



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



In and around the Birchams

news@thebirchams.uk

July 2025 Issue 21

Parish Council Matters

Over the past couple of months, two vacancies for Parish Councillor have become available. These will be filled either by an election or co-option. Could this be your opportunity to join the Parish Council and contribute in that way to the life of the village?

There are a few simple checks that you would need to pass. You must be at least 18 years of age and a British subject or citizen of the Commonwealth or European Union. You must either be registered as a local government elector for the parish or, for the past 12 months, have lived in or within three miles of Bircham parish or had your main place of work here.

More details can be found on the Parish Council website: bircham-pc.gov.uk, where you can also find the Code of Conduct that you would commit to upholding. As this states, Councillors should represent the community and work constructively to secure better social, economic and environmental outcomes for all.

Please consider becoming a Parish Councillor. If you would like to talk it over, the Chairman would be very happy to meet with you.

The next meetings of the Council are on Wednesdays July 23 and September 17, both starting at 7.30pm in the Social Club.

If you would like an item to be added to the agenda or wish to discuss becoming a Councillor, 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



Newsletter Thoughts

We've officially reached maturity with this edition, having hit the 21st issue. We'll indulge with a cheeky glass of cava to mark the event, no doubt.

There's a mix of items this month, many that give a nod towards summer with salads on the menu and a comprehensive list of holiday reading matter. There's also lots of ideas for what you can entertain yourself with, especially if you have children in tow. We also have pieces on cuckoos and linnets (the latter of the footballing variety) as well as ways in which you can show off your sporting prowess.

If you have ideas for other topics, do please let us know, since your feedback is very welcome.

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



Foodie Fare

SALAD DAYS

It's been a bit hot lately and no one has any desire to cook complicated meals, or even eat them, and hence we turn to salads. The word itself is synonymous with green leaves, such as lettuce, but traces its earliest origins to the Latin for "salt", or "to preserve with salt". Once upon a time, a salad was made up of three ingredients: lettuce, cucumber and tomato – and if you were very grand and showing off maybe spring onions, radishes and salad cream. Thank you Heinz!

Is it any wonder then that chefs have subsequently had the urge to titivate the humdrum leaves with cold creations of their own? We present below some of the recipes that took off, but remember that salads are really just an amalgamation of items you'll find in your fridge and some greenery, so just experiment with anything you find in there.

Caesar Salad – a mix of Romaine lettuce, garlic, anchovies, Parmesan, dressing and croutons. It was first marketed in 1946 by Italian restaurateur Caesar Cardini, who also gave his name to its dressing: a mix of olive oil, egg, lemon juice and Parmesan.

Cobb Salad – another salad named after a restaurateur, it consists of chicken/turkey, bacon, hard-boiled eggs, tomatoes, blue cheese, and then lettuce and vinaigrette of course.

Caprese Salad – the traditional Italian salad made with slices of tomato, mozzarella and basil leaves to emulate the red, white and green of the Italian flag. Dressed with Italian dressing.

Waldorf Salad – dating from the late 19th century and named after a famous New York hotel this time, the salad consists of apple and celery, and walnuts and grapes, dressed with mayonnaise.

Greek Salad – traditionally a salad without leaves for a change, it consists of tomatoes, cucumber, red onion, olives (black), feta cheese cubes, oregano, mint, and a simple vinaigrette.

Salade Niçoise – lettuce, tomatoes, hard-boiled eggs, salad onions, anchovies, artichokes, tuna and celery form the traditional Salade Niçoise, which was named after the French city of Nice and uses Mediterranean flavours.

Russian/Olivier Salad – a dish named after the chef of the Hermitage restaurant in Moscow. The base ingredient is cubed potato, with eggs, meat, cubed vegetables and mayonnaise. The taste of the dish is heightened with pickled vegetables.

Coleslaw – is, of course, raw cabbage salad by any other name, with carrots, apple, raisins and mayonnaise.

HEINZ SALAD CREAM

Well the other half prefers mayonnaise (!), which is good as a base but not terribly flavoursome (buck your ideas up Mr Hellmann), but there's still no substitute for Heinz Salad Cream. Even the American makers don't know a good thing when they see it, since they were compelled to rename it Heinz Sandwich Cream (what were they thinking!!). It may only be used rarely as a salad dressing but apparently goes well on baked beans, chips, and as a child of the 70s there was nothing to beat a salad cream sandwich (oops, maybe the Americans were doing a bit of focus grouping after all).

Heinz said it also rejected other potential names such as Fish Finger Sauce, Chip Sauce and Roast Potato Sauce. Nah! Have they totally taken leave of their senses? We won't even get into arguing about the abomination of Fish & Chips sauce, the newly rebranded Tartare Sauce.

The original Heinz Salad Cream was created in 1914, so we've grown to love it in its original guise. According to the Heinz website there is a "How to Use" section and I was all prepared to give you the benefit of their culinary acumen, 'cept when I got there and clicked on the button the advice would have fitted on a postage stamp.

It merely said: "Shake well before use."



Narrow Pavements Defeated Cockneys

Ever since the 1930s, and more urgently after the Second World War, London had been planning to remove families in a policy called the "London overspill". In 1961 and 1962 London County Council (LCC) had some 50,000 families on its register who were seeking to remove themselves from the capital for a "better life". The chairman of the LCC's New and Expanding Towns Committee said: "let them come and strengthen your town" and "they are the very best of London".

New Towns were built in the South-East and East Anglia, including Milton Keynes, Harlow, Bracknell and Peterborough, and the exodus spread as far as Burnley in the North-West. King's Lynn, meanwhile, was experiencing a post-war boom and hence tempted to take Londoners. The authorities agreed to accept 10,000 overspill people from the capital, with a long-term plan to increase the population by 50,000 within 20 years.

Encouraged by the local authority, 50 new companies were attracted to the industrial estate at Hardwick, necessitating the employment of an extra 5,000 workers.

The town expansion forum drew a crowd of 500 in December 1961 and an anti-overspill petition was signed by more than 1,200. At the forum the discussions were robust: there were concerns that only 250 council houses were being built per year at the time so how would local builders cope? Or were they to be supplanted by builders from elsewhere and become redundant? Additionally, there were queries about water supplies, the response from the authorities being that a borehole would be dug at Congham.

A member of the public attacking the "anti-overspillers" said: "Is the opposition to the overspill reasoned opposition or is it because they do not want a damned bunch of cockneys? Is that their attitude? The attitude is that you are going to get a lot of troublemakers and bad labour relations – in other words a lot of foreigners."

The London exodus never reached the anticipated heights. Many of the city-dwelling Londoners did indeed find it difficult to adjust from the city's hustle and bustle to the more leisurely pace of a sleepy Norfolk market town, and they left to be closer to the metropolis. This 1964 report <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-norfolk-65837896> amusingly plays up the differences in culture, including Lynn's disappointingly narrow pavements and desolate nature.

More housing was provided on the three existing satellite estates to accommodate the surge in population to 38,000 by 1975. Infamously and destructively the redevelopment of the town centre saw the demolition of many Georgian and Victorian buildings and the closing of the cattle market, to be replaced by the bus station! It has been estimated that between 1962 and 1971 one fifth of historic King's Lynn disappeared in favour of new shopping malls and pedestrianised streets. But seemingly too late to encourage the incomers from Lambeth to stay.

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)

Jul 13-26 King's Lynn Festival with Jools Holland (25th)

Jul 18-20 Norfolk Motorhome & Caravan Show

Jul 18 Discover King's Lynn Free Film Night, *Top Gun*, Tuesday Mkt Pl, KL, 5-9pm

Jul 19 World Snail-racing Championships/Summer Big Bash, Grimston Cricket Ground

Jul 20 World Ice Cream Day

Jul 23 NORFOLK SCHOOLS SUMMER BREAK-UP

Jul 23 Sandringham Flower Show, £22, 9-6pm

Jul 23-Sept 2 Poo Trail at Pensthorpe from £17.95

Jul 25 National Wine & Cheese Day

Jul 25-27 Old Hunstanton Flower Festival, St Mary's, 10-4pm

Jul 26 Hunstanton Sailing Club Open Day, 1pm

Jul 26-27 Worstead Festival, £10

Jul 26 Merchants Market, Tuesday Mkt Place, KL, 9-3pm

Jul 27 RAF Bircham Newton Open Day

Jul 27 NORFOLK DAY

Aug 1-10 Wells Carnival

Aug 1 International Beer Day

Aug 1 Creatures of the Night, Pensthorpe, £16.95 8.30-11.30pm



Summer Reads

Should you be holidaying on the continent this summer, get in the mood with these titles.

GREECE

Mythos: Greek Myths Retold... Stephen Fry's retelling of Greek legends in his own words. A bit of erudition and a lot of fun. And if you are hooked, try the follow-ups *Heroes: Mortals and Monsters, Quests and Adventures*; *Troy: The Siege of Troy Retold* (ok, a bit of Turkey involved here) and *Odyssey*.

The Other Guest by Heidi Perks is a thriller set in Greece with two holidaying families. Initially unknown to each other, their paths cross in an unexpected way. A sun-soaked whodunnit.

SPAIN

An awful lot of literature about Spain centres on the Spanish Civil War and we have no hesitation in commending the classics *As I Walked Out One Midsummer Morning* by Laurie Lee (a teenager's journey through "old" Spain just prior to the War) and *Homage to Catalonia* by George Orwell, who covers the War as a journalist... quite possibly the easiest introduction to a vexingly complicated period.

Grape, Olive, Pig: Deep Travels Through Spain's Food Culture by Matt Goulding. A taster in all senses of the word, you need to read this wonderfully enthralling and stunningly photographed book before your travels to all four corners of Spain. A companion edition, *Pasta, Pane, Vino* gives the same travelogue treatment to Italy.

Tales of the Alhambra by Washington Irving. From the pen of Rip Van Winkle's author comes a series of stories created by Irving while staying at the Alhambra and with access to the palace's medieval documents – legends, romances, chivalry.

PORTUGAL

The Colours of Death by Patricia Marques. This is crime fiction with a sci-fi twist. A man is found dead on a stationary train, an unordinary death investigated by Inspector Isabel Reis, one of Lisbon's ostracised "few", who has telepathetic and telekinetic powers.

The Translator's Bride by João Reis. A slim volume, a stream-of-consciousness from a narrator who is left bereft by his bride's desertion and determines to win her back. This darkly humorous tale follows his attempts to publish his book and buy a house.

ITALY

The Little World of Don Camillo by Giovanni Guareschi edited/translated by Piers Dudgeon. Set in Emilia-Romagna (think Bologna, Parma and Modena), this wryly satirical series of books concerns the village priest (Don Camillo) and his antagonist, the communist mayor Peppone. At the last count there were 11 translated stories with possibly hundreds more to come.

Trieste and the Meaning of Nowhere by Jan Morris is a non-fiction title published after the author's death and looks at the city Morris first visited as an intelligence officer in 1945. From the pen of one of literature's finest travel writers, this book considers the pivotal position of Trieste, lying between Italy and the Balkans.

FRANCE

If planning a visit to Languedoc, or more precisely Carcassonne, then you could do a lot worse than delve into the three novels by Kate Mosse set in the region. She entwines modern storytelling with impeccably researched historical details. Try *Labyrinth*, *Sepulchre* or *Citadel*.

And since you are on holiday and maybe not feeling terribly virtuous about your reading tastes, then you SHOULD, yes should, treat yourself to the Asterix tales, the Gaulish resistance to the Roman invasion of France. If you can, read in the French; if not, the tales are beautifully illustrated and wonderfully witty in English volumes. You deserve to enjoy the company of Asterix, Obelix, Vitalstatistix, Cacofanix, Dogmatix, Unhygienix, Getafix et al.



Clifton House

Clifton House has been labelled the most important house in King's Lynn. It is a tower house and is modestly located on Queen Street. A Grade I, former merchant's house begun in 1250, the residence has notable elements from many different architectural periods, including Tudor, Stuart and Georgian. One of the standouts is the five-storey tower built in the 1570s; another is the kitchen, which has the largest domestic medieval tiled pavement in England. The vast medieval wine cellar is the earliest brick structure in Norfolk.

The house has had numerous notable and wealthy owners including wine merchants, mayors, MPs, as well as the local council and heritage trust. Today it is back in private hands and is currently owned by Simon Thurley, a former chief executive of English Heritage, and his wife, Anna Keay, an architectural historian.

Clifton House is open to the public on a few days per year. Tickets can be booked for September 5 and 12 (3.30-5.30pm). <https://www.cliftonhouse.org.uk/>

Historic Houses Association have more properties that can be visited within the county and wider country. Book via its website <https://www.historichouses.org/visit-a-house/>

Bircham Census of 1811

Yes, you read that correctly: we might have been holding national censuses since 1841 but Great Bircham again seems to have been a bit ahead of the curve, with John Barker taking a village-wide census on May 27, 1811, and concluding that there were 330 villagers.

The census named all the homeowners and the make-up of their households (whether male or female). The document is not clear as to whether children were included. One house was uninhabited. The biggest household belonged to Martha Rodwell, with 7 males and 6 females under the roof!

White's Directory 1883

Before the Internet and even the Yellow Pages there existed a directory of trades for places in the UK. Generally divided into county volumes, you could discover the name of the nearest butcher, baker and candlestick-maker.

Not everyone ran their own business of course and as we might expect most of the inhabitants of the Birchams were labourers and farm workers, and going by the ratio of children to adults the women were mostly pregnant or fulfilling domestic duties. But even in a village this size there were "trades", ranging from a miller of course, to shopkeepers, a carrier (of the post), brickmakers, dressmakers, teachers, grocers, a publican, a postmistress, and blacksmiths for horses and similarly bootmakers for the workers.

Dates for the Diary

Aug 2-3 Buckingham's Retinue, Castle Rising, £10/8
Aug 2-3 Hunstanton Music Festival, Lower Green, Hunstanton, 12-7pm
Aug 3 RAF Sculthorpe Open Day From 10am
Aug 7 -10 Houghton Music Festival
Aug 7-10 Gone Wild Festival, Holkham Hall, various pricing
Aug 7 Pantaloons *Robin Hood* @ Burnham Deepdale, 7pm, £15/£9.50
Aug 8-10 Run Sandringham 24, Sandringham
Aug 8-15 North Norfolk Music Festival, S, Creake
Aug 9 Snettisham Summer Fayre, 11-4pm
Aug 9 Mammals Tracks & Signs @ Pensthorpe £19.95, 8-10am
Aug 10 American Day @ RAF Sculthorpe
Aug 10 RAF Bircham Newton Open Day
Aug 12 RNLI Sandcastle Competition, Old Hunstanton Beach, 1.30-3pm
Aug 13 National Prosecco Day
Aug 14-17 Sandringham Concert Season (see p7)
Aug 15 Badger Watching @ Pensthorpe 7.30-9pm, £20.95
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 23 Stanhoe Village Fete, 12.30-5.30pm
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



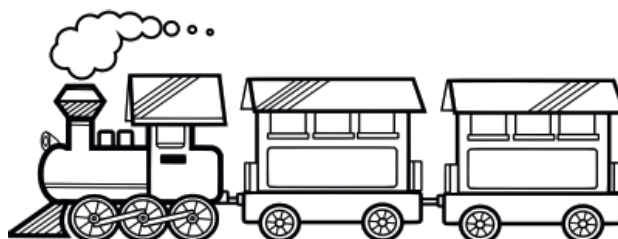
Hidden Railway Weekends

Intriguingly tucked away between St Mary's Church and the Rose & Crown in Snettisham is Norton Hill Light Railway. It's a small gauge railway that provides 1km steam train rides. The volunteers there are holding three family fun weekends including a fete, amusements, refreshments and music as well as train rides of course. The weekends are also donating proceeds to the following charities:

July 19-20 Rotary Club of Hunstanton
Aug 2-3 King's Lynn Purfleet Trust
Aug 16-17 King's Lynn Lions Club

The entertainment runs from 1-5pm and is free for children (entry is just £2 for adults).

Hall Farm
Old Church Rd
Snettisham
King's Lynn PE31 7LY



Patronal Festival Service

Do join us for our Patronal Festival Service on Sunday August 10 at 11am at St Mary's Church, Great Bircham.

You are invited for a drink afterwards to celebrate George and Diana Hall's 60th Wedding Anniversary.



St Mary's 100 Club Draw

JULY RESULTS: 1st prize no. **12**; 2nd prize no. **13** (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 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.

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



Heritage Live Concerts at Sandringham

There are four days of events at Sandringham this August to suit many tastes. You can also experience glamping at Sandringham for the first time, but maybe just cadge a lift from a friend, cycle or walk!! Maybe. 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

You can get tickets here <https://www.axs.com/uk/series/24806/heritage-live-festivals-2025-tickets?skin=heritagelive>

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 August 7 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 July 26 at 7.30pm



A Complete Unknown (15).

New York, 1961. Against the backdrop of a vibrant music scene and tumultuous cultural upheaval, an enigmatic 19-year-old from Minnesota arrives with his guitar and revolutionary talent, destined to change the course of American music. He forges intimate relationships with music icons of Greenwich Village on his meteoric rise, culminating in a groundbreaking and controversial performance that reverberates worldwide. This is the true story of the rise of Bob Dylan, one of the most iconic singer-songwriters in history.
Starring Timothée Chalamet and Ed Norton.

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 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 July 18/August 15
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

Recycling Update

Hopefully you've all got to grips with the recent changes in booking for a recycling slot at one of the county's recycling centres/dumps/tips (call them what you will). And we're sure that if you use the local Docking centre you don't need reminding that it is only open Friday to Monday (inclusive). As of June the latest news from Norfolk County Council is that ALL the recycling centres in the county are closed on Wednesdays... so you'll have to find yourself something else to do on that day. Maybe visit the cinema, taking advantage of a Meerkat film offer?

Bircham Weather

A further 20 dry days and a rainfall measurement of 33mm, representing roughly half the average for June, brought the total for the half-year to 198mm, which is 55% of the expected amount. It was exceptionally warm too with an average maximum of 24.6°C, this being 4.7°C over par and 5.4°C warmer than that recorded in 2024. Despite these variances though the month began in a fairly low-key fashion with Atlantic breezes and some spells of rain. In fact, most of the month's rainfall occurred before the 8th with the wettest day being the 5th when 8.8mm was recorded. There followed the first of three warm periods with mainly sunny conditions lifting the temperature to a high of 29.3°C on the 13th before thunderstorms moved up from France during the early hours of the 14th. Although some welcome rain did fall from these, the main body of the storms tracked to the east of us but it did provide a good lightning display.

Temperatures were to remain above average though and with the help of further June sun the highest was recorded coincidentally on the summer solstice with a measure of 33.0°C. Despite the Atlantic winds breaking through once again after this spell, it still remained warm and mostly dry with temperatures exceeding 25°C from the 24th to the end of the month and with further sunshine the heat returned, giving another maximum of 31.9°C on the last day.

Bryan

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



Words on Birds

CUCKOO — cheating by nature

The evocative call of the male cuckoo was heard by many in Bircham this spring/summer. Their time here is short and by late summer they will have gone. Before migration was fully understood it was thought the absence of cuckoos in the autumn and winter was due to their ability to change into sparrowhawks and kestrels. Using satellite tags we now know they make an incredible journey of more than 6,000 miles to return to Africa.

Cuckoos are the only British birds not to raise their own young. Rather than building nests, female cuckoos lay their eggs in the nests of other birds, such as meadow pipits, reed warblers, dunnocks or pied wagtails. Female cuckoos will target their host species and make a lightning raid on the nest in the afternoon, this visit lasting just ten seconds, time enough for them to turf out one of the existing eggs and replace it with one of their own.

The young hatch in just 12 days and embark on a murder spree working their way round the nest pushing out any eggs or young chicks till it's the only bird remaining. They can even mimic the sound of a nest of chicks to ensure their host brings them sufficient food till they are some five times the size of their brood parent.

Sadly, the cuckoo's numbers have declined sharply in recent decades, with habitat loss and changes in insect populations among the suspected causes.

Richard Campey

owner of The One Stop Nature Shop at Burnham Deepdale



Linnets New Season

The footballers of King's Lynn Town, not the birds, start their latest season kicking off once more in National League North on August 9 at home against AFC Telford United.

New manager James Rowe, whose previous appointments were as manager of AFC Fylde and Chesterfield FC, has vowed to add an attacking mindset to the football at The Walks. He has recruited more than a dozen new players but the names of strikers Adam Marriott, Michael Gyasi and Gold Omotayo as well as captain/midfielder Michael Clunan are familiar from their previous stints at the club.

After reaching the play-offs last season, King's Lynn Town will be looking for promotion this coming season.

Neighbourhood Nuisances

Two this month: First, there have been a few reports of "gentlemen" in the vicinity, including this village, offering to do all sorts of good works (cleaning drives, guttering and so on) for villagers — all unannounced and undesired. It's probably just the time of year but do keep a look out, especially if you have vulnerable neighbours. Better to be safe than sorry. From experience, genuine trades don't turn a hair if you make a polite enquiry about their reason for "hanging around". If they are not genuine, then their cards are marked!

Secondly, there continues to be an issue with dog fouling. We now appear to have advanced from dog poo not being bagged to it being bagged, but then the bag not quite reaching the bins and being left on the playing field for example!! Which is almost more inexplicable.



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.

* The loop includes shops from Wisbech in the West, via King's Lynn and then Hunstanton and Burnham Market in the North, then down to Fakenham in the East and Swaffham and Downham Market, and obviously including Tapping House itself at Hillington.



London's Big Half

If you've always meant to apply to run in the London Marathon, but (quite rightly) have been daunted by the 26+ miles, then have a thought about running in the "Big Half" — and as the name suggests it is just over 13 miles, run over the London Marathon course and held on September 7.

Tapping House has 10 places available, asking only that you raise a minimum of £200 in sponsorship. Email fundraisingteam@tappinghouse.org.uk for further details. Also <https://www.londonmarathonevents.co.uk/big-half-1>

Hunstanton Tennis

A reminder that the biggest tennis tournament in the country takes place from August 17 to 23. The more than 50 events attract entrants from all age groups.

Hunstanton Soapbox Derby

July 25 is your latest possible date to enter a "racing machine" for the annual Soapbox Derby held on the streets of Hunstanton on September 21. The following video "rallies" all would-be, designers, engineers and drivers <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vHrbTCNdIi8> and registration documents can be downloaded here https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20240/hunstanton_events_and_activities/571/hunstanton_soap_box_derby.

Surely with all the talent in the village we can enter a Veterans' vehicle (that's for veterans aged 50+, not the age of the soapbox). And it needn't be the fastest, the Concours d'Elegance prize is for the most beautiful jalopy entered, regardless of where it finishes. Just focus on the kudos to the village if we were on the map. A Bircham Banger based on a sausage? Come on chaps and chapesses, channel your Wacky Races spirit!!