



Parish Council Matters

At our July meeting, two new Cllrs were co-opted. We welcome Jane Kemsley and Mike Hardiman, and wish them well. Council is once again full, all eleven seats being occupied.

There was much discussion of the water run-off from the Playing Field, and Council continues to work to address the issues involved. There was also discussion of car parking and other wider issues on the Field. In case you are not aware, the Field has been rented from the Sandringham Estate for many years – we work closely with them on any developments.

Cllr Morley, as Borough Cllr, noted that the change in government had put the future of the QEH developments in the balance. We will keep you advised on the situation as it becomes clearer.

Council agreed to a complete survey of our streetlights – this is something done every five years. We hope, with the information garnered, to ensure they are all operating as required, and, along with the recent change in our energy supplier, that we can reduce the cost. We are aware of two issues, and hope that a proposed maintenance contract will resolve these. Please let us know of any new problems in the future – info to the Clerk as usual.

Our usual reminder that overgrown hedges, issues with footpaths and potholes etc. on local roads are best reported to Norfolk County Council directly – this will then allow you to receive updates on the issues raised.

You may have heard that the Clerk has tendered his resignation, with a view to retiring in the near future. The post has been advertised in the local Clerks' networks and by training associations. If you are interested in finding out what is involved in the position, please contact him asap for further information.

Council hopes you enjoy the remainder of the Summer!

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 4th September at 7.30pm in the Social Club; as usual, Members of the Public are welcome.

As ever, if you wish to raise any issues with Council in the meantime, please contact the Clerk at clerk@bircham-pc.gov.uk or by post at 7, Glebe Avenue, Hunstanton, PE36 6BS.

Our website is <https://bircham-pc.gov.uk/>

Newsletter Thoughts

It's a real salmagundi this month, with a bit of everything going on (or is it the sudden heat making it difficult to focus and concentrate?). We've a Russian classic salmon dish on offer, sentimental roses and a love story from David Nicholls, "essential" Norfolk vocabulary, a sad Hunstanton shipwreck, a dandy highwayman, magnificent red kites and heroic beavers who saved the life of a bishop (yes, you read that one right!). All the usual columns return too. Thanks once more to all our contributors and, if you have a story of your own to tell, please drop us a line.

Do remember that the *Bircham Times* can be delivered to parishoners by email and is also available, thanks to the Parish Council, from its website at: <https://bircham-pc.gov.uk/2023/09/20/newsletter-archive/>

In addition, we publish on the 15th of every month on our website www.thebirchams.uk



Foodie Fare

The Russian Kulebyaka, the Dinner of the Tsars, is an elaborate fish pie with its pastry casing traditionally shaped like a fish or served upon a fish-shaped dish. It was taken to the West by French pastry chef extraordinaire Antonin Carême, who had visited the court of Tsar Alexander I. Part of the authentic recipe involves *vesiga*, or the dried spinal marrow of the sturgeon. Mercifully missing from the excellent recipe below and hard to get at Tesco!

KOULIBIAC/COULIBIAC

This is a type of salmon kedgeree enclosed in crisp puff pastry, which makes an impressive dish for a dinner party or special occasion. In Russia, its country of origin, there is a saying: "Houses make a fine street, pies make a fine table."

Serves 8-10

75 g long grain rice
salt and pepper
60 g butter, plus extra for greasing
1 large onion, chopped
1 x 400 g can of tomatoes, chopped and drained
500 g fresh salmon fillets, cooked and flaked
2 tbl chopped parsley
grated zest and juice of 1 lemon
500 g puff pastry
1 egg, beaten
60 g butter melted and juice of half a lemon to serve
Lemon twists and watercress sprigs to garnish



1. Cook the rice in boiling, salted water for 12 minutes or until tender.
2. Melt the butter in a saucepan, add the onion and cook gently for about 10 minutes until soft, but not coloured. Add the tomatoes and cook for 15 minutes. Leave to cool.
3. Drain the rice thoroughly, and combine with the onion and tomato mixture, the flaked salmon, parsley, and lemon zest and juice. Season.
4. Roll out 425 g of the puff pastry into a 28 x 40 cm rectangle.
5. Arrange the salmon mixture down the middle of the rectangle leaving a 7 cm border on each side. Brush the border with a little of the beaten egg and wrap and decorate the koulibiac. Bake in a preheated oven at 220°C or 425°F for 30 to 45 minutes until golden. Transfer to a warmed serving dish and pour the melted butter and lemon juice into the cuts. Serve in thick slices. Garnish with lemon twists and watercress.

Tee

And for those of you anticipating our regular monthly mention of cheese, well Russia's not really known for cheese but the Gouda-inspired Tilsit was named after the town of the same name, now Sowjetsk/Sovetsk in Kaliningrad. Created by Dutch immigrants it is a creamy block cheese often featuring caraway seeds.

And to drink! Well we can maybe skip over vodka and concentrate instead on tea. Russians drink a lot of it. The samovar (a Russian kettle), is a thing of art as well as practicality, keeping water hot for all-day tea-drinking. Traditionally made in Tula, they were given as wedding presents. Fancy one yourself? Well they can fetch up to several hundreds or thousands of pounds at auction. Ouch!



From the Annals

HIGHWAYMAN BEETON

King's Lynn had its own infamous teenage highwayman in the 1780s. Joseph Beeton robbed the North Mail in November 1782 and was tried and executed at Lynn the following year. He came close to evading justice, escaping from Lynn gaol but was recaptured while taking his supper at a hostelry in Castle Acre.

To add flavour to the story, Beeton's image was captured and a mezzotint of him resides in the National Portrait Gallery <https://www.npg.org.uk/collections/search/person/mp53928/joseph-beeton?search=sas&sText=beeton>

The image describes him as a "dandy highwayman": alongside his leg irons he carries a book and is dressed in fine fancy garb including a stripey waistcoat, neckerchief, and a shoulder-length blond wig.

NORFOLK CHRONICLE – January 25, 1783

"Monday, at the quarter sessions at Lynn, Joseph BEETON was tried for robbing the North mail, on the 19th of November last, and after a trial of six hours was found guilty of the same, and received sentence of death. He is to be executed that day month. The sentence of death passed on him by the Recorder of Lynn, did great credit to him as an able Judge."

"In the evening of Thursday se'ennight [seven nights], about 8' o'clock, Joseph Beeton., lately committed to Lynn Gaol for robbing the North mail, made his escape by scaling the wall, and, after the most diligent search, was on Monday evening again apprehended at Castle Acre, and once more safely lodged in the gaol. The landlord of the house where he was at gave the information to the gaoler, who, accompanied with assistants, took him as he was at supper. The Corporation of Lynn rewarded the landlord with 50l [£50] and the gaoler gave him 20l more for his meritorious conduct in the affair.

NORFOLK CHRONICLE – February 22, 1783

"About eleven o'clock in the forenoon of Monday last Joseph BEETON, convicted some time since of robbing the North mail, was conveyed from Lynn goal in a mourning coach to the place of execution near the Southgates, and within a few yards of the spot where the robbery was committed, attended by two Clergymen, the Rev. Mr HORSFALL, and the Rev. Mr MERREST.

After praying some time with great fervency, and a hymn being sung by the singers from St Margaret's church, the rope was fixed about his neck, which was no sooner done than he instantly threw himself off, and died amidst the pitying tears of upwards of 5,000 spectators. His behaviour both before and at the place of execution, was truly devout and exemplary, uncommon pains having been taken by the Rev. Mr HORSFALL to prepare him for his awful fate. This unfortunate youth had just attained his twentieth year, and is said to have died a martyr to the villainy of a man whom he looked upon as his sincere friend; indeed, so sensible were the gentlemen of Lynn that he was betrayed into the commission of the atrocious crime, for which he suffered, by the villainy of this supposed friend, that a subscription was entered into and the money collected employed in seeing counsel to plea for him on his trial.

Dates for the Diary

Bircham Windmill summer season. Tearooms open daily 9-4pm, Bakery and attractions open daily 10-4pm

KL Stars speedway season, Adrian Flux Arena 01553 771 111 for events <http://www.kingslynn-speedway.com/>

King's Lynn Guided Walks Tues to Sat @2pm from Saturday Market Place. £5

Thursford Collection Summer Season, Sun-Wed, 11-4pm 01328 878477

Houghton Hall and Gardens (Suns, Weds, Thurs).

Antony Gormley *Time Horizon* exhibition runs Apr 21-Oct 31

Sandringham House and Gardens Mar 23-Oct 11 (exc July 19-Aug 4)

RAF Bircham Newton Heritage Centre Sundays fortnightly from June 23. 10-4

* * * * *

August 16 ECB Vitality Girls' U18 League Norfolk v Lincs @ Bircham

August 17 Bordoli's Pizza Van at Bircham Social Club 5.30pm

August 17 Open Air Cinema on the Green, Hunstanton 11.30am *Migration*/3pm *Wonka*/7pm *Mamma Mia!*

August 17 *The Wind in the Willows*, Westacre Theatre Grounds 2-4.30pm £16/£10

August 18-24 Hunstanton Tennis Tournament

August 20 Glaven Beaver Tour 10.30-12.30pm <https://norfolkriverstrust.org/event/glaven-beaver-tour-2/>

August 22 Open Air Shakespeare at Dalegate Market – *The Merry Wives of Windsor* 6-10pm £14.50/£9.50

August 24-25 King's Lynn Beer & Cider Festival, South Quay 12-11pm



Digital Digest

For finding out how white goods and appliances work

You start with the best of intentions. "Keep the service manual, I might need to replace a part or take time to learn how the new-fangled oven really works." And then you lose it, or chuck it out. And then you regret it. Well this website stores manuals from thousands of brands for multitudinous devices. From phones, cars and fridges to baby monitors, hot tubs and reciprocal saws, all of modern life is here.

<https://www.manualslib.com>

For holiday planning or for those merely curious about the world

Take a look at the world's most fascinating and gorgeous places: from Alfaskolinn (Elf School) in Iceland to the Nemocon Salt Mine in Colombia or even the Faraday Bar at the Vernadsky Research Base in Antarctica. All countries and continents are covered and each destination is illustrated with images and details of how to get there

<https://www.atlasobscura.com>

For trainspotters and train travellers everywhere

The Man in Seat 61 is a useful site, created by Mark Smith, and it's well worth whiling away an afternoon planning trips to far-flung places. The site plies you with inexhaustible info on how to travel anywhere with a railway station, or terminus, offering advice on tickets to buy, routes to take, timetables, destinations, rail passes as well, of course, on the best seats to choose.

<https://www.seat61.com/>

For walkers looking for new trails

A website where you can find trails to walk or ride, wherever you may be. You get images and the trail mapped out on aerial maps. In addition, the routes have apps so you can follow on the go/or download the route. Also has reviews from those who have undertaken the trails. All are graded for difficulty. There's even a Great Bircham circular.

<https://www.alltrails.com/>

History Corner

WRECK OF THE STEAM TRAWLER SHERATON

Anyone who has ever wandered along the beach below the lighthouse at Hunstanton when the tide is out will have noticed the remains of a vessel on the sands. The wreck was once the 130ft fishing vessel *Sheraton*, built in 1907 by Cook, Welton & Gemmell of Beverley in East Yorkshire. The trawler plied her trade out of Grimsby and into the North Sea as far as Iceland.

She was requisitioned in the First World War by the Royal Navy for boom defence work; in June 1940 during the Second World War she was fitted with a 6lb pounder gun and served as a minesweeper.

Sheraton was decommissioned, stripped and moored off Brest Sand in the Wash between the outfalls of the Nene and Ouse. Painted bright yellow, she was to be used for target practice at the RAF radar bombing range but *Sheraton* broke free from her moorings in April 1947 in a gale and drifted 9 miles before beaching herself at Hunstanton. Efforts were made to refloat the vessel but they failed and the ship was scrapped by a King's Lynn scrap metal merchant, leaving just the skeletal form we see today.



ST FELIX AND THE BEAVER BISHOP OF BABINGLEY

According to legend, St Felix, the churchman who was the first to introduce Christianity to East Anglia, first arrived in England from Burgundy in the 600s. He was welcomed by the king of the region, King Sigeberht, and in 630 Felix arrived in our part of Norfolk. A storm ferried him along the Babingley river where he became trapped. About to drown, legend claims he was rescued by beavers who took him to safety.



On the Babingley village sign St Felix can be seen arriving by boat. Atop the sign is the bishop beaver (ordained into holy orders by Felix in thanks) with crozier in hand (sorry, paw), addressing one large beaver alongside a junior. Felix went on to found a church at Babingley — reputedly the first in the county — but history doesn't tell what happened to the beaver bishop. For anyone interested in dropping by the signpost, it is at the junction of the B1439 and the A149

Beavers were unfortunately hunted to extinction in Britain by the 16th century but a re-introduction plan was initiated in 2009 and colonies have been created in various places nationwide. In Norfolk we also have reintroduced beavers to the Glaven Valley where the project is run by the Norfolk Rivers Trust. See Dates for the Diary.



Curl Up With a Good Book

You Are Here (2024) by David Nicholls

A simply beautiful book about love and all its imperfections. Marnie and Michael are thrown together on a group walking holiday by a mutual friend. The weather on the Coast-to-Coast walk is appalling. Marnie is a townie, not a walker. Both are, if not scarred by failed marriages, at least bruised. And wary. This book, by the author of the recent Netflix hit series *One Day*, is one of those remarkable things: completely absorbing but where so little actually happens. You simply care about both Marnie and Michael. David Nicholls's genius is in the simple examination of love in detail. Charming, honest, uneventful, sometimes funny, at times awkward.

Andrew

Telecoms Update

The switch-over of BT/Openreach's old copper-based analogue phone services to digital only, originally due to complete in December 2025, has been put back to January 21, 2027. The delay comes after the realisation that customers, especially the vulnerable and those reliant on telecare services, need more time to adapt. We, and the parish council, will try to keep you up to date on progress.

Dates for the Diary

August 24-26 Black Knight Historical @ Castle Rising £10/£8

August 25 Ride North Norfolk, from 8am, starting Fakenham

August 25 Soulful Sunday, 11-4pm, Tuesday Market Place, King's Lynn

August 25 Family Archery Day at Sandringham £30

August 25 Sheringham Shantymen Summer Picnic at Westacre Theatre Grounds 12-3pm £12

August 26 Fakenham Ukes playing at Sandringham, 12pm

August 31 Fleamarket at KL Corn Exchange, £1.50

August 31-September 1 West Norfolk Food and Drink Festival at Holkham Hall, 10-4

September 3 Bircham in Bloom meeting at Bircham Stores, 9.30am

September 5 Bircham Banter, St Mary's Church, 2.30-4pm

September 5 Stanhoe & Barwick WI "Life With My Guide Dog"

September 8 King's Lynn Heritage Open Day

September 8 Classic Car Day, 10-4pm Tuesday Market Place, King's Lynn

September 13-15 Brancaster Staithe Sea Shanty Festival <https://brancasterstaithe-shantyfest.co.uk/>

September 14 Glaven Beaver Tour, 10.30-12.30pm <https://norfolkriverstrust.org/vent/glaven-beaver-tour-2/>

September 14 Norfolk Churches Trust Bike Ride, 9-5pm

September 22 Soapbox Derby, Hunstanton, 11-5pm

September 28 *The Fall Guy*, Village Screen Cinema, Syderstone, 7.30pm



Norfolk Dialect

ESSENTIAL NORFOLK VOCABULARY + COMMENTS

Being a furriner in these parts, hailing from Lincolnshire, I have had to learn "Norfolk" as a foreign language. Now, being neighbouring counties, you'd think the dialects and accents would be similar. Far from it — and there's a good reason for that. For centuries, millennia even, before the Fens were drained, the border was largely impassable swamp land — what I like to think of as eastern England's Darién Gap. Remember how King John lost his treasure? There is some good evidence of an ancient ferry route between Holme-Next-the-Sea and Skegness, so the counties were not completely isolated. Rather than the current Skegness, that would have been the old Skegness, that was long ago consumed by the North Sea. Contrast that with the porous southern border with Suffolk, where the accents change very gradually.

I present here some of the most frequent and distinctive vocabulary and usage I have encountered in Norfolk that is unheard of in Lincolnshire.

bor — term of address used mainly for men; roughly equivalent to the southerners' term of address "mate"

dwile — floorcloth or cleaning cloth (this is the most obvious example of the Flemish/Dutch influence on the Norfolk dialect. See issue 6 of the *Bircham Times* for more on that topic)

to jiffle — to fidget

hully (wholly) — frequently used instead of very, totally, completely. "We're hully busy, gittin' riddy for Christmas"

on the huh — unlevel or not straight as in "all of a-huh", also "on the sosh". (Why are there so many terms for something being unlevel, I wonder. Then I look at my 200-year-old cottage and nothing whatsoever is level. As long as 5,000 years ago they managed to get Stonehenge level, but those Norfolk builders that built this place only 200 years ago were very much strangers to the spirit level, it seems).

mardle — gossip, chat

master — used as a superlative as in "Tha's a master great house, that is".

masterpiece — "Tha's a masterpiece." Same as in regular English, but used a lot more frequently about just about everything.

matchly — exactly alike

mawkin — scarecrow

mawther — woman (careful, as that can be conceived as a pejorative term these days)

to mob — to berate, complain. "She mobbed him for eatin' all the cheese." "He mob about everythin'."*

plain — town square

rafty — damp, raw, misty (of weather)

raw — angry

shiver — splinter

squit — nonsense, rubbish

tidy — good, as in "a tidy long way to Norwich" (and remember that rhymes with "porridge"!)

* See issue 6 of the *Bircham Times* for why we say "He mob" rather than "He mobs".

LR

Bircham in Bloom

The next meeting is at 9:30am on Tuesday September 3 at Bircham Stores. All are welcome.



In the Garden

ROSES FOR OCCASIONS

While many gardeners buy bare-root or potted roses for their gardens based on site, colour, perfume or growing type, many others choose to buy them as presents (even to themselves) because of the sentiments attached to them and the names given to them.

Birthdays are obviously at the fore: we have *Birthday Girl* (red and cream floribunda), *Birthday Wishes* (scarlet patio rose), *Happy Birthday* (gold) and *Many Happy Returns* (pink shrub); weddings with *Wedding Day* (white rambler) and *Lovely Bride* (pink shrub); and thereafter anniversaries with *Ruby Wedding* (red hybrid tea), *Golden Celebration* (yellow standard), *Golden Wedding* (yellow floribunda), *Diamond Wedding* (white), *Silver Jubilee* (an apricot hybrid tea) and *Anniversary Wishes* (yellow bush rose).

Roses are sentimental. Who wouldn't love to be presented with an orangey hybrid tea that announces the receiver is *Simply the Best* or a yellow *Absolutely Fabulous* or *Crazy for You* (striped red and cream), or *Faithful Friend* (yellow shrub). Or roses for parents: *Diamond Dad* (white), *Mum in a Million* (pink), *My Dad* (red bush) and *My Lovely Dad* (pink), *My Lovely Mum* (yellow). There's even cheeky names, such as *Buff Beauty* or *Buxom Beauty* or *Hanky Panky*.

Of course, it might be that you are buying a rose for a named person: *Adam*, *Agatha*, *Alexander*, *Amanda*, *Amelia*, *Anthony* are available just for the "As". For Norfolk-lovers you can buy *Norwich Castle* (peach), *Norwich Cathedral* (yellow) and, more bizarrely, *Norwich Union*. There's even one for your pet, *Paws*, should you be so inclined. Finally, there's the strange... honouring military leaders, viz *Chapeau de Napoleon*, *Duke of Wellington*, *Horatio Nelson* and *General MacArthur*. Oh and *Long John Silver* ... just because...

Norfolk Churches Trust

The Norfolk Churches Trust raises funds by recruiting sponsors of bike rides and walks between places of worship of all denominations across the county. Last year's sponsors donated almost £130,000 with the help of Gift Aid.

Intending local sponsors for this year's event should collect a pale yellow form from St. Mary's Church, Great Bircham, or go to www.norfolkchurchestrust.org/sponsored/bike-ride. You can choose your own route and visit as many/few places of worship as you like.

Volunteers are also needed to staff the Church from 9-5pm on September 14 to check the riders and walkers through and sign their paper — and it would be nice if they also can offer some light refreshment! To volunteer for that, just add your name(s) on the list of times in the church.



VILLAGE SCREEN CINEMA at Amy Robsart Village Hall, Syderstone



The Fall Guy (12A)

Colt Seavers is a stuntman, and like everyone in the stunt community, he gets blown up, shot, crashed, thrown through windows and dropped from the highest of heights, all for our entertainment. And now, fresh off an almost career-ending accident, this down-on-his-luck hero has to track down a missing movie star, solve a conspiracy and try to win back the love of his life while still doing his day job. What could possibly go right?
Starring Ryan Gosling and Emily Blunt.

Doors open 7pm; tickets £4 pay on the door

Save these following Saturday dates for future movies: October 26, November 23, December 14.
Contact 01485 578171 or syderstonecinema_ARVH@outlook.com for further details.



MOBILE POST OFFICE

The scheduled stop at Bircham Social Club, Church Lane are 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

Friday September 13

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

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
07:22 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

July was definitely a month of two halves with the first part being cool and wet and the second being warm and dry. By the 9th we had already reached the expected rainfall for the whole month and further accumulations brought the total to 85mm, this being around twice the norm and made more remarkable given that only 0.9mm were registered from the 17th to the end. Temperatures were also depressed during the first period such that before the 16th there were ten days when the maximum remained below 20°C, the coldest day falling on the 6th when only 14.2°C was recorded, which also turned out to be the wettest day when 16mm of rain was collected. The 12th saw another similarly cold day when a maximum of 14.6°C was noted, this being enhanced by a fresh northerly wind, but there followed a dramatic change on the 17th when our first typical "summer's" day came along with long sunny periods and a high of 22.1°C. Temperatures then continued to rise, peaking at 29.4°C on the 19th and making this the warmest day of the year so far, before falling back again to more normal values although conditions remained pleasant with good periods of sunshine. The end of the month saw a return of the heat and a high of 28.2°C on the 29th, thus producing an average maximum of 21.2°C, which is spot on the norm whilst proving that the average doesn't necessarily provide a true picture.

Bryan

St Mary's 100 Club Draw

Please contact John or Sally on 01485 779669 or email lsallyjohn@gmail.com for details of how to enter each month's draw

AUGUST RESULTS: 1st prize no. 49; 2nd prize no. 7.

King's Lynn Banksy

After the current spate of Banksies in London — the goat perched on a pediment, the howling wolf on a satellite dish, two touching elephants in Chelsea, hanging monkeys in Brick Lane, and pelicans at a fish bar in Walthamstow — we cast our minds back to Banksy's "Great British Spraycation" of 2021 in East Anglia. Banksy took great delight in adorning the statue of Frederick Savage in Guanock Place with an ice cream cornet and a protruding tongue. The cornet was removed and is in the possession of the council; the whereabouts of the tongue remain a mystery.



Words on Birds

RED KITES

The Return of the Red Kite: A Majestic Sight in The Birchams

Gliding gracefully over our roads and fields, red kites evoke a scene straight out of *Game of Thrones*. These magnificent birds of prey, known for their aerial acrobatics, have only recently become a common sight in The Birchams.

Once on the brink of extinction, red kites in the UK disappeared in the late 1800s due to intense persecution, with bounties of just a penny a head. An exception was Shakespearean London, where they were valued for keeping the streets clean of scraps. But in 1989 the RSPB launched a reintroduction programme, bringing birds in from Europe. This effort has blossomed into one of the UK's most successful conservation stories, with the population soaring from zero to around 6,000 pairs in just a few decades.



Though sometimes feared as a threat to game birds and small pets, red kites are actually primarily scavengers. They feed on roadkill, rabbits and even worms. Despite their impressive wingspan of up to two metres, these birds are relatively lightweight, only 2-3 pounds and have weak feet. This makes it impossible for them to carry off anything heavier than a rabbit, debunking myths of them snatching lambs or small children.

Identifying a red kite is easy with its distinctive features: a brown body, long angled wings with contrasting white wrists on a chestnut underside and a deeply forked tail. While they can be seen anywhere in the village, Honey Hills offers one of the best places to see them as they hunt for roadkill and carrion. Red kites also breed in Great Bircham and their mewling calls are a familiar sound, especially when young birds are around.

Richard
Owner of the One Stop Nature Shop
Burnham Deepdale

Stanhoe & Barwick WI

Forthcoming events held at the Stanhoe Reading Room, Cross Lane PE31 8PS

Thursday September 5: Gill Southgate, "Life with my Guide Dog".

Thursday October 3: Matt Curtis, "The work of British Divers Marine Life Rescue".

Visitors are always welcome. Our charge is £5, which includes refreshments. Please contact Valerie (01485 576261) for further details.

Bircham Banter

Next Banter session is at St Mary's, Great Bircham on Thursday September 5 from 2.30 to 4pm. Come along for a relaxed chat among friends, with drinks and indulgent fancies available.

Sue



Back Page Sports Reports

Hunstanton Tennis

Hunstanton's lawn tennis tournament has been a diary fixture since 1920. Dubbed "Wimbledon-on-Sea", it is arguably the biggest tennis tournament in Britain. Competition is open to all from the under-12s to the over-75s, with more than 50 different competitions being held over 38 grass courts. It's a little late to enter this year's competition but do go along and offer your support or just eye up your potential competition for 2025. The tournament is held on the recreation ground, just off the A149, and runs August 18-24.

Bircham Cricket Club

This season is proving very successful for all the Bircham cricket teams. The first and second 11s are at or near the top of their respective leagues. The women's team has recently notched up some convincing wins and the youth section continues to thrive.

We have been proud to host two county girls matches in August — Norfolk versus Suffolk under-11s and Lincolnshire under-18s.

Work will commence soon to install the new cricket nets in the south-east corner of the playing field. The concrete base of the old nets will be removed in preparation for installation in the early part of September. Any spare soil left over will be banked temporarily in the north-east corner. This may be useful for possible future work to address the problem of flash flooding from the playing field onto Church Lane.

Hugh R

Ride North Norfolk 2024

You'll need to get some practice in for the Ride North Norfolk event held on August 25, and starting from Fakenham. The routes are of varying lengths from 102 miles down to just 15. Under-16s can participate at the 15- and 25-mile distances; everyone else can attempt 33 and 66 miles as well.

Participants receive free drinks and food (flapjacks!), map, photos, GPX/Garmin files, souvenir water bottle, support and mechanics, and a rescue service!!

And while you can decide to enter on the day, take advantage of the cheaper entry fee by registering online at <https://www.britishcycling.org.uk/events/details/292684/Ride-North-Norfolk-2024>

If you're unable to don the lycra or celebrate at the finish in Fakenham, then do stand by the roadside in the villages (Tofts and Great Bircham) shouting your encouragement à la Tour de France.

Up the Linnets!

Yes, the Boys are Back in Town with the football season having started on August 10. The Linnets are still in National League North after a so-so season last year, yet with new investment and numerous new players are hoping for renewed fortunes this time around. If you've never been to the lovely ground at The Walks, give it a whirl... it's a friendly place where the Werther's Originals get passed around...