



# B I R C H A M T I M E S



In and around the Birchams

[news@thebirchams.uk](mailto:news@thebirchams.uk)

August 2025 Issue 22

## *Parish Council Matters*

There was a large public attendance at the Parish Council meeting in July. Following a brief presentation, there was a vigorous discussion about the ideas and proposals for the playing field.

The most controversial issue was the location of the outdoor gym equipment. Strong opinions were aired by members of the public and by Councillors for leaving it where it is and for moving it. At the vote on this item, Councillors were split and it was by a majority of 5 to 2 that a decision was taken to move it.

There was unanimous support for replacing the very old swings, including the broken toddler cradle seat. The Council would be interested to hear suggestions for other items that would improve the children's playground for all age groups.

The suggestion to install a pétanque court was not strongly supported and unless there is commitment from the village to organise a team, this will not be taken forward.

An outline planning application for houses to be built on farmland to the north of Stanhoe Road and east of Stocks Close prompted a number of concerns from members of the public and Councillors, especially about road and pedestrian safety. All these will be passed on to the planning authorities in King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council.

The next meeting of the Council is on Wednesday 17th September, starting at 7.30 pm in the Social Club. If you would like an item to be added to the agenda, have a suggestion for additions to the playground, or wish to discuss becoming a Councillor, please contact the Clerk.

Thank you.

Email: [clerk@bircham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bircham-pc.gov.uk)

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## *Newsletter Thoughts*

The observant among you may have noticed that we try to make the contents of the newsletter follow a theme... sometimes to the point of incredulity. Well no such high ideals this month: any adherence to that unwritten rule flies out the window in this issue as we bombard you with an eclectic mix including a polar bear, Horatio Nelson, woodpeckers, shipwrecks and a royal racehorse among other familiar fare. Our feeble excuse is that it is too hot to think coherently.

Hoping that we find you enjoying the summer...

Do remember that the *Bircham Times* can be delivered to parishioners by email. You can email us at [news@thebirchams.uk](mailto: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](http://www.thebirchams.uk)



## Persimmon: 19th-Century Derby Winner

If you travel along King's Avenue towards Dersingham you can't fail to have noticed the rather magnificent equine statue of Persimmon\*. He was owned and bred by the Prince of Wales (who went on to become Edward VII) and was the winner of the 1896 Epsom Derby, on June 3 of that year. A fine-looking horse, Persimmon had a small star on his forehead and was foaled in 1893 (of course, since only 3-year-olds are allowed to run in the Epsom Derby). His father (or sire) was St Simon and his mother (or dam) was Perdita II. By chance, his half-brother was St Frusquin, another colt running in that year's Derby and the favourite for the race.

Persimmon set off as second favourite at 5/1 in an 11-horse race. That June day was overcast with rain threatened but Persimmon gamely held off his sibling and won the race by a neck, with Earwig in third and Teufel in fourth. The very first Epsom Derby was held in 1780, over 100 years previous to that, yet in all that time no horse had beaten the time of Persimmon, who won in 2 min 42 sec (of course timekeeping was a little hit and miss in the early days). However, to put it into context, this year's winner Lambourn won in nearly 2 min 39 sec.

Persimmon was trained by Richard Walsh at Newmarket and his jockey was John Watts. The prince won the princely sum of £5,450 (around £628,000 in modern terms).



The race had the distinction of being one of the first horse races to be filmed (<https://player.bfi.org.uk/free/film/watch-the-derby-1896-1896-online>).

Persimmon, a "beautifully trained" colt, "was not seen in the paddock at Epsom that day, being saddled at Sherwood's due to his nervous temperament, which prevented him eating as he should since his arrival on the scene of action. He is a handsome colt, better looking even than that son of the same sire – St Frusquin." Apparently it had taken an entire team of handlers an hour to coax him on to the train to Epsom for the final leg of his journey. He was also variously described as "an excitable horse in a crowd" and a "glutton". According to the *Northern Whig*: "Rumours were current that an accident has happened to Persimmon on the journey, but this doubtless arose from the fact that some trouble was experienced in getting him into his travelling box. I believe considerably over an hour was spent before he was safely housed, but he made the journey without mishap and certainly there was no appearance of anything the matter with him as he walked from the station."

Contemporary reports state that there was much excitement after the race, due in no small part to the popularity of the Prince of Wales, with "hats whirled around and handkerchiefs and parasols waved in the air". "From peer to peasant everyone seemed lost in their own celebration." Rejoicing continued all the way home with "wild enthusiasm in London" and most of the theatres that night played "God Bless the Prince of Wales".

Persimmon was also the winner of the St Leger Stakes, Ascot Gold Cup, Eclipse Stakes and Coventry Stakes before he died in 1908. Somewhat macabrely his head was preserved by taxidermist Rowland Ward and displayed; it is currently loaned to the National Horseracing Museum at Newmarket, where Persimmon was trained more than a century before. His skeleton was sent to the Natural History Museum.

As a postscript to a horse as famous as Red Rum in his day, *The Echo* noted: "Trademen are beginning to christen new colours and materials by the name of the Derby winner. Persimmon is a well-known word in America, signifying a sort of hard winter plum, not unlike our bullace, and needing a touch of frost to bring it to perfection."

\* For those who use What3Words, he can be found at [///midfield.winner.kingdom](https://www.what3words.com/midfield.winner.kingdom)



## Words on Birds

### WOODPECKERS

We have just three species of woodpecker in the UK, a small number when compared to the ten species found across the whole of Europe. Of those three, the **great spotted woodpecker** is perhaps the most well-known.

A relatively common and widespread bird, it regularly turns up in gardens attracted to bird feeders. Its distinctive black and white plumage with a bright red vent in the males and a red crown in the juveniles make it easy to identify. Its loud "chek" call and deep undulating flight (a feature shared with all woodpeckers) are further aids to identification.



Perhaps even more striking is the much larger **green woodpecker**. The size alone draws attention, as does the pale greenish plumage and the bold red and black face pattern on the males. And of course its loud carrying laughing call gives away its presence, a call that earned it the old country name of Yaffle. Green woodpeckers feed mostly on ants, and prefer short grazed turf to seek them out, a habitat where it is well camouflaged. So for many the usual encounter is suddenly flushing one off a large lawn or grassy field, the almost yellow rump an obvious feature as it bounds away.

The final member of the trio is the diminutive **lesser spotted woodpecker**, the smallest of all the European woodpeckers. Sadly the chances of encountering one in Norfolk are slim to say the least. This bird has been suffering a massive decline throughout the UK in recent years and is pretty much extinct in many counties. It can still be found in forested areas in the south and southwest, but even here numbers are declining. The reasons for this are not entirely understood but are probably linked to changing weather patterns adversely impacting on breeding success.

Steve Rooke

## The Bagpuss Connection

For those of a certain age, you're sure to remember Professor Yaffle, the learned (wooden bookend) woodpecker who imperiously passed his beady glass eye over the contents of the shop owned by the little girl Emily in *Bagpuss*.

Yaffle itself was familiar slang term in a period from the late 18th to mid-19th century. Various it has been said to mean "to yelp" or "to mumble". But perhaps the association with woodpeckers has more to do with an alternative description: "to snatch, take illicitly, or pilfer".

## Dates for the Diary

### Bircham Windmill

Reopened Apr 1

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

**RAF Sculthorpe** Open Days 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)

**Aug 14-17** Sandringham Concert Season (see p7)

**Aug 15** Badger Watching @ Pensthorpe 7.30-9pm, £20.95

**Aug 12-16, 19-23 A** *Midsummer Night's Dream*, Westacre Theatre, 7.30pm, £16/£10. **Aug 25** @2.30pm

**Aug 16-17** Norton Hill Light Railway, Snettisham, 1-5pm, £2

**Aug 17-23** Hunstanton Lawn Tennis Week

**Aug 17** Mods & Rockers Scooter and Motorbike Meet, Tuesday Market Place, KL

**Aug 19** National Potato Day

**Aug 23** Pantaloons *Hamlet* @ Burnham Deepdale, 7pm, £15/£9.50

**Aug 24** Stanhoe Village Fete, 2-6pm. £5 inc barbecue

**Aug 24-25** RAF Bircham Newton Open Days

**Aug 25** Peppa Pig @ Pensthorpe, 11-3.30pm. From £16.95

**Aug 29** Badger Watching @ Pensthorpe, £20.95, 7.30-9pm

**Aug 30-31** N Norfolk Food Festival, Holkham, 10-4pm

**Sep 4** Bircham Banter @ St Mary's, 2.30-4pm

**Sep 4** Stanhoe & Barwick WI: Dark Skies, Stanhoe

Reading Room, 2pm, £5

**Sep 4** Eat an Extra Dessert Day



## What Lies Beneath

Some might say that the Norfolk coast is "blessed" with the wrecks of ships that lie abandoned on the seabed. We have spoken about those that are still visible today on the beaches, but there are many others that came to grief in the waters of Norfolk, sometimes in warfare, and other times by civilian accident. We mention a few worthy wrecks here.

The wreck of the steamship *Vera*, built in Whitby in 1891, lies about 120m from the shore near Cley. On November 15, 1914, while carrying coal from the Tyne to Livorno, Italy, she was beached following a collision with a minesweeper, the HMS *Parthian*, and attempts to refloat her failed. At low water, parts of the wreck are visible above the surface. Legend has it that the locals had no shortage of coal for their hearths for a couple of years afterwards, as her cargo continued to be washed ashore by the tides.

Another wreck that's visible at low water is the SS *Rosalie*. In 1915 she was torpedoed by a German submarine (*UB10*) just off Weybourne. This ship was also a collier but very new, having been built just the previous year. It also set off from the Tyne, but was destined for San Francisco. Luckily, with plenty of ships nearby to help, there were no casualties but, after towing the damaged ship to its current resting place, it was declared a total write-off. This would not be the only British vessel to suffer at the hands of the *UB10* during the First World War.

Talking of submarines, but this time from the Second World War, about 12 miles north of Blakeney lies the wreck of HMS *Umpire*, a Royal Navy U-class submarine. HMS *Umpire* was part of a convoy headed north to Dunoon in Scotland. She suffered engine failure and dropped behind the convoy and was then hit by an armed trawler that was part of another southbound convoy.



This happened on July 19, 1941, just nine days after the vessel was commissioned. Sadly, around half of the crew were lost (at least 16 men). Some of the survivors owe their lives to one crewman who sacrificed his own, by sealing the flooding torpedo room with himself inside, giving his crewmates more time to escape.

Going back in time now, north of Wells-next-the-Sea lies the wreck of *The New Leeds*. This was a wooden, two-masted topsail schooner, on its way from Sunderland to London with a cargo of glass items. The glass items were packed in straw and, in the early hours of the morning on February 23, 1852, while passing five miles off Cley, the straw caught alight. The ship burnt down completely to the waterline, but the crew were saved by the nearby *Lydia*, a Dutch galliot.

Moving even further back in time brings us to probably the most famous of the shipwrecks lying off the Norfolk coast, namely the so-called HMS *Invincible*. This ship, built in 1765, had survived action in many famous battles in Europe and the Americas but was defeated by the elements in 1801 off the Norfolk coast.

Under the command of Rear-Admiral Thomas Totty she had left Yarmouth heading for the Sound to join a planned attack on the Danish fleet, when strong winds first blew her aground on the Hammond Knoll, a sandbank east of Happisburgh, from where she then shifted, with the wind and waves taking their toll, before she eventually drifted into deep water and sank. Although 195 people survived, more than 400 perished. Those that were washed ashore are buried in a mass grave in Happisburgh churchyard, where a memorial was erected in 1998 after the grave was re-discovered by accident.





## Lord Nelson and the Polar Bear

In the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, London, there is a striking (literally) painting of the indomitable Norfolk hero Horatio Nelson attempting to clobber a polar bear with the butt of his rifle while both of them are standing on ice floes. You get the impression that the polar bear will come off worse despite the fact that Nelson is gloveless in this Arctic wasteland and dressed more appropriately for an after-dinner walk than taking on nature's biggest bear single-handedly. The rest of the crew are missing, maybe afeared of the bear (sensibly hidden back on board their ship – HMS *Carcass* – but obviously not having the pluck of dear old Nelson).

The painting was created by Richard Westall in 1809, four years after the death of Nelson, and was intended to illustrate the early life of the midshipman in the first major biography of him. Of course the painting was pure hokum: while Nelson did sail on the HMS *Carcass*, and no doubt did venture on to the ice as did other sailors, it is next to impossible that he went out to attack the bear with just the butt of his gun... and how is he balancing on that ice floe?

But that is how heroes are made (or villains created): we see or hear what we want to believe. Word of mouth provides embellishment and exaggeration. We're comforted by fake news and misinformation, since reinforcement of misguided thoughts makes us more sure of ourselves. If they'd had Facebook in the 1810s we probably be hating on Nelson. Neither version is true of course and the world is rarely black or white (it's nuanced). Don't be told what to think: use your eyes, your worldly knowledge and always consider there is another way of viewing things. "What if I've got this wrong?" And who gains? In this case maybe the publisher of the Nelson biography, who is able to sell more copies. And if available then, what sort of image would AI have come up with to illustrate the hero?

The picture of Nelson is at <https://www.rmg.co.uk/collections/objects/rmgc-object-14380> Do you believe this an absolutely true image of an heroic act or have there been embellishments?

## Night Skies

### TOTAL LUNAR ECLIPSE

We were slightly too far east to experience the total solar eclipse on August 12. It passed through northern Spain, the far western tip of Iceland before exiting through Greenland.

The next big event on the horizon is a lunar eclipse that we should be able to see around 7.30 to 7.52pm on September 7. The slightly problematic issue is that the Moon will be very close to the horizon. For the best chances of sighting it you need to head for higher ground and gaze in an easterly, south-easterly direction.

Next dates for the diary are a partial solar eclipse (Aug 12, 2026) and a partial lunar eclipse (Aug 28, 2026)

JBB

## Dates for the Diary

**Sep 5** Badger Watching @ Pensthorpe, £20.95, 10pm-midnight  
**Sep 5** Open Air Film Night and Street Food, Tuesday Mkt Place, food from 5pm/*Dirty Dancing* film 7pm  
**Sep 7** National Cinema Day  
**Sep 7** RAF Bircham Newton Open Day  
**Sep 7** RAF Sculthorpe Open Day 10am  
**Sep 9** Bircham in Bloom, Bircham Stores, 6pm  
**Sep 9** Josh Jaggard photography course at Pensthorpe, 10-4pm, £100  
**Sep 12** Creatures of the Night, Pensthorpe, £16.95, 6.45-9.45pm  
**Sep 12-14** Brancaster Staithe Sea Shanty Festival  
**Sep 13** Game & Country Fair, Sandringham  
**Sep 13** Norfolk Churches Trust bike ride  
**Sep 14** Heritage Open Day, Lynn Museum, 10-4pm  
**Sep 14** Classic Car Day, Tuesday Mkt Place, King's Lynn, 10-4pm  
**Sep 20-21** Holt & Sheringham 1940s Weekend @ N. Norfolk Railway  
**Sep 21** Hunstanton Soap Box Derby, 11-5pm (Town Hall to Bandstand)  
**Sep 21** Earth, Wind & Fire Day  
**Sep 21** RAF Bircham Newton Open Day  
**Sep 21** Telegraph Pole Appreciation Day  
**Sep 24** National Fitness Day  
**Sep 26** World's Biggest Coffee Morning aka Macmillan Coffee Morning  
**Sep 27-28** Big Machinery Weekend at Pensthorpe  
**Sep 28** Sandringham Half-Marathon and Community Mile 9.30am



## *Tofts Pond Bench*

A new teak bench is to be installed at the duck pond at Bircham Tofts and comes courtesy of a very kind-hearted gift by the family of Jan Hooton to remember their mother who died last November at the age of 94. Jan lived in the Tofts from 1996 and will be remembered by many in the villages as a special member of St Mary's Church, who sang in the choir, was a reader on Sundays, formed part of a Bible study group as well as performing many other kindnesses in the parish, including being a deliverer of the previous incarnation of this very newsletter!

Her family recall: "The Bircham duck pond was a special place that gave her such pleasure throughout almost 30 years and provided her with joy towards the end of her life."

On behalf of all villagers, and particularly those who will make use of the bench throughout the seasons, we send our grateful thanks to the Hooton family for their generosity.

## *West Lynn Ferry*

Out of action for some time (approximately seven months), the West Lynn Ferry has now been fixed, as well as the jetties on either side of the River Great Ouse. The ferry, which connects Lynn with West Lynn, Terrington and Clenchwarton, is first recorded as plying the route in 1285. Today, a return trip will set you back £2.60 or £2 for children. Prior to its repairs, the ferry service provided a service for 400 people a week. The service runs continuously (Mon-Sat) through morning and evening rush hours and at half-hourly intervals in between.



George and Diana Hall would like to express their thanks for all the good wishes and cards they received for their 60th wedding anniversary. They helped to make the occasion happy and memorable.

## *St Mary's 100 Club Draw*

**AUGUST RESULTS:** 1st prize no. **7**; 2nd prize no. **4** (1st prize wins £25; 2nd prize £10).

Thank you to all who support the Club Draw. For further details on entering the draw, please email me on [sliliweb10@gmail.com](mailto:sliliweb10@gmail.com) and I will send you an application form.

Sally

## *Stanhoe & Barwick WI*

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

August 7th: Lyndsey Atkins – Tulips for Tapping House.

September 4th: Kate Dougan – Dark Skies

Visitors are always welcome. Our charge is £5, which includes refreshments. Contact [stanhoeandbarwickwi@gmail.com](mailto:stanhoeandbarwickwi@gmail.com) for more details.



## *Heritage Live Concerts at Sandringham*

If there are any generous volunteers who are happy to drop off or pick up, or event-goers who have room in their car, then do let us know and we can try to put you in touch with each other.

Thursday Aug 14 Pet Shop Boys and Scissor Sisters

Friday Aug 15 Mariah Carey, Nile Rodgers & Chic, and Eternal

Saturday Aug 16 Stereophonics, Blossoms, Jake Bugg

Sunday Aug 17 Michael Bublé, Beverley Knight, Gabrielle

## *Bircham in Bloom*

After a Summer break, the next Bircham in Bloom meeting is on Tuesday September 9 at 6pm at the Bircham Stores. Among other things, we'll be discussing our autumn plans. If you want to come along to see what we're up to, then please feel free to join us.

## *Discover King's Lynn App*

With the kids (grandkids) breaking up for the summer on July 23 you might find it challenging to keep them entertained. This new app from Discover King's Lynn, features tours, news, listings, events and even offers from Lynn businesses. Available for both IOS and Android. Search using "Discover King's Lynn". Forgot to mention: it's free to download.

## *Bircham Banter*

Next Banter session is on Thursday September 4 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  
Saturday September 27 at 7.30pm



### *Mr Burton (12A).*

It's 1942 and Richard Jenkins is at school in Port Talbot, caught between the pressures of an alcoholic father, a devastating war, and his own ambitions. A new opportunity beckons when Richard's natural talent for drama catches the attention of his teacher, Philip Burton. The young man thrives under Philip's strict tutelage and the guidance of a kindly landlady, Ma Smith. But as the acting world comes within Richard's reach, the burden of his past risks holding him back forever.

Starring Harry Lawtey, Toby Jones and Lesley Manville.

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](mailto:syderstonecinema_arvh@outlook.com) or call 01485 578244.

On behalf of the Syderstone Cinema Team



### 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 August 15/September 12  
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

## Household Hazardous Waste Days

After a successful venture in the spring, the county council is repeating its Household Hazardous Waste Day this autumn. The two closest sites are at King's Lynn (PE34 3RD or [///ports.sober.spill](http://ports.sober.spill)) and Hempton (NR21 7DY or [///fencing.polices.vines](http://fencing.polices.vines)) King's Lynn is open Friday and Saturday October 10-11 and Hempton on Friday and Saturday November 21-22. Bookings are as per normal recycling (see above) but slots are only open eight days before each event.

"Hazardous" does have its limitations though: so paint cans, pesticides, anti-freeze, drain cleaners and flammable liquids are good; asbestos, fireworks, fuels, clinical waste or gas bottles are not. See full list at <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/38615/Hazardous-waste-items>

## Bircham Weather

July proved something of a disappointment, following the hot and dry June, although such a change was perhaps inevitable as it became the first month of the year to record above-average rainfall, albeit only marginally with a total of 63mm. Temperatures were also predictably lower with an average maximum of 23.9°C but this was still 1.4°C above the long-term norm.

The first half of the month featured a mix of sunshine and showers, yet the rainfall remained limited with only 8.5mm recorded up to the 15th, leading to expectations of another predominantly dry month. Temperatures were generally respectable too with daily highs exceeding 20°C every day apart from on the 7th when a fresh northerly wind restricted it to 19°C but this was to be the only day apart from the 24th when 20°C was not realised and a particularly sunny spell between the 10th and 12th saw temperatures peak at 30.7°C on the 11th. From the middle of the month a more pronounced Atlantic influence introduced more unsettled conditions, though a brief ridge on the 18th produced the month's highest temperature of 31.1°C. The wettest spell then followed with rain recorded daily from the 19th to 24th, including a notable 15mm on the 24th, which turned out to be the wettest day of the month. The final week then saw a return to more settled conditions with no recorded rainfall from the 27th until it resumed on the morning of the last day.

Bryan





## Curl Up With a Good Book

*Raising Hare* (2024) by Chloe Dalton

A beautifully written book about the countryside and one of Nature's most enigmatic creatures – the hare. It describes what happens when a metropolitan professional encounters what she believes to be an abandoned leveret on a freezing winter's day. She coaxes it back to life in her farmhouse, learning about the species as she goes, and forms a wonderful bond with such a "wild" creature.

Dalton is wonderfully observant about the little hare, and describes every last whisker and whorl of fur. It is her own love story to the hare. She feeds it from her palm and then her lap, goes to great lengths to establish what it will eat, and scours as much knowledge as she can about the wee animal in her care. She reads endlessly but fruitlessly, noting: "I found in those books countless descriptions of how to hunt, kill or cook a hare, but not a word on how to raise them."

Dalton is at great pains to let the reader know that she is raising the leveret not as a pet, but as a creature that will return to the wild when it is appropriate to do so; thus, she resists naming the animal and remains conscious of the fact that in the near future it will leave her.

The book comes in at just under 300 pages but the story flies by. It is caring and poetic and charming and suitable for both children and adults. It has also been shortlisted for various literary awards and headed many bestseller lists... and there's a very good reason for that!



## Tapping House Dragonfly Meadow

Most people can remember back to the immense poppy installation – Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red – that was created in recognition of the Fallen that was installed at the Tower of London in 2014. Between August 21 and September 14, Sandringham will host a similar spectacular installation of 4,000 steel dragonflies. They are intended to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Tapping House's care for individuals and families within this local community.

From £36.50 you can purchase a dragonfly of your own that will feature in the meadow, as well as gain admission to the meadow to view the display. Afterwards, the staked dragonfly will be yours to keep and to add to your own garden.

The cost to Tapping House of providing care for the thousands who pass through their doors amounts to more than £5 million per year. so every bit you can donate will be very much appreciated. Buy your own dragonfly at [tappinghouse.org.uk](http://tappinghouse.org.uk) or by ringing 01485 601701

## Heritage Open Day

If you've never got around to properly exploring King's Lynn then don't wait any longer. The Heritage Open Day is taking place on Sunday September 14, 2025 (10-4pm), when you can visit many of the buildings in the town – including churches, offices, houses, pubs, museums and gardens. Look out for a full programme of events closer to the time.

There should be lots of activities too. Last year's event saw music, re-enactors, dancing, classic cars and other exhibitions and of course you could catch a ride on the free vintage buses that travelled between venues.



## *Back Page Sports*

### *Tour de Tapping*

Whether you are an avid cyclist or a occasional bike rider you can make your mark by entering the Tour de Tapping, a charity challenge on behalf of Tapping House hospice. The biggest challenge is a whopping 116-mile "Legacy Loop", a route and distance inspired by Tapping House's charity shops in the region. The other distances are a 58-mile "Journey of Joy" or a 16-mile "Tulip Trail". In fact you don't even have to hit the roads at all since you can do the mileage at home on a turbo trainer/static bike.

The event runs from June 23 to August 31 so you can take the challenge whenever you feel the urge or do it a few miles at a time. Fundraisers who achieve £40 or more in sponsorship receive a medal and a certificate.

<https://www.tappinghouse.org.uk/event/tour-de-tapping/>  
provides fuller details including sponsorship forms, maps, JustGiving details and so on.

### *A Mile of Triumphs*

Should you be lucky enough to own a Triumph (or maybe just covet one) then we suggest you might enjoy a trip out to Holkham on September 14 (at 11.45am), where for charity EACH (East Anglia's Children's Hospices) there will be an attempt to gather together "a mile of Triumphs". Fun for car enthusiasts and budding photographers alike. Organised by The Triumph Sports Six Club [https://www.tssc.org.uk/tssc/events\\_final.asp?event\\_ID=3433&area=Eastern,%20Norfolk](https://www.tssc.org.uk/tssc/events_final.asp?event_ID=3433&area=Eastern,%20Norfolk)

### *Snail Racing Result*

The winner of the 2025 World Snail Racing Championships was Bilbo Sluggins, who won the annual title in 2 minutes 11 seconds – a very fast time, no doubt enabled by the damp weather experienced on Saturday July 19. In all, 150 gastropods took part.

### *The Rebellion Way*

The Rebellion Way is a long distance (373 km/232 mile) cycling route around Norfolk. The creators and organisers suggest that most people will take a week to complete it, although you can break it into northern and southern loops if the challenge seems too great. The route is mostly flat but there are some hills. The organisers suggest starting at King's Lynn but our closest point is Ringstead before the circuit follows the coast, turns south at Sheringham, enters Norwich and then hugs the Norfolk/Suffolk border before reurning to Lynn via Swaffham. It is not signposted as such but there are OS maps and GPX downloadable files to use with a phone or bike computer.

<https://www.cyclinguk.org/article/guide-gps-and-route-plotting-cyclists>  
<https://www.cyclinguk.org/routes/long-distance/rebellion-way>

Holiday company Saddle Skedaddle provides a guided tour of the Rebellion Way  
[https://www.skedaddle.com/uk/cycling/holiday/Leisure\\_Cycling/UK\\_-\\_Norfolk\\_-\\_Rebellion\\_Way\\_-\\_Guided\\_Leisure\\_Cycling\\_Holiday/1231/view.rails](https://www.skedaddle.com/uk/cycling/holiday/Leisure_Cycling/UK_-_Norfolk_-_Rebellion_Way_-_Guided_Leisure_Cycling_Holiday/1231/view.rails)

The route is named after two of the most mutinous characters in Norfolk's history: Boudicca and Robert Kett, he who raised an army of 16,000 men demonstrating against land enclosures in the 16th century.