

Great Ringstead News and Views

Summer 2024

Parish Council – Bill Jacob, Chair

Neighbourhood Plan

We are now in the final stages of drawing up the Neighbourhood Development Plan. The Borough Council have approved it and have now published it for further public consultation at BCKLWN Regulation 16 Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan.

Following any revisions in the light of the consultation, the draft plan will be considered and commented on by an independent examiner and, if need be, further revised, to be put to a referendum of registered voters in the village.



Courtesy of Mr Noel Shelly

Playing Field

People may have noticed that the greatest activity so far this summer on the Playing Field has been on the part of moles. Unfortunately, the size and number of mole hills means the contractor's mower is liable to be damaged, so some areas have been left uncut, leaving the finish to the grass-cutting looking a bit ragged. The Council are planning action to try to resolve the problem.

The handrail on the steps from the Churchyard has been repaired, and the steps to the embankment slide have been rebuilt, and minor repairs have been carried out on the children's play equipment following the recent annual health and safety inspection. Remember that there are also five pieces of equipment offering gentle exercise for adults. There are instructions on each item suggesting how to use it. Do take advantage of them. They offer, on your doorstep, a cheaper and less painful alternative to gym membership.

Seats

The Council are considering locations for possible new seats for use by residents and visitors. Suggestions include on the south verge on Holme Road, to enjoy the view across the village, and by the trees planted for the Platinum Jubilee on the playing field looking towards the church.

'Gateway' Sign

The Council has already secured funding for 'gateway' signs on entering the village on the Sedgeford, Docking, Burnham, Thornham and Holme Roads, and is now seeking funds for a sign on the busiest road into the village, from Hunstanton.

Notice Board

Eagle-eyed residents may have noted that the Parish Notice Board on Holme Road, has been repositioned to inside the bus shelter, so that it can be read out of the wind and rain.

Great Ringstead Parish Council Contact:

Clerk. Simon Lee, greatringsteadpc@outlook.com

Obituary - John Crofts

The peaceful but sudden passing of John Crofts last month is a great loss for Ringstead as well, of course, for his family, friends and the wider Norfolk community. The loss of John follows on all too soon from the equally sad and sudden loss of his beloved wife, Bridget, in 2019.

John and Bridget came to Norfolk in 2004 from Bedford when he was appointed as Headmaster at Glebe House School, a position he held for 14 years before retiring in 2018. During John's career as a teacher, he inspired a great number of children in both their academic studies and their extra-curricular activities.

John and Bridget purchased their home in the High Street in 2005 and immediately started to contribute to village life. John was a longstanding and dedicated Churchwarden, a stalwart of Ringstead Open Gardens and a member of the Village Hall Committee.

Beyond Ringstead John's contributions were wide-ranging and impactful. He was recently Chair of Governors at Smithdon School, Hunstanton, he continued to teach, he was the Norfolk County Councillor for the Woottons, Castle Rising, Roydon and Pott Row District and he was an active member of the Rotary Club in Hunstanton, helping to raise substantial sums of money for charity. In the limited amount of spare time that he had, John was a keen supporter of King's Lynn Football Club and was a regular at home matches together with fellow villagers, Justin Gooderson and Andrew Priest.

John's selfless life of dedicated service to the community has helped so many people and his loss will be felt greatly by his family, friends and all who had the good fortune to be associated with him. He was 65. May he rest in peace.

Ringstead Church-Kate Bulmer

I was elected Churchwarden (along with John Crofts) at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in April 2024, so it is with great sadness that we note his death. John was churchwarden here for nearly 20 years. He will be much missed.



A huge thankyou to Jenny Martin-Smith and the team who made Garden Sunday another memorable occasion raising £8000 for the church in this village. Thank you to those who opened their gardens and everyone who helped before the big day, during and afterwards. Also, thanks to all those who got the church ready for the flower festival and welcomed many guests over the 3 days.



At St Andrew's we have now been without a Rector for over a year. The position of Priest-in-charge for this the Hunstanton and Saxon Shore Benefice has been advertised but at present there have been no applicants. In this sad and difficult situation, we are indeed indebted to retired clergy who lead worship in our churches, and for those who clean and prepare for services every week. Here in Ringstead we continue to have a service at 9am on Sunday mornings and at 10am on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays to which all are invited. A 5th Sunday sees us join with members of the other churches in the Benefice in a united service. For details of services please see notice board on church drive and on the Hunstanton and Saxon Shore Benefice website: saxonshorebenefice.co.uk

Looking ahead our Harvest Thanksgiving service is on Sunday 22nd September at 9am. All are very welcome to this service of hymns, readings and prayers. As preparation we will decorate the church on Saturday morning (10 till 12) Gifts for Hunstanton Food Bank can be brought on Saturday or to the service on Sunday. Your help is much appreciated and your gifts gratefully received.

The PCC are extremely grateful to those who help keep the church clean and the churchyard tidy. We would be glad of any help between 10am and midday on Saturday 7th September in church and on Saturday 9th November, the day before Remembrance Sunday, to tidy the area around the War Memorial.

The flower border between the playing field and the church drive is in desperate need of some TLC. Some of us have made a start on this but it is very overgrown. There is quite a good show of roses this year, but we need someone to prune them at the appropriate time of the year.

Please help if you can.

Kate Bulmer 01485 525432 or email: cwringstead@saxonshorebenefice.co.uk

Update on the Church Bell and Clock – Kate Bulmer

Our 17th century bell restored by Higby Bell Founders was welcomed back on Easter Sunday, 31st March. The clock was also back working for Garden Sunday, but not striking the hours correctly. Further adjustments will be made.



The PCC received a grant for the bell from the Paul Cattermole Trust, the balance met by the friends of St Andrews, and funds are being sought to pay for the clock.

Village Hall – Debbie Rice

The Quiz Night on April 12th raised £83 and was enjoyed by those who attended and once again the weather was good for Open Gardens and the lunches and teas were served at the Hall again. An Art Exhibition was held in the Hall for a week from 21st June and the opening night was very well attended!

Unfortunately, John Crofts, a valued and well respected member of the Committee has recently died, which was an unexpected shock. He will be greatly missed by all.

Table Tennis group continues to meet on Tuesdays between 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Carpet Bowls on Wednesday afternoons between 2.00pm and 4.00pm

Please note that if you are organising an event yourself, either at the Hall or your home, the Village Hall has an urn, crockery, tables and chairs, and display boards that are available for villagers to use.

The Hire Rates for the Hall are:

Ringstead Residents £8/hr. Commercial £10/hr.

Half a day £25. Whole day £40.

To hire the Hall please contact the booking Secretary, Mr. Roger Pincott on 525522

Carpet Bowls – Mo Covel

Carpet bowls is held in the village hall in Ringstead every Wednesday afternoon from 2-4pm. We are a friendly and welcoming group of people who enjoy taking part in mild exercise and socialising over a cup of tea or coffee with a biscuit and all for the price of £2 - £2.50 depending on numbers. Last year's experiment was a success so we continue to meet throughout the year and welcome any new members.

Mo Covel

07788603957 mo.covel@btinternet.com

****** Has anyone the handle for the carpet bowls mat roller?******

****** It disappeared after Garden Sunday. £125 to replace so we're keen to find it******

Ringstead Pensioners Christmas Lunch - Janet Woodford

Last December a gathering of 34 resident Ringstead Pensioners met at the Gin Trap for their annual get together and Christmas Lunch. The owner and landlord David Lamyman generously provided an excellent meal that all enjoyed, and once again we are very grateful for his generosity. The meal was fantastic, great hospitality and service from the friendly staff.

The Raffle of the many excellent prizes kindly donated raised £104.00. This money was used to pay in part for the First Drinks Bill, the difference was made up from the monies raised in previous years.

If you are eligible to receive your state pension and are a full-time resident in the village and have never been to the village Annual Get Together and Christmas Lunch and would like to attend this year please contact me on 01485 525 136.

Bowls Club – Roger Pincott

The bowls season is coming to its midway point where the top 6 six teams in the league form division one and the lower six teams form the second division.

Our results were, won 2, drawn 3, and lost 6, which unfortunately places us in the lower division. The team overall has played well, and we achieved some unexpected results and we always had a smile on our face.

We also will be playing for the league cups, which are a home and away knock out format so, win or go home.

Along with all the league matches we are also playing our internal competitions. These are a much more lighthearted affairs with much Mickey taking used as a legitimate tactic.

You can contact me on 525522 or rogerpincott@btinternet.com

Ringstead Open Gardens – Jenny Martin Smith

Despite a chilly wind Garden Sunday was a great success with visitors coming from far and wide to feast on the wonderful gardens and the delicious homemade lunches, teas and cakes at the Village Hall. Garden owners had worked tirelessly, the Flower Festival in St Andrew's Church inspired by Favourite Books was stunning, the raffle and tombola were well supported and the bustling plant stall in Bridget Crowfoot's garden offered flora for the visitors to take home. As always there were lots of compliments about the friendliness of the village and the beautiful displays in all the gardens. It is a huge team effort which brings the village together and makes us feel how lucky we are to live in such a special and splendid village. A huge thank you to everyone who got involved in so many ways in the planning, setting up and on the day and helped to make the day such a success. We are delighted to have raised £8,000.



Allotment News – Tony Best

The allotment has been difficult this year with all the rain and the New Potatoes are coming up the size of Cricket Balls, Asparagus has been good, probably the best crop ever, and the first stem was showing on the last day of March.

I have been picking Broad Beans, Strawberries, Rhubarb, Blackcurrants, Cabbage, and lettuce and Raspberries are just starting.

Had some cucumbers already from the Greenhouse and Tomatoes will be ready soon.

I had lots of visitors on Garden Sunday and enjoyed chatting with them.

Ringstead in Bloom – Bridget Crowfoot

A small group of volunteers met every Tuesday morning, weather permitting, to tidy areas of the village e.g. the Village Sign area, footpaths and the playing field wall area.

Over the past year we have only met when certain areas of the village required tidying. Last year we removed ivy from the church wall and planted hollyhocks and wildflowers. Sadly, these have all disappeared.

There are no plans to continue this work as the volunteers are all elderly and have much to occupy them keeping their own gardens in good shape.

Editor note: We are all most grateful for Bridget and her group for all their work maintaining and caring for public areas in our village. It is noticeable how their work has come to an end. If anyone would be willing to give up some time to reinstate a working group I'd be pleased to get involved and co-ordinate. Melanie Hutchinson 525494.



Great Ringstead History Group – Bill Jacob

How has Ringstead changed? What was Ringstead like 120 years ago?

The 1901 Census return for Ringstead tells us how many people lived here, where they lived, their ages, and their occupations.

Ringstead then had a population of 435 people living in 117 houses. Five houses were unoccupied.

Occupations of people living in Ringstead

There were then eight working farms, which, with the services they required, provided nearly all the occupations of people in the village.

At least fifty-one men worked as farm labourers. There were also at least twenty domestic servants or 'char women', one page boy, two cooks, two grooms and two gardeners, There were two agricultural engineers, a traction engine driver, a fitter, a traction wagon builder, a mechanical engineer, a miller and a miller's apprentice, three blacksmiths, three wheelwrights, two gamekeepers, and a cattle dealer.

The building trade was supported by seven bricklayers, and two carpenters.

Services were provided by a road man, a general hawker, a fish-hawker, a dressmaker, an innkeeper, a grocer, a grocer's assistant and apprentice, a baker, a scissor-grinder, a sub-postmaster and a postman, a carrier, a nurse, a carriage builder, and a butcher.

Four people were described as 'retired'.

There was a school teacher and two people were described as 'of independent means'.

There were sixty-six children aged between five and thirteen, the then school-leaving age, who no doubt attended Ringstead school.

Compared with the statistics gathered for the Neighbourhood Plan, Ringstead in 1901 seems a foreign country. The economy and social structure of the village has totally changed. Hardly any of the 1901 occupations now exist. There are now four farms, and there are few local sources of employment. For most people then life was hard. Not many people lived long enough or could afford to retire. There were no pensions, and healthcare had to be paid for. Most people lived in houses or cottages tied to their employment. We live in a better world.

The General Store – Nathan Gee



The General Store, Ringstead, Norfolk



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*****NEW EXTENDED OPENING TIMES*****

MON-FRI 8am -7pm, SAT 8am – 6pm, SUN 9am – 1pm

Summer is here and we are looking forward to our busiest time of the year!

A reminder that we have much longer opening hours now, until 7pm Monday – Friday and 6pm on Saturday. It has been great to see lots of local people taking advantage of more time to shop and we really appreciate the support.

Last month we have introduced a Norfolk loyalty card in store to support local producers. Any Norfolk food items over £2.50 are included in the deal. Buy 10 local products and get 1 free! See in store for all the details and to pick up your card to start saving!

Did you know...? We have a huge selection of homeware in store from some fabulous companies. Very reasonably priced with lots of essentials as well as a large selection of gifts and vintage items.

Let's hope the sun shines all summer long and as always thank you for your kindness, friendship and custom.

Nathan, Leah, Joshua, Lottie, Dolly & Mabel

Summer Picnic Recipe – Debbie Rice

Best Ever Chocolate Raspberry Brownie

200g dark chocolate, broken into chunks

100g milk chocolate, broken into chunks

250g pack salted butter

400g soft light brown sugar

4 large eggs

140g plain flour

50g cocoa powder

200g raspberries

1. Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4
2. Line a 20cm x 30cm baking tray with baking parchment
3. Put the chocolate, butter and sugar in a pan and gently melt, stirring occasionally with a wooden spoon. Remove from the heat.
4. Stir the eggs one by one into the heated chocolate mixture
5. Sieve over the flour and cocoa and stir in
6. Stir in half of the raspberries, scrape the mixture into the prepared tray then scatter over the remaining raspberries.
7. Bake on the middle shelf of the oven for 30mins, or if you prefer a firmer texture, for 5 minutes more
8. Cool before slicing into squares

Store in an airtight container for up to 3 days.

**PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION
With Music in Mind**

**Ringstead Village Hall, PE36 5JU
Thursday 22nd to Monday 26th August 2024 10am to 4pm**

Can a painting be described as a Rhapsody? In music the term is used to describe something irregular in form, an improvisation. So, yes. If George Gershwin can use the colour blue to describe his rhythmic jazzy 'Rhapsody' then 'Rhapsody in Green' can be used to describe my painting of barleycorn blowing in the wind.



I'm Barbara King and I'm re-examining my paintings with the intention of showing the symbiosis between visual art and music and how there can be a crossover between the two disciplines. There is much precedent for this for example James McNeil Whistler's beautiful portrait of a 'pre-Raphaelite' girl entitled 'Symphony in White'. Both Joan Miro and Chopin had their 'Nocturnes'. Debussy had two 'arabesques', utilising a word used to describe the intertwining plant and abstract designs of Islamic art for his sinuous and flowing piano melodies. Mussorgsky's 'Pictures at an Exhibition' (from where I pinched my title) is a piano suite with ten movements each inspired by artworks seen at an exhibition by Viktor Hartman.

And that's before one contemplates 'synaesthesia' whereby the brain engages two or more unrelated senses to process information as with Kandinsky, famous 20th century painter, who claimed to could hear colours and would actively set out to paint pictures which would stimulate both aural and optical senses.

And so my 'concerto' of paintings for which I am the conductor, will be set out in movements, and will include a red hot 'Tango' of Valerian, a 'Crescendo' of Rosebay Willowherb full of 'bravura' with undertones of Creeping Thistle, 'major' and 'minor' harmonic landscapes, 'Nocturnes' with fireworks and some 'symphonic abstracted patterned reflections of boats on water – expressive and 'agitato'. Maybe even a playful scherzo section of dancing figures.

Musical terminology is such a rich and expressive resource drawing on our fundamental instinct for music, that I think its employment in the description of paintings may be transformational and enhancing.

I am also hoping to create a 'fugue' or two, (a theme repeated and developed by different parts throughout the piece) and some new experimental works for which I will take the musical definition as the starting point. Glissando.... Definitions of the terms will be included on the labels along with 'etudes' from my sketchbooks, showing the initial ideas and sketches for the paintings – preludes to the final composition.

Finally, Poetry, that lyricism of words, will also be represented with individual poems by Michael King shown alongside some of the paintings to further enrich the experience.

I hope I will have the pleasure of seeing you and hearing your thoughts on whether the addition of evocative musical terminology enhances your understanding, appreciation – or otherwise – and your all-round experience of these 'Pictures at an Exhibition'. Why not bring your favourite piece of music and we will try and match a painting to it!

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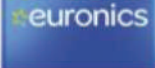
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