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Winter Newsletter

to atk_hornbeams@yahoo.co.uk
by Friday 20th November 2020

GREAT RINGSTEAD NEWS AND VIEWS

Parish Council - Carol Nelson, Chairperson

At the Parish Council meeting of the 10th August I, again, had the honour of being voted in as Chairman. Mr Bill Jacobs was voted into the position of Vice Chair.

Firstly, I would like to thank Mrs Crowfoot for all the hard work that she has put in as chair for the last 18 months. Secondly for the dedication of the other councillors.

We have had an extended break from normal meetings due to the Covid 19 situation. The meeting in July was held on Zoom and we had an as near to normal meeting in the Village Hall in August. With social distancing and masks, it all felt a bit weird.

 The Parish Council has not been dormant over the past six months. We have been keeping an eye on the Parish and contacting each other by email enabling basic things like Parish maintenance to still go ahead. 

Some of you may have noticed that the roundabout in the playing field has been removed from its spindle. There have been an ongoing health and safety issues with it for about a year now. The wooden boards have rotted through causing potential entrapment issues should a foot become caught whilst it is in motion.

Twice the Parish Council have fenced or chained the roundabout to disable it and posted notices advising people not to use the item. Each time the vandals of the village have thought it fun to remove or break the restrictive chains.

Hence the only course of action the Parish Council could take was to prevent the roundabout from spinning. No decision on what to do with the roundabout or if it is to be replaced has been made.

Mole traps have also gone missing from the playing field. These are put in place to rid the area of moles, as when the playing field has its annual, independent, safety inspection, the mole hills and rabbit scraps are always recorded as a hazard. It is up to the Parish Council to try and prevent any and all hazards that may occur. So please, do not remove them as we must pay for the replacements.

Litter is also a problem on the playing field. Please can I remind everyone that there are two bins situated near the swings.

If anyone has views or problems with the village they can be reported or discussed with the Parish Clerk, Mr James Howard. He has produced a new website for the village and his contact details are on there as are the contact details of the a Parish Councillors who are very approachable.

New website greatringsteadpc.wixsite.com/greatringsteadpc

Lastly we are trying to put together a Neighbourhood Plan Committee, to be run under the wing of the Parish Council. Anyone who is interested and has time to commit to this project, please contact the Parish Council.

Anyone can attend one of our meetings and it would be very nice to see you all.

Mobile: 07867 302342 Tel: 01485 297355

Ringstead in Bloom - Bridget Crowfoot

The volunteers will meet on Tuesday 29th September at the Post Box on the Docking Road at 10am. If you would like to join us we would be delighted to see you.
Please telephone Bridget Crowfoot 525295



Please note: The views expressed in this newsletter are of the contributors and not necessarily the views and opinions of the editorial team. The team also reserve the right to edit articles as appropriate.

Team Rector Hunstanton and the Saxon Shore Benefice - Rev Rachael Dines

I wonder if, like me, you have been indulging in a bit of looking back to the way things used to be? The days when we could shake hands, drop in on our friends and family with no notice or get on the coast hopper when you fancied a trip along the coast.

We can all do this looking back at times and perhaps we might be indulging in this more recently. During the summer my brothers and I moved my mother from her home to a sheltered housing flat. The moving mum in to her new, and rather lively, flat was not a great problem. The most time consuming element was going through all the bits and pieces accumulated over a life time. Some of the old photos we found did raise a laugh or two.

Amongst other things I found old boxes and suitcases from an elderly great aunt who died many years ago. Every piece was filled with either letters or newspaper clippings and these little scraps of faded and crumbling papers gave me a greater insight into her life. I remember her as elderly, unable to walk far and having a love of nature. In the papers I met a different woman. One who was energetic, full of life and activity, one who wrote to object to building plans that affected local wildlife and one who had an active faith in Jesus and lived this out in many ways. I met my great aunt as a different one from the one I thought I knew and I wish I had known her better.

I have come to realise that my great aunt was a force for good where she lived, a woman who had great faith and who made a conscious effort to make the lives of others better. I can now see looking back, that she prayed for me and many others. On this occasion the looking back that I did was eye opening and brought me to a place of thankfulness. I am also rather sad that I was never aware of who my great aunt was and couldn't thank her for her faithful witness to a God in her life and for the way she undoubtedly quietly inspired me.

We can so often focus on the past wishing things hadn't changed, but if we spend too much time looking back we cannot see where we are, then we sort of stop going forward. It is not easy to think of the future at the moment but as Christians we can be reminded of who we have to help us on our journey in life and these verses from Isaiah 43 have always been a great help to me when facing the future *'But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.'*

May you have strength to look back in thankfulness and continue walking forward in faith for the future, especially in this daunting time.

God bless you all.

A Stork arrives in Ringstead - Lester Bunyan, Wildlife Photographer

There was great excitement on the 6th of August when a Stork appeared on the chimney of a house in Ringstead. You can clearly see the bird has been ringed (GB46, a female named Doris) and is from the White Stork Project in Sussex.



Doris resting on a chimney in Ringstead

On 31st March 2020 The White Stork Project listed the movements of this stork:
'Whilst we are all on lockdown, our storks have been busy bringing a little light relief to some of you over the last week. The lovely weather we have had has created the perfect conditions for soaring and the storks have been making the most of it. GB46, aka Doris, has now left Wiltshire and has been spotted in Oxfordshire.'

'According to European folklore, the stork is responsible for bringing babies to new parents. German folklore held that storks found babies in caves or marshes and brought them to households in a basket on their backs or held in their beaks.' Source White Stork - Wikipedia.

Which house had a delivery from the stork in August?

Art in Ringstead



'Autumn' - Pat Nevin, Ringstead Art Group



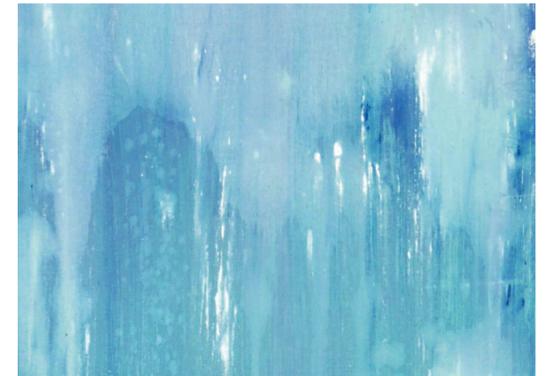
'Lion' - Anne Bunyan, Ringstead Art Group



'Mountain Landscape' - Helga Joergens, Ringstead Art Group



'Gort' Kinetic sculpture - Michael King, Ringstead Resident



'Fountain' - David Lendrum, Ringstead Artist

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Parish Registers - Helen Stanley

Parish Registers have been used to record births, baptisms, marriage, deaths and burials for centuries and Ringstead is fortunate to have those dating back to 1546 for St Peter's and 1570 for St Andrew's.

Initially the clergy were responsible for keeping the records, and could be fined if they did not, but a format was not specified, and Ringstead's records are on all sorts of bits of paper, which were eventually gathered together and transcribed into proper registers.

To support the wool trade, from 1673 until 1814 a burial could only take place if the deceased was wearing a woollen shroud and an affidavit to prove this was the case had to be bought at the church gate. This too is recorded, as 'Affid'.

Helping to transcribe the registers has been both interesting and frustrating! I've been surprised by the number of twins born to different village families, about fifteen sets, so far, and by the number of young men in their twenties who have died, not during warfare. I always wonder - why?

The production of babies and the survival of the process, was one of the greatest feats of our female ancestors. A new baby every ten to twelve months, sometimes two, for the next twenty years, without a washing machine or disposable nappies would have been hard enough, but finding and remembering names for them all, well the records tell many tales.

Ringstead was populated by Johns, Thomas's, Marys and Elizabeths for centuries, very few were given middle names, one Geoffrey pops up and very rarely a Philip, Luke or Bridget. In 1800's Ringstead, there was a fashion for giving your children the wife's maiden name as a first name. That's how we get the wonderful combinations of Hudson Purchase, Hillingfleet Crisp, Creed Chapman, Shakes Rumbold, King Burrow Crisp and the brilliant Christopher Crown Jewell.

My favourite marriage, I do wish I could have met the couple, took place in 1828 between Royce Barstard and Maria Gentleman. I wonder who wore the trousers in that household?

A word of caution when using transcripts. Never believe what you're looking at, always check the primary source if you can. A case in point.

Henry L'Estrange Styleman Le Strange, could not be found, until I discovered him transcribed as Henry St Clair Le Strong and better still as Henry L Eshange Stylianou L Eshemge.

See what I mean!

Ringstead Royal Naval Station - Andrew England / Pauline Atkinson



Circle marks the possible site of WW1 direction indicator for wind and site for holding air ships.

Any information or photographs would be appreciated on what is believed to be the WW1 site for holding air ships.

greatwarsoldier@hotmail.co.uk

atk_hornbeams@yahoo.co.uk



The account of the Marriages, Baptisms and Burials in the Parish of Ringstead, it extends in the year of our Lord 1701.
No Marriages
Baptisms
April 10th. Rebecca Daughter of John and Quincea Perc
December 7th. John Son of Edward and Margaret Wilson
March 4th. John Son of John and Elizabeth Ewerton

To illustrate Helen's piece on parish registers here are 2 examples from St Andrew's.



Ringstead Woodland Garden and Walks Group - Trevor Large, Chairman

Having received only one response to our appeal for assistance in organising an event after lockdown it seems the only conclusion is that there is no appetite to hold such an event. We are most disappointed with this result especially as the pit has been more widely used during this period of restriction due to Covid 19.

One incident of loud music coming from the chalk pit area was brought to my attention but having visited the area within 5 minutes of the report the area was deserted apart from an elderly couple in the field car parking area who informed me that some very polite young people had just left the area.

As there has been no annual parish meeting this year even electronically as legislation has allowed I would like to give our report via this newsletter to the parishioners.

The trustees remain the same as last year. One bench has been refurbished using donated recycled materials but at least two benches will have to be removed for safety reasons and refurbished as and when materials become available.

Our current bank balance stands at £345.30 with £83.35 held as cash in hand totalling £428.65. Cash in hand is used for fuel and any small items as needed. Our public liability insurance has been extended due to Covid 19 but becomes due soon and will make a big dent in our bank balance so some fund raising will have to take place if we are going to continue helping to provide a much loved area appreciated by all our visitors from within the parish, the surrounding villages and further afield. A recent offer of a considerable donation from America could not proceed as our annual turnover prevents us from becoming a registered charity, leaving us with the status of an unregistered not for profit constituted charity. Two weddings due to be held were postponed and one possibility for another next year is currently being considered. As always we take great pleasure from seeing you down the pit enjoying yourselves and see that as a reward in its self.

Village Pensioners - Roger Pincott

Hope I find you all well, but perhaps a little fed up with all the changes that we are all having to follow. We have not been able to fundraise earlier in the year and at this point in time do not expect to run a Bingo any time this year, however we do have a contingency to fund a Christmas meal if we can organise it with the Gin Trap and are still to have talks with them.

If you have never been to the lunch it is never too early to contact us for the meal in 2020. Please contact Elaine on 525522 if you are 60 years young for you girls and 65+ for the old wrinkly boys, it is free to all, but you must be a Ringstead resident.

Ringstead Bowls Club - Roger Pincott

The summer bowls league was quite rightly cancelled before it started. Bowls like cricket needs to have facilities maintained which means we still have to cut and feed the green regularly, all of which is quite expensive. This year the club has been very fortunate and have received sponsorship from a number of local businesses, for who's support we are extremely grateful.

We have recently been active on the green by playing club competitions. We maybe did not concentrate too hard but we had a good laugh. On most evenings we have discussed tactics in the pub afterwards, and all the while maintaining social distancing.

Ringstead Village Club - Elaine Pincott

Having spoken to several club members who do not wish to come to club meetings at this time I have decided to cancel meetings for September, October and November. We currently have the Ukelele Band booked for December. I will check to see if they still want to come. Could members let me know how they feel about a meeting in December. elainepincott@gmail.com



Village Hall - Debbie Rice

It has been sad to see our Village Hall unused, other than for the July Parish Council Meeting, and the recent AGM for the Committee of Trustees for the Hall.

On a positive note, the Hall did qualify for the Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk's Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant to assist with running costs during the Covid 19 pandemic. As a result of this, and the fact the Hall was not being used, it was unanimously agreed by the Committee that we proceed with replacing the existing inefficient heating system with air sourced heating as per the quote we had already agreed upon. Fenland Refrigeration Services promptly and efficiently installed this on 18th June. The hope is, that when the situation has improved and the Clubs etc. resume meetings, the Hall will be a warmer and more comfortable environment, and with luck, this will generate more bookings.

The next major project will be the re-cladding and insulation of the roof, which should prevent heat loss, but unfortunately, I suspect it will be sometime before we manage to raise sufficient funds to achieve this!

Despite the Hall not being used, the Car Park has been busy..... With the Le Strange Estate's permission, it is being utilised as a temporary overflow car park for the Gin Trap while the building work there is completed. This arrangement will cease at the end of September.

Hopefully, in due course, the regular Clubs will resume meeting in the Hall, and I have listed the contact details in case anyone is interested in finding out more or would like to join one of the Clubs.

Table Tennis Tuesdays 7.30pm - 9.30pm Contact Richard Hendricks 525366
Carpet Bowls Wednesday 2pm - 4pm Contact Liz Witley 525341
Art Group Thursdays 10am - 12am Contact Liz Witley 525341



In the meantime, if anyone would like to hire the Hall, please contact our Booking Secretary, Mr Roger Pincott 525522 (Ringstead Residents are charged £6 per hour or £35 per day, non residents £8 per hour)

Great Ringstead History Project - Bill Jacob

The lockdown as a result of the Corona Virus Pandemic has continued to interrupt our meetings. However, individual members of the group and people working on Ringstead's past have continued their investigations and researches, and have been keeping in touch with one another. People have continued with activities including very professional archaeological investigations, surveying gravestones in the older part of the Churchyard, transcribing the Baptism, Marriage and Burial Registers for St Andrew's and St Peter's parishes, researching information about rectors of St Peter's and St Andrew's, and investigating the evidence about residents of Ringstead available from 1801 to 1911 Censuses, and reports about Ringstead in the British Newspapers Archive.

We continue to build up the picture of Ringstead's past.

The Gin Trap - David Lamyman

What a difference a couple of months make! That was the first line in my last update, but almost the complete opposite! Faced with the pandemic risks abroad, North Norfolk has never been busier. Extra police have been called in to control the increased traffic. And sometimes that would have been helpful on Ringstead High Street.

I apologise if the pub caused unruly parking on the High Street. I think every pub on the coast has been very busy. I'm so glad we took the gamble last October to improve the garden. Faced with safely distanced tables inside, we have been able to offer more outdoor space to compensate.

We have now finished our building works at long last. I cannot speak highly enough of the talented team at Elite Property Improvements. They have skilfully translated our designs & plans to an amazing conclusion. We will miss them, even their colourful language! But at least we'll get our car park back.



Our takeaway-friendly menu has worked well over the holidays. Our new Autumn menu comes out around 14th September. It will be getting a little closer to the old menu, but continue to be also suitable for takeaway.

For those that have visited us, thank you for your custom. We look forward to seeing everyone else over the winter months. If there's anything we can do to help the village, please let us know.

Gin Trap Yorkshire tea creme brûlée-makes 4 to 6 - Stuart Wyllie's recipe

9 egg yolks
3 Yorkshire tea bags

500ml double cream
Extra caster sugar for glazing

150g caster sugar

Two vanilla pods

- Separate 9 egg yolks from their whites. We're only using the yolks here, so save the whites for making a lovely pavlova. Whisk the egg yolks into the 150g of caster sugar until there are no lumps in the mixture and out to the side.
- In a pan, bring the double cream to a boil, then as soon as it reaches this, turn the heat off, add the tea bags and two vanilla pods with their seeds scraped out and stir well. Allow to cool for about ten to fifteen minutes until the cream has taken on the flavour of the tea and vanilla.
- After this pour the cream (it will still be quite hot at this point) over the egg yolk and sugar mixture whisking continuously. Stir for around a minute to ensure it is all well incorporated then pass through your finest sieve into a jug.
- At this point you want to pour this mixture into your brûlée moulds. We use tea cups but normal brûlée dishes work just as well. Put these in a deep tray in an oven set to 100c, which I believe is around 1/2 a gas mark. Pour boiling water around the cups till it is half way up the sides. Make sure the water doesn't end up in the cups!
- Allow to cook for around 45 minutes, or until the mixture is just set but still has a good wobble to it. Take the tray out the oven, remove from the water bath and put in the fridge to cool.
- Once completely cold, cover the tops with caster sugar, and either blowtorch, or put under a pre-heated grill at its highest setting till the sugar is a strong dark caramel. This goes really well with a nice Madeira after a day in the sun. Feel free to experiment with different teas in place of Yorkshire Tea, Earl Grey and a little lemon zest makes a delicious alternative.

A New Art Gallery for Ringstead - The Garage Studio - Press Release - Hanneke Robson

Some years ago Ringstead lost the wonderful Art Gallery beside the Gin Trap. But now Art is back, not in a historic or purpose built building, but in the garage of a home.

Photographer Hanneke Robson and her husband Derek moved to Ringstead two years ago for a peaceful retirement. Delight in their new environs soon gave way to bigger plans and an exciting new venture. Earlier this year, Derek and Hanneke rented a piece of land on Peddars Way South with plans to create a wild flower meadow. 'Our learning curve on this project has sometimes felt U shaped' says Hanneke, 'but we have great supports and we will succeed.'

To pay for this project they need funds. The idea of selling Hanneke's photographs from the garage became an exciting option. Without (too much) protest Derek lost his man-cave and a gallery was created.

During the past months and in the teeth of Covid, Hanneke widened her ambition and acquired the work of fourteen Norfolk artists including three members of the West Norfolk Artists Association: Barbara King, Julie Clark and Alison D'Oyley. Sought after works of Chris Orgill, Nicholas Elliot and Vanda Richards are also on display. 'I am truly humbled,' says, 'that these wonderful artists have put their trust in me. Their work is outstanding.' The art Hanneke chooses is closely linked to the environment and there is something for everyone: from impressive oils to sculpture, craft and greetings cards.

The commission of 20% goes in full to the creation of Peddars Meadow. The gallery is open Thursday to Sunday 1 pm - 5 pm. Outside of these hours appointments can be made. Covid rules apply and face masks must be worn.

The Garage Studio, 44 Docking Road, Ringstead PE36 5LA
Tel: 01485 525715
Email: hanneke@thegaragestudionorfolk.co.uk
www.thegaragestudionorfolk.co.uk is under construction

