



Parish Council Matters

May saw our **Annual Council Meeting**. At this, Hugh Rayner was elected as Chairman, and Lisa Palmer as Vice-Chair. Hugh's first comment as Chairman was to thank Gloria Daniels for her service as Chair, Vice and Cllr over more than 25 years – she remains on Council. We also thank David Noon for his year as Vice-Chair.

In other changes, we welcome Murdo Durrant, who was co-opted. Claire-Wright Thompson has tendered her resignation, and we thank her for her contribution. As a result, there is a further vacancy. Should the current call for election not produce such a poll, there will be a further co-option in due course. Details will be on the PC website.

On the subject of elections, as Council is non-political, we continue as normal through the run-up to the **General Election**, though we do, of course, have to take care not to give any endorsements or opportunities to candidates.

We have received a positive report from our Internal Auditor, and Council approved the signing of the relevant forms. All paperwork is on its way to the External Auditor now. As we have received and spent more than £25,000 in the past year, we are subject to a slightly different inspection regime, but all the usual information will be online shortly.

The planned **litter-pick** did not take place due to inclement weather – we will advise when this is re-scheduled.

Earlier in the evening on the 15th, the **Annual Parish Meeting** also took place, with reports from the PC, In Bloom and Speedwatch. The minutes of both meetings are, as ever, online. Our next Council meeting is on 12th June at 7.30pm in the Social Club.

As ever, if you wish to raise any issues with Council, please contact the Clerk on 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

Three rhyming days come to the fore in this issue: D-Day, Tea Day and Bee Day.

On D-Day, the 6th of June, we commemorate the 80th anniversary of Operation Overlord during the Second World War. The UN has a dedicated Tea Day, this year focusing on women and their role in the sector -- we celebrate with a tea-flavoured fruit loaf. And finally Bee Day — a world without these pollinators means not just no honey but also no blueberries, coffee, cucumbers... We touch on the keeping of bees via a fun podcast but hope to bring you more next month,

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

Finally, in an effort to get information to parishoners as soon as possible, we will in addition be producing a "Preview Version" from now on, specifically for those of you interested in the Dates for the Diary. This will be published online at www.thebirchams.uk, often before the Parish Council information is made available. We aim to get the Preview Version online by the 15th of every month (at which point none of the events will have passed). If you know someone without internet access who may be interested in the Preview Version, we would urge you to print off a copy to share with them.



Foodie Fare

UN International Tea Day (yes, there is such a thing) occurs on May 21 and to celebrate we've a delightfully indulgent but very simple recipe. Not only a refreshing drink at any time of the year, the cup of tea (brought out mid-afternoon and emblematic of support in any emergency when only a restorative cuppa will do) is also part of our cultural DNA.

FRUIT LOAF

225 g raisins
225 g currants
225 g sultanas
110 g chopped mixed candied peel
225 g Demerara sugar
275 ml Lapsang Souchong, Earl Grey or any other hot tea
1 large egg lightly beaten with two tbl milk
450 g self-raising flour



Place all the fruits in a large bowl, dissolve the sugar in the hot tea, and pour this over the fruits. Cover the bowl and leave overnight so the fruits become plump. Next day, pre-heat the oven to gas mark 3 or 170°C. Line 2 loaf tins (I use 2lb size but could use 1lb if a deeper loaf preferred) with silicone paper. Add the beaten egg mixture to the bowl containing the fruits, add sifted flour and mix well. Divide the mixture between the two tins and bake in the centre of the oven for about 1½ hours. Turn out on to a wire rack to cool. They freeze well.

Di

WARTIME RATIONING

On January 8, 1940, adults and children alike were issued with ration books containing coupons that could be traded for foodstuffs in short supply. Sugar, butter, bacon and ham were the first commodities to be rationed (and meat was the last to be dropped as late as 1954). The coupon system was extended to clothing, soap and petrol.



By our very crude reckoning, Di's recipe above would have blown the points of an individual for the best part of a month, even supposing we could get the sugar in from South America. Moreover, adults were entitled to just the 2oz of (loose, obviously) tea a week.

William Morrison, Minister for Food and the man responsible for the scheme, spent the early part of the year throwing positives around. No one would go without, the scheme was fair to all, there would be no queuing and the nation would feel the positive effects of all pulling together! Then, our sailors would not be imperiled in bringing food we didn't need. There were approximately 44 million inhabitants at that time and it was suggested that we produced a little less than half our own food (so much for the modern-day assertion that in some halcyon era we produced all our own food)! Morrison was also keen to point out that the decrease in the amount of sugar that would result from rationing would be of benefit to all, drawing the parallels of the increase in sugar consumption with the direct increase in those suffering from diabetes and cancer. Let alone tooth decay! In 1940 it was suggested that each individual ate 30 times more sugar per week than 100 years previously: "this overindulgence started when Germany introduced her sugar beet factories to the world at the end of the 18th century". [A bit of not-so-subtle propaganda directed at the enemy perhaps?]. And at some 12oz of sugar each, on the ration, it seems he may have had a point. Worryingly, we were all limited to 2oz of cheese per week... extraordinarily cruel treatment.

Morrison was replaced in April 1940 by Lord Woolton, he of the famous vegetarian pie recipe that went as follows: carrots, cauliflower, potatoes, spring onions and swedes cooked in a sauce made from vegetable or yeast extract and oatmeal and topped with a potato (again) or pastry crust. Served with brown gravy. Not a teaspoon of sugar in sight.



From the Annals

On VE Day 1945 the local newspaper took a look back at the conduct of the war in Bircham. Is it possible to spot our very own Captain Mainwaring or Private Godfrey from those mentioned below?

1945

Lynn Advertiser – May 8, 1945.

BUSY YEARS AT BIRCHAM

"Headquarters for all of Bircham's Civil Defence services was the Old Rectory, Great Bircham. Wardens' Service personnel: Mr H. T. Gidney, Senior Warden; Mr C. H. Coe, deputy. Also Messrs Howell, Waddelow, Hammond (K.W.), Easter, Moody, Fox, Howard, Hammond (J), Osborne (H), Barnes, Ward, and Osborne (A).

Although many bombs have dropped in the immediate locality, very few have dropped in the Bircham area.

When invasion seemed imminent Wardens armed with shot-guns and a few ball cartridges of dubious penetration turned out at dawn and dusk.

There was no time to be slack, what with lectures, exercises and digesting AWI's. Messrs Fox, Gidney and K.W. Hammond joined Home Guard Part II and served in a double capacity.

Two Allied aircraft crashed in the village and Wardens rendered assistance. Casualty Service personnel Mrs E. Gidney, Senior Casualty Worker; Miss N. Colman, Mrs Bassingthwaite (Bagthorpe), Mrs K. W. Hammond, Mrs Wright, Mrs Morris, Mrs Rowe (Bagthorpe), Mr Pilgrim, Mr L. Hammond, Mr H. Bloy. A room at the Old Rectory has been maintained as a First-aid post and much time was spent in lectures and exercises.

A representative Invasion Committee was set up with Mr H. T. Gidney as chairman."



In the week of D-Day, Bircham's attention was more prosaically directed at the formation of a Bunny Club.

Lynn Advertiser – June 9, 1944

"As a result of a meeting addressed by Mr E. J. Smith (well known locally as an expert on fur and feather matters) at Bircham Institute on May 30 it was decided to commence a rabbit club in the village. Mr H.G. Freeman was appointed secretary."

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)

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May 18 Plant Lovers' Day @ Creake Abbey, 10-4pm

May 18 King's Lynn Cocktail Festival @ Duke's Head Ballroom, 7-11pm

May 18 Old Hunstanton Beach Clean 10-12pm

May 19 Sunny Hunny Triathlon from 7.45am

May 25 *One Life* @ Village Screen Cinema, Syderstone, 7.30pm

May 26 RAF Bircham Newton Heritage Centre, 10-4pm

May 26 Pageant of Motoring at Sandringham 10-5pm

May 27 BANK HOLIDAY

May 27-28 Hanseatic Festival of Watersports, King's Lynn

May 28 Macro Photography walk at Sandringham, 1-30-3pm, £10 plus £5 parking

May 31 Afternoon Talk: The Allied Landings on D-Day, Lynn Museum, 2-3pm

For more about wartime rationing and the nature of starvation and malnutrition in wartime, do take a look at Lizzie Collingham's book *The Taste of War: World War Two and the Battle for Food* (2011).



Digital Digest

For anyone interested in viewing history "as it happened"

You can spend many dreary and rainy afternoons poring over black-and-white film footage of life and events around the world over nearly a century. Explore the world's finest newsreel archives — around 220,000 films dating from 1896 to 1984.

www.britishpathe.com/

For serious web researchers digging for lost materials

The Gazette, formerly *The London Gazette*, has been the official public record in some guise or other for 350 years. Here you will find news on Crown affairs and events, insolvency, wills & probate, company data, awards and nominations, military promotions, King's Awards for enterprise and so on. Topically, it also includes details of D-Day 80th anniversary events to be held in the UK, including commemoration at Portsmouth and flypasts at IWM Duxford.

www.thegazette.co.uk

For those interested in local Second World War history

Specifically, did you know there used to be a German prisoner-of-war camp just outside Snettisham? Many of the holiday homes there on the coast were requisitioned for the war effort as part of the housing of German prisoners. The area was also used as a gunnery range for both the RAF and the USAAF. This website gives details and some evocative photos taken by prisoners of life there at Snettisham Scalp.

ww2pow.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/255Snettisham.docx



Our growing compendium of podcasts, apps and good-old TV and radio shows. These caught our eye recently.

D-Day: The Unheard Tapes BBC 2

Three-part documentary series using original interviews with troops from all the major combatants, featuring young actors lip-syncing to the original audio recordings accompanied by archive footage and illustrated by reenactments. Airing date as yet unannounced.

Beekeeping — Short and Sweet

An informative podcast with the tagline "A Beekeeping podcast for the inquisitive beekeeper with a short attention span! A beekeeper, in fact, Just like me!". It is hosted by Stewart Spinks of the Norfolk Honey Company for any would-be apiculturists.

www.norfolk-honey.co.uk/podcast

History Corner

D-DAY

June 6 commemorates the 80th anniversary of the (largely) seaborne invasion of the European continent and its liberation from Nazi tyranny. Code-named Operation Overlord, it was largely a hush-hush affair but the general populace at the time were acutely aware that something was in the offing, especially along England's southern coast where over 2 million troops were stationed — many of them with American/Canadian accents — and 7 million tons of stores were stockpiled. Difficult to hide that much men and materiel.



D-DAY (cont.)

The great deception was to make the enemy believe the amphibious landing would be in the Pas-de-Calais and not Normandy, where landing beaches code-named Juno, Sword, Gold, Omaha and Utah had been identified. False information and decoys were fed to the enemy via various means of communication. On the day itself (D-Day or Jour J in France as it is dubbed), more than 156,000 troops landed ashore from nearly 7000 ships and landing craft. The wider Normandy Campaign that followed led to some 227,000 Allied deaths, with 240,000 German casualties and some 20,000 French civilian deaths.

Back home there was no obvious news blackout on that Tuesday morning. The BBC broadcast the news early on, children were informed by their headteachers, and special church services were put on. Newspapers were reporting the events as early as the 6th and newsreels of the invasion soon appeared in local cinemas thanks to the work of embedded correspondents. Local news outlets in Lynn spoke to women queuing for food who were cautiously positive but since they undoubtedly knew of someone who was involved, they carried on with their day-to-day business stoically. Special support was being generated for NAAFI catering concerns who were expected shortly to join the fray in Europe. Or as it was publicised: "It was also D-Day for the Naafi — zero hour for the greatest canteen "exercise" in history".

Curl Up With a Good Book

Enigma by Robert Harris (1995).

Do you enjoy Second World War history? Do you enjoy a good murder mystery? If so, then *Enigma* could be the book for you. Published in 1995, it is the second of Harris's novels, following hot on the heels of the successful *Fatherland*. Consistent with his other novels, it combines detailed research, strong characters and a twisting plot line.

The tale is set during the Second World War with the main setting being the "codebreaker" centre at Bletchley Park. The lead character is Tom Jericho, like so many of the codebreakers a gifted mathematician worked to the point of exhaustion in an attempt to break the German Naval Enigma — essential to protect the allied convoys from U-boat attack. The book has a small cast of characters who seem disparate at times but who come together as the plot evolves, bringing it to a fast-paced finish that lovers of strong "detective" thriller novels will enjoy.

In the book Jericho goes from codebreaker to detective in a high-stakes game to uncover XXX. I don't wish to spoil a great plot for you, so to unmask XXX you will need to read *Enigma* for yourself!

And if you enjoy this one, may I recommend *Fatherland*, *Archangel*, *An Officer and a Spy*, *Munich* and *V2*, all by the same author — and these are before you get to *Pompeii* and the excellent *Cicero* Trilogy.

David

Dates for the Diary

June 2 Ladies' Day meeting at Fakenham Racecourse

June 2 Beat the Tide Hunstanton Beach Run 9am
https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20240/hunstanton_events_and_activities/1123/beat_the_tide_2024

June 6 Bircham Banter @ St Mary's 2.30-4pm

June 6 Lizzie Scott, "Life as a 1930s scullery maid at Blickling Hall", Stanhoe & Barwick WI

June 8 Jams and Pickles stall at Bircham Windmill

June 8 Craft Fair and Have a Go Dog Agility, @Maggie Centre, Wallington Hall, South Runcton, 10-3pm, £2.50/Under 16s free

June 9 RAF Bircham Newton Heritage Centre 10-4pm

June 9 NGS at Pockthorpe and Rudham 1-5pm

June 12 *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Open Air Theatre, Burnham Deepdale, from 7pm £24.50/£9

June 15 Rudham Fete — Fun Dog Show. From 12.30pm

June 15-16 East of England Flower Arranging Show, The Green, Hunstanton. From 9.30am

June 15-22 Susan Vaughan-Williams exhibition at West Acre Gallery, 10.30-4.30pm

June 16 Fakenham Duck and Raft Races, Goggs Mill Lane. Teas, hog roast, music. Racing from 10am

June 18 Bircham in Bloom meeting, Bircham Stores, 9.30am

June 23 RAF Bircham Newton Heritage Centre 10-4pm

June 28-30 3-Day Event Horse Driving Trials, Sandringham
<https://sandringhamdrivingtrials.co.uk/>

June 29 *Next Goal Wins* @ Village Screen Cinema, Syderstone, 7.30pm



In the Garden

Herbs have been around for thousands of years and are mainly known for their culinary, aromatic, medicinal and decorative features. Many herbs attract wildlife. They are all easy to grow and in all sorts of situations, from a window box to a proper herb garden, or scattered throughout the garden and in paved areas. Some have amazing flowers as well as a beautiful aroma and add flavour to your cooking. Don't forget to remove the flowers if you want to harvest the maximum quantity and quality of the leaves.

Mint. There are three main: peppermint, spearmint and apple mint. They are so easy to grow but can become invasive, spreading very quickly. Mint is full of antibacterial properties.

Rosemary. Full of antioxidants and great for cold and flu remedies. This herb dries well. The needle-like leaves are great in a lamb casserole.

Basil. An anti-inflammatory herb. I love the smell of basil, reminding me of Italy. An infusion of basil oil can even be used as an insect repellent and to offer sting relief.

Parsley. There are two main types: flat-leaf and curly (my favourite is the former). It keeps well in the fridge for several days once picked and is an excellent source of vitamin C.

Oregano. It is suggested that this herb has more antioxidant properties than any other herb. It can be grown in a pot on the windowsill. The leaves dry well.

Coriander. A very powerful herb in the healing department, lowering cholesterol and helping regulate blood sugars. It has an amazing aroma!

Thyme. This evergreen has a very strong flavour and is known for boosting omega-3 levels. If you tie together the stalks with parsley and bay leaves, they make a splendid bouquet garni for stews.

Sage. Another easy-to-grow hardy shrub available all year round. It's reputedly great for boosting the memory.

Anna



All of which puts us in mind of the 1960s TV animation *The Herbs*, with Parsley the lion, Dill the dog, Constable Knapweed and Bayleaf the gardener: "I'm Bayleaf I'm the gardener, I work from early dawn. You find me sweeping up the leaves, and tidying the lawn."

Norfolk Dialect

We're holding over this feature until June. It's about the thorny issue of verbs, so strap yourself in and find out why people talk so funny in these parts!!

Bircham in Bloom

The Bircham in Bloom team met again on April 30. Since the last meeting, members of the team have tidied and planted new plants at the entrances to the playing field, church and school. We continue our cleanup of the village road signs and will report the problem of vegetation obscuring the signs to the County Highways Department. Future work by the team includes strimming of the weeds around the Docking Road sign, tidying-up of the War Memorial and churchyard, and sowing wildflower seeds in the Spinney.

The Fring Triangle will be planted with native plants including spring bulbs and cowslips to increase the biodiversity. It will be mown in the autumn after flowering. Chris gave a detailed presentation at the Annual Parish Council meeting on May 15.

The next meeting is at 9:30am on Tuesday June 18 at Bircham Stores. You will all be very welcome.



Blood, Blood, Glorious Blood!

World Blood Donor Day falls on June 14, our chance to celebrate the million or so people across the UK who attend on a regular basis to leave their 470ml (slightly less than a pint these days). The chances are that everybody who reads this will know somebody who has benefited — whilst many people are aware that blood may be needed after a traffic accident, for instance, other common recipients of blood transfusions are people with cancer, women during childbirth or new-born infants.

That single donation is likely to benefit more than one person, in fact. When your blood is taken, it will be separated into its different parts. The red blood cells — the ones that carry oxygen — might go to a trauma patient who has lost a lot of their own blood. The platelets — the tiny cells that help blood to clot — may be used to treat a patient with blood cancer. And plasma — the liquid part of your blood — could be used by surgeons during heart operations.

Whilst donations from people with rare blood groups are obviously needed, it's a myth that the NHS doesn't need the more common blood types equally urgently. Around 90% of *Bircham Times* readers will have blood of either group A or O, but of course so will 90% of patients who need it.



What about the blood that doesn't get directly transfused? Well, a mere teaspoon-worth can help research into diabetes, cancer and any number of other potentially life-saving therapies being worked on by NHS scientists. One interesting area of research involves blood storage and transportation: how can the medics on the air ambulance carry the most efficient stocks to the site of a major traffic accident? And how can a British soldier get blood to a wounded colleague, in the most difficult circumstances imaginable? These are the sorts of challenges that face my research team in Cambridge, in collaboration with experts across the world.

The best place to find information about becoming a donor is on the blood service's website at blood.co.uk.

Dr Rebecca Cardigan

New Business Venture (a teaser)

A new business venture has recently launched in the village. Full details will be available next month so keep your eyes peeled. If there are any other new business start-ups looking for a bit of promotion here, please contact us in the usual ways.



VILLAGE SCREEN CINEMA
at Amy Robsart Village Hall, Syderstone



The Summer Season consists of three films: **One Life** in May, **Next Goal Wins** in June and **Wonka** in July. £4 per film/£10.50 for all three films (advance booking/pay on door).

One Life (12A) showing May 25 at 7.30pm

The extraordinary true story of Nicholas Winton, the "British Schindler", who saved hundreds of Jewish children from Central Europe on the eve of the Nazi invasion, Stars Anthony Hopkins and Johnny Flynn as Winton in old age and as a young man respectively.

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 May 24/June 21

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

April was literally split down the middle with the first half being unusually warm, followed by a second half that was exceptionally cold. Until the 15th the maximum temperature exceeded 10°C every day, the highest recording being on the 6th with 20.1°C, which then turned out to be the highest for the month. Despite the warmth though the weather was unsettled with rain each day up to the 6th and Storm Kathleen provided a glancing blow on the 7th followed by further gales on the 9th.

On the morning of the 15th a violent squall with hail heralded a dramatic change in the weather which saw only 6 days breaching 10°C during the rest of the month and a high of just 6.8°C on the 24th. Night-time minima of 1.6°C on the 26th and 27th also produced a ground frost. The high pressure that built to the west from the 20th only enhanced the northerly wind and also introduced showers to our area from the North Sea such that we had to wait until the 29th to see a recovery in temperatures. Overall, the average maximum temperature for the month was 13.3°C, which was slightly down on the norm and the total rainfall was 61mm which was slightly up. The final day brought a good deal of sunshine and a high of 19.8°C. Was this the return of Spring?

Bryan

Bircham Banter

Next Banter session is at St Mary's, Great Bircham on Thursday June 6 from 2-30 to 4pm. Do come along for a relaxed chat, drinks and quite possibly some cake (!) among friends.

Sue

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

MAY RESULTS: 1st prize no. **85**; 2nd prize no. **25**.



Local Artist Resident at West Acre Gallery

Great Bircham-based artist Susan Vaughan-Williams is gearing up for her third exhibition of paintings at the West Acre Gallery (PE32 1UA), the first artist to have accomplished this triple achievement. Entitled "Fractured Force – Paintings to Feed and Fire Curiosity", her work seeks to represent the fractured world we live in.

As Susan describes it: "The injustices and madness of the world drive me to paint as a way of understanding and framing perspective and, in the process, hopefully, to furnish positivity. Using my fingers to apply and manipulate paint is a great way of turning frustration into colourful hope!"

Susan studied at St Martin's School of Art, in London, and has been a full-time painter for the past decade. She says: "My art neither conforms nor preaches. It is unshackled and intense, bold and colourful. With oil paint as my preferred medium, I create strong pieces that have complexity and depth or a powerful simplicity, revealing themselves not all at once, but over time... My work comes from an inner space of concerns, thought and imagination, but often includes elements of the natural, human or industrial landscape, absorbed through sensory experiences rather than observational studies."

The one-woman exhibition runs from Saturday June 15 to Saturday June 22, 10.30-4.30pm. For a sneak preview of her individual style, visit www.susanvaughanwilliams.co.uk.

Magpie Centre

The latest events at the Magpie Centre will be a Craft Fair, plus Have-a-Go Dog Agility event, scheduled for Saturday June 8, 10-3pm, at the Magpie Centre, Wallington Hall, Runcton Holme PE33 0EP. Attractions will include more than 40 stalls, a children's craft tent, an opportunity to meet and greet one of our lovely ponies and a Pre-Loved Walk-In Wardrobe, where you can purchase men's and ladies' clothing and accessories at a fraction of the usual price.

The event is undercover with full wheelchair access, free parking and refreshments (£2.50 for adults (under 16s free)). Entries for the Dog Agility are also £2.50.

Sunday June 30 sees the return of the popular Magpie Charity Ride, with off-road rides of varying lengths, including one for riders on lead rein, in the grounds of Wallington Hall. Visit the Hoofbeats website for details of how to enter. Keep the date Saturday August 17 for the Magpie Centre Open Day.

Finally, the Magpie Centre is currently seeking two new mounts: one a 14.2hh riding pony and the other a 15.2hh ride and drive horse. Must be sound and sensible. If you know of any suitable animals, please contact the Magpie Centre on 01553 810202 to discuss.

Stanhoe & Barwick WI

Our May meeting is a Members'-only Social, but you are most welcome to join us in June at the Reading Room, Stanhoe for:

Thursday June 6 at 2pm: Lizzie Scott, "Life as a 1930s scullery maid at Blickling Hall".

The following month, on the 4th, again at 2pm, we welcome Matt Curtis of British Divers Marine Life Rescue for a talk.

Our charge is £5, which includes refreshments. Our numbers have increased recently with three new members from the Birchams. If interested in joining them and us, please contact Valerie (01485 576261) for further details.



Back Page Sports Report

BIRCHAM CRICKET CLUB

By the time you read this, we'll have hosted our first County fixture of the season, welcoming the Derbyshire boys U11 squad to Bircham for their match against Norfolk.



There are two more County dates forthcoming for your diaries. On Sunday, August 4, we'll be entertaining two girls' teams at the very start of their cricketing journey, as Norfolk's U11 girls play Suffolk in a friendly. Then, on Friday August 16, things get competitive as Norfolk faces off against Lincolnshire in two T20 matches, as part of the national ECB Vitality Girls' U18 League.

Spectators are always welcome — as they are to all club games, be it senior, junior, ladies' or over-40s. Tea, coffee, cold drinks and ice-cream are available in the pavilion.

Alex

EURO 24 STICKER COLLECTIONS

Mid-June and the Euros is still a wee while off but in anticipation of an England win (sorry Scotland!) the sports editors at BT Towers are getting ahead with collecting stickers for their Euro 24 album. There's a lot of them but we've already hit the age-old problem of duplicates (Leroy Sane, Fabian Rieder anyone?) They are nice boys but won't make the All Stars team (the concession to duplicates), so if there are others out there collecting and want to do some swapsies in June, then drop us a line.

We are of course grateful that nowadays you don't have to physically paste them in, nor lose fingertips to the fabled Esso metal picture discs of the 1973 Top Team Collection (too many Colin Bells in our house)... more injuries sustained with the vicious sharp edges than in the entire tournament.

2024's stickers (and trading cards) are produced by Topps, not this time by the famed Panini brand of yesteryear. José Mourinho is the "official manager" for all Topps teams... so that's where he's been hiding himself.



Classifieds Column

Due to lack of space we had to drop the Classifieds Column feature over the past few months but are pleased to report that deals were made over the caravan and the exercise bike previously advertised. Since then we have accrued several more items available for sale, as follows:

HETTY the VACUUM, "the pink one", unused and still in her box £100 ONO (RRP £160)

KNEELING STOOL/CHAIR, wooden, with padded royal blue seat and kneeling pad £30. Hardly used

ELECTRIC LEAF BLOWER/VACUUM Titan 2800W, unopened & unused £25

If you are interested in anything listed, please reply to news@thebirchams.uk and we'll put you in touch with the seller.

Next Month

A quick taster... we've got biscuits (the history of and a recipe for a modern classic), and snails (the racing of), as well as a preview of the Royal Norfolk Show, village bomb scares over the years and much more besides. Drop us a line if there's something you'd like us to cover or, as per our current contributors, there's something you'd like to write about.