

The Glaven Valley Newsletter



And the winner of the 2023 Blakeney Regatta Duck Race in aid of the Blakeney Twelve community benefit charity, is.....the little yellow duckling sponsored by Elizabeth Tovey!

*The traditional Blakeney Regatta Greasy Pole competition and swimming races were other Quay attractions enjoyed by the hundreds of spectators lining the creek.
Photo by Tom Green*

September 2023



Dates for future events at The Venue

'My Norfolk, My Holt' and 'Arts Forum' interviews part of an ongoing series of monthly interviews/conversations, **take a break in September, starting again on:**

- **Wednesday October 18th – H.J Jackson (Printmaker) A conversation about art, life & '70 years of printmaking**, discussing his work, creative processes, inspiration, and influences; **how and why he became an artist**; how he makes what he makes, as well as where, when, and why he makes it; the importance of creativity and the arts, for him personally **as well as for society more generally**; and reflecting upon life and living in Norfolk.
- **Wednesday November 15th – Martin Eaton (saxophonist with, amongst others, the Martin Eaton Quartet and The Jonathan Wyatt Big Band)** An interview discussing the life of a jobbing musician, Martin's love of the saxophone, his favourite repertoire, players, composers, and records; influences on his playing, illustrated with instrumental material; the importance of music generally **personally and professionally**; **how and why he became a musician; the challenges and rewards of being one.**
- **Change of date January 17th 2024 – Raffaella Barker (author).**
An interview discussing the life of a writer; the importance of writing **personally and professionally**; the influences on Raffaella's work, illustrated with material from authors and others who are, or have been, important to her; **how and why she became a writer; the challenges and rewards of being one.**

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 Venue are gratefully accepted.

Booking is helpful, for all events, so that numbers can be gauged.

To book please contact The Venue 01263 713427, or via email info@thevenueholt.com

For up-to-date information please visit 'The Venue website <https://thevenueholt.com/>

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THE GLAVEN VALLEY NEWSLETTER

Editor: Lorraine Nairn BSc (Hons) Psych
12 The Cornfield, Langham, NR25 7DQ
07983 287088
email: editorgvn@gmail.com

Treasurer: Martin Tyler 01263 740817
Stonebridge House, Bridgefoot Lane
Wiveton, Holt, NR25 7TP
mctyler@hotmail.co.uk

Production & Distribution Co-ordinator:
Oscar Haynes 01263 712693
Dunelm, Avenue Road, High Kelling,
NR25 6RD
email: oscar.haynes@btinternet.com

Printing: Oscar Haynes &
Chevertons, Cromer

OCTOBER 2023 EDITION DEADLINE

Copy for the October edition must be received by the 15th September 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.

GVN Web Address

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

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

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

Treasurer's Report

Over 250 people have very generously donated to us over the last three months bringing in nearly £15,000 to stabilise our finances.

If you would like to support us then best way is through a small regular donation by standing order – either monthly or annually – that way we are in a better position to plan for the future knowing that we have regular amounts coming in. Standing orders can either be set up online or by using the form below and sending it to your bank. You can always cancel this at any time through your bank.

Other ways to donate are

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

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

Standing Order Mandate

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

FOR PRIVATE RENTAL

TWO BEAUTIFUL COASTAL COTTAGES AVAILABLE FOR SIX MONTHS TO ONE YEAR RENTAL.

COTTAGE ONE - 2 KING SIZE BEDROOMS, 2 EN SUITE SHOWER/BATH ROOMS, LIGHT & AIRY OPEN PLAN SITTING/DINING/KITCHEN, DOWNSTAIRS CLOAKROOM. SUNNY PRIVATE GARDEN AND CART SHED PARKING FOR TWO CARS. CLOSE TO BEACH AND AMENITIES. TEN MINUTES TO HOLT.

COTTAGE TWO – 2 KING SIZE BEDROOMS, 2 EN SUITE SHOWER ROOMS PLUS A FAMILY BATHROOM. LARGE VAULTED SITTING/DINING/KITCHEN, UTILITY ROOM, SOUTH FACING PRETTY COURTYARD GARDEN, PRIVATE PARKING FOR TWO CARS. CLOSE TO BLAKENEY.

BOTH PROPERTIES ARE IN EXCELLENT CONDITION AND FULLY FURNISHED TO A VERY HIGH STANDARD. MAY SUIT SOMEONE SHORT TERM WHO IS HOUSE HUNTING IN THE AREA OR SIMPLY AS A REGULAR HOLIDAY RETREAT.

ENQUIRIES TO TELE: 07876064395

FUNDRAISING TALKS FOR ST. MARY’S CHURCH, KELLING

In St Mary’s Church, Kelling

- **9th September** at 11am – d’Oyly Carte commemoration – FREE
- 6.30pm – d’Oyly Carte: *The World of Topsy Turvy* - £10
- **16th September** at 6.30pm – Calibre Duo Guitar Concert - £10

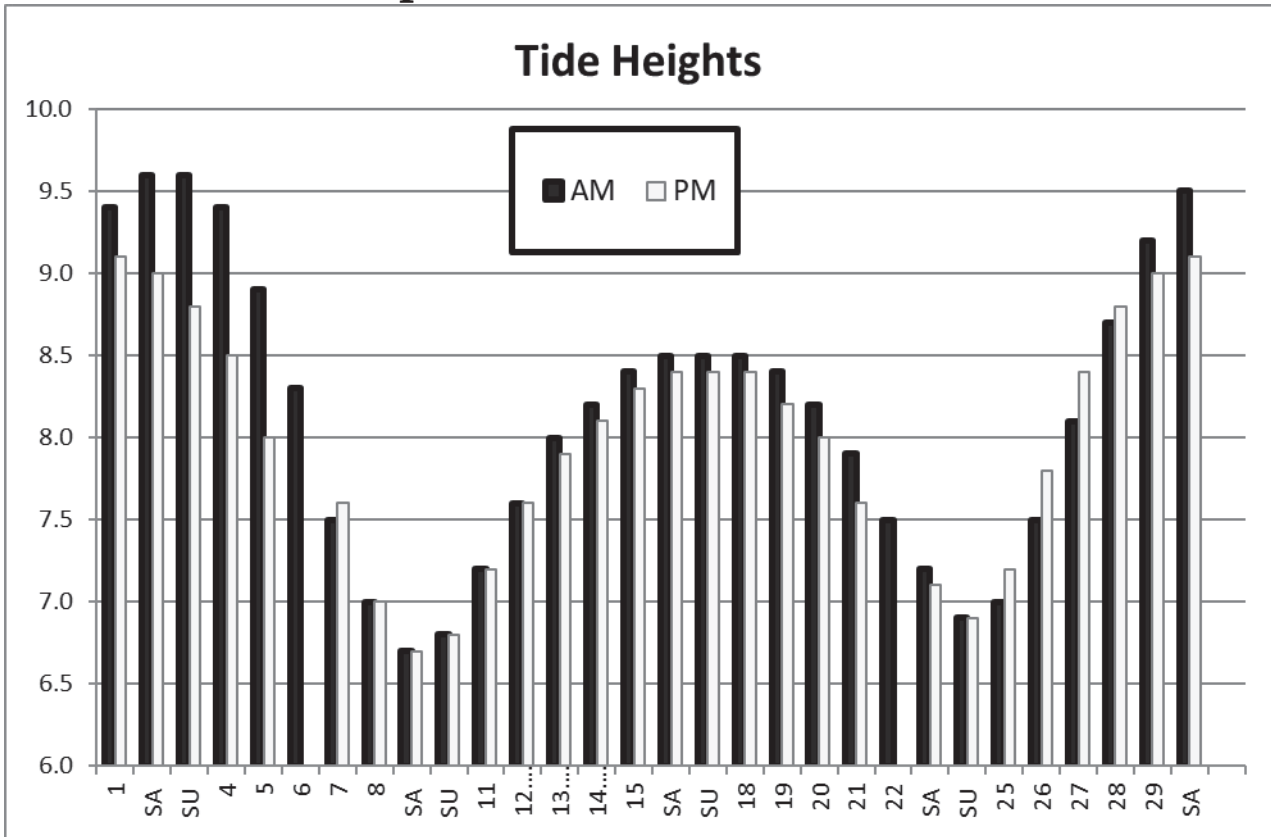
In The Venue, Holt Community and Arts Centre

- **30th September** at 6.30pm – Nick Acheson: *The Meaning of Geese* - £10
- **14th October** at 6.30pm - The Lord Dannatt: *Victory to Defeat (The British Army 1918 to 1940. A Cautionary Tale of our Times)* - £10

Both Nick Acheson and the Lord Dannatt will be signing copies of their latest books after the talks.

Payment can be made at the door for both venues.

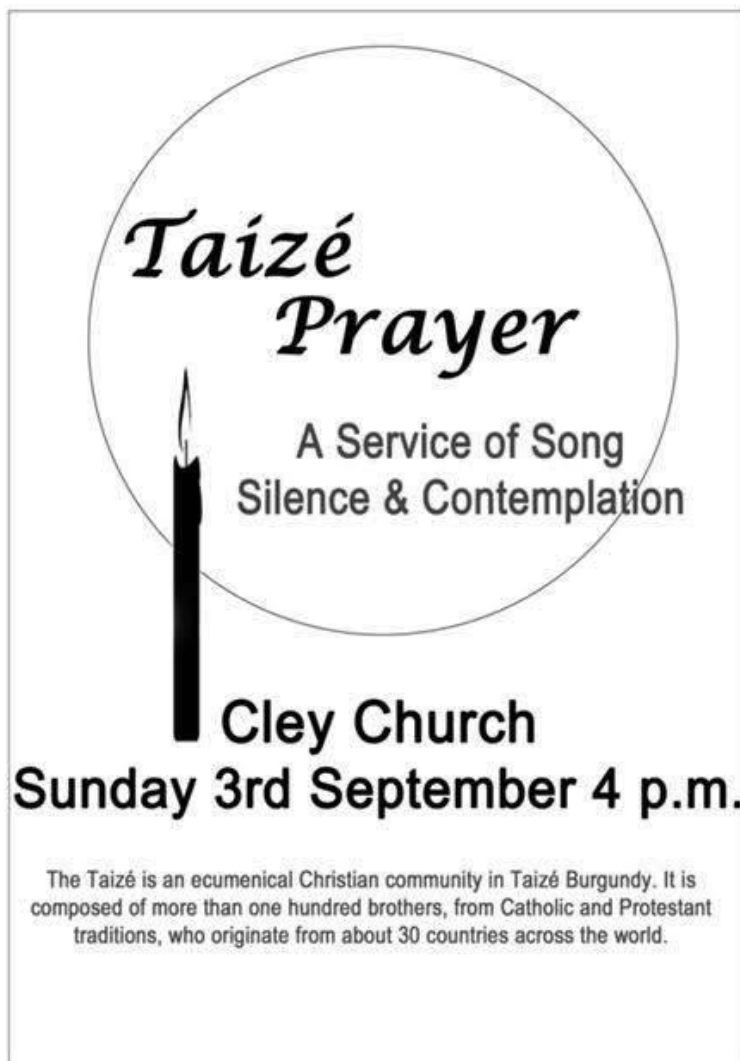
September 2023 -Tide Details



Tide Times

	AM	PM		AM	PM
Fri 01 September	08:10	20:56			
Sat 02 September	08:53	21:35			
Sun 03 September	09:35	22:12			
Mon 04 September	10:17	22:48	Mon 18 September	09:18	21:44
Tue 05 September	10:59	23:25	Tue 19 September	09:50	22:14
Wed 06 September	11:43		Wed 20 September	10:24	22:46
Thu 07 September	00:06	12:34	Thu 21 September	11:04	23:25
Fri 08 September	00:59	13:48	Fri 22 September	11:52	
Sat 09 September	02:39	15:26	Sat 23 September	00:14	12:55
Sun 10 September	04:00	16:44	Sun 24 September	01:25	14:33
Mon 11 September	05:03	17:46	Mon 25 September	03:12	16:19
Tue 12 September	05:55	18:34	Tue 26 September	04:31	17:28
Wed 13 September	06:37	19:11	Wed 27 September	05:28	18:21
Thu 14 September	07:13	19:42	Thu 28 September	06:17	19:07
Fri 15 September	07:45	20:12	Fri 29 September	07:03	19:50
Sat 16 September	08:16	20:43	Sat 30 September	07:47	20:28
Sun 17 September	08:47	21:13			

By Martin Tyler



Fakenham Library

Fakenham Library will be closing for refurbishment 6th September, reopening 23rd October. Please note these dates are subject to change.

For further updates on this you can check our library page at: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries-local-history-and-archives/libraries/visit/locations-and-opening-times/fakenham-library>

or follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FakenhamWellsLibrariesNorfolk/>

Come & Sing Handel Coronation Anthems with Sheringham and Cromer Choral

Saturday 21 October 2023

This very popular annual Come & Sing event will be held on Saturday 21 October 2023. It takes the form of an all-day workshop in the Lighthouse Community Church, Cromer Road, Sheringham lead by musical director David Ballard and accompanied by Philip Adams.

The day will conclude with a concert performance at St Peter's Church Sheringham open to all. There will be a Retiring collection for Church and Society funds. In this Coronation year we sing the four Coronation Anthems which were composed by Handel for King George II. The best-known of them, Zadok the Priest, has been sung prior to the anointing of the sovereign at the coronation of every British monarch since, including King Charles III.

The workshop gets under way with distribution of scores from 10:00 am. At the close of the workshop all singers will make their way the short distance to St Peter's Church where a performance will take place at 4:00 pm. It is very much hoped that friends and families of the singers as well as other members of the local community will come along to St Peter's to enjoy this short concert and celebrate the occasion.

Booking Information:

Tickets cost £10. Pre-booking is essential. Please complete the Booking Form which can be found on the Come & Sing page of the Society's website <https://www.sheringhamandcromerchoral.org.uk/come-sing/>

Blakeney

News from Blakeney CEVA Primary School

I am writing this from school, 3 weeks before the children are due to return. Any teacher will tell you that an empty school is a strange place! It is lovely to have the time to get organised without distractions but there is also a sense that the building is not fulfilling its purpose. I can assure that Miss Collison and I are here making it very purposeful!

While we wait for the children to return, the school has been deep cleaned and the outside has been redecorated. Classrooms have been reorganised to accommodate our much-awaited nursery children and the KS2 classroom has grown in numbers too-so more desks were required. This is all positive news and has left school looking great.

New play equipment has been ordered for the outdoor learning area (The Plantation). This is specifically for children in the nursery and reception years but its' arrival has meant that the whole area has been tidied and is ready for the new academic year.

Other changes are the names of the classes. Our nursery children will be in Hoglets class, KS1 children will be in Hedgehogs class, and KS2 children (not finding another appropriate porcine related name) will be Samphire class. After school clubs running this half term are Lego, Board games, and Cooking club.

We already have some September trips planned. KS2 children will be heading off to Sheringham Park with other schools in our Federation for a living History Day-which should be fun and immersive. KS1 are heading to Morston harbour to paint seascapes "en plein air" as part of their learning theme and the whole school will be heading out onto the water to see the seals. This is becoming a regular event and is lovely for the new children. We really enjoy looking at the photos from this trip as it gives a great view on how they have all grown.

With so much already planned we are anticipating another bumper year. Now all we need are the students to return feeling as much excitement for the coming year as the staff. Hurry up Blakeney children-we cannot wait to see you.

Claire Thoday

Blakeney Sailing Club

What a great Fun Week we had in August!

There was the 'Custard Cream Flyby' during which biscuits had to be collected, at speed, from the back of the safety boat, the Bike Ride, the Tennis Tournament, the Walk, the

Laser Relay, the Sunset Kayak Safari and, of course, the sail to Stiffkey Freshes....It was a varied and exciting time during which club members showed their competitive natures and also their competence on the water in a variety of ways. Thanks to all the organisers for arranging such an entertaining programme of activities. Fun Week always creates lots of magical memories. See some great pictures of the event on Facebook, Instagram and on the club web site.

This year the Prize Giving and Barbecue took place at the Harbour Rooms. Lots of prizes were awarded for some well sailed races. The food was excellent and a good time was had by all.

Then there was North West Norfolk Sailing Week. What a lot of weather! However, none of this dampened the enthusiasm of club sailors or visitors and, once again, it was a great week of water sport.

The season is racing by! Hope to see you on the water very soon.

Amy Howes

News from the Glaven Centre

Here at The Glaven, we have been in the middle page spread of the Eastern Daily Press; a very proud moment for our centre. We had a great turn-out for our fundraising event at The Blakeney Harbour Rooms and raised £869, thank you so much to our wonderful staff, volunteers and support committee for their tremendous hard work, dedication, and efforts to make this possible. It means a lot to us.

We would also like to thank Sarah Mitchell for dedicating her wonderful book, "Letters to A Stranger" to The Glaven Centre; how incredibly thoughtful. We are immensely grateful and have enjoyed the book very much.

We have more events to look forward to, the next being Party on The Pastures on the 20th August. Our happy Mondays are still a booming success - if you have not tried it, do come along. Please remember to call before 10am on the day to secure your place.

We are looking forward to our wheelyboat trips and have also celebrated a very special person's 90th birthday. We have so much to offer here at The Glaven. We pride ourselves on being a safe space for you and / or your loved ones. We offer warmth, compassion, companionship, support, minor clinical care, activities, and delicious home-cooked meals. We are very flexible with our offerings and are proud of our high standards of care from our qualified staff and registered nurses, so do call us to discuss your individual needs.

We would love to hear from you on 01263 740762, or email our nurses on nurses.glavencaring@gmail.com

Janine Nelson

Coastal Rowing Association of Blakeney

After the undoubted success of July's Broads Tour, your local rowing club has now settled into a regular pattern of thoroughly enjoyable outings towards Blakeney Point or up the Cley Channel. It has been an extremely busy summer despite the varied weather.

One of the many highlights of recent weeks took place on 20th July. This was the morning, midsummer row followed by a full-scale English breakfast served at the Blakeney Harbour Rooms. After a great row both skiffs were efficiently cleaned and stored. Then the two crews settled down to enjoy plentiful bacon, eggs, mushrooms, sausages, toast, jam, and coffee. Thanks to the staff at The Harbour Rooms for their service. See some pictures of this event, as well as many other action photographs, on the club website at crablakeney.wordpress.com.

The next social event involving rowing and food will take place on 31st August on the evening tide. This will be the ever-popular Pinchen's Creek Picnic. Many club members, using the skiffs and a variety of other craft will gather on the beach near the Lifeboat Station to enjoy good company and refreshments. Let us hope that the weather will be kind to the "Crabbers."

At the time of writing, rowers are preparing for the Blakeney Regatta on Sunday 20th August. Once again, a *Hoi Larntan* crew will be pitted against the *Bluejacket* team. A crew from the Wells and King's Lynn Rowing Club will also be lining up on the day. It promises to be a classic race as the three mixed crews rise to the challenge. No doubt there will be plenty of time for banter and social activity after the race. Read next month's newsletter for a full account of the race or, alternatively, read the club's blog at the above web address.

Another competitive event on the calendar is The Thames Great River Race on 16th September.

There is much more to find out about the rowing scene. Please contact Humphrey at hborgnis@icloud.com if you wish to know more. When you are on the water for your first row, coaching and helpful advice will always be available.

You will be made very welcome. There is no obligation to participate in any competitive event. Come along for a gentle and sociable row. Remember, you can keep up with the club's activities on Instagram, on Facebook and on the club's website at crablakeney.wordpress.com.

Come and meet the Blakeney rowers this summer.

Barry Howes

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BLAKENEY FILM NIGHT VILLAGE HALL

"The Sapphires" (PG)

**Friday 15th September
£5 on the door**

Musical comedy based on a true story. In 1968 four related Aboriginal girl singers were discovered - & transformed - by a madcap talent scout with a love of soul music. Thus "The Sapphires" (Australia's answer to "The Supremes") were born & soon embarked on a tour of American bases in Vietnam.

Full of energy, fun, uplifting performances & classic '60s Motown hits, it's a triumphant celebration of love, family & music - with a lot of "heart" as well as soul, being set against a background of war and the bigotry in Australia at that time. It is also a warm tribute to the huge achievement of these women for whom success as performers was just the beginning.

Doors open at 6.30 for a 7pm start
Bar/Refreshments
All profits to the Village Hall
www.blakeneyvillagehall.org.uk

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**Friday 8th September
6.30pm
at Hindringham Village Hall**

HENRY BLOFELD

Will be dusting down the Ashes
with his special brand of
cricketing humour -
accompanied by a sit-down
dinner
Tickets £35 or without dinner
£25.

**Please book –
J. Greenwood 01328 878336**



DIARY DATES: We have had so much going on this year in our beautiful village and we have not finished yet!

- **Saturday 21st October 2023 - End of Season Bonfire & Fireworks** (Plan B, is for Sunday 22nd October, i.e., weather!)
- **NOTICE OF PUBLIC REFERENDUM: BLAKENEY NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN - Thursday 14th September 2023**

Following examination, and the incorporation of the required modifications, the Blakeney Neighbourhood Plan is now moving forward to a parish referendum. The Referendum will be held from **7am to 10pm on Thursday 14 September 2023** at Blakeney Village Hall, Langham Road, Blakeney, Norfolk, NR25 7PG.

A **Referendum Information Statement** has been prepared which contains all of the relevant information about the referendum, including the referendum question, who can vote, the referendum documents (the specified documents), the neighbourhood area, and information on referendum expenses.

If the community votes in favour of the Plan it will form part of the wider Development Plan for North Norfolk and help determine planning applications within Holt Parish.

The referendum documents, including the Referendum Version Neighbourhood Plan, Referendum Information Statement and Examination Report are all available to view at [Home | Blakeney Neighbourhood Plan \(north-norfolk.gov.uk\)](http://Home | Blakeney Neighbourhood Plan (north-norfolk.gov.uk))

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

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

including Coronation Car Park and Blakeney Village Hall Car Park.

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

EXTRACTS FROM THE AUGUST FULL COUNCIL MEETING...

Chairman's Announcements –

Back Lane – NCC looked at the recent surface repair works yesterday and agreed that further work needs doing.

Neighbourhood Plan – NNDC have advised that the referendum will be held from 7am to 10pm on Thursday 14th September 2023 at Blakeney Village Hall. If the community votes in favour of the Plan, it will form part of the wider Development Plan for North Norfolk and help determine planning applications within the parish of Blakeney.

Parking on A149 New Road – Norfolk Constabulary have visited and concluded that vehicles parked on the highway outside 43 New Road, are not causing a dangerous obstruction as the road is wide at this point, and causes the traffic to slow down. With so much building work in general along the coast, this is not something that will go away in the near future. Any further questions should be directed to SNTHolt@norfolk.police.uk

Open Public Session –

- *The Liberal Democratic member, standing for the next General Election; Having just attended the open public meeting in the village hall, about Holt Medical Practice planning to close Blakeney Surgery I wonder if the Parish Council and the community would consider crowd funding for £300k to build a new surgery, I think this is highly viable.*

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

NP/23/1490 – *Proposal; Erection of steel framed agricultural store at, New Barn Farm, Saxlingham Road, Blakeney. Resolved – No objection;* however, we do support the comment made by a member of the public with regard colour, i.e., preference for it to blend into the immediate surroundings.

PLANNING APPEAL ref: AP/23/0015 (original no. PF/21/1524) – *Proposal; Change of use and extension to existing storage barn to form new dwelling and enable rare chalk grassland creation system including re-location of existing access at; Storage Barn, Morston Road, Blakeney. Resolved –* Our last objection was comprehensive and stands.

PLANNING APPEAL ref: AP/23/0011 (original no. PF/22/2797) – Proposal; Demolition of existing single storey rear extension and first floor stair access, and construction of a new first floor and single storey extension to form a habitable room on part of the original building footprint. The application also includes for replacing existing windows with energy efficient fittings and insertion of a windows to the garage, at; The Wells, 3 The Pastures, Blakeney. Resolved – Object; we agree with all comments made by North Norfolk District Council with regard this application.

FINANCE - Accounts totalling £18,381.49 were paid.

Clerk/RFO Report –

- BPC will withdraw from the Norfolk Alc **Pilate Scheme for Gov.uk** domain as it does not support our website or email services. We will look to achieving the Gov.uk domain via other sources.
- **AGAR 2022/23** – The figures in boxes 6 & 7 have been restated in consultation with PKF Littlejohn Auditors, as the Business Rates for 2023/24 had inadvertently been included in the previous years end figures.

Members were in receipt of scheme details for the **NCC Highways Parish Partnership Scheme** for the financial year 2024/25 and asked to bring any suggestions to the attention of the Clerk asap in order that they can be costed and considered before the closing date of 8th December 2023.

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

Blakeney Surgery – Cllr Nigel Sutcliffe.

- Our MP Mr Baker has held a meeting with Holt Medical Practice (HMP) who informed him they did not like what he has done and his overall involvement with trying to keep Blakeney surgery open. He has informed them this is a local cause, as with many others, which he supports.
- The public meeting which HMP must hold took place today. It was well attended (around 280 people) and is the first time we have heard from HMP as to why they want to close Blakeney surgery. My thanks go to Jane Lewis for ensuring the information leaflets were distributed to Blakeney residents informing them of it.
- The answers to the four questions we asked HMP have now been answered as follows;

1. The work relationship between HMP and Holt Medical Services Ltd. Holt Medical Services Ltd is the trading name for Kelling Pharmacy. The directors of that company we understand are the partners of HMP.
2. A request for their financial year end balance sheets from 2018 to 2023. These were received and were redacted so much that they were incomprehensible.
3. Any discussions regarding the sale of Blakeney surgery.
4. Any discussions regarding the purchase of Blakeney surgery.

In respect of both 3 & 4 the answer from HMP was that there were no discussions.

- May I remind you that as part of the consultation process, HMP must undertake their patient survey and this will commence on the 14th August and can be completed on line with printed copies being available. The closing date is 30th September 2023. Please make sure we all complete it. The dates for the drop-in sessions at Holt Surgery; Wednesday 16th August 10:30 – 12:30 & Holt Library Tuesday 29th August 10:30 – 12:30 & Melton Surgery Thursday 31st August 10:30 – 12:30. These sessions will allow patients the opportunity to discuss their concerns in person, with an independent third party, or to have someone else complete the survey on their behalf whilst they are present.

BPC have not yet got involved in a direct discussion with HMP as suggested at our last meeting due to everything else that has been on-going, but we will still consider it for the future.

Following the nominations from Blakeney Sailing Club we reappoint the following members to our **Dinghy Park Management Committee**; John Seymour, Alan Collett & David Fairbrass.

No **COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS** received in advance.

CORRESPONDENCE –

Resolved that having considered the feedback from the community that we continue our enquires for the replacement of the **Webcam** only (no CCTV) at Blakeney Quay and that this will now fall to the Parish Council to take these enquiries forward.

Resolved that Alban Donohoe, Judy Pegden, Mike Reed (& Jenny Girling) offer to join the current named Trustees of the **Scout Hut** in order to keep the basics running and work with them to resolve outstanding issues, including; Finances, Property condition (they are awaiting a site visit from NNDC) & Risk Indemnity and in tandem we shall make enquiries as to the future use of the site and undertake any appropriate feasibility studies. Collectively, we shall work hard to let the 2 local Trustees stand down as soon as is practical to do so, whilst achieving the best outcome possible, whilst considering ongoing financial liability.

Resolved that on the recommendation of The Almshouse Association some time ago, we revisit the number of **Blakeney Memorial Cottages Charitable Trustees**, which should be 4 or 5 at the most. BPC had in fact ran with 4 for decades and only increased this in the last few years, against advice. BPC have always adopted the stance that only serving Councillor will be Trustees, therefore it is agreed that Jane Armstrong, (no longer a serving member of BPC) will be removed as a Trustee with immediate effect.

Resolved that having considered the applications for the **Outstanding Contribution to the Community Award 2023** the award shall go to Mrs Lynn Massingham.

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

- i) **PF/23/0579 – Little Butts, Saxlingham Road, Blakeney** – Demolition of existing single-storey dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling - **Approved.**
- ii) **PF/23/0894 – Richmond, Morston Road, Blakeney** – Detached garage/boat store and widening of access/gateway – **Approved.**
- iii) **Four Winds, 13 Kingsway, Blakeney** – Lawful development certificate for proposed single storey rear extension – **Permission not required.**

YOUR SERVING PARISH COUNCILLORS ARE: -

Rosemary Thew – 740555 – Moonraker, Back Lane

Nigel Sutcliffe – 741714 – Dallinga, 71 Morston Road

Jenny Girling – 740792 – 11 Queens Close

Samantha Arlow – 741297 – 40 Langham Road

Alban Donohoe – 741741 – Ivy House, Back Lane

Shirley Everett – 740819 – Southside, 87 Morston Road

Barry Girling – 740792 – 11 Queens Close

Willie Weston – 740910 – 27 Queens Close

Iain Wolfe – via Parish Office

Judy Pegden – 741497 – 8 Wilsons Way

Mike Reed – 07760 162344 – 2 Memorial Cottages, New Road

Those interested in planning matters, should keep an eye on the NNDC website at the moment as a first resort and respond direct to NNDC with any objections/comments/support but by all means copy the Parish Council in, but please do note the deadlines.

Next Full Council meeting; Tuesday 5th September 2023.

Blakeney Area Historical Society

**Tuesday 26th September
7:30pm**

Cley Village Hall & Zoom
**Clandestine Operations at RAF
Sculthorpe in the 1950s**
Ian Brown, RSHC Curator

Tuesday 31st October 2:30pm

Cley Village Hall
**Religion and the Iceni: new
excavations at the Roman
temple at Caistor-by-Norwich**
*Will Bowden, Professor of Roman
Archaeology, Nottingham University*

Free Entry

Donations welcome

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

Further Information & Updates

www.bahs.uk

Quotable Quote's by William Shakespeare

All the world's a stage, and all the men and
women merely players

All that glitters is not gold

A rose by any other name would smell as
sweet

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate

Conch // Zbigniew Herbert

In front of the mirror in my parent's bedroom
lay a pink conch. I used to approach it on
tiptoes, and with a sudden movement put it
against my ears. I wanted to surprise it one day
when it wasn't longing with a monotonous hum
for the sea. Although I was small, I knew that
even if we love someone very much, at times it
happens that we forget about it



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
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book that you are reading, a craft that
you are working on or just pop in for a
chat. There is no charge and all are
welcome.

All Saints Church Upper Sheringham

Friday 15th September 7.30pm

Organ Recital by Ashley Grote, Master of Music at Norwich Cathedral, playing a selection of favourite organ pieces. Tickets £10 (to include light refreshments) available on the door (cash only please)

Friday 29th September 10.30am to 12.30pm

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CLEY WI

Programme September–November 2023

Sep 7th

Medieval Medicine

The weird and the wonderful
Rosie Wilkin

Oct 5th

Autumnal Notes

A musical interlude (in Cley Church)
Wyatt Earp & friends

Nov 2nd

Fakenham to Wells

A retrospective view
Philip West

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings take place
in

Cley Village Hall, NR25 7RJ, at 2.30pm

Members Free

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

Further details 01263 740225

September Sudoku: Easy

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

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

Hard

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

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

Medium

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

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

Wordsearch

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

ALDENTE, AUGRATIN, BAKEBLIND
 BALLOTINE, BASTE, BEURREMARIE
 CAMELISE, CLARIFY
 CODDLING, DRIZZLE, FRICASSEE
 JULIENNE, LARDING, MEUNIERE
 PUREE

Thoughts from the Rectory for September

Dear Friends,

The story goes that one day, in a rather strict Christian primary school, the children were queuing up in the dining room at lunchtime. At one end of the counter was a huge pile of apples. The teacher on duty that day – one of the strictest – had written a large note and placed it beside the pile of apples. The note said: “Only take ONE apple. God is watching.” Further along the counter there was another enormous pile – this time of chocolate biscuits. Beside the pile of biscuits, one of the children had scribbled a note: “Take as many as you want. It’s OK. God is watching the apples.” One of the things that appeals to me about that story is the fact that the child doesn’t seem to be quite as afraid of God as the teacher would have liked, which is at it should be! And in a different way, it’s an amusing idea that God can only manage to watch one pile of food at once.

September sees the start of the Harvest season, in terms of services in our churches (Glandford’s is on Sunday 24th). We tend to focus more on the apples than the biscuits at such times. But it is an opportunity to give thanks for everything in creation, and everything that the earth produces – for the essential goodness and gift of creation – and indeed to give thanks for all those involved in the whole food process from soil to table. Let us never underestimate the vital work of our farmers, and all of those working in every aspect of the food industry. We are all aware of the extra challenges that everyone faces in the light of climate change, especially those in the developing world. Maybe this is also a real moment to re-examine our own lifestyles and consider how we can tread more lightly on the earth.

Enjoy the harvest! Enjoy the apples and the chocolate biscuits this September – but I would recommend more of the former than the latter!

With my prayers and good wishes to all, 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

glavenvalleybenefice@yahoo.co.uk

ASSISTANT CLERGY

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

LAY MINISTERS

Dr Roger Bland	01236 740806
Penny Thewlis	01263 715667

CHURCHWARDENS

Blakeney

Stephanie Green	01263 740788
Rosemary Thew	01263 740555

Cley

Hannah Stevenson	01263 741336
David Barron	07989 932468

CHURCHWARDENS

Glandford

Averil Monteath	01263 740179
Roger Combe	01263 713901

Letheringsett

John Pridham	01328 831851
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Wiveton

Stephen de Loynes	07975 813057
Charles Killin	01263 741744

Funerals:

The funeral for Peter Comins took place on Friday 11th August. With Wiveton Church temporarily closed, the service was held in Cley, but followed by a burial at Wiveton, where Peter lived.

Also, just before this information was submitted, we learnt of the death of Sylvia Harrison, who had reached the wonderful age of 106. She had lived an extraordinarily long and full life, and her death feels rather like the end of an era. There will be a Memorial Service for Sylvia at St Nicholas’ Blakeney on Monday 11th September at 1.30pm. Do remember Peter and Sylvia’s families at this difficult time.

Weddings:

This month, James Keay and Ella Corey-Wright will be married in Blakeney Church (Saturday 2nd September at 2.30).

On August 12th, there will be a wedding blessing at Cley for Gerard Collett and Cordula Dimattio, recently married in Germany.

The following couples were all married in July, and all at Cley Church:

Hannah Lea & Alistair Lyons; Simon Finch & Martha Twistleton-Wykeham-Fiennes; and Thomas Maizels & Pia Austin-Little.

Our congratulations to them all!

St Peter's Catholic Church
Back Lane, Blakeney, NR25 7NP

Mass Sunday - 11am

Mass Wednesday - 9.30am

Holyday of Obligation 9.30am

www.catholicparishofwalsingham.org



**SEPTEMBER 2023
SERVICE SCHEDULE
NB: no services in Wiveton**

SUNDAY 3rd	<i>Trinity 13</i>	
9.30	Holy Communion (CW) [& streamed]	Blakeney
11.15	Holy Communion (BCP)	Letheringsett
6.00	Taize Service	Cley
Wed 6th	Holy Communion (BCP) 10.00	Cley
Thur 7th	Evening Prayer 5.00	Glandford
SUNDAY 10th	<i>Trinity 14</i>	
9.30	Praise and Worship [& streamed]	Blakeney
11.15	Holy Communion with hymns (BCP)	Glandford
6.00	Service of Contemplation	Cley
Thur 14th	Evening Prayer 5.00	Glandford
SUNDAY 17th	<i>Trinity 15</i>	
9.30	Celtic HC with Healing [& streamed]	Blakeney
9.30	Morning Prayer (CW)	Letheringsett
11.15	Café Church & Baptism	Cley
Wed 20th	Holy Communion (BCP) 10.00	Cley
Thur 21st	Evening Prayer 5.00	Glandford
SUNDAY 24th	<i>Trinity 16</i>	
11.00	Confirmation Service	Cley
6.30	Harvest Evensong (BCP)	Glandford
Thur 28th	Evening Prayer 5.00	Glandford



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'Monthly Memory Swap'



The 'Monthly Memory Swap' is usually the third Tuesday of the month, over a cup of tea or coffee, the next event is on Tuesday the 19th of September, from 2.00pm – 4.00pm-ish

Glaven Valley
Bereavement Support Group
 will meet on Monday 11th September
 at Merchants House, Blakeney

4.00pm to 5.30pm.

Anyone who has suffered
 bereavement is very welcome.

Refreshments at 3.50pm

On this occasion John Jarvis will be screening an Interview, from 1999, with John Jarvis (No Relation) about his working life at C T Bakers. Also 'The Changing Face of Peacock Lane'.

If you have fond, even precious, memories of growing-up and/or living in Holt, why not come along to the 'Monthly Memory Swap', in the main hall of The Venue.

Everyone is welcome to either hear the memories of others or to share memories of their own.

Perhaps bring along old photographs of people and places; and/or make a note of particular events and shops you remember most strongly, and would like to talk about, along with your earliest &/or most vivid memories of Holt.

Who or what shop do you remember particularly, from days gone by, and why?

Booking is helpful, so that numbers can be gauged, though not essential. To book: contact
 The Venue on 01263 713427 or email:
 info@thevenueholt.com
 or just turn up on the afternoon.

Cley



Our popular Thursdays @ 3 Music in the Afternoons starts again September 21st.

The 770th anniversary of St Margaret's Fair on 22nd July was spectacularly successful despite the weather. Holding it in the church was a brainwave - we lost out on a few popular features, such as the dog show, but the atmosphere was marvellous. Huge thanks to Briony Barron for organising the day so flawlessly and to our many helpers – we really appreciated all your hard work.

Looking forward, we are hoping that we can muster a good crowd to take on the Norfolk Churches Trust Bike Ride on September 9th (you can also walk and ride). Half of what you raise goes to St Margaret's and the remainder to The Norfolk Churches Trust, an equally good cause.

We are very excited to host the world premiere of James McConnell's Cantata on 11th November. More details to come.

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

Welcome to our autumn season of Thursdays@Three - We have now planned all concerts until our Christmas break December 15th. We will have copies printed in brochure format which will be available from the Church (and other venues) so you can see in advance just what has been organised. It promises to be a varied and exciting mixture again, so please come and try us out in Cley Church on any Thursday at 3.00pm if you have not been before!

Thursday 21st September

No. 81: Music for flute and piano – Wyatt Earp (flute) and Angela Dugdale (piano).

Thursday 28th September

No.82: Un Après-midi de Poesie et Musique – a selection of French and English poems with piano and flute music. Sarah De Nordwall (poet), Sarah Bateson (flute) and Justin Harmer (piano).

Wyatt Earp

GLAVEN CARING

HAPPY MONDAYS

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

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ST MARGARETS FAIR - 22ND JULY 2023

THE HUGEST THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED IN EVERY WAY TO MAKE ST MARGARET'S FAIR (INSIDE THE CHURCH THIS YEAR!) SUCH A STONKING SUCCESS. WE MADE A FANTASTIC £5,000!!!

NEXT YEAR'S DATE TO SAVE IS SATURDAY 27TH JULY 2024, 2 – 5 (HOPEFULLY IN THE CHURCH FIELD!)

Briony Barron

THANK YOU!

Jane and Gerald Peploe would like to say a **BIG THANK YOU** to all those people too many to mention who donated so generously to the Tombola at St Margarets church Fair Cley it was a great success. **THANK YOU!**

Cley Village Hall News

LIVE THEATRE IN THE VILLAGE HALL!

Come and enjoy this bold and brave one-man show at Cley Village Hall. Christopher Sain-ton-Clark is no stranger to us: the performance of 2 short satirical plays earlier this year delighted his Cley audience. And now fresh from the Edinburgh Fringe he is coming to Cley with a new production:

A YEAR AND A DAY: a poignant and darkly funny exploration of a man trying to right his wrongs as he rapidly skips through time. "A narrated journey, with humour, intrigue and zest all at the forefront" (Andy Hamilton). Christopher" chills and entertains in equal measure."

Saturday, 9 September 2023, 19:30 - 21:00

Bar open: 18:45 (cash only)

Cley Village Hall, The Fairstead, **NR25 7RJ** with plenty of free parking

tickets £ 10 - available on the door (cash only) or on the website:

www.raisingcainproductions.com

Village Hall Committee AGM

Open to all

The date of our AGM is Thursday, Sept. 21 at 19:00 at the VH. This is an open meeting, so everybody is welcome to find out what has been happening throughout the last year.

A lot of work is being done behind the scenes to keep the village hall and the playing fields in good shape. Continuous improvements and modernisations ensure it suits the requirements of all its users and complies with its charitable status, providing many facilities for a wide range of activities. Throughout the winter it hosted the Cley PC organised "warm Space" day cafés, which have evolved into a weekly "Community Café" on Wednesdays. The village

hall is host to many local organisations and private users, a very suitable venue for private functions and much, much more. Please visit our website for further info: www.cleyvillagehall.org.uk

200 Club

This small lottery has been going for nearly 10 years and providing much needed regular income for the village hall. With a minimum investment of £1 per month (per number, no upper limit to numbers bought) you can make an important contribution to the finances of the hall and secure its viability for the long-term future. Half of the monthly income from the lottery is given back in cash prizes via numbers draw. Winners are announced on the website: www.cleyvillagehall.org.uk

The lottery has seen a very stable membership - thank you all - but sadly over time we have had to say farewell to quite a number of people, and it would be great to fill the ranks again. Please contact me (details below), or look up the 200 Club info on the website and follow the instructions.

Gunhild

gunhild.espelage@yahoo.co.uk

Binham Priory Concerts

Saturday, 9 September, 7.30 pm

Tala Tarang

Eleanor Turner, harp

Mendi Singh, tabla

"DEWDROP," a candlelit concert

Bach, Strozzi, Tieren, Piazzolla,

Henson-Conant, Tarang

Tala Tarang embodies a special chemistry through a subtle yin-yang of two halves creating a whole. Through their musical compositions, they strive to represent the forms within nature, bringing a healing effect to the listener.

With Mendi's powerful tabla grooves underpinning Eleanor's virtuosic harp playing, their repertoire includes folk, Bollywood, Western Classical and World music. Both artists come from classical backgrounds (North Indian and Western) having received worldwide acclaim prior to forging a deep musical partnership.

Tickets (£20) from Maureen Frost, 01328 830362,
davidfrost226@btinternet.com

Wiveton

Wiveton Church

Unfortunately, there has been a further delay and the target date for completion of the building works is now end of September. There will be a huge amount of clearing up and cleaning, so the church is unlikely to be open to the public until about the middle of October.

Emma Bridgewater Wiveton Church Mug

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

There were only 500 produced so they will definitely be Collectors' items in the future! If you would like to buy one/some - or look at them - or if you know any avid Emma Bridgewater collectors, please contact me (details below).

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

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

or cash, on collection.

200 Club

August's 1st Prize Winner was Philippa Allen, with a

prize of £65 

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

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

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

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Less stress, More peace
Beginners and busy minds welcome

Please message for details
07799 328400

NORFOLK CHURCHES BIKE RIDE

This year the Norfolk Churches Bike Ride is being held on **Saturday 9th September.**

Volunteers are needed to help "man" the church, visitors appreciate there being someone to welcome them. If you can volunteer for an hour's slot, please contact me on bpveitch@aol.com or 07817000936.

WIVETON CHURCHYARD HAYMAKING DAY 2023

August is here and as usual we are planning the traditional annual raking-up in Wiveton churchyard, on Saturday, 23rd September. Please put the date in your diary and join us from 10.00am. Bring rakes, barrows, gloves, and forks if you can (it is not essential). We will rake up the hay and load it onto a trailer to be taken away, so the Churchyard can be left neat and tidy for the winter, and fresh growth can flourish in the spring.

This is a very relaxed, convivial, and enjoyable event, and is now a regular fixture in the Wiveton calendar. Everyone is welcome, the more the merrier! Lunchtime Refreshments – free beer, bread and cheese and pork pies - will be provided.

We shall hope for a perfect late summer hay-making day, but if rain is forecast and you are in doubt, please contact us to find out. To let us know whether you can help, or for more information, please telephone us on 01263 740294 or 07702 169166, or email hamilton.wiveton@btinternet.com

Rachel and Robin Hamilton

Glandford

No news from Glandford this month.

MOLE CONTROL

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Letheringsett

Letheringsett Village Hall

Saturday 21st October, 6.30 for 7pm

We are having a Harvest Supper

MENU

Gammon Roast

Many lovely desserts

One glass of wine included

Price £10 per head

We have held the price at £10 irrespective of costs.

This is a popular event, please book early. If you have any dietary or food allergies, please mention this when booking. There will also be a raffle.

If anyone wishes to donate a raffle prize or make a pudding – it would be gratefully appreciated.

You are welcome to bring any refreshment of your own.

We look forward to seeing you.

Booking: Gillian Sands

01263 713561

St Andrew's Church

Norfolk Churches Trust 40th

Anniversary Bike Ride

Are there any other cyclists who would like to participate in this worthwhile and fun event in support of the NCT and St Andrew's Church which is taking place on September 9th 9am -5pm?

In case you missed the last announcement sponsorship forms can be downloaded from:

www.norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/sponsored-bike-ride

Also do join us for tea and cake at 3.30 in the church porch on the day and it would be helpful too if you would let me know if you can come.

*John Pridham, jcwpridham@gmail.com
01328 831851*

Obituary

Sylvia Warden Harrison Blakeney resident who has died aged 106.

Sylvia was a loving mother, grandmother and great grandmother, mother-in-law, and step grandmother as well as an accomplished landscape artist, musician, gardener, soldier, nurse, farmer's wife, commercial designer, carer, and ever ready hostess.

Born Sylvia Warden Baker in Rome, in 1917, the daughter of Captain Arthur Warden Baker, OBE MC of the Scots Fusiliers and his wife, Jessica. The Baker family had business interests in Turkey where Sylvia was to spend her early years, in Istanbul, and on the Bosphorus.

Her parents separated when Sylvia was two, and she lived with her father and his Russian wife until she was seven. Up to recently she could still surprise with Russian nursery rhymes, spoken in Russian, and that seemed to involve a lot of vodka!

Then she returned to boarding school in England, where she was reunited with her mother, and her new stepfather – whom she adored.

At 16, she left school to live in a flat in Regents Park and she worked in the drawing office of the Oriental Carpet Manufacturing Company in the City of London.

For the next few years, she split her time between her mother and stepfather, and her work in London.

It was on a visit to India (at the insistence of her mother, who thought she must marry!) that she met her husband to be, Philip who was living there and working in the cotton mills. The war was imminent. Philip rejoined his regiment in India.

He had served, and survived, in the Horse Artillery in France in the First World War.

Sylvia served in India, as well, as a Staff Sergeant and a nurse in addition to having her children Philippa and Jonathan.

It was time to leave, and in 1946, with a perilously sick son, and in very hot and crowded conditions the family sailed to England through the mine fields of the immediate post war.

A last-minute decision took them on a train journey to Norwich, and a small farm in Ringland, where the family finally settled – a third child arrived, Thomas. Sylvia was a true farmer's wife, chickens, vegetable garden, shooting parties, dogs and for a time, German and Italian prisoners of war.

Living now in Taverham Philip died in 1963, at the age of 67.

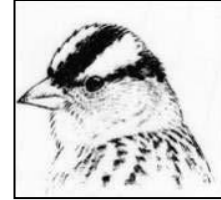
It was then, that she took to oil painting. Moving to the Old Bakery at 123 High Street in Blakeney in the mid '60's she regularly exhibited from there, and later, on the Langham Road. She always thought she was charging too much when she sold one!

This was a special time for Sylvia as, after raising her own family, she was to raise her youngest son's, two children as well, her second family.

A life fully embraced, lived, and enjoyed with her family, friends, and neighbours in Blakeney and far beyond; an artist's eye for the beautiful, but above all the time, the understanding and total lack of judgement that made her so universally loved.

Sylvia's funeral service will be held on the 11th of September at 1.30pm at St. Nicholas Church Blakeney and after at the Harbour Room.

Tom Harrison



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

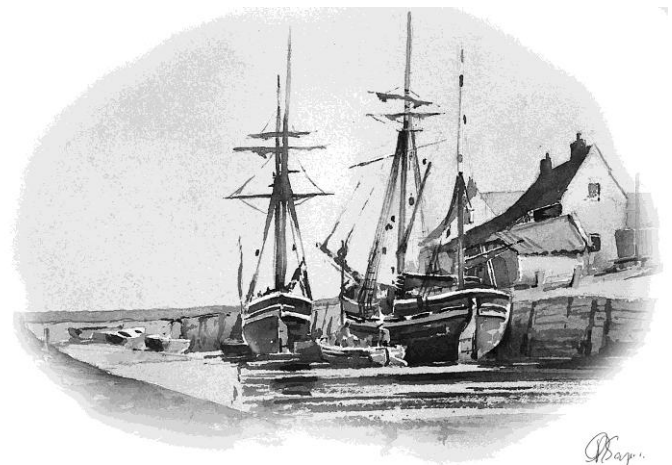
Birding Antarctica: The Last Frontier?
An illustrated talk by Andy Clarke

Thursday 19th October 2023

Cley Village Hall at 7.30pm
Entry £3.00

Kindly sponsored by **Lynton Wines**

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let's do lunch

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

**With the warm summer days now
with us, we are introducing our
special summer menu which
includes ploughman's, ham salad or
homemade quiche and salad
followed by a choice of homemade
desserts.**

**Visitors to Blakeney are also most
welcome. Donations welcome.**



St Nicholas' Church, Blakeney Mini-Food Bank

We are very pleased to announce that Spar at Westgate Street, Blakeney, has very kindly agreed to provide a donation box in the shop for anyone who would like to donate items for our Food Bank at St Nicholas' Church, Blakeney.

We would be very pleased to receive any of the following items:

Coffee and tea, cereals, long life products, tinned meat or fish, tins of soup, vegetable oil, jams and preserves, puddings and any types of toiletries, toilet rolls, washing detergent and cleaning items.

All items gratefully received will go straight back to the community, working together within the Glaven Valley.

Richard and the team at Blakeney.

THE GREAT BLAKENEY BREAKFAST!

in St Nicholas' Church, Blakeney
will be held on
Wednesday 6th September
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's a great place to bring friends and to make new ones. Visitors to Blakeney are very welcome. Donations welcome.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Here is a tear-out copy of Holt Medical Practice's survey of the community's views on the closure of Blakeney Surgery. If you have not already filled it in, please do and leave at Blakeney, Kelling or Melton surgeries. You might find it helpful to first read our statement as to why the Save Blakeney Surgery Campaign does not agree with the practice's reasons to close the surgery. This is elsewhere in this GVN.

Holt Medical Practice
Kelling Hospital Site
Old Cromer Road
High Kelling, Holt
Norfolk, NR25 6QA
www.holt-practice.nhs.uk

ALL Patient Survey Potential Closure of Blakeney Surgery

Holt Medical Practice has applied for permission to close one of its three sites: Blakeney Surgery. As part of this process, we want to hear from all our patients about how they feel about this and how it might affect them.

It is not a decision we have taken lightly, and we have given it long and careful thought.

Currently, Blakeney Surgery is open 5 mornings a week. It is used as somewhere patients can collect and order their medication and there is a drop in reception. There have been no appointments there since March 2020; all appointments have been at Holt or Melton.

For a variety of reasons, we now feel operationally overstretched across 3 sites and with costs spiralling we need to review our expenditure, utilisation of our buildings, and the future of our sites.

We are proud of the level of healthcare we provide to our patients. However, to be able to continue to do this properly, safely, and economically, we feel we need to work over two larger, more modern sites, not be spread out over three.

We know that our decision not to return to holding face to face appointments in Blakeney post-pandemic has been disappointing to some and we understand that all patients would prefer services to be local to their home.

However, we are a business, and we must consider what is best for the wider population and everyone registered as a patient at Holt Medical Practice. We believe that even with investment into the building, the operational and financial hurdles that would remain in the future mean that closing Blakeney Surgery is the only realistic option for us to remain robust and resilient in the evolving and demanding NHS.

We know that one of the main areas for concern is how, if the Surgery closes, patients will continue to be able to collect their routine medication from a local site, without the added costs or difficulties of travelling to Holt or Melton Surgeries. We would really like to work with the local communities to explore this further and to reassure our most vulnerable and isolated patients in and around Blakeney that we feel we will be able to continue to meet their healthcare needs, in the absence of a physical Surgery in Blakeney.

To help, patients understand the full reasoning behind our application there is detailed information available on our website and in printed copy at each of our sites.

We would encourage you to read this information entitled [Holt Medical Practice's Application to Close Blakeney Surgery](#) then complete this survey - that will run until 30th September.

Thank you for taking the time to be part of this process.

**The Partners,
Holt Medical Practice**

Please answer all questions:

1. Are you a registered patient at Holt Medical Practice? Please tick.

Yes No

2. What are the first 5 digits of your postcode? Please tick.

NR11 6	<input type="checkbox"/>	NR24 8	<input type="checkbox"/>
NR11 7	<input type="checkbox"/>	NR25 6	<input type="checkbox"/>
NR11 8	<input type="checkbox"/>	NR25 7	<input type="checkbox"/>
NR20 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	NR26 8	<input type="checkbox"/>
NR21 0	<input type="checkbox"/>	NR27 9	<input type="checkbox"/>
NR23 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other
NR24 2	<input type="checkbox"/>		

3. In the last 3 years have you gone to either Holt or Melton Surgery for an appointment?

Yes No (if "No", go to question 4)

If yes, how did you travel there?

My own car	<input type="checkbox"/>	Community transport	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friends or family	<input type="checkbox"/>	By bike	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bus	<input type="checkbox"/>	On foot (walked)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Taxi	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other (please specify)		

4. Do you have regular medication delivered to and collected from Blakeney Surgery?

Yes No (if "No", go to question 5)

If yes, who collects your medication and how do they usually travel to collect it?

Who collects?

Me, I collect	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family or friends	<input type="checkbox"/>
Volunteers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify)

How do you/they travel to collect?

My own car	<input type="checkbox"/>	Community transport	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friends or family	<input type="checkbox"/>	By bike	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bus	<input type="checkbox"/>	On foot (walked)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Taxi	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other (please specify)		

5. What impact would the closure of Blakeney Surgery have on you as a patient of Holt Medical Practice?

.....
.....
.....

6. If Blakeney Surgery closes and patients can no longer collect their routine medication from the site, what other alternatives do you think would be most suitable?

- Collecting from a different Blakeney based site
- Collecting from Holt Surgery
- Collecting from Melton Surgery
- Collecting from a medication vending machine with a mobile phone code

Any other suggestions?

.....

7. There are lots of important factors that influence your preferences for accessing general practice services. Please tick the top 3 most important factors to you from the list below.

- Being able to book a same day appointment
- Being able to book an appointment in advance
- The site being close to public transport
- Being able to have a video or phone consultation
- Having a face-to-face appointment
- Having healthcare services close to where you live (within 2-3 miles)
- Being able to collect repeat medication close to where you live (within 2-3 miles)
- Having a full suite of healthcare services in a single centralised location (no matter the distance you must travel)

8. Please share any other comments about the proposed closure of Blakeney Surgery.

.....

.....

9. How old are you?

- | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| under 20 years old | <input type="checkbox"/> | 65 – 79 years old | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 20 – 34 years old | <input type="checkbox"/> | 80 – 94 years old | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 35 – 49 years old | <input type="checkbox"/> | 95 years old and over | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 50 – 64 years old | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

10. Please identify any of the following that apply to you:

- I have a disability
- I have a long-term condition
- I am a carer
- I am a parent/carer to a child/children under 16
- I am currently pregnant
- I prefer not to say
- None of the above

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this survey.

All surveys must be completed either online or returned to one of our sites by no later than 30th September 2023. Under the supervision of Healthwatch Norfolk, the results will be collated and summarised and form part of Holt Medical Practice's final submission to the Integrated Care Board at the end of the year.

Kind regards **The Partners, Holt Medical Practice**

Thank you for filling in this survey. If you are against the closure, please also sign our Save Blakeney Surgery petition at Blakeney Garage or Spar, or elsewhere in this GVN, and ask your friends and neighbours to sign too! We also think it is worthwhile writing to the Integrated Care Board who will make the decision to close the surgery (or not), giving more detail as to why you think Blakeney Surgery should stay open.

The contacts are

nwicb.blakeneypatientengagement@nhs.net

copy to

sadie.parker@nhs.net

or write to

Sadie Parker, Director of Primary Care, NHS Norfolk and Waveney ICB, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DH

Thank you very much indeed.

The Save Blakeney Surgery Campaign.

SAVE BLAKENEY SURGERY - WHY WE DO NOT AGREE WITH HOLT MEDICAL PRACTICE'S REASONS TO CLOSE BLAKENEY SURGERY

Holt Medical Practice says

The practice building was originally built as a bungalow in the 1960s.

We understand

Blakeney surgery was built by Dr Allibone in the early 1970s as a purpose-built surgery.

Holt Medical Practice says

The last face to face appointment was in March 2020, before the pandemic struck. Now the building is used for medication collection and a drop in reception in the mornings only.

We understand

Dispensing was also withdrawn. The change in opening hours (from all day Monday, Tuesday & Friday, half days on Wednesday & Thursday), stopping face to face consultations and the removal of dispensing should have been approved by the Integrated Care Board or its predecessors, which does not seem to have been the case.

Holt Medical Practice says

The building is poorly designed, has unsuitable disabled access, no rest facilities, infection control is inadequate and the building has structural defects.

We understand

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) report of August 2018, reviewed in July 2023, states that "The facilities and premises were appropriate for the services delivered".

A local architect tells us Blakeney surgery has good disabled access with wide doors and level thresholds. The CQC report does not raise any issues with disabled access.

Now that there is no actual dispensary, a partition could be constructed across the reception area to create a rest area.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection found that "There was an effective system to manage infection prevention and control".

Holt Medical Practice says

The surgery needs a lot of expensive work done.

We understand

HMP's own estimate of the work needed to maintain services only amounts to £70,000, less than the annual income the practice gets from just dispensing to patients in and near Blakeney (estimated at £75,000).

Holt Medical Practice says

HMP states that Blakeney Surgery is unsuitable for modern General Practice using multidisciplinary teams.

We understand

Team based working is not needed for non-urgent appointments. As all urgent same-day consultations are held at Holt, all Blakeney consultations are therefore non-urgent. Melton surgery does not run team-based working.

Holt Medical Practice say

They do not have enough money to run three surgeries and their costs are increasing.

We understand

The amount of money paid to the practice last year by the NHS was almost £5.5 million.

Patients in the Blakeney area contribute about £330,000 to the practice's finances.

Nationally, payments to GPs increase with costs and they do not have to pay for their 'Alternative Roles' health professionals.

Holt Medical Practice says

Patients in Blakeney, Langham, Cley and surrounding villages constitute 14%, or just over one eighth, of the practice's patient population.

We understand

There are eight full-time-equivalent doctors at the practice. Blakeney and surrounding villages deserve one eighth of the number of GPs i.e., one based at Blakeney Surgery.

Holt Medical Practice says

They have difficulty recruiting GPs.

We understand

They have just recruited a GP and their number of full-time equivalent GPs – 8 – is more than enough by national standards to look after their 14,250 patients. Plus, they employ 10.5 full time equivalent allied health professionals.

Holt Medical Practice says

It is possible to catch the no 46 bus into Holt and the no 8 bus to the surgery in High Kelling, or Holt Caring can take you to Kelling or Melton.

We understand

The no 8 bus no longer exists.

There are two buses in the morning to Holt Town Centre, where you need to catch the 44 or the no 9 to take you to the North Norfolk Railway bus stop, a quarter mile walk to the surgery. The round trip takes almost 4 hours from Blakeney. There is one bus a day from Blakeney that connects to Melton with a round trip of 5 ½ hrs.

Holt Caring say they are already at capacity and are opposed to the closure.

PREPARED BY THE SAVE BLAKENEY SURGERY CAMPAIGN

Please also sign our petition on change.org – search for Save Blakeney Surgery – fill in the surgery's survey and comment slips, and email nwicb.blakeneypatientengagement@nhs.net.

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**NWT North Norfolk Group
and
Cley Bird Club****October meeting****Birding Antarctica: The Last Frontier?**

Andy Clarke has a lifetime's experience of working, living, and birding in Antarctica. Long the preserve of explorers and scientists, in recent years, it has become firmly established as a destination for tourists, allowing birders to see species that once seemed unattainable, such as Emperor Penguins, Snow Petrels and Blue Whales. In this talk, Andy will introduce Antarctica and describe the spectacular wildlife to be found there.

This joint event between the North Norfolk Group of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust and Cley Bird Club is on **Thursday 19th October 2023** at 7.30 p.m. in Cley Village Hall.

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

Forthcoming meetings – dates for your diary:

What is so special about Kenya? – Nik Borrow – 16th November 2023.

Norfolk's wonderful 150 – Tony Leech – 14th December 2023

Sign our petition! Tear out, ask your friends and neighbours to sign and return to Parish Office, Langham Road, Blakeney

SAVE BLAKENEY SURGERY

Holt Medical Practice want to close Blakeney Surgery. The almost 2000 residents in Blakeney and surrounding villages will then have a round trip of 14 miles to High Kelling or 20 miles to Melton Constable. For those without a car it will be an almost 4 hr round trip by bus to Kelling or a 5 ½ hr round trip to Melton. Taxis are very expensive and volunteer drivers are at capacity. The elderly or those who find travel difficult will find it almost impossible to collect their prescriptions or see a doctor or nurse. We need to let the practice know how strongly we oppose the closure and signing this petition is one way we can make our views heard.

NAME	SIGNATURE	POSTCODE

District Councillors Report August 2023

Holt Medical Practice held a Public Meeting at the beginning of August to tell us the reasons this closure is proposed and for residents to share their views. The venue was too small, the time too early for those at work and too late for the elderly, you could get there by bus but not home again as the last bus of the day had long gone, and it conflicted with a major nearby event. We estimate 300 residents could not get in or could not attend. We asked for another meeting with the practice, but this was not forthcoming.

The practice is running a survey which is open till 30th September; a text has been sent to everyone with a mobile registered to the practice. Hard (and Easy Read copies) are available at each surgery (to be returned to the surgeries) and have been sent to housebound residents and those not on mobile or email. If you need Braille or a foreign language version, just ask. I would encourage you to fill in this survey- I know it is the third one but just as important as the others. There are also comment forms and boxes in each surgery.

There will be two drop-in sessions for you to talk to HealthWatch about the closure, one at Blakeney Village Hall on Thurs Sept 7th from 10-12noon, and at Kelling Surgery Tuesday 12th September from 6-7.30pm.

I would also encourage you to write to nwicb.blakeneypatientengagement@nhs.net. The more evidence received that that the community needs Blakeney Surgery to remain open, the better.

We have also opened a Save Blakeney Surgery petition for you to sign as well. You can find this online at change.org - search for Save Blakeney Surgery -or there are print versions to sign at Blakeney Garage and Spar in Blakeney.

The consultation period ends 30th September so there is plenty of time and different ways to share your views!

Cllr Victoria Holliday
Victoria.holliday@north-norfolk.gov.uk
07557054629

Dr Victoria Holliday
Elected Member, Coastal Ward
Chair, Cley Parish Council
Director, NorfolkALC
07557054629

Letter's & Articles

Sponsored walk from Blakeney to Macmillan Cancer Support Centre, Cromer

In the October 2021 edition of the GVN, I challenged Blakeney Parish Council about the appropriateness of charging Macmillan Cancer Support for the use of the Blakeney playing fields when running their Mighty Hike fund raising event, scheduled for May 2022. It was of particular significance, because Macmillan had just opened a fantastic, new support facility at Cromer Hospital. The Parish Council responded (in the November 2021 GVN) by saying that I was wrong to say the council had imposed a charge and went on to explain that payment had been offered and the council had accepted it. I am not sure I understand this fine distinction. It transpires that Blakeney Parish Council issued an invoice for the use of the playing fields for £1,500. Money passed to Blakeney Parish Council. The Parish Council also suggested they would consider giving the money back to Macmillan. It did not give any money back.

Another Mighty Hike event was held in May of this year - I do not know what the payment arrangements were, there seems to be no mention of this detail in the Blakeney Parish Council meeting minutes.

As a resident of Blakeney I am embarrassed by this. Therefore, I am aiming to raise equivalent funds of £1,500 for Macmillan via a sponsored walk from Blakeney to the Macmillan Cancer Support Centre in Cromer. Like many of us, I have had cancer and appreciate the importance of the work done by Macmillan. They provide a wide range of services for people living with cancer including practical, physical, emotional, and financial support. The Support Centre in Cromer provides a range of information and support services. I feel that we are very lucky to have this resource so locally.

I plan to do the walk on Friday 15th September. If anyone would like to sponsor me, you can contact me or use the Just Giving Page here: [justgiving.com/page/alistair-lindop-walk](https://www.justgiving.com/page/alistair-lindop-walk)

Alistair Lindop

MIGHTY HIKE EVENT delivered by THRESHOLD SPORT – FACTS not Fiction...

Mr Lindop's correspondence raises nothing new. The points he raises were responded to when he raised them in 2021. It is unfortunate that he is insistent on sharing inaccuracies with members of the public, and so below are the facts as have been shared before, and let us not let things like this detract from the good and hard work being done by Blakeney Parish Council, such as our battle to

SAVE BLAKENEY SURGERY for our residents and neighbouring villages etc...

The now annual Mighty Hike, is delivered by a company called Threshold Sport, and for the record; Blakeney Parish Council have never received any money from MacMillan, the Mighty Hike is put on by Threshold Sports a totally independent business, they book, and pay for their venues, Blakeney being just one. The participants in the Mighty Hike raise funds for MacMillan not, Threshold Sports. Threshold Sports have a budget for venue hire, and hiring in equipment and services etc and the event raised had raised over £1.25million by the date of the event back in May this year, and on the Monday immediately after the weekend event, and in their own words, *still counting!!* It was a huge success as you will read in the email from Threshold Sports below;

Hi Tracey,

Hope you are well and had a good weekend. I am getting in touch to say a massive thank you to you and your team for letting us use your site to be our Lunch/Finish spot for our 2023 event which was a huge success. Over 3000 participants took part over the weekend completing either a full marathon or half marathon respectively. It was a huge success and the fundraising generated from this event is already at £1.25 million and counting.

The feedback from the participants has been amazing, so please have a look on Facebook to see some of those comments.

The space worked well and the use of the additional field was great for our participant parking and shuttle parking which took of pressure on the public car parks and roads.

Our marquee supplier dropped off the key last night as they left, please confirm you have got them back.

We look forward to continue to work with you again in 2024 and continue to raise huge funds for a great charity.

As readers of the GVN will know, and indeed our residents, all money received by the Parish Council, is ploughed back into our village, which benefits hundreds if not thousands of local people and our visitors, and local businesses. A now ex Councillor (related to Mr Lindop) suggested that we may like to give the sum to MacMillan via the Community Fund, the Parish Council agreed to distribute the fund to our local community groups who had applied for this funding, and not to MacMillan. We do the best we can for our village, and if anyone would like to join us, then please do stand at the next local election.

Please Note: Neither MacMillan nor Threshold applied for funding under the community fund. We wish Mr Lindop well, in his with the promotion of the sponsored walk.

Blakeney Parish Council

The Great Flood of 1953

This year is the 70th anniversary of the hurricane and sea flood disaster of Feb 2nd 1953, just a few months before the Queen's Coronation. It devastated the Norfolk/Suffolk coast and sank all the ferries crossing the Irish sea. Hundreds of lives were lost and thousands were drowned in Holland.

At first light, the following morning, an Eastern Daily Press reporter, flew from Horsey to Hunstanton in a twin-engine de Havilland Rapide aircraft. (Anything lighter would have been too dangerous in the ferocious gale that was still blowing)

“Yards of cliff had been eaten away. Houses and bungalows, pounded in half, were teetering on the brink. 10 miles from the coast, flying at 1,000 feet (to test control of the plane in such horrendous conditions), a thin layer of salt began to obscure the pilot's window.

As we came in to land at Langham Airfield to pick up a photographer, we could see colossal seas breaking below us and mud-coloured balls of salt foam flying inland for miles. After landing, the 16 stone navigator got out and found he could easily lean his weight against the wind – winds so strong that the pilot could not taxi the plane. Thanks to some excellent piloting we got safely off but the pilot was not prepared to risk another landing at Langham and on the return journey we 'put down' in Cambridge.

It is the coastline from Salhouse to Lynn which shows the greatest number and largest areas still under water. Just the tops of telephone posts sticking out of the water mark where once roads ran. Yellow straw stacks stand like islands surrounded by muddy, boiling water. At Cley the sea still covers part of the coast road even though the tide has been falling for 10 hours. The river Glaven is deep water, half a mile wide. Cley and Wiveton churches mark the approximately banks of the river. The road across the river at Wiveton is deep underwater, as well as the footbridge over the ford at Glandford.

The damage in Salhouse, Wells and Hunstanton showed devastation comparable to that done by heavy bombing. Salhouse, in particular, looked from the air as if it had been hit by high explosives. Much of the village had been devastated within half an hour on Saturday night. Mrs Middleton a woman aged 73 was swept through the window of her kitchen and was later found dead in the back garden. She had been lifted onto the kitchen table by her husband, but they were both swept out. Mr Middleton was rescued but next morning he found the body of his wife by a tree in the garden. From a third house Mr Lesley Cook waded neck-deep in swirling, icy water in the dark to pass a rope to a man on the top floor of another house. At least 30 houses were destroyed and another 20 so severely damaged as to be uninhabitable. Walls, doors, and window-frames were scattered everywhere, and holiday bungalows were matchwood. Personal belongings, house furniture, dead poultry and a dead cow lay in the fields and gardens at the back of the wrecked houses.

In Wiveton, Mrs Eadie Dicks aged 76, was found dead downstairs in her house, Willow Cottage. The water level had ridden so rapidly she had been unable to get out of her chair

and upstairs in time. Her body was not found until noon on Sunday.

A car with five American Airmen drove into the flood just above Wiveton stone bridge which was underwater. Yesterday morning it was pulled out and stood, covered in mud on Wiveton Green. Group-captain Mungo Buxton from The Old Rectory put on a wartime waterproof suit and helped Miss Helen Barclay (my aunt) to rescue Canon and Mrs Foyster (aged 80, ill in bed) from Stonebridge House and to hoist them from their garden 12 feet up the East churchyard wall to safety.

At Weybourne Camp, 63 people, from Cley and Salthouse spent the night in the camp cinema. Over their heads hung a net full of balloons ready to be released at the Sergeants Mess ball that night. The ball was stopped at 10:30 pm when NCOs were called out to help with the evacuation from the devastated villages. About 200 troops from Weybourne with vehicles worked throughout the night and next morning rescuing people from Salthouse and Cley. So also did some of the masters and senior pupils from Gresham's School in Holt.

Cromer Pier was complete shambles. The lifeboat house at the pier end was holed, doors were torn away, and the lifeboat, The Henry Blogg, could be seen lying on her side against the East wall. The Pier Pavilion received heavy battering. Stage and dressing rooms had almost gone and seats strewn about in confusion. There had been major cliff slides at Overstrand and Cromer. “

(From a battered, mouse-nibbled copy of the EDP found in Welcome Cottage attic last month.) A 2nd instalment in next month's GVN will be about some of the extraordinary dramas and stories from Cley about that same sea rage.

Sarah Woodhouse

(An ariel photo can be viewed at GVN Online – worth taking a look!)

September at the Museum of the Broads

September is a great time to visit the Museum of the Broads. It is a bit quieter and the riverside location is still warm enough to enjoy a picnic or an ice cream. You can enjoy a panini – sweet or savory – or an afternoon tea from Rooby's, our onsite caterers too.

The Museum is taking part in the national Heritage Open Days Festival on Sunday 17 September. Entry to the Museum is free and the former trading wherry, Maud, is also on site. Come on board and meet her enthusiastic volunteers. The Museum has displays about wherries and many other stories of the Broads, and our special exhibition, on the artist and film maker, Philippa Miller, is one not to miss!

One of our boats runs each day we are open (Sun, Tues, Wed and Thurs) and is a perfect way to spot wildlife on the river. We have kept our prices the same this year and our boat trips

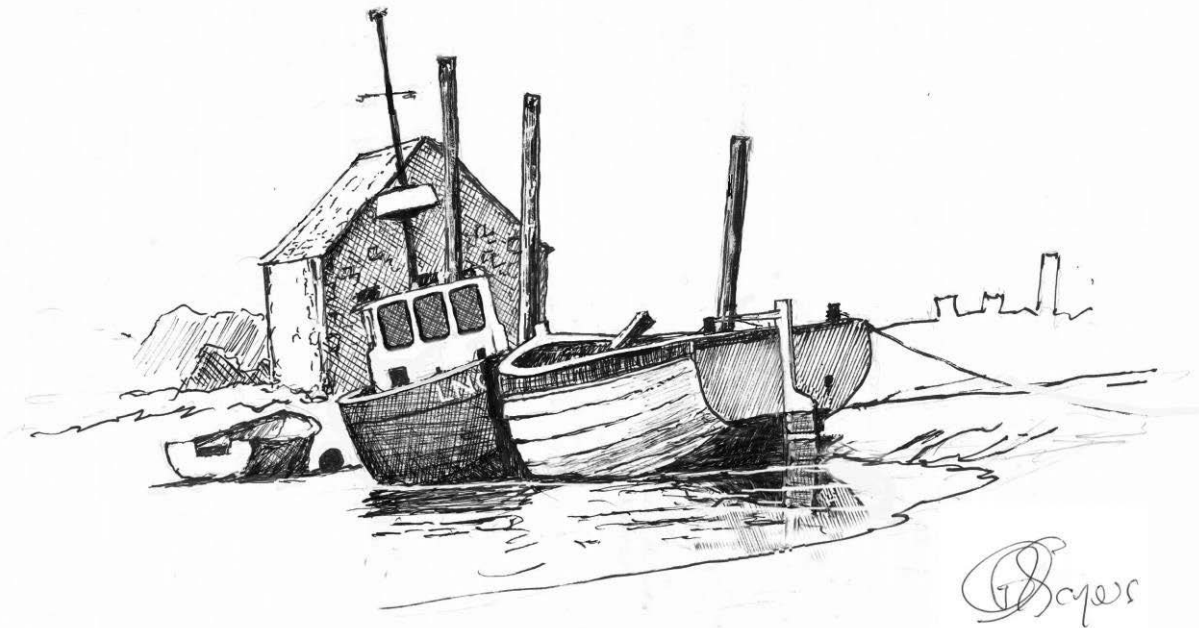
are unique! Remember, all 12s and under also have free entry to the Museum, and young people up to 18 are only £3 entry.

Full details and links to book on our website.

The Museum of the Broads, Poor's Staithe, Stalham, NR12 9DA, 01692 581681

www.museumofthebroads.org.uk @MuseumBroads on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram





Boats along the Coast Path - Part 3

Day 2. Brancaster to Hunstanton

After our rather long break with friends Richard and Roz in Brancaster it is time to complete the last stretch to Hunstanton.

As we were having breakfast next morning a friend of Richard's came in. He looked a little surprised to find a crowd so early and managed to put our backs up very quickly by implying from our conversation (which he had joined halfway through) that we had been patronising one of the locals we'd met in the Jolly Sailors the night before. I suspected his reaction was more to do with a sniffy resentment at our being there, not knowing who we were, and wanting to demonstrate how in his relations with the locals he managed to override his condescension. Failing of course to understand that we locals can talk to and about each other however we like. Every sentence has a subtext, subtle and often quite the opposite of what seems to be being said. Just another of the many invisible divides that exist between locals and the newly arrived. 'We' can talk about each other in ways that coming from an incomer would provoke a stand-off.

None of this managed to spoil a lovely breakfast; at least not for me. Mike, not knowing that Richard and Roz used milk from their goats, filled his bowl to the top with muesli. The milk's origin dawned at the moment Roz proffered it. "Nooo, that's fine," he said. "I like it just like this." Then the struggle began as spoon after spoon of dry muesli went in. It was a shame that so much of it got stuck around his mouth and giving his heroic effort away. He said afterwards that he was afraid to say yes to the milk in case he was sent out to milk the goat. Time was getting on when we finally got under way. The first mile or so skirted the saltmarsh and was a mixture of mud and wet the grass with just a few boarded stretches through the worst of it. The path wound its way between the edge of the marsh and property fences until it came to the beach road from Brancaster Town to the beach. Crossing this took us through some housing and onto the bank that leads down to Brancaster Golf Club. The path here was flanked on one side by a large and untidy expanse of reed-bed, osier, and fen, and on the other by a modern bungalow. Surrounded by wilderness it looked to be afloat.

We were soon down to the surreal aspect of Brancaster beach with its perspective shoot along the tiered sea wall to the monumental timbers standing on end all over the shore – an accidental precursor to Anthony Gormley's Blackpool figures. It was a small tide so I felt sure that we would get through Titchwell Creek and continue along the shore. But that idea quickly submerged when we got there. It looked very deep and wide. We spent some time selecting what we hoped

was the shallowest spot that turned out not to be. We took off all our clothes, bundled them up and prepared to cross. Mike managed to get quite a long way out, but then suddenly he was in up to his neck and began to bob up and down, and slowly revolving in a gentle ballet as he began to drift out to sea. As he came round to face me, his eyes and the whimpering made it clear we would go no further in that direction. When he clambered out, he was so completely pink that Boots didn't recognise him and began barking furiously. Dressing with much haste we then had to decide what to do. We could wait perhaps an hour for the tide to drop or we could make our way back to the mainland and follow the road. Reluctantly we decided to do this, promising ourselves that one day we would come back and walk the missing stretch.

We never did. Progress along the road became increasingly unpleasant. The path had disappeared and we were on a racetrack. Every single driver seemed to be racing for their lives. I kept a distance into the road to keep Boots safely out of harm's way but this seemed to upset some of the speedsters, one of whom – a highly-painted young lady – gave us a particularly vigorous series of V signs; we were back in the world of the most aggressive animals on the planet. Thornham village couldn't come quickly enough. As we neared it, we passed a dustcart, it had a very large cab and an expansive windscreen. Inside four or five (it was difficult to tell) large dustmen in bright orange boiler suits were engrossed with their heads down; dividing up the spoils? Playing cards? If I'd been Beryl Cook that would certainly have been one for the sketchbook. Diving round the back of this we were into the lane that runs around Thornham to the north – a very attractive open space at one point, but some of the houses and bungalows along it were a bit of a hotchpotch. If only this coast could have had better planners. The local vernacular is so distinctive and easy to replicate, flints are plentiful as are the local builders who can use them, but of course the builders were born here and the planners were not. The next bend brought us to the centre of this meandering village and a welcome stop at the Two Lifeboats for a pint and a packet of crisps. The pub was packed, full of people who would tell their friends, "We went to Thornham today, beautiful place, we love the Norfolk coast, you know," but were only dressed to visit the Two Lifeboats. I had begun to feel a little weary but, as at Wells on the first leg, a bar of chocolate put back what was missing.

Thornham Hard and the remnant quayside and coal barn must be the high spot for the western end of the Coast Path an intact and unspoiled bit of history. Moving off along the very claggy sea bank Mike began to get taller as layers of sticky mud began to build up on the soles of boots, making him walk like a small boy who had failed to reach the toilet in time. At the first left angle bend in the bank the Coast Path is signposted out across the fresh marsh to Holme village. It does this to connect it with the Peddars Way, but we continued out along the sea bank to the dunes and onto the beach. I hadn't expected anyone to be there; we hadn't seen a soul on the way down, but there were several figures spread out in the distance their purpose evident even from far off by the tripods this increasingly common breed carry. This was the last leg of the journey it would be foreshore and easy walking from now on. Everything up to then had had a common thread tying it together, but as we rounded the forehead of Norfolk it all began to have a very different feel. It may have been the light changing with our altered direction, or the approaching urban spread of Hunstanton, which we both agreed had a very 1930s feel to it. Or was it the Neanderthal bulge of cliff jutting out ahead of us. More people started to appear – a man with a loud radio, a woman with a disobedient dog; none of them looked or spoke. More and more now you meet this urban insularity, I understand that city folk never speak when out and about, but not answering when spoken to seems just plain rude.

Coming under the cliff we examined an old iron wreck and tried to gauge its length. After this the beach became littered with seaweed-swathed lumps of 'red clag' they looked like large sleeping green cats. Rounding the curve Hunstanton seafront was revealed in all its untidy urbanity. Bathed in the light of all we had enjoyed over the last two days, it hadn't a chance, it was bound to come out badly. We made our way up onto the open area of grass in front of the building that used to be the entrance to the pier. I threw myself down on the grass and at exactly the moment I hit the ground a loud clucking sound started. I was baffled had I fallen on a chicken? Mike then quickly noted the source coming from a glass box containing an electric chicken. A bizarre ovation for such a sublime adventure.

G.S.



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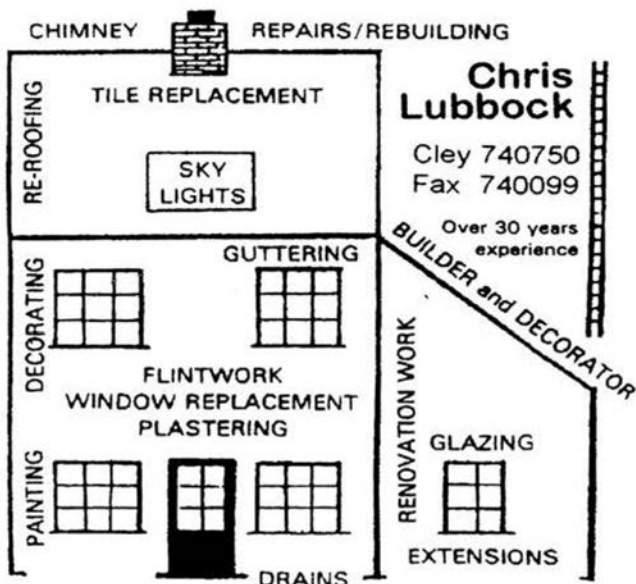
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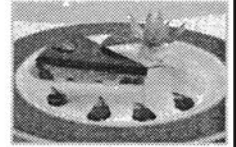
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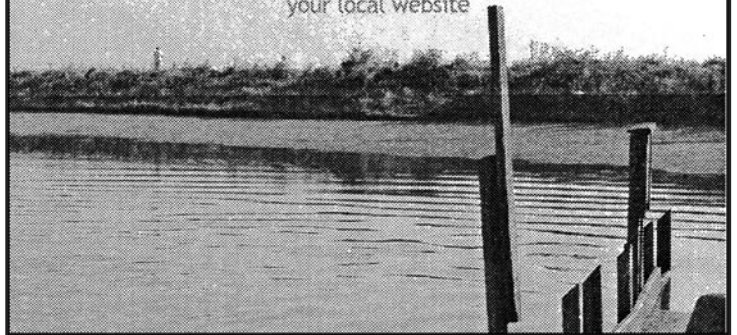
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