



Parish Council Matters

It was with great sadness that the Parish Council heard news of the death of Pierre Spake. Pierre had been a Councillor since July 2022. He felt passionately about Parish matters and loved the village and its history. Despite his illness and the vulnerability brought on by its treatment, he continued to attend meetings. He was contributing to Parish Council matters to the very end of his life. We send our sincere condolences to his wife Anna and his family.

Pierre was instrumental in the making of the display cabinet for the war records of the fallen in St Mary's Church. It is fitting that the memorial monument in the centre of Great Bircham has now been beautifully renovated to remember those who gave their lives for King and Country in the two World Wars.



The tarmac area at the entrance of the track to the playing field has been laid. Soon after, Church Lane was resurfaced by the County Council, forming a smooth join. Thank you to the residents who have reported the remaining defects on the Lane to the Highways Department who will return to finish the job.

The Borough Council has begun a public consultation on a new Local Plan which is due to be adopted in 2029 and run until 2044. This can be found at: www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/homepage/417/next_local_plan_2026-2044. The plan will look at where people live and work, how they travel and access medical facilities, and where children go to school. Around 8,500 new homes are expected to be needed across the Borough.

Finally, we ask once again if you would consider serving the Bircham villages as a Parish Councillor. Details of the application process are available on the PC website.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Wednesday 30th September, starting at 7.30 pm 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

Welcome to September's issue. We have an esoteric mix for you this month: a super volcano to call our own; a local mayor who once broke the mould; and a call to arms over speeding, planning and hospital issues. Cooling things a little we have some ersatz recipes to replace the "brands", advice on what and when to plant your seasonal bulbs, a whole host of things to do as we enter the autumnal season, and a conclusion to the bowls season at Houghton.

VERY LATE BREAKING NEWS: We discovered at the 11th hour that our very own Rosemary Rayner won the Best Small Garden award in the Borough's Garden Wildlife Competition (see May's issue). We hope to bring the full story next month but meanwhile massive congratulations to Rosemary and Hugh. A win that firmly puts Great Bircham on the map!

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 and in Full Colour, on the 15th of every month on our website: www.thebirchams.uk



A Thursford Christmas

Tickets are currently on sale for the ultimate Christmas experience with the Thursford Christmas Spectacular! This year the three-hour show runs from November 10 to December 23, with tickets for both matinee and evening performances available.

For those who have never been before, it is an award-winning extravaganza of non-stop singing, dancing, music, humour and speciality acts to get you in the Christmassy mood. With a cast of more than 120 performers, it is one of the biggest Christmas shows of its kind in Europe!
<https://www.thursford.com/>

Wells Festival of Literature

This is your advance warning that tickets are still on sale for the week-long Wells Festival of Literature, the region's premier festival about books. It runs from October 16 to 24. As ever, there are numerous speakers, including talks with Jonathan Dimbleby, Sara Wheeler, Oz Clarke, Kate Williams, Dan Cruickshank and Lady Hale, all discussing their latest written endeavours. Standard tickets are on sale for £12.50 per session (£10 for Friends of WFL). For the full list of attendees and ticketing see <https://wellsfestivalofliterature.org.uk/>



Local Cinemas and Halloween Film Season



Films are shown monthly at 7.30pm at **Dersingham Village Centre**, opposite St Nicholas' Church in Manor Road. The price of entry is £6 (for under-16s it's £3). Entry includes tea, coffee, squash. Bar drinks available.



Tuesday September 29 *The Roses* (15), starring Olivia Colman and Benedict Cumberbatch. Life seems easy for picture-perfect couple Theo and Ivy: successful careers, a loving marriage, great kids. However, a tinderbox of fierce competition and hidden resentments soon emerge when Theo's career nosedives and Ivy's own ambitions take off.

Tuesday October 27 *I Swear* (15), starring Robert Aramayo, Maxine Peake, Shirley Henderson, Peter Mullan. The world, including his family, struggles to understand a man with Tourette syndrome, until a kind ally encourages him to speak out and spark change.

Tuesday November 24 *Military Wives* (12), starring Kristin Scott Thomas, Sharon Horgan, Jason Flemyng. A group of women, whose husbands are military personnel, forms a choir when their partners are on duty in Afghanistan. Soon, they attract media attention and are at the centre of a global movement.

At **Stanhoe Village Screen** on Friday September 25 they are showing *Sing Sing* (15). The Oscar-nominated Colman Domingo is at the centre as the real-life Divine G, imprisoned in New York's infamous Sing Sing Correctional Facility. He is surrounded by a cast of men formerly imprisoned there, non-actors playing versions of themselves. They find purpose, joy and healing by acting in a theatre group in this gentle and inspiring story. Tickets are £6 and include a complementary drink. The film starts at 7.30pm.

The annual **Fear in the Fens Festival** runs October 23 to 25 and is showing films in the Cornmarket Cinema in King's Lynn. The programme contains classic horror movies as well as locally made films, accompanied by genre talks. Tickets are available for single shows or for the full programme but are limited. See <https://www.fearinthefens.com> for further details.

Finally, if you've ever visited the **Majestic Cinema**, enjoyed a film there or just admired its art deco magnificence, then consider voting for it in the nationwide Cinema of the Year Award. Vote at bifa.film/coty-vote by September 21.



Our Very Own Super Volcano

While it didn't quite lead the news at the end of August, the announcement that 454 million years ago, some 200 million years before the dinosaurs were around, the area around the Wash in modern-day Lincolnshire and west Norfolk was the site of a super volcano that exploded with the force of "several thousand atomic bombs" took us all by surprise.

Last century, bore samples were taken in Lincolnshire and more locally at North Creak and earlier this decade they were minutely studied by scientists at the British Geological Survey and at the University of Oslo. They both concluded that there was evidence of minute zircon crystals in the samples from both Lincolnshire and Norfolk. These crystals are formed within molten magma underground before a volcanic eruption and can be precisely dated.



The projectile debris from the volcano – some hundreds of cubic kilometres of the Earth's crust – was thrown into the stratosphere. Scientists believe that a massive layer of volcanic ash was spread across modern-day Sweden, Norway, Belarus, Poland, and the entire Baltic region.

Britain was highly volcanic during that time period with the Lake District and Snowdonia in particular seeing masses of volcanic activity that helped form the mountainous region there.

Scams using "snail mail"

Modern fraudsters are using "snail mail" or traditional mail to attack the unwary.

We have got very used to being told time and again to watch out for online scams. But the danger can just as easily turn up on your doormat via the much more trusted traditional post.

Norfolk residents are warned to be aware that scammers are sending out bogus letters that look like official county council communications about council tax payments. These come complete with QR codes that link to fraudulent websites in an attempt to part you from your money. If in any doubt, check with someone you trust.

Dersingham Barn Dance

Get your dancing shoes on, for on Saturday November 7 at 7.30pm (doors open at 6.45pm) Dersingham Village Centre is hosting a barn dance, with music from Whirligig, Norfolk's premier ceilidh band.

Tickets are limited and are available from Dersingham News (there's no on-the-door admission). Adults £12.50/under-16s £7. There's also a bar and a raffle will be held.

Dates for the Diary

Bircham Windmill 10-4pm

RAF Bircham Newton

10-4pm (alt Suns)

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

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

Snettisham Park Daily, 10-4pm

Houghton Hall & Grounds
May 2 until Oct 4

Sandringham House and gardens from Mar 28

Sept 17 Walking Tour of the grounds of Hunstanton Hall, 10am and midday, <https://norfolkhods.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows>

Sept 18 Hunstanton Lighthouse Visit, various times from 10.30am, <https://norfolkhods.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows>

Sept 18 Tapping House Golf Day @ Castle Rising PE31 6BD

Sept 19 *Twelfth Night* by Pantaloons Theatre Co.
Westacre Theatre, Westacre, 3pm & 7.30pm, £20/£10

Sept 19 Pewter Pilgrims Workshop for Adults, Lynn Museum, 10.30-2.30pm, £10

Sept 19-20 Heritage Open Days, Narborough Bone Mill

Sept 20 Hunstanton Soap Box Derby, 9-5pm

Sept 20 RAF Bircham Newton Open Day 10-4pm

Sept 24-27 Deepdale Music Festival

Sept 25 Pablo Fanque's Fair and the Victorian Circus, Lynn Museum Afternoon Talk, 2-3pm, £2

Sept 26-27 Big Machinery Weekend, Pensthorpe, from £12.95

Sept 27 Run Sandringham half-marathon, 5K and community mile, from 9am



Foodie Fare

A lot of the classic relishes/sauces are pretty easily replicated using basic ingredients. Particularly, when living off the beaten track, it's handy to be able to rustle these up for yourself rather than take a long drive to buy the ready-made version – and it's usually cheaper too.

TARTARE SAUCE

The classic accompaniment to fried fish or seafood can be made mixing just three ingredients (with some optional others).

100g mayonnaise
2 tsp of capers chopped finely + 1 tsp of vinegar from the caper jar
1 gherkin chopped finely
(Dash of Worcestershire sauce)
(1 tsp lemon juice)
(Black pepper to taste)

MARIE ROSE SAUCE

The famous pink sauce used for prawn cocktails and similar dishes.

This one can be achieved with just two commonly found ingredients (mayonnaise and tomato ketchup) and further enhanced with some optional extras.

6 tbsp mayonnaise
3 tbsp tomato ketchup
(1 tbsp lemon juice)
(1 tsp Worcestershire sauce)
(Dash of Tabasco sauce)
(Black pepper to taste)

GENTLEMAN'S RELISH or PATUM PEPERIUM

This one has recently disappeared from the supermarket shelves. Maybe the flavours were too unsubtle for modern audiences; maybe the vintage vibe no longer chimed; or maybe the packaging (usually a nice little ceramic pot, probably costing 100 times more than the ingredients) was not deemed sustainable. It's a bit more complicated to replicate than the above sauces, but here goes. You can replace the mace, ginger and cinnamon with allspice, if easier. The actual spicing in the original recipe was a closely guarded secret anyway, so experimentation is no bad thing.

1/2 tsp sunflower/rapeseed oil
1/2 tsp ground mace
1/2 tsp ground ginger
1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
1/2 tsp ground white pepper
100 g unsalted butter
100 g drained anchovies
2 tsp capers drained
Zest and juice of 1 lemon



Heat the oil and spices in a pan and stir to create a paste, then add the butter. The anchovies, capers, lemon zest and juice need to be blended together using either a food-processor or pestle and mortar before adding to the pan containing the spices and butter. After cooling, you can put the result into a sterilised jar and it will keep for several weeks if refrigerated.



Pony Speeding

We've gone from speeding cars menacing other cars, to cars menacing people and in early September, in the late afternoon, we had the disturbing sight of a car menacing a "family" with two very, very young riders aboard ponies just by the Tofts Pond. They were correctly being chaperoned by two adults who were mindful of traffic, but a speeding car with no concern for the four people, two ponies, or even the potential of a vehicle passing on the other side of the blind corner decided it was his moment to speed past, neither slowing his already speeding vehicle, nor giving sufficient passing space.

Oblivious – no not even oblivious since the driver delivered the coup de grâce with an insulting blast of his horn once he'd passed – to human safety and equine safety alike, he decided the road was his and his alone...

To the family concerned, should you be taking action against the driver, please drop a line if you need corroboration of what happened. We'd be happy to back up your version of events.

Forgotten Local Notable

We return to this feature by highlighting the work of Florence Ada Coxon who, 100 years ago, was the first lady mayor of King's Lynn.

Ada (she used her middle name) Neale was born in 1862 in Emneth near Wisbech and in 1884 she married local dentist Stephen Coxon. Together they became Lynn notables and Ada was devoted to public service, especially in the spheres of education and housing and became the borough's first woman councillor.

Her husband actually beat her to the top job. He became the borough mayor in November 1923 and Ada was his lady mayoress. Two years later she took on the role herself. Women in politics at that time were obviously a rarity (they only received the national vote on equal terms with men the previous year), so Ada was somewhat of a trailblazer.



©National Portrait Gallery

She wasn't a young woman, being a mother of three in her 60s when she became mayor, but she didn't stop after her year in the role. She was a JP and then trained as a barrister, admitted as a student of the Bar at Gray's Inn in June 1928 and was called to the Bar in 1933. In 1929 she was recognised with an OBE for "public and political services in East Anglia".

She died in July 1951 aged 89. Her image is preserved in a pencil drawing by Fred Roe that features in the National Portrait Gallery.

Dates for the Diary

Oct 2-4 King's Lynn Book Festival, tickets £16.50-£60
<https://kingslynnbookfestival.com/>

Oct 3 Farmers' Market, Creake Abbey, 9.30-1pm

Oct 3 Wardens Walk @ Sculthorpe, 10-noon, £16/£10

Oct 4, 11, 18 Sundays and Sanderling, guided birding walks at RSPB Titchwell, £11-14

Oct 8 Biofluorescence Walk (fungi) @ Pensthorpe, 7-8.30pm or 9-10.30pm, £16.95 each

from **Oct 8** Exhibition: All of Us Witches, Stories of Lynn, King's Lynn, £3.45

Oct 10 Titanic Tales by Don't go into the Cellar, True's Yard Fisherfolk Museum, King's Lynn, 7-9pm, £15

Oct 10 Warehouse Makers Market, Setchey, 9-3pm

Oct 15 Mini Museum Club for U-5s: Bugs & Beasties, Lynn Museum, 10.30-11.30am, 50p

Oct 16-24 Wells Festival of Literature (see p.2)

Oct 17 Finds Day @ Lynn Museum, 11-3pm, booking recommended

Oct 20 RBO The Met Opera's production of *Macbeth*, 6pm, at Majestic Cinema and KL Corn Exchange

Oct 21 Fungi Walk, Sculthorpe Moor, 10-noon, £16

Oct 23-25 Fear in the Fens film festival, various KL venues
<https://www.fearinthefens.com/>

Oct 24-31 Pumpkin Festival @ Pensthorpe, £15.95

Oct 25 Charity Horse Rides @ Sandringham, 9.30am

Oct 26 SCHOOLS HALF-TERM

Oct 28 Halloween Discovery Day, Sculthorpe Moor, 10-12.30, children £6.50 (one accompanying adult for free)

Oct 29 After Hours Pumpkin Festival @ Pensthorpe. From £5



Toddler and Baby Group

A toddler and baby group is held on Wednesday mornings during term time from 9.30 to 11am at Hunstanton Methodist Church in Austin Street, Hunstanton PE36 6AL

For further details ring 01485 298316

All are welcome!



St Mary's 100 Club Draw

SEPTEMBER RESULTS: Here are the latest draw results: 1st prize no. **24**; 2nd prize no. **89**. (1st prize wins £25; 2nd prize £10).

Many congratulations to the winners!

Sally

Bircham Banter

Next Banter session is on Thursday October 1 from 2.30 to 4pm at St Mary's, Great Bircham. Do come along and join with the regulars for chat, tea/coffee and very good 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.

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

October 1 Penny Hubbard will be talking about education and women at Cambridge and the School Readers scheme.

November 5 David Reeve, a retired Royal Protection Officer, will give a talk about protecting the Royal Family.

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

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

Sky at Night

September 23 sees the start of autumn with the autumnal equinox (equal hours of darkness and light) and what was the hottest summer in memory will be over. To be absolutely accurate though the moment when there is equal light and dark is known as the equilux (or "equal light"); dating the equilux depends on location and here at just shy of 53 degrees North it will be September 25. The full moon that follows the next day is known as the Harvest Moon. September is also a good month for spotting an aurora.

October's first meteor shower is known as the Draconids, which will peak around 8-9th. It is named after the Draco (or Dragons) constellation.

JBB



Curl Up With a Good Book

Scoop (1938) by Evelyn Waugh.

This satire of journalism is held to be one of the wittiest novels ever written. Lord Copper, proprietor of the *Daily Beast*, is seeking a correspondent to send to East Africa, where there is an uprising in progress – "a promising little war". He needs to beat his competitor, Lord Zinc of the *Daily Brute*, to the newspaper scoop of the title. In an error of Shakespearian proportions, the staff of the *Beast* mistake naive gardening and countryside correspondent William Boot for his namesake novelist John Boot. And our wide-eyed innocent is promptly sent to Ishmaelia where he is woefully unqualified for the job in hand.



The story is loosely based on the true war in Abyssinia (Ethiopia) of the 1930s, peopled by eccentrics, all in a rush to file their unreliable copy. In Ishmaelia, Boot mixes with other foreign correspondents who laze around contemplating how to fiddle their expenses. And then Boot does get his very scoop...

The novel satirises an amalgam of real-life newspaper tycoons Lord Beaverbrook, Lord Northcliffe and William Randolph Hearst. The machinations of newspaper proprietors and unscrupulous reporters bear comparison with modern-day personalities (think Rupert Murdoch for one).

For some this is a problematic book up for discussion because of its language and treatment of the Africans. Do we treat books as products of their time or use them as historical lessons? Should passages and themes from books be censored or bowdlerized, or should we learn from the attitudes and mores of the time?

Crucial Local Issues — Get Involved

Lots of local news this month. There's the government reorganisation that was on, but now seems to be off. And no doubt will be on again shortly before a legal challenge knocks it off course once more. All of which is costing us all a pretty packet.

And while we are getting to grips with this, there is the local plan under discussion which envisages 80,000+ new homes in the borough, with a significant number in the Birchams. Take a look at the public consultation document here and feel free to comment, though you'll need to be fast. Of course the 100+ new homes that are suggested for here will need a range of services to ensure everything works as it should. Maybe more buses, a return to a school, some shops and that is before we think about telecommunications, sewerage (or not), increased traffic in the villages, and much more. If you have time, do have your say.
<https://bcklwn.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/sidebar/index.html?appid=7450e0df9771465f8bc94817b80d67fa>

Finally, there's the alarm that has been fomented by the news that despite the fact that we look like we are getting a new hospital, it seems as though there are discussions to leave it without maternity services, general surgery services and probably most importantly because of our remoteness, an A&E department. Reports tell of a nurse to triage us all if we have a stroke/heart attack/car crash/or an accident while gardening, say.

The local MPs to the hospital have been vocal as discussions at health service level continue and a petition to save the hospital services has already reached more than 8,000 signatures as of September 15. If you feel as strongly as most, do please consider adding your signature to it. And if we build all over our green fields (the Local Plan) then there will be nowhere to land the air ambulances that we may need to rely on to get us to Norwich or Cambridge in future!

https://www.change.org/p/save-life-saving-departments-at-qeh-hospital-king-s-lynn/u/35273802?recently_published=true



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 Oct 9/Nov 6/Dec 4
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 (new timetable from June 1)

To Hunstanton (from King's Head): Mon-Sat
07:36 (not Sat); 08:36; 10:36; 12:36; 14:36;
17:06

Return from Stand A Bus Station

To Lynn (from Bircham Stores): Mon-Sat
07:33 (not Sat); 09:18; 11:18; 13:18; 15:18;
17:18

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

High pressure continued to influence our weather into the first half of August, sustaining the familiar combination of sunshine, little rain and, at times, very high temperatures. Up until the 17th there had been just two instances of any rain, these amounting to a mere 1.0 mm!

Meanwhile, five days saw temperatures exceed 30°C with the fifth heatwave of the summer occurring between the 11th and 14th, when the temperature reached a maximum of 34.9°C on the 13th; somewhat below the 38.1°C recorded at Kew, while the highest in Norfolk was 36.0°C at Snetterton, near Thetford, although here in North Norfolk we are somewhat tempered by the North Sea.

Sunshine was rather patchy at the start of the month but the period from the 8th to the 14th brought almost unbroken sun before the Atlantic influence finally broke through. From the 18th onwards rain fell on every day bar three until the end of the month, the 21st being the wettest day when 19.6 mm fell with most of this coming during a period in the late afternoon and early evening. After a short, settled spell between the 23rd and 26th, when the latter day recorded a high of 25.2°C which turned out to be the warmest day since the 14th, the second-wettest day occurred on the 27th when a thunderstorm during the late evening contributed 10.4 mm to the total. Fortunately, on the last day of the month, which happened to be the Bank Holiday Monday, we managed to dodge the showers that were around during the afternoon after some overnight rain. This brought the total rainfall for the month to 63 mm – equivalent to the average for August, yet still making it the wettest month since February! Not surprisingly, the average maximum temperature was 24.1°C, again 1.8°C above the norm. With the surrounding seas still unusually warm, the Met Office may well have reason to dig deep into its list of named storms during the course of this autumn and winter.

Bryan



Bulb-Planting Season

Now that we have seen rain, and the soils are softening up (a little), it is time to be thinking about bulb-planting, so that you have a colourful display of blooms from January through to the spring.

Bulbs can be planted outside of course, in garden soils, within lawns, in planters and borders, but they can also be planted indoors in dishes, bowls and plant pots. However, you'll need to keep them in your coolest room, not next door to a roaring fire in your sitting room.

When to buy/plant:

Daffodils, muscari and crocuses Sept to Oct – as soon as they are available to buy

Tulips late Oct to Dec – the soil needs to be significantly cooler, so hold tight...

Alliums Sept to Nov

Hyacinths Oct to Nov

Snowdrops don't appreciate being dried out and enjoy being planted with leaf mould. They will ordinarily be the first flowers to show in your garden. They spread in clumps and can be divided once they have bloomed but do bury them quickly again. They don't enjoy sitting around and drying out for any time. If you do lift the other bulbs for the following season (maybe to avoid being nibbled by rodents) then keep them in as cool, dry and dark a place as you can find, wrapped in paper or similar. Plastic bags or Tupperware, say, are a no-no.

It's not always necessary to visit garden centres or nurseries to buy bulbs; you can easily and cheaply pick up bulbs from diy centres and supermarkets (especially the discounters) or, if buying in bulk, then consider the mail-order companies. You are looking for bulbs that are dry, certainly not mouldy or soggy; sprouting bulbs are fine but the idea behind bulbs is that they undergo a cold period to encourage their growth, so you don't really want them partially into their growing stage.

Dahlias, canna lilies, gladioli and begonias are planted from April onwards after the risk of hard frost.

The Red Register

A document kept in the King's Lynn archives has recently joined the prestigious UNESCO Memory of the World Register, which lists historical records that have global significance. The UK has a number of these including the Churchill Papers, the Mappa Mundi and Magna Carta, registers of slaves, the heritage and life of Charles Darwin, as well as drawings and writings of children during the World Wars.

The Red Register is a record of the borough's government in King's Lynn in the 14th century (then of course known as Bishop's Lynn) and is thought to be the earliest archive recorded on paper in England – and possibly the world. It contains town deeds, wills of local notables and those pertaining to the Black Death, and other paperwork brought before the mayor and council and recorded from c.1300 onwards. The documents are hand-written on paper rather than parchment or vellum – naturally since they pre-dated Caxton and the printing press by a century at least – and are written in Latin.

It is believed that the paper came from the continent, most probably Italy or Spain, and of course underscores King's Lynn's close trading links with Europe at that time and openness to new technology. The document is bound in red, hence the "red register".

Literary Centenary

A centenary well worth celebrating is that of Winnie-the-Pooh, who was first published on October 14, 1926. A tea party with hunny sandwiches might be very appropriate!



Bircham Bowls

By the time you read this, the bowls 2026 season will have ended for the club.

The victors of the league championship and the knockout competition both hail from Great Bircham and live at opposite ends of a small stretch of Docking Road! Must be something in the water. Coincidentally, Andy, the winner of the league (unbeaten all season) is married to Alison. Alison, the winner of the knockout in her second season, is married to an Andy. Clearly, the name Andrew was popular for certain generations as the third Andy in the club won the 3rd/4th place knockout playoff! We know of at least four more Andrews living here!

Each year the club gets stronger and players are improving. Of the 93 games, 5 were drawn and 31 won by 5 shots or fewer, showing great competition. There were quite a few new members so tough games were expected for them but they have all been amazing. The 3rd/4th place knockout playoff was contested by first-year players.

Congratulations to everyone and massive thanks to Chris (runner up in the league playoff) for organising all the events. We can't wait to start next year's proceedings.

Hunstanton's Wolf Trail

A nice leisurely walk in Hunstanton, the Wolf Trail starts at the entrance to the Esplanade Gardens near the Town Hall and has six waymarked posts leading the way to St Edmund's Chapel near the lighthouse.

But why wolf? Well St Edmund was part of the Wuffing family (or Wuffas), commonly translated as "Wolf". He was a ruler of East Anglia and landed his men at Old Hunstanton in 855 and was crowned King of the Northfolk. He undertook a pledge to protect the peoples from the Viking invaders. However, he surrendered to the raiders rather than renounce his Christianity and see them ransack the country.



Edmund was tied to a tree, whipped and beaten and his body was pierced with arrows before his eventual beheading at, supposedly, Hoxne in Suffolk. Despite intense provocation he refused to renounce his religion. His head was taken by the Vikings and hidden deep in the forest before Edmund's supporters located it where it was being protected by a wolf. Edmund the Martyr became England's first patron saint. The full story is told as you follow the route across the clifftops.

National Hunt Racing Returns to Fakenham

Horseracing returns to Fakenham on Friday October 16. There's also a second event in the month for Halloween, fittingly on Saturday October 31. There will also be fireworks courtesy of Fakenham and District Round Table. If the bug bites, then there is a further raceday on Monday November 2, weather permitting.

The course has been somewhat unlucky over the past couple of years suffering postponements because of sudden weather events. Never fear, in the past advance tickets have been honoured for another event if racing fails to materialise. Children under 18 go free if with an adult and dogs go free too!



You can dine in the Firth restaurant, take your own picnic and stay in the warm in the Lancaster Room, or try other racetrack restaurants and catering outlets. Bars, TV screens, Tote betting and, naturally, on-course bookies are also available to help you make a day of it, even if you don't end up making a packet!