

GREAT RINGSTEAD NEWS AND VIEWS



A very happy Christmas and best wishes for 2025 to all our readers, both residents and visitors



PARISH COUNCIL – Bill Jacob, Chair

Ringstead Local Neighbourhood Plan

Our Neighbourhood Plan on which we have been working for nearly five years, and which has involved three public consultations, including displays for information and comments in the Village Hall, has been recommended by the Independent Examiner to proceed to a referendum. The Independent Examiner has merely recommended a number of drafting amendments, and the final version of the Plan is now available on the Parish Council's website at <https://www.ringsteadpc-norfolk.info/neighbourhood-plan>. The Plan can also be viewed using the QR code below:



A copy of the Borough Council's decision on the Independent Examiner's recommendations on our Plan can also be found on the Parish Council's website.

The Plan is important for it will provide the framework for developments and the Borough Council's Planning Department's consideration of planning applications in the village for the next fifteen years. One of the Plan's most important provisions is to provide for six new social housing units for rent. Preference will be given to prospective tenants with local connections. This will enable people who work locally to live here and may help to lower the average age of the community, and bring children and young people back into the village. The Borough Council hope to arrange the referendum in January or February. Everyone registered as a voter in the parish will be entitled to vote. Please look out for more information about the date.

Parish Council

Over the past three months the Council have commented on six planning applications; have received the report of the annual independent inspection of the Playing Field equipment, which is in good order, sought to deal with the problems of moles in the Playing Field; and monitored and reported to the County Council Highways Department issues relating to the roads, including clearing gullies to divert surface water off roads. We are also awaiting a new 'SAM' sign for monitoring traffic speed in the High Street.

Our finances are reviewed at every meeting. We have ringfenced the £17,066.42 we have received as the parish's 15% share of the Community Improvement Levy for the development in Chapel Lane. If the Neighbourhood Plan is approved by the referendum the parish will receive 25% of the Levy for any future developments. It has been agreed to ringfence this for a future capital project. We have made £800 grants to each of the Village Hall and the Parochial Church Council for maintaining the Churchyard. All residents of the village have a right to be buried, or have their ashes buried in the Churchyard. We have been working on our budget for 2025-26. Our income comes from a precept approved by the Borough Council and included as a very small element in the Council Tax levied on every house in the village.

Public Transport

Ringstead is one of the few villages locally not served by public transport. For the year 2022-23 a community bus service was run quite frequently through the village from Hunstanton to King's Lynn and back, but while it still passes through other villages, Ringstead was dropped because the service was very little used. We lost it because it was not used. The Parish Council have inquired about the possibility of the bus service from Hunstanton to Wells being diverted between Old Hunstanton and Holme to Ringstead, but there are logistical problems in achieving this.

However, West Norfolk Community Transport Project's Dial-a-Bus serves Ringstead with their Dial A Bus service every Thursday into Fakenham, this is a door-to-door service. To be eligible you need to become a member of West Norfolk Community Transport. Membership is £10 for the year starting in April, and individuals have to pay for each journey travelled. This service is bookable through their office on 01553 776971. They also have volunteer drivers who can take people at specific time to appointments. That service costs 45p/50p per mile, depending on where the driver lives. If you would like more information, please contact West Norfolk Community Transport Project direct.

Volunteer(s) to tidy area round the bench at the bottom of Foundry Lane

A few helpful people have begun to tidy the area around the bench at the junction of Foundry Lane, Burnham Road and Docking Road. It would be good to have two or three more people to get it looking tidy in the spring. If you would like to help, please let me know.

Village Activities

It was very good to see a good turnout at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday, and the Race Night at the Village Hall on 16th November was a tremendous success.

Bill Jacob 01485 525394 wmjacob20@gmail.com

VOLUNTARY NORFOLK

Services

Have you considered volunteering?

Volunteering is a fantastic way to support people, and research shows that volunteering can boost happiness and confidence. There are plenty of ways to get involved, and anyone, regardless of age, can make a difference.

Volunteering helps build connections, bringing people together and fostering friendships. It's a great way to meet new people, develop skills, and take pride in our communities. Norfolk & Waveney boasts beautiful countryside, tight-knit villages and bustling market towns and our volunteers help keep this special part of the country strong, united, and supported.

By giving just a few hours a week or more, you can have a real impact on the lives of those around you. You're not only improving life for others but for yourself. Whether it's helping at your local hospital, supporting the vulnerable to stay in their own homes or return home after a hospital stay, or driving them to their non-urgent medical appointments, assisting Voluntary Norfolk behind the scenes or helping with community initiatives, every contribution counts.

Visit Voluntary Norfolk at www.voluntarynorfolk.org.uk to explore roles that, with your time and energy, will make a real difference.

You'll be amazed by the positive impact you can have and how rewarding it feels to lend a hand!

THE GENERAL STORE**Christmas & New Year Opening Hours**

24 th Dec 8am – 1pm	29 th Dec 9am -1pm
25 th /26 th Dec CLOSED	30 th Dec 8am – 4pm
27 th Dec 8am – 1pm	31 st Dec 8am – 1pm
28 th Dec 8am – 6pm	1 st Jan 9am -12pm

How can you support your village store with rising costs?

As costs continue to rise for small businesses how can you help us battle through the tough times ahead and trade another successful winter? We have put some of our services and recommendations below that will support keeping your village store here for years to come.

- Shop with us more frequently for everyday items, not just for newspapers. We have fresh bread, great quality fruit and veg and fresh milk delivered every day. Whilst these may not be a cheap as the discounters and supermarkets, purchasing these supports local people in local jobs.
- Pop in and take some time to see what we stock. It will be much more than you think and at prices a lot more affordable than you realise.
- We can deliver locally, and we take orders over the phone. It's easy to shop with us and we can get your shopping ready for you to collect at any time too! We use a quality local butcher for our fresh meat and poultry, far superior quality to the supermarkets.
- When paying in store we would always prefer cash wherever possible – we then pay nothing in bank charges. We know this is not always possible in the current way of the world and if it is card payment our preferred payment method is debit card. Credit card charges are much higher. Please also pay in one transaction as we pay a charge per transaction.
- Finally, Postage Stamps – As we make zero profit on postage stamps now, please pay with cash if purchasing them on their own or we lose money. Buy large quantities at your local post office to help support them too.

We know it's hard to change shopping habits. Supermarkets have huge deals and make it very easy to order online but for all local businesses to survive they need to be used. We have a number of loyal shoppers but would love many more! It's that age old saying of "Use us or lose us!"

We are so very grateful to every one of you for your support over the years.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy 2025.

Thank you as always.

Nathan, Leah, Joshua, Lottie, Dolly, Mabel & Luna

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, RINGSTEAD

The new Church Year begins on Advent Sunday, 1st December. Through Advent we prepare to welcome Jesus Christ on Christmas morning.



Our theme this year is follow the star. Pop into church during December, (we try to be open every day) make or decorate a star or bring a star to add to the display. If you can't get to church, make a star and hang it in a window at home.



At 9am on Sunday 22nd December, crib dressing and Christingle service with carols for children (and all the young at heart).

Christmas Day service of Holy Communion at 9am. All are welcome to this and every service in Ringstead church.



For details of services please see poster below, the village notice boards and website, and the Hunstanton and Saxon Shore Benefice website: saxonshorebenefice.co.uk

Thanks are in order for those who turned out to help tidy in the Churchyard (and clean in the church) for Remembrance Sunday. And to B for cooking the sausages and making the coffee to encourage us in our tasks. A great team effort.

I am pleased to report the yew hedge has been cut back, the outside water tap has a new wooden housing, and the notice board has been replaced. Especial thanks to Justin who is persevering with the clock.



Kate Bulmer 01485 525432 or email: cwringstead@saxonshorebenefice.co.uk



DECEMBER, ADVENT & CHRISTMAS TIDE

Sunday 01st December Advent 1. 09.00am Holy Communion
 Sunday 08th December Advent 2. 09.00am Holy Communion
 Thursday 12th December 10.00am Said Eucharist
 Sunday 15th December Advent 3. 09.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 22nd December 09.00am Advent 4
A Family Service for Children of All Ages preparing the way for the Baby Jesus with
Carols, Christingles, Stories and Dressing the Crib

Wednesday 25th December 09.00am.
Christmas Day
Family Holy Communion
Welcoming Jesus with Carols and Celebrating round the Crib

Sunday 31st December. NO SERVICE HERE TODAY
 10.00am CHRISTMAS BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION
 St. Mary's Church, Holme next the Sea.

RINGSTEAD OPEN GARDENS SUNDAY

This year's Ringstead Open Gardens event will be held on **Sunday, 8th June.** It's a wonderful day showcasing the beautiful gardens in the village along with the warm community spirit that we're so lucky to have here. If you haven't been involved in previous years but would like to help out in 2025, please let me know.

Merry Christmas
 Sara Stocks
 07786316610
bonallack@sky.com

RINGSTEAD VILLAGE HALL -Chairperson, Debbie Rice

Race Night was held at the Village Hall on 16th November this year and raised a total of £1358 which will help with the upkeep of the Hall. On behalf of the Management Committee, I would like to thank everyone who helped organise the event, those who sponsored races and horses, donated raffle prizes and all who attended the enjoyable evening!

The Carpet Bowls group meet every Wednesday afternoon between 2 and 4pm, and new members are always welcome, so please feel free to turn up and have a go!

If anyone would like to hire the Hall, please contact the booking secretary Roger Pincott on 525522

Debbie Rice
07789 902575
debbierice55@btinternet.com



RINGSTEAD CARPET BOWLS - Mo Covel

Our very friendly club continues to meet every Wednesday from 2 pm until 4 pm. If you think you would like to give carpet bowls a try just turn up and you will be made very welcome. The charge is a very reasonable £2 and includes a cup of tea or coffee with a biscuit. The fee covers the hire of the hall and helps towards the upkeep of the village hall.

We have enjoyed the first few months of the new season after another successful summer where most of the members were able to attend regularly. We only had to cancel once due to very low numbers so we will continue to meet throughout the year.

Last Christmas we celebrated Christmas with an evening session of 3 hours which was a fun event interspersed with food and drink and “normal” bowls. This was very successful, and we will be repeating it this year with additional fun events! Watch this space.

BOWLS CLUB – Roger Pincott

Ringstead bowls club held its annual awards presentation dinner recently.

We are a very small club so only need a small venue. We congregated at Berni Beans, situated on the High Street Hunstanton, for the third year running. It is such a cosy place, and we have it all to ourselves with the delightful Angie and Suzy front of house and Amanda in the back concocting magnificent meals.

The D G Pull cup for Ladies single Champion was won by Gill Birch.

The Colonel John Harvey cup for men’s single Champion was won by Cedric Curry.

The Michael Meakin cup for open singles champion was won by Roger Pincott

A special prize was awarded this year to the player who had achieved the highest average points in the games they had played in any league or cup game. This prize was drawn by Ringstead artist Brian Woodford and was presented to Peter Gyton.

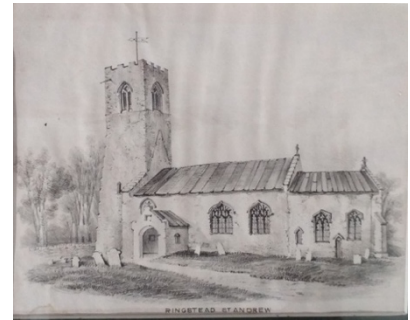
In my opinion our bowls green is the best looking green in our league, with the many various flowers and shrubs keeping a continuous display throughout the season. For this we must thank our lady gardener Gill Birch, who was also given a small gift for all her efforts throughout the year.

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

RINGSTEAD HISTORY GROUP - Kate Bulmer

Having mentioned the church clock in my Churchwarden's news, here is a short background to Ringstead in the mid 19th century when the clock was installed in St Andrew's church.

The population of Ringstead grew steadily in the early 19th century. In 1771 the ratepayers in the two Ringstead parishes of St Andrew and St Peter, whose combined inhabitants numbered about 250, petitioned the bishop of Norwich, to demolish all but the tower of St Peter's, the church being 'very old and decayed and standing low in the ground and very damp and unwholesome'. They wished to sell St Peter's bell, together with the two cracked bells in St Andrew's and use the money to repair St Andrew's church, build a gallery at the west end, repave the church floor, and provide new pews to accommodate St Peter's congregation.



Ladbroke's lithograph of the church in the 1820's

By the mid 19th century, the population of Ringstead had more than doubled. The census of 1861 records some 520 people in 144 properties. The Rector was Frederick Fitzroy, with Plumpton Wilson the curate to assist, and there were several Methodist preachers.

The Revd Frederick Fitzroy died in February 1862 aged 54; his tomb can be seen in the graveyard.

The new rector, William Law Hussey, noted in 1863 that there was only seating in church for a third of the population, launching an appeal for £1,735 to build, in the new fashionable Gothic style, a north aisle, re-using the windows from the old north wall, a vestry, to replace the roofs at the original pitch, rebuild the porch, and provide a new pulpit, seating, flooring and heating. It overran the estimate, costing £2,053, but not enough was raised to restore the tower.

Hussey gave the coloured glass (depicting the two churches) in the south chancel window in thanksgiving for the completion of the restoration.

A clock with a pendulum dated 1865 made by Tucker of London was installed in the tower.



The clock face being lowered in April 2019. The mechanism was removed and restored at this time.



View of Ringstead Church from north-west by Bernard Birch

SNOWBALL PUDDING - Carolyn Ward

Ingredients

200g full fat cream cheese
75g caster sugar
75g melted butter
50g chopped hazelnuts
25g candied peel
50g chopped glace cherries
50g chopped crystallised ginger
Grated rind and juice of 2 oranges and 1 lemon
8 trifle sponges
2x5ml gelatine
125ml double cream



Method

- Beat the cream cheese with the sugar and melted butter until smooth.
- Stir in the chopped nuts, candied peel, chopped ginger and grated rind of the oranges and lemon.
- Slice the sponges crossways into 3 thin slices each
- Put 3-4 slices of the sponge into the bottom of a 2pt pudding basin, spoon a layer of the cream cheese mixture, continue layering ending with a layer of sponge
- Dilute juice of oranges and lemon in 375ml hot water.
- Dissolve gelatine in 2tbsp of very hot water and add to juices
- Strain the juice over the mixture in the basin, making sure the juice gets to the bottom of the basin by pulling the mixture back with a spoon.
- Put in fridge to set
- When well chilled, dip the basin briefly in hot water and turn out on to a serving plate
- Whip cream until thick and ice the pudding with it.
- Decorate the top with a sprig of holly.
- Chill again in the fridge before serving

RINGSTEAD PENSIONERS CHRISTMAS LUNCH and GET TOGETHER - Janet Woodford

We all appreciated the welcome we received from the Manager and all the team at The Gin Trap who generously provided a fantastic meal and warm friendly hospitality to 28 pensioners who live full time in the village.

Yet again the Gin Trap, our village Inn, maintained its tradition and reputation of being a warm, homely, quality location at which to gather and celebrate.

We were all treated to a delicious seasonal lunch, fantastic hospitality and great service from all the very friendly team.

We are all extremely grateful to The Chestnut Hospitality Group for hosting our Christmas Lunch and Get Together.

We received an extremely large number of prizes, generously donated for the raffle that raised £76.00 This was put towards part of the payment of the First Drinks Bill of £145.49.

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RINGSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL
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www.ringsteadpc-norfolk.info

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Nathan & Leah welcome you to The General Store.

Open everyday Mon-Sat 8-5 & Sun 9-1.

Home of The Norfolk Ale Shop— A huge selection of Craft beers, local ales, cider, wines & spirits from the local area

We are proud to sell local Fresh Bread, Eggs, Meat, Honey, Cheese and seasonal produce

Stocking a full range of everyday essentials

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41 High Street,
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