

The Glaven Valley Newsletter

 **HAPPY** 
Easter



March 2024

REEF HOUSE

Make & Do Workshops

Come and join me and our amazing artists at Reef House for a wide range of creative workshops and short courses.

Whether you want to learn a new skill or enjoy a day out with friends, we have it all: everything from floristry and bread making to willow weaving and jewellery making.

In this wonderfully warm and relaxed environment, homemade refreshments and lunch are always included ensuring you fully unwind and enjoy the perfect day.

For Bookings & Enquiries please visit the website at

www.reefmakeanddo.com

Easter Sunday

OUTSIDE ON WIVETON VILLAGE GREEN

SUNDAY 9TH APRIL AT 11.15AM

Family Easter Celebration

The story of Easter told in music and
drama for children and everyone

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THE GLAVEN VALLEY NEWSLETTER

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APRIL 2024 EDITION DEADLINE

Copy for the April edition must be received by the 15th March 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 Production

Each month our lovely team of volunteers helps to print, collate, assemble, staple and deliver 1500 copies of the GVN: many thanks to you all.

My, voluntary, role as 'production coordinator' includes liaising with Chevertons printers in Cromer; collecting and collating the bi-monthly yellow pages; ordering paper for the white pages, scheduling the printing, stapling and bulk distribution; ordering printer ink and consumables as necessary, and generally being the 'single point of contact'. Unfortunately, single-point-of-contact can also mean 'single-point-of-failure,' and after 13 years, with health problems and an upcoming operation, it is likely that in the future I may not always be able to carry out these activities.

Rather than wait until this problem occurs, it makes sense to plan ahead, and to this end I am hoping to find one or two people who could help me as and when required.

If anyone feels this is something they would be interested in, and ensure the production of the GVN continues smoothly, please get in touch. Thank you

" To Ellen Tidmarsh: thank you, Ellen for your offer to help with the GVN. Could you please ring me, as I have lost your number and email. Thanks, Oscar"

Oscar Haynes, 07721 435703, 01263 712693, oscar.haynes@btinternet.com

Barton Reed Panel Fencing

www.bartonreedpanelfencing.co.uk

01692 535463 07881 717692

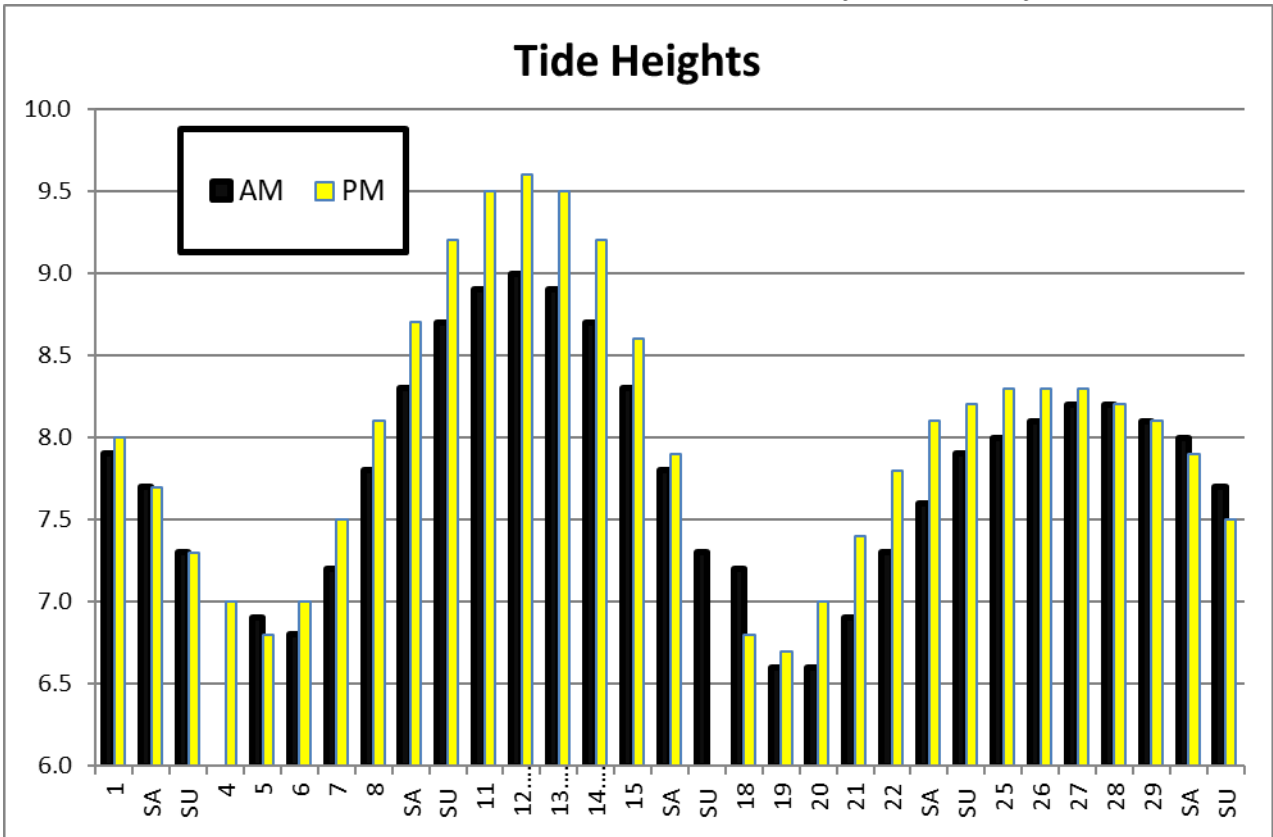
email: jon.moore61@btinternet.com

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- Professional and experienced workforce
- Customer reviews
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- All other types of fencing supplied/fitted on request



March 2024 - Tide Details *by Martin Tyler*



Tide Times

| | AM | PM | | AM | PM |
|--------------|-------|-------|--------------|-------|-------|
| Fri 01 March | 09:57 | 22:06 | | | |
| Sat 02 March | 11:08 | 22:57 | | | |
| Sun 03 March | 11:14 | 23:37 | | | |
| Mon 04 March | 00:00 | 12:09 | Mon 18 March | 00:05 | 12:33 |
| Tue 05 March | 00:42 | 13:27 | Tue 19 March | 01:46 | 14:22 |
| Wed 06 March | 02:22 | 15:11 | Wed 20 March | 03:18 | 15:38 |
| Thu 07 March | 04:05 | 16:20 | Thu 21 March | 04:29 | 16:37 |
| Fri 08 March | 05:09 | 17:13 | Fri 22 March | 05:21 | 17:24 |
| Sat 09 March | 06:01 | 18:00 | Sat 23 March | 06:01 | 18:02 |
| Sun 10 March | 06:47 | 18:44 | Sun 24 March | 06:33 | 18:35 |
| Mon 11 March | 07:29 | 19:28 | Mon 25 March | 07:01 | 19:05 |
| Tue 12 March | 08:08 | 20:10 | Tue 26 March | 07:28 | 19:35 |
| Wed 13 March | 08:45 | 20:52 | Wed 27 March | 07:57 | 11:05 |
| Thu 14 March | 09:21 | 21:34 | Thu 28 March | 08:27 | 20:35 |
| Fri 15 March | 09:58 | 22:17 | Fri 29 March | 08:56 | 21:08 |
| Sat 16 March | 10:37 | 23:04 | Sat 30 March | 09:27 | 21:44 |
| Sun 17 March | 11:23 | 00:00 | Sun 31 March | 11:01 | 23:27 |

REMEMBER : BST STARTS SUNDAY 31 MARCH

Blakeney

Rowing through the winter with Blakeney Rowing Club

The Crabbers (as members of the Coastal Rowing Association of Blakeney are known) have continued to enjoy the water from their winter base at Cox's Boatyard, Barton Turf, although the weather has tested their mettle at times. Strong winds and ice in the slipway caused one or two outings to be cancelled, although on others the crews had to put up with only a bit of rain, and on one or two occasions the sun even came out. Those participating were rewarded by having the Broads almost to themselves and enjoying the wildlife, including the odd cormorant, heron and even a solitary kingfisher. The rows followed the usual pattern of a gentle outward paddle, mooring up for coffee and a mardle, the reinvigorated crew then heading back to base at a rather firmer pace.

However, it's approaching that time of the year when the club's two St Ayles skiffs need a little care and attention, and so will be rotated through the workshop, with members turning their hand to sanding-down the woodwork, painting the woodwork and varnishing the gunwales and oars. After that the skiffs will be re-positioned at Blakeney for the summer season and an entirely different boating scene.

Lively accounts of our outings and activities, accompanied by photographs, appear on the club's website at crablakeney.wordpress.com.

If this sounds like the sort of thing that you would enjoy, you too could share the experience. We welcome all those who enjoy being active on the water, whether on a social or more competitive basis, or who just like messing about in boats.

For the uninitiated, coaching and friendly advice is always available, but there is never any pressure to participate in any competitive event. Contact our Captain of Rowing, Humphrey, at hborgnis@icloud.com for more information.

Duncan Henderson

Grace and Ease Meditation

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

Please message for details
07799 328400

News from Blakeney School

It's lighter in the mornings and the evenings are beginning to stretch out too. We have had a few children dust off their bicycles and begin cycling to school again. It is lovely that they are able to do this. The children are gaining confidence in their abilities and we enjoy them being able to cycle and walk to school safely. Please keep an eye out for young cyclists and pedestrians if you are driving around Blakeney.

We recently took the whole school on a snowdrop walk to Walsingham Abbey. We have some beautiful photographs of the children and it was wonderful to spend the afternoon in the woods. The weather was very kind to us and a walk in the sunshine was just what was needed. We even brought some snowdrops to plant in our outdoor area too.

The children are currently in the middle of their 40 miles for Lent challenge. All children will give up break and lunch times to walk, or run on the treadmill. We have had a half term and have also taken account of the Easter holidays when we are not at school, so we need to get the mileage in while we can. I have no doubt that they will complete the challenge while realising the significance of the season. It should also increase their fitness as we come into Athletics season!

Our playground is also undergoing something of a spring make-over and looks really inviting. Eddie Ray very kindly left the school a legacy and we have used the some of the donation to create a gardening area for the children. We now have some lovely raised wooden beds, which are planted with a mixture of vegetables, herbs, and wild flowers. The garden monitors will take care of the maintenance and we are very much looking forward to a new tradition at our Harvest Festival- I feel a home-grown vegetable soup will be on the menu!

In the coming months, we have a visit from the police in Hedgehogs Class, a Federation football match against our Langham neighbours, Bikeability training for our older children, a sports morning for Key Stage 1, a residential trip to the Norfolk Broads, a visit from a the resident poet and artist at the Norfolk Wildlife Trust and an Easter Service and Egg hunt. I am hoping April will be just as exciting.

From Team Blakeney

Glaven Caring Diary Dates!

Busy months ahead at Glaven Caring - both at the Centre in Blakeney and at our fundraising events. Here are details of some of our forthcoming activities. **All are invited to our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 13 March 2024 at 5.30pm at The Glaven, Thistleton Court, Blakeney, Holt, Norfolk, NR25 7PH.**

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

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

Our Glaven Caring 50th celebrations are well under way – SAVE THE DATE for our 50th Wine and Cheese evening in the grounds of Bayfield Hall on 22 June 2024 from 6pm to 8.30pm. Tickets will be on sale shortly and if you would like to be added to our ‘interested list’ please do email us at rsvp@glavencaring.co.uk

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

Jennifer Hall-Thompson

PAWESOME

Blakeney Dog Walking Service

Call Charlie 07467 542227
c.tidmarsh@icloud.com



Blakeney, Cley & District Branch Our Centenary Year

With a new Chair - Gerald Peploe and a new Secretary – Helen Gimson (helen.gimson@btinternet.com or 07966 494423) supported by a vibrant Committee, our Branch enters its Centenary year in a strong position and in good financial health. We are planning much to celebrate this important 100-year milestone which you will be hearing of as the year unfolds.

But as we start this Centenary it is worth reflecting on why we are here. What is our purpose? We, the Branch - a group of more than 150 members represented by your committee - have a duty, contained in the Royal Charter that we hold and

in the Rules of the Royal British Legion of which we are a Branch, to serve our beneficiaries. That is anyone who has drawn a day’s pay in the Armed Forces, any dependant, any veteran, and carers for veterans. That service – set out in the Royal Charter in detail – means, amongst other things, supporting beneficiaries’ wellbeing, their education and health – including mental health, and relieving hardship and distress. So, to start this year, we will be going out into the community to be sure that we know where there are beneficiaries and that they know who we are and the help that we might be able to provide or signpost beneficiaries to. If you are a beneficiary, please do get in touch – you won’t have to join our Branch unless you want to, but we will be aware of who in our community we could serve if needs be. Your details will be kept confidential. More as the year progresses.

Gerald Peploe, Chair

DO YOU HAVE A BUSINESS IDEA THAT REQUIRES PREMISES?

Could the Parish Room (formerly known as The Scout Hut), in BLAKENEY be of interest to you?!

Do you have a great idea, something in mind, either a new venture or something that you are already doing?! If so, and you would like a confidential and informal discussion then please do get in touch now. Call the Parish Clerk on 01263 741106 or send an email to clerk@blakeneyparishcouncil.gov.uk outlining your idea.

We are currently considering the future of this room and are open to considerations.

Blakeney Village Hall Craft Fairs for 2024

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| March | 30th & 31st |
| April | 20th & 21st |
| May | 18th & 19th |
| June | 15th & 16th |
| July | 20th & 21st |
| Aug | 17th & 18th |
| Sept | 14th & 15th |
| Oct | 19th & 20th |
| Nov | 16th & 17th |

‘Desert Island Discs Blakeney Style’

From The Congo to Blakeney! –
Claude Scott shares his choice of
music & life story in conversation with
Jill Hackford

Friday 1st March
6.30pm for 7pm to 9pm
In St Nicholas’ Church, Blakeney

Free entry
Retiring collection
Bar and nibbles

Friends of St Nicholas Charity No. 297272

BLAKENEY PARISH COUNCIL -

www.blakeneyparishcouncil.org.uk

(01263 741106)

Email: clerk@blakeneyparishcouncil.org.uk



Car Park Permits for the 2024 Season - All existing permits expire on 31st March 2024 and it is your responsibility to renew them.

The Parish Office is open on a Tuesday & Thursday morning between 9am and 11am. At other times by appointment only.

Carnser Car Park – Residents Permits – If you are a resident of the Electoral Roll for Blakeney and have your 2024/25 Council Tax Bill, then you can reapply for a new permit for the 2024 season. You can apply in the Parish Office in person, by email, by post or pop you application in the letterbox. They will be available from **Tuesday 5th March** (not before) **up until 14th**, and then not again until **Tuesday 2nd April**, so do make a note in your diary. Please make sure that you know your vehicle registration number as this is printed on each permit issued and held on the register, or bring last year’s permit in with you, along with your proof of residency if you still have the same vehicle.

Coronation Car Park – All persons eligible for a permit, who require one (i.e. must live in the High Street as permanent residents and have no other parking facilities, sorry no second home owners), should be applying to renew their permits as soon as possible. These too will be ready by **Tuesday 5th March** (not before) **up until 14th**, and then not again until **Tuesday 2nd April**. You must not park on this car park without a valid permit, or you will be fined via the Fixed Penalty Notice system.

2024 - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

THEME – THE FUTURE OF BLAKENEY SURGERY –

If this affects you, then please do join us. **Holt Medical Practice** have been invited to join us and we hope that they will see this as an opportunity to engage with the village.

Holt Caring will also be joining us.

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 FEBRUARY FULL COUNCIL MEETING...

It was hoped that Paul Searle (North Norfolk Signs) would be joining us to assist with the consideration of the design/layout of the agreed **Village/Business Signage**. Unfortunately, he did not join us, *however, progress was made and the draft ideas will be forwarded to him.

County Councillor – Michael Dalby had submitted a report in advance.

District Councillor – Victoria Holliday had submitted a report in advance.

- With regard planning application **IB/23/0036 proposed exempted camp site at The Whins, The Downs, Blakeney; Natural England** have requested a detailed site plan including assessment of potential impacts to the interest feature of the SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) and any mitigation measures required and also, an updated Habitats Regulations Assessment taken to the appropriate assessment stage.

FINANCE

Accounts totalling £6,611.07 are to be paid.

Clerk/RFO Report;

- Sheringham Shoal Fund – An outline proposal form has been submitted to convert our **street lighting stock** to low energy LED with timers and we have now been invited to submit a full application.
- Funding applications have been submitted for the **Goalpost Project** to: i) Awards for All, ii) Football Foundation & iii) Sport England. (*Nfk Playing Fields Assoc & NNDC Sustainable Communities Fund are not currently open to applications.*) Sport England have advised that although our project met the criteria, on this occasion they did not feel that it sufficiently demonstrated how it would deliver against the programme’s objectives and priorities, but have suggested that we could re-apply.
- Sheringham Shoal Fund – An outline proposal was submitted for the **Business/Village Information Signage**. They have advised that they would only take one application forward at the moment and suggested that the street lighting one, better suited their objectives; hence we will need to revisit this project in terms of funding.
- Funding applications have been submitted for the **Petanque/French Boules courts** to i) Awards for All & ii) Sport England.
- The Community Right to Bid Nomination has now been submitted to Eastlaw in respect of **The Kings Arms Public House**.
- **Parish Room** (formerly known as The Scout Hut) both the **Water** (Wave) & **Electricity** (E-on next) have now been transferred into the name of Blakeney Parish Council.

Quote accepted for pothole repairs to **Village Hall Car Park** from Secret Gardens at a cost of £600 + VAT.

Quote accepted for pothole repairs to **Carnser Car Park** from Secret Gardens at a cost of £1,200 + VAT.

Accepted the recommendation from the **BPC/NT Working Group** to class the ‘High Season’ on the Carnser Car Park as being June to September inclusive resulting in the £6.00 fee

being due up to 6pm rather than 5pm, in line with other coastal car parks.

Written Reports from Representatives on Other Committees/Groups which have met recently;

Blakeney Surgery – *Cllr Nigel Sutcliffe referred to the NHS Norfolk & Waveney ICB report and the submission report from Holt Medical Practice to close Blakeney Surgery which was lodged on the ICB website today.*

The recommendation as prepared by Sadie Parker, Director – Primary Care (NHS Nfk & Waveney ICB) to the Primary Care Commissioning Committee on 13th February 2024 is; PCCC members are invited to approve a recommendation to;

- Defer a decision on the HMP application to close the branch surgery at Blakeney until 23rd April 2024
- To undertake a further ICB public involvement under its duty of public involvement and consultation, to explore the practice’s proposed mitigation to offer a medication collection service in Blakeney.

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 5TH March 2024.

MOLE CONTROL

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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

BLAKENEY HARBOUR ROOM MARCH EVENTS

BINGO - Monday March 4th and Monday 18th 7pm
A great night out for all. Please call the Harbour Room for more details.

OPEN NIGHT - Saturday 9th March 7-10pm
Open mic nights are returning to the Harbour Room in The Top Bar. If you would like to share your musical talent and sample performing in public, we would love to see you. A sound system and electric piano will be available for all to use, just bring your own guitar or other musical instrument. For more details, please contact George at bands@blakeneyharbourroom.co.uk

FOLK CLUB - Sunday 10th March 3 - 6 pm
A monthly sing around in The Harbour Room for lovers of folk music. Performers and audience are all welcome

BAND NIGHT. V8 RUMBLE - Saturday 23rd March 8pm
A welcome return to The Harbour Room for this great rockabilly and skiffle band. If you like to dance, then don't miss this. Only £6.00 on the door (Also available via our website)

ROOTS NIGHT - Sunday 31st March 7.00pm
Come and listen to a variety of music from some of the best musicians from Norfolk show casing their talent on the Harbour Room stage. Professionally produced and recorded by Mark our resident sound engineer. It's a free event with a retiring collection.

Blakeney Harbour Room is a community hub for all to use. We have many events taking place this year. Please take a look at our new website, which lists forthcoming events and all the bands coming to Blakeney in 2024.
www.blakeneyharbourroom.co.uk

BLAKENEY CARPET BOWLS CLUB

The number of members has declined in recent years to the point that the club will have to be wound up soon if no-one joins. For the club to be viable we need at least 12 – 15 members, we currently only have 4 – 5. The figures speak for themselves

It will be a great shame if the club has to close – the game has been played in the Village Hall since it was built in 1986. We had up to 30 members – some of whom played to County Level and, at one time, there was even a waiting list to join.

So why not give up any prejudices you might have against bowls – it isn't just a game for seniors, it is a game you can take up at any age, and unlike other games, you can play as long as you wish. Come and join us in the Village Hall on Tuesday evenings at 7p.m. Bowls is an easy skill for beginners to master but is a very competitive and intriguing game which is frequently decided on the last bowl played, which adds to the suspense

All the equipment is provided – you just have to come along.
YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU!!!

Enquiries to Richard Millward – 740807



BLAKENEY FILM NIGHT
VILLAGE HALL

"Love & Mercy"(12A)

Friday 15th March
£5 on the door

An unconventional portrait of Brian Wilson, the iconic singer/songwriter lead of The Beach Boys, for whom success came at extraordinary personal cost.

Set against the era-defining catalogue of his music, it examines his personal voyage and ultimate salvation by chronicling two key periods in his life - his rise to fame then mental decline under the control of a Svengali-like therapist, eventually overcome by the burgeoning relationship with his future wife.

This intense look at the fragility of creative genius is sometimes dark & compelling but insightful & respectful too. Paul Dano is superb & John Cusack equally impressive as the young & middle-aged Wilson respectively - in one of the finest and most authentic rock biopics ever made.

Doors open at 6.30 for a 7pm start
Bar/Refreshments
All profits to the Village Hall

www.blakeneyvillagehall.org.uk

Blakeney Medical Services

Holt Medical Practice have now formally applied to close Blakeney Surgery. This is a great disappointment to Blakeney parish council who, along with other parish councils, our MP and our District Councillor have been campaigning for a restoration of medical services. We know how much people in Blakeney, and the wider community, care about the surgery and we know, too, that readers will share our dismay about the Practice's decision.

Blakeney parish council believe the decision to be wrong and we are particularly concerned about the proposals put forward by the Practice for mitigation. The Practice say they have had some (apparently inconclusive) discussions with local organisations about collection of medication. Aside from that, all their proposals for mitigation are based on the presumption that patients will travel to Holt.

Blakeney parish council believe this is unacceptable. At the very least, the parish council are arguing for medication collection and prescription ordering to be available in Blakeney

five days a week. We also want the Practice to offer GP and nurse appointments on two or three days a week, to provide a wellbeing surgery in the community where, for example, diabetic checks could be made and to put in place a community transport arrangement.

A final decision about the future of the surgery is to be made by the Integrated Care Board at a meeting on 23 April. We believe that the community cares about the outcome of that meeting, so we are asking you to add your voice either by writing to the Integrated Care Board or emailing. A draft is below. This matter will also be the main topic at Blakeney parish council's annual meeting to be held at the village hall on 7 March-please come along.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Letter addressed to Sadie Parker and Debbie Bartlett, Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Board, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DH
email addressed to Sadie Parker sadie.parker@nhs.net and Debbie Bartlett@norfolk.gov.uk

I/We are dismayed to learn that Holt Medical Practice have formally applied to close Blakeney surgery. The surgery is essential to those living in the community, many of whom are older and have no access to transport.

I/We are particularly disappointed that Holt Medical Practice have not put forward any meaningful proposals for mitigation. I/We understand that Blakeney parish council are arguing for medication and prescription services to be available in Blakeney five days a week; for GP and nurse appointments to be offered on two or three days a week; for a wellbeing surgery to be made available in the community for diabetic checks for example, and for a community transport arrangement to be put in place.

These proposals have my/our full support. I/We ask the Integrated Care Board to reject Holt Medical Practice's proposals for closure or, at the very least, to ensure that realistic proposals for mitigation are put in place.

Rosemary Thew



BLAKENEY HOTEL

Jobs Available – full or part time
We have vacancies for:
Duty Manager / Porters / Receptionist

For more information on these or other roles please email
admin@blakeneyhotel.co.uk or call 01263 740797

Quotable Quotes on Age

You can't help getting older, but you
don't have to get old
George Burns

Youth is wasted on the young
George Bernard Shaw

I don't feel old. I don't feel anything until
noon. That's when it's time for my nap
Bob Hope

Do not go gentle into that good night
but rage, rage against the dying of the
light
Dylan Thomas

Monthly Memory Swap

John Jarvis's Monthly Memory Swap

The next 'Monthly Memory Swap' is on Tuesday March 19th, from 2.00pm - 4.00pm in the large hall at the community centre.

John will be screening the next of his 'Street Memories of Holt...' in this case of New St & Cley Road, plus he has had a request for more material on the 1953 Floods.

During an extended coffee or tea break, there will be a chance to stir-up your own memories and stories about Holt of the past, the people, places and events remembered, both here and in North Norfolk more generally.

We hope you can make it. Do bring along any photos of Norfolk and Holt that you would like to share.

Just turn up for this free event. No booking is necessary.

Future Dates for 'John Jarvis's Monthly Memory Swap'
(Usually, the third Tuesday of the month)

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**

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Lloyd.colin1959@gmail.com

A Poison Tree

BY WILLIAM BLAKE

I was angry with my friend;
I told my wrath; my wrath did end.
I was angry with my foe:
I told it not; my wrath did grow.

And I waterd it in fears,
Night & morning with my tears:
And I sunned it with smiles,
And with soft deceitful wiles.

And it grew both day and night.
Till it bore an apple bright.
And my foe beheld it shine,
And he knew that it was mine.

And into my garden stole,
When the night had veild the pole;
In the morning glad I see;
My foe outstretched beneath the tree.

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North Norfolk

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WHY: Local – Free Parking – Kitchen – Medium sized space – Disabled access – Adjacent the village playing field

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

Friends of Binham Priory

**An Evening with Archangel Gin
Friday 8th March at Binham Memorial Hall**

Archangel Gin is entirely made and bottled in Norfolk. Peter Allingham will talk about the history of gin and explain the workings of this small-scale distillery on a North Norfolk farm. There will be tasters to enjoy and to purchase.

**Talk at 7.30pm – doors open at
7.15pm**

**Tickets £12 on sale now
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Thoughts from the Rectory For March

Dear Friends,

This year, March covers a long and rich period between early in Lent right up to Easter Day, on the last day of the month. Lunar shenanigans mean that Easter is pretty early this year. The date of Easter each year is calculated as being the first Sunday after the Paschal full moon, which is the first full moon on or after 21 March. Complicated! Many of us think it would be very helpful for everyone if the date of Easter could be made more consistent, and celebrated at the same time each year – say the first Sunday in April (just as Christmas is always celebrated on the same date). But don't hold your breath, I think!

Anyway, March this year takes in a wide sweep. There's Mothering Sunday on the 10th. The following week Passiontide begins, and a week later we celebrate Palm Sunday, when we remember Christ's entry into Jerusalem, riding on a donkey, a symbol of peace and humility. Then we move into Holy Week, and reflect on the love and self-sacrifice of Christ, with Good Friday, of course, being the particular focus of that, the day we celebrate his death. And it all leads inexorably to the joy of Easter Day, when we mark the resurrection, and his rising to new life.

The hope of Easter seems to me to be more important than ever. I encounter so much anxiety and sadness about the state of the world at the moment – I'm sure we all do. I feel sad myself, when I look at what's going on in the Middle East – not least in Palestine/Israel, the area where Jesus himself was born and lived and died – but also much closer to home, where there is so much inequality and uncertainty and poverty, and real concern for the future. Things can seem bleak sometimes. But what Easter says to me is that the darkness will not have the last word. In the resurrection, we have the promise that goodness and love have won. Love has overcome hatred. Life has overcome death. Light has overcome the darkness. One day, as Christ has promised, everything will be reconciled and healed.

And in the meantime, we can know now the hope and the confidence that promise brings, remembering that nothing can separate us from the love of God. God journeys with us, in life, in death, in the life to come. That's worth celebrating, and I hope you'll be able to do so with us at the end of this month! All will be very welcome!

*Wishing you all a very blessed month,
and a Happy Easter when it comes!
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:

Recent funerals in the benefice have included services for Philippa Allibone on 10th February, Anne-Marie Travis on 7th February and Valerie Laws on 31st Jan.

Please remember their families at this time.

Baptism:

George Castell Bacon (known as Cas) will be baptised at Letheringsett on 2nd March. Our best wishes and congratulations to Cas, parents Millie and Tom, and all the family.

St Peter's RC Church, Back Lane, Blakeney

Mass Sunday - 11am, Mass

Wednesday - 9.30am

Holyday of Obligation 9.30am

www.catholicparishofwalsingham.org



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**Glaven Valley
 Bereavement Support Group**

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

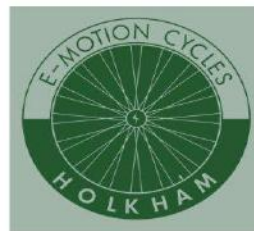
4.00pm to 5.30pm.

Anyone who has suffered
 bereavement is very welcome.

Refreshments at 3.50pm

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

RALEIGH

HAIBIHE

Cley

**Cley`s Winterfest:
February 1st - 3rd 2024**

As the hurdy-gurdy man`s melancholic tune faded into the air that evening, the audience were left largely spell-bound. Julian Godlee and Brenda Blewett had just taken us on an amazing journey with Schubert`s haunting *Winterreise*, bringing this three-day Cley Winterfest event to a climactic close. Originally conceived by Brenda, this Winterfest began with Adrian Taunton`s *By A Wintry Fireside* - a words and music programme on the theme of winter featured as part of Cley`s regular series of Thursdays@Three concerts. Then on the following night we had a convivial supper event at the Three Swallows inn next door to prepare us for the long and hazardous *Winterreise* ahead.

As people arrived on a wet dark evening, there was welcome sustenance on offer in the suitably sombre space of Cley`s magnificent church, now lit up by its glowing red heaters. Bare branches and subdued greenery provided a wintry welcome and a white cloth screen almost filled all of the vast East Window. A single spotlight focussed on the piano and on the place where the singer was to stand. Julian Godlee was our guide on the journey through the 24 Schubert songs about the despair the composer`s protagonist feels as the *Winterreise* wanderer who embarks on an exploration of his rejected love that is set against the backdrop of the wintry countryside. Much thought had clearly been devoted to prepare the images which accompanied each song, thrown up onto the large screen above the altar. The effect not only enhanced the experience of travelling through the bleak and changing landscape, but simultaneously it managed to enclose us all within it. In this way we were able to share a somewhat harrowing experience through sight and sound, even perhaps achieving the catharsis of a Greek tragedy as the melody of the last hurdy-gurdy song melted away.

This was a wonderful collaborative interpretation in music, with Schubert`s skilful piano score always setting the mood, in turn commenting, reflecting upon it and even clearly at times challenging the vocal line. Brenda Blewett immediately established her credentials from the outset as an equal partner on the journey we were to embark upon. She delicately brought out lovely glimpses of falling leaves (No 16 Letzte Hoffnung) and mirrored the seething torrents of the river (No 7 Auf Dem Flusse). In her hands the piano was beautifully wistful with regret (No 5 Der Lindenbaum) but then the very embodiment of the post-chaise arriving excitedly in the town (No 13 Die Post).

Julian Godlee commanded an impressive figure as our guide on this journey. His part requires incredible stamina and considerable skill to plummet such depths of despair over so many individual songs; but he has both the presence and resonance in his voice to fill the building with ease and yet still be able to be achingly sensitive in moments of total *angst*.

Full credit, too, for his vision of how to make the drama accessible and visually stimulating.

The exciting partnership between these two fine musicians was really what made this performance so memorable, allowing Schubert`s music to speak to us directly and with such force. I suspect the audience did indeed leave more than just a little shell-shocked at the end, but I am sure in no doubt that they had been a privileged part of a very special concert.

Wyatt Earp

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 GARDEN`S 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**

Thursdays@Three

March

Thursday March 7th - No 102 *More Flute Fancies*
Flute & Piano

Wyatt Earp (flute)
Angela Dugdale (piano)

Thursday March 14th - No 103 *Sunshine to Moonbeams*

Valerie Wright (soprano)
Elisabeth Rooke (piano)

Thursday March 21st - No 104 *New Life - Songs & Music*

David Bull (piano)
Mark Fawcett (guitar)

MARCH 28th – APRIL 11th Break for Easter

Forthcoming Summer Season Concerts

(APRIL 18th – JULY 18th)

Thursday April 18th - No 105 *Operatic Favourites*
Members of The North Norfolk Opera present opera favourites including extracts from their next production of Handel's *Semele*

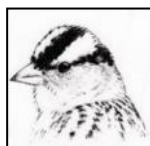
Thursday April 25th
No 106 *Piano Recital Bach and Beethoven*

Jill Crossland (piano)

Wyatt Earp (01263 740902 wejearp@gmail.com)



NWT North Norfolk
Group
and
Cley Bird Club
and



North East Norfolk Bird Club

March 2024 meeting

Whale Detective: Uncovering the Surprising History of Whales and Dolphins in Norfolk

Carl Chapman is a well-known Norfolk birder and tour leader, and also the recorder for cetaceans in Norfolk. He has been researching the historical occurrences of whales, dolphins and porpoises in Norfolk and will present an illustrated talk about some of the fascinating back stories he has uncovered. Expect surprises and intriguing pictures. This meeting will be preceded by a short AGM of the NWT Group

This joint event between the North Norfolk Group of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust and Cley Bird Club is on Thursday March 21st 2024 at 7.30 p.m. in Cley Village Hall.

Entry £3 - refreshments included – no need to book.

The meeting is kindly sponsored by BIRDscapes Gallery.

CLEY WI

Programme
March & April 2024

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

Angela Gifford outlines the steps to take to avoid them

Apr 4th ***Foraging***

Naomi Simmons highlights the food for free all around us

Cley Village Hall, NR25 7RJ, at 2.30pm

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

Further details 01263 740225

The Moorings

High Street Blakeney Norfolk

We Are Hiring - Come and work with us!

We are looking for lovely people to join the team:

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- Front of house, waiting staff part-time.

We are a friendly team offering flexibility, good pay and great tips.

If you are interested, please get in touch at reservations@blakeney-moorings.co.uk with a bit of information about yourself.

Cley Parish Council's Chairman's Report

We are concerned about the speed data coming into the 20mph zone on New Road, which showed the average speed was 25mph, and wondered if the positioning of the signs should be moved back up Blakeney Hill. Our beat policeman is going to check this out for us.

We need to have the improvement works for Newgate Green programmed in by Highways. We are rather disappointed at how the previous works along the north side of the Green have weathered and will need to look at higher specifications for the proposed works near the church.

We have adopted a biodiversity policy for the parish which aims to conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the area. The policy is on the website.

We are chasing NNDC with regard to the random positioning of bins in the village which have been reported by parishioners.

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 Integrated Care Board met last month to decide the fate of Blakeney Surgery. They decided on another round of consultation with patients, which sounds positive except that it will only be about how and where we Blakeney patients get our meds. A meds service is essential but we don't think it's enough. We want some way of seeing a doctor or nurse in Blakeney, even if it's not at the surgery. We want some form of transport to take us to Kelling or Melton for urgent or specialised appointments. We want well-being clinics in the community. You can read more about this in my District Councillor's Report and also in Blakeney Parish Council's report elsewhere in this issue. Blakeney Surgery will be the focus of BPC's Annual Meeting on March 7th.

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

The Harbour Committee have kindly agreed to install a bench on the Quay next to the slipway and to help repair the gabions to make them more robust.

We still don't have our toilet on the beach after four years of campaigning. Recent approaches to NWT were not productive. Cllrs are working on alternate contacts who might be more receptive.

Tesco vouchers sufficient for a home delivery are readily available on request from the Clerk, clerk.cley@gmail.com or 07812384889. We have agreed that households of more than 3 persons should receive two vouchers. All enquiries will be treated confidentially.

The next Parish Council Meeting is on Thursday March 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 spring season of Thursdays@Three runs till March 21st and the summer season starts April 18th. Special highlights include Operatic Favourites with the North Norfolk Opera on Thursday April 15th.

Our February Winterfest was a huge success, just the ticket to brighten up long dark days. The Thursdays@Three 'Winter Fireside' was fabulous and about 40 feasted on pie, mash and pudding at The Three Swallows. The performance of Winterreise, with Julian Godlee and Brenda Blewett, was absolutely mesmerising, and such was the demand we ran out of mulled wine and sausages!

Our next stunning event is the Transatlantic Hot Club on Saturday April 27th at 7.30pm playing French gypsy jazz. A blend of traditional Romanian music and swing jazz, this music has been hugely popular since the 1930's. The three performers are world famous jazz violinists, harpists and bass players and it's a rare treat to showcase them in Cley. Tickets are £20 from the Norfolk Churches website, norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk.

For your diaries, our Five Churches concert, 'A Night at the Movies,' is on 13th July, and St Margaret's Fair is Saturday 27th July.

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.



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in High Kelling Village Hall

Please contact:
Annie Haynes on
07919 242672 or
01263 012693

Annie.haynes@me.com

Wiveton

New Community Orchard planted by Wiveton Village residents

Author; Cllr Phil Cheadle, on behalf of Wiveton Parish Council.

For further information please contact; 07768 744047, phil.cheadle77@gmail.com

Wiveton Parish Council and the its residents are transforming a piece of underused land in the centre of Wiveton village into a beautiful community orchard.

The one-acre plot owned by the Parish Council has been informally used by residents over the last 50 years, but had recently become overgrown and in need of regeneration.

After a community consultation, the decision was made to invest in developing the land into a space that all residents can enjoy.

Wiveton Councillor Mr Richard Petley and Wiveton resident Steve Beal lead the project, starting with a few working days in January and February to clear the land. Residents of all ages gathered to remove overgrown bushes, cut back the grass and remove rubbish from the land.

Wiveton Parish council has funded the purchase of 20 fruit trees, including local Norfolk apple varieties, to create an orchard on the newly cleared site. Wildlife conservation was

front of mind for the project, with a focus on preserving small areas of brambles and existing hedgerows to support local birds and encourage insects.

Everyone is increasingly aware of the value of time spent outside and with nature, and the space has been designed to allow for community gatherings, as a place for residents to enjoy the views over the Glaven valley, and as a place for the children of the village to come together and play.

Councillor Petley commented; "It's been great to be involved in the transformation from underused land to a space which all the residents and wildlife can benefit. Well done to everyone in the village and local community who contributed to this project, and who came out in force on the working days to make this happen."

The Friends of Wiveton Church


Save the date!

The very popular Wiveton Open Gardens returns this summer and will be taking place on Saturday 8 June.

Between 10am- 5pm there will be gardens to enjoy, a Pimms tent, tea and cake and a plant sale, to help raise funds for Wiveton church. It was a really lovely day out last year in glorious sunshine, with lots to see.

200 Club

February's 1st Prize Winner were surprisingly once again

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 in!

Victoria (Chair)

**Happy
Easter!**

FOR SALE

DELIGHTFUL DETACHED TWO BEDROOM BUNGALOW WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF HOLT TOWN CENTRE.

TWO BEDROOMS,
TWO SHOWER ROOMS, LARGE SITTING ROOM, GARDEN/DINING ROOM, KITCHEN, UTILITY ROOM, ENCLOSED PRETTY GARDEN, PRIVATE PARKING FOR TWO CARS AND A GARAGE. VERY QUIET LOCATION.

RECENTLY DECORATED THROUGHOUT WITH NEW CARPETS.

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Glandford

No news from Glandford this month

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Email: trulyrural@hotmail.co.uk

Letheringsett

The Letheringsett Cup

The English Reformation, when the Church of England broke away from the authority of the pope and the Catholic Church, is regarded as having been concluded during the reign of Elizabeth I (1558–1603). The parish of St. Andrew's Church in Letheringsett is fortunate to have a communion cup which dates to her reign and must be considered in that context because of its age.

It is said that the Inventory of Church Goods for 1552 showed the spoliation of Letheringsett Church which had taken place at the time of the Reformation. After this date Letheringsett, along with many other villages in Norfolk, became a Puritan stronghold.

In 1559 Elizabeth I restored the use of the cup to the laity. Following this, from 1561, various bishops gradually enforced the order, calling for the destruction of the "mass chalice" and for it to be substituted by a "plain cup and cover". In Norfolk Bishop Parkhurst of Norwich published an injunction which said that all "profane Cups, Bowls, Dishes and Chalices hitherto used at Mass" must be replaced by "a decent Communion Cup." The castle & lion assay office mark was officially introduced in Norwich from 29 September 1565, together with the date letter "A" which was used until the following Michaelmas. Each year after this the date letter continued to be changed at Michaelmas.

The production of a church plate in Norwich during the years 1565-71 was characterised by for communion cups of a relatively uniform shape. These had a bell-shaped bowl on a spool-shaped stem which in turn rose from a low-domed foot. The communion cup belonging to Letheringsett has the Norwich city hallmark of a castle over a lion together with the date letter "B" to represent the year of its manufacture and assay in 1566/67. It also bears a maker's mark which was formerly regarded as a "maidenhead" but is now recognised as being a "queen's head" representing Queen Elizabeth I, as a lady in a Tudor headdress. This is now believed to be the maker's mark of John Basyngham I of Norwich.

It is known that John Basyngham manufactured two communion cups in 1556/67, the second year of the Norwich Assay marks. These were the one for Letheringsett with the other being for St John Timberhill, Norwich. Subsequently, he produced a further 59 in 1567/68 and then another two in 1568/69, before he himself died in 1569.

The Basyngham family were wealthy landowners within the city of Norwich and had been supporters of the reformed church and the Tudors, including Elizabeth I. Indeed, they even included the Royal Arms of Henry VIII in the grand gateway to their house in Cutler Row. Hence it is no surprise that the queen's head was used by John Basyngham I as his mark. Another reason to know that it was his is because it was not used by anyone in his workshop after the year of his death in 1569. It is not known for sure whether John Basyngham II was his son or nephew but either way neither he nor his

apprentice Peter Paterson I ever appear to have used the queen's head mark.

Another interesting connection with John Basyngham I is that the gateway to his house has survived. It was removed and restored to be preserved at the south-west corner of Norwich Guildhall in 1857. It can still be seen there to this day and displays the arms of Henry VIII, and the city of Norwich, as well as those of the Goldsmiths' Company.

Twenty or so diocesan treasuries have been opened in cathedrals since 1958, having been supported by the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths. These have on display historic examples of church plate from each diocese, giving the public the opportunity to view items that it would not otherwise be possible to exhibit. Hence the Letheringsett Cup can now be seen in the treasury at Norwich Cathedral. It is one of the earliest in Norfolk, with only about a dozen surviving examples from the same year and only two that were manufactured the year before.

© Michael D Payne 5 February 2024

View pictures of the cup itself and two of the Basyngham Gate mentioned in the article at GVN Online.

St Andrew's Church

Candlemas

What a sight it was, and a rare occasion, to enjoy almost 100 candles lit for our recent Candlemas service.

If you have not seen the candelabras all lit like this before do come to our service next year which is usually on the nearest Sunday to February 2nd. Thanks too for those providing the lovely flowers with the tea lights as well.

Easter Lillies

A reminder for anyone who would like to buy a lily in memory of departed family members or friends. Please would you let me know by March 12th if you wish to order any. They will then be on display at our Easter service.

Bookcase

Is there anyone who has a spare one or who is planning to declutter/dispose of one? It would need to be no larger than 1.5m width x 1.6m height. If so, we would appreciate hearing so that it can be used for a church bookstall.

John Pridham jcwpridham@gmail.com 01328831851

**THE GREAT
BLAKENEY BREAKFAST!**
in St Nicholas' Church, Blakeney
will be held on

Wednesday 6th March 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 20th March**
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

District Cllrs Report Feb 2024 From NNDC

Democratic services

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

Coastal

The Shoreline Management Plan Data Explorer has now been launched:

[Home | Shoreline Management Plans \(data.gov.uk\)](https://data.gov.uk)

We are in SMP5 and 6. This new digital tool makes for easier access to Shoreline Management Plans which identify the most sustainable approach for managing the risk from coastal flooding and erosion over the short (0-20 years), medium (20-50 years), and long term (50-100 years).

Planning

The new Local Plan is undergoing examination. The Inspector has been discussing key matters, issues and questions with professionals and members of the public. There may be modifications to the plan coming out of these hearings which will go out to public consultation. Wells Neighbourhood Plan is in the examination phase.

The long awaited 10% Biodiversity Net Gain is now required for major developments, and still come in for other developments 2nd April this year. Councils affected by nutrient neutrality can share in £9.6 mill awarded on their behalf to Broadland DC who are the formal decision makers with input from the various Planning Directors to ensure distribution across all areas affected. Norfolk Environmental Credits (of which NNDC is a shareholder) has started selling its first nutrient neutrality credits.

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

Benefits

The Financial Inclusion team has generated £680k in additional income for households struggling financially in North Norfolk. They increase income to households by unclaimed benefits, council to support and food and energy grants and vouchers. If anyone would like to be referred, please email financial.inclusion@north-norfolk.gov.uk. Almost £86k has been awarded in Discretionary Housing Payments to support tenancy cues, homelessness prevention and to support people to stay within the community.

As of 31st January, there were 2546 households on the housing waiting list. 197 homes were let so far this year. There were 61 households in temporary accommodation and 7 rough sleepers in January.

NNDC was able to purchase 11 additional affordable homes with government funding some of which are now available to rent. Another four were purchased for refugees. There are 350 affordable homes in the pipeline of which 38 will be completed in 23/24.

I am chairing a Task & Finish Group (a sub group of the Overview & Scrutiny Cttee) looking into causes and prevention of and solutions to homelessness. We hope to report back in a couple of months which will explain what more we can do to reduce the number of homeless households in our district. The Integrated Housing Adaptations Team have spent over £1 mill of Disabled Facilities Grant.

Sustainable growth

At a January Business event, 83% of businessmen and women said they were optimistic about the future. The greatest challenges given was recruiting and training staff, financial stability, workforce development, transport, and availability of sites.

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

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

Environmental services

Serco is proposing another rounds change starting April 8th, caused by the change in location of the waste disposal site for recyclables. There will be information coming out from Serco very shortly. Let's hope that it's better implemented than last time! As ever, contact me with problems though apparently the Serco Customer Care Centre is working well. Complaints to the Private Sector Housing team have increased, mainly around damp and mould. Please contact me if you have any problems.

Finance

By the time you read this the budget will have been agreed. £975k of savings been identified with another £ 250k still to be identified. This means the use of reserves is low. These savings are mostly from streamlining internal processes.

Customer service

Call wait times were down to 2min 41sec in January with 71% queries answered by the Customer Service team.'

Other news

BANKING HUB TO COME TO HOLT

As a result of much hard work, Holt has secured a full banking hub. Given the closure of all the banks, this will be a lifeline for all the surrounding villages and communities that need a banking service locally. The process will now be that an organisation called Cash Access UK will assess and find suitable premises. They will then work to perhaps have a different banking organisation visit the hub, one day a week, every week. The details are yet to be finalised.

BLAKENEY SURGERY

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

Let me explain how this is wrong. Our ability to see a GP or nurse at Blakeney was taken away before Covid. If we had been consulted at that time - as was our right - we would have protested strongly. But we weren't given that opportunity. We asked health bosses if they would do that consultation now, but so far, they have refused, saying it would be inappropriate to do this now for something that happened in the past. They have only offered to ask our opinion regarding the meds collection which is all that Blakeney now offers.

This is hugely disappointing. Blakeney Parish Council has been fighting for three years to keep Blakeney Surgery open and offering doctor and nurse appointments as well as meds. We know how much this means to you. After all, 1500 of you signed our petition to Save Blakeney Surgery and many hundreds wrote letters and filled in questionnaires. We know you don't want to make a major expedition to get to one of the other surgeries, or feel you live in a healthcare desert.

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

We will keep fighting to get you all we can.

Please take a look at Blakeney Parish Council's article elsewhere in this issue, 'Blakeney Medical Services,' inviting you to write to the ICB and also to attend the Blakeney PC Annual Meeting on 7th March.

*Victoria Holliday, District Councillor
Coastal
07557 054629*



Letter's & Articles

BLAKENEY'S POLICEMAN 1940 to 1957

The Blackout in Blakeney during World War II

By George Chapman

Early in 1940 my father George Chapman who served in The Norfolk Constabulary was promoted to Sergeant and was transferred from Beetley, where I was born, to Blakeney. We moved into the Police House at #8 Langham Rd. which was to be our home for the next 13 years. The 3-bedroom house was built in 1930 and was considered quite modern at the time. It had a large vegetable garden in the back and a much smaller garden in the front consisting of a lawn, flower beds and tomatoes which were growing against the neighbor's fence. A driveway alongside the house led to a garage in the back yard where a hand pump, used for household and drinking water, was also located.

Rainwater was collected from the roof, stored in rainwater barrels, and used for watering plants. Since the house was also a police station, there was a large, official looking, shiny black notice board at the front gate where police notices were displayed, in particular, warnings to be on the lookout for Colorado Beetles on the leaves of potato plants. Being a police station, it was equipped with one of the few telephones in the village, a wall mounted piece located inside the front hallway at the foot of the stairs.

A photograph of my father taken during the war at the back of the police house, shows him in uniform with his English bobby's helmet. At 6' 4" tall he must have been an imposing sight. He is seen carrying a six-shooter revolver which was only issued during the war, and he was only issued with 6 bullets, which had to be polished and presented on pay day each week. In the background leaning against the wall is a blackout frame; the attachment clips can be seen on the window frame above.

During the war, everyone had to cover their windows at night before sunset to prevent any glimmer of light from escaping which would aid enemy aircraft during bombing raids. The blackout in Britain began on Sept 1st 1939 two days before war was declared and did not end until April 23rd 1945. Vehicle headlights were fitted with slotted covers to deflect the light downwards and people were encouraged to walk facing the traffic. The men were encouraged to walk with their white shirt tails hanging out so that they could be seen by the cars with dimmed headlights. One local farmer was said to have painted white stripes on his black cows in case they strayed onto the road at night. Despite all of the precautions, at the beginning of the blackout there were more casualties from road accidents than from enemy action.

After the war, it was discovered that the blackout had little effect. The bomber navigator focused more on reflected bodies of water, railway tracks and large highways; however, in coastal regions such as Blakeney, the blackout helped to protect ships from being seen in silhouette against the shore and being attacked by submarines. It was my father's job to see that the blackout was strictly enforced in his area with the help of his special constables who were men considered too old to enlist but still useful as auxiliary members of the police force.



Village Characters

I have been reminded recently of John Wallace. Some of you will remember him, although probably not so many now. John was a friend from my early childhood until he died in 1984. An uncomplicated yet well-educated man, an architect, a stonemason, and a fine historian who deserved more respect than he ever found in Blakeney while he was alive, which was why I wrote about him in *Once Upon a Tide*. That he didn't get the respect he deserved was because he was burdened with epilepsy, which meant that he could have attacks at the oddest moments, some awkward and embarrassing (although not for him) others were; unsympathetic as it may seem, funny and isn't possible to write an account of my friendship with him without including them. He is remembered now by a plaque on a large stone just beyond the Carnser Bridge and the Wallace Room in Blakeney Village Hall.

He laboured with a wheelbarrow and shovel for years to build the causeway* that leads onward from the Carnser Bridge, which along with another lad I helped him (at weekends) to build, so I know just how much work went into it*. Sadly, it was his fits that defined his life in Blakeney. When I was older and working as a mussel fisherman, I kept company with him for many years and knew him to be a gentle, compassionate if impractical man, whose intelligence, and kind nature were obscured by his condition.

Wanting desperately to be a part of the village he loved, he couldn't have had a worse affliction. Simple epilepsy would have been difficult, but what John had was more complicated. His attacks were brought on by stress, mental or physical, and in their grip his emotional turmoil played him like a marionette, driving him to act out his

innermost thoughts. It was like Tourette's in mime, a horrible affliction that troubled him deeply. How many of us would want such a window into our souls?

I witnessed a great many of his fits in all their varying forms. Once or twice, I tried to hold him still, but they seemed to give him superhuman strength. On one occasion when we were moving his small boats into winter storage, he had a fit in the middle of the High Street. Cars were being held up so I attempted to move him to the side, leaning him this way and that, but couldn't shift him one millimeter. It was as if his feet were glued to the road. He would often ask afterwards what had happened. He knew from people's reactions that he had done odd things, but nobody ever told him. As governor of a special school, I learned that there is humour in unexpected places and John had fits in unexpected places, and it is not unkind to see the humour of it. He served for some years on Blakeney Parish Council and on one occasion at an AGM, where the councillors were required to assemble on the stage of the British Legion Hall, it was very obviously difficult for him. The fit that ensued saw him leap up, walk to the front of the stage, take his trousers down, swing around (no pants), and moon the parishioners. How I would love to have had an excuse to do that!

One of the councillors was given the task of taking him home. After accompanying him the short distance to his cottage and bundling him through his front door, the councillor dashed back to the Legion bar for a quick pint before going back into the meeting. When he returned, John was back in his seat perfectly fine and seemingly unaware that anything was amiss. Another time, a tenant of John's invited him for Sunday lunch with his family. John was taken with a fit, took off all his clothes, climbed onto the table and performed a naked ballet. He was quite a big man but apparently, he managed to dance gracefully among the condiments and cutlery without dislodging a spoon. Perhaps his rare moments of happiness could also bring them on.

It was always suspected that it was his parents' embarrassment of having him around in Uppingham that had resulted in his exile to Blakeney. But he made a life for himself down on the Carnser, renting out small rowing tubs to visitors. He always referred to summer visitors as 'Leicester Devils' and harassed them for sitting on boats or throwing stones in the water.

He was so pleased when eventually he acquired a mussel bed in the harbour and a grading spot on the New Cut. It made him feel a part of things while remaining blissfully unaware of the extent to which he wasn't. But it was of some credit to those last old fishermen that this was so. He never knew the lengths they went to keep him safe. John didn't sell many mussels, and his customers always complained to us that his sacks contained too much 'beach'. There could not have been anyone more unsuited to being a mussel fisherman but, like many in such situations, he was sublimely happy in his world.

When the first hand-operated mussel grading machines appeared on the New Cut he had to have one, even though his tiny output hardly merited it. The machine he finally had made, I assume to his instructions, turned the basic mechanics of mussel graders upside down. These early machines used a very simple principle of a turned handle and a reduction gear

that converted each revolution of the handle into four back-and-forth movements of a sorting tray. John's worked in reverse, the handle having to be turned four times to get the tray to move back once. He wasn't a fast mover but the speed at which he turned that handle was incredible. His arm would become a blur and the whole process would turn into a frenzy, except for the sorting tray which would sluggishly move back and eventually forth. After a period of frantic handle-turning, he would grab a bucket, rush down to the channel, fill it with water, rush back up and throw it on the sorting tray*. On one occasion two mystified visitors who were watching and standing much too close got soaked from head to foot.

Inevitably the stress of all this exertion brought on more of his fits, so we would often look up to see him writhing on the ground, standing to attention or taking his clothes off.

Working on the New Cut sorting mussels was – fits apart – relatively safe for him, if not for others. But of course, like us, he had to take his canoe 'down below'* to the mussel lays to get them. Being devoid of any useful boat-handling skills he was always late getting there. Sometimes he never arrived at all. I remember one morning when Billy Long and I were working together to fill one canoe, John appeared. Seeing him rowing toward us, and anticipating his first question, Billy asked me the time. It was five past twelve. Reaching us, John said, "Have you got the time, Billy"? Billy then shaded his eyes and stared off toward Blakeney church tower, tiny on the far horizon and barely visible through the haze. "The church clock says five past twelve, John." John's mouth dropped open in amazement, and he kept looking back and forth from Billy to the distant church, unable to think of anything to say.

He then pushed off and punted away in small circles down to where 'Fatty' Long was working. He stopped and began talking. We saw 'Fatty' pull out his watch and tell John the time. John looked back toward us, pointing and brushing his forehead in disbelief. From that day on, he would never miss an opportunity to tell people that Billy Long had better eyesight than anyone he had ever met. Billy could certainly see into John's innocent mind.

Coming back from the lays was always difficult because we had to go ahead so that John could follow the channel. This almost invariably meant that when we took the ground with our fully loaded canoes, his with its lighter load, the tide under it and minimal control, would come careering along and crash into us. This would always make Billy furious but, because it was so certain and John never ever saw it coming, always made me laugh.

Later when I had a haulage business, I would take John to Norwich station whenever he was going away. On one occasion he was travelling to Scotland to stay with his cousin, who he said was always leaping on him and trying to get him into bed. He hated that and thought she was mad, but he still went. I collected him from 96 High Street in a half-ton van with sliding doors. He came out laden with a suitcase, two large canvas kitbags and Rusty* on a lead. Approaching from round the back of the van, I didn't see him get hold of the door handle but became aware that he had as the van suddenly began rocking violently from side to side. Having assumed that the door opened outwards, he was pulling it with all his might. It was only after some minutes of my shouting that he

stopped and I was able to slide it open for him. The trip to Norwich was uneventful. This was unusual, as most of my journeys with him would involve a fit somewhere en route; rain on the windscreen guaranteed them. Not funny in a moving vehicle. On one occasion he got down on the floor and grabbed hold of my feet. I had to make deliveries to Norwich Fish Market, and not wanting to negotiate the station car park I told John I would drop him at the bottom of Prince of Wales Road. Choosing an empty stretch of pavement, I stopped. Eager to get out, and again failing to understand how the door worked, he threw all his weight against it, thereby lifting it off its track and bursting it outward onto the pavement. He went with it, landing on his back. There he lay spreadeagled on top of it, arms and legs in the air, baggage on top of him and poor old Rusty, who also got whipped out by his lead, on top of that. John was completely helpless. The door was curved and he looked like an enormous tortoise as he rocked gently back and forth, kicking his legs and waving his arms. I was so angry I almost left him there. I had to drive home on a cold winter's day with the dented passenger door in the back of the van.

John was inadvertently to become part of the reason I joined Blakeney Parish Council. He erected three small benches on the Carnser. Made from driftwood, they fitted in perfectly and offered a seat and a view to weary walkers. But because he hadn't asked their permission (which he didn't need anyway) the Parish Council quickly stepped in and removed them. Equally quickly, a small group of us put them back with a warning to the council that each time they removed them we would replace them. It was one of the few occasions when he might have felt some affection toward him.

All the years he lived in Blakeney, John's parents sent him an allowance. He lived frugally and as the money mounted, he would buy a cottage and put a village family in it. For a short while when first married lived in one. When his parents died, he bought several more, all of which were rented to locals. When he died, he left ten cottages to the Blakeney Housing Society, worth? Well, you work it out at today's values. Nobody gave Blakeney so much and got so little in return.

* Now sadly in need of repair

To wash the mud off the mussels.

The material he used was rubble from the demolished army camp at Langham, on which the dinghy park now stands.

The lower Harbour

To a greater or lesser degree, all the dogs John had (all called either Rusty or Rex) could tell when one of his fits was approaching and would try to warn him. The largest of these, and the one that came in the van with us, would jump up and hang by its teeth on the front of his pullover. On one occasion as John wandered through a fit, the wool of his pullover got stuck in Rusty's teeth and slowly unravelled until Rusty was wrapped in wool and all John had was two sleeves and a ruff around his neck.

Post Script:

Did you enjoy reading about John? Do you value the information contained in this magazine? Do you appreciate that it arrives on your doorstep every month free of charge? I'm sure many of you do, but do you think about what has to

be done for this to happen? Of the people who give their time producing 1500 copies of the GVN month after month? Well, perhaps it's time we did because right now if they are not aided by more helpers, particularly with the administration, it will 'as a magazine' cease to arrive at your door. If you think you can give some of your time and you would like to join this happy band, please give me a ring on 01263 7407474 or Oscar Haynes on 01263 712693

GS

Alexanders the Great

It's the middle of February; the verges are brightening with the glossy green of Alexanders leaves and occasionally a splash of piercing yellow-green shows us where the delicate flower is opening. Have you ever stopped to look at what else has noticed these early, intrepid flowers? I'll come back to that!

Alexanders, the 'Parsley of Alexandria' was introduced here by the Romans. For them, it was an important source of early green vegetables - they didn't know about vitamins, but we do! Throughout the year the succulent roots were used as a vegetable, they harvested the leaves, they pickled the young flower buds, they dried and ground the seeds like black pepper, as an Angelica-flavoured spice. After the Romans, its cultivation continued, especially in monastic herb gardens, and it was only superseded as a cottage garden herb by cultivated celery in the seventeenth century.

In the 1960s, when I began to visit Norfolk, Alexanders was the first thrilling signal that we were approaching the coast. It depended on the milder maritime climate and, away from the sea, it only thrived where it was sheltered, often around Roman settlements or near historic monastic sites where it had been carefully cultivated over many centuries.

There was a time when Alexanders was considered to be the county flower of Norfolk. So, what has happened to its reputation? Somehow, its PR has catastrophically broken down, but it's largely a case of misunderstanding, and it is important that this is put right!

The countries around the Mediterranean are where we find Alexanders' origins. The soft climate, with hot summers and mild winters are what suits it. Here, those conditions used to be confined to the maritime strip, protected by the warming effect of the North Sea. Our climate is changing though, those Mediterranean elements are becoming more frequent, and Alexanders can capitalise on the changes.

There are other things that are triggered to respond early to the lack of cold: creatures wake from their winter dormancy, invertebrate eggs hatch, pupae emerge into adults and insects are on the wing. But they are all dependent, directly or indirectly, on plants for food. The days are still short though; the traditional signs of spring are only just beginning, and the once dependable food sources are in very short supply. The principal plant that is there to provide for these intrepid 'early risers' is Alexanders. Have a close look at a flowerhead. There will be flies of all sizes, their little proboscises, like stumpy elephant's trunks, hovering up the nectar; little

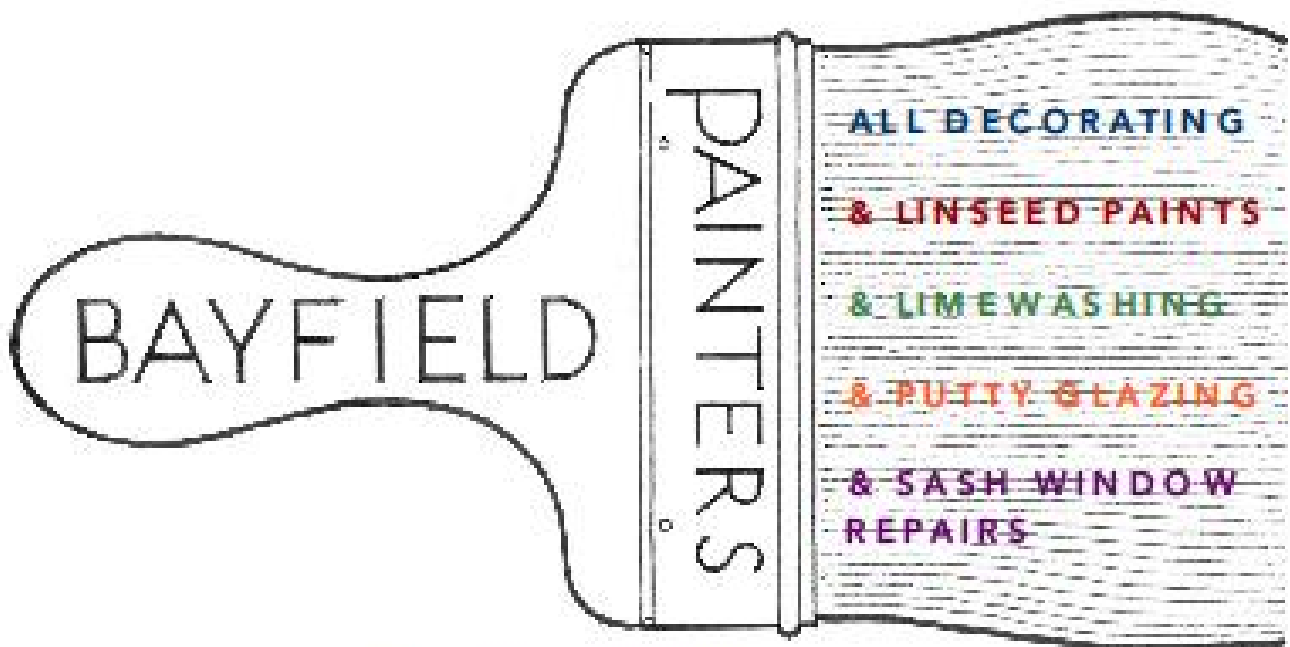
beetles, hoverflies, solitary bees and wasps and tiny spiders all take pot luck on the sticky table. Where are the native plants? The Cow Parsley is still a green tuft, the Blackthorn is still in tight bud (No – that lovely white blossom is Cherry Plum; Blackthorn is only just emerging), the dandelions are still a green rosette. The native plants have yet to ‘catch up’ with global warming, but Alexanders is bridging that yawning gap and playing a vital role in supporting so many of our early invertebrates. And they, remember, need all the help they can get; they feed the birds and they are our life-giving pollinators.

If, despite this ‘case for Alexanders’, you still want to curb its progress, you can hope for late, prolonged cold and long-lying snow for several years in succession, but that would only be a temporary set-back. If you want to take active measures, please, please, do so with discretion. If you must cut it down, cut it very low down and take the cut plant home – don’t leave it lying, looking a mess and smothering the neighbouring vegetation. If you want to prevent it spreading, cut it down after it has flowered, but before the seeds ripen and spread. Please never use herbicide on it. That leaves bare ground and seedlings will germinate.

And if you want to get your revenge on it, eat it! There are many ideas for recipes on line. Perhaps start simply, with Richard Mabey’s Food for Free suggestion: Take some naturally blanched (white) leaf stalks. Cut lengths of the white bits. “Blanch the stems by plunging into boiling water for about 3 minutes. Discard the water, drain, then simmer for 10 minutes in fresh water.” Richard suggests we eat them like asparagus, with melted butter. The young, tender leaf stalks are fragrant and delicious!

Remember, Alexanders is here to stay. Its success is due to global warming. If we can’t control global warming, we shall have far worse things to worry about than the advance of Alexanders!

Rachel Hamilton



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WHAT'S ON INFO

The Museum of the Broads opens for 2024!

We can't wait to welcome visitors again from Sunday 24 March.

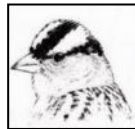
Come and discover many stories of the Broads. Families and dogs are welcome, there are activities for all ages, and you can take a boat trip too. We start with a fun, family Easter Trail over the school holidays with themed prizes for children taking part. Don't miss it!

And remember, you buy an annual ticket for the Museum, so pay once and visit as many times as you want throughout the year. We also have combined boat and entry tickets. See our website for details and to book.

The Museum of the Broads, Poor's Staithe, Stalham, NR12 9DA, 01692 581681
www.museumofthebroads.org.uk @MuseumBroads on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram



**NWT North Norfolk
Group and
Cley Bird Club
Whale Detective:**



**Uncovering the Surprising History of
Whales and Dolphins in Norfolk**

An illustrated talk by Carl Chapman

Thursday 21st March 2024

Cley Village Hall at 7.30pm, Entry £3.00
Kindly sponsored by BIRDscapes Gallery

Dates for future Arts Forum events at The Holt Community Centre

'The Arts Forum' – Interviewees and dates for 2024 usually the third Monday of the month. 'Arts Forum' interviews are part of an ongoing series of monthly interviews/conversations, with people working in a diverse range of creative fields and disciplines, discussing their work, inspiration, and influences; how and why they each became what they are; and reflecting upon life and living in Norfolk. Each Forum lasts about an hour, from 7.00 to 9.00-ish, after which there is time for questions. They aim to satisfy both an audience interested in the arts generally, and others wanting to know more about a particular person's life and work.

Wednesday March 20th – Keith Britten (The Holt Bookshop) **and Henry Layte** (Book Hive)
Wednesday April 17th – Anthony Hudson (Architect)

Wednesday May 22nd – James

McDermott (Scriptwriter, Poet and Teacher)

Wednesday June 19th – Amanda Geitner (Director of the East Anglia Arts Fund)

Wednesday July 17th –? tbc

We take a break in August and September and start again on Wednesday October 16th interviewee tbc

Arrive at 6.30pm when the bar will be open, for a prompt 7.00pm start. The evening will finish 8.30pm-ish after questions.

Though events are usually free donations for The Community Centre Charity are gratefully accepted.

No need to book just turn up on the night.
For up-to-date information please visit 'The Venue' website <https://thevenueholt.com/>

Save the Date!

French Gypsy Jazz in Cley Church

27 April 2024 7.30pm

Tickets £20 available from The Norfolk Churches Trust website

After their sell out concert at Elsing Hall last year the Transatlantic Hot Club return to Norfolk on April 27th, this time at Cley Church. Another opportunity to see this exceptional gypsy swing trio.

Gypsy swing is a style of music made popular in France during the 1930's by Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappelli. They combined traditional Romanian music with the swing jazz of the time and in 1934 formed the Quintette du Hot Club de Paris and the Hot Club moniker has been used ever since to denote this style of music. The music is string based with no drums or brass but the Transatlantic Hot Club is unique in featuring a harp rather than a guitar.

Cardiff born Ben Creighton Griffiths is one of the world's leading jazz harpists having played in over a dozen countries across the globe while French born Adrien Chevalier is New York's premier jazz violinist and a leading proponent of gypsy jazz in both the US and Europe. They are joined by Ashley John Long who is regarded as one of Europe's finest jazz bass players and is also a respected composer and professor of musicology and composition at Cardiff University

The proceeds from this event will be divided between St Margaret's Church and Norfolk Churches Trust.

www.youtube.com/@transatlantichotclub



10-14th July 2024

Become a Festival Friend!

After its huge success last year **Five Churches Festival** is back! Will you become a **Festival Friend** and support this joyful celebration bringing the arts and the Glaven Valley community together and raising funds for our beautiful churches?

Once again, all five churches in the Glaven Valley – each with their own unique architecture and atmosphere – will play host to an equally varied programme of music, including a spectacular **Movie Night** celebrating composer **Hans Zimmer** with **Humphrey Berney** from **Blake**; an audience with acclaimed journalist and broadcaster **Francine Stock**; the ever-popular vocal ensemble **The Kings Men** from **King’s College Cambridge**; an evening of **Mozart** with **Chaos Collective**; famed accordion and sax duo **Mikeleiz-Zucchi**; an exciting **Festival Finale** with our favourite Festival artists, and late-night **jazz!** Tickets are £15 for each event, including a free Festival programme.

Festival Friends Membership for individuals/couples starts at £50/£75 and includes free event tickets and an invitation to the **Festival Friends Reception.**

To sign up contact: Stephen Cottee
stephencottee@btinternet.com 07501828781

| |
|---|
| Blakeney Area Historical Society |
| Tuesday 27th February at 2:30pm <i>Cley Village Hall</i> Whaling from Norfolk <i>Charles Lewis</i> |
| Tuesday 26th March at 2:30pm <i>Cley Village Hall</i> Crisis Before the Shipwreck: The Gloucester and Oliver Cromwell’s Western Design, 1654-1656 <i>Dr Benjamin Redding</i> |
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The Letheringsett Cup

The English Reformation, when the Church of England broke away from the authority of the pope and the Catholic Church, is regarded as having been concluded during the reign of Elizabeth I (1558–1603). The parish of St. Andrew's Church in Letheringsett is fortunate to have a communion cup which dates to her reign and must be considered in that context because of its age.

It is said that the Inventory of Church Goods for 1552 showed the spoliation of Letheringsett Church which had taken place at the time of the Reformation. After this date Letheringsett, along with many other villages in Norfolk, became a Puritan stronghold.

In 1559 Elizabeth I restored the use of the cup to the laity. Following this, from 1561, various bishops gradually enforced the order, calling for the destruction of the "mass chalice" and for it to be substituted by a "plain cup and cover". In Norfolk Bishop Parkhurst of Norwich published an injunction which said that all "profane Cups, Bowls, Dishes and Chalices hitherto used at Mass" must be replaced by "a decent Communion Cup." The castle & lion assay office mark was officially introduced in Norwich from 29 September 1565, together with the date letter "A" which was used until the following Michaelmas. Each year after this the date letter continued to be changed at Michaelmas.

The production of a church plate in Norwich during the years 1565-71 was characterised by for communion cups of a relatively uniform shape. These had a bell-shaped bowl on a spool-shaped stem which in turn rose from a low-domed foot.

The communion cup belonging to Letheringsett has the Norwich city hallmark of a castle over a lion together with the date letter "B" to represent the year of its manufacture and assay in 1566/67. It also bears a maker's mark which was formerly regarded as a "maidenhead" but is now recognised as being a "queen's head" representing Queen Elizabeth I, as a lady in a Tudor headdress. This is now believed to be the maker's mark of John Basyngam I of Norwich.

It is known that John Basyngam manufactured two communion cups in 1556/67, the second year of the Norwich Assay marks. These were the one for Letheringsett with the other being for St John Timberhill, Norwich. Subsequently, he produced a further 59 in 1567/68 and then another two in 1568/69, before he himself died in 1569.

The Basyngam family were wealthy landowners within the city of Norwich and had been supporters of the reformed church and the Tudors, including Elizabeth I. Indeed, they even included the Royal Arms of Henry VIII in the grand gateway to their house in Cutler Row. Hence it is no surprise that the queen's head was used by John Basyngam I as his mark. Another reason to know that it was his is because it was not used by anyone in his workshop after the year of his death in 1569. It is not known for sure whether John Basyngam II was his son or nephew but either way neither he nor his apprentice Peter Paterson I ever appear to have used the queen's head mark.

Another interesting connection with John Basyngam I is that the gateway to his house has survived. It was removed and restored to be preserved at the south-west corner of Norwich Guildhall in 1857. It can still be seen there to this day and displays the arms of Henry VIII, and the city of Norwich, as well as those of the Goldsmiths' Company.

Twenty or so diocesan treasuries have been opened in cathedrals since 1958, having been supported by the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths. These have on display historic examples of church plate from each diocese, giving the public the opportunity to view items that it would not otherwise be possible to exhibit. Hence the Letheringsett Cup can now be seen in the treasury at Norwich Cathedral. It is one of the earliest in Norfolk, with only about a dozen surviving examples from the same year and only two that were manufactured the year before.





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The Brougham Gateway

Part of the gateway to the Brougham Palace, built by John Brougham, Bishop of Exeter, in the 15th century. It is a fine example of Gothic architecture.



PRESS RELEASE

New Community Orchard planted by Wiveton Village residents.

5th February 2024

Author; Cllr Phil Cheadle, on behalf of Wiveton Parish Council. For further information please contact; 07768 744047, phil.cheadle77@gmail.com

Wiveton Parish Council and the its residents are transforming a piece of underused land in the centre of Wiveton village into a beautiful community orchard.

The one-acre plot owned by the Parish Council has been informally used by residents over the last 50 years, but had recently become overgrown and in need of regeneration. After a community consultation, the decision was made to invest in developing the land into a space that all residents can enjoy.

Wiveton Councillor Mr Richard Petley and Wiveton resident Steve Beal lead the project, starting with a few working days in January and February to clear the land. Residents of all ages gathered to remove overgrown bushes, cut back the grass and remove rubbish from the land.

Wiveton Parish council has funded the purchase of 20 fruit trees, including local Norfolk apple varieties, to create an orchard on the newly cleared site. Wildlife conservation was front of mind for the project, with a focus on preserving small areas of brambles and existing hedgerows to support local birds and encourage insects.

Everyone is increasingly aware of the value of time spent outside and with nature, and the space has been designed to allow for community gatherings, as a place for residents to enjoy the views over the Glaven valley, and as a place for the children of the village to come together and play.

Councillor Petley commented; "It's been great to be involved in the transformation from underused land to a space which all the residents and wildlife can benefit. Well done to everyone in the village and local community who contributed to this project, and who came out in force on the working days to make this happen."



