



Parish Council Matters

These days, news reports are out of date almost as soon as they are written. This note is being written just after the local elections and before our May Council Meetings on May 20 from 7pm, and political events are moving particularly quickly. Fortunately, the Parish Council is spared the dramas of party politics; councillors do not represent a political grouping, they represent parishioners.

There are a number of councillor vacancies at the moment. Would you consider putting yourself forward to be one? The task is not especially onerous – we now only have six meetings per year. The only requirement is to have a residence or work connection with the Parish and the main duty is to act solely in terms of the public interest. Full details are available on the PC website (see below).

After May's meetings the next meeting of the Parish Council is on Wednesday July 29, starting at 7.30pm in Bircham Social Club. If you wish to discuss a Parish matter, please attend the meeting or write to 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

May's newsletter is a hotch-potch of ideas and features. We've been indulgent and they cover subjects that caught our eye. Hope you are similarly taken by the random approach! And if there is something that you'd like to see covered, do drop us a line.

In King's Lynn, May's revived Hanse festival celebrates the town's very long-standing link to the near continent. Way before the Common Market (or the EU for that matter) was a "thing", we were linked to Europe via a mutually beneficial trading and cultural system. A bit like with the Common Market, it ended a little messily. We've also done a piece on the Grade-II listed item that we all took for granted... and has now seen better days.

This month's recipe concerns a much-overlooked fish – the hake; a witty book by one of our best-loved songsmiths and frontmen is reviewed; and we list as many as we can of the growing number of summery events, including the invite to take part in a garden wildlife competition.

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



Local Grade II Icons

You can keep your grand houses, castles and stately churches, because in the very close vicinity we also have some more unusual and somewhat unloved (in certain cases) listed "buildings". On the opposite side of the road from St Mary's Church in Bagthorpe is our very own listed building; well to call it a building would be somewhat of an exaggeration. It's what many of us fondly remember as a red telephone box. Doctor Who may have his police box (aka the Tardis) and his dog, K9, but most Britons are more than familiar with the K6...

They've all largely been decommissioned over the years but still stand in surprising places, if they haven't been sold to ironically and iconically decorate suburban gardens. The example at Bagthorpe stands drunkenly on the verge, looking for all the world like it is about to topple over (a "listing" building perhaps?). To give it its grand title it is a K6, originally designed in 1935 by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, a celebrated architect/designer. Scott was given the gig of designing the nation's telephone boxes, starting with the K2 (London-based only) and K3.



So what was a K6 and why are they so important? Well as you've obviously already guessed, the K6 was the sixth iteration in the sequence of red telephone boxes, or kiosks. They went into production in 1936, made in cast iron by various contractors. The K6 was 8 feet 3 inches (2.50 m) tall and weighed 13.5 hundredweight (0.69 tonnes). The square, glazed kiosk had a domed roof with royal crowns on the top panels. Many readers no doubt remember some of the early phone mechanisms: the black handsets, the rotary dials and the coin boxes with A and B buttons.

The example at Bagthorpe has Grade-II listed status, achieving its designation in June 1994. The status is intended to safeguard such iconic buildings. In this case the telephone mechanism still exists but has been damaged. But hang on (geddit?), there is another one at Fring. Another K6 don't you know, achieving its listed status in November 1994. Other local examples are at Thornham, Syderstone and Flitcham.

Today, since more than 90 per cent of us own a mobile phone, these iconic red monuments lie sadly abandoned or have been locally adopted and repurposed. In the country as a whole more than 6,000 have seen new lives as seed banks, homes to house defibrillators, book exchanges, food banks, flower boxes, post offices (the K4s operating from the late 1920s also served as postage stamp vending machines), cycle repair kiosks, museums... there's even one devoted to egg sales in Wales. The only thing, it seems, that you can't repurpose a telephone box for is as a site for telecommunications.



Currently, the listed phonebox at Flitcham is a case in point. There are plans by the Parish Council to adopt theirs, maybe to accommodate the overflow of books from the bus shelter?

A postscript: St Joseph's Roman Catholic church at Sheringham was designed by Scott too, a not terribly pretty looking building made of red bricks in the so-called "Industrial Gothic style". Scott was obviously a busy man and much in demand. He was also responsible for Battersea and Bankside (now the Tate Modern) power stations. The man sure loved a humble red brick... and we idly wonder whether he had to be dissuaded from using them instead of iron for the nation's beloved telephone boxes.



King's Lynn Hanse Festival

On May 24 there is an event-packed festival in King's Lynn to celebrate the revival of the old Hanse League or Hanseatic League. It was revived in 1980 in Zwolle, Netherlands, and set itself the task of keeping alive the spirit of the League as a social and cultural alliance.

The celebration in Lynn will include music (bands and singing), parades, local crafts and competitions, as well as falconry displays, and a pirate competition.

Way back in time, the Hanseatic League came about as a cultural and trading organisation for places on the North and Baltic seas. Led by German cities, the organisation provided mutual protection in the form of marine safety as well as negotiating tax exemptions for members. Think of it as the forerunner of the modern Common Market or EU.

Merchant guilds or "Hansas" (in German) organised themselves to trade overseas. Wool, cloth, corn, salt, lead and leather were the major exports to the continent from Lynn's hinterland; in return, Lynn received timber, iron, pitch, wax, furs and fish from afar.



A loose conjoining of 200 trading ports had been established by the mid-12th century. There was an especially strong link between Lynn and Hamburg, in modern Germany. Other Hanseatic towns in Britain were Hull, Boston and London.

As ever, disputes broke out and in 1468 Hanseatic towns on the continent were pitted against Lynn. The peace was established thanks to the Treaty of Utrecht, but Lynn paid a price and had to give way to a German trading post and foothold that was established on South Quay in 1475.

For almost 400 years the building there was known as "the steelyard" or as the Germans would have it "Stahlhof". It was then leased and sold eventually to Edward Everard, a merchant and brewer, in 1751 and in time was renamed as St Margaret's House. Today it is known as Hanse House, the only surviving Hanseatic building in Britain and the home of the King's Lynn Hanseatic Club.

<https://www.kingslynnhansefestival.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/hanse-fest-guide-and-map-2026.pdf>

Dates for the Diary

Bircham Windmill From Mar 28, 10-4pm

RAF Bircham Newton

From Apr 5, 10-4pm (Suns)

RAF Sculthorpe From Apr 5 10-4pm (afterwards 1st Sun month til Nov)

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

Snettisham Park Open daily, 10-4pm

Houghton Hall & Grounds

May 2 until Oct 4

Sandringham House and gardens from Mar 28

May 16 Syderstone Spring Fair, Amy Robsart Village Hall, 10.30-2.30pm

May 16 Bomber County Pipes & Drums, Hunstanton Bandstand, 10-4pm

May 16 Plant Lovers' Day, Creake Abbey, 10-4pm

May 17 Classic Vehicle Day, Stody Lodge Gardens, Holt

May 17 RAF Bircham Newton Open Day, 10-4pm

May 21 Mini Museum Club for Under-5s, "Travel", Lynn Museum, 10.30-11.30am

May 23-Jun 7 Nar Valley Art Trail, 14 artists open studios from Blackborough End via

Grimston to Castle Acre

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1235705991990750&set=pb.100066540818342.-2207520000>

May 24 Hanse Festival King's Lynn, 11-4.30pm

May 24 Sandringham Pageant of Motoring, 10-5pm, £25/£18, Under 15s free

May 25-29 HALF TERM

May 26-31 Rhododendrons and azaleas at Stody Lodge Gardens, Holt, from 1pm, £10.84

May 29 Afternoon Talk – Recent Roman Finds in Norfolk, Lynn Museum, 2-3pm, £2



Foodie Fare

HAKE, SPANISH STYLE

Hake is a constant on Spanish menus, but not so common in the UK. It looks like that is changing though, as the price of cod and haddock is increasing alongside questions about their sustainability. In fact, we notice that Eric's Fish & Chips at Thornham has just begun offering hake as a cheaper alternative to cod and haddock.

Hake tends to have a slightly stronger taste than cod and haddock, so works well with robust flavours, although this recipe is suitable for any white fish. This is a very simple recipe, packed full of protein and relatively low on carbs and fat.

Serves 2

INGREDIENTS

- 1 onion, chopped roughly
- 1 chilli, chopped finely
- 3 cloves chopped garlic
- 3 tbsp olive or rapeseed or sunflower oil
- 200 g hake fillets
- 1 can chickpeas
- 1 can chopped plum tomatoes
- 1 tsp Spanish seasoning
- Salt and pepper to taste

METHOD

You will need a pan with a lid. If you want to keep the fish fillets whole, use a wide pan. Otherwise, cut the fillets into pieces that will fit your pan. The fish sits on top of the other ingredients so is, in effect, steamed.

Fry the onion, chilli and garlic in the oil until the onions are soft, then add the tomatoes, drained and rinsed chickpeas and Spanish seasoning. Bring to a simmer, then place the fish fillets on top. Place the lid on the pan and simmer for around 20 minutes.

NOTES

Chickpeas can often be found in the "World food" section of some supermarkets for a cheaper price than in the regular section. Lidl regularly does a "Spanish week" where jars of chickpeas are available for a very reasonable price.

Spanish seasoning – if you don't have that, it is usually composed of one or more of the following ingredients: paprika, cloves, rosemary, bay leaf, thyme, saffron (or turmeric) but go easy if you use cloves, as the taste can overwhelm.

LR

Fish Sustainability

Mention of Eric's, above, offering the choice of hake to go with cod and haddock as a fish and chip option is matched by other organisations also choosing to go with cheaper species as well as fish species that are under threat from overfishing.

Waitrose is at the forefront and has recently ended its sales of mackerel until stocks of the fish in the sea recover. The supermarket is suggesting that shoppers turn to herring and sardines for the time being.

Meanwhile, two-thirds of all tinned tuna bought in Britain is now sustainable.





Local Garden Wildlife Competition

WEST NORFOLK GARDEN WILDLIFE COMPETITION

This year's event focuses on how residents of all ages are helping nature flourish in their outdoor spaces — from small urban plots to larger rural gardens.

Winners will receive certificates recognising their contribution to supporting local biodiversity and garden centre vouchers at an event to be held at King's Lynn Town Hall later this year.

CATEGORIES

This year's competition has been streamlined into two categories, each with a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prize:

- Small Garden — up to 500 m sq (about 5,400 sq ft)
- Large Garden — over 500 m sq

Entrants may submit one entry per household, including up to four photographs that best represent the wildlife-friendly features of their garden.

Competition closes: Friday July 17 2026
Judging: Early August 2026

It is our way to recognise residents for the work they do in their gardens and the contributions they make to local biodiversity. We also hope to raise awareness of biodiversity in the borough and the small actions individuals can take to make a big difference.

Whether you have a tiny terrace, or a large garden, you can be part of this initiative to save our amazing native plants and animals. Your garden could be a home for endangered wildlife including frogs and hedgehogs, swifts and butterflies.

https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20253/biodiversity/1183/garden_wildlife_competition_2026



Dates for the Diary

- May 30** Merchants Market, Tuesday Market Place, King's Lynn, 9-3pm
- May 30** Hunstanton Craft Fair, Town Hall, 10-4pm
- May 30-31** Dabbling Duck Beer Festival, Gt Massingham
- May 31** Ladies Day at Fakenham Racecourse
- May 31** RAF Bircham Newton Open Day, 10-4pm
- Jun 6** Warden's Walk at Sculthorpe, 10-12 noon, £16/£10
- Jun 6** Farmers Market, Creake Abbey, 9.30-1pm
- Jun 7** Music in the Bandstand, The Walks, KL, 2-4pm (every Sun until Sept)
- Jun 12-14** Rails and Ales, vintage trains and ales/cider at North Norfolk Railway, Holt/Sheringham
- Jun 13** Manifest Summer Festival, The Walks, King's Lynn
- Jun 14** Tapping House Open Gardens, 10-2pm
- Jun 18** Mini Museum Club for Under-5s, "Museum Makers", Lynn Museum, 10.30-11.30am
- Jun 20-21** Hanseatic Festival of Watersports, King's Lynn (fireworks on the 20th)
- Jun 24-25** Royal Norfolk Show, Norfolk Showground, 7-7pm (Wed)/7-6pm (Thur), from £36/£18
- June 25/28** National Theatre Live – *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, 7pm/4pm, Majestic Cinema, King's Lynn, £15
- June 26** Afternoon Talk – A Brief History of Dolls, Lynn Museum, 2-3pm, £2
- Jun 27** Merchants Market, Tuesday Market Place, King's Lynn, 9-3pm
- Jun 27** *The (Almost) Complete History of Britain* – Open Air Theatre, Deepdale Camping, 7.30pm, £15/£9.50
- Jun 27-28** Festival Too, King's Staithe Square, King's Lynn



New Council Representative

Following the elections in May we have a new local representative for the Docking Ward (of which we are a part). Our new county councillor is Julie Costley of Reform UK.

Turnout was 3,998 (or 46.4% of those eligible); Costley won with 1,508 votes to defeat the long-standing member Michael Chenery of Horsburgh (with 811 votes).

St Mary's 100 Club Draw

MAY RESULTS: Here are the latest draw results: 1st prize no. **74**; 2nd prize no. **85**. (1st prize wins £25; 2nd prize £10).

Many congratulations to the winners!

Sally

Bircham Banter

Next Banter session is on Thursday June 4 from 2.30 to 4pm in St Mary's, Great Bircham. 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!!

Pauline

Stanhoe & Barwick WI

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

June 4 Maggie Anderson talking about Baby Basics charity.

July 2 Annual Garden Party (Members Only).

August 6 No meeting.

September 3 A talk by Diane Clark about Norfolk Accident Rescue Service.

Visitors are always welcome. Our charge is £5, which includes refreshments.

Contact stanhoeandbarwickwi@gmail.com for more details about events and membership

Heating Oil Crisis Fund

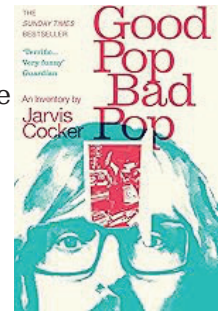
There is a £3 million crisis fund to tide households over this tricky period of rising heating oil prices. Help is available to those who are on low incomes, typically households with less than £35k. Savings and previous unpaid debt will be taken into account. Grants are expected to amount to £350 per household. Contact the County Council at www.norfolk.gov.uk/HeatingOil or on 0344 800 8020



Curl Up With a Good Book

Good Pop Bad Pop (2022) "An inventory" by Jarvis Cocker.

This is a lovely book, full of humour, reminiscences, and tongue-in-cheek advice on how to start a best-selling pop band while at school. The central conceit is that Jarvis has to empty a loft in a Victorian house... a repository for "things" he has idly and deliberately collected over the years. These items tell the story of his life in music, fashion, writing and so on. But there is purpose too: Jarvis has to decide whether to keep each item or to "cob" it... Sheffield vernacular for "to chuck".



Over the 350 pages Jarvis takes us on a journey from Sheffield schoolboy to pop icon, keeping and cobbing as he goes. The Wrigley's Extra chewing gum wrapper and the packet of collar supports are cobbled while a used sliver of Imperial Leather soap is kept, rehoused for the next 30 years, probably, in a matchbox.

You don't even need to be interested in music to thoroughly enjoy and laugh out loud with this book but if you are a child of the 60s and 70s it will bring back many memories of the time -- from plastic rockets to lurid BHS shirts. A lot of the tale is grounded in Sheffield of course so there are numerous touchstones for anyone familiar with the city (the Leadmill, the "Hole in the Road") and for this Sheffield-born reader – to deliberately misquote Jarvis "we were born within a year of each other" – it serves as a lovely reminder of my early youth.

The ruminations are conveyed with a superb comic delivery and the book is littered with many photos of the insides of old exercise books, early band photos, eye-watering shirt and trouser combinations, 70s kitsch toys, ticket stubs, lyrics, and a sequence depicting the evolution of Rose's lime cordial bottles! It is an enchantingly visual and beautifully designed confessional to boot.

As the back-cover blurb snappily puts it: "This is not a life story. It's a loft story!"

Shanty and Social Night

On Saturday June 6, at 7pm, the Castaway Crew, the all-female shanty group will be singing at St Mary's Church, Great Bircham. Entry is free, all are welcome and a retiring collection will be taken. The audience can bring their own snacks and drinks.

Final Hazardous Waste Day

The final date for the new round of Hazardous Waste Days is as follows:

Hempton (ie Fakenham) Friday–Saturday May 29-30, 8-4pm

Advance booking, opening eight days beforehand, is needed. See page 8 for contact details.



MOBILE POST OFFICE

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

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

MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

Fridays May 22/Jun 19/Jul 17
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 (to Heacham); 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 15:43; Sat 09:23 12:23 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 notably dry with 22 rain-free days and a total of just 5.4 mm, potentially placing it as the driest month of the year and there are still eight remaining! The month began in a more unsettled fashion, however, as Storm Dave tracked across Scotland over the Easter period. This brought gale-force winds on the evening of the 4th which persisted overnight, though our region was largely spared the worst of the associated rainfall.

Conditions soon stabilised though as high pressure built to the east, bringing almost unbroken sunshine between the 6th and 8th. Southerly breezes during this period lifted the temperatures too, reaching a peak of 24.0°C on the 8th, which was the highest recorded during the month. Clear skies also led to pronounced diurnal temperature ranges, with values spanning from 1.7°C to 15.2°C on the 6th and from 6.5°C to 24.0°C on the 8th. Beyond this the Atlantic influence returned although rainfall amounts still remained limited. A near-miss thunderstorm on the evening of the 13th brought a brief but heavy shower that produced 2.5 mm of rain which turned out to be the wettest day of the month! High pressure was then quickly re-established but this time centred to the north, resulting in predominantly north-easterly winds from the 19th to the 24th and, despite continued sunshine, these winds suppressed daytime temperatures, giving a maximum of just 11.2°C recorded on the 23rd.

Subsequently, the winds shifted to more of a south-easterly direction which allowed temperatures to recover and, apart from a brief return to north-easterlies on the 28th, the warmth remained, culminating in a high of 20.2°C on the final day of the month. Overall, the mean maximum temperature was 15.8°C, approximately 2.0°C above the long-term average.

Bryan



Local Government Reorganisation (Part II)

Back in December's issue we described a little how the local tiers of government work here in Norfolk and what the options were that were under discussion. On March 25 the option favoured by most of the existing borough councils – that of having three new councils to replace the Norfolk County and local borough councils – was accepted by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government, Steve Reed.

It means a new West Norfolk unitary council, as well as an East Norfolk council and a Greater Norwich Council. Not surprisingly, what once was King's Lynn and West Norfolk will fall into West Norfolk's orbit as well as much of the south of the county as far as Thetford. These divisions are somewhat arbitrary of course but the reasoning is that here the region is based on county/market towns: Lynn, Dereham, Swaffham, Downham Market, Hunstanton etc; while the East Norfolk unitary is considered "coastal", running from Wells to Yarmouth and then covering the border land by Suffolk. Greater Norwich is more "urban" in nature. We're expected to have 72 new councillors here in West Norfolk though no doubt there will be some familiar faces.

As ever when land is carved up there are disagreements and many in our neighbouring town of Fakenham are somewhat nonplussed to find themselves in East Norfolk!, with very little to do with the coast. There are always winners and losers. This is certainly going to be true of council tax harmonisation where currently the lowest tax Band D is in the former Breckland (£118), with King's Lynn at mid (£152) and South Norfolk (£175), currently the highest in the entire county. As we said, there will be winners and losers.

The timetable for change sees voting for the existing county council in May (already completed). This council will only sit for a year before the changes begin to be implemented. The existing borough and county council will be abolished on April 1, 2028. In the meantime, voting for the new councils is anticipated to take place next spring, also in May.

Lynx Buses New Services

There are new bus timetables starting from June 1. Here we provide details and from next month's *Bircham Times* we'll move this new information over to replace that on page 8.

Essentially, we are getting more regular services, with buses running every two hours Monday to Saturday. There is still no service on a Sunday.

Service 33 To Lynn (from Bircham Stores): Mon-Sat 07:33; 09:18; 11:18; 13:18; 15:18; 17:18 (services from Bircham Newton run 7 mins beforehand)

Service 33 To Hunstanton (opp Bircham Stores): Mon-Sat 07:36; 08:36; 10:36; 12:36; 14:36; 17:06 (services from Bircham Newton run 6 mins later... wherefore the missing minute?)

The 33A has been relabelled as the Hunstanton circular.

Never not helpful, we've worked out that you can catch the 10:36 out of Bircham towards Hunstanton, change at the terminus there for the 33B (running 11:38) and alighting at the Gin Trap, Ringstead at 11:51 for four hours of dining and drinking before... if you are capable... of picking up the passing 33B at 15:51, reaching Hunstanton at 16:04, sobering a little before catching the 16:45 bus back to Bircham, arriving back at the King's Head at 17:18. No thanks necessary!!

You can tap on/tap off each journey with a contactless card/device. You dipso wrinklies can use your bus passes.

Further details are at Lynx Buses https://images-lynxbus.passenger-website.com/downloads/33%2033A%2033B%2033C_7.pdf



King's Lynn Town FC Season Summary

King's Lynn FC's 2025-26 season ended in a bit of a whimper as the side avoided defeat and thus escaped relegation to the lower division on goal difference. It was a real "four managers and nearly a funeral" nine-month period!

The season started with such promise with a new administration and a new manager thought to bring great things to the club. Manager James Rowe departed in September, just 10 matches in due to "non-footballing matters", with Joe Simpson taking over in temporary control. He was replaced at the end of October by former manager Ian Culverhouse, whose ignominious end was precipitated by "sprinklergate", which cost the club £10,000. Following the postponement of the match between King's Lynn Town and South Shields on February 14, the National League received reports that sprinklers had been activated during poor weather and that this may in turn have influenced the decision to postpone the match. The current manager is Paul Caddis, who was appointed in March and at the helm for the final 12 games of the season.



The playing style was also criticised with adventurous, attacking play being the hallmark of the Rowe regime, which petered out to a less-than-ambitious style from Culverhouse and Caddis while they were fighting relegation.

In November Singapore-based TSI (Turn Sports Investments) took over ownership of the club. They and the loyal fan base at The Walks will be hoping for a more entertaining and successful 2026/27.

Panini Stickers

There's a football [FIFA*] World Cup on the horizon though with, one senses, less of a thrill of excitement than in previous iterations. Replica kits are too expensive; we're in the wrong time zones (although extended licensing hours softens the blow); we're gonna get advertising breaks every few minutes (cunningly disguised as hydration breaks); US commentators banging on about "soccer", "cleats (not "studs)", "downfield", "flop" (not "dive"), and so on; VAR (yup) for corners... and so on. Tickets seem exorbitantly expensive, travel too, and there's a killing to be made on accommodation, food and so on. That's if you can even get into the US with its policy on naughty social media posts against the administration there.

Back at home there is one constant and that is the Panini sticker album. The first time we saw it was for the 1970 FIFA World Cup, when you had to get your glue pot and brush out to stick the cards in. Today, we of course have self-sticky player and team portraits. But there are 48 teams (not 16 like in 1970) which means a whopping total of nearly 1,000 cards to collect. A starter pack, which includes four packets of seven stickers with a further six stickers in the album, costs £4.99. And because of duplication of stickers it has been estimated that you could spend £1200 to complete the album! Though still cheaper than a trip to the US/Canada/Mexico we reckon.

* FIFA are notoriously litigious. You can't easily get away with not acknowledging them at every mention of their World Cup (oops, sorry, FIFA World Cup!).

Jarrolds Ladies Day at Fakenham

May 31 is the day to get dressed up to the nines and enjoy a day at the races at Fakenham. It's the end-of-season swansong and the gates open at 11am before racing starts at 14.25pm. There's likely to be a card of either six or seven races over the course of the afternoon.

As it is Ladies Day there will be prizes for "Best Dressed"; "Best Hat"; "Best Dressed Couple" and "Best Dressed Child". After the racing there will be a disco into the evening.

Tickets are available from <https://www.fakenhamracecourse.co.uk/>