

Parish Council Matters

The world of politics is more turbulent and uncertain than ever. Fortunately, in our small part of it there are 11 individuals who are willing to commit time and energy to be Parish Councillors and keep local democracy alive. The last two Council meetings have tested their commitment as lengthy discussions have been needed to allow everyone to have their say and agree on some improvements to the playing field.

The current swings are about 50 years old and, in the interests of safety, a new set will be installed comprising baby and flat seats and a basket swing. The basket swing can be used by more than one child and is more accessible for people with a disability.



The same contractor will relocate the outdoor gym to a more appropriate location now available next to the new cricket nets. The cost of this will be reduced by combining the work with installing the swings.

A net will be fixed to the second football goal. Finally, later in the year, the Bircham in Bloom team will organise the repair and planting of hedges around the field.

The PC is applying for grant funding to add to funds already set aside within the PC budget to cover the cost of this work, which will be approximately £10,000. No increase in council tax will be needed.

On May 14 at 7.30pm is the **Annual Parish Meeting**. This is a great opportunity to share your thoughts and ideas.

If you would like an item to be added to the agenda, please contact the Clerk:

Email: clerk@bircham-pc.gov.uk

Post: Hall Farm, Sedgeford Road, Docking, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE31 8LJ

Website: bircham-pc.gov.uk

Thereafter, also on May 14, is the **Annual Parish Council Meeting**, during which the chair is elected for the coming year.

Newsletter Thoughts

We were delighted this month to add more contributions from more villagers. Thank you to them for taking the plunge! Do also remember that there are no closed shops. Want to write about flowers or veg? The Bloomers don't mind. Think you've got a recipe that someone else would love? Let us have it. Want to add your experiences to our reminiscences feature? Don't be shy. Your lives, present and past are all worth celebrating.

APOLOGIES: The Easter Egg Hunt we had planned for April 19 had to be cancelled at quite short notice. We hope to rearrange for May... ironically and despite the month... still with chocolate eggs and brownies.

Do remember that the *Bircham Times* can be delivered to parishioners by email. You can email us at news@thebirchams.uk to request that (or for any other matter).

In addition, we publish, in advance of the paper copy, on the 15th of every month on our website: www.thebirchams.uk



Tatties, Tatoes, Spuds, Taters...

You might think that the most popular import from Peru has been Paddington Bear, when in fact it is the humble potato, or *Solanum tuberosum* to give it its fancy botanical name. Its name provides the clue that it is a tuber. The original growers, the Incas, called them *patatas* and from there it is a short hop to "batatas" (Spanish) or "potatoes" (English). We see the origins in such everyday Spanish tapas dishes as *patatas bravas*.

As any schoolchild knoweth: Sir Walter Raleigh first presented an example to Good Queen Bess in the late 16th century. Today it has been domesticated into some 4,000 varieties, around 80 of which are grown in the UK. East Anglia has the distinction of growing around a third of the nation's tatties.

In France potatoes were regarded as fit only for livestock (much like their attitude to sweetcorn), but were popularized by military pharmacist Antoine Parmentier. His neat trick was to have a ring of guards set up to protect his potato fields during the day (suggesting their great worth) but left them unprotected at night. The potatoes were of course stolen and became very popular among the populace. Parmentier gave his name to French mash (*purée Parmentier*) and a potato soup (*potage Parmentier*). Today, France is the world's largest exporter of potatoes; the largest importer is Belgium (must be for all those chips frites!).

It's around this time of year we first see new potatoes. Two simple but flavourful recipes are as follows:

Heat some olive oil in a pan to just under smoking and then add some garlic cloves (unpeeled) and washed new potatoes. Don't dry the potatoes, leave them slightly damp when you add to the pan but do stand back since the oil will spit initially. Also toss in some sprigs of rosemary, and season with sea salt and pepper. After a couple of minutes cooking in the oil, add the lid to the pan shake it a little, turn down the heat to medium and cook for 15-20 minutes. Essentially you are frying the potatoes at the outset but steaming them in their own moisture. Try not to peek and let the steam out. They are gloriously tasty either hot, or cold in a salad setting.

A variation on this is the Cypriot *patatas spastes*, or cracked new potatoes in coriander and red wine.

Gently heat olive oil in a pan, add a single layer of new potatoes, some coriander seeds, salt and pepper and cook until the outsides are golden. Add about 150ml of wine, bring to the boil, then cover, simmer, again shaking the pan from time to time. The potatoes should cook for 15-20 mins. This dish is lovely served with added leaf coriander for garnishing.

Other variations on this dish get you to par-boil the potatoes, then single-layer them in a roasting tin, crush them gently with a masher (don't give in to the urge to mash them completely), coat with olive oil, scatter thyme, salt and pepper, and minced garlic on top and then roast as you would for Sunday dinner's roast potatoes.

Potato tip: If you've ever marvelled at Hasselback potatoes but blanchered at all the cutting involved, let alone getting to grips with a mandoline(!), then try this simple tip. Place two bamboo chopsticks in parallel on a chopping board, put the potato between them and then when you cut down into the potato the bamboo sticks prevent you from cutting the potato right through, leaving enough of a stem or base for the potato to "flower" from while cooking.

If you're really interested in the humble spud then why not try a book on the subject?

Potato, A History of the Propitious Esculent by John Read (Yale University, 2009);
The Potato, How the Humble Spud Rescued the Western World by Larry Zuckerman (Faber & Faber, 1998).

[And, yes, we had to look up esculent in a dictionary too !!!]



The Mysterious Case of Eugene Aram

We seek forgiveness to bring you an episode that only tangentially touched on Norfolk but was one of the causes célèbres of its day.

Eugene Aram, 1704-August 1759, was a scholar and teacher, and notorious murderer... or was he? Aram was a great academic, a philologist who majored in Celtic languages and also studied Latin, Greek and Hebrew. He was living and working in Knaresborough in Yorkshire when his close friend and business partner Daniel Clark (or Clarke) went missing, in debt and with unpaid-for goods. Suspicion fell on Aram and his garden was searched. A few items of interest were found but there was no clear evidence of any crime. Aram, presumably spooked by the attention, left Knaresborough and travelled the country for 14 years before finally settling in Lynn where, thanks to his impeccable academic qualifications, he was appointed a senior teacher at the Grammar School.

Meanwhile back in Knaresborough a skeleton was discovered. Aram's wife, left behind all these years in Knaresborough with their seven children, hinted that a man called Houseman might be involved and that he had been a friend of her husband. Once arrested, Houseman agreed that he had been present when Aram had murdered Clark. A further man, Terry, was also present. Aram was traced to Lynn, arrested and sent for trial. Sofar so murky!

In court, Aram declared himself to be the victim of a rigged legal system and a matter of hours before his execution was due to take place he was found in his cell with slashed wrists. This suicide attempt established his guilt, so they said. And possible further exaggeration came in the form of an admission that he had murdered Clark after catching him and Aram's wife having an affair. Either way, Aram was hanged in York in 1759 and paraded on a gibbet in his native Knaresborough. A modern-day memorial plaque there says "he was convicted in very dubious evidence".

His life was romanticized in a confessional ballad by Thomas Hood that sees Aram revisiting his crime in daydreams while in charge of his young scholars, all set in a bucolic Lynn meadow. He is also the eponymous character in the novel *Eugene Aram* by Edward Bulwer-Lytton (1832). And if you want a stab (so to speak) at trying to sort the fact from the fiction you can download the Bulwer-Lytton text from Project Gutenberg https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/7614/pg7614-images.html#link2H_4_0004 and assess how much of the story that has been passed down is literary fabrication. And for those of you with a ghoulish and morbid curiosity, Aram's skull, disinterred from Knaresborough, found its way to Lynn and is now an "attraction" at Stories of Lynn in Saturday Market Place... by coincidence the site of the old Grammar School.

Dates for the Diary

Bircham Windmill Reopens
Apr 1

RAF Bircham Newton Open Days 10-4pm (see below)

RAF Sculthorpe Open Day from 10am (see below)

Anmer Social Club Coffee, cake and chat, Mondays 10-12, 07947 580555

Snettisham Park: Open daily from February 1

Houghton Hall & Gardens Selected dates between May 4 and Sept 28

Sandringham Until Oct 10 (exc July 20-29 & Aug 14-17)

Apr 7-22 NORFOLK SCHOOLS EASTER BREAK

Apr 25 Discover Bird Songs and Calls at Pensthorpe, £25

Apr 26 British Veterans Classic Car Club Creepy Crawly Tour, from 9.30am, RAF Sculthorpe

May 1 The King's Men "The King's Morris" at Knight's Hill and from noon procession @ Saturday Market Place, KL

May 3 Local Bike Shop Day

May 3-5 Sandringham Food, Craft and Wood Festival £12/£4

May 24-25 Textiles in Action Annual Exhibition, Thornham Village Hall, 10-4pm

May 4 RAF Bircham Newton Heritage centre Open Day 10-4pm

May 4 RAF Sculthorpe Heritage Museum Open Day from 10am

May 4 Bepak Gear 10K race at Tuesday Market Place, KL, 9.30am

May 4 Spring Classic Sportive @ Swanton Morley (12, 27, 57, and 68 miles)

May 8 VE Day Service, St Mary's 11am

May 8 Stanhoe & Barwick WI, VE Day celebrations, Stanhoe Reading Room, with The Castaway Crew shanty singers, 2pm



Curl Up With a Good Book

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (1979) by Douglas Adams

Although classed as science fiction, HGTTG doesn't really fit into that genre. While most of the action takes place in the furthest regions of the universe and involves all manner of spacecraft and diverse aliens, it is at heart a satire on humanity itself.

I wonder to what extent Adams plotted it and how much he just went free-form. The writing flows nicely and often goes off at tangents, like a riffing jazz player — one of its most pleasing features.

For a book published in 1979, it presages a lot of the technology we take for granted nowadays. The eponymous guide sounds very much like today's World Wide Web and artificial intelligence features highly. Although the mention of a few things, like a slide-rule and a cheque, root it firmly in the 70s.

It can be read and greatly enjoyed simply as a funny, silly and absurd adventure. At a deeper philosophical level, it explores our sheer insignificance in the universe and the nihilistic meaninglessness of our lives or, slightly more positively, takes an absurdist view or even an existentialist view where we must ultimately create the meaning of life ourselves (the answer is definitely not 42).

Widsith

A Douglas Adams postscript

May 25 is Towel Day, a day named in honour of the great visionary himself. All participants are requested to carry a towel in his honour after Adams noted in *Hitchhikers* that it was an indispensable item that all travellers should carry with them (to the shops or the restaurant at the end of the universe. perhaps?).

Bircham Mill Renovations

We have been tinkering away at the renovations needed at Bircham Windmill over the winter. The more observant among you might have noted the shiny windows and doors which are all now in place. We have also taken off the verandah, the wood arrives next week and the plan is to have the verandah completely refurbished before the summer holidays.

As I'm writing this the boys are taking off the first sail. We need to take off all four sails, the two stocks and then the cap, replace the cap with a temporary waterproof cover – most likely a tarpaulin, while we completely refurbish the cap, send the stocks away to be checked and possibly regalvanised, build four new sails and then put it all back together again.

We have had our livelihood out of running the mill for the past 25 years and it is very much our intention to fully refurbish the mill as a lasting legacy and a thank you to the old place. We hope that the new cap will last at least another 50 years.

Doing the work is time consuming, dangerous and, of course, expensive. We are not entitled to grant funding so doing the work ourselves, bit by bit, is the only way we can afford it. We have always felt very supported by the village and we are grateful for your support. Many of you are interested in the mill and many more of you are regular customers.

We hope that you will continue to support us over the next few years through the renovations. We love the old place, we know that many, many others love it too; it's a fabulous local landmark and long may that continue.

Elly



Bircham in Bloom

The rising of spring sap has stimulated a burst of energy among the Bloomers! Members of the team have walked round all parts of the village looking at how things are doing and suggesting ideas for improvement. The list is too long to detail here but, suffice it to say, a large number of areas in the Birchams will be getting an upgrade this season.

The next meeting will be at 9:00am on Tuesday May 13 in the Bircham Stores. To make it easier for school and working-age villagers to attend BiB, the meeting that follows will be on Tuesday June 10 at 6.00pm, also in the Bircham Stores. Do come along!



Eighty-odd Years of Graft

Last Saturday I spent two hours helping to shovel four tons of gravel out of bags and on to a driveway. Sitting now with a coffee in hand I've started to reminisce.

My earliest memory is of grovelling in the soil for potatoes my mother was digging up. Later, after my father returned from active duty in 1945, he bought two acres of land, uncultivated for years. The front field was overgrown with thistles and nettles; the back field, trees and shrubs. I remember helping to pull up the weeds.

Later that very cold winter of 1947, coal was rationed so Dad cut down a tree or two and I helped saw the trunks into lengths and then to split them for the fire. The front field was devoted to potatoes so it was all hands on deck to reap the harvest, which was sold to the Potato Marketing Board.

A house was built and it needed a path from the roadway to the front door, which meant mixing sand and cement to help make concrete. This was a feat repeated some years later when once again a driveway was needed to the garage in my new home. The only difference: I had exchanged a father for a husband. Then we rented a neglected allotment. This time it wasn't thistles but brambles that needed clearing. We spent hours and hours producing vegetables for friends, neighbours and businesses over many years. Then we moved to a bungalow with a very large garden and orchard. More food production!

Over the past few years I've helped move more gravel, painted hundreds of planks of wood with preservative, undercoat and topcoats and still dig a little in the garden. Was Saturday my swansong? Or will it be when I've finished painting the summerhouse?

Dates for the Diary

May 8 Hunstanton Street Party, High Street, midday
May 10 iPhone photography course with Josh Jaggard @ Pensthorpe, £50
May 10-11 Norfolk Coast Mighty Hike for Macmillan Cancer (full or half-marathon)
May 11 Dawn Chorus @ Pensthorpe 5-8am £19.95
May 11 Eat What You Want Day
May 11 Garden Day
May 13 Bircham in Bloom, Bircham Stores 9am
May 13 World Cocktail Day
May 14 Annual Parish Council Meeting, Social Club, 7.30pm
with Annual Council Meeting thereafter
May 15-June 15 National Smile Month
May 18 Fighter 5K Great Massingham supporting East Anglia Air Ambulance
May 18 Dawn Chorus @ Pensthorpe 5-8am £19.95
May 18 RAF Bircham Newton Heritage Centre Open Day
May 24-June 1 Nature Detectives @ Pensthorpe, from £16.95
May 24 Beer and Cider Festival, Le Strange Arms, Hunstanton
May 25 Pageant of Motoring @ Sandringham, £15 in advance
May 26-31 NORFOLK SCHOOLS HALF-TERM
May 26-Jun 1 National BBQ Week
May 29 National Biscuit Day
May 30 Dusk Chorus @ Pensthorpe 7-8.30pm, £16.95
June 7-15 A Thousand Birds of Hope, St Lawrence Church, Harpley 10-4pm
June 10 Bircham in Bloom, Bircham Stores 6pm



Nurdle Reporting

You can't fail to have noticed the potential environmental disaster that took place when a Portuguese-flagged cargo ship *Solong* collided with an oil tanker *Stena Immaculate* in the North Sea off East Yorkshire on March 10. Tides and winds being no respecters of land borders and sea routes meant that as well as millions of litres of jet fuel being spewed into the sea affecting marine organisms, sealife and birdlife we also got the curious phenomenon of nurdles being washed ashore all along the North Sea coastline from Spurn Point to here in Norfolk.

The nurdles, thousands of tiny plastic pellets used in plastics production, were released from ruptured containers on the *Solong* and while not toxic are not exactly what animals of any kind should be ingesting. Since the collision, beach clean-up teams from many agencies have been removing some 790,000 nurdles (that have fused in the heat of the fire into "matting"). These tidying efforts have been scaled down but the council is still urging beach walkers, swimmers etc to report any further evidence of this nuisance at <https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/coastalissue>

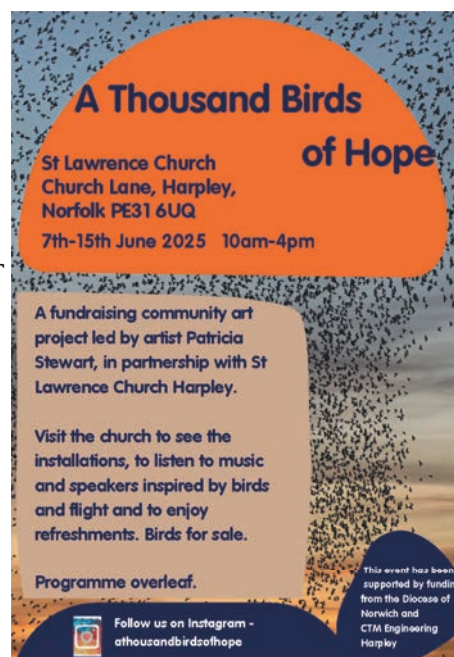
A Thousand Birds of Hope

This community project is the brainchild of talented Harpley artist Patricia Stewart, who took inspiration from a slate-engraved tombstone in St Lawrence Church, Harpley, belonging to the Raven family. She had the idea of hanging a thousand birds within the church as a sign of hope in such a troubled world and has had collaborative help from the community including local schoolchildren.

Workshops have been held in the village with origami, papier mâché, textiles, and many different techniques creating wonderful birds. Support has been received from CTM, a local business, and also from the Diocese of Norwich.

From June 7-15 (10-4pm) the display will be in the large and beautiful village church, open daily with refreshments available throughout the day. The organisers hope you feel inspired to pay them a visit.

Gina Wagg, Harpley PCC secretary and TBOH committee member Email: ginawagg@yahoo.com telephone 07821 622381



There will be a full programme of events and speakers, details of which will appear next month.

Stanhoe & Barwick WI

Forthcoming events to be held at the Stanhoe Reading Room, Cross Lane PE31 8PS at 2pm.

Thursday May 8: VE Day celebrations featuring The Castaway Crew shanty singers

Visitors are always welcome. Our charge is £5, which includes refreshments. Contact stanhoeandbarwickwi@gmail.com for more details.



Keep Bircham Beautiful

Littering is a bugbear of many and while we have a great crew looking after the village in the form of Bircham in Bloom we also have some individuals who care a lot less and still feel the need to litter... and I'm not sure we can *always* point the finger at the out-of-towners and the holidaymakers, though there is the "impression" that things get worse in the summer. Our particular bêtes noires are the paper/plastic cups served up by coffee chains, cigarette packets and fast food wrappers. And car drivers slowing in on junctions seem happy to lob out of their car windows as they change gear... what the speeding gods give with one hand the littering gods take with another. Just recently over one evening our pavement was "pelted" with a nitrile glove and a burger box as well as some "kind" soul who abandoned his delicately wrapped smashed wing mirror by our gate. He'd taken the trouble to wrap it daintily but not to take the hundreds of smashed glass pieces home.

In among all this gloom we do have some very dedicated souls who pick up litter whenever they see it, whether singly or working in unofficial teams along the edges of our increasingly busy roads. And we've seen mothers teaching their tots to do similarly. We see you and we thank you... the silent minority.



Bircham Banter

Next Banter session is on Thursday May 1 from 2.30 to 4pm in St Mary's Church. Do come along and join with the regulars for chat, tea/coffee and cake, especially if you are new to the village. You'll be made very welcome!!

Sue



VILLAGE SCREEN CINEMA
at Amy Robsart Village Hall, Syderstone
Saturdays April 26/May 31 at 7.30pm



Paddington in Peru (PG)

Paddington has been living with the Brown family in London for many years now, but he still feels the tug of his Peruvian roots. Hearing that his Aunt Lucy, now living in the Home for Retired Bears, has been missing him terribly, Paddington and the Browns set off to Darkest Peru, only to discover on arrival that Aunt Lucy has disappeared. So off they head to the Amazon to find her, accompanied by boat captain Hunter Cabot and his daughter Gina. What could possibly go wrong?

Starring Hugh Bonneville, Emily Mortimer, Antonio Banderas, and, of course, Ben Whishaw as the voice of Paddington.

Doors open 7pm; Price £4 – pay on the door; Hearing loop and ice creams available

Bookings can be made by email syderstonecinema_arvh@outlook.com or call 01485 578270.

Caz Appleby,

on behalf of the Syderstone Cinema Team 07817 803221



MOBILE POST OFFICE

Scheduled stop at Bircham Social Club, Church Lane is as follows.

Monday	10:45-11:30
Tuesday	10:45-11:30
Thursday	10:45-11:30
Friday	12:10-12:55

MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

Fridays May 23/June 20

Stops at:

Monks Close	15:15-15:35
Village Shop	15:45-16:00
Social Club	16:05-16:15
Windmill Hill	16:20-16:35

RECYCLING CENTRE

For pre-booking your visit at **any** Norfolk centre:

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/62632/Norfolk-Recycling-Centre-bookings>

Or phone 0344 800 8020

BUS 33/33A

To Hunstanton (from King's Head): Mon-Fri
07:36 10:36 13:36 17:16; Sat 8:21 10:36
13:36 15:41

Return from Stand A Bus Station

To Lynn (from Bircham Stores): Mon-Fri
07:17 09:23 12:23 15:38 15:43; Sat 09:23
12:23 15:38 17:08

Return from Stand E Bus Station

GREAT MASSINGHAM AREA COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME

Offering a reliable door-to-door car service,
7 days a week for anyone without personal
transport. Book on 01485 520823
Please give at least 2 days' notice

Bircham Weather

The usual March winds were noticeably absent in a month that provided us with mainly settled along with sunny conditions, with the first five days being completely clear of cloud although the nights were distinctly chilly with a minimum of -1.9°C on the first, followed by an air frost on the following five nights. This set-up was only interrupted by some patchy high cloud on subsequent days when cloud watchers would have appreciated the appearance of the rare Cirrus Radiatus before the first completely cloudy day came along on the 10th and the first measurable rain fell on the 12th. This was to be just one of the 7 days with any rainfall though and, even then, it fell in the form of showers between the sunny periods and these only lasted until the 16th. It was to be the coolest spell of the month too, when temperatures failed to reach 10°C between the 10th and the 17th but thereafter the maximum breached 10°C on every day bar the 24th. A maximum of 18.4°C on the 7th and 20th helped the month's average to a respectable 12.6°C although the earlier frosts kept the minimum down to 3.4°C, which was similar to February's value. The only rainfall from the 16th to the end of the month again came in the form of the odd shower and amounted to just 2.4mm, bringing the total to a mere 11.2mm and this, along with a further 9 days of almost unbroken sunshine, made it feel like spring had really arrived.

Bryan

St Mary's 100 Club Draw

APRIL RESULTS: 1st prize no. **61**; 2nd prize no. **14** (1st prize wins £25; 2nd prize £10).

Thank you to all who supported the Club Draw last year. For further details on entering the draw, please email me on sliliweb10@gmail.com and I will send you an application form.

Sally



Words on Birds

LONG-TAILED TIT

We are all familiar with busy groups of these small but endearing birds flitting through our gardens and visiting bird feeders. Despite the name they are not part of the same family as great tits and blue tits, but belong to a group known as bushtits, of which there are several species spread mainly across mountainous areas of Asia. Their barrel-shaped nest is an amazing construction, estimated to be made from around 6,000 pieces of lichen, spiders' webs, feathers and moss, and gives rise to the bird's old English name of bum-barrel. However they are very prone to predation and it is thought only about 17% of nests survive.

They are very social birds. In the winter they are known to roost communally, huddling together to keep warm. The flocks in your garden in the winter will consist of family groups with adults, their young and other relatives. They are also cooperative breeders, where birds who have failed to breed help out at other nests, usually that of a relative, bringing food for the young, helping to ward off predators, etc. The long-tailed tit is a fascinating bird and was well known to 19th-century poet John Clare, who penned these lines in his poem 'May'

*Bum-barrels twit on bush and tree
Scarse bigger then a bumble bee
And in a white thorn's leafy rest
It builds its curious pudding-nest
Wi hole beside as if a mouse
Had built the little barrel house.*

Steve Rooke

Calculating Easter

For Christians, Easter is, of course, the most momentous period of the year. Setting aside the religious aspect for one moment, it also dictates in calendrical terms when our other holidays, festivals, and public holidays fall. So Good Friday is naturally two days before Easter Day and the secular Easter Monday comes one day after Easter Sunday, naturally (except in Scotland where it isn't a bank holiday!). But then the plot thickens: Ascension Day is 39 days after Easter (always a Thursday but not a secular holiday); Whit Sunday, alternatively called Pentecost, is 49 days after Easter (the Monday that follows is an established public holiday); and Trinity Sunday and Corpus Christi are 56 and 60 days after Easter respectively.

With it so far? Then the plot gets ever murkier. Trinity is an important marker as it provides the benchmark for all Sunday dates until Advent. Advent is dictated by Christmas Day, which is **not** a moveable feast (that is, it's always December 25 but not often on a Sunday). Calendar compilers have to fit in four Sundays in Advent before Christmas Day. In effect, Advent tends to start very late in Nov or early December. Lent is another Christian event at the start of the calendar year and it too pivots around Easter.

None of the above, of course, tells us when Easter will come. The secret is that Easter is determined by the date of the first full moon after the March equinox. The equinox (equal days of light and dark) can be any date between March 19 and 22 but most regularly falls on March 21 (though that is also determined by which world time zone you live in). So we have a combination of astronomical sightings (like in other modern faiths), mathematical calculations and religious observances to give us Easter. Whew! This means that Easter can fall on any date from March 22 to April 25.

And of course this is if you follow the Gregorian calendar. For Orthodox Christians (mainly living in Eastern Europe), the Julian calendar is followed, so Easter dates differ, except in rare years (like this year) when they fall at the same time! And if I told you that all of the above is a VERY simplified explanation of the many more complicated calculations involved.....



Back Page Sports

BIRCHAM BOWLS CLUB

The BBC held its AGM on February 6 to prepare for the forthcoming season. (The 4th since we were formed.) It is pleasing to report that we have attracted greater interest and have increased our number of members, both playing and social. We will have 19 players this year — so many that it has been necessary to divide them into two divisions, named ASH and OAK. At the completion of the two divisions, the top two players in each will engage in a play-off in order to find an overall winner. Our Knockout Competition will proceed as normal.

Including social members, we are able to count our numbers at almost 30. We will be continuing our excellent arrangement with our friends at Houghton Bowls Club, with all games to be contested at their green on the Houghton estate. The season started on April 12 and will conclude in the first week of September.

Good luck to all contestants and do enjoy Summer 2025.

Chris Weldon

VE Day Service



**TO MARK THIS SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY
YOU ARE INVITED TO A SHORT SERVICE**

Followed by drinks and nibbles

THURSDAY MAY 8 at 11am

**ST MARY'S CHURCH
GREAT BIRCHAM**

