

# GREAT RINGSTEAD NEWS AND VIEWS

## Parish Council – Bill Jacob, Chair

### Ringstead Local Neighbourhood Plan

The good news is that our draft Neighbourhood Plan has passed through the statutory consultation process required by King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council and been approved to go forward to be reviewed by an independent examiner, who has now been appointed. All being well, we may receive his report by the end of the year. If that is favourable, and no major revisions are required, it is possible that the referendum, in which every registered voter in the village may participate, can take place during the first part of 2025.



The Jubilee Trees on the playing field. Bernard Birch

### Roads and access

The Council has responsibility to report to Norfolk County Council Highways Department any concerns about the highways in the village for which the Council is responsible. Since the last Newsletter blocked drains have been cleared in the High Street and Docking Road, which should prevent flooding there. The junction of High Street and Chapel Lane has been adjusted as a condition of the development in Chapel Lane. The Parish Council has requested the replacement of the 'No through road' sign at the entrance to Chapel Lane. The outcome of our application is awaited for a grant towards the costs of a 'gateway' sign at the approach to the village on the Hunstanton road. We are pleased to see that the hedge on the approach lane to the Downs has been trimmed back.

### Seats and open spaces

Peter Gyton has generously presented a seat for the Playing Field in memory of his mother. It will look towards the church, from the trees planted to commemorate the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Gwen Gyton, was a well-respected long-standing resident of the village, having moved here in 1944. She was able, only a few months before she died aged ninety-nine, to take part in planting the trees.

The Council have also been considering the response to the questionnaire circulated to residents of Holme Road about placing a seat on the verge there, looking south across the village.

The small band of volunteers who kept the hard-standing around the bench opposite the Jubilee tree at the junction of Foundry Lane, Burnham Road and Docking Road, have mostly moved away. Members of the Council would be very pleased to hear from local residents who might like to volunteer to keep this small area tidy.

### Council Policies and Action Plan

Drawing up policies for the Council reminds us of what we may do, and how best to do it. We have now adopted a grants policy to enable the Council to make small grants towards projects or activities for the public good in the village. We have long given grants to maintain the Village Hall and the Churchyard. We have now adopted criteria for making grants to a wider range of activities. You can find a copy of the policy, along with all the other policies, on the Parish Council website at <https://www.ringsteadpc-norfolk.info/council-policies>.

We have also adopted an Action Plan to ensure that we regularly review necessary routine activities, and also look ahead to consider new initiatives, and plan for budgeting or funding-raising for them.

If you have any comments, concerns or suggestions for the Council, do not hesitate to raise them with a Councillor, or the Clerk, or attend a meeting. Ten minutes are set aside at the beginning of every meeting for public participation, and people are welcome to stay and observe meetings.

## Ringstead Allotment Charity Grants

Ringstead Allotment Charity is a small charity run for the benefit of villagers, and projects for the wider benefit of the village community. It is independent of The Parish Council and is run by a Board of four Trustees, who are all permanent Village residents.

It has a small income from the rental of a plot of local common land. The income provides the funds awarded to eligible permanent residents of the village. Grants have previously been made only to village pensioners, but we are now looking to expand the availability of awards, and plan to include residential tenants (both private and council or housing association), children and those in education or training, those with long term medical conditions and those who may recently have been bereaved.

If you, or somebody you know, falls into any of these categories, or if you are affected by the current cost of living crisis, please contact us in order to be considered for an award. Please include your full name, address, the category of award you are applying for, and any additional details you may feel will help us in reaching a decision for your award. All applications are treated in confidence. If you received an award in 2023 you will automatically be considered this year. Closing date for applications 25th October 2024 Email us at [ringsteadallotmentcharity@gmail.com](mailto:ringsteadallotmentcharity@gmail.com) or drop in a hard copy at 30 High Street.

## St Andrew's Church, Ringstead -Kate Bulmer, Church Warden



I'm sad to report that 2 brass candlesticks were stolen from Ringstead Church on Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> August. I'm told that they had stood on the shelf behind the altar for at least 70 years.

Thank you to those who brought gifts and helped to decorate the church for the recent Harvest Thanksgiving service at which hymns of harvest praise were sung, harvest poems were read and our gifts for Hunstanton Food Bank were blessed.



We donated 40 kilos of tinned and packeted food, toiletries, cleaning and laundry goods and gave a cash donation.

**SUNDAY, 10<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2024**  
**AN ACT OF REMEMBRANCE**  
**10.50 am**  
 at  
**RINGSTEAD VILLAGE**  
**WAR MEMORIAL**

**followed by a short service of**  
**Holy Communion**  
**St. ANDREWS CHURCH,**  
**RINGSTEAD**

Gifts from the Harvest thanksgiving have now been taken to the Hunstanton and District Foodbank. This group, part of The Trussell Trust work to improve conditions locally for people in poverty. Basic needs food parcels are available, top ups for electricity and gas meters, vouchers for fresh produce from shops in town can also be issued. The Hunstanton and District Foodbank also works within the local schools, providing help for Breakfast Clubs at Hunstanton Primary School.

Looking ahead, your help (on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November) to tidy the area around the War Memorial would be much appreciated. Those who feel outside work is not for them will be most welcome to help in church, there's always a cobweb (or hundred) to get rid of as well as dust and leaves, the excellent team of polishers who helped in September may like to reconvene. Refreshments again afterwards. Do join the short service of Remembrance at the Memorial on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 10.50.

Thanks to all those who helped in September, both in church and outside, especially for the improvement to the flower border between the playing field and the church drive. The dead overhanging tree branches at the west end of the graveyard have been cut out, necessary repair work has been carried out to the walls

alongside the playing field and the church drive, the required “safety signs” put up in the churchyard and the dead holly tree by the entrance from the street taken down.

Church services here in Ringstead take place on Sundays at 9am and at 10am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays. For details of services please see notice board on church drive and on the Hunstanton and Saxon Shore Benefice website: [saxonshorebenefice.co.uk](http://saxonshorebenefice.co.uk)

And looking a bit further forward; 22<sup>nd</sup> December, Christingle, carols and crib dressing for children (and the young at heart).

Kate Bulmer 01485 525432 or email: [cwringstead@saxonshorebenefice.co.uk](mailto:cwringstead@saxonshorebenefice.co.uk)

### Village Hall – Debbie Rice, Chairperson



DOORS OPEN 7PM  
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TICKETS £3

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OR  
DEBBIE 01485 525505 / 07789 902575

**RACE NIGHT**  
**SATURDAY 16TH NOVEMBER**

IN AID OF RINGSTEAD VILLAGE HALL  
REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 284104

The poster features a stylized illustration of a jockey on a horse in orange and red tones. The text is arranged in a clean, modern layout with horizontal lines separating sections.

**The Committee are hosting a Race Night meeting on Saturday 16th November. Please come and support this event and I'm sure you will have an enjoyable time! If you would like to buy a horse (£5) or could provide a raffle prize please do contact me. 01485 525505 [debbierice55@btinternet.com](mailto:debbierice55@btinternet.com)**

The Village Hall has hosted a few Art Exhibitions this year and the new Hall decoration has been appreciated.

The Table Tennis Club now meet on a Wednesday evening between 7.30 and 9.00pm. All are welcome! And Carpet Bowls on Wednesday afternoons between 2.00 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 hourly Hire Rates for the Hall are:  
Ringstead Residents £8  
Commercial £10  
Half a day £25  
Whole day £40

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

### Ringstead Open Gardens – Jenny Martin Smith

A date has been set for next year's Open Gardens event

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

If you'd like to get involved, please let me know.

Sarah Stocks 01485 525437

### Bowls Club – Roger Pincott

The Club finished in third place of division two at the close of the season. This I believe is a good achievement considering the small number of players we have. What is a given is that this was a very enjoyable season. A couple of weeks ago I drew up a plan for the winter preparation of the green, and asked for help, and as usual the players turned up and we got the work completed in a morning. The next thing to do will be to arrange the evening dinner and the presentation of End of Season awards.

You can contact me on 525522 or [rogerpincott@btinternet.com](mailto:rogerpincott@btinternet.com).

**Carpet Bowls – Mo Covel, 07788 603957, mo.covel@btinternet.com**

## **What can you buy for £2 a week?**

A session at carpet bowls, that's what!  
Why not give it a try on Wednesday from 2-4 P.M.  
At Ringstead Village Hall.

We are a friendly group of people who enjoy taking part in this activity as well as socialising over a cup of tea and a biscuit which is included in the price! Why not join us and give carpet bowls a try? No need to book, just turn up on the day.

### **Ringstead Annual Pensioners Christmas Lunch and Get Together - Janet Woodford**

As autumn approaches, once again we will be making arrangements and contacting David Lamyman the landlord of the Gin Trap Inn to plan this year's event.

In previous years David has generously provided the meal and hospitality at our well-known village restaurant and Inn the Gin Trap.

The only requirement to take part in the Annual Christmas Lunch and Get Together, is to be a full-time resident in the village and be eligible to receive your state pension

If you have never been to our Annual Pensioners Christmas Lunch and Get Together and are eligible and would like to attend this year, please contact me on 01485 525 136.

If you attended last year or contacted me, you will be receiving an invitation when the arrangements and date have been agreed.

### **Autumn Spiced Apple Loaf - Jane Barnett**

- 450g cooking apples
- ½ lemon juiced
- 225g butter or cooking spread
- 280g golden caster sugar
- 4 eggs
- 4 tbsp spiced rum
- 350g self-raising flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp mixed spice
- Demerara sugar to sprinkle



#### **Method**

- Heat Oven 180
- Line a 2lb loaf tin with baking paper
- Peel, core and thinly slice apples and squeeze over lemon and 2 tablespoons rum.
- Mix Butter, sugar till light and fluffy add eggs, flour, baking powder, mixed spice and rum and mix until smooth.
- Spread half mixture on base of tin, arrange half the apples on top, then repeat the layers finishing with apples, sprinkle over the demerara sugar.
- Bake for 45- 50 mins until golden, and springy to touch. Leave to cool for 10 mins then turn out and sprinkle with a little more demerara sugar.

(The left-over rum that the apples were soaked in tastes nice so don't waste it!)



## Great Ringstead History Group

Riots in North West Norfolk in the 1820s, '30s and '40s.

The much sought after villages of North West Norfolk two hundred or so years were very different places from today. Today's charming, tastefully modernised holiday cottages and desirable homes were, two hundred years ago, lived in by what have been described as 'semi-starved, sullen and resentful farm workers and their families'. Often when looking at cottages that have not been whitewashed, one can see evidence that, later in the nineteenth century, squalid hovels were improved by raising roofs to provide a first floor, rather than a loft, for sleeping.

Why, after the duke of Wellington's great British-led victory at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815, were conditions so bad in Norfolk and East Anglia and south eastern England in general? In 1815 c15,000 men were immediately demobilised into the workforce, and, as, in 1919 and 1945, the economy slumped after the great war-effort. Banks broke, many farmers, especially in arable areas, broke and abandoned their farms, and there was mass unemployment. It was estimated at Snettisham in 1816 that between a quarter and a third of the farm workers were unemployed. Corn prices fell, farmers reduced wages by 20 to 25% and labourers were employed for fewer days a week, and, although food prices fell, rents for cottages about doubled. To avoid starvation wages had to be subsidised from the then benefits system, the Poor Law. This was funded by a parish-based rate on land, paid by farmers and property owners. Some labourers turned to crime to keep their families fed, stealing small quantities of potatoes, corn and turnips, and poaching. Stricter laws, with heavier sentences, were passed by Parliament, largely comprising landowners.

Meanwhile, the population was growing rapidly, producing more mouths to feed. There was sporadic unrest and rioting, notably in the Fens in 1815-16. In 1829-30 there was a bitter winter and a poor harvest in 1831. By co-incidence, in 1830, a technological development the 'lucifer match'. permitted a fire to be lit with one strike. This provided a new opportunity for crime - arson.

The increasing burden of poor rates to support unemployed and badly paid labourers caused Parliament in 1834 to amend the law to reduce eligibility for benefits, and to impersonalise their administration.

Responsibility for assessing benefits was moved from parish's elected officers to unions of 15 or 20 parishes with a board of 'guardians', one elected by each parish. Mostly farmers were elected, keen to keep down the rates. The legislation also required a 'workhouse' in every union of parishes. Applicants for benefits were to be offered a choice of finding work or being sent to the workhouse, where men and women and children were segregated.

This was deeply unpopular amongst poverty-stricken labourers. The legislation was implemented in 1835 beginning in Norfolk, with Docking Union. The guardians began in Great Bircham. Labourers were offered, instead of money, tickets for flour and shop goods. They called a general strike and went from farm to farm searching for strike-breakers. When the largest farmer, John Kitton, was found employing strike-breakers, two strike-breakers and a farmer were dragged from their horses. Labourers began stoning farmhouses. The *Norfolk Chronicle* and *Bury and Norwich Post*, reported '800-900' men marched to John Kitton's farmhouse and broke the windows, smashed the doors and the furniture, and used books to set fire to them. They then progressed to his son-in-law's house in Bircham Tofts and burned it down. Villagers stood by, not helping to put out the fires, and remained silent about perpetrators. The army had to restore order. Over the next twenty years, there were frequent outbreaks of arson. Barns and corn stacks were burned, sheep were maimed, there were riots and previous common land, reallocated to management by trustees was occupied. At Snettisham in March 1844 villagers occupied a plantation of trees planted on previous common land and protested against Henry Styleman le Strange. The *Norfolk Norwich Mercury* claimed they cut down 300 trees, allegedly in a single night. The dispute simmered on until October. Meanwhile the new Norfolk Constabulary 'armed with 130 cutlasses' camped out at Snettisham Hall to prevent further lumberjacking by villagers.

When walking round Ringstead and other local villages, ponder what life was like here in the past. Ronald Blythe's classic, *Akenfield*, (1969) shows that extreme poverty and deprivation continued in Norfolk and Suffolk villages until the Second World War.

Bill Jacob, Ringstead History Group.

## Allotment News – Tony Best

A difficult time on the Allotment lately as we had too much rain early and not enough in the last couple of months.

I am now spending about an hour every two days picking raspberries, but I think my lovely wife Carole is getting fed up with preparing and freezing them but it's lovely to have them through the winter. The best things this year have been peas and french beans and it's been a pleasure to share a lot of my produce with family, friends, and neighbours who are always very appreciative. The beetroot have been very poor unlike last year when I gave a lot of them away.

I am thinking of having the Vegetable cage strengthened during the winter as some of it blows down when we have a strong wind.

All for now, keep on digging.

## The General Store – Nathan Gee



 The General Store, Ringstead, Norfolk  
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[www.generalstoreringstead.co.uk](http://www.generalstoreringstead.co.uk)  
 Tel: 01485 525270  
**\*\*\* AUTUMN WINTER OPENING TIMES\*\*\***  
**MON-SAT 8am – 6pm, SUN 9am – 1pm**

Autumn arrives after a steady summer trade at your local village store, July was a poor month, but August recovered the summer in the end thankfully! 7pm closes worked well, and we have now moved into our winter hours (see above). We have to adapt every season, and, in the summer, we started our “made in store” fresh sandwiches which are receiving great feedback. This autumn and winter adapting carries on! We will be working on improving the décor throughout the home and vintage section and planning out our new spaces throughout the shop in preparation for our future plans. This means things will move around a little and look a bit disjointed throughout so please bear with us.

Our Norfolk loyalty card has gone well since its launch. Our incentive to buy local and be rewarded with a free product after 10 stamps is making people switch and support the local area. We are the only retailer around with this specific offer, something that we feel very proud of. Pick yours up in store today!

Thank you as always, your support is needed everyday so please help us to help you!  
 Nathan, Leah, Joshua, Lottie, Dolly, Mabel & Luna (our new cat).

### The Mobile Library

The mobile library visits Ringstead every 4 weeks on a Thursday. It stops on Docking Rd at 10.35am for 10 minutes. October 17th, November 14th and December 12th. You can borrow up to 15 books, audio books, large print books and children's books. [www.library.norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.library.norfolk.gov.uk)

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*Nathan & Leah welcome you to The General Store.*

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