

GREAT RINGSTEAD NEWS AND VIEWS

Parish Council News

Firstly I would like to draw your attention to the detailed article written by the Parish Clerk, James Howard, which details the pros and cons of a Neighbourhood plan.

Why has the precept increased this year? The primary source of income for most councils comes from the Precept, which is a local tax collected by the Borough Council on behalf of the Parish.

It is the responsibility of the Parish Council to set the precept and to oversee its expenditure on behalf of the residents of Ringstead. This money is required to run the Council and pay to maintain and improve the facilities, activities and services on behalf of the residents.

The Council after several years without a permanent clerk now have a fully qualified parish clerk. His salary is paid by the Council.

For many years a small band of volunteers have kept certain areas in the Village within the conservation area, maintained. For example the Village sign area and the Docking Road footpath which fall within the conservation area. The volunteers are all over seventy and beyond and are no longer able to meet as often. This will now be contracted out. Costs for maintaining the Playing Field have also increased.

The Junction at the Jubilee Tree

The Council and the Highways engineer for the area are aware that this junction causes concern. I would like to point out that all the roads converging to this junction have SLOW clearly written on each road, and drivers are alerted to stop by the white lines. Visibility is usually reasonable. However, no one can be held responsible for those drivers travelling over 30 mph or who drive off the Docking Road without indicating or even slowing down.

Bridget Crowfoot, Chair, Ringstead Parish Council

Stay at home if you have Coronavirus symptoms

Stay at home for 7 days if you have either:
* a high temperature - you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
* a, new continuous cough - this means you have started coughing repeatedly
If you live with other people, they should stay at home for 14 days from the day the first person got symptoms

Do not go to a GP, pharmacy or hospital.

You do not need to contact 111 to tell them you are staying at home.

Use the NHS 111 coronavirus online service if:
* you cannot cope with your symptoms at home
* your condition gets worse
* your symptoms do not get better after 7 days
*

Only call 111 if you cannot get help on line

Village coordinator for coronavirus - Melanie Hutchinson

If you need help or can offer help please contact Melanie on 07771434616, 01485 525494 or email melanie.hutchinson@hlhlt.co.uk

A Neighbourhood Plan

Ringstead Council is considering the possibility of developing a neighbourhood plan and would welcome your views.

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Everybody has an opinion on where they live and how they would like to see the village in five years time, ten years time or for their children. The future of the village is currently in the hands of the planners at Kings Lynn but it is possible to have a much stronger day and produce a plan that would be developed locally and be binding on the planners.

The legal onus is on the council to drive this if it wishes to plan but at every stage it would be important to consult with, and listen to you the villagers.

What difference might it make? Have a look at the table below:

WITH A PLAN	WITHOUT A PLAN
The village has control over many aspects of its future.	All major decisions are taken elsewhere. Local views are sought but can be ignored.
Required infrastructure can be included from the planning stage.	Infrastructure improvements only come after development, if at all.
Money from developers has to be given to the village to be decided on how it is spent locally,	Such spending is decided at Borough and County level and not necessarily on local priorities.
Planning matters - type and mix of homes etc. are decided in advance by the village and future development has to fit in with that.	Each planning application is considered in isolation rather than as part of an overall plan and is decided at Kings Lynn.
The village has a chance to develop a coherent view of the future of Ringstead and involve everyone within this process.	All changes are piecemeal and there is no forward planning. Development is often driven by short term considerations.
The views of the residents would be paramount and legally enforceable.	The future of the village is in the hands of people who probably don't live here.
The plan looks at the village as a whole.	Areas of the village may get overlooked.
There is an opportunity to look at other matters such as parking, commercial needs, open spaces etc,	These matters are only considered after pressure from interested parties. Even then there may not be power to act locally.

Developing such a plan is time consuming and, from start to finish, usually takes anything from 1 - 2 years. It is a real commitment and, without the support (and help) of villagers is not likely to be successful. Once a plan is developed it is the residents who decide by a simple vote to go ahead with it.

If you are interested (either for or against) or would like to be involved then please let us have your opinions, comments and questions. Please refer them to the Clerk who will make sure they are shared.

This is not to be thought of as a Council activity - it requires not only the support of the parishioners but also their help with members of the public on a committee so please also let us know if you are willing to take part.

James Howard, Clerk greatringsteadpc@outlook.com 07979987384

Alternatively drop them off with one of your local councillors who are available to contact if you have something to report, suggest or share for the good of the village.

Bridget Crowfoot 01485 525295	Carol Nelson 01485 535297	Valerie Everitt 01485 525581
Jim O'Shea 07958 638609	Sue Little 01485 525217	Bill Jacob 01485 525394
Debbie Rice 01485 525505		

St Andrew's Church, Ringstead

Weekly communion services 9am on Sunday morning. Also a short said service, now on Friday mornings at 10am. Please see notice board for other services.

Garden Sunday - Sunday 14 June 2020 - Jenny Martin-Smith

If you would like to get involved in organising the event, opening your garden, arranging flowers in the Church or helping on the day please do contact Jenny on 525384 or email jennymartinsmith@hotmail.co.uk or mention it to Tim and Cathy in the shop. If you represent a group in the village and wish to have a stall in one of the gardens

room and it was lovely to be visited by their grandson Alex who remembered many happy visits to his Grannie and he explained how the house used to look when it was first converted and he went upstairs to see what had been

made of his old bedroom. That day we also enjoyed meeting Bernie Crown who remembers helping with the bellows after school and he showed us where the two sets of bellows had been. Bernie also gave us a photograph of his Dad with the last blacksmith, Jack Matsell which we have displayed at our recent events.

There have been three main families working as Blacksmiths at The Forge. The Gathercoles, the Kidds and the Matsells. William Gathercole was born in Ringstead in 1833 and he followed in his father James' footsteps as a master blacksmith. William Gathercole was a prime benefactor of the Methodist Chapel in Chapel Lane which was built in 1867 at a cost of £300. There is a story that he also doubled up as a village dentist for the purpose of tooth extraction with the penny charge going to Chapel funds. He died in 1914 aged 82 and his wife Mary died in July 1912 also aged 82. William left the blacksmith's business to his fellow Methodist, John Kidd who, it is said, also inherited 100 gold sovereigns.

John Kidd operated the blacksmiths from about 1912. His family suffered tragedy in the typhoid outbreak which swept through the village in 1915/1916. His wife, Edith, died on 22nd November 1915, aged 36 followed by his daughter Ethel aged 5 on 23rd December and then his son Frederick William on 5th January 1916 aged 8. I think a total of 16 people died in the village. In the Second World War, the Kidd family took in 3 evacuees from Tottenham. So this brings me to the great day we had in the village on Saturday 29th February when people came to the village hall with some fascinating photographs and documents. As a group we were delighted with the response and interest that has been shown. For me it was wonderful to meet Eddie Kidd who brought in some brilliant photographs of the Kidd family outside Forge Cottage, as well as one of John working in what would be our courtyard and another of John astride a horse in the front. These have been scanned to build up our village resources. I also met Colin Spink who remembers being great friends with one of the evacuees who stayed at Forge Cottage and who had many wonderful stories to tell.

What has struck me is that what could just be an interesting story is actually one which involves the parents and grandparents of those who are still connected to the village. For Eddie Kidd, it was his father Jack who had to deal

with the sadness of the typhoid epidemic and I know one of the villagers who remembers talking to Jack many years later and who still remained angry at the events. My experience with the History Project is that at one minute I'm amused at a single local event kindly sent to me by another member of the group who was researching the Docking court records, such as James Gathercole being fined for allowing his donkey to stray (although the donkey appears to have been a serial strayer and proved to be a tad expensive in fines) and then the next conversation might show how national or international events impacted on the village. During the two walks we have had researching information for a local history walk of the village, conversations have ranged from the effect of America opening up the prairies to farming coupled with the effect of improved shipping and how it impacted on farming in the village, to the sacrifices of the First and Second World Wars by local families and how many still remember the children evacuated here from Tottenham.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the History Project and for taking the time to chat and letting us see and copy your family photographs and documents. I have enjoyed meeting you and listening to the history of such a beautiful village.

Please note: The views expressed in this newsletter are of the contributors and not necessarily the views and opinions of the Great Ringstead News and Views Editorial team, Val Everitt, Sue Little, Pauline Atkinson.

The team also reserve the right to edit or refuse articles as appropriate. The editorial team welcome all contributions to the newsletter. To submit an article or to advertise a business please email atk_hornbeams@yahoo.co.uk

If you have an article or an advert you wish to include in the Summer Edition of this newsletter the deadline is Friday 29 May 2020. Contact: atk_hornbeams@yahoo.co.uk

Thank you to all of the contributors to the Spring Edition of the Great Ringstead News and Views newsletter. All future event dates and opening times are subject to government advice on the current coronavirus situation.

The Gin Trap Inn - David Lamyman

My name is David Lamyman and I took over The Gin Trap in May. I've met a lot of people in the village and I'm so pleased to have been welcomed so warmly. I have ties to the area and have known about The Gin Trap since I was a child. I want the pub to be at the heart of the village and the village means a lot to me. Yes, I'm making changes to The Gin Trap, but I want those changes to ensure that the pub thrives for the next 30 years. I haven't bought it to develop it and then sell it on. I want my (9 year old) daughter to one day take it over!

I work very closely with our General Manager, Sophie Daniels, and our Head Chef, Stuart Wyllie. As a team we are determined to maintain the front bar as a public bar where tables can't be reserved and our Conservatory & Portrait Room as restaurant rooms where tables can be reserved. We have worked hard on our food menu, where Stuart has worked his magic. We use the freshest local ingredients and change items on the menu almost daily. Of course we also have a pub classics blackboard where everyone's favourites (fish & chips, burgers & pies, etc) can be chosen.

Rest assured though The Gin Trap will always be the Ringstead pub. We will support as many local community initiatives as you want us to. Our team are all very friendly and approachable. If you have any suggestions please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

Great Ringstead History Project - Bill Jacob

This has been a busy winter for Ringstead History Project. We will soon have a Facebook presence. Do visit us, and become one of our friends.

The group also had a very successful Open Day on Saturday 29th February, when we invited people to bring photographs and documents to be scanned, and to tell us about them, in exchange for free tea, coffee and cake. Lots of people came, including people who had grown up in Ringstead and moved away and people whose parents had lived here and moved away, as well as people who have moved here in the past few months. We now have a digital archive of well over 800 photographs and documents which shed showers of light on Ringstead in the twentieth century. We now know much more about Ringstead during the two World Wars, the school, the village hall and farm rents,

A big thank you to people who arranged displays, scanned the photographs and documents, and who have catalogued them, so that they are easily accessible and especially a thank you to members and spouses who made delicious cakes.

People have been busy on projects. We expect to have a map of walks around the village with illustrations and notes of interesting buildings ready for Open Gardens Sunday and available for residents and visitors. Other people have been working on the lives of people commemorated on the War Memorial and its commissioning, on the mill, on landlords and landladies of the Gin Trap (until c1972 the Compasses), on blacksmiths and on house and family histories. We will be holding our inaugural Annual General Meeting on Sunday 5 April 2020, 2.30pm at St Andrews Church, Ringstead. If you are interested please come along. I can be contacted at wmjacob15@gmail.com or 01485 525394.

If you would like to be involved, please do be in touch. We can offer help to become involved, either from experience of members, or day and half-day study courses offered by Norfolk Record Office.

Memories and the history of The Forge - Claire Vickery

So how interesting and fun the Great Ringstead History Group is turning out to be. Andrew and I started off with some limited research on the Forge in the High Street which we thought would just be looking at who owned it and a look at the old conveyancing papers. It has all turned out to be so much more rewarding and we have so enjoyed meeting all the people who have memories of the Blacksmith's Forge and the families who lived and worked there and seeing some of the old photographs.

The Forge is tucked away at the back of the gravelled parking area near Forge Cottage. In 1972 the Le Strange Estate gave permission for the Forge to be converted into a private dwelling house and released it from the covenant requiring it to be used as Blacksmith's forge. It was converted by Wing Commander Gerald James Spence and Sybil Rose Spence. At Ringstead Open Gardens we had a display for the History Group in our dining

we would be pleased for you to join in. Gardens will open from 11am-5pm with lunches and teas at the Village Hall where there will a cake and produce stall, raffle and tombola. There will be an Art Exhibition in the Village Hall and in the Church a Flower Festival of 'Our Favourite Hymns', open Saturday, Sunday and Monday, 10-5pm. We would be very grateful for any garden produce, cakes, savouries, jams or homemade preserves and also any donations for the raffle and tombola.

Tombola - Cherry Green

We need lots of prizes for the tombola please. Last year we made a fantastic £235 thanks to your very generous donations. If you have anything to donate eg. Bottles, unwanted presents, tins/packets of food, soaps etc., please could you leave at the village shop or ring Cherry Green 525223 and I will come and collect. THANK YOU

Village Pensioners – Roger Pincott

Apologies as I gave you a date for our next Bingo. Something has cropped up so I need to change the date to March 26th, doors open 7pm with eyes down 7.30pm. Any donations for prizes for this event would be appreciated.

If you have never been to the Christmas 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 the old wrinkly boys, it is free to all. You just need to be a full time resident of the village.

Ringstead Bowls Club - Roger Pincott

The 2020 season is rapidly approaching. We will be holding an open season roll up some time in early April (we do not know the league start date yet). If you have not tried bowls then come along and give it a go. We would like to find at least one more player, just watch the notice board for details.

Village Club – Elaine Pincott

The club meets on the first Thursday of the month at 14.00hrs in the village hall. The speaker for April is Andrew England on the subject of War memorials in Norfolk. We do not hold a meeting in May but run a plant sale in the village hall. This year it will be on May 2nd starting at 10.00 and finishing at 12.00 prompt. You do not need to live in Ringstead to attend our club meetings. We welcome all. We have a cup of tea with biscuits at the end of the meeting with an opportunity to meet and socialise with other members. Costs are £10 for annual membership fee or £2 per meeting as a visitor.

Village Hall - Debbie Rice

Our Village Hall is admired by many, as it has retained much of its original features. Unfortunately a couple of regular bookings have been lost due to the difficulty in heating the Hall. As a result the Committee are pressing ahead with plans to install a new Air Sourced Heating System as soon as possible. A suitable quote has been found and grants are to be applied for to hopefully help with the cost, and that of insulating and recladding the roof, which unfortunately will be a much more costly undertaking, and will be done at a later date, funds permitting! With this in mind, the Committee are also hoping to organise more fundraising events, but obviously these will only be a success if the events are well attended, so please, please come along and support our Village Hall.

In the meantime, the following groups meet regularly in the Hall, and welcome new members.

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

If you 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)



Ringstead Woodland Garden and Walks Group.

This is the start of our 8th year as an unregistered constituted charity to maintain the area known as the chalk pit leased by the parish council from the village allotments charity and there is much to do. Hedging now needs to be cut, the roadway needs to have the pot holes filled for the second time this winter with the material kindly given by Elite builders. Funds are very low and in need of a drastic top up we would be most grateful to anyone who can help us with raising funds, arrange an event or donate funds. Our annual meeting is to be held soon notice of which will be placed on the notice board outside the shop. People acting as trustees of our group and officers are appointed at this meeting. During the past year it has been brought to my attention on two occasions that small and trail motor cycles are being used mainly in the downs area but also in the chalk pit. Both ourselves and the Le Strange Estate do not approve of this and the police where involved as this is not only a public order offence but also an offence under the road traffic act as a motorised vehicle is not allowed to be used of road without the land owners consent. In order to prevent repeat occurrences the estate has given me permission to address any instances on their land. I thank the members of the public who bring such matters to my attention and those who pick up any litter they come across. Fortunately the recent storms have not caused us any problems. To contact the group please tel 01485 525480 or email t.large304@btinternet.com

Chairman woodland gardens and walks group.

Playing Field - Valerie Everitt

It is good to see the playing field tidy. I empty the litter bins weekly and thank you to all who help by putting rubbish in the bins provided. These are situated by the swings. I hope adults as well as children enjoy using the equipment. The adult gym equipment is a good way to keep fit in the fresh air, even on these blustery days.

The playing field is an ideal place to meet friends especially when the weather warms up. Already we have longer daylight hours. Moles are once again active but this is under control.

It is the hope of the Parish Council to provide more equipment in the future to enhance the playing field.

If you have any ideas please let me know what you would like to see for consideration. If there are any of the younger generation's of our village finding themselves feeling bored then any ideas what they would like as an activity utilising the playing field please let me know on 01485 525581

Eastern Yellow Wagtail L.Bunyan (RSPB Volunteer Titchwell)

Many of you will have seen the large amount of cars parked on the road between Ringstead and Sedgeford and must be wondering what all the fuss was about.

Well a small bird, a member of the Wagtail family has decided to make that little patch of Norfolk home. The bird in question is the 'Eastern' or 'Alaskan' variant of the more common Yellow Wagtail.



This particular variant is more normally found in East Asia and across into Alaska. Quite how it made its way to our shore is a bit of a mystery and how long it will stay depends most likely on it finding enough food. At the moment it is very happy searching the dung heaps by the road and is very easy to see, so get out your binoculars and take a trip to see it, just look for the bird watchers and ask.

Peddars Meadow: Update Hanneke Robson

Spring is here! Ringstead is emerging from a soggy winter with welcome splashes of colour. This is the time our minds turn to the soil, to the plants we support and the insects that depend on our actions.

I am pleased to report that we* have signed the lease for half an acre of land off Peddars Way, now known (optimistically, for it is in a sorry state) as Peddars Meadow. Acquisition of additional land will depend on the success of our mission to re-wild this area and our subsequent care of the plot. Re-wilding is a misnomer. What we are planning is 'arable reversal.' Giving strength back to the soil and encouraging the growth of the chalk land plants that used to grace these environs.

We are delighted to report the support of James Young and his tractor to plough and till. Costs for this and re-seeding, will be carried by proceeds of the Garage Studio. The Gallery now has 10 local artists, including a fine sculptor, participating. If our opening is delayed through the coronavirus, we would consider opening by appointment. My phone number is available below for further information.

If you would like to 'reverse' a corner of your garden, or you have seen a patch of ground which could do with some attention, or you have knowledge to impart which could be valuable to our project, please do get in touch with me, or with Pauline Atkinson.

Thank you. Hanneke Robson t: 01485 525715 e: Hanneke@thegaragestudionorfolk.co.uk e: Pauline Atkinson atk_hornbeams@yahoo.co.uk *We' are not strictly a group, rather a collection of residents, with ideas for improving not only our own habitat, but that of our closest allies – the insects: long may they buzz!

Ringstead Art Group - 'Message in a bottle'- Julie Clark www.julieclark.co.uk

Most of us can remember hearing a low hum in the early hours, accompanied by the gentle and comforting clink of bottles, signalling the arrival of fresh milk on our doorstep.

Then, over time, things changed. Supermarkets took over, and where there was once glass (and paper) there is now plastic. Touted as the new wonder product, supposedly making everyone's life easier and better, it was suddenly everywhere. We didn't know then the devastating impact it would have on the planet, and the creatures that inhabit it. Its durability became its downfall. It simply is indestructible. Here forever.

Thanks to the wonderful David Attenborough and programmes like *The Blue Planet*, more people are aware of this important issue. Fortunate to be living in such a naturally beautiful area of this part of Norfolk, we are acutely aware, and try to do what we can here. Luckily, the milkman does still exist, and is as important as ever, if not more so, now,

Anything we can do to raise awareness can help. I have been fortunate enough to be part of art exhibitions that feature work responding to the theme of climate change. Reading reports of 'a million plastic bottles a minute' being bought, set to top half a trillion which will be sold annually by 2021, inspired me to create my first 'Message in a Bottle', featured in the 2018 *our eARTh* exhibition at the Kunsthuus Gallery, Yorkshire.

Message in a Bottle II followed, shown at Open Studios 2019, where I was lucky enough to exhibit at the village hall with talented Ringstead artists, Helga Joergens, Barbara King, David Lendrum and Alan Witley. Being part of the Ringstead Art Group (aka RAG) has always inspired me, since the first meeting led by talented artist, Bryan Harford, and more recently, visiting artists including David Lendrum, Stephen Martyn and Brian Woodford.



I completed *Message in a Bottle III* at the art group, and it was here that I was asked to write an article for the newsletter. The sculpture was selected to be part of the recent *Environmental Crisis* Exhibition at the Gerald Moore Gallery, London. Created using miniature 'plastic' bottles (some made from repurposed eye drop vials) and discarded remnants of plastic bags, suspended in an eco-resin 'sea' within a glass milk bottle.

The description reads: "This piece is a response to, and interpretation of, the massive overuse and over-reliance of plastic and its devastating effect on the ocean, and its creatures, The message in this bottle aims to highlight this growing problem, provoke discussion, and encourage the use of alternatives." I don't get any commission from the milkman, but knowing that if just one person reading this feels encouraged to swap from plastic to an alternative, potentially saving the lives of even one sea bird, seal, fish, turtle, dolphin or whale, it will be worth it.