

Runton Holme News & Info March 2018

Welcome to the latest edition. 2017 has been and gone, so quickly but not certain where, 2018 has arrived cold and very wet. The playing field for the first time in memory is saturated such that the FA referees have said it is not currently suitable for football, hopefully with a dry spell, it should drain off very quickly.

Most reading this will recall years gone by when we had regular heavy falls of snow, schools remained open-slides in the playground and snowball fights, transport carried on with slight interruption, School Road blocked, football pitches had the white lining cleared and life carried on!

Latest news on the bus front is that Stagecoach are possibly closing their depot in Lynn and cutting back on their services, our already poor service could well disappear.

Runton Holme Village Meet

The first Village Meet was held on 20 May 2016 and under the leadership of Brenda Redfern have been held monthly since that date. After an initial 3 months of funding from the Parish Council, the Village Meet is self-financing and has attracted a steady patronage from Runton Holme villagers and others from further afield.

The primary purpose of the Village Meet remains to encourage villagers to get together in a convivial and informal atmosphere to promote conversation and connections between villagers. It is generally agreed that the Village Meet has been a success with a typical attendance of around 40. Increasingly the most popular of the tables set out for villagers to sit at with their coffees/teas are the ones around which 8 or more can congregate.

The Village Meet is self-financing. Money collection beyond that required to sustain the Village Meet is a secondary goal and any surplus collected is solely used to support renovation and repair of the Parish Hall.

The priority and type of the works done on the Parish Hall are at the discretion of the Parish Hall Committee. The Village Meet Working Group welcomes application for donations of repair funds from the Parish Hall Committee and will contribute to, or finance wholly, those applications that are within its funds and which are considered consistent with the spirit of the donations made by Village Meet attendees. Village Meet funding for the repainting of the exterior woodwork has already been donated. As of 21 November 2017 the Village Meet had accumulated a financial surplus of £1,249, which in December paid for replacement of some of the rotten or rusted windows of the Village Hall.

Dates for the next quarter's meets are as follows:

Friday 16th March 2018

Friday 13th April 2018

Friday 18th May 2018

Friday 15th June 2018

Hope to see you there!

Tim Hartnall, Village Meet Working Group

NEWS FROM THE MEDICAL CENTRE

Once again a new year brings about many changes at the Medical Centre. Whilst the NHS is creaking under the burden of increased patient numbers and real term decreasing resources, I am pleased to report that Watlington Medical Centre is staying ahead of the curve and we have been able to recruit a new GP partner, Dr Sarah Fletcher, who starts at the beginning of March. Dr Buckland will be taking a well-earned 3 month sabbatical; returning later in the year and Dr Fletcher will be a welcome addition, which will allow us to continue to provide the same number of same day appointments.

Whilst we, along with most practices, sometimes struggle to offer routine appointments with the doctor of your choice, we pride ourselves in being able to deal with a huge number of patients who wish to be seen on the same day. With limited NHS resources it is becoming increasingly difficult to satisfy the demand for routine appointments. We have expanded the roles of our Advanced Nurse Practitioners who are dealing with more and more routine appointments for chronic diseases. They have expertise in dealing with, amongst other conditions, Diabetes and Dementia.

At the end of April, our longest serving colleague, Jacky Wardale, Dispensary Manager, will be retiring. She has been with the surgery for over 36 years. We wish her well in her retirement and hope she will be able to help us out on occasions. We have really valued Jacky's contribution to patient care as she has helped us grow from dispensing 2000 items a month to 16 000 items a month. She has overseen the moves from dispensing medications from a small room at the Thieves Bridge Road Surgery, to transferring to the Rowan Close Surgery, to moving the dispensary to our extension and finally to the addition of our robot which aids the dispensing process. Throughout the years she has ensured that our patients get the right medication at the right time. Thank you Jacky.

I have noticed an increasing number of newly retired patients who are struggling to adapt to the change in their lives, from working to being at home. Often, it will be the wives of men who have retired, who express their concerns that their husbands need to get out and give their wives the breathing space they are used to. Men, in general, are less likely to strike up new friendships once they have retired, unlike women, who do not feel threatened by socializing. This can lead to isolation for the men. There is a new "service" which was developed in Scotland, called Men's Sheds, which is looking to expand to the Kings' Lynn area. Men's Sheds do not necessarily have to be sheds, but many are converted spaces which allow men to socialize and utilize their time to help charities, tinker with machinery, or just sit and drink tea. They are no obligation, no commitment spaces which give men a sense of purpose. They certainly seem to be far more effective than anti-depressants. If you wish to find out any more, please check the Kings Lynn Men's Shed website for contact details.

<https://kingslynnmensshed.wordpress.com/>

Dr P Koopowitz

Carpet Bowls

Anybody interested in a game, Thursday evenings at 7-30pm at the Parish Hall is the place to be – all are welcome.

Watlington Knit & Stitch Group



Watlington Knitters & Stitchers

It was good to see several lorries full of garments and toys to go to the many places of need both home and abroad.

Our group keep busy knitting and sewing we send lots of things through to Kings Lynn to be distributed,

We meet on the third Monday in the month, 2pm to 4pm at 16 Warren Close, everyone is welcome, or items and donations of wool or materials can be dropped off at anytime.

Janet Jones KL 810868



How disappointing to still be getting the feedback that younger women don't join the WI because they think you have to be "older" to join.

You only have to be 18 and we have a very varied age group in Watlington WI with a lot of different interests and activities.

As well as our normal monthly meetings we try to organise many workshops throughout the year to enable members to try new crafts or skills. You do not have to be a whiz at cooking or sewing but the opportunity is there if you want to learn a new skill.

The WI programme for 2018 is available on the Watlington Norfolk website, www.watlingtonnorfolk.co.uk – Women's Institute.

Why not check it out or ring Marion, our Secretary, on 01553 810407 and come along on a visit to see what we do.

Brenda Leedell

Borough council announces 2018 events programme

12 & 13 May – Spring Plant & Craft Fair

Stalls, crafts and demonstrations perfect for all horticulturalists

20 May – Hanse Festival

A celebration of Lynn's medieval trading and seafaring past

22 July – Forties Lynn

Activities all across the town centre explore life on the Home Front

5 August - Mods & Rockers Scooter and motorbike enthusiasts gather for a look back at these 60s subculture

11 & 12 August – Folk in the Town

Two days of free live folk, country and Americana performed by local bands

18 & 19 August – Hanseatic Ski Race

Motorboats race at 100mph along the Ouse, in this high-octane spectacle

26 August – Fairytales & Legends

This family favourite turns Lynn into a storybook wonderland

2 September – Mini Meet

The Tuesday Market Place fills with vintage and modern examples of this iconic car

16 September – Classic Car Day

This very popular event returns, as part of Heritage Open Day

23 September – Hunstanton Soapbox Derby

Homemade karts race along the streets of Hunstanton

2 November – Fawkes in The Walks

Lynn's famous firework display

Full details of all events will be posted at west-norfolk.gov.uk/events as they are confirmed.

Updates will also be posted on twitter @WestNorfolkBC and on Facebook

@BCKLWNnewsandevents

Runton Holme School

Friday 23rd March Easter Bingo-eyes down 19:00 hrs -Runton Holme Social Club

Wednesday 28th March -14:00 onwards Easter Fair -School

Sunday 8th July - Summer Fair-want a stand-contact the School

The School has launched its own lottery £1 per ticket per week guaranteed prize on each draw to a supporter see www.yourschoollottery.co.uk and search for Runton Holme

Runton Holme Social Club – all dates, times and acts may be subject to change, check noticeboards, web site, Facebook or telephone the Club 01553 811552 after 7-00pm
Any Parties, Anniversaries, Wedding Receptions, Meetings, Wakes etc., the Club can provide the venue at reasonable cost with the additional option of catering.

What's on:-

Sunday 11th March-Jammin Session 12-30pm to 4-30pm Pre-booked lunches available

Saturday 17th March St Patrick's Night Celebration 2with Joe Toes from 8-00pm ALL

WELCOME

Friday 23rd March Easter Bingo-organised by the School eyes down 7-00pm

Monday evenings-Darts, Tuesday evenings Cribb, Wednesday evenings Ladies Darts, Thursdays Live Country Music-want to play then come along.

Magpie Centre - Wallington Hall, South Runcton, PE 33 0EP - on the A10

Looking ahead to the Magpie Centre Craft and Country Fair, on Sunday August 19, we do need a team of 6 car parking marshals, so if you and some friends can come along to help, and would like to spend a day in the lovely grounds of Wallington Hall, please call the Magpie Centre on 01553 810202 to register your interest.

Got Problems?

To get in touch with the West Norfolk Advice Hub call 01553 223113, visit westnorfolkadvicehub.org.uk/housing.php or email housing@westnorfolkadvicehub.org.uk.

To get in touch with Shelter call 0344 515 1860, visit www.shelter.org.uk or email norfolk@shelter.org.uk

To get in touch with Citizens' Advice Bureau call 0344 411 1444 or visit www.norfolkcab.org.uk

Forthcoming Services at St James

11th March Sunday 11am Mothering Sunday Communion,
Canon William Burke, Rural Dean

25th March Palm Sunday 11.15 am Watlington Church, Communion,
Bishop Steven, Ely Diocese

29th March Thursday 10am Maundy Thursday Communion Canon Derek Brown

15th April Sunday 11am Communion Rev David Yabbacome

13th May Sunday 11am Communion Canon Derek Brown

Inside the Church, the base of the tower is now the Baptistry. Here the lancet windows are slender with a pointed arch of the design found in medieval churches. They depict in stained glass, The Good Shepherd, St James and the third a Guardian Angel caring for a child. The Font is plain but definitely medieval because it has been repaired where the lock and hinge of the cover had damaged the rim. Early fonts did not have covers but in the 13th century the Archbishop ordered that there should be locked covers. The people believed that the water having been blessed contained magic powers and tried to steal it for superstitious purposes. BJR.

Wedding Anniversaries in Church

Do you have a special wedding anniversary on the horizon and planning a celebration? Silver, Pearl, Ruby, maybe a Golden anniversary.

Why not make it extra special and renew your vows in Church. A special day to celebrate those years of love and support for each other.

It can, of course, be any wedding anniversary if this is something you would like to Do please contact one of the Church Wardens.

St Andrews Church, South Runcton.

On the evening of Wednesday 7th February, a public meeting was held in the parish hall in Runcton Holme to discuss the future of St Andrew's Church, South Runcton.

St. Andrew's has not held regular services for several years, and is in a single parish with St. James, Runcton Holme. St James' is the larger building and is closer to the bulk of the population, while St Andrew's is cut off from the rest of the village by the A10. The burden of looking after two church buildings is not one that the parochial church council (PCC) can carry on its own. The PCC with the support of the Diocese of Ely, therefore, proposes that St Andrew should be formally closed as a Church.

Geoffrey Hunter, Church Buildings Consultant at the Diocese of Ely, gave a brief history of St Andrew's and the range of options for its future. St Andrews was a Norman building of the 11th-12th centuries but fell into ruin after the 16th century Reformation. St Andrew's was rebuilt in the 1830s into the building we have today. There is relatively little of the original Norman stonework in the current building.

Closed churches can be used for a wide range of alternative uses. Some continue in a community use, others become venues for performance and exhibition. In a rural context it is more common for a closed church to be converted to either residential or commercial use because there isn't enough demand for community or arts use.

There are also two national bodies who look after closed churches and maintain them as historic sites. There are churches at Fordham, Barton Bendish and Wigginhall St Mary the Virgin which are cared for in this way. However, they are unlikely to take on St Andrews, given its mainly Victorian structure and Grade 11* listing.

Those present at the meeting put questions and discussed these various options. The potential for community use of the building seemed small, with two community halls in the village already. The lack of water and drains would be expensive to rectify, while the position on the A10 would require a new run-in and other road safety measures to be built if the traffic accessing the church were to increase. This left, realistically, a residential or commercial future for the building.

No alternative suggestions were put forward at the meeting.

The Grade 11* listed status of the building would inevitably restrict the changes which could be made to it, but both Historic England and the local planning authority had already been sounded out informally, and did not rule out a commercial or residential conversion, provided all other avenues had been explored first- a key purpose of the meeting on the 7th February.

It was also noted that the access arrangements to both church and churchyard needed to be regularised. The situation put in place following the realignment of the A10 had left two vehicular and one pedestrian access to the churchyard, but the ownership and rights of access would need to be confirmed

A number of people expressed concern about the churchyard, its monuments and the future use of the churchyard. Mr Hunter explained that the future of the churchyard need not go hand-in-hand with the future of the church.

There are a number of very old monuments in the churchyard, which show it was in use throughout the period when the church was a ruin, and make it a very picturesque and special place,

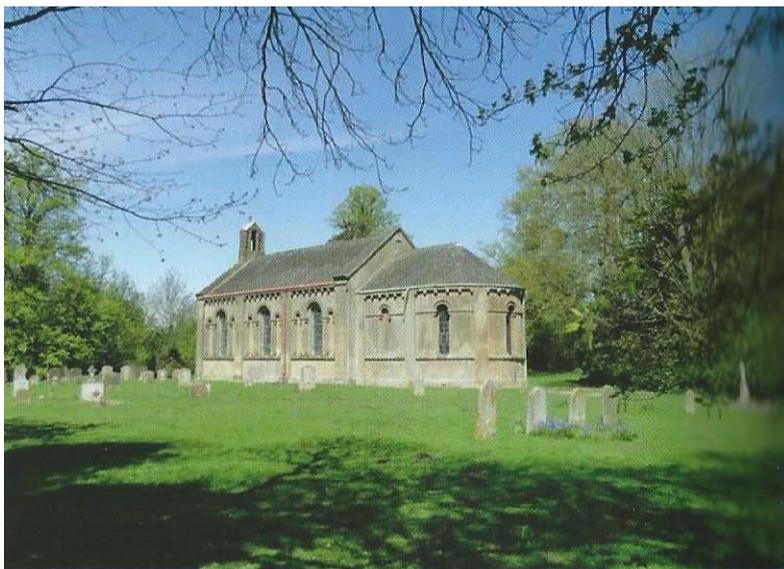
One option would be to keep the churchyard open. Its maintenance would be the responsibility of the PCC at Runcton Holme. However, if burials continue to take place regularly (more regularly than at present), an income would be provided to help pay for that. Alternatively, the churchyard could be formally closed. It would be possible for people to reserve places in the graveyard so that they could be buried in it after closure. Following closure, the churchyard would be maintained exactly as it is now, but the responsibility for maintenance would transfer, initially to the parish, who could then hand it on to the borough council. There would also need to be some land made available for parking and amenity space around the former church building. The area to the north of the church has far fewer monuments, and appeared the most likely place for this.

Concerns were expressed about the impact on Churchyard ecology of any conversion of the church to a new use. Because planning permission would be required for any such conversion, the local authority would place conditions requiring a full ecological survey of the building and site, and affective mitigation of any adverse ecological impacts.

Some people expressed interest in the contents of the church. The war memorial and church plate would be expected to go to St James. Other items of church furniture would be offered to other churches. What's left would be sold. In that situation any villagers interested in items should make themselves known.

Following the publication of this article, anyone who would like to make further comments or ask other questions should address them by the end of March to geoffrey.hunter@elydiocese.org or call 01353 652 737

St Andrews Church as now



St Andrews Church after previous closure



Hello, yes it is me again ,is it my age or are the people of this world not prepared to care for it, my wife frequently collects in excess of two black bin liners full of peoples detritus between Runcton Holme and Watlington consisting in the main of beer cans, empty spirit bottles(Mostly Brandy),drink driving!!!! plastic bottles and the remains of fast food takeaways!!! Etc. etc. not only is it unsightly but also dangerous to wildlife and farm animals. The plastic remains get entangled in the hedgerows and takes years to decay.

Please do not blame the teenagers and young people. During my career in Sales I can assure you that hauliers and the elderly are just as much to blame!!!fifteen years ago I was driving behind a vehicle on the A17 at Fosdyke Bridge, when suddenly a bottle flew out of the passenger window, I stopped and picked the litre size bottle and eventually confronted the offenders who stated “the plastic bottle made their car smelly” to which I asked if they would like me to dump rubbish in their garden, of course they did not!!!My late father was a smoker and many times a cigarette end would blow back and burn us!

I am sure that with the closure of the St Germans road, like us most of the village has to use the A10, and since the verges have been cut the effect of human inconsideration is plain to see!! In case any reader is in doubt as to the plastic bottles of yellow liquid being lemonade please think again!!!

Whilst like many drivers I am guilty of exceeding speed limits on unrestricted highway, I have never discarded litter to foul the countryside and hope that my concern will be shared by others who love this village and the wider world!!!!

Neil Coe

Litterpick

There will be a litterpick on either 28th or 29th April when volunteers will gather up discarded rubbish from the verges in the Parish, all equipment will be provided by the District Council, if you would like to participate contact Bob Pearman on 01553 810673 and leave a message and watch the noticeboards for the precise date and times, start will be at the carpark at the playing field.

Bowls Green

It is anticipated that weather permitting, the bowls green will open on Sunday 1st April, anybody interested in playing or just learning – turn up, there is spare equipment for those without any.

Rates-Council Tax

There are bogus emails circulating claiming to be from the District Council with attachments, under no circumstances should you open these emails or attachments of answer them-DELETE

Next Issue

It is anticipated that the next issue will be out in June so any info, news, articles etc. to be submitted by the 30st May. Submission can be by email, Times New Roman 12 point appreciated. Space limitations may apply.

Queries and contributions to this publication to:-

Bob Pearman pearman.books@idnet.com

Brenda Redfern bjredfern42@aol.com

INFORMATION PAGE.

Important and Useful Telephone Numbers.

Parish Council

Parish Clerk - Pippa Winson, 37 Ullswater Avenue, South Wootton, Kings Lynn PE30 3NJ
01553 674382 runcionholme@btinternet.com.

Linda Brady

Derek Caley

Shaun Partridge

Bob Pearman

Brenda Redfern

Chris Snell

Ray Wales

Borough Council 01553 616200

Borough Councillors Michael Howland

Geoff Hipperson.

County Council 0344 800 8020

County Councillor: Brian Long 01945 430169

Elizabeth Truss MP 01842 766155

Church Wardens: Eve Thomas 812094

Brenda Redfern 811212

Medical Centre: 01553 810253

Emergency(out of hours) 01603 488488

Pharmacy 01553 811045

Hospital 01553 613613

Urgent Medical Assistance 111

Life Threatening Medical Emergency 999

Police: Non emergency 101

Electricity emergency 0800 783 8838

Gas emergency 0800 111 999

Public Road Water Leak Anglian Water 0800 771 881

Runcion Holme School 810394

Cats Protection League 01366 382311

Brambles Animal Sanctuary 01366 388456

Downham Market Library 01366 383073