

The Marlpit

MAY 2026

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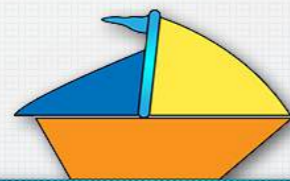
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in the Village Hall**

Welcome to your Magazine

Welcome to May. What a beautiful month it is: bank holidays, half term for the schools and so many events to get everyone out and about to enjoy (hopefully) our warm weather. This month we have some great features on local wildlife. Our front cover image is courtesy of Action for Swifts based at the previous RAF Coltishall base and image taken by Robert Booth. Norfolk Wildlife Trust are visiting Coltishall over the next couple of months so do go and visit them, they will be on the green next to Piece of Cake. See page 10 for more details.

This month is also a crucial month in terms of political aspects. You will have all received your voting cards and it's so important to use your right to vote, particularly with the changes to the Council and the joining of areas with Norfolk and Suffolk.

We have the fabulous Rainbow Run again this year, in June raising vital money for the local school, and also a village fete for Coltishall in June, managed by the Coltishall Pre-school.

Enjoy our beautiful area. Wishing you a very happy May.

Tricia and the Marlpit team

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COVER PICTURE: Swifts in flight. Photo courtesy Robert Booth. See page 5

TOP RIGHT: Wild flowers greet the spring in Horstead churchyard. See page 11

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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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HELP for HEROES



Dear Marlpit readers

I was encouraged to contact you about a new café and drop-in event that I will be hosting every first Thursday of the month for the Armed Forces Community. The first event will take place on 2nd April, from 10:00 AM to 13:00 PM at Coltishall Village Hall.

Missing the feeling of community? We get it – and so do the rest of our veterans and families who come along. Join us for a brew and a chat. No sign up required, just rock up, no fuss. If you know another veteran or family member who could use a bit of the same, bring them along too!

Suitable for veterans and family members.

Led by the Help for Heroes team.

For any information, please contact us at CommunityDT@helpforheroes.org.uk

Many thanks

Simone Ward

Community Builder (Norwich) Help for Heroes

Email: simone.ward@helpforheroes.org.uk



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Saving our Swifts

Are you captivated by our cover picture this month of visitors now returning from Africa?

Did you know that swifts – one of our most loved and iconic summer breeding species – have decreased by 70% in the last 35 years?

We are a local company based at the old RAF base called Action for Swifts Trading. We sell and manufacture a range of bricks and boxes and work with developers to try and encourage inclusion of swift, bird and bat boxes in new builds. Over the last few years we have supplied over 30,000 nesting spaces for swifts!

We operate as a fundraising arm for swift conservation around the UK, so we help fund community projects, literature and school projects around the country to try and stop the decline of our swifts.

We are part of the Swift local network, who have 170+ groups around the country and local ones in Aylsham and Norwich to name a couple.

In Coltishall we are lucky to have a few swift colonies (Rectory Road is quite a sight in summer!) and we have worked with developers Crocus to install swift and bat boxes in the new Bure Gardens development, and also they have funded boxes which we put up at the primary school.

Becky Ingham, Chief Executive Officer, Action for Swifts Trading Ltd

Tel: 07535 270077 Email: becky@actionforswifts.com

Website: www.actionforswifts.com Connect with us on : LinkedIn | Facebook | Instagram

2026 – Schoolreaders and The National Year of Reading

By Penny Hubbard, Norfolk County Ambassador for Schoolreaders

Change the lives of our local children through love of reading

Following our articles in February and March highlighting the Government's National Year of Reading, we encourage you to spare an hour or two a week to make a huge difference for local children.



The literacy charity, Schoolreaders, has been sending volunteers into primary schools to provide much needed reading support for over 10 years and are looking for volunteers in our area.

One in four children are leaving primary school unable to read to the expected standard. This means they are unable to fully participate in their secondary education, which can have lifelong consequences. There are currently 6.6 million adults in the UK who are classed as functionally illiterate, and would struggle when reading a medicine packet or bus timetable. Intervening early, particularly in areas of disadvantage where children may most need this support, can make all the difference to a child not becoming part of that statistic.

Research also suggests that children who are most engaged with reading and writing are three times more likely to have higher levels of mental wellbeing than children who are the least engaged.

As the largest in-school literacy charity in the country, Schoolreaders recruits, places and assists volunteers to go into local primary schools and provide FREE, weekly, one-to-one reading support for children, prioritising those who need this extra help the most.

One quarter of primary schools are registered with Schoolreaders requesting volunteers. They currently support more than 35,000 children one-to-one every week. Last year they delivered one million reading support sessions and have pledged to deliver one and a half million sessions in The National Year of Reading. Could you be one of their volunteers?

Jane Whitbread, the founder of Schoolreaders says: "Reading out loud helps children develop their vocabulary and pronunciation and enables our volunteers to correct mispronunciation or gently check that a child understands what a word means. It opens discussion, increases a child's confidence and develops a love of reading. Reading enjoyment is the largest indicator of future success. The wonderful thing about what we do is that everyone benefits – the children enjoy reading – the schools are very grateful for the extra resource, and the volunteers get fulfilment from seeing they are really making a difference. It also gives children valuable time with an adult who is not a teacher or parent which aids their social skills."

Penny Hubbard, author of this article and volunteer Norfolk County Ambassador, reads in Hunstanton primary school for two hours a week and confirms this from her own experience.

"It is a win-win for everyone – reading with the children is one of the most rewarding things I have ever done. I love seeing how they progress and the confidence they gain. It is particularly special when a child starts off being reluctant to read out loud but after a few weeks is racing to raise their hand to be first. The teachers give me a wide range of abilities to read with – they decide who they think will benefit the most from the one-to-one time. Some have no reading practice at home – perhaps because their parent(s) cannot read themselves or are too busy; some need their confidence built up and others are suggested because they are quiet and can get overlooked. The teachers do an amazing job but are really grateful for the extra help."

Schoolreaders has already partnered with 57 schools in Norfolk. It is looking for more volunteers who can commit for a year, but the school will usually be flexible if you have a holiday booked during term time.

Penny continues: "Schoolreaders make the process very easy. You apply online at www.schoolreaders.org to tell them a bit about yourself and how far you are able to travel (some people want to walk to school but I was happy to drive up to fifteen minutes) You have a short telephone interview with one of the friendly team and they match you to a local school whose timetable suits the time you are available."

"There is a short online safeguarding course, and the school will also brief you on their safeguarding policies; but it isn't complicated and you will read in a public space (I read in the library area). The school will help you complete a DBS check which is free for volunteers. The Schoolreaders team offer support, top tips and answer any questions. You do not need to be a teacher – simply have a good grasp of English and enjoy reading. There is a private Facebook page where volunteers share experiences and advice and there is always someone on hand to answer questions. It is a supportive community and best of all – it is great fun!"

If you are interested in volunteering or supporting Schoolreaders they would love to hear from you.

www.schoolreaders.org



Penny goes into school once a week to read with children – photo credit Jo Anthony

A reminder for Marlpit readers from Coltishall Primary School that you can also express interest in volunteering as a Reading Champion at the school by emailing the school office on office@coltishall.norfolk.sch.uk.

Home, residential and sheltered library service

Our local Home Library Service provides a books on wheels service to the homes of people who like to use the library but are unable to get to a branch or mobile library due to age, disability or mobility. The service is totally free.

Thanks to volunteers from the Royal Voluntary Service books are delivered on a set day, on a regular monthly basis. The borrower fills in a short questionnaire about their personal likes, favourite authors, subjects that they are most interested in, and whether they need books to be provided in standard or Large Print or even as audio books on CD. The library issues the books to the borrower's library card. The library then removes the books from their card when they are returned via the volunteer. There are no overdue fines with items issued through this service, and there are also no hire charges for audio books.

The service can prove to be valuable for the recipient but also rewarding for the volunteers delivering the books. One of the volunteers offered some of her experiences and thoughts about the service, and what she felt it means to those she visits.

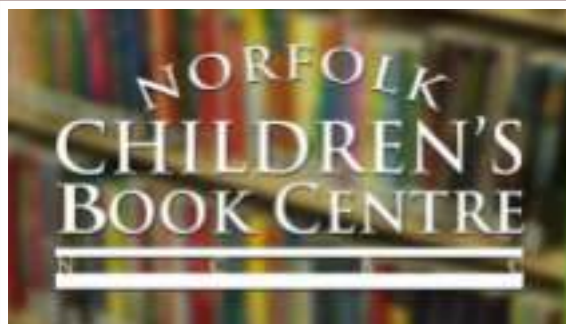
"The home library service is really appreciated by the people I visit, not just for the obvious thing, a nice monthly selection of books to read and enjoy but also a chance to have a friendly chat. I often get to do some small things for them like opening a bottle or tin that they can't manage to open, making a cup of tea, or even picking up some dropped stitches in their knitting when their sight isn't very clear."

"I've made many long-lasting friendships. I've been greeted with cups of tea, freshly dug vegetables from their garden and I've also been given homemade jam and plants for my garden! But most of all, it has been just seeing the genuine appreciation and pleasure people get from a regular visit with a new selection of books. I do love my job."

"I feel that some of them are almost part of my family. I've worried over them, celebrated with them including a hundredth birthday, met visiting relations, and listened to their news. But most of all it is the satisfaction that I am providing a useful service to someone who is housebound, and as you can see both parties benefit from this free service offered by the library."

If you are someone who might benefit from the home library service, or you know of someone who might, contact Wroxham Library on 01603 782560 to ask to be added to a local delivery route.

Or visit the Royal Voluntary Service website, www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk if you would like to volunteer to help deliver the Home Library Service.



Norfolk Children's Book Centre is moving this summer!

Award-winning independent children's bookshop Norfolk Children's Book Centre (NCBC) (featured in the April issue of *Maripit*) is delighted to announce that they are moving to Wroxham Barns this summer! After 40 years in the current location in Alby, in the garden of owner Marilyn Brocklehurst, the bookshop is moving, and ownership is passing to Marilyn's sons, Matt and Tom Brocklehurst.

Bookshop manager, Annie Rhodes, has been planning the move since the building the bookshop currently resides in went on the market in 2025 – and Matt Brocklehurst secured a new home for the bookshop at Wroxham Barns! Annie says: "We are thrilled to move our business to an exciting and bustling location with many attractions and facilities that our customers can enjoy alongside the bookshop. We hope that our friends and customers will join us on our next chapter, and that many people will discover the delights of NCBC for the first time at Wroxham Barns."

Ian Russell, Owner of Wroxham Barns adds: "We're absolutely delighted to welcome the Norfolk Children's Book Centre to Wroxham Barns this summer. As a much-loved, independent business with 40 years of history, their move from Alby marks an exciting new chapter, and we're proud to be part of that journey. Their passion for inspiring young readers and families perfectly complements what we offer here at Wroxham Barns, and we know they will be a fantastic addition for our younger visitors. We're looking forward to seeing them thrive in their new home and to the joy they will bring to so many families."

NCBC will remain open to all customers at the shop in Alby until the end of May, for the May half term holidays. Then the team will begin to pack for the move in June, with an opening date in the summer to be announced.

NCBC are launching a crowdfunder to help raise the funds to move the bookshop to Wroxham Barns. They aim to raise £40,000 to mark the 40 year anniversary this year. An exciting list of rewards will be on offer to those who feel able to donate. A programme of events to celebrate the 40 year anniversary will be forthcoming in Autumn 2026.

Crowdfunder link: <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/norfolk-childrens-book-centre>

Annie Rhodes tel: 01263 761402 **annie@ncbc.co.uk** Instagram/Facebook: @norfolkchildrensbooks



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LANDSCAPES

Springing into 2026 in Horstead

By Lucy Care

There are few more beautiful experiences than spring in Broadland. The soft colours of early snowdrops, primroses and violets and the triumphant phalanxes of daffodils streaming down the side of the Norwich Road in Horstead. The sudden clamour of birds' voices as they mate, build their nests and raise young all within a couple of months. It is easy to miss spring when we are so busy and occupied to pay attention.

Why is it important to make time? For our own wellbeing and to deepen that sense of home, of connection, that links us all to the land. Deepening our connections to Creation and the Creator is one good reason for some of our Eco Church activities at Horstead Church this year. The church has always celebrated and prayed for the land with Lammas and Rogationtide and the more familiar Harvest Festivals but Eco Church, a national movement to encourage conservation, acknowledges that our wildlife and lands are in crisis and that churches have very special untouched pieces of land in every parish that are open to all. It is part of our service as Christians to strive to maintain the integrity of creation and all that sustains and renews the life of the earth.

Firstly, we are continuing our popular Community Activity days with the Horstead Centre with our first one on **July 31st** and the second in autumn half term. Look out for details and book early for the outdoor adventurous activities at the Horstead Centre or pop along to the church for a more relaxed approach! Both days will continue to explore the beautiful places on our doorstep and their history and crafts. In July will hold our eco boat race on the river again.

Secondly, we have planned a shared community garden in the churchyard between the Horstead Centre and the Church. This will be filled with plants to encourage wildlife, sunny and shady spots to sit. There will be plants we use including woad and other natural dye plants that the weavers of Horstead would have used. Alongside this we plan raised beds for growing herbs and sensory plants.

The younger visitors to the Horstead Centre, a proportion of whom are children from city schools, will have a chance to pick herbs and learn why we need all sorts of plants and have a quiet place of calm and reflection as some of them can find their first trip away from home rather scary and overwhelming.

Last October we made a start with planting with some young visitors on a Community Activities Day. The cowslips are blooming and the foxgloves and bluebells are doing well. The plants will all spread and diversify the already rich range of native plants on site. See below (left to right) our cowslips, cherry garden and jack in pulpit.

For the large number of dog walkers, hikers, paddleboarders and wild swimmers who use our churchyard paths, there will be a space to sit and have a muddle or just enjoy the view. Our church and churchyard are open and enjoyed by lots of people, and all are always welcome. We are still raising the money for railway sleepers and benches but we can start with planting now.

Our History Group is working on a detailed survey of the graves in the churchyard which has produced some lovely stories – from the memorial to a lady who was a faithful nanny to one family to the heart-wrenching family graves of some of those killed in war. There are so many stories here that we plan to do tours and research and tell the stories in October. If you would like to help then please get in touch.

We also need some more willing volunteers to help with the garden – especially when we have enough money to build the raised beds. We are starting this April in the wildlife area and by the time you read this the bare bones of the garden will be in place! Do come along and see what's happening, we meet next on the **22nd May at 11am** and the third Friday of every month thereafter.

Last but not least, we are hosting another 'Wildflower identification Workshop' led by Lucy Seeley of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust from 10 until 12 on the **12th June**. Lucy surveys churchyard wildlife all over the county and is an expert on the species we can find here. **Please contact me to book as places are limited.**

Lucy Care, pastongriffin@gmail.com, Churchwarden, Horstead All Saints



The Norfolk Wildlife Trust has planned visits to Coltishall on 16/05/26 and 04/07/26. Setting up on the green next to the fabulous A Piece of Cake Tearoom, the team will be spending the day sharing insights into the wonderful work they carry out across the county. They'll be showcasing the beautiful natural spaces we're so fortunate to have – places where we can truly connect with nature – as well as highlighting the fantastic support already in place and the opportunities to get involved. Do come along for a friendly chat with our fundraiser, who will be delighted to talk with you about the great work the Trust does and how you can be part of it.

Norfolk Wildlife Trust has been protecting and restoring Norfolk's nature since 1926. Today, we manage over 60 nature reserves and other key sites for nature across the county. With the help of our supporters, we create, maintain, and protect habitats which nurture a thriving variety of wildlife, including some of Norfolk's rarest species. We are dedicated to inspiring more people to connect with and take action for nature; through visiting our nature reserves, volunteering, or joining us as a member.

In 2026, we mark 100 years of supporting Norfolk's nature. We hope you'll join us to celebrate this memorable year!

A century of 'battling on' for Coltishall Cricket Club

By Richard Gill

The cricket season is now upon us, barely noticed other than by hard-bittern enthusiasts and those paid to play the game who will have enjoyed the recent sunshine of early April. But the phrase 'flanneled fools' was not coined without good reason, and that will probably mean bitterly cold and/or wet conditions will soon return.

Nevertheless, it seemed a good time to arrange a meeting with members of our local Coltishall Cricket Club in the persons of Kevin Fisher, John Buttifant and Glen Minter. We met in the Red Lion pub, which is where Coltishall CC gather to reflect after home fixtures, to look ahead to the new season and look back into the Club's past.

Glen I already knew and can recall facing up to him as he opened the bowling for Carrow Cricket Club at the old county ground at Lakenham sometime back in the 1980's. He is still playing, if only occasionally, and operating now at slightly reduced pace. Glen played his first game for Coltishall in, he thinks, 1976, and he has not played his last.

Kevin Fisher is the Club captain. I was almost inclined to describe him as long suffering but that would be to gainsay the enthusiasm and persistence that has sustained him in that role for nearly 25 years. 25 years? Anybody who has been involved in amateur team sport will recognise the qualities required to fulfil the duties of team captain for so long. For very nearly as long John Buttifant has been senior player and support to Kevin and it is entirely fair to say that without the contributions of these three men it is unlikely there would be a Coltishall Cricket Club today.

Cricketers by nature are given to reminiscence: players, matches, incidents from the past are all recalled, usually fondly. The club is more than 100 years old in various guises. There was the merger with Hellesdon CC in 1991, becoming Coltishall & Hellesdon CC, but was short-lived and on the death of Hellesdon founder Peter Taylor MBE, Coltishall reverted back to its original identity. In 2001 there was success on the field as the Club were winners of Division 1 of the Norfolk League, merged with Wanderers from Barton Turf and joined the Norfolk Cricket Alliance. No small achievement this, for a small club. Subsequently there was a second merger, with

HOME FIXTURES THIS SEASON

5/2/26 Coltishall v Rackheath
5/16/26 Coltishall v Great Melton B
5/23/26 Coltishall v Gillingham
6/6/26 Coltishall v Cringleford
6/20/26 Coltishall v Eye & District
7/11/26 Coltishall v Kirkley & Belton A
7/25/26 Coltishall v Ashmanhaugh & Barton Wanderers B
8/15/26 Coltishall v Caister
8/29/26 Coltishall v Sprowston C

Coltishall Cricket Club is approximately 115 years old, impressive for a small village club, but there is very little history other than the observations of older club members.

The Marlpit would be delighted to hear from anybody who could shed some light on the early days of the club, or of their own recollections either as player, administrator or spectator. There is a suggestion that the club at one time played on land opposite the Recruiting Sergeant and subsequently occupied by the Bowls club. Can anybody verify this?

Ashmanhaugh CC, at which point Coltishall took the decision to become an independent club again, and so it has remained.

Which is not without its difficulties: small club, limited local recruitment, without the more extensive facilities enjoyed by the likes of Horsford, Ashmanhaugh or Aylsham St. Giles. All of which means getting 11 players on the field on a Saturday afternoon week after week throughout the season represents something of an achievement in itself. Scarcely credible then that in 2010, to commemorate the club's centenary, Coltishall hosted a team representing MCC, the venerable Marylebone Cricket Club, responsible for overseeing the development of the game from Georgian times.

Significantly, Kevin credits the influx of players of Indian and Pakistani extraction with the ability to maintain the status of not just Coltishall but Norfolk League clubs generally. In the Norfolk League there exists a loan system whereby a club facing a shortage in numbers for a given fixture can loan a player from another club to make up the numbers. Kevin made the observation that in those circumstances in either India or Pakistan there would be a dozen or more people wanting to take up the vacancy. The conclusions to be drawn from this are obvious and inescapable: there is not the depth of enthusiasm for the game among the young that there has been in previous generations, again for fairly obvious reasons. It might have helped if Ben Stokes's England team had triumphed Down Under this last winter, just as the Ashes-winning summer of 2005 saw a resurgence in interest, but they were well short.

Great appreciation was expressed for the work of Robert Snelling in preparing and maintaining the ground (and especially the pitch) and for the active support of Coltishall Parish Council. The ground is an attractive and welcoming venue for a village cricket team and spectators and/or would-be cricketers will be made very welcome on a Saturday afternoon (see home fixture list below).

Ultimately, Coltishall will prevail, somehow, as they always have. Glen summed it up: "Numbers will always be an issue. Battle on, do our best."

To find out more about Coltishall Cricket Club

contact

Kevin Fisher on 07592 533060

HORSTEAD WITH STANNINGHALL PARISH COUNCIL'S

NEWSLETTER

www.horstead-pc.gov.uk

clerk@horstead-pc.gov.uk

07476 952824

ANNUAL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Over the past year, the Parish Council has focused on keeping Horstead safe, attractive, and well maintained while responding to growing pressures. We welcomed Cllr Jack Lenton and have used working groups to improve progress, with opportunities for residents to get involved.

Key work includes safety improvements at Horstead Mill following last year's tragedy, installation of CCTV, environmental maintenance, and ongoing lease discussions. Speedwatch recorded 437 offences across Horstead and Coltishall, supporting road safety efforts.

The playing field has been maintained despite challenges, with new equipment funded by the National Lottery. A new bus shelter is already benefiting residents, and further improvements are planned.

The pond and surrounding areas have been maintained, with steps underway to adopt it as a parish asset. We've also welcomed new businesses and supported community initiatives. The war memorial has been restored, and discussions continue on Horstead Common.

Community events, including the VE Day Anniversary and Defibrillator Training, have been well supported, with a summer fete planned.

Thank you to all councillors, volunteers, partners, and our Clerk Becky Furr for their hard work.

SUCCESSFUL GRANT FUNDING

We are grateful to the National Lottery Community Fund for awarding a £1,700 grant, which has enabled the replacement of the worn A-frame climber in the play area.

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 13th May 2026

6.30pm

Tithe Barn

You are warmly welcome to attend!

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Matthew Stevenson (Chair) - 07837 906708

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

Ian Tebble - 07960 021451

Highbury, Buxton Road, NR12 7EX

Philippa Weightman - 01603 737962

1 Stanninghall Cottages, Stanninghall Road,

NR12 7LY

Becky Furr (Parish Clerk) 2 Hall Cottages, The

Windle, Acle, NR13 3JT - 07476 952824



Broadgrace Church and The Coltishall Group of Parishes welcomed in Easter with a beautiful service, very early on Sunday 5th April in Coltishall

Thanks to John Hindley of Broadgrace Church and Rev Joanna for creating an event to recognise Easter Sunday which was held on the green of the Rising Sun in Coltishall. Many people arrived ready for 6am and warmed themselves up with tea, coffee and pastries following a heart warming service including some classic hymns and presentations from some local residents.

The Easter candle was lit and burned bright for the rest of the service



It was a busy day for both John and Rev Joanna as they went on to do further services in their respective churches to continue the Easter Services.

Regular services in the local churches welcome everyone



Our new state-of-the-art North Walsham Clinic is now open.

After 125 years providing outstanding veterinary services, our new North Walsham clinic is the home of 21st Century healthcare for your pets.

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Community is Medicine

The month of May is here, and spring is in full bloom. The days are longer, gardens are coming to life, and there is a noticeable sense of energy in our villages. It's the time of year when we noticeably spend more time outdoors, reconnect with neighbours, and take part in local activities. And that brings us to this month's theme: **CONNECTION**.

As part of our Lifestyle Medicine series, we've been exploring the key pillars that support our health. One of the most powerful and often underestimated is social connection. Simply put, **community is medicine**.

Why Connection Matters

We are not designed to live in isolation. Strong social connections are linked to better mental health, improved heart health, stronger immune systems, and even longer life expectancy. On the other hand, loneliness and social isolation can have a significant impact on both physical and emotional wellbeing.

In clinic, I often see how much difference it makes when someone feels supported, whether by family, friends, neighbours, or community groups.

Connection doesn't have to mean large gatherings or busy schedules. It can be as simple as:

- A regular chat with a neighbour
- A walk with a friend
- Attending a local group or service
- Spending time with family

These small moments add up.

Our Local Community

One of the great strengths of Coltishall and Spixworth area is the sense of community around us. From local churches and village halls to walking groups and community events, there are many opportunities to connect.

For some, it may be volunteering. For others, it may be joining a class, attending a coffee morning, or simply making more time for the people already in their lives.

If you've been feeling a bit isolated, this time of year offers a gentle opportunity to re-engage.

Movement and Connection Together

You may remember from the article in March that movement is medicine. When we combine movement with connection, the benefits are even greater. A "walk and talk" with a friend, a gardening group, or a gentle exercise class can improve both physical and mental wellbeing at the same time.

A Gentle Reminder

We all go through seasons of life where connection feels easier or harder. Reaching out can sometimes feel like the most difficult step, but it is often the most important one. If you are supporting someone who may be feeling isolated, a small gesture such as a call, a visit or an invitation can make a significant difference.

CONNECTION CHALLENGE FOR MAY

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

- Arrange a walk or coffee with a friend or neighbour
- Join a local group, class or community activity
- Check in on someone you haven't spoken to in a while
- Spend dedicated, device-free time with family

Start with one simple step. Connection doesn't need to be complicated. It just needs to be intentional. As always, if you are struggling with loneliness or low mood, please do speak to us at the surgery. We are here to help and can also signpost to local support.

Small connections. Big impact.

Warm wishes,
Dr Olumide Ayodele, GP Partner, Coltishall & Spixworth Surgeries

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*weather permitting



COLTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL

www.coltishall-pc.gov.uk

✉ clerk@coltishall-pc.gov.uk

April has been a steady month with a focus on practical improvements around the village.

The new summerhouse is now in place on the allotments and looks very inviting. A replacement fence has been installed below the cricket nets; the cricket nets themselves have also been re-tied to help prevent balls from straying into adjacent properties.

We have had continued discussions with Crocus Homes regarding a proposed footpath alongside the football pitch, which would provide a route to the school gate to protect the playing surface of the football pitch.

The annual playground inspection has been completed and passed, with only a few minor cosmetic items identified for attention.

The Parish Council is also pleased to be contributing towards the Preschool's upcoming Family Friday.

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Evening rates 6pm - midnight: £100

Next Parish Council Meeting

The next **Coltishall Parish Council Meeting** will be on
At **6.30pm Church Rooms, Rectory Road**

Wednesday 6th May 2026

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.young@coltishall-pc.gov.uk

Greg Young

clr.young@coltishall-pc.gov.uk



We're excited to announce the opening of our new mini showroom right here on Coltishall High Street. As a local window company, this space gives residents the chance to see our products up close, get a feel for the quality, and have a friendly chat with our team about any upcoming projects.

Whether you're considering new windows, doors, or just looking for some advice, we'd love to welcome you in and be part of improving homes in our local community.



DEADLINE for all contributions to the June issue of The Marpit is **FRIDAY 15th MAY.**

See our contact details on page 3.

Please also check your club information in our Useful Numbers list on page 39 and send us any updates.

Thank you.

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May: A Month for Pilgrimage

Rev'd Joanna Haywood

I love May. It's a month that feels gently on the move – longer days, blossom along the hedgerows, and a sense that we're being nudged outdoors again. So it's a good time to think about pilgrimage: that ancient practice of setting out on a journey with intention and prayer.

We might imagine pilgrimage means travelling miles, making big plans, or visiting famous places. But at its heart, pilgrimage isn't really about distance so much as direction. It's about choosing to step away from the everyday and paying attention: to God, to one another, and to the world around us.

Every pilgrimage begins with a simple decision: to go. Not because we have to, but because we want to seek something more. Along the way, there's space for conversation and for silence, for noticing birdsong, wildflowers, or the familiar path that somehow looks new. There's usually laughter too – and maybe the odd sore foot – and often a welcome cup of tea at the end.

That's very much the spirit behind our Mini Pilgrimage on Saturday 23rd May. No flights, no special kit, and (hopefully) no blisters. Just a gentle, accessible walk with pauses along the way for short reflections and prayers. We may not be travelling far, but we will be setting out together with purpose. You don't need to be especially fit or especially holy – just willing.

We'll gather at Horstead Church at 10.30am then walk through the village and along footpaths to Coltishall, on to Great Hautbois and the ruin at St Theobald's, before finishing at Coltishall Church – with lunch to look forward to. There will be options to join for part of the journey if that suits you better.

Pilgrimage reminds us that faith is not static. That we are people on a journey. As individuals and as a church community, we are always becoming, always learning, always walking towards God even if we sometimes take the scenic route.

Bring comfortable shoes, perhaps a waterproof (this is still England!), and an open heart. Whether you enjoy quiet reflection or good conversation, you'll be very welcome. Do get in touch for more details.

After all, every journey begins with a single step. Why not take one with us this May?

With every blessing
Rev'd Joanna

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

Services across the Group - all are welcome
May 2026

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

Sunday 10 May
9.30am Morning Worship: Hainford Church
11.00am Holy Communion: Horstead Church
4.00pm Rogation Service: Blessing the growing crops, Frettenham Church

Thursday 14 May
7.00pm Ascension Day Holy Communion: Horstead Church

Sunday 17 May
9.30am Holy Communion: Hainford Church
11.00am Holy Communion: Coltishall Church

Saturday 23 May
10.30am Pilgrimage Walk from Horstead Church to Coltishall Church, - 12.30pm via the villages of Horstead, Coltishall and Great Hautbois

Sunday 24 May
9.30am Morning Worship: Hainford Church
11.00am Holy Communion: Horstead Church

Sunday 31 May
10.00am Benefice Holy Communion: Stratton Strawless 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: Horstead (M), Hainford (T), Coltishall (W), Stratton Strawless (Th), Frettenham (Sat)

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



New Chaplain for Royal British Legion

At a recent meeting of the Royal British Legion Coltishall Branch the Reverend Joanna Haywood accepted the post of Branch Chaplain.

Rev'd Joanna is seen here being presented with an embroidered British Legion Scarf vestment by Branch President, Bob Jennings.

As Branch Chaplain Rev'd Joanna will officiate at Legion events such as Remembrance Day plus any other commemorative events as appropriate.

The branch meets four times a year and also holds an annual dinner during the summer. New members are always welcome. You do not need to have served in the Armed Forces to join.

If you would like to know more you can get in touch with the **Royal British Legion Contact Centre on 0808 802 8080 or email membershipservices@britishlegion.org.uk**.



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.

Unfortunately our lovely "Senior J" Joan has had a spell in hospital. We all miss her and wish her a speedy recovery.

All members have been passed on "Not so Senior J" Janet's telephone number to call if anyone cannot make the day. I have left Joan's number in, 01603 737270, for those members unaware of the change. More news next month. We all enjoy a welcoming drink and tea or coffee after the meal with fun and fellowship along the way.

Now then, I have to throw my hat in for more misleading information last month. Poor Anne was presented with flowers for her birthday, not due for 3 months -- and then called Jenifer. I must've misheard Senior J. Apart from that our lovely band of volunteers bolstered by Sandra and Sue smashed it once again. The sausages were top notch too.

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

David Pye



June

Maureen

A Rose in Spring



John Hindley

A winter's rose is a dead and harsh affair. Pruned to bare sticks, each one sharp with thorns, it looks both uninviting and lifeless. But we know better. We do not prune the rose to bring death but to encourage life, growth and flowers. We do not rid our garden of such spikey plants during the winter but we care for them as we wait for spring.

Now we start to see why. The sight and scent of a rose in bloom is one of spring and summer's jewels. When you get close and see the complexity of the petals and then smell the deep perfume it is hard not to imagine yourself as a romantic poet!

I wonder if we sometimes see God as a winter's rose? Unappealing, potentially spikey and of little interest or relevance to our lives. Maybe now would be a good time to look

again. At Easter we remembered that it was God who wore the thorns on his brow and who was left, dead and unappealing, in our place on the cross. We remembered too that death could not bring an end to his love but was in fact his greatest victory. He broke the power and terror of the grave by rising from death on Easter Sunday. Light has dawned that shows the beauty and glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

So, maybe it is we who are the winter's roses. Maybe the chill of the years has left us spikey and looking hopeless. Perhaps we need the light and warmth of the love and glory of God. Maybe if we came to him this spring, we too could bloom as he made us to. Maybe if we risk getting close to God, we will sniff the delightful perfume of love and perhaps find ourselves opening up into the beautiful freedom of the children of God?



Sunday, 4pm at The River Rooms

Broadgrace church meets on Sundays at 4pm at The River Rooms in Coltishall. You can also join the meeting online using Zoom (details are on our website).

We also have groups for children and young people and *Tiddlers*, a baby and toddler group that meets on Wednesdays at The Tithe Barn in Horstead. Get in touch if you would like more information about any of these.

To find out more about us, contact John Hindley or see our website:

www.broadgrace.org.uk | john@broadgrace.org.uk | 07790 007390



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Buxton & District WI

At our next meeting on Thursday 14th May at 7pm at **Buxton Village Hall, Mill Street, Buxton, NR10 5JE**, we welcome back **Julie Porter** for another entertaining **Murder Mystery Evening**.

We look forward to looking and listening for clues and sifting through some of the paperwork. We will also briefly discuss the two forthcoming Resolutions for the Annual Meeting in June.

We welcome any visitors who may be interested, free of charge, refreshments provided, but if possible please let us know beforehand as this is a popular evening.

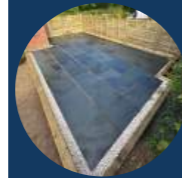
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Create and Share

Our April meeting was bustling with activity as our members stamped, coloured, cut and scored their designs to make a little corner bookmark that fitted onto the front of a card. We welcomed another new member and refreshments kept everyone going. We were able to tell members our plans for the coming months as well as remind them about Thetford Paper Craft Show in May where you can buy supplies and get lots of ideas too.

At our next meeting in May we will be making several small notelets and a box or folder to put them in. These would make an ideal present – or of course be good to keep for use yourself. As usual please get in touch if you would like to join us so we can be prepared and be sure of a space for you.

**Our next meeting is: -
Horstead Tithe Barn
Tuesday May 12th 2 – 4.30pm
Sylvia Coward 01603 737917 or 01603 737609**



WROXHAM AND HOVETON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

114 Norwich Road, Wroxham, NR12 8SA

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

Please see our website for the most up to date information.
(wroxhamurc.org.uk)

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

Sunday 3rd May: 10.30am. Service conducted by Rev Zephney Kennedy, including Holy Communion.

Sunday 10th May: 10.30am. Service conducted by Rev Tina Wilson, followed by the Church Annual General Meeting.

Sunday 17th May: 10.30am. Service conducted by Rev Carole Pearl.

Sunday 24th May: 10.30am. Service conducted by Rev Paul Whittle. 4pm - Beyond Sunday - A service of quiet reflection.

Sunday 31st May: No service in our church. We are all invited to attend St Peter's Jessop Road URC/ Methodist Church for a Service at 10.30am, followed by a shared lunch. Please contact the Secretary if you need transport.



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 May we are meeting on the 10th**. For information on future sessions and other events please go to: <https://wroxhamurc.org.uk/jam> or for more details contact 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.

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In March we had an excellent presentation by Georgette Vale, entitled 'The Widow Kett'. She told the story of the rebellion, in character, through the eyes of Robert Kett's widow, Alice. It was a very engaging performance, enjoyed by all.



Our interest groups continue to be very active. The History Group had a trip to the undercroft of the Museum of Norwich at the Bridewell, with Susie, our very enthusiastic and knowledgeable guide. The undercroft (pictured left) and the knapped flint wall (considered one of the finest in the country) are what remain of the original 14th century house. The undercroft was originally used as a show room for the sale of fabrics, it then became the Bridewell (a cross between a workhouse and gaol) and subsequently a shoe manufactory. It finally became the industrial heritage museum it is today, in 1925.

Apart from our interest groups we have our general meeting monthly 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 3rd Tuesday of each month, doors open at 2pm, £2 for members and £3 for visitors.

Pauline Wright-Marchant

Email wroxhamu3a@mail.com

The next 3 meetings are as follows:

May 19th – The geology of Norfolk - Matt Williams

June 16th – Broadland Tales – Judith Keogh

July 20th – Summer Party (no meeting at Hoveton Village Hall)

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20 QUESTIONS

By Richard McGreevy

1. Traitor's Gate is part of which building?
2. Who was MP for Huntingdon from 1979 to 2001?
3. Who came to power as Prime Minister of Italy in 1922?
4. The name of which form of transport is derived from Greek words meaning spiral and wing?
5. In the film 'The Curious Case of Benjamin Button' what was curious about him?
6. Which Apollo 14 astronaut played golf on the moon?
7. Which event takes place nearly every year at Worthy Farm, Pilton in Somerset?
8. Who was the mother of Richard 1st and King John?
9. Robin Knox-Johnson was a famous sportsman in what field?
10. Which group were one hit wonders with the 1983 record 'It's Raining Men'?
11. Richard Parker is a major character in the book and film 'Life of Pi', what is he?
12. Which 1980s US TV police show featured the characters Frank Furillo, Andy Renko and Mick Belker?
13. In Norse mythology what is the name of the group of women whose name means 'chooser of the slain'?
14. What is a Haiku?
15. Which TV presenter is the son of actress Julia Foster?
16. How is singer Robyn Fenty better known?
17. Which musical was based on the novel 'Kipps' by HG Wells?
18. What city is the state capital of Queensland?
19. The Birth of Venus by Botticelli hangs in which art gallery?
20. Who wrote 'His dark materials'?

Answers on page 36

Coltishall and Horstead Good Neighbours

The Good Neighbour volunteers will be hosting a tea party in the church rooms from 2 – 4pm on **Thursday 18th June** in the Church Rooms Coltishall.

If you would like to join us for a chat, good company, tea and cakes and require transport please call 07799 277455.

If you have some spare time and would like to join our lovely community group to assist the residents of Coltishall and Horstead please call 07909 980768

Please continue to recycle your glass at the Red Lion glass bank as Good Neighbours benefit from this.

Julie Douglass

WROXHAM SOCIAL CLUB				
MAY 2026 EVENTS				
DATE	EVENT	TIME	FOOD AVAILABLE	NOTES
Sat 2nd May	Social	7 for 7.30pm	N/A	
Wed 6th May	Play your cards right	2pm	Tea & Cake	
Sat 9th May	90th Birthday Celebration for Jeff (Our President)	7 for 7.30pm	Buffet	Music and entertainment.
Wed 13th May	Trivial Pursuit	2pm	Tea & Cake	
Sat 16th May	Social	7 for 7.30pm	N/A	Day time. Work party for car park
Wed 20th May	Skyjo	2pm	Tea & Cake	
Sat 23rd May	Bingo	7 for 7.30 pm	N/A	
Wed 27th May	University Challenge	2pm	Tea & Cake	
Sat 30th May	Bar Quiz	7 for 7.30 pm	Takeaway	Order on the night

email: margaret@glford@btinternet.com
mob: 07996121960
email: jeanbarnett@btinternet.com
mob: 07978189367

Ashmanhaugh & Barton Wanderers Cricket Club

Our overseas professional player for 2026 has been announced as Jayden Draper, fresh from representing Australia in the U19 World Cup! Jayden will be coaching our juniors as well as providing skills sessions when required & hosting summer camps...and of course playing for the 1st XI!

Matches for the 2nd, 3rd & 4th XIs kick off on **Sat 2nd May** – support is always very welcome at all games!

2nd XI away at Brooke CC

3rd XI away at Sprowston CC

4th XI home (Ashmanhaugh) to Martham CC

Exciting developments have taken place over winter; we are delighted to have opened the disabled/baby changing facility at Barton Turf and also unveiled the new coloured kit provided by our new major sponsor A.S.K. – this has been custom designed by players.

ECB All Stars for ages 5-8 will commence once again in May – you need to sign up for this via the EBS website www.ecb.clubspark.uk and select Ashmanhaugh & Barton Wanderers CC as your provider.

Volunteer and Sponsorship Opportunities: The club is always looking for volunteers to help and new sponsors. There are great packages available for businesses to get involved and support grassroots sport. We are currently supported by many local businesses, and we give back as much as we can in the way of advertising – please ask for more info.

Community Engagement Did you know that over the past few years we have hosted cricket competitions for a group of local primary schools, enjoyed cricket taster sessions for local Brownies, Guides & Rangers, donated surplus kit to local organisations who need it, provided free First Aid courses, training courses and support to club members, provided free coaching sessions in local schools and hosted fun matches for local organisations and businesses.

If you are a local group and are interested in what we do, please get in touch!

- For playing enquiries: joeverett333@gmail.com
- For activities and events: ABWCC.events@gmail.com

Follow the club on Facebook, Instagram, and X for all the latest news.

FILM AT FRETtenham

Frettenham Village Hall

Friday 29th May

H is for Hawk (2025) 12A (Drama)

Starring Claire Foy and Brendon Gleeson.

Based on the memoir by Helen Macdonald. The story follows Helen, who, after the sudden death of her father, loses herself in the memories of their time birding and exploring the natural world together, and navigates her profound loss by training a wild goshawk named Mabel.

But as she teaches Mabel to hunt and fly free, Helen discovers how deeply she has neglected her own emotions and life. What begins as an act of endurance transforms into an intimate journey of resilience and healing.

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

COLTISHALL & HORSTEAD WI

Here we are below enjoying the beautiful spring sunshine on our annual charity walk – this year raising funds for Leeway, Norfolk's charity working with victims of violence and domestic abuse. Our regular Tuesday walks are just one part of our programme of activities, visits, speakers, outings, delicious cakes and coffee – and of course the fun and friendship we offer women of all ages in our area who want to get out more, make new friends, try something new, and above all have a jolly good time!

At our April meeting we heard from Cora Mullenger on the work of the Friends of Horsey Seals, and in May we'll be raising the Church Rooms' roof with our hearty sea shanties as we welcome Andy Malcolm on the Life of a Norfolk Fisherman. Plus we have boat trips, history walks, our annual garden party and much more to look forward to throughout the summer months.

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 or tel 07722 491320.



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Make the most of May – at The Museum of the Broads

There's a distinctly craft (surprisingly for us - *not* as in boats!) feel to May at The Museum of the Broads.

First off get this into your diary –

Saturday 16th May: Crafts and Curiosities! 10am – 4pm

This is the pop-up market that's packed with crafts and collectables! Meet local makers and make a day of it! And get really crafty (ok – this time we *do* mean boats!) at this brilliant event.

Sunday 24th May: Model Boat Day! 10am – 4pm

Meet an entire fleet of model boat enthusiasts and have a go at 'crafting' your own craft! A real hands on experience and we want all hands on deck!

If April – as we mentioned last month – was first included as a 'holiday month' on the Broads back in 1912, it's May that has always been seen as a vital part of the area's year. Rooted in the ancient lore of spring time, and embedded in the tourist sector since its earliest days, May is the time so much comes back to life. And that certainly includes the Broads – and The Museum of the Norfolk Broads!

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



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PROBUS CLUB of BROADLAND

Our most recent meeting took place as usual at Wroxham Hotel. After lunch one of our members gave a talk about his time spent working in Warsaw, Poland, in the mid-1970's.

First impression of Poland was the greyness due to the Brutalist concrete buildings and absence of colour in the clothing which was grey, brown and black.

The country was firmly under the grip of the Soviet Union and nobody would say a bad word about the government even to their closest friends. Military vehicles and Militia would be everywhere.

The government had, for many years, been borrowing money from the western banks to boost the economy but by the mid-1970's they were unable to pay the interest.

State run food stores often had empty shelves and only food produced in Poland was available. Meat was rationed and people would queue for hours awaiting delivery to the butchers.

The Polish Zloty was worthless and currency exchange tightly controlled but a black market enabled visitors to obtain 4 times the official rate.

Despite the countries problems people found ways to make do. They traded goods with neighbours, repurposed clothing and grew their own food where possible. Humour, faith, vodka and family ties kept people going.

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.

Meetings are held over lunchtime on the last Wednesday of the month at the Wroxham Hotel.

Trevor Eady, Publicity Officer

WHB Twinning Association

After a bit of a struggle, we have eventually found hosts for our 44 French guests from **La Pommeraye and Montjean-sur-Loire**, who are with us **9th-15th August 2026**. As well as some new participants, they are bringing 6 teenagers this year and, as our members are all getting older, it is difficult to find matching families but two of their daughters have kindly stepped in to the breach. So sad that language learning is declining so much in the UK and young people are not getting involved in Twinning groups. We will carry on though, while we can, and we have a good programme of events; reception at Broadland School, Cromer, river trip from Wroxham, games and dinner dance at Hoveton Village Hall, gin and rum distillery etc. Our hosts also have a free day to entertain their friends so, I expect boat hiring, shopping at Roys and other local attractions will benefit.

A date for diaries is **Friday 24th July for pre-visit briefing and social evening**, to which all members are invited, hosting or not, our usual bring-a-plate buffet. All members will also be able to participate in events during the visit.

In April our book group read "The Island of Missing Trees" by Elif Shatak chosen by Pat. We are still using Zoom for our distant and less able members but hopefully will have a get-together or two over the summer, as we all enjoyed our lunch at Fizz and Fromage in March. Some of our Twinning members also benefit from French Conversation there, at Fizz and Fromage, on Thursdays 2.30-4.00pm. Pat can supply more information on tel **07879 454052** or pat.barkergreen@btinternet.com

For more information generally, please contact our chairperson, **Peter**, on **01603 782733** or peter_c_milsted@talk21.com



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Wroxham Bure Valley Rotary Club

We recently welcomed a group of Rotarians from Croatia, from the club who welcomed and entertained us so well last year. We took them to Carrow Road to see Norwich City play and they also spent some time visiting Norwich before we entertained them over dinner at Wroxham Barns.

We have also been busy helping in our local community, managing car parking at Hoveton Medical Centre for the recent Covid vaccination clinic...and please come and meet us on our stand at Horning Boat show on Saturday May 2nd? (see inside front cover of this issue of Marpit)

Our next big event will be our annual Classic Car show which takes place at Wroxham Barns. It gets bigger and better every year so although it is still a few weeks away make a note of the date now – Sunday 6th September – and be sure not to miss it.

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 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 web site.

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

Wroxham and Hoveton Lions Club

I do hope that you all had an enjoyable Easter. What a change to have some decent weather for once! Together with the lighter evenings, we can get on with life.

I want to talk a bit about membership. That feeling of belonging to a group or organisation where you feel appreciated and valued. As regular readers will know, our Club celebrated its fiftieth anniversary earlier on this year, which is quite an achievement, and we do have one of the founder members still active, and this was celebrated at our lunch by our District Governor.

Other Lions Clubs in the area are marking their foundations, or celebrating their Charters in Lions speak, and members of neighbouring Lions Clubs go to support these Charter Lunches. It is good to see and catch up with old friends and, sometimes, to make new friends. Lions Clubs International is one of the largest, if not *the* largest, service organisations in the world. Membership of this is special. We are part of an international family; it is a good feeling.

But all of these Clubs cannot continue to give the service they provide to their communities without recruiting new members. Lions are ordinary people doing extraordinary things. But they are not doing these things as a full-time job. Like you, they are employers, employees, parents, carers and so on. Their service is done in the evenings and at weekends. We say that family always comes first, then work and Lions activities third. Membership of a Lions Club is not a life sentence, although, as I mentioned above, membership can last a long time!

When my wife and I moved to Norfolk nearly fifteen years ago, we did not know anyone in our village. My wife was born in Norwich, so she felt that she was coming home, and gradually, we made friends in our village. We had met through doing charity work in Berkshire. We made friends through our membership of a Talking Newspaper for the Blind, and we made a difference to those visually impaired people in our part of Berkshire. Through our membership of Wroxham and Hoveton Lions Club, we have made some very good friendships, and we feel that our efforts on behalf of the Lions are appreciated.

Do you care enough about your community to want to make a difference to someone who needs help? Through our fundraising, we are able to make donations to local causes, individuals and, occasionally, other charities. Are you new to the area and would like to make new friends? Can you spare a few hours a month? We meet twice a month at the Broadland Youth and Community Centre in Hoveton. There will be an Open Day at Hoveton Village Hall, Stalham Road, Hoveton, next door to the Youth Centre on 25th April, between 10.00am and 3.00pm, where you will be able to meet some of the Lions and find out about our activities.

If you have read the article above, how much do you need us? We definitely need you. Hopefully, together, we can improve more people's lives.

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

Make a Difference Behind the Scenes: Become 1st Buxton Lamas Sea Scout Group's Treasurer! 🦁

Are you good with numbers, organised, and looking for a meaningful way to support the young people of **Buxton**?

1st Buxton Lamas Sea Scout Group is looking for a dedicated volunteer Treasurer to join our Trustee Board. You don't need to have been a Scout yourself—you just need a bit of financial savvy and a desire to "pay it forward" to our local community.

Why Join Us?

This is a vital role that ensures our Scouts can continue to enjoy hiking, camping, and learning skills for life. It's also a fantastic way to:

- **Boost Your CV:** Perfect for those looking to return to the job market or transition into the charity sector. Gain experience in fund accounting and governance.
- **Stay Sharp in Retirement:** Keep your professional skills active while supporting a cause that builds a better future for local kids.
- **Community Impact:** Directly contribute to a successful, inclusive, and growing community hub right here in Buxton.

The Role at a Glance

As our Treasurer, you'll work closely with the Chair and Group Lead Volunteer. Your key responsibilities will include:

- **Managing the Books:** Keeping track of income (subs, grants, fundraising) and expenditure.
- **Budgeting:** Helping us plan for big events, like summer camps or new equipment.
- **Compliance:** Ensuring we meet **The Scout Association** and **Charity Commission** requirements (don't worry, we provide full training and support!).
- **Reporting:** Attending a few committee meetings a year to give a brief update on our "pot of gold."

What We're Looking For

- Comfortable with basic spreadsheets or accounting software.
- Honest, reliable, and organised.
- A "can-do" attitude and a few hours to spare each month.

"Scouting happens because of people like you. By managing the finances, you're making sure every child in Buxton has the chance to go on an adventure."

Ready to help us lead the way?

You don't need to wear a uniform, and you'll be part of a friendly, supportive team of volunteers.

To find out more for an informal chat, please contact **Steve** or **Rosy** or email us directly at s.spinks@buxtonscouts.org.uk or r.watson@buxtonscouts.org.uk

ANSWERS TO QUIZ ON PAGE 30

1. Tower of London
2. John Major
3. Mussolini
4. Helicopter
5. He aged backwards
6. Alan Shepherd
7. Glastonbury
8. Eleanor of Aquitaine
9. Yachting
10. The Weather Girls
11. A Tiger
12. Hill Street Blues
13. Valkyrie
14. Japanese poetry consisting of 17 syllables
15. Ben Fogle
16. Rihanna
17. Half A Sixpence
18. Brisbane
19. Uffizi
20. Phillip Pullman

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 Wednesday 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 Coplestone (Broadland District Councillor)
01603 860840 clr.
jo.coplestone@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 738399

Saturday

Craft Group (2nd Sat 10-4pm) 2nd 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).
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Sue Blackburn 01603 737495 sue@blackburn99.free-online.co.uk www.horsteadtithebarn.wordpress.com

Useful numbers

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sntaylsham@norfolk.pnn.police.uk
Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

Broadland High School 01603 782715

Coltishall Primary School 01603 737481

Citizens Advice Bureau
(Norwich) 08001448848

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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

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Mondays only, 1pm-2.15pm
Badersfield Convenience Store
01603 737654

Horstead Tithe Barn
Community Association
Chair: Rev'd Joanna Haywood
07733 325905 rector.coltgroup@gmail.com

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 07592 533060

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

1st Coltishall Brownies
browniescoltishall@hotmail.com

1st Coltishall Guides
Ellie Ashby 07944 780421
Suzie Bielby 07787 850198

1st Coltishall Rainbows
Sarah Walker 07787 629689
rainbowscoltishall@gmail.com

1st Hoveton & Wroxham Sea Scouts
Hughes 01692 630688

Broadland Tot 2 Teens Club
Nicola Pye 01603 430525

Coltishall & Horstead Preschool
07539 928124 coltishall.preschool@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 07799 763793

Coltishall & Horstead WI
Shaunagh Kirby 07722 491320

Coltishall Bell Ringers
Mike Gander 01603738788
aldringer@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 Cousins 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 & Belagh
Twinning Association**
Liz Powell 07484 897754

Wroxham Social Club
Linda Iaccarino 07818 817505

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