
GREAT RINGSTEAD NEWS AND VIEWS

RINGSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL - Chairperson, Bill Jacob

Election.

A new Parish Council was due for election on 4th May. Six retiring councillors were nominated for election and one new candidate was nominated. In the absence of any further candidates for the seven vacancies all were duly returned. Current members are Jane Barnett, Bridget Crowfoot, Val Everitt, Bill Jacob, Sue Little, Debbie Rice and Noel Shelley, with Simon Lee as Clerk.

Annual Parish Meeting

Following the election the Annual Parish Meeting was held on 15 May. Nine members of the public attended, which was a better attendance than usual, and than many parish councils achieve. Reports were received from the Friends of St Andrew's Church, the Village Hall Trustees, Great Ringstead Allotment Charity Trustees, Ringstead Parochial Church Council, the Table Tennis Club, the Bowls Club, the Carpet Bowls Club and Making Space, and our County Councillor, Andrew Jamieson. This demonstrates a considerable amount of communal activity for a small village.

Charles le Strange Meakin, a trustee of the le Strange Estate, spoke about the work of the Estate, which is the major landowner in the village. He spoke about their regenerative farming practices, property management operations, sustainable woodland and diversity of nature conservation activities along the coastline, and support for local communities, including peppercorn rents for the village halls and playing fields in Ringstead and Old Hunstanton. This was followed by a lively discussion, especially about permissive footpaths, and also questions about the number of recent temporary road closures. The Annual Parish Meeting was followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting at which Bill Jacob was elected chair of the Council and Debbie Rice vice-chair.

Parish Council Business

The Parish Council on behalf of the people of Ringstead manages the Council's finances, monitors issues in relation to highways, manages the Playing Field and the maintenance of open spaces, and comments on planning applications, of which there have been five in the past three months – for extensions to Manningham House, 21 High Street and 48 Docking Road, a request for submission of a planning application for an outbuilding and rear wall at 14 Gold's Pightle, alterations at 20 Burnham Road, and for a new entrance at the Old School (subsequently withdrawn). The Council are grateful to Justin Aldis for volunteering to manage the 'Sam-Signs' in the village, which monitor the level and speed of vehicles along High Street, Peddars Way North and Docking Road. A new contractor was appointed to maintain the Playing Field and the Green Spaces in the village. Exercising their responsibility for nominating trustees of the Great Ringstead Allotment Charity after advertising the vacancy the Council nominated Ruth Goulden as a trustee.

The Council also investigated the number of business rental properties in the village which revealed that the number of private rental properties have dropped from 18.5% of properties in the village in 2011 to 4.3% in 2021 and the number of businesses letting properties had increased from 23% in 2011 to 31% in 2021

Ringstead in Bloom

Once again a great debt of gratitude is owed to Bridget Crowfoot and her team who keep the green space around the village sign and other green spaces in such good order and ensured that there was a profusion of spring bulbs in flower. They have also worked very hard in clearing ivy from the wall between the Churchyard and the Playing Field.

Coronation of King Charles III.

The village celebrated the King's Coronation with a well-attended Community Picnic in the Downs Chalk Pit organised by Mark Brock and Trevor Large. The event was supported with a grant from the Norfolk Community Foundation. People brought their own picnics, but cake was provided by people who entered the Great Ringstead Coronation Bake-off, organised by Nathan Gee with the cakes judged by Avril Bilham, and Nathan.

To commemorate the Coronation a hornbeam tree was planted in the Chalk Pit by Star Brock who has played a very considerable part in improving the Chalk Pit as a public space.

On the Bank Holiday Monday a number of volunteers took part in a 'litter-pick' around the village.



The Bake Off Entries



Trevor and Star planting a commemorative tree

Obituaries

Two people have recently died who contributed much to Ringstead

- **Philip Young** of East End Farm, who died in April lived in Ringstead all his life, and with his father established the well-known herd of Ringstead. Polled Herefords Philip was also well known in the Farmers' Flying Club
- **Mrs Esme Ashton**, who will be remembered by many as infants' teacher in Ringstead Primary School for many years before its closure in 1984, died in June in a Hunstanton care home, aged ninety-five.

Playing Field Swings

The seats of the children's swings are being badly soiled and rendered unusable by birds roosting on top bars. The plastic spikes fitted to the bars to deter roosting birds have been vandalised more than once. Birds have other places to roost, children in the village don't have other swings on the Playing Field. Please would bird-lovers desist from spoiling small children's enjoyment of the swings.

RINGSTEAD OPEN GARDENS 2023 - Melanie Hutchinson

Another successful year for Garden Sunday. Many, many thanks to the 70 people from the village who helped us raise over £8,000 for the church.



We are so grateful to those who opened their gardens as such a lot of time, effort and worry goes into it. I've heard nothing but resounding praise from everyone that visited and it is so wonderful to have such a diverse selection of high-quality gardens open.

The church was full of the most wonderful displays depicting 'The Musicals' and was visited by many people over the weekend and the following Monday. Many thanks to Rosemary Beeson and her team for their wonderful work.

The advertising of our event is so important and thanks to Jane Whiteford for spreading the word near and far, we even had a slot on BBC radio Norfolk in 'Treasure Hunt'! Andrew Priest and Peter Gyton have put many hours in erecting and dismantling signs in the locality, thank you both.

Our team of food providers, servers and washer uppers were extremely busy this year with 200 lunches and 350 teas served. Too many to thank individually but every one of you made a difference and I'm so grateful to you. We are very grateful to Leah and Nathan at The General Store for their very kind donation of eggs to the cake and quiche makers.

So many thanks to all those who helped set up and dismantle on Saturday and Sunday. We couldn't do it without you and to Steve Stafford for loaning his table and chairs again.

Many, many thanks to all those people who did the less glamorous jobs of putting cones out, cordoning off parking areas dealing with the rubbish etc.

The raffle and tombola are very important for the day and thank you to Jenny Martin Smith and John & Jan Mason for organising those. We are very grateful to David Lamyman for the raffle first prize donation of a meal at The Gin Trap and thank you too to everyone else for their contributions.

It's too early to give a date for next year but if you would like to be involved, please do contact me.

^

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, RINGSTEAD - John Crofts

As we are currently 'in vacancy' and have no Parish Priest, we are very grateful to our retired clergy, Rev'ds Gill Stevens and Phil Unsworth for taking holy Communion services on the 1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays in the month at 9am and the 2nd & 4th Thursdays at 10am. On the 4th Sunday in the month there will be a service of Morning Prayer led by members of the congregation. When there is a 5th Sunday in the month the Benefice will meet together for worship and the next of these will Sunday 30th July at St Edmund's Hunstanton.

The church was full of colour thanks to Rosebud Beeson and her team over the weekend of the record-breaking Garden Sunday and we were grateful to the volunteers who were in the church for 3 days to welcome visitors.

We are looking forward to a service of Baptism at 11am on Sunday 23rd July and to welcoming visitors throughout the week who wish to find a quiet space.

During the vacancy John Crofts, the churchwarden would be pleased to answer any questions, johnpcrofts@mail.com or 01485 525142

RINGSTEAD CHURCH MAINTENANCE PROGRAM – Bill Jacob

Ringstead Parochial Church Council, who are responsible for the church's maintenance are putting in hand a programme to remedy a number of relatively minor works to put the building in good order. These are:

Rainwater disposal system

The high-level gutters and the high level gutters have been cleared and slipped slates replaced, to prevent water ingress, and quotes are being sought to repair damage to the gutters. The soakaways at the base of the downpipes are being checked and may need to be re-sited to direct the surface water away from the walls. This will allow the walls to dry out so that in due course plaster work repairs can be carried out in the interior and the interior redecorated.

Clock

A quotation has been accepted for replacing the winding system and removing the old system, and to repair the clock's striking mechanism.

Bell

A report is awaited on necessary repairs to the bell frame and chiming mechanism

Tower West Window

Following storm damage, a section of the leaded lights in the window have been removed for repair, and part of the window is temporarily boarded.

In addition to the above program there is an annual contract for cutting the grass in the Churchyard and the grass in the eastern part of the Churchyard is allowed to grow until wildflowers have seeded. Some of the Churchyard trees have recently been pruned.

The church is also regularly cleaned on a bi-monthly basis by a group of volunteers, with a major clean every spring and autumn by volunteers, when at the same time other volunteers have a blitz on ivy in the Churchyard and tidy old graves.

RINGSTEAD VILLAGE HALL -Debbie Rice

The Village Hall was once again the venue for the lunches and teas for the recent Open Gardens event which was well attended!

Unfortunately, the only groups now using the Hall on a regular weekly basis are the Table Tennis and Carpet Bowls, which means a drastic drop in the weekly income. The Committee need support to enable them to cover the running costs and general maintenance of the Hall. The hire rates are listed below, so please consider using our Hall for your future events.

The Committee will be organising another Race Night in October (date to be confirmed) This has proved to be a popular fund-raising event and is well attended, but there is always room for more, so if you have never been, please consider joining us this year, and help boost the funds for our Village Hall.

In September (again date to be confirmed) it is hoped to hold a 'Spruce Up' day, when hopefully people will join the Committee to give the Hall a thorough clean. It is a good way to get to know the Committee members and other Villagers!

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

The hourly Hire Rates for the Hall are as follows.

Ringstead residents £8: Commercial £10: Half day £25: Whole day £40.

If anyone would like to hire the Village Hall please contact our Booking Secretary Mr Roger Pincott on 525522.

For other enquiries please contact Debbie Rice Tel 07789 902575 Email debbierice55@btinternet.com

BOWLS CLUB -Roger Pincott

The bowls club meets every week but we are still looking for additional players. If you have never played before or are looking to restart your bowls experience then please give me a call on

01485 525522 or rorgerpincott@btinternet.com

RINGSTEAD PENSIONER'S LUNCH – Janet Woodford

We are very grateful to Elaine and Roger for organising this event for many years and for the fund-raising they have done during this period.

I will be arranging the Christmas lunch this year.

If you were on last years list you will be automatically receive as invite through your letter box in December.

If you are an old aged pensioner and full time resident in the village and would like to join in the opportunity to meet fellow pensioners at this annual event would you please contact me so that you are added to the list that has been passed to me.

Janet Woodford Phone 01485 525 136 Email; janet_woodford@btinternet.com

SEASONAL RECIPE - Brock's Coronation Bake off Winner

Lemon and Blueberry vegan muffins

Preheat oven to 218 C 425F. Bake on middle shelf

Ingredients for muffins

375 grams of plain flour

2.5 teaspoons of baking powder

3/4 teaspoon of bicarbonate soda

1/2 teaspoon fine salt

130 grams of vegan butter (melted and cooled)

180 grams of white or cane sugar

210 ml of unsweetened non dairy milk (I use oat)

Zest of 3 lemons

75ml of lemon juice (fresh is best)

Half a cup of fresh blueberries

Method

Mix all dried ingredients together

Mix all wet ingredients together

This is so the ingredients are well mixed but not over mixed when combined



Mix both ingredients together to make a thick batter. Do not over mix .

Fill muffin cases to the top with the batter

Bake for 5 minutes then reduce heat to 175oC. 350F

Bake for another 17 minutes

Insert toothpick /skewer into middle It should come out clean when baked

Remove from oven and leave in muffin pan for 10 minutes and then transfer to wire rack

When fully cooled you can frost them with lemon drizzle frosting making sure you add the juice slowly to the icing sugar as you want the frosting to be thick.

125 grams of icing sugar

2-4 tablespoons of lemon juice

Use a teaspoon to drizzle over lemon frosting. The more rustic the better

These can be frozen up to 3 months. Defrosted at room temperature

TONY'S ALLOTMENT – Tony Best

Hi everyone, my name is Tony Best and I moved to this area in 1990 with my lovely wife Carole and purchased the Lodge Hotel in Old Hunstanton.

We lived in the Coach House next to the Hotel for a few years and then bought our property in Peddars Way South .

We noticed there were allotments just across the road and our next door neighbour John had one of them and he kindly allowed me to have a patch of his for a time and I began to grow potatoes. After a time John needed the patch back again. So, next time I went to Ward's Nursery I said to Steve I don't need any seed potatoes as I no longer have the little plot, Steve very generously said would you like us to cut you a strip over there and I have been there ever since. It is now run by Crusoe Wilkin and I have to pay them a yearly rent but it's well worth it.

After the first year I soon learnt that most things needed to be covered up as they all get eaten by birds and animals so I built a vegetable and a fruit cage and I have had great success ever since.

I have diabetes so digging on my allotment for half an hour or a round of golf brings my blood sugar down to normal. I pick up bags of manure from outside a house in Ringstead Road, Heacham and I cover the ground with it.

Last year was tough as it was so hot but this year everything is coming up well and I have already been harvesting wonderful asparagus, broad beans and strawberries.

I very much enjoyed chatting with people when they came to see my allotment on Garden Sunday.



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 Sunday 8am-1pm

Summer is here and we've been busy again adding more to your village store! We have a new colour scheme and some fresh new signage both modern and in keeping with the traditional village store, values which are important to us.

It was fabulous to see the village come alive for Open Gardens, so many returning visitors and new visitors to the village full of praise for the wonderful gardens and the delicious lunch served at the village hall. Ice cream sales were very popular!

Our new opening hours are proving very popular. Monday to Saturday 8am to 5pm and Sunday 8am - 1pm.

Our freshly baked range is becoming more popular by the day with many of you ordering in advance. Fresh Pastries & Croissants, Cakes and bread are available daily! Our freshly baked bread is free from any preservatives and best eaten same day.

Our range in store is continuing to expand with some fantastic value products being added every week, some better than Supermarket prices. Due to our increased range, we have had to make the decision to close our cellar to the public to enable us to have a bigger storage area. The steep steps proved difficult for customers and the damp air wasn't an ideal space for traders' items.

We understand we can't be everything to everyone, but we welcome thoughts and opinions from our village. If you have any suggestions, ideas, things we can offer that we don't already then we would love for you to pop in and tell us. It's that age old saying of "Use us or lose us" so your feedback is very much welcomed and appreciated. Our summer & tourist trade is vital for us to operate a viable business, but we always welcome and need your custom and thoughts.

Thank you as always for your kindness, friendship and custom.

Nathan, Leah, Joshua, Lottie, Dolly (our new Cat) & Mabel (who everyone knows).

Wild Form Artists Exhibition

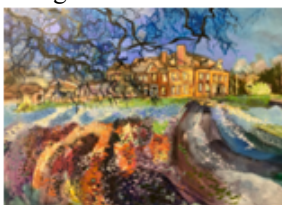
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23rd September to 1st October 2023

10am to 5pm

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They celebrate the natural world whether it be flora or fauna, sea, skies, or seasons, absorbing the energy of nature and reflecting and interpreting their encounters in their own unique and individual way. In association with this year's Norfolk Open Studios they will be staging an exhibition of their artistic impressions and expressions at the Ringstead Village Hall at the end of September



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