

GREAT RINGSTEAD NEWS AND VIEWS

Ringstead Parish Council -From the Chair- Bill Jacob

The Parish Council meet normally monthly, on the second Monday at 7pm, except in August. However, the next meeting will be on 7th April. Members of the public are welcome to attend and to raise matters. Agendas and minutes are posted on the website and the parish noticeboards.

Budget

In December the Council approved its budget for 2025/6 to enable it to undertake its responsibilities and retained the parish's precept for a second year at £19,000. Following the Borough Council's introduction of a second-home premium in April 2025, the Ringstead Tax Band D charge for the Parish Council will fall from £110-40 to £96-74, a saving of about 17%.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Referendum for the Neighbourhood Plan was held on 13th February. There was an excellent turn out, with 41% of eligible voters voting. The result was 77 votes in favour and 21 against. The Plan now becomes part of the Borough Council's Planning Policy. (see separate article).

Highways

The Council monitors highway matters every month, particularly potholes and clearance of 'grups' to drain surface water off roads.

Bus Service

Following a request from a member of the public, the Council investigated the possibility of Ringstead being included in the coastal bus service. The narrowness of the unclassified roads into the village precludes this. However, attention was drawn to the West Norfolk Community Transport Projects' Dial-A-Bus service.

Playing Field

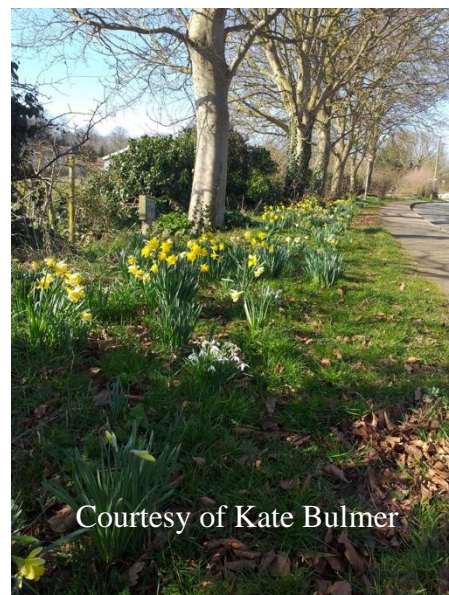
The Playing Field is inspected by a member of the Council weekly. The annual Independent Inspection report was received in December, which required no actions. It was agreed to experiment with a different mowing regime leaving part of the eastern edge of the field uncut to encourage wildlife and to see what wildflowers may grow.

Planning

The Council commented on five planning applications December to March.

Fireworks and Bonfires

Concerns were raised by members of the public about fireworks alarming horses and pets, and bonfires causing smoke hazards. People planning to let off fireworks should warn neighbours over a wide area



so that horses and pets can be managed and check the wind direction before lighting a bonfire, so the smoke doesn't cause a nuisance.

Footpaths

The long-awaited registration of public footpaths in the village will be resolved by the Planning Inspectorate following a Public Hearing on 22nd and 23rd July at Thornham Village Hall, when objections to two proposed Ringstead footpaths will be heard.

Litter Pick

The Annual Litter Pick will be on Saturday 29th March, meeting at 10am at the Village Hall. Equipment is provided, with coffee and biscuits afterwards. All are welcome.

The Borough Council's weekly Newsletter is available on the Parish Council's website at <https://www.ringsteadpc-norfolk.info/>.

Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan

The Referendum for the Neighbourhood Plan took place on Thursday 13th February and the result was announced on Friday 14th February,

Ninety-nine votes were cast, representing a 41.25% turn out, which is very good for a local authority referendum.

77.8% of those who voted said the Plan should be accepted. The Plan has therefore been adopted by the Borough Council.

The Plan contains a range of locally distinctive policies relating to planning matters including housing (mix and tenures), design, green infrastructure, community infrastructure, the historic environment and active travel. It also includes an allocation of land for social housing development comprising up to 6 dwellings.

From now on, full development plan weight should be given to the Neighbourhood Plan's policies in making decisions about planning applications within the Parish.

Our thanks to all those (including our various consultants), who have worked over the past five years or so to achieve the Plan, and special thanks to Bernard Birch who contributed the photographs of the village for the Plan.

Bill Jacob Tel. 01485 525394 e-mail wmjacob20@gmail.com



Garden Sunday – Sara Stocks

Just a reminder that Ringstead Open Gardens will be held on Sunday, 8th June. This is always a very happy annual event which showcases the wonderful village that we live in. If you would like to be involved in any way - whether opening your garden, baking cakes, doing flower arrangements in the Church or helping out on the day, let me know. There's always a great atmosphere and if you're new to Ringstead, it's a great way to meet other people living in the village.

Please contact Sara Stocks Tel: 07786316610

Churchwardens report Spring 2025

I am pleased to report that the current schedule of work in the old churchyard is complete making the area more accessible, although one still needs to take care. The previous attempt at re-wilding having not been managed successfully resulted in an overgrown area hazardous to walk in. Numerous self-seeded saplings have now been removed, the ant and mole hills have been flattened and the soil spread around to level the ground. It looks a bit of a mess at the moment, but soon the plants will grow back through. The area will be strimmed, rolled and eventually mown.

The "bug hotel" constructed in the corner already has residents.

I hope that all who visit this churchyard will find peace and calm and enjoy the view. Maybe we can site a new seat or bench here.



Work on the church guttering and down pipes will begin soon. When this is completed the damp problem inside can be addressed.



I am sad to report that following an interview for a new incumbent for the Saxon Shore Benefice no appointment was made. The churchwardens are meeting with the Archdeacon of Lynn to begin the process of recruitment again!! In the meantime, we continue our monthly pattern of worship at St Andrew's with the help of "retired" clergy. 9am services on Sunday mornings and 10am services on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays. In addition, through March and April there are a series of Lenten services and lunches in the area. Please see posters in the notice board at the end of the church drive.

There is to be a morning of activities on Saturday 19th April as we decorate the church for Easter Sunday.

Find the "treasure" to help build an Easter Garden.
Tea, coffee, cake and chocolate eggs.
10am to 12noon

As ever my thanks for your support, Kate Bulmer

Carpet Bowls - Mo Covel

The sessions take place every Wednesday from 2-4 P.M. and the fees have increased to £2.50 including a hot drink and a biscuit.

Our Christmas celebration meeting was a great success! We played alternative versions of bowls with Christmas themed prizes of chocolate Santas, reindeer and teddy bears as well as wobbly snowmen. The club continues to have well attended meetings which means that we are able to afford the increase in the cost of hall hire and no longer have to feed the meter for much needed heat!

Following a suggestion from one of the members we now record the winners of each session by tying the appropriate coloured ribbon around a small cup. There are two teams, selected each week, black and brown, which match the bowls that we use. This has added a friendly rivalry to the sessions and adds to competitiveness, but we are still a friendly and welcoming group of people who find time to socialize and catch up with news.



Joan Marchbank

Joan Marchbank passed away in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital on Tuesday 11th March. She had been ill for some time.

She and her husband, Peter, moved to Ringstead in July 1996, having had a holiday home here since 1989. Although born in Cambridge, she studied French and Russian at St Anne's College, Oxford, and thereafter spent thirty-five years teaching in girls' Grammar Schools in Blackheath, Basingstoke, Manchester and Altrincham. The happiest time of her life, though, was here in Norfolk, where she played her cello in orchestras in King's Lynn and Ely and chamber music with like-minded ladies. Often the playing would be punctuated by frequent gales of laughter.

For many years, she was a member of Hunstanton Golf Club, where she was also a keen bridge player. She was especially proud of a teaspoon that she once won in a competition. She was, though, essentially a serious and caring person who spent several years as an adviser for the Citizens' Advice Bureau and she also helped at the Food Bank in Hunstanton when it was first established.

Her greatest gifts for many were her friendship, her cheerfulness and her generosity and the messages of condolence that the family have received testify to that. She will be much missed as a wife, a mother and a friend. It is hoped that a concert in her memory can be arranged in King's Lynn in October.

Village Hall - Debbie Rice, Chairperson

On the evening of 1st February, the Hall was used to host the Winter Warmer Event. I would like to thank Kate for providing the fascinating display of historic photos of the Village, and all those who helped on the evening, and those who attended.

Carpet Bowls takes place in the Hall every Wednesday afternoon between 2 and 4pm and there are also a couple of Private Hires each week!

The Committee are keen to recruit new members so if you are interested, please get in touch or come to the AGM that will be held at 7pm on Monday 24th March at 7pm.

The hourly Hire Rates for the Hall are:

Ringstead Residents £10

Commercial £12

Half a day £30

Whole day £50

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

Bowls Club - Roger Pincott

The club held its AGM on 6th March. Election of officers were as follows:

Chairman Cedric Curry. Club captain Richard Hendricks. Treasurer Gill Birch. Secretary Roger Pincott.

Last year's season saw RBC finish 3rd in their division, which for such a small club as ours was a very good result. This year we are really going to be hard pushed to raise a team for every game as we only have 12 people registered for the club, we need 9 for each game. Recently the village hall committee held a social gathering, in the hall so you could all see what progress we had made in there. I understand it was well attended. How about one or two of you popping down to the green and having a go at Bowls, with the prospect of joining us in the bowls club. All you need is flat soled shoes, we can find a set of bowls that should fit you. We will try to give you advice on the game, and we can see where it takes us. YOUR VILLAGE TEAM NEEDS YOU. The club is very fortunate in that several businesses in the village support the club financially as this year we have had to have an expensive service to the mower. The top dressing we put onto the green to flatten it, when mixed with rain turns it to a grinding paste and wears away the bottom blade. Add to that the increase cost of fertiliser our out goings have risen. We should have the green in good nick for practice sessions towards the end of April.

If you are interested in playing next season you can contact me on 525522 or rogerpincott@btinternet.com

Allotment News – Tony Best

Not much to report on the allotment at this time of year, but it is all nicely dug over and I planted broad beans in December.

I have just cut down all my raspberry canes and asparagus fronds will be next. I have had a new vegetable cage erected by a very nice chap who was building a shed next door, and now it does not blow down in the gales. His name is Jason Harris tel 07786 084533.

I have also recently had our septic tank emptied by Kirkhams at Long Sutton, tel 01406 364002 who did a better job than the previous local man who has now retired.
Keep on digging.
Tony.

The Need for Deer Control on Farmland and Gardens

By Stephen Shears

Muntjac deer may be small, but their growing numbers are causing major problems for farmers and gardeners. Whether you admire them or see them as a pest, controlling their population is essential.

Rising Numbers, Rising Damage

Introduced in the early 20th century, muntjac breed year-round, leading to rapid population growth. This results in serious damage to crops, gardens, and woodlands. Farmers suffer financial losses, while gardeners watch their plants disappear overnight.

Environmental Impact

Muntjac also harm local biodiversity. Their feeding prevents woodland regeneration, threatening native species and altering ecosystems. Without control, these effects will only worsen.

A Practical Solution

Managing deer numbers protects farms, gardens, and wildlife. One sustainable approach is to utilise muntjac as a food source. Their venison is one of the healthiest meats—lean, high in protein, and delicious. Choosing local venison supports conservation while reducing waste.

Finding Balance

Deer control doesn't mean eradication. It's about maintaining a sustainable population through humane methods like regulated shooting and fencing.

By managing muntjac responsibly, we protect our countryside, support local agriculture, and enjoy a fantastic source of natural, healthy meat. Next time you see venison on the menu, consider it a step toward a better-balanced ecosystem.

Replacing Other Meats with Venison

Venison is a fantastic alternative to beef, lamb, or pork because it's lean, high in protein, and rich in flavour. Here's how you can substitute it:

- Beef: Swap minced venison in burgers, meatballs, or chili. It has a slightly richer taste but works perfectly in these dishes.
- Lamb: Use venison in stews or curries where lamb is called for. Its unique flavour makes a great substitute.
- Pork: Try venison sausages or replace pork in stir-fries and fajitas for a leaner option.

Simple Venison Steak Recipe

2 venison steaks (about 6 oz each)
1 tbsp olive oil or butter
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 tsp fresh rosemary or thyme, chopped
Salt and pepper to taste
1 tbsp balsamic vinegar (optional, for extra flavour)

Instructions:

1. Prepare the steaks: Pat the venison dry with paper towels and season both sides with salt, pepper, and chopped herbs.
2. Heat the pan: In a heavy skillet over medium-high heat, add olive oil or butter. Once hot, add the minced garlic.
3. Sear the steaks: Cook the venison for about 3–4 minutes per side for medium-rare (internal temperature of 54–58°C). Avoid overcooking, as venison is lean and can become tough.
4. Rest and serve: Remove from the pan, let rest for 5 minutes, then slice and serve with your choice of accompaniments.

Peace Haven Paws – Valerie Everitt



Most of you will have seen me walking my lovely dog Barney, a tricolour collie x spaniel.

I met and adopted Barney in 2011 from the RSPCA Rescue centre in Eaubrink when he was approximately 1 year old.

Together we shared 13 wonderful years. I devoted my time to Barney, planning things around him. Holidays were a thing of the past, my last one being 2011, just before Barney arrived. I wouldn't have it any other way, every day was a holiday with Barney.

Sadly, Barney crossed the Rainbow Bridge in December 2024 aged 14. I was heartbroken and still miss him greatly.

At this moment I cannot visualise owning another dog. However, I really want to help owners who, for whatever reason, may not be able to walk their beloved dogs, short term or long term. Maybe an event or an appointment is longer than you could leave your dog alone.

That is where Peace Haven Paws can help. I have left my previous job, and I am feeling happy that from the loss of Barney, something positive is happening.

I have embarked on Peace Haven Paws to dog sit in their home within familiar surroundings or walk at any times to suit. Only your dog will be walked at a time, no multiple walking, unless 2 dogs live together on arrangement. They can sniff out new smells as much as they want. The walk is about them not me.

I am fully insured and have owned 3 collies during my time living in Ringstead and lived with a golden Labrador, when I was school age.

Standard hourly rate is £15 with some flexibility around sitting requirements depending on length of time.

Please contact me if you, or you know someone who would like help from Peace Haven Paws on 07884250152 Or email. barney27dogwalking@gmail.com



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

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