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APRIL 2026

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## Welcome to your Magazine

Spring has finally sprung. Clocks have changed, making our daylight longer and so many events to look forward to.

Our year of reading continues with a feature from Coltishall Primary School about their World Book Day fun, some great costumes on show. Who else is reading books? We would love to hear your reviews.

Rainbow Run is back for 2026. We had so much fun last year, see the details on page 21 alongside a great family fun day being organised by Wildflowers childcare.

We pay tribute to Teresa from Shades Hairdressers in Coltishall who crossed the Rainbow bridge this month and our thoughts go to her family. The hairdressers will continue with Donna taking over, see ad on page 30.

We continue to be grateful for all the support we get from everyone to keep the magazine interesting. If anyone has any local features or ideas we would love to hear from you.

**Tricia and the Marlpit Team**

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**COVER PICTURE:** World Book Day at Coltishall Primary School – see pages 10-12

**ABOVE RIGHT:** Easter eggs lovingly crafted by the ladies of Buxton WI – see our story on page 26

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**The Marlpit** is an award-winning, long-established community magazine serving Coltishall, Horstead, and the surrounding Broadland area. We print 2,000 copies covering local news, activities, features, history, and events, encouraging opportunities for community involvement. Run by volunteers on a non-profit basis, we rely on financial support from local businesses, groups, and individuals to cover printing costs. You can support us via GoFundMe on our Facebook page, by contacting our Treasurer for BACS details, or sending a cheque. We also have Collection Boxes available. We are grateful to our advertisers and every donation that helps us continue in print.

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[www.themarlpitmagazine.com](http://www.themarlpitmagazine.com)

## Citizen journalism: something new in news



By Stephen McNair

Since you are reading this, I know you are getting local news regularly from the Marpit. But what about national and regional news? Only a third of people say they 'trust most news most of the time', and most are owned by only two people, both with clear political agendas. More people are getting news from social media, but that is patchy and unreliable.

So, across the country, volunteers are stepping into the gap with 'citizen journalism', online news sites. East Anglia Bylines is one of these. Like the Marpit, it is run by volunteers, who research, write and publish all articles. Every day we publish a couple of stories which we think will interest people in the region. Some are very local, others are international. Environmental stories are popular, with topics like coastal erosion, river pollution, and wildlife, and broader topics like new developments in renewable energy. We cover local and national politics, education, welfare and science, but there are no limits. We are not party political, and to ensure the quality of the work, we are regulated by Impress, the independent national news regulator.

In the three years we have been operating we have published over 2,500 stories, and occasionally one reaches over 10,000 people, more than the circulation of most regional print newspapers.

So, do have a look. And perhaps you would like to help? We are always looking for new volunteers to join the 400 people who have written for us. Some have contributed a single story, others are regulars. Some have deep local knowledge of a particular issue like farming, trade, or housing. Others are retired journalists keeping their hand in, academics writing about their specialism, or students trying out journalism.

So, if you have a story you think people in our area would be interested in, or would like to help in other ways, as editors, finding photographs or suggesting stories or contacts, please get in touch. We will get back to talk about how you might work with us. We provide support and advice to people who are new to writing.

At a time when so much news is dominated by shrill and divisive argument, we need more diversity. So, keep supporting the Marpit, but also have a look at what we do, at <https://eastangliabylines.co.uk/>. You can also find us on Bluesky, Threads and Facebook.

And come and join us. If you think you have a story begging to be heard, or would like to help in another way, email us at [editor@eastangliabylines.co.uk](mailto:editor@eastangliabylines.co.uk), or Stephen McNair, your local contact in St James, Coltishall, on 07874 747 002.

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## News from Broadland District Council

On 16th February the Government announced that it was withdrawing its decision to postpone the county council elections – which means elections will now take place, as originally planned, for all 84 county council divisions in Norfolk. The elections had originally been postponed enabling the council to focus on preparations for local government reorganisation and devolution. Norfolk County Council Leader Councillor Kay Mason Billig said: "I note the Government's change of mind. We had already budgeted for and were planning for elections, so we can now proceed."



The Government asked councils here – and across the country – to put forward proposals for Local Government Reorganisation. The aim is to create simpler, more sustainable local government structures. Under the new model, county and district councils will be replaced by new unitary authorities. That means there will be just one council in your area that runs all services, instead of two.

The Government consulted on proposals from 19 November 2025 to 11 January 2026. The County Council was invited, as a named consultee, to respond to the proposals submitted for both Norfolk and Suffolk. In total, there were five separate proposals: three for Norfolk and two for Suffolk. This includes the proposal submitted by the County Council for a single unitary council for Norfolk. Norfolk County Councillors have examined the evidence, the costs, and what residents and stakeholders told them matters most, and they believe one council for Norfolk is the best option:

- It saves the most money - £39.8m every year
- It joins up services, no matter where you live
- It creates strong, county-wide leadership, while keeping services local

This is the biggest shake-up of local government in Norfolk for half a century – and a once-in-a-generation opportunity to build something better.

Kind regards, Cllr. Jo Copplestone

[Cllr.jo.copplestone@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.jo.copplestone@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk)

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APRIL



Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April  
Easter Sunday

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> - 2 for Tuesday  
Smashed Burger Night

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> - 2 for Tuesday  
Italian Night

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> - 2 for Tuesday  
Best of British

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> - 2 for Tuesday  
Pie Night

## County Councillor's Report

I am pleased to share that Norfolk County Council (NCC) have agreed to improvements on the B1150 spending £1 million on the Spixworth junction and £250k for a new crossing in Coltishall. I have met with the Highways Team and there will be a consultation in Coltishall so that local people and businesses are fully aware of any potential changes and can share their views.



Well, a week really is a long time in politics. You may know the plans for elections to NCC in May 2026 were postponed by the Secretary of State, Steve Reed. As we have seen so often, the Labour Government have changed their mind. So, we will have elections across Norfolk on 7<sup>th</sup> May and I am pleased to be standing again for the Wroxham Division. Some of the boundaries have changed, unfortunately that means I will lose Coltishall and Horstead, so you will have another County Councillor in May.

There is still time to register to vote, and for a postal vote. The deadline to apply to register to vote is 5pm on 20<sup>th</sup> April and for a postal vote 5pm on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April. To register, or for a postal vote, go to [www.gov.uk/how-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/how-to-vote) or go to 'Voting and Elections' on the Broadland District Council (BDC) website [www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk](http://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk), or you can contact the Electoral Services Team on 01603 430483 or [elections@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk](mailto:elections@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk).

NCC is once again shining a spotlight on the county's outstanding rural enterprise as nominations open for the prestigious Norfolk Rural Business Awards 2026. From pioneering food and drink producers to forward-thinking farming innovators and dedicated community champions, the awards celebrate the very best of rural Norfolk. Businesses, individuals and organisations are invited to apply across nine categories, with finalists honoured at a special ceremony during the Royal Norfolk Show in June.

The awards were launched in February at the Norfolk Farming Conference, underlining the council's ongoing commitment to supporting and championing the rural economy. Delivered by NCC in partnership with the Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association, the awards recognise excellence, innovation and resilience across the county's diverse rural sectors. The council continues to work closely with partners and sponsors to ensure rural businesses receive the recognition they deserve.

The categories include Best Food and Drink Producer, Norfolk's 'Unsung Hero', Best Emerging Talent, Best Woman in Agriculture and Best Rural Business. Each category will be judged by a specialist panel, who will review applications and follow up with shortlisted nominees before selecting the winners. The closing date for entries is Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April. Winners will receive a trophy and certificate, as well as the opportunity to use Norfolk Rural Business Awards branding in their promotions, a mark of excellence backed by NCC. Find out about all the categories and how to apply by visiting [www.norfolk.gov.uk/business/norfolk-rural-business-awards](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/business/norfolk-rural-business-awards).

Take care

**Fran Whymark**  
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Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing  
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**Broadland District Councillor for the Wroxham Ward**  
Email: [cllr.fran.whymark@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.fran.whymark@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk)  
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Cllr Fran Whymark @CllrFran

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# 2026 – UK National Year of Reading

It's a key date on the calendar for every family with primary school children – World Book Day!

This month in our series of features celebrating our National Year of Reading we hear from the community of Coltishall Primary School on how they celebrated World Book Day this year.

Plus news of this year's Story Explorers challenge at our local Wroxham Library on page 12, and below a big celebration. This February was a big birthday for a local Book Club as you see from the picture below. And they are always looking for new members to share their love of reading and books.

And see page 26 for the opportunity to make your very own bookmarks guided by the experts in our Create & Share group.

**NEXT MONTH** we feature the **Schoolreaders Project** – with information on how you can volunteer and help young people share the joy and benefits of reading.

**RIGHT: Meagan, aged seven, prepares to conjure up the magic of World Book Day.**



## Coltishall Primary Pupils Love to Read

At Coltishall Primary School we foster a love of reading amongst our pupils. Every child has weekly access to our well-stocked library – in part funded by the hard work of our Friends Association and support of parents via fundraising. We make sure children have regular opportunities to read and share books together in both the library and the classroom.

We believe that reading is such an important part of every child's learning journey; it unlocks learning about different subjects, different cultures, places, people and traditions, opening doors to worlds visited only using the imagination – and words and pictures in a book. Reading can broaden horizons and enables children to challenge their perceptions and expand their viewpoints and experiences.

To encourage a love of reading at Coltishall Primary School, we have open library lunchtime clubs, community and parent reading champions who come and listen to readers every week, reading cafe events where parents come in to share stories and activities with their children, visits to local libraries and visiting authors who come to our school to inspire and engage.

This week, for World Book Day, we have had a visit from local author/illustrator Ben Rothery, whose work studies science and nature through amazing animal art and nonfiction books. The children had the opportunity to think about evolution and adaptation and came up with their own imagined creatures. What an inspiring day!



## Book Club Birthday!

Hoveton Wroxham and Belaugh Twinning Association Book Club celebrated 20 years this February, and thirteen members marked the occasion with a celebratory lunch in March at Fizz & Fromage in Hoveton.

The Book Club was launched from a lunch get-together with four or five Twinning members who started discussing books and then decided to start a book club to widen their reading choices – and here they are 20 years later, and with four founding members still going strong!

To find out more contact Pat on [pat.barkergreen@btinternet.com](mailto:pat.barkergreen@btinternet.com) or call 07879 454052



If you'd be interested in coming to our school to volunteer as a Reading Champion, get in touch with our school office:

Email [office@coltishall.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@coltishall.norfolk.sch.uk)

Jess King, English Lead



## WROXHAM LIBRARY

### Story Explorers

Story Explorers is a campaign from Norfolk Libraries which aims to get families visiting the library and reading regularly with their children from birth right up till Reception.

Take your existing library card to a member of staff who will then sign you up to Story Explorers. They will give you a reading journey map that will help you and your child keep track of the number of books you've borrowed. You are not tied to visiting just one library, every book you borrow from whichever library you visit counts!

You will get stickers and certificates at certain milestones and any child that reaches 1,000 books before their 6th birthday will receive a very special gold library card.

### Library services

See our Facebook page or call the library on 01603 782560.

Build confidence to manage your money online. Free, one-to-one support available. Sessions available Tuesday 12-1pm and Thursdays 10-11am. Please contact the library to book a session.

Digital Help. Thursdays 11am-1pm during term times. Free, one-to-one support available. Perfect for beginners and those ready to take the next step. Please contact the library to book a session.

Just a Cuppa, every Tuesday 10-12noon. Come along for a friendly chat over tea or coffee and a biscuit.

Toys. We have a selection of toys and games that can be played with in the library.

Autism Social Group Come to a friendly social group for a cuppa and a chat. First Wed of every month 1-3pm.

Crafting 10.30am-3.30pm on alternate Saturdays (staff dependent). Aimed at children aged 5 -11 (under 8s require supervision).

Knit and Natter – not just for knitters! 2nd and 16th April, 2-4pm.

Crib Club (Cribbage card game) – new players welcome - Thurs 9th April 2-4pm. Please bring your own board and cards if you have them.

Scrabble Club Usually last Thursday of each month from 2-4pm. Next session Thursday 30th April.

Thinking of starting up or growing your own business? Find out more at: [www.norfolk.gov.uk/bipc Norfolk](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/bipc Norfolk)

Bounce and Rhyme sessions on Wednesdays at 10.30am. No need to book just drop in and sing along!

Family History. Drop-in on Wed and Fri evenings between 4-6pm to get advice from Diane, our **family and local history expert**. Please call ahead to confirm availability.

Housebound Library Service. library books, we can bring them to you! Details from the library.

### COLTISHALL & HORSTEAD GOOD NEIGHBOURS

Good Neighbours will be hosting a **TEA PARTY** on **Thursday 16th April** from 2-4pm in the Church Rooms, Coltishall.

The primary school choir will be entertaining us.

Please join us for music, tea and cakes.

If you require transport please call 07799 277455.

**Julie Douglass**

*Below: Proud winners of the Good Neighbours Quiz at the last Tea Party.*



  
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**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The Annual Parish Meeting is an important event in the community calendar. It will be held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm in the Tithe Barn.



What happens?

- A review of the past year's activities
- Updates from the Parish Council
- Reports from local groups and community organisations.

Have your say

This is your opportunity to ask questions, raise concerns, and talk about local issues that matter to you.

It is a relaxed, informal meeting so please do come along, get involved, and be part of your local community!

**NEXT PC MEETING**

Wednesday 8th April 2026  
6.30pm  
Tithe Barn

You are warmly welcome to attend!

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**PARISH COUNCILLORS**

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The Forge, 64 Norwich Road, NR12 7LA
- Alan Browne (Vice Chair) 07789 967909  
Holly Tree Cottages, Mill Lane, NR12 8HN
- Martin Boakes - 07540 782537  
Portreath, Buxton Road, NR12 7EX
- Caroline Fleming 07771 655637  
Horstead House, Mill Road, NR12 7AU
- David Hales - 07775 776628  
36 Tungate Way, NR12 7EN
- Jeff Langberg - 07879 650905  
St Peter's Barn, Stanninghall Road, NR12 7LY
- Jack Lenton - 07453 265404  
14 Green Lane, NR12 7EL
- Rachel McMaster - 01603 736313  
Brook House, Norwich Road, NR12 7EE
- Robert Oakes - 07789 763793  
6 Glebe Way, NR12 7EU
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- Becky Furr (Parish Clerk) 2 Hall Cottages, The Windle, Acle, NR13 3JT - 07476 952824



## COLTISHALL MEDICAL PRACTICE

### Spring 2026 Vaccination Campaign

We will be offering two vaccinations during this campaign:

- **COVID-19**
- **Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)**

We have started inviting eligible patients for these vaccinations and ask that patients do not contact the surgery until they have received their invitation.

We encourage patients, where possible, to use the self-book link included in their text invite, as this is quicker than calling the surgery. However, we do have a dedicated vaccination line available between 10.30am-3.30pm, Monday-Friday.

#### COVID-19 vaccination eligibility:

- Adults aged 75 years and over campaign (born on or before 30/06/1951).
- Residents in a care home for older adults.
- Immunosuppressed individuals aged 6 months and over (as defined in guidelines).

Patients eligible for BOTH vaccines include patients who have not already had an RSV vaccine and are either:

- Aged 75 or over
- A resident in a care home for older adults

**For further information regarding the programmes, please visit:**

**RSV - <https://www.nhs.uk/condit.../respiratory-syncytial-virus-rsv>**

**COVID-19 - <https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/covid-19-vaccine/>**

## Your Local GP's Corner – April Sleep: The Forgotten Superpower

With spring now properly underway, the mornings are brighter, the evenings are longer, and many of us feel a natural lift in energy. It's a wonderful time of year. But alongside the benefits of lighter days, April also gives us an opportunity to talk about one of the most overlooked pillars of health: **SLEEP**.

As part of this year's series on **Lifestyle Medicine**, we are exploring six key areas that strongly influence our long-term health. While diet and exercise often receive the most attention, **sleep is just as important**. In fact, poor sleep affects almost every system in the body.

Good sleep helps regulate blood pressure, supports our immune system, improves concentration and memory, balances hormones and plays an important role in mood and emotional wellbeing. When sleep is poor, we are more likely to feel tired, irritable, and less able to cope with everyday stress. Over time, chronic sleep problems can increase the risk of heart disease, obesity, diabetes and depression.

### Why Sleep Matters

During sleep, our bodies are far from inactive. The brain clears waste products that build up during the day, hormones regulating appetite and metabolism are balanced, and our tissues repair and recover. Adults generally need **around 7-9 hours of sleep per night**, although this varies from person to person. What matters most is not just the number of hours, but also the **quality and consistency** of sleep.

### Common Causes of Poor Sleep

Many people struggle with sleep from time to time. Some common factors include:

- Irregular sleep routines
- Excess screen time late in the evening
- Stress or worry
- Too much caffeine late in the day
- Alcohol close to bedtime
- Lack of daytime movement or fresh

The good news is that small adjustments to daily habits can make a meaningful difference.

### Simple Ways to Improve Sleep

**Keep a regular routine** Try to go to bed and wake up at roughly the same time each day, even on weekends.

**Reduce screen time before bed** Phones, tablets and televisions emit blue light that can interfere with the body's natural sleep signals. Try switching off screens at least an hour before bedtime.

**Create a wind-down routine** Gentle reading, stretching, prayer, reflection or calm music can help signal to the body that it is time to sleep.

**Limit caffeine in the afternoon** Caffeine can stay in the body for several hours and may interfere with falling asleep.

**Get daylight and movement during the day** Exposure to natural light and regular movement help regulate the body's internal clock.

### Sleep and Older Adults

Sleep patterns naturally change with age, and many older adults find they wake earlier or sleep more lightly. However, good sleep remains vital for memory, mood and physical health. Maintaining a routine, staying active and getting daylight exposure can help support healthy sleep.

### Sleep Challenge for April

For the next four weeks, try one of the following:

- Keep a consistent bedtime for the entire week
- Switch off screens one hour before bed
- Take a 20-minute daytime walk to help regulate sleep
- Create a relaxing bedtime routine

Start with just one change and see how it affects your sleep.

Sleep is not a luxury, it is a fundamental part of good health. Looking after your sleep is one of the simplest ways to support both body and mind.

As always, if you have ongoing sleep difficulties, do speak to us at the surgery.

Warm wishes,

**Dr Olumide Ayodele GP Partner Coltishall & Spixworth Surgeries**



# COLTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL

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clerk@coltishall-pc.gov.uk

### A new shared space for sunshine and community

The allotments are to have a very special addition at the start of this month, as the new Summerhouse will be erected. This has been made possible by grants and donations, including Crocus Homes who have generously given £2,000 towards this exciting project. The Summer house will provide a warm inviting space and hopefully a club for some enthusiastic young gardeners.

### Planning application at Jaguar House, Badersfield.

Many of you may have already seen in the news that the planning application to convert Jaguar House at former RAF Coltishall into temporary housing, for up to 200 Afghan refugees has now been withdrawn.

There has been no formal explanation to why the application has been withdrawn however, there is little doubt that it would have been a highly unsuitable given how rural Badersfield is and that there is little in the way of community facilities, or suitable infrastructure to support the refugees.

### Coltishall Village Hall & Recreational Grounds

For bookings and enquiries contact cvhrg@coltishall-pc.gov.uk

Casual one off rates are £15 per hour, regular hire £8.50 per hour

Block rates for Saturday or Sunday 9am - midnight £200

Evening rates 6pm-midnight £100

### Your Councillors

Richard Germany - Chair

clr.germany@coltishall-pc.gov.uk

John Haschak - Vice Chair

clr.haschak@coltishall-pc.gov.uk

Jason Baxter

clr.baxter@coltishall-pc.gov.uk

Nicola Chaney

clr.chaney@coltishall-pc.gov.uk

Hayley Sands-Moore

clr.sands-moore@coltishall-pc.gov.uk

Michael Spinks

01603 737332

Ewan Young

clr.eyoung@coltishall-pc.gov.uk

Greg Young

clr.young@coltishall-pc.gov.uk

The next **Coltishall Parish Council Meeting** will be on **Wednesday 1st April 2026**  
At **6.30pm Church Rooms, Rectory Road**

## COLTISHALL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

You are warmly invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on:

**Wednesday, 15 April 2026 at 6.30pm in the Church Rooms, Rectory Road, Coltishall**

This is a great chance for everyone in the community to get together, hear what's been happening in the parish, and chat about local issues.

We would especially like to invite local groups, organisations, and community representatives to take part by sharing information about their work, achievements, and future plans. This is a valuable chance to raise awareness, encourage involvement, and strengthen connections within our parish.

**If your group would like to take part, please get in touch with the clerk at clerk@coltishall-pc.gov.uk by Wednesday 8th April.**

Agenda highlights will include:

**Parish updates and reports**

**Presentations from local groups**

**Open forum for community discussion**

We look forward to seeing you there.

Sue

Sue Marsh (Mrs)

Locum Clerk and RFO, Coltishall Parish Council

https://coltishall-pc.gov.uk/



## Wildflowers Community Lottery

### Membership Form:

Name: .....

Address: .....

Email: .....

If you win, you shall be notified by email and results will be posted

monthly on our Wildflowers Coltishall and Horstead Preschool

Facebook page. Winners shall be paid directly into their bank

account.

Bank Details:

Name on Account: .....

Sort Code: .....

Account Number: .....

I understand that in line with GDPR regulations, Wildflowers Coltishall

and Horstead Preschool will keep this information on record and not

share my details with any other organisation.

Name: .....

Signed: ..... Date: .....

Joining Payment Details:

Upon joining, you shall receive an email with your issued number and

the start date of your first draw. Please make your £20 payment for

the year to:

Account Name: Coltishall and Horstead Preschool

Sort Code:206253

Account Number:03543862

Thank you for joining and Good Luck

## Wildflowers Community Lottery

**Do you want to join our Wildflowers Community Lottery? And why?**

### New for April 2026....

Two great reasons to join this amazing lottery:

• You will be supporting the children at Wildflowers Coltishall and Horstead Preschool.

• You could be a lucky winner in one of our monthly prize draws.

### How our Lottery works

For an annual subscription of £20, you will receive a lucky number which is entered into a prize draw each month.

The total amount of money in the prize pot each month is split into two – half goes directly to supporting the children and half is used as the prize fund.

If we had 100 members.....each month the 1st prize winner would receive £45, the 2nd prize would be £23 and the 3rd prize would be £15.

A fully subscribed Wildflowers Community Lottery would generate £1000 per year to support the children! This money would be used to support the children's wellbeing, mental health and outdoor learning as part of our amazing Planning in the Moment curriculum.

If you, your family, or neighbours\* would like to join our Lottery, please complete the registration form attached or email [wildflowersfundraising@outlook.com](mailto:wildflowersfundraising@outlook.com) to receive a copy.

Additional forms available on request. 1 form per person joining.

\*Applicants must be 18 or over.

**See details of our exciting Fun Day planned for Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June on the next page of this Marlpit**

Wildflowers

# FAMILY FUN DAY

AT COLTISHALL VILLAGE HALL

## SATURDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2026

10:00AM – 14:00PM

Bring the whole family for a day filled with laughter, excitement, and unforgettable memories

Join Us for a Spectacular Family Fun Day!

EXCITING GAMES, TREASURE HUNT  
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## THE RAINBOW RUN IS BACK!

BY WENDY GRIFFITH

Friends of Coltishall Primary School (FoCPS) is proud to support the extras that help make school life even richer for our children. Here's a snapshot of what our charity has been supporting recently as we build towards our biggest community event of the year, **The Rainbow Run - Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June.**



### WORLD BOOK DAY INSPIRATION

We were delighted to fund a special World Book Day visit from local author and illustrator Ben Rothery.



His incredible animal art and non-fiction books brought science and nature to life for our children, as pupils explored evolution and adaptation before creating their own imagined creatures. We love being able to give our children opportunities like this, which make learning memorable, inspiring and fun.

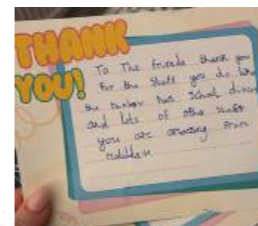
### YOUNG VOICES AT THE O2

FoCPS were so proud of our school choir for taking part in Young Voices this February at the O2. We were delighted to help fund the trip, supporting this special experience as our choir performed with 8,000+ other primary school children.



### A SURPRISE FROM THE CHILDREN

As part of their recent myHappyMind lessons on **appreciation**, the children created these lovely thank you cards for our hard-working FoCPS volunteer team. We were so touched, because moments like this remind us exactly why we do it - for our children.



### THE RAINBOW RUN - 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

Our much-loved Rainbow Run is back and it is set to be another brilliant day of colour, fun and community spirit in Coltishall.

This is always one of the biggest highlights of our FoCPS year, bringing together children, families, local businesses and the wider community for a joyful event that does so much good for our school.

Tickets launch this April, via our website: [www.focps.org](http://www.focps.org) - you can also follow along on our Facebook page: 'friendsofcoltishallprimary'.



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### CAN YOU HELP US?

It does take a village to put this event on and we are looking for volunteers to help make the day a success. Whether you can help before the event or lend a hand on the day, we'd love to hear from you. Please sign up via the QR code below to sign up or email: [info@focps.org](mailto:info@focps.org)

SCAN ME



**Why Good Friday is (Strangely) Good News**

**Rev'd Joanna Haywood**

Easter is just around the corner and with it comes *Good Friday*. But have you ever wondered why it's called 'good'? It's a bit of an odd name, isn't it?

Some people suggest it might once have been "God's Friday". Perhaps. But I rather like the name *Good Friday*, even though it remembers the crucifixion of Jesus, a story of suffering, injustice and death. Hardly what most of us would normally call good.

And yet, as a Christian, I believe it is *good*, because something extraordinary was happening through it.

The story tells us that God doesn't keep a safe distance from the mess and pain of the world. In Jesus, God steps right into it; into betrayal, cruelty and suffering. The cross is where that love meets the worst the world can do and answers it not with anger or revenge, but with forgiveness and love. In other words, the worst thing people could do didn't get the last word.

And that's why Good Friday isn't the end of the story. Christians believe that three days later Jesus rose from the dead, bringing hope where there had been grief, and life where there had been death. Easter reminds us that darkness doesn't win. Love does. Each year during Holy Week we have the chance to walk through that story again – from the quiet moments of Maundy Thursday, through the reflection of Good Friday, and then into the joy and celebration of Easter morning. Why not be part of it?

There's something for everyone this year. We're holding a **Messy Easter** event for all the family on Saturday 28th March, 10.30am–12.30pm at the Tithe Barn. During Holy Week there are more quiet, reflective services across our villages. And new this year, we're planning a **Sunrise Service** on Easter Sunday.

We'll gather at 6.00am on the banks of the River Bure on Lower Common, next to The Rising Sun (where else?!), joining with Broadgrace Church to welcome the risen Christ. And afterwards... there's breakfast. So whether you come to church most weeks, haven't been for years, or have never been at all, you'll be very welcome at any of our Holy Week and Easter services. They're not just for the 'regulars'. They're for anyone who's curious, anyone looking for hope, or anyone who simply wants to share in moments of reflection and celebration. Young or old, lifelong believer or just wondering what it's all about – come along. You don't need to know what to do or say. Just turn up.

Because the message of Easter is wonderfully simple: God hasn't given up on the world – or on us. Even in the darkest places, new life can begin. So if you're free this Easter, why not come and see? You'd be very welcome.

Every blessing  
**Rev'd Joanna**

**Coltishall Group of Parishes**  
serving the communities of Coltishall, Frestonham, Hainford, Horstead and Stratton Strawless

**Services across the Group - all are welcome**  
**April 2026**

**Sunday 5 April - Easter Day**  
6.00am Sunrise Service, Lower Common, Coltishall  
9.30am Holy Communion: Hainford Church  
11.00am Holy Communion: Horstead Church

**Sunday 12 April**  
9.30am Morning Worship: Hainford Church  
11.00am Holy Communion: Horstead Church

**Sunday 19 April**  
9.30am Holy Communion: Hainford Church  
11.00am Holy Communion: Coltishall Church

**Sunday 26 April**  
9.30am Morning Worship: Hainford Church  
11.00am Holy Communion: Horstead Church

**Sunday 3 May**  
9.30am Holy Communion: Hainford Church  
10.00am All Age Worship: Coltishall Church

**Each Wednesday**  
10.00am Midweek Holy Communion: Coltishall Church  
*Morning prayer said daily at 9.00am across the Group at Hainford (M), Hainford (F), Coltishall (W), Stratton Strawless (Th), Frestonham (Sa)*

**For all enquiries please contact the Rector, Rev'd Joanna Haywood**  
07733 325905 or rector.coltgroup@gmail.com

To donate to your local church please use the QR codes below:

QR code for Coltishall



QR code for Horstead



**COLTISHALL GROUP OF PARISHES**  
serving the communities of Coltishall, Frestonham, Hainford, Horstead and Stratton Strawless

**HOLY WEEK & EASTER**

**Saturday 28th March**  
10.30am Easter Mass Church: Tithe Barn Horstead

**Palm Sunday 29th March**  
10.00am Benedicite Holy Communion with procession and palms Stratton Strawless

**Monday 30th March**  
9.00am Morning Prayer and Reflection: Horstead  
7.00pm Compline: Stratton Strawless

**Tuesday 31st March**  
9.00am Morning Prayer and Reflection: Hainford  
7.00pm Compline: Horstead

**Wednesday 1st April**  
9.00am Morning Prayer: Coltishall  
10.00am Holy Communion and Reflection: Coltishall  
7.00pm Compline: Frestonham

**Maundy Thursday 2nd April**  
9.00am Morning Prayer and Reflection: Stratton Strawless  
7.00pm Holy Communion followed by the Stripping of the Altar: Horstead

**Good Friday 3rd April**  
10.00am Good Friday for all ages: Hainford  
2.00pm Last Hour at the Cross: Coltishall

**Easter Sunday 5th April**  
6.00am Sunrise Service: Lower Common, Coltishall  
9.30am Holy Communion: Hainford  
11.00am Holy Communion: Horstead

You are invited to join us for Holy Week and Easter services at churches across the Group. All are welcome... Journey with us and experience the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus through story, song, prayer, and reflection.

**Community Yoga**

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# Thine be the Glory



## John Hindley

I have a terrible singing voice but I don't let that hold me back! I like singing along to dad rock in the car (mostly by myself – I'm not that cruel). Even better is singing together with my church family. My favourite line in a hymn has been the same for decades: 'Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son, endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won'.

It is the first line and the chorus of the great resurrection song. This year we will be singing it as dawn breaks over the Lower Common at the Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday that we are holding jointly with Coltishall Parish Church. It is always joyful to celebrate Jesus's victory over the grave as he rose from death on Easter Sunday. To do so at dawn and together as churches will be even better. Come and join us at 6am!

You would also be really welcome at our Easter Explained afternoon on Good Friday (3 April, 4pm at The River Rooms). At Easter we get perhaps the strangest and most powerful insight into the heart and mind of the God who sits on the throne of heaven. The strangeness of Easter is that we meet the awesome and almighty God in weakness, as Jesus, dying on the cross outside Jerusalem.

The death of Christ is the heart of Christianity. It was on the cross of Good Friday that Jesus took our sin and guilt. He suffered our punishment and death. He buried our shame and fear forever in his tomb. On Easter Sunday he walked alive out of the grave and now shares with us his gift of eternal life. To look at Easter is to look into the heart of God and find love and hope. Join us or the other churches in our villages this Easter and see just how good our Maker is.



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**GOOD FRIDAY 3 APRIL 4-6PM**  
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## Community Lunch Club

We meet on Wednesdays at 12 for 12.30 in the Church Rooms Coltishall and always enjoy a two-course meal prepared in the kitchen by a team of dedicated volunteers.



It is necessary to book with Joan Milligan on 01603 737270 at the latest Tuesday before the day. Members enjoy a welcoming drink and tea or coffee after the meal with fun and fellowship along the way.

The daylight is getting longer at last; spring has sprung too at the lunch club with a burst of flowers for girls enjoying birthdays this month, one solitary boy, me, and one bemused Jenifer receiving her birthday wishes 4 months early, a crossed wire there somewhere. Nothing else crossed – as we know only too well every week will be a culinary delight.

Don't forget to give Joan a ring if you have changed your plans, ie can attend or at the last minute you cannot make it.

## David Pye

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## Buxton & District WI News

On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm at Buxton Village Hall NR10 5JE we will learn about "From Fleece to Fibre" with the help of Worstead Spinners & Weavers who will demonstrate their various skills.

While the craft talks are always popular we are happy to welcome any visitors who may be interested, free of charge, refreshments provided. **For more information contact Vereen Marcer – [vereen.marcer@gmail.com](mailto:vereen.marcer@gmail.com) or ring 07867 927338.**

Buxton WI has its own craft club which meets monthly in a room at Buxton Church. Last month we made Easter Eggs from polystyrene, material and ribbon ready for April. **See our lovely Easter eggs on page 3 of this issue of The Marlpit**



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## COLTISHALL BOWLS CLUB

Coltishall Parish Council have very kindly funded new toilets for our Bowls Club ready for the outdoor bowls season to begin in May.

We are opening the Clubhouse on Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup> at 2pm.

Please come along and join us, we are always looking for new members.

Our newly elected Chairman is Andy Shingles and he can be contacted on **01603 788804** for any further information.

## WROXHAM AND HOVETON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

114 Norwich Road, Wroxham, NR12 8SA

**Rev Tina Wilson. email address:**  
[revtinawilson@outlook.com](mailto:revtinawilson@outlook.com).  
**Tel :07763 354740.**  
**Secretary: Lynne Howard, 01603 738835.**  
**Email: [secretary@wroxhamurc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@wroxhamurc.org.uk)**

Please see our website for the most up to date information. ([wroxhamurc.org.uk](http://wroxhamurc.org.uk))

Do join us for any or all of the following services:

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April: 10.30am. Easter Day Service conducted by Rev Tina Wilson, including Holy Communion.

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April: 10.30am. Service conducted by Mr Mike Gibbs.

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April: 10.30am. Service conducted by the Moderator of the Eastern Synod, Rev Lythan Nevard.

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April: 10.30am. Service conducted by Rev Carole Pearl. 4pm - Beyond Sunday - A service of quiet reflection.



JAM (our Sunday School) welcomes all children aged 4 to 16. In our sessions we watch, read, listen, discuss, play, act, sing, chat, pray, cook, create and have a great time. We meet regularly in the church hall from 10.15 – 11.45am. In April we are meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> (including an Easter Egg hunt!) and 19<sup>th</sup>. For information on future sessions and other events please go to: <https://wroxhamurc.org.uk/jam> or more details contact [jam@wroxhamurc.org.uk](mailto:jam@wroxhamurc.org.uk) or call Chris on 01603 783992.

The Community Café meets for coffee and cakes from 10.30am to 12noon on Thursdays. All are welcome, there is no charge.

We look forward to seeing friends old and new.

Please note we are unable to answer queries about Barclays Bank.

## Create and Share

Our March meeting was busy as usual although we were less in number but we also welcomed a new lady. We celebrated our 14<sup>th</sup> birthday with scones, jam and cream.

There was also a lot of concentration on our quilling to get the twirling right! and as always some lovely finished items to take home – plus some to finish at home as quilling can't be rushed. We were pleased to have our Rector, Reverend Joanna, with us and we decorated two crosses for display at the Easter Experience events with our local schools.

Margaret will be leading the workshop in April and the group will be making some cards with a bookmark on the front so they will be dual purpose cards – ideal for a friend who enjoys reading and very timely for the National Year of Reading! Please do get in touch if you would like to come along to be sure we have space for you. We wish you all a very Happy Easter.

**Our next meeting is at Horstead Tithe Barn on Tuesday April 14<sup>th</sup> 2-4.30pm**  
**Sylvia Coward 01603 737917 or 01603 737609**



## GD Developments



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## Wroxham & District u3a

Spring is here at last and the bird-watching group have been taking advantage of it with a trip to Sculthorpe Moor, where the birds were out in force. We managed to see 41 different birds and were really lucky to see a water rail, as they are usually quite shy.

The history group will be heading for the coast to visit Sheringham Museum in April and, whether indoors or out, all our groups will be enjoying varied activities, as well as each other's company.

Our general monthly meeting is at Hoveton Village Hall, where we have a speaker and tea and biscuits. If you want to know what we are about and meet some of the members, do come along, it's on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, doors open at 2pm, £2 for members and £3 for visitors.

The next 3 meetings are as follows: April 21<sup>st</sup> AGM; May 19<sup>th</sup> The geology of Norfolk with Matt Williams; June 16<sup>th</sup> Broadland Tales with Judith Keogh.



**Pauline Wright-Marchant**

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Mass every week at 5.30pm Saturday (first Mass of Sunday). Every Wednesday at 9.30am.

Social activities include:

Coffee drop-in meeting (all welcome) at 10.30am every first Wednesday of the month.

Please check your club details in our Useful Numbers on page 39 and email [compilation@themarlpitmagazine.com](mailto:compilation@themarlpitmagazine.com) with any updates. Thank you.

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## Ashmanhaugh & Barton Wanderers Cricket Club

The 2026 cricket season is almost here. Our current players and new members have been training indoors throughout the winter and outdoor sessions begin in April, mainly at Barton Turf ground.

- **Girls' Cricket:** The club launched its dedicated girls section in 2025 and we hope to build on this in 2026.
- **All Ages & Abilities Welcome** with programs starting from age 5 (All Stars) to various senior teams, including Saturday, Sunday, T20, and midweek squads.
- **Family-Friendly Atmosphere:** The club prides itself on being a welcoming, family-friendly environment.
- **Our coaches** are ECB trained, DBS checked and bring a lot of experience to share.

We are always looking for volunteers to help and new sponsors. There are great packages available for businesses to get involved and support grassroots sport. We can often offer bursaries to help you train as a coach, scorer, umpire etc – in exchange for volunteering with us. We offer advertising space online and at our pitches, player sponsorships with social media mentions every match day, fixture book advertisements and much more.

We are a very social and family friendly club, run by volunteers. Our Barton Turf ground has a fully licensed bar and you are welcome to join us for drinks, BBQ and the occasional social evening of food, quiz, karaoke etc. Volunteer help is always very welcome too!

For playing enquiries: [joeverett333@gmail.com](mailto:joeverett333@gmail.com) and for activities and events: [ABWCC.events@gmail.com](mailto:ABWCC.events@gmail.com). Follow the club on Facebook, Instagram, and X for all the latest news.

# 20 QUESTIONS

By Richard McGreevy

1. Sousa's Liberty Bell was used as the theme music for which British TV show?
2. Who was the first presenter of the TV game show 'Family Fortunes'?
3. Who wrote the novel 'Catch 22'?
4. In Greek mythology who was the God of the Underworld?
5. Which company's advertising slogan states: "It does exactly what is says on the tin"?
6. By what name do Muslims know the pilgrimage to Mecca?
7. Under what name was William Joyce better known in the 1940's?
8. Who wrote the "Discworld" novels?
9. What is the capital city of Malaysia?
10. What was the first programme to be seen on Channel 4?
11. Who sang the theme song for the British TV comedy 'One Foot In The Grave'?
12. About which pastime is Oscar Wilde reputed to have said "The unspeakable in pursuit of the uneatable"?
13. Which letter of the Greek alphabet is used as the trademark of a Swiss luxury watchmaker?
14. What family of wading birds is the Bittern related to?
15. Which year did Her Majesty the Queen describe as an "Annus Horribilis"?
16. What was the name of Ghana prior to independence?
17. Which Asian condiment made with yogurt can be used as either a sauce or a dip?
18. Rhinestone Cowboy was most famously recorded by which American country singer?
19. Which 1957 film starred Alec Guinness as Lieutenant Colonel Nicholson?
20. In Italy what name is given to a brandy made from the residue from a winepress?

Answers on page 37

## Yoga classes in Horstead and Coltishall

### Regular classes

Monday 10:30am Tithe Barn Horsted

Thursday 6:15pm Tithe Barn Horsted

Saturday 9:00am Coltishall Village Hall

### New for 2026

Friday 9:30am Zoom online Yoga

Thursday 7:30pm Beginners 8 week course  
Tithe Barn Horstead

### Hello and welcome to Blissful yoga

I would be delighted to welcome you to one of my in person yoga classes or why not try an online class, new for 2026.

Find me on social media for updates on all of my offerings, I hold regular weekend yoga and wellness retreats, mini day retreats throughout the year. And occasional pop up events. Gift Vouchers available. All information and links to social media can be found on my website.

[www.theblissfullyogi.co.uk](http://www.theblissfullyogi.co.uk)



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8th April, 2026

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the arrangements

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[wroxhamflowerclub55@gmail.com](mailto:wroxhamflowerclub55@gmail.com)

## FILM AT FRETtenham

Frettenham Village Hall

24th April 2026

**The Choral** (Drama) (2025) 15

Ramsden, Yorkshire, 1916. The chorus master and most of the men of the ambitious local Choral Society have volunteered for the front, so under the direction of the demanding, driven Dr Guthrie (Ralph Fiennes), the Choral recruits a crop of teenage boys and girls.

Together they discover the joys of singing and the urgency of desire as the new boys come to terms with their imminent conscription into the army.

Join us for only £5 per person which includes a free raffle ticket. Doors open 6.45pm, film starts at 7.30pm, and the bar is open.

For any queries contact Sandra and Rob Curston tel 07863 433399 or email [frettenhamvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:frettenhamvillagehall@gmail.com)

## COLTISHALL & HORSTEAD WI

From beach walks to bingo we've had a great month and have plenty to look forward to as spring settles in and summer gets ready. Jill Clarke of Wroxham Flower Club demo'd some lovely arrangements at our March meeting, and next month we'll hear more about the great work of volunteers dedicated to maintaining one of Norfolk's crown jewels – the seal population at Horsey and surrounding area.

Another outing in March was to Norwich airport – not for a sneaky trip to the sun but to learn more about the vital and fascinating work of the air traffic control team and we thank them very much for giving our groups such a great visit. See some of our members below.

We would love more ladies to join us. We meet on the third Wednesday of every month at 2.30pm in the Church Rooms, Rectory Road, Coltishall. For more info email [shaunagh.kirby56@gmail.com](mailto:shaunagh.kirby56@gmail.com) tel 07722 491320.



Is your club or organisation planning an event, fun day, pre-loved sale or other community activity?

Would you be interested in talking to your local WI about tempting your participants and visitors with delicious homemade cakes and goodies?

Just get in touch on the contact details above if you fancy a chat.



[risingsuncoltishall.co.uk](http://risingsuncoltishall.co.uk)  
[manager@risingsuncoltishall.co.uk](mailto:manager@risingsuncoltishall.co.uk)  
01603 737440

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## It's April at the Museum of the Broads – and spring has sprung!

April is an interesting time when it comes to bringing the stories of the Broads alive. It was around 1912 that the holiday season on the Broads was ex-tended to include April, and hire boats and wherries were made available for Easter. Much later, in April 1989, the Broads Authority came into being, and that was a key moment in the story of the Broads. From there on the area would begin to see much more recognition as a unique location for wildlife, navigation, conservation and its sheer beauty.

Today, April on the Broads is a time when you might just catch the sound of a Bittern booming. Or see the first arrival of some of our summer migrant birds. Look out for sedge warblers. And look out for a day out with us at The Museum of the Broads. What better thing to do at Easter than pay us a visit?

### Spring Trail ~ Secret Signals! It's still open until April 12th from 10am – 4pm

Explore the museum and use your observational skills to discover 12 hidden messages and crack the secret code.

**Saturday 18th April from 10am – 4pm Crafts by the River ~ Suffolk Puffs!** Join textile artist Jo Couldrey and have a go at making your own traditional fabric brooch. Really good fun and really on trend!

### Take a Boat trip!

There's no better way to discover the people, landscape and wildlife of the Broads. Experience what makes the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads so special. (*Life jackets and buoyancy aids are provided. Please be aware that the wearing of life jackets is mandatory on Museum Boat Trips.*)

And, inside the Museum, there are loads of things to see and do. The new displays in The Surlingham Building are fantastic. And you have to see the films and photos that really do bring the story of holidays on The Broads to life.

We've been telling you a lot recently (we get very excited!) about all the changes and additions we've made to the museum. We've been pretty busy getting our communications up to speed too. You can follow our Facebook, Tik Tok, Instagram and YouTube channels for up to the minute news and behind the scenes glimpses into life at the museum.

But most importantly – come and see us! We're at **The Poor's Staithe, Stalham, NR12 9DA** – that's just off the A149 at the turning to Richardson's Boatyard.

We're open six days a week – Tuesday to Sunday. You're welcome. The kids are welcome (and if they're under 12 they get free entry to the Museum). The dog is welcome. What are you waiting for?

Check out all the details at [www.museumofthebroads.org.uk](http://www.museumofthebroads.org.uk)



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## PROBUS CLUB

### February 2026 meeting report

The meeting took place as usual at the Wroxham Hotel with a two-course meal. The stand-in Chairman Mike Watton handled a short discussion re Probuss Club business which included introducing a new member Andrew Mulligan who gave a brief resume of his working career. This included Aircraft Engineering in the RAF and his latter career in Finance. The members welcomed Andrew to the Club.

Following the meal members were entertained by guitar duo Airmail who provided a 40-minute presentation relating the early years of Hank Marvin (Brian Robson Rankin) and the history leading up to the formation of the Shadows. In addition to relating the history Airmail interspersed the talk by playing live the first eleven top-ten tunes from the band. These included the obvious Apache, with others such as Man of Mystery, Frightened City, Wonderful Land and Guitar Tango.

The talk was totally different to anything previously presented to the Club and the applause, after each number, demonstrated the members' enjoyment of the presentation. At the end members were keen to talk to the duo regarding later Shadows activities and how different guitar layouts create different sounds. Airmail explained that this was the first time they had provided a talk of this nature and hoped that it would be the first of many, especially as it seemed to have been appreciated by all present.

Airmail Duo can be contacted through their website [www.airmailduo.com](http://www.airmailduo.com).

Any retired or soon to retire professional businessmen, who are interested in joining the Club, should contact the Secretary **Clive Lockyer** tel 01603 737431 or email [lockyerhavana@sky.com](mailto:lockyerhavana@sky.com). Meetings are held over lunchtime on the last Wednesday of the month at the Wroxham Hotel.

Trevor Eady, Publicity Officer



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## Wroxham Hoveton Belaugh Twinning Association

At our committee meeting in March we caught up with everyone's preparations for the visit of our friends from La Pommeraye and Montjean-sur-Loire, 9th-15th August 2026 and it's all taking shape very nicely.

We're waiting for more information in Cromer when the season starts again at Easter but the reception and bus parking is now booked at Broadland School. Our boat tour on the Broads from Wroxham is all reserved as is our visit to a Norfolk Gin and Rum Distillery. We are using Hoveton Village Hall for our games and picnic and also for our dinner dance. We hope to have a list of French participants soon; they did have a meeting in early March so it should be on its way soon. Lots to keep us busy! A date for diaries also is Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July for pre-visit briefing and social evening.

In March our book group read "The Midnight Library" by Matt Haig, chosen by Phil. Our Book Club celebrated 20 years this February and thirteen of us had a celebratory lunch on 13<sup>th</sup> March at Fizz & Fromage in Hoveton – see page 10 in this issue of *The Marlpit*.

Pat can supply more information on the Book Club on email [pat.barkergreen@btinternet.com](mailto:pat.barkergreen@btinternet.com) or 07879 454052.

For more information generally, please contact our chairperson, Peter, on 01603 782733 or email [peter\\_c\\_milsted@talk21.com](mailto:peter_c_milsted@talk21.com)

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## Wroxham Bure Valley Rotary Club

As ever it is a busy time for our club and our members. By the time you read this we will have successfully completed running our annual Technology Tournament at Broadland High School Academy. It is an inter-house competition mainly for years 8 and 9, which involves teamwork, planning, problem-solving, and building working solutions to a technology based challenge.

We will also have taken part in a club visit to the East Anglia Air Ambulance in Norwich. It is a charity we have long supported, mainly through our Christmas collections, and this visit was very much a celebration – we are proud that our contributions to EAAA over the years are now more than £20,000!

Another local charity that receives regular support from our club is Brave Futures (formerly known as Fresh Starts, New Beginnings) – a Norfolk and Suffolk based charity who support youngsters who have been the subject of child sexual abuse. We recently welcomed Amy from the charity to give us an update on their excellent work, and were delighted to present a further donation of £500 to the charity. See Amy (right) with long-serving club member Rod Stone who has been a long term supporter of the Brave Futures charity.



Our regular Monday evening meetings continue with outside visits, business meetings and a varied and interesting programme of speaker meetings, all at Wroxham Barns. Please let us know if you fancy coming along.

You can also support us and the many local and international charities we donate to, through the Broadland Council Lottery Scheme – simply go online at [www.communityatheartlottery.com](http://www.communityatheartlottery.com) and sign up, selecting Wroxham Bure Valley Rotary Club as your chosen cause – or you can support us directly by visiting our page on the [www.totalgiving.co.uk](http://www.totalgiving.co.uk) website.

If you fancy joining us for a vibrant, sociable, active, and fun club experience, please contact our president, Chris Billing on 07555 171574.



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[dashingsweep@gmail.com](mailto:dashingsweep@gmail.com)



WROXHAM SOCIAL CLUB				
APRIL 2026 EVENTS				
DATE	EVENT	TIME	FOOD AVAILABLE	NOTES
Wed 1st APRIL	Play your Cards Right	2pm	Tea & Cake	
Sat 4th APRIL	Social	7 for 7.30pm	N/A	Easter Weekend
Wed 7th APRIL	Board Games	2pm	Tea & Cake	
Sat 11th APRIL	Cards/Whist	7 for 7.30pm	N/A	
Wed 14th APRIL	Trivial Pursuit	2pm	Tea & Cake	
Sat 18th APRIL	Quiz and Chips	7 for 7.30pm	Order in advance	See notice board
Wed 21st APRIL	Skyjo	2pm	Tea & Cake	
Sat 25th APRIL	Bingo	7 for 7.30 pm	N/A	
Wed 28th APRIL	University Challenge	2pm	Tea & Cake	

email: [margaretbridgford@btinternet.com](mailto:margaretbridgford@btinternet.com)  
 mob: 07866121990  
 email: [jeanbarnett@btinternet.com](mailto:jeanbarnett@btinternet.com)  
 mob: 07878189367

Please contact Margaret if you would like to book a table for Quiz and Chips (4 per team)

## Wroxham and Hoveton Lions Celebrate 50 Years of Service

On Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March, Lions from Great Yarmouth, Taverham, Norwich North Alpha, Coningsby, Attleborough and Wymondham, plus friends and family, joined members of Wroxham and Hoveton Lions Club to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of their Charter at The Old Rectory Hotel, Crostwick, Norwich. Hosted by the Club President PDG Dennis Moxon, this was the opportunity for the Club to reflect on the years of service to the local community and to recognise the service of one Lion in particular, Mike Barker, who is a founder member of the Club.

In his speech, PDG Dennis told the diners how the Club was founded and recounted its achievements over the years. He also drew attention to the two other longest serving members, himself and Lion Jim Lenihan, who have both notched up forty-five years of service. DG Chris Speed congratulated the members, past and present, on their record in his reply. He also presented Certificates of Appreciation to PDG Dennis and to Lion Mike, who received a standing ovation for this award. Another Certificate was presented to the Manager of our Charity Shop, Nadia Whiskin, for the staff and volunteers wonderful fundraising work. PDG Dennis then presented cheques to Jaime Speed, DG Chris' wife, for her Charity of choice and to the Joint Service Cadet Corps, towards the purchase of a new tent for their activities.

Our next fundraising event is the Craft Fair on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March at Hoveton Village Hall from 10am to 3pm.

The Club is always looking for new members to help us continue our service to the community. If you are able to spare a few hours a month, make new friends and have some fun, please go to our website: [www.wroxhamandhovetonlions.org](http://www.wroxhamandhovetonlions.org) for more information.

**Derick Bowler, PR Officer, Wroxham and Hoveton Lions Club CIO**

*Pictures clockwise from top left: L-R Mrs Lesley Moxon, District Governor Chris Speed, Lion President Dennis Moxon, Lion Jaime Speed; Lion Mike Barker and DG Chris Speed of Great Yarmouth Lions Club; Dennis with Lions Mike Barker and Jim Lenihan; DG Chris and Mrs Nadia Whiskin*

*Pictures by Lion Kelle Wallace of Wroxham and Hoveton Lions Club.*



### ANSWERS TO QUIZ ON PAGE 30

1. Monty Python's Flying Circus
2. Bob Monkhouse
3. Joseph Heller
4. Hades
5. Ronseal
6. Hajj
7. Lord Haw Haw
8. Terry Pratchett
9. Kuala Lumpur
10. Countdown
11. Eric Idle
12. Foxhunting
13. Omega
14. Heron
15. 1992
16. Gold Coast
17. Raita
18. Glenn Campbell
19. Bridge on the River Kwai
20. Grappa

# Directory And Useful Numbers

## Coltishall Village Hall

### Monday

Community Yoga (9-10am)  
(Term time) Rainbows (5-6pm)  
Brownies (6.15-7.45pm)

### Tuesday

Zumba Debbie Priddy (6.05-6.50pm)  
Vibes Fitness (7-8pm)

### Wednesday

Community Yoga (1.45-2.45pm)  
Short Mat Bowls (7-9pm)

### Thursday (Term time)

Funky Feet Acrobatics (4-7.30pm)

### Bookings for Hall

- Regular hire £7.50 per hour
- Casual one-off hire - £14 per hour
- Saturday and Sunday 9am-midnight £200; Evening 6pm-midnight £100

For bookings and enquiries contact  
clerk@coltishall-pc.gov.uk

## Coltishall Church Rooms

**Monday** • Girl Guides (6.30-8.30pm)

**Tuesday** • Coltishall Parish Council (6.30-8pm)  
1st Tuesday of the month

**Wednesday** • Community Lunch Club (12.30-1.45pm) • Coltishall & Horstead WI (3rd Wed 2.30-4.30pm)

### Coltishall Parochial Church Council Church Rooms hire rates 2024

Regular user £8.50 per hour, one-off user £14 per hour, 3-hr session £30 per session. For more information call Joan Milligan 01603 737270 or Linda Malpas 01603 738629

## Our representatives

**Jerome Mayhew MP** (Broadland & Fakenham)  
01603 865763 jerome.mayhew.mp@parliament.uk

**Steff Aqualone MP** (North Norfolk) 07879 451608  
steffaqualone@gmail.com

**Fran Whymark** (Norfolk County Councillor) 07907 163123 clr.fran.  
whymark@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

**Jo Copplestone** (Broadland District Councillor)  
01603 860840 clr.  
jo.copplestone@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

## Horstead Tithe Barn

### Monday

Yoga 10.30am Melissa Humphrey  
melissatheblissfullyogi@gmail.com  
Badminton (7-9.30pm)  
Carl Tipple 07399 738399

### Tuesday

Create & Share Craft Group  
Sylvia Coward 01603 737917 or 737609  
(2nd Tues 2pm-4.30pm)

### Wednesday

Tiddlers Baby & Toddler Group  
John Hindley 01603 737974  
(10am-11.30am Term Time)  
Horstead Parish Council Meeting (2nd Wed 6.30pm)

### Thursday

Yoga 6.15pm Melissa Humphrey  
melissatheblissfullyogi@gmail.com  
Gong Baths Jackie Hewitt 07519 934091 www.healing-possibilities.com

### Friday

Short Mat Bowls (7.30-9.30pm)  
Carl Tipple 07399 7383990

### Saturday

Craft Group (2nd Sat 10-4pm) 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat 10-4 karen\_rhodes50@yahoo.co.uk

### Bookings for the Hayloft

£17.50 per 3-hour session or  
£8 per hour for shorter periods

### Bookings for the Main Barn

Full or part-day sessions on Sat/Sun @ full day rate £275 9am-12pm (15 hrs).  
Part-day sessions £16.50 p/hr.  
Saturday evening (6-12pm) £137.50  
Mornings or afternoons on weekdays @ £16.50 per hour with a minimum booking of two hours.  
Bar by Request.

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### For booking & enquiries:

Sue Blackburn 01603 737495 sue@blackburn99.free-online.co.uk www.horsteadtithebarn.wordpress.com

## Useful numbers

**Police** (non emergency) 101  
sntaylsham@norfolk.pnn.police.uk

**Crimestoppers** 0800 555 111

**Broadland High School** 01603 782715

**Coltishall Primary School** 01603 737481

**Citizens Advice Bureau**  
(Norwich) 08001448848

**Dial-A-Ride Community Transport**  
01692 500840

**Coltishall Medical Practice**  
01603 737593

**Coltishall Pharmacy** 01603 736784

**Coltishall Commons Management Trust**  
Tricia Graysmark 07718065192

**Community Lunch Club**  
Joan Milligan 01603 737270

**Dementia Cafe**  
Making Connections 07513 183769

**Good Neighbours** 07799 277455

**Coltishall Tree Warden**  
Peter Croot 01603 737427  
Michael spinks 01603 737332

**Horstead Trust**  
Tony Nicholls 01603 737728  
horsteadpoorstrust@gmail.com

**Post Office**  
Coltishall Village Hall car park  
Mondays only, 1pm-2.15pm  
Badersfield Convenience Store  
01603 737654

**Horstead Tithe Barn**  
Community Association  
Chair: Luke Blackburn 07392 605735

## Sports & Hobbies

**Ash & Barton Wanderers Cricket Club**  
Jordan Everett  
joeverett333@gmail.com

**Ayisham Chess Club**  
Jonathan Reeve 01263 733744

**Badminton Club**  
Carl Tipple 07399 738399

**Broadland Chess Club**  
Roy Hughes 07512 71579  
broadlandchessclub@gmail.com

**Bure Valley Youth Football**  
Ted McCarter 07760 424264

**Coltishall Cricket Club**  
Kevin Fisher 07849 275888

**Coltishall Jaguars Running Club**  
01603 737262  
coltishalljaguars.co.uk

**Coltishall PF Bowls**  
Andy Shingles 01603 788804

**Horning Bridge Club**  
Ron Hunt 01603 781416

**North Norfolk Viking Swimming Club**  
John Holden  
info@norfolkvikings.co.uk

**Short Mat Bowls (Coltishall)**  
Dave Hurrell 07833 336752

**Wroxham Flower Club**  
Joanne Young 07709424493  
wroxhamflowerclub55@gmail.com

**Wroxham Folk Dance Club**  
Rod Purdy 01603 897299

**Yoga (Coltishall & Hoveton)**  
Lucy 07880 702080  
harberlucy@gmail.com

## Youth

**1st Buxton Lamas Sea Scouts**  
Sonia Gray: 1stbuxtonlamas@gmail.com

**1<sup>st</sup> Hoveton & Wroxham Sea Scouts**  
Hughes 01692 630688

**1st Coltishall Brownies**  
browniescoltishall@hotmail.com

**Broadland Tot 2 Teens Club**  
Nicola Pye 01603 430525

**1<sup>st</sup> Coltishall Guides**  
Ellie Ashby 07944 780421  
Suzie Bielby 07787 850198

**Coltishall & Horstead Preschool**  
07539 928124 coltishall.preschool@gmail.com

**1<sup>st</sup> Coltishall Rainbows**  
Sarah Walker 07787 629688  
rainbowscoltishall@gmail.com

**Coltishall & Horstead Youth Forum**  
Mike Warren 01603 738332  
**Hautbois Rangers**  
Gina brown 07775 520911 girlguidinggina@gmail.com

## Interests

**Buxton & District WI**  
Vereen Marcer 07867 927338  
vereen.marcer@gmail.com

**Buxton Photographic Club**  
**John Nield**  
buxtonphotographicclub.co.uk

**Coltishall Allotments Association**  
Robert Oakes 07789 763793

**Coltishall & Horstead WI**  
Shaunagh Kirby 07722 491320

**Coltishall Bell Ringers**  
Mike Gander 01603738788  
oldringer@outlook.com

**Create & Share crafts**  
Sylvia Coward 01603 737917  
or 01603 737609

**Films at Frettenham**  
Sandra & Rob Curston 07863 433399  
frettenhamvillagehall@gmail.com

**Friends of Colt & Spixworth Surgeries**  
Maureen Neal 01603 897506

**Friends of Coltishall Church**  
Linda Malpas 01603 738629  
lindamalpas@gmail.com

**North Norfolk Speakers Club**  
Stuart 07775 793999  
**Probus Club of Broadland**  
Clive Lockyer 01603 737431

**RAF Coltishall Heritage Centre**  
Merv Cousens 07933 396021

**Rotary Club of Wroxham Bure Valley**  
Chris Billing 07555 171574

**Royal British Legion**  
Gordon Jenkins 07594 625469

**Wroxham & District USA**  
Jan Barrington 01603 712150

**Wroxham & Hoveton Lions Club**  
www.wroxhamandhovetonlions.org

**Wroxham Hoveton & Belauagh  
Twinning Association**  
Liz Powell 07484 897754

**Wroxham Social Club**  
Linda Iaccarino 07818 817505



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