Affordable Housing Crisis** in the district and Blakeney. It was suggested that we make enquiries with regard any potential **£106 money, (proposed allocated site on Langham Road)**, asap, ie. mark in sand, to be used by BPC for the benefit of the parish.

Members received an update with regard **The Parish Room**, formerly known as the Scout Hut;

- Full responsibility of this building now lies with BPC
- Insurance is in place
- The room is now being advertised in the pages of the GVN
- NNDC are now looking into Business Rates
- Looking into possible other future uses of the building either as a standalone, or with other BPC buildings
- Bookings need to increase to cover running costs
- Future use is currently uncertain; may have to consider commercial use
- *Further updates will be given in due course*

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

- i) **PF/23/1673 – Midsummer Cottage, Old Rectory Lane, Blakeney** – Alterations and extensions to single storey dwelling including replacement roof with higher ridge and dormers to form a one and half storey dwelling - **Approved.**
- ii) **LA/23/1640 – 16 Westgate Street, Blakeney** – Internal and external works including reinstatement of west elevation window, replacement flat roof incorporating flat roof light and external soil vent pipe to south elevations - Approved.
- iii) **LA/23/2199 – Ivy House, 121 High Street, Blakeney** – Internal and external works associated with renovation of dwelling – **Refused.**
- iv) **RV/23/2332 – 8 Langham Road, Blakeney** – 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


YOUR SERVING PARISH COUNCILLORS ARE: -

Rosemary Thew – 740555 – Moonraker, Back Lane
 Nigel Sutcliffe – 741714 – Dallinga, 71 Morston Road
 Jenny Girling – 741048 – 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

Next Full Council meeting; Tuesday 6th February 2024.

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

Just turn up or contact Mary on 07875 676663

The Fourth February Film Festival – ‘It’s Love, actually’

Between Friday 16th and Sunday 18th February Holt Community Centre will be hosting a festival of Love and Romance, in conjunction with The Holt Bookshop. This will involve interviews with authors, followed by a showing of a favourite film of their choice. Individual tickets £5.00. **Early Bird Offer**, weekend ticket, £20 for all 7 films, available till the end of January. **Refreshments will be available throughout the festival weekend.**

FRIDAY 16TH FEBRUARY

6.00 - Bar open & refreshments available.

Continuous film show: ‘Love is All’ (12) (2014) (74 mins) -

8.00pm – 9.53pm FILM

SATURDAY 17TH FEBRUARY

10.30am – 12.00noon FREE CHILDREN’S FILM, ‘Lady and the Tramp’ (U) (1955) Animated Musical Romance (1h 16m), pyjama party, (nightwear optional), and **Best Dressed Teddy competition.**

1.00pm – 3.00pm FILMS

‘Love At First Sight’ (PG) (2010) Comedy/Romance (12 mins)

‘While You Were Sleeping’ (PG) (1995) Comedy/Romance (1h 43m)

3.30pm – 5.30pm FILM

‘Four Weddings and A Funeral’ (15) (1994) Comedy/Romance (1h 57m)

7.30pm – 10.00pm FILM

‘Cinema Paradiso’ (PG) (1988) Drama/Romance (2hrs 35m) foreign film with subtitles

SUNDAY 18TH FEBRUARY

10.00am – 1.00pm FILM

‘The English Patient’ (15) (1996) Romance/War (2h 42m)

3.00pm - 5.00pm FILM

‘A Room With A View’ (PG) (1985) Romance/Thriller (1h 57m)

6.00pm – 7.30pm FILM

‘Brief Encounter’ (PG) (1945) Romance/Thriller (1h 26m)

Plus:

‘Love is All’ (12) (2014) (74 mins) **will be shown throughout the weekend in the lounge bar.**

Love is All takes us on a journey through the Twentieth Century, exploring love and courtship in all of its shapes and sizes on the silver screen across decades of unprecedented social upheaval. From the first kisses caught on film, through the disruptions of war and on to the birth of youth culture, free love and gay liberation, we follow courting couples as they flirt at tea dances, kiss in the back row, shack up together and fight for their right to love whoever they choose.

This celluloid love letter is directed by Kim Longinotto (*Divorce Iranian Style*) and edited by Ollie Huddleston (*From the Sea to the Land Beyond*) using a selection of footage from British archives, including the BFI National Archive and the Yorkshire Film Archive, all set to a Richard Hawley soundtrack.

‘Expressions of Love’ - Community photographic exhibition

Submit your own ‘Expressions of Love’ – ‘What you love’ or ‘What Love means to you’ – the people, places, animals, and/or things. These will be displayed in our own black and white film strip, around the main hall of the Community Centre. Two free tickets, to the film of your choice, will be awarded to the entry that, in the view of the judges, best expresses ‘Love, actually!’. **Photos** need to be JPEGs and at least 300dpi (i.e. a good file size photo) and **need to be submitted by the end of Sunday 4th February by email to The Holt Bookshop** – please include your name and contact details. A final selection will be made by the Film Committee and displayed in the Community Centre throughout the weekend. This is open to EVERYONE – so feel free to join in with us to share the love.

Please support the annual February Film Festival

If you like the idea of a film festival, please come to as many films as you can. Even better **consider buying a £20.00 weekend ticket** – giving you entry to 7 films for the price of 4, even if you can’t manage to come to all the screenings. We have to purchase a Public Video Screening Licence for each of the films shown, needing to sell at least 20 tickets for each film to cover this cost, so buying a weekend ticket will therefore help make the festival financially viable.

All profits go to Holt Community Centre charity, and The Community Café.

Tickets on sale now at The Holt Bookshop in Lion House Court sales@holtbookshop.co.uk; Tel: 01263 –715858. Individual tickets £5.00. **CHILDREN’S FILM FREE. Early Bird Offer**, weekend ticket £20 for all 7 films, available till the end of January.

COFFEE BREAK

February Sudokus

EASY

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

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

MEDIUM

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

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

Hard

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

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

Quotable Quotes on Truth

If you tell the truth you don't have to remember anything.

Mark Twain

Once you eliminate the impossible, whatever remains, no matter how improbable, must be the truth.

Arthur Conan Doyle

A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its pants on.

Winston Churchill

Even if you are in a minority of one, the truth is the truth.

Mahatma Gandhi

Lightenings vii

The annals say: when the monks of Clonmacnoise
Were all at prayers inside the oratory
A ship appeared above them in the air.

The anchor dragged along behind so deep
It hooked itself into the altar rails
And then, as the big hull rocked to a standstill,

A crewman shinned and grappled down the rope
And struggled to release it. But in vain.
'This man can't bear our life here and will drown,'

The abbot said, 'unless we help him.' So
They did, the freed ship sailed, and the man
climbed back
Out of the marvellous as he had known it.

Seamus Heaney

Colin Lloyd

Painter and decorator
Cley next the Sea

Wallpapering a specialty

Please Tel: 07790 580121

Lloyd.colin1959@gmail.com

Monthly Memory Swap

Future Dates for 'John Jarvis's Monthly Memory Swap' for 2024

(Usually the third Tuesday of the month)

Tuesday February 13th

Tuesday March 19th

Tuesday April 16th

Tuesday May 21st

Tuesday June 18th, and possibly Tuesday July 16th (?)

We take a break in August and start again on:

Tuesday September the 17th

Tuesday October 15th

Tuesday November 19th

Tuesday December 10th

**All from 2pm to 4pm-ish.
The Venue, Holt Community Centre**

**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
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WHERE: Langham Road, Blakeney (same site as the Village Hall)

Other venues and car parking, too large or too small; then give us a look.

For more information or to take a look inside the PARISH ROOM, please call 01263 741106 or email clerk@blakeneyparishcouncil.gov.uk



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Thoughts from the Rectory For February

Dear Friends,

February sometimes feels a bit of a dead month, with Christmas and New Year behind us, but Easter and spring still a distance away. Not so this year, I think! There is a lot going on in our churches, for a number of reasons.

Starting at the beginning of the month will be our next Alpha Course, which will run at Blakeney Church on Thursday evenings starting on 1st February, and continuing until 21st March. The sessions run from 7.15-9.30, and each session includes a meal, a film presentation, and small group discussion. The course is an overview of the Christian faith, in relaxed and informal surroundings, and a chance to explore issues of faith – especially helpful if we're new to the church or interested in finding out more. If you pick this up by the turn of the month and would like to join us, you might still be able to squeeze in at the last minute! Do get in touch. All welcome!

Also, over the first weekend of February, is "Winterfest", in Cley, a mixture of wonderful concerts and events to warm the soul! You will probably have seen publicity about this around the villages and elsewhere, and more details can be found on our website (glavenvalleychurches.org.uk). But in brief, it comprises:

Thursday 1st Feb: "A Wintry Fireside" – a celebration of winter in words and music, Cley Church, 3.00-3.45pm (free admission; retiring collection).

Friday 2nd Feb: "A Winter Warmer" – pie, mash & pudding at the Three Swallows pub in Cley, 6.00-8.30pm (£20 per head; advance booking required on 740816, quoting "Winterfest Menu").

Saturday 3rd Feb: "A Winter's Journey" – Schubert's wonderful song cycle 'Winterreise', with winter refreshments (hot dogs, hot chocolate, mulled wine, cake), Cley Church, 7.00-8.15

(advance booking on cleychurchwinter.eventbrite.co.uk). Do come to whatever intrigues you, and enjoy it with us!

Easter is very early this year (31st March), and so the season of Lent which precedes it also starts early. Ash Wednesday falls on 14th February this year, which is also, of course, Valentine's Day – that should make for an interesting combination of solemnity and celebration! As ever, there will be a service of Holy Communion and Ashing on Wednesday 14th at Cley Church in the morning, and no doubt, some different personal celebrations later in the day. And alongside that, of course, will be all our regular events and services.

Whatever February holds for you, we wish you much pleasure and fulfilment, as we enjoy the stark beauty of winter and begin to look forward to the promise of spring.

God bless you, 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:

BENEFICE OFFICE 01263 740583

Please note the new email address for the Benefice Administrator Nicola Turner is as follows:

admin@glavenvalleybenefice.org.uk

The Benefice Office is open Monday to Friday from 10am to 3pm.

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
--------------	--------------

Wiveton

Stephen de Loynes	07975 813057
Charles Killin	01263 741744

Funerals:

We were very saddened by the death of George Kendall just before Christmas. A Memorial Service for George took place on Monday 29th January at Blakeney Church, where he was such a stalwart for many years, along with Liz.

There will also be a service at Blakeney Church for Philippa Allibone, daughter of Tony & Celia Allibone, who died in January, but at the time of writing, the date of her funeral has yet to be confirmed. Please remember their families at this time.

St Peter's RC Church, Back Lane, Blakeney

Mass Sunday - 11am, Mass Wednesday - 9.30am

Holyday of Obligation 9.30am

www.catholicparishofwalsingham.org



**FEBUARY 2024
SERVICE SCHEDULE**

SUNDAY 4th	<i>Presentation of Christ (tr.)</i>	
8.00	Holy Communion (BCP)	Wiveton
9.30	HC (CW) [<i>& live-streamed</i>]	Blakeney
11.15	Holy Communion (BCP)	Letheringsett
4.00	Sacred Space	Cley
Wed 7th	Holy Communion (BCP) 10.00am	Cley
SUNDAY 11th	<i>Sunday before Lent</i>	
9.30	Praise & Worship [<i>& live-streamed</i>]	Blakeney
11.15	Holy Communion (BCP)	Glandford
6.00	Service of Meditation	Wiveton
Wed 14th - Ash Wed	Holy Communion (BCP) 10.00am	Cley
SUNDAY 18th	<i>Lent 1</i>	
9.30	Celtic HC with Healing [<i>& live-streamed</i>]	Blakeney
9.30	Morning Prayer (CW)	Letheringsett
11.15	Café Church	Cley
6.30	Evensong (BCP)	Wiveton
Wed 21st	Holy Communion (BCP) 10.00am	Cley
SUNDAY 25th	<i>Lent 2</i>	
8.00	Holy Communion (BCP)	Cley
9.30	Holy Communion (CW) [<i>& live-streamed</i>]	Blakeney
11.15	Family Service (All-Age)	Wiveton
3.30	Evensong (BCP)	Glandford

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

As ever, do check out our website for more information: 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.
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Glaven Valley Bereavement Support Group

will meet on Monday 12th February
at Merchants House, Blakeney

4.00pm to 5.30pm.

Anyone who has suffered
bereavement is very welcome.

Refreshments at 3.50pm

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email: ride@e-motioncycles.co.uk or call James on: 07976 523960

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

RALEIGH

HAIBIHE

Cley

Thursdays@Three

February 1st No 97 A Wintry Fireside

Julian Godlee (bass) Sarah De Bats (flute) Harriet Cooper (narrator) Brenda Blewett (piano) Wyatt Earp (flute) John Glasspool (narrator) Adrian Taunton (script writer)

February 8th No 98 Mostly Baroque

Ian Summers (Bassoon) Wyatt Earp (flute) Angela Dugdale (piano)

February 15th No 99 Music for Valentine's Day

Katharine Jones (Soprano) Melissa Sampson (Soprano) Mark Jones (piano)

February 22nd No 100 Centenary Celebrations!

A Special Birthday Bash to celebrate our 100th concert

Julian Godlee (bass)

Paul Hands (narrator)

Brenda Blewett (piano)

Wyatt Earp (flute)

Steve Benson (narrator)

Geraldine Green (clarinet)

Angela Dugdale (piano)

Richard Clothier (narrator)

Sarah De Bats (flute)

Richard Newton (piano)

Sue Andrews (narrator)

February 29th No 101 Barbershop Chorus

The Sam Smith Singers

Dan Earp: conductor

Other Events in Cley Church

February 3rd

7.00 – 8.15pm A Winter's Journey

Schubert's Die Winterreise

Julian Godlee (bass)

Brenda Blewett (piano)

Wyatt Earp (01263 740902 wejearp@gmail.com)

Hello, to all garden owners in Cley.
You have guessed it **WE NEED YOUR HELP.**

Following a very successful weekend 2 years ago, we will be holding another **OPEN GARDENS on 29/30th JUNE 2024** and would like you and your garden to make this happen.

There are no specific criteria, just your willingness to open your garden to the public on both days between 12.00 to 5pm (last ticket sold at 4pm). We hope for a variety of gardens in any size and including allotments.

If you have any further queries and would like to open your garden, please contact me on 01263 740987.

The monies raised will be split between the Wheely Boat and Cley Harbour

Many thanks for your consideration, hoping to hear from you.

Kaye Read, 01263 740987

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



NWT North
Norfolk Group
and
Cley Bird Club
and



North East Norfolk Bird Club

February meeting

The Work of the Rare Breeding Birds Panel
Illustrated Talk by Dawn Balmer

In addition to being a keen Norfolk birder, Dawn Balmer is the chair of the Rare Birds Breeding Panel, which monitors the status of the rare and scarce breeding birds in the UK. She will present an illustrated talk on how the work of the panel contributes to the conservation of these birds.

This joint event between the North Norfolk Group of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Cley Bird Club and North East Norfolk Bird Club is on **Thursday February 15th 2024** at 7.30 p.m. in Cley Village Hall.

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

**Forthcoming meeting – date for your diary:
21st March**

Whale Detective: uncovering the Surprising History of whales and Dolphins in Norfolk – Carl Chapman

CLEY WI

Programme February & March 2024

Feb 1st ***A Nice Cup of Tea***

Terry Rollinson unveils the dark history of the world's favourite drink

Mar 7th ***Scams & Fraudulent Doorstep Callers***

Angela Gifford outlines the steps to take to avoid them

Cley Village Hall, NR25 7RJ, at 2.30pm

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

Further details 01263 740814

Cley Parish Council's Chairman's Report

We have more speed data from our SAM2 speed camera, this time on Blakeney Hill, which is a 20mph zone. The average speed was 25mph, and the 85th centile speed 30mph, this is obviously much too high. We are waiting to hear what our beat policeman suggests we can do to make this stretch of road safer.

We are required by law to adopt a biodiversity policy for the parish which aims to conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the area. Given we are fortunate to live in such a unspoilt rural landscape this is especially important. The draft policy is on the website.

With NNDCs help, we are drafting up policies for our Neighbourhood Plan and will be holding consultation events to hear your comments later this spring.

The full answers from Anglian Water from our December meeting are on the website if you are interested to find out more! If anyone wants to help with water testing in the lower Glaven please get in touch with the clerk.

The proposed closure of Blakeney Surgery will be discussed at the next meeting of the Primary Care Commissioning Committee of the Integrated Care Board on February 13th.

We have a few plots still available on our friendly, sociable allotments if you fancy growing your own fruit and veg!

We are buying more 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 February 8th 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 spring season of Thursdays@Three has started!

This runs till March 21st and the summer season starts April 18th. Special highlights include a celebration of Winter on Thursday February 1st, Music for Valentines Day on Thursday February 15th, our 100th concert celebrations on Thursday February 22nd and Operatic Favourites with the North Norfolk Opera on Thursday April 15th.

Do look out for our WinterFest February 1st-3rd. Thursday Feb 1st Thursdays@Three hosts a 'Winter Fireside' with words and music to celebrate winter. On Friday Feb 2nd feast on a winter warmer at The Three Swallows with pie, mash and pudding. Saturday February 3rd enjoy a evocative performance of Schubert's legendary song cycle, Winterreise, with Julian Godlee and Brenda Blewett. Wrap up warmly, sip hot chocolate or mulled wine and indulge in a German sausage and apple cake from 6pm. Inclusive tickets are only £15 from Eventbrite on Cleychurchwinter@eventbrite.co.uk.

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 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. There is optional bingo with chocolate and other goodies as prizes from 2-3.30! We don't charge, but any donations go towards the running costs.

Coastal Beauty Blakeney
Now open in Blakeney, fully insured and ABT Accredited Beauty Therapy.

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By Appointment only,
please contact
Rebecca 07557532844



Holt and District Branch – Coffee Morning

The Holt and District Branch of the Royal British Legion is holding a Veteran's and Families Coffee morning at the Methodist Church Hall in Holt on Thursday 29th February 1030am – 1230pm. Tea, coffee and an assortment of homemade cakes for a donation will be on offer. A raffle will be held and all proceeds will go to support the work of the Branch.

Everyone is welcome, you don't have to be a veteran, or have connection to the military. Come and learn about the Royal British Legion and what we do and have a chat with our members.

If you are unable to come to the coffee morning, but you are interested in the work of the Royal British Legion and would like to discuss becoming a member of the Branch or get involved in the annual Poppy Collection, please contact Lauren Griffiths. Honorary Secretary on 01263 663178 or, 07850 649160,

or by email: Holt.Secretary@rbl.community

Wiveton

The Friends of Wiveton Church

I have taken over the role as Chair of The Friends of Wiveton Church from Anthea.

At the event we held just before Christmas to celebrate the end of the HLF project, we thanked Anthea for her role as Chair for the past few years and also Nicola and Frances who decided to step down from the committee at the end of the project. The Friends and supporters generated a lot of income to help towards the restoration work through some fantastic events.

Emma Bridgewater Wiveton Church Mug

There are still have some of these very beautiful mugs left, 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, please contact Susi Killin - suzikillin64@gmail.com


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

January's 1st Prize Winner were the Tyler's, with

a prize of £65 .

There are 5 prizes drawn each month £65, £30, £20, £10 & £5. Email wivetonfriends@gmail.com to find out how to join.

Victoria Egan

High Kelling Art

Interested in joining our small friendly art group? We meet each Tuesday from 10.00am - 1.00pm in High Kelling Village Hall

Please contact:
Annie Haynes on
07919 242672 or
01263 012693

Annie.haynes@me.com

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storage basket, good batteries,
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If interested please telephone Sarah
Woodhouse. 01263 740935

Glandford

No news from Glandford this month

Letheringsett

No news from Letheringsett this month

MUSIC AND MERRIMENT AT BRISTON!

When the Briston Organ Shows started back in 2005, our first player was selected to introduce super live music and laughter to the good folk of Norfolk - and he certainly did that, so much so that he has become a regular visitor over the years, and he is back again to give you the best evening of live entertainment ever!

His name is Tony Stace, and he will be playing for us all on Friday February 9th, at 7.30pm, at the Copeman Centre, Hall Street, Briston, NR24 2LG (what3words ///fresh.mended.nutty). - tickets are available now at just £8 each, by 'phoning Carol on 01263 860844, and advance booking is essential for a performer as popular as this! Our venue is warm and comfy, and has wide level access ideal for disabled visitors, and there is plentiful free parking right outside the door!

Tony plays music to suit all tastes, and between numbers he will have you in fits of giggles with his crazy anecdotes. If you've never been to one of our shows before, make it a New Year's resolution to start getting out more and having a good time! The shows raise funds for the Centre itself, and also for the ORBIS Flying Eye Hospital.

Will you be joining us? Of course, you will!



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For more information on these or other roles please email
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THE GREAT BLAKENEY BREAKFAST! in St Nicholas' Church, Blakeney

will be held on

Wednesday 7th February 2024

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 21st February**
12noon to 2.00pm.

During these cold winter months we are serving a variety of delicious homemade soups followed by a choice of homemade desserts. It's a great place to bring friends and to make new ones. Visitors to Blakeney are very welcome.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Happy New Year from all the Crew at Langham Dome Museum!

Our Membership Secretary, Fiona Pridham, stepped down at the end of December after having done a sterling job in the position for the past 3 years. She made major improvements to the system in that time, including all of the renewals now coming around annually.

Hence, we are urgently looking for a suitable person to fill the role. It is a voluntary position, but it is a vital part of the Dome's well being. Without our FoLD Members the museum would almost certainly be in jeopardy.

If you feel you are THAT person, please contact Deborah Preston at deborahlangdome@gmail.com

I hope you will all put Sunday 21st July in your diaries!

The Dome will be celebrating several important anniversaries. We are busy putting together a great Open Day for all the family. Please advertise it to all your family and friends.

As in past Open Days it will be FREE to enter, but there will be collection buckets being rattled and the chance to purchase the Grand Draw tickets, with cash prizes of £950 being given away, when it is drawn in October. (*Please see the full poster at GVN Online*).

We took the decision, this year, to leave the Spitfire on its plinth through the winter! It is both time consuming on both the Trustees, and Volunteers, and costly to lift her off, dismantle her and then cart her to the Barns at the other end of the village. Then doing it all in reverse in the spring. There is also a degree of risk involved that something might go wrong, something breaking or someone being in the wrong place at the wrong time. So why take the risk if 'Douglas' (the pilot!) is happy to sit up there all winter. So far she has weathered the autumn and winter storms admirably. Our aim is to get a cherry picker up there next spring and give her a wash and polish ready for the season.

I decided to step down as manager at the end of December, and have now moved across into Administration. The role of Manager has been taken over by our experienced Scott Eltringham who will, I'm certain, be more than up to the task. It will be one of his priorities to get more local schools to come and try our hands-on history experience. He will be advertising for new volunteers to join us this year. He had 14 volunteers this past season who made a heroic effort to fill the Rota. Many doing extra shifts to cover shortages.

If you are interested please contact Scott on manager@langhamdome.org

Deborah Preston. Administrator

fEAST Theatre. Coming soon

The Hollyhock Trilogy

fEAST Theatre one of the region's leading touring theatre companies will be bringing a brand-new show to venues across Norfolk in February and March.

Written by Rob John (The Canada Boys / Rosa Mendoza) *The Hollyhock Trilogy* presents three strange but poignant love stories. A woman reveals an unrequited passion for her postman, an aging trapeze artist dreams of the beautiful woman who dropped him and a chance remark about hollyhocks changes the lives of two strangers for ever.

'We want to take our audience on three separate but connected journeys,' says Rob John. 'This is a show about people in love but it's also a show about story-telling; the magic of sitting down in a darkened room and listening to a story.'

Starring Owen Evans (The Nimmo Twins) and Dawn Finnerty (The Canada Boys /Rosa Mendoza) fEAST Theatre promises that 'these darkly funny tales of loneliness and lust are guaranteed to warm the coldest winter evening.'

The Hollyhock Trilogy

29th February: Wells Maltings

1st March: Westacre Theatre

7th March: Sedgeford Village Hall

8th March: The Corn Hall Diss

14th March: Aylsham Town Hall

15th March: Sheringham Little Theatre

17th March: Old Buckenham Village Hall. 2.30pm

Dawn Finnerty, 07713 153124

News from Duncan Baker MP

Our extended Ukrainian family continue to be very much part of our lives and we spent Christmas Day altogether with Anna and Sviatik opening presents, as part of our family so the children were altogether. As the war shows no sign of ending, we continue to look after this little family, and will do so until the end. Just before Christmas though, Anna was keen to see the Thursford Christmas Spectacular. Apparently, there is nothing like it in Ukraine! So, it was lovely to take her and we were lucky enough to meet up with John Cushing, the incredible brains behind the show. Needless to say, Anna thought the show was absolutely marvellous.

East Runton may get its Blue Flag back again

Wonderful news for all of us that campaign to improve our water quality. At the start of the month, the Environment Agency released the testing results for our North Norfolk beaches. None of our beaches went backwards, and in fact East Runton was restored to being assessed as having excellent water quality again. I quickly wrote to NNDC to request East Runton is given their Blue Flag back and they replied to say they will submit an application to do just this. It means that a majority of 4 out of our 7 beaches have been rated 'excellent' and 3 are assessed as 'good'.

On top of this, my constant campaigning to have more testing and new laws to clean up our water companies is bearing fruit. This is despite the constant misinformation of rival political parties that has worried residents and damaged businesses with their dishonest information, all for political gain. I am glad they have been proved wrong!

The Sheringham roundabout

I think we are gearing up for some amazing news with this key project of mine this year. To improve the safety and congestion on the A148 at the Holway Road junction, I have been campaigning for the government to help us with the funding to build a roundabout in Sheringham. Residents from Cromer to Sheringham to Holt, and all the villages in-between, want to see this built. It will of course also improve all the rat running through the villages of Beeston Regis and Upper Sheringham.

I am now in the final stages of negotiating the roundabout to be included in the 'Levelling Up' deal for Norfolk. If agreed, when the deal is finally announced, we could see the money delivered as part of the overall County package. It would mean we finally get the money to build the roundabout, which everyone tells me they are desperate to see delivered!

I won't give up my campaign or negotiations to get this project delivered. If shoehorning the roundabout into this Norfolk deal gets it delivered, I will do everything I can.

Tackling coastal erosion

The last debate in Parliament for 2023 was regarding coastal erosion in Norfolk and Suffolk. It was vital that I remained in Parliament until the very end to be in the debate, to represent the many communities that suffer from this issue.

Experts predict that in the next 85 years, 1,000 homes could be at risk. With rising sea levels due to global warming and more extreme weather patterns, it is almost certain that we will see erosion speed up. Currently we see between 30cm to 2m of erosion along our coast each year. But some places have seen far more, such as Happisburgh, in just the last few months.

I have been campaigning for more support, although we have done well in North Norfolk in terms of funding to support our changing coast. We were the first area in the entire country to receive special funding under the coastal transition accelerator programme (CTAP). We received £15m to help areas such as Overstrand, Trimmingham, Bacton and Happisburgh to plan for the future. We have £20m coming to bolster sea defences in Mundesley and Cromer and I will keep calling for future investment in Walcott and the surrounding area for the sand-scaping project that has protected the village and gas terminal.

I will always do what I can to protect our coastal communities.

Flooding public meeting

With storm Babet causing havoc and more continued wet weather during December, I have arranged a major public meeting to discuss how we tackle the ever-increasing flooding we have seen across the constituency. Most of the problems have occurred in the East of our region.

Particularly Potter Heigham, Hickling and Horning. But of course, we have had flooding in the Glaven Valley and Sheringham too.

You are most welcome to attend the meeting on the 2nd February at Hickling Parish Hall. We will have representatives from NCC, the Environment Agency, the Internal Drainage Board, Anglian Water and Henry Cator, the Chair of the Flood Resilience Forum coming. The Broads Authority will also be present to represent their areas of expertise.

Walking Rugby: Fun And Fitness Combined

Ready for an enjoyable sporting experience? Want to get active in 2024? You do? Well, Walking Rugby could provide you with the answers. Every Wednesday at 6.45 pm, winter and summer, enthusiasts gather at Fakenham Rugby Club to take part in a great game played in a sporting and sociable atmosphere.

The activity is open to all levels of ability and the rules can be very quickly learned. There are no scrums or lineouts. After some warm-up activities, two teams face each other across a reduced pitch: players walk, pass as in traditional rugby and tackle by touching an opponent with two hands. Games last for an hour with more than one stop for tactical discussions.

Participants, men and women, are usually over fifty and made up of those with no rugby experience, some past rugby experience or maybe some experience of other team games. All who play agree that Walking Rugby is fun! So, come along and enjoy a new activity. You will be made very welcome. Your first session will be free, and coaching will be available at every step. For more information, look at our website at www.pitchero.com/clubs/fakenhamrufc.

You can also contact the organiser, Jeffrey Pearce, at jdpearce@btinternet.com. Hope to see you soon.

Barry Howes

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Blakeney Area Historical Society

**Tuesday 27th February at
2:30pm**

Cley Village Hall

Whaling from Norfolk

Charles Lewis

Tuesday 26th March at 2:30pm

Cley Village Hall

**Crisis Before the
Shipwreck: The Gloucester
and Oliver Cromwell's
Western Design, 1654-
1656**

Dr Benjamin Redding

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*If any talks may be held on Zoom
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information emails.*

Further Information & Updates

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Letter's & Articles

Into the Future?

I'm going to kick this off with an analogy that I hope will illustrate the sheer velocity of the moment we are in, of our headlong rush into the unknown.

1. A recent metaphor posed by Tim Urban was for us to look at human history as a book with 1000 pages; so, taking the human species to be 250,000 years old each page would be 250 years. For almost all of the book nothing happens, we are hunter-gatherers for thousands of years. Small improvements in hunting skills, preparing food and killing each other perhaps but otherwise little changes. Civilisations like Egypt, Mesopotamia, and the Indus Valley don't appear until page 970. Christ isn't born until page 993 and it isn't until page 1000 that the modern world begins and the technological boom we are in fills the last few paragraphs.

Modern technological development is accelerating exponentially. Compared to all those past millennia we are rushing at breakneck speed in a vehicle that has no driver and no brakes. It's easy to assume that every leap forward in technology is a leap forward in benefit, but this is not always the case. Technological innovation, particularly of the fast-paced kind we see today is full of possible benefits but also fraught with risk. There has never been a shortage of dystopian visions, of ways in which we can/might /or will destroy ourselves. Intellectual optimists like Steven Pinker think that as a sentient species, we have the 'capacity' to come up with antidotes to most of them, but do we? I think it unlikely as idealistic aspirations are usually eclipsed by the unstoppable momentum of the masses. As the biologist E O Wilson commented, our problem is that we have palaeolithic emotions, medieval institutions and God-like technology. Just like an uncontrolled 'crowd rush' we are propelling ourselves forward en masse where instinct (we are still animals after all) rather than intellect is at the helm.

Exploding population, climate change, digital technology, AI, Gene Manipulation, and a connectivity unimaginable to previous generations are all propelling us into the unknown; what we can envisage is exciting, but also frightening, what we cannot is almost certainly going to be much more terrifying. There seems to be an inevitability about our relentless forward momentum that no person or group can guide. New technologies appearing before the last have been assimilated, a war as in Ukraine driving high-speed development of weapons that will change warfare forever. Clouds of AI-controlled drones the size of your hand that have more killing capacity than the fifth army, and individual ones that can pick a person off in the street.

Indeed AI, perhaps the most frightening of all, Elon Musk predicts that soon new algorithms will vastly exceed human intelligence, but as usual money and complacency will hamper any attempts to protect us against it. Anyone who says that AI poses no threat doesn't know what they are

talking about. Back in the days of the Wright brothers, when they were making aeroplanes that you peddled and were made out of sticks and paper, they could not have dreamed of Concord or the A380 Airbus, and neither can we with AI, all we know is that what it may do is beyond our imagination. The threat that I see is that we are creating our successors, and perhaps that is what we are meant to do.

At the recent AI summit at Bletchley Park, the discussion was about how AI could be policed or regulated. How can you police something smarter than you are, don't they think it will see it coming? If it were possible, which it isn't, a pause in this headlong rush might give us a moment to consider before we jump into an age where we will almost certainly be extra to requirements. A chance to investigate how we might adapt ourselves to keep pace with an intelligence unimaginably superior to our own. Could we modify ourselves to keep pace? A symbiosis of man and machine might be a way. Current concerns among those who haven't recognised the full significance of AI's potential are that this technology will deprive millions of their jobs. That's what the Luddites thought, but every advance brings new work, there are already countless robots doing what we used to do, but new technologies create new jobs, how many for example now work in the unforeseen world of IT or building wind farms?

Steven Pinker makes the optimistic point that we should not assume that a superior AI intellect would necessarily be as bloodthirsty as we are, or rather as men are, he sites women as an example of intellect without dominating ambitions (clearly, he is not a hen-pecked husband) but does he have a point? I don't think so, AI is on the verge of moving beyond a point where any human being can follow. Quantum computers are just around the corner, they can compute in seconds what a conventional computer would take years to accomplish, couple that with AI and we will be like our dogs and cats are to us. Steven Pinker's view that they may not be malevolent might hold. But their total disregard for us would make us superfluous and therefore dispensable and AI not having human altruism could, without noticing brush us aside. Even if we were to come up with working constraints it seems likely to me that AI will make its greatest advances in warfare, where international competition will eclipse any mechanisms that are put in place to contain or constrain the deadliness of the weapons it creates.

What seems like wonderful progress in gene splicing and virus control can be used for more sinister purposes, viruses can be altered and made more deadly, and the information to do this is online for anyone to access. It is beginning to look as if Covid 19 may have been created in a laboratory, how difficult then would it be to go a step further and manipulate it to leave no survivors? And anyway, most developed countries already have shelves of bottled viruses that could kill everyone on the planet. Incomprehensibly the H5N1 avian flu virus has been picked up and altered to make it more contagious. At this point, I can see you putting this down and saying for goodness sake just forget it. This seems to be exactly what the Western world is doing, turning the other way, in a

state of denial, fiddling while Rome burns, or as the apocryphal tale goes, like the senators of Byzantium in closed session debating the sex of angels while the Ottoman hoards were breaking down the gates of their city. For us today it's like a coach full of people hurtling down a hill with no driver and the passengers squabbling among themselves about who should sit where.

All of this is tangled up in a strange dichotomy of values, where on the one hand we seem to be moving into a post-truth era, where deceit, duplicity and disinformation are becoming de rigueur; politicians lie without shame and the government and the media freely peddle disinformation. All of which erodes trust, which is the bedrock on which civil society rests, but add to this the new culture of oppressive thought and language control and we are being disabused of the tools we need to address all of the above. It's as if a weather front is passing through the 'social atmosphere' as George Orwell called it, blowing away reason and rationality and leaving a trail of unreason and irrationality behind it, earlier societies valued the wisdom of age and experience, today we are being guided by the immature ideas of ultra-sensitive juveniles, a world where what people 'believe' supersedes what is real; so not just post-truth but post reason. I believe that it is this, more than any of the aforesaid risks threatens to pull the rug out from under civilised society. Because Trust, Free Speech, Reason and Rational Discourse are the vital cogs of a civilised society.

G.S.

A Memory of Princess Diana

Many years ago, I was working for the Papworth Trust in the village of Papworth Everard near Cambridge. The village had originally been set up to provide housing, care and meaningful employment alongside the able bodied for those returning from awful world conflicts.

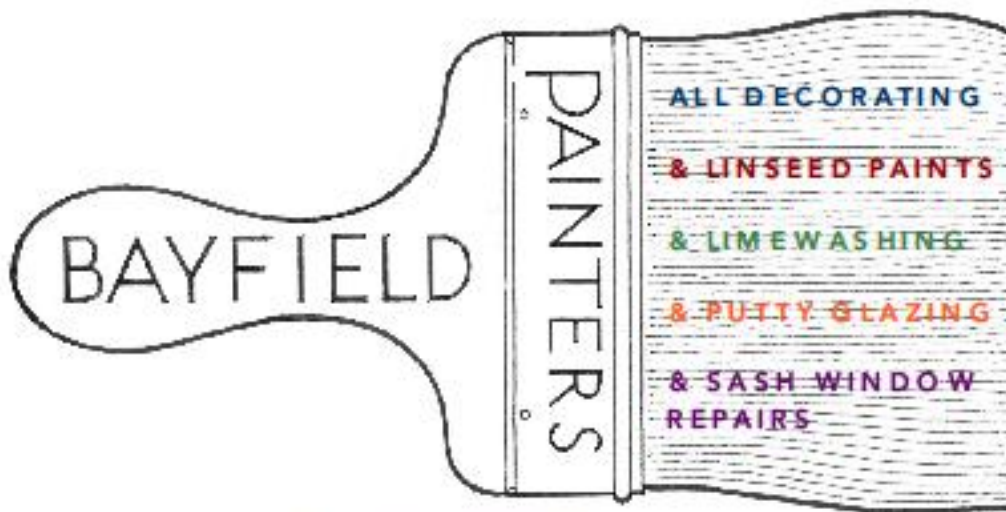
Princess Diana arrived accompanied by a burly security man who tried to keep her as isolated from contact with people as he could. This was not for Diana!

She insisted on walking through the village so as to meet as many people as she could. In all the various workshops and clinics. Her last port of call was the Electronics workshop where I was stationed at the time. She was meeting and chatting to all and sundry when something happened which we had all been dreading. One of the people working in the shop was an extremely burly man called Jeremy who suffered from a form of epilepsy called Tourette's Syndrome which sometimes caused the sufferer to shout out very loudly, something extremely rude. As Diana was happily chatting to people in the shop the thing, we were all expecting and dreading.

At the top of his voice, Jeremy yelled !!!!!WHEELBARROWS!!! A moments awful silence broken by Diana, bursting out laughing as we all then did!

I guess she might have been warned what to expect but she saved the day, bless her. A lovely lady who did not deserve the end she met.

David Allen



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YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

In October 2022, St Nicholas' Church set up a programme of support for people in the Benefice and set aside £5,000 to help families and the elderly in our villages through these difficult times.

In addition to this, we received some wonderful donations which have enabled us to continue with our support and provide a Food Bank in St Nicholas' Church Porch throughout the past year.

Can you help us to continue to provide support through 2024 while the cost-of-living crisis continues to have a huge impact on so many people.

Donations can be made online through the church website: glavenvalleychurches.org.uk

Click on the 'donate' button, then scroll down the page and click on Blakeney Church

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Happy New Year from all the Crew at Langham Dome Museum!

Our Membership Secretary, Fiona Pridham, stepped down at the end of December after having done a sterling job in the position for the past 3 years. She made major improvements to the system in that time, including all of the renewals now coming around annually.

Hence, we are urgently looking for a suitable person to fill the role. It is a voluntary position, but it is a vital part of the Dome's well being. Without our FoLD Members the museum would almost certainly be in jeopardy.

If you feel you are **THAT** person, please contact Deborah Preston at deborahlangdome@gmail.com



I hope you will all put Sunday 21st July in your diaries!

The Dome will be celebrating several important anniversaries.

We are busy putting together a great Open Day for all the family. Please advertise it to all your family and friends.

As in past Open Days it will be FREE to enter, but there will be collection buckets being rattled and the chance to purchase the Grand Draw tickets, with cash prizes of £9.50 being given away, when it is drawn in October.

We took the decision, this year, to leave the Spitfire on its plinth through the winter! It is both time consuming on both the Trustees, and Volunteers, and costly to lift her off, dismantle her and then cart her to the Barns at the other end of the village. Then doing it all in reverse in the spring. There is also a degree of risk involved that something might go wrong, something breaking or someone being in the wrong place at the wrong time. So why take the risk if 'Douglas' (the pilot!) is happy to sit up there all winter. So far she has weathered the autumn and winter storms admirably. Our aim is to get a cherry picker up there next spring and give her a wash and polish ready for the season.

I decided to step down as manager at the end of December, and have now moved across into Administration. The role of Manager has been taken over by our experienced Scott Eltringham who will, I'm certain, be more than up to the task. It will be one of his priorities to get more local schools to come and try our hands-on history experience.

He will be advertising for new volunteers to join us this year. He had 14 volunteers this past season who made a heroic effort to fill the Rota. Many doing extra shifts to cover shortages. If you are interested please contact Scott on manager@langhamdome.org

Best Wishes. Deborah Preston. Administrator.

Langham Dome Museum.

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Sunday 21st July



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