

Village Voice

November 2023

24th Great Year

Vol 24-08

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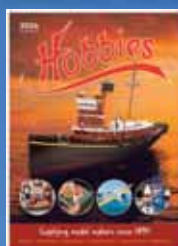


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A word from the Editor Adrian Myers

The Village Voice welcomes articles and stories from our readers. It is what helps to make the magazine interesting and vibrant. However like all publications the magazine has printing deadlines to meet. These deadlines cannot be moved as we are in a printing queue.

I therefore would like to ask all contributors to have their contributions posted to either Bill or Bryan by the deadlines given out.

If an article arrives after that deadline, we will, as always, try our best to put it in the magazine, but it is something we cannot guarantee. It takes an awful lot of time to set out the magazine for print and we have to be mindful of how many pages are needed.

So please, all articles in by the deadline.

Thank you

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Letters to the EDITOR

Rodent Racism

Readers may not know that Grey squirrels (*squirrelus carolinensis*) are an oppressed minority worldwide, confined to easgtern North America and the UK. The great majority of squirrels are the common squirrels (*squirrelus vulgaris*), usually Red or Black who range across the world.

Seemingly however, the world is not enough and crown Agencies are taking vigorous steps to suppress UK Grey squirrels, in favour of Reds. Measures which some may deem unacceptably cruel.

It is true that squirrels cause significant damage to trees and predate on bird's eggs, but this can never justify the cruel "control measures" inflicted on Greys.

Control measures include ground trapping of adult squirrels leaving squirrel Kits (who need mother for ten weeks) to die in the Drey.

Also trapped squirrels are "humanely" killed either by being shot with a 0.22 calibre air pistol or tipped into a close woven black fabric bag where it can be held with the head in one corner and killed by "cranial dispatch" using a cosh.

Aren't you glad you are not a Grey squirrel?

Ian McIntyre, Fritton

My name is Carole Mahon, and I live on Stepshort Belton.

On the 9th of October early afternoon I tripped up the pavement on Stepshort, causing me to fall to the ground, this resulted in injuries to my face. Many motorists stopped and gave reassurance and assistance to me.

I would like to say via your magazine a very big thank you to all who stopped to help me and for their concern which I very much appreciated, it is nice to know that there are so many nice, good people about.

I am at home and recovering well.

ROADWORKS NOVEMBER ROADWORKS

The main A143 (Gorleston to Beccles road) will be closed overnight, 8pm to 6am at the junction with Herringfleet Road in St Olaves between 8pm on November 13th and 6am on November 17th to enable the long awaited junction resurfacing works to take place, there will be a long diversion Oulton Broad or Norwich direction as this will effect that whole section of the A143.



MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

Locally the Norfolk Mobile Library rounds are as follows :

Belton Wednesdays, November 1st and 29th, then and every 4 weeks
Moorlands Primary Academy 3.20-3.50pm.
Outside 7 Station Road South 3.55-4.10om
Amhurst Gardens 4.15-4.35pm.
St. Roberts way 4.40-4.55pm.

Fritton Now no service.

St Olaves Wednesdays, November 1st and 29th and then every 4 weeks stopping on Priory Close between 12.45 and 1.00pm.

Burgh Castle – No service

For any questions about mobile libraries, email the team at central.mobiles.lib@norfolk.gov.uk. Or call 01603 222303



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YOUR VILLAGE VOICE

The closing date for all
Articles and Adverts
for the December 2023 edition is
15th November 2023

**November 2023 270th
Edition**

Cover Picture: Rembering
the fallen

This Magazine is a Community Enterprise professionally printed - but written, edited and delivered free - entirely by volunteers.

After printing costs, any profits from the Magazine are paid out in the form of grants to community organisations and groups in our circulation area.

We welcome your news, views, letters and articles and photographs for publication.

No anonymous items will be accepted.

Complaints, please write to Adrian Myers, Chairman, Village Voice Board by post at
49 Heather Gardens, Belton NR31 9PP

Your Parish Council Reports

Belton with Browston Parish Council



The October meeting of the Parish Council was held on the 3rd of the month when seven of the eight current Parish Councillors were present along with Kate Ruddock (Parish Clerk) and one member of the public. Also present were former councillor Stuart Bridges who was a councillor till this Mays elections and Michael Cox who were both co-opted on to the Council, bringing it up to 10 of its allocation of 13 members, David Mills chaired the meeting.

The Clerk reported on prices and options for cleaning all of the villages bus shelters and it was agreed that one clean should be undertaken by Snell and Brown Cleaning Contractors. The final decision was taken on the installation of a new boiler at the New Road Centre, after all members had been asked to give their opinions on the two quotes on the table it was agreed that the work should be undertaken by G. Y. Heating. Also, at New Road its members considered two options to repair the fence in the south east corner but agreed to consider a further option of installing a gate in that corner for use for large events but agreed to speak to the residents down the adjacent lane next.

There were no new planning applications, only approvals from the Borough Council for about seven lots of broadband electronic communications apparatus and a two-storey domestic extension at Decoy House, Browston lane, Browston. A new Tree Protection Order has also been approved on land to the south east of Mill Road, Burgh Castle that lies within the Belton boundary.

The only member of the public present asked why the edges of Bell Lane from the shops to the church were not now being cut by GY Services, he had contacted them without a reply, the clerk was asked to chase this up, the same person complimented the Council and caretaker on how well the New Road car boot sales had been organised during the Summer. The chairman reported that he has reported uncut sections of hedge on New Road to County Councillor Annison as this is a route to school for some pupils.

Councillor Greenacre updated members on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan and said the Steering Group are hopefully looking to submit the draft to GYBC soon and then hold a public consultation.

The next meeting of the Parish Council takes place at the New Road Sport and Leisure Centre on Tuesday November 7th (Please note that from this meeting forward all Council meetings will commence at 7pm rather than 7.30), full details from the Parish Clerk, Kate Ruddock on 01493 602960 or e-mail beltonparish@yahoo.co.uk. There are still three vacancies on the Council that can be filled by co-option, full information from the Clerk on the contact details above.

BELTON ALLOTMENTS AGM

The AGM for Belton Allotment Holders takes place at the New Road Sport and Leisure Centre on Tuesday November 14th (7.30pm). All allotment holders should attend and pay rents during the evening.

Please register your support for the Village Voice Community Fete

to be held on Saturday 20th July 2024 at Moorlands School Playing Field

Advertisers and Contributors are welcome to come and set up stalls Free of Charge

For more details please contact Adrian Myers

07824 313792

adrianmyers247@gmail.com

BELTON POOR'S ALLOTMENT

Belton Poor's Allotment is a charity that once a year gives money from the rent of the land to those in need that reside in the villages of Belton & Browston.

Parishioners of Belton and Browston who wish to be considered to be added to the list of recipients of Belton Poor's Allotment grant list, should apply in writing by Monday 18th November 2023 to:

**Secretary of the Trustees,
Belton Poor's Allotment, 56 Victoria Road, Gorleston,
Great Yarmouth, NR31 6EF**

Calling for new topics for the Village Voice

A few years ago, our past editor Regi, introduced a cookery page which was a great success. We are sure there are many great cooks and bakers who read the VV and would ask them if they could submit some recipes that they could share with our readers.

These can be for any type of favorite meal or just a recipe for a cake, sponge or scones etc.

If you can help with this please send them to **beltonvvgraphic@gmail.com** with a photo of the finished meal or cake if possible. If you don't have email then we will accept text to **07950 039455**

Christmas is closing in on us and as the next edition will be the December one how about a few Christmas recipes!!

Thank you in advance for hopefully your submissions.

Book Review

We also had a regular book review some time ago and again would like this to restart.

So there must be a lot of avid book readers in our community so please put pen to paper or finger to keyboard a give us a short revue. To start Sue Richmond has given us a revue on a recent book she has read. See page 5

Burgh Castle Parish Council



Six members of the Parish Council plus two members of the public and the Parish Clerk attended the October 9th Meeting of the Parish Council at the Village Hall, Brian Swan was in the chair.

A resident of Back Lane was present to raise safety concerns over the lane, he was concerned that verges were not getting cut (he and a neighbour had cut theirs) and the speed of vehicles, he said the offer of horse riding warning notices at each end of the road through the County Council was insufficient, the council has since passed his concerns on to Borough Councillor Graham Carpenter who had met with him earlier.

Members accepted a quote from DR Gardening Services to remodel the two shrub beds at the burial ground as the existing plants have gradually increased in size too much for the location, members agreed to again write to the Archaeological Trust over the Roman Fort site entrance flooding and ask what other maintenance is planned for the site, it was noted that grass cutting had commenced but concerns were noted over the growth on some of the hedges, especially those fronting Church Road and on The Loke from the church triangle.

Members noted that they are still waiting to hear from the County Council to provide the work dates for the resurfacing of Crows Farm corner on High Road and for placing posts to prevent verge parking outside the Roman Fort. It was agreed to advertise

(see separate item in this VV) for volunteers to take over maintenance of the three flower beds at the village sign from the Spring of next year, if nobody comes forward the beds could be lost to the community.

Members are still trying to get the normal service 5 buses reinstated with return trips to Yarmouth and Gorleston during term time afternoons, the take up from Lynn Grove High School pupils on the altered trips that now run into Belton and terminate there has been minimal compared to the number of Belton pupils that residents had indicated would be using the service from September when they attended a parish council meeting prior to the Summer, County Councillor Penny Carpenter who has responsibility for school services will be contacted.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday November 13th commencing at 7.30pm at the Village Hall on Church Road, for details contact Kate Ruddock, the Parish Clerk, on 07948705218, e-mail burghcastleclerk@gmail.com.

BURGH CASTLE PARISH COUNCIL

Keen Gardening Volunteer Needed

The Parish Council is looking for a volunteer to take over the maintenance of the 3 flower beds by the Village Sign from Spring 2024.

This involves Spring and Autumn planting and regular maintenance and watering as and when necessary. The cost of plants will be funded by the Parish Council. Initial indications of interest or requests for further information to Brian Swan (Parish Council Chairman) on 01493 780776 or e-mail bcswan50@gmail.com.

Burgh Castle Tea Room & Bargain Stall

(Village Hall, Church Road)

Due to popular demand we will continue to open on our normal two days until the Christmas Break. Looking forward to seeing all our regulars for coffee, cake and company.

The Christmas MacMillan fund raiser will be on 7th and 8th December, thank you to everyone who supported the coffee morning on 27th September.

We raised £400 for this really good cause.

Christmas Stock is on sale, come along for a real bargain, we have loads to choose from.

We are always looking for stock to sell, your support helps to keep our Church and Hall open, you can drop off to us any Thursday or Friday or we can collect

locally if you wish.

For more information

01493 780126

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Fritton with St. Olaves Parish Council



Six of the nine existing Parish Councillors attended the 21st September meeting of Fritton with St. Olaves Parish Council held at Fritton Village Hall along with County Councillor Carl Annison and the Parish Clerk, also present was John Wadeson who was co-opted on to the Council to bring it up to its full strength of 10 members, Stannas Bellaby chaired the meeting.

English Heritage have been contacted to see who now holds the keys to St Olaves Priory as the previous holder had passed away earlier. The Borough Council have confirmed that the mechanical road sweeper only visits once a year but there are currently staffing issues with the use of this machine and Councillor Richards confirmed that the Decoy Public House has been included as a non-designated heritage site in the Neighbourhood plan that is in the process of preparation.

There were many Highways matters discussed during the meeting, some of these being concerns from County Highways about a tree on Beccles Road that has Ash die back, the chairman will check to see if this is on Parish Council land, if so, quotes will be required to deal with it. Councillor Richards had received a request for a 'trod' path on part of Herringfleet Road, the County Council will be asked if this is a possibility. Councillor Storey raised concerns about the SAM2 machine on New Road at Fritton not working, this was a flat battery issue, now resolved and the unit has been moved to its next location. The condition of the path from Fritton church to the A143 was discussed but as it is thought to be on Somerleyton Estate land the Estates Manager will be contacted.

County Councillor Annison reported that the main A143 at St. Olaves will be closed overnight (8pm – 6am) between November 13th and 17th for resurfacing at the Herringfleet Road junction in St. Olaves The County Council will be extending the double white lines near the Cherry Lane Garden Centre and it was agreed to ask them to also repaint the white lines at Fritton Lake entrance that have faded badly. Councillor Storey reported that Cherry Lane had offered a contribution to NCC towards safety work outside their property but that this had been refused by the County Council. County Councillor Annison will chase the County who promised to cut hedges on New Road after the bird nesting period to get this work done and Councillor Storey asked about signs that went up on the same road last year indicating surface works that were however never undertaken.

In planning comments already submitted to the Borough Council

the Parish Council objected to proposals to demolish former stables and replace with 5 holiday chalets at Caldecott Hall. There were no objections to demolition of an extension and helicopter shed at Hill House, Heath Road, St. Olaves and replace with new extensions, a swimming pool and a gym. The Borough Council have refused outline permission for one new self-build dwelling at Forestry Cottage, New Road, Fritton while a new Tree Preservation Order has been agreed for specimens at Waveney Forest House on the same road.

With future meetings now scheduled for the third Thursday in the month (every other month) the next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday November 16th at St. Olaves Village Hall at 7.30pm. full details from Kate Ruddock, Parish Clerk on 07899 846148, e-mail her at fritton.stolaves.clerk@outlook.com.



Brain Tumour Research
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Coffee Morning
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WEDNESDAY EVENING
Middle Eastern Dance: Contact River Scent 07854 407419 www.riverscent.com

THURSDAY EVENING
Saxon and Viking Re-enactment Society www.jormungandreenactment.com/

SATURDAY MORNING
Pooch Paws Dog Training Club (Obedience, clicker training, fun/tricks & more): Contact Katey Aldred - 07841 040171 www.poochpaws.co.uk

Fritton Bingo



Please join us at **Fritton Village Hall** for our next bingo event on **Friday November 17th** eyes down for **7.15pm** start, a raffle is included.

Many thanks to the people whom continue to support our bingo sessions.

Roy 🐾



THE FOUR WINDS

by Kristin Hannah (pub. 2021- Pan Books)

Reviewed by Sue Richmond



This story is set in the central Great Plains of North America at the time of the 1930's depression and the era of the Dust Bowl occurrences on the plains of Oklahoma and Texas.

The main character, Elsa (Martinelli) was originally from a strict religious family and unloved. As she grew older, she looked for love, found it with Rafe and became pregnant.

Rafe Martinelli was the son of an Italian immigrant farming family, who was obliged to marry Elsa. Elsa worked hard on the farm, learned how to cook and eventually earned the love and respect of his parents, Rose and Toni. The baby, Loreda, was born and in time, her young son, Ant.

The dry weathers and extreme drought began when Loreda was 10 years old and Ant was 6. All the farmers in the region were optimistic and saying that the rains would come. Unfortunately, they did not. The drought got worse and the animals and people suffered. Added to the lack of rain for growing crops was the increase of horrendous dust storms accompanied by wild and destructive winds. They were so bad that the young children had to wear gas masks to prevent the dust from blocking their airways, even when indoors.

After one these storms, Rafe left the farm to travel west to California. There was no further news of him or from him. Elsa struggled on trying to help Rose and Tim to keep going, until during one bad storm, Ant was taken ill with a fever and

struggled to breathe. He recovered in the local hospital. This was the last straw for Elsa, and with the blessing of Rose and Tim, she set out for California with Loreda and Ant.

The rest of the story tells of her arrival in California, where nobody wants to know the refugees from the Dust Bowl. It describes the life in the camps outside the town and the lack of jobs at that time. The choice was seasonal cotton picking or moving to pick fruit. As the labour force increased, the landowners decreased the wages. Life was hard for all the family but they persevered, helped each other and developed close bonds.

I enjoyed reading this book. It drew me into the emotions and hardships of everyday living in the 1930's. The social history of the times was so interesting and gave an excellent insight into the smaller details of living during that era and in those conditions. It was a book I had difficulty in putting down.

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NAVIGATING THE CHALLENGES OF ADOLESCENT DOGS: A GUIDE FOR PET OWNERS

By Clinical Animal Behaviourist & Animal Trainer Katey Aldred MSc, RVN, ABTC-CAB



Adolescence is a challenging time for humans, and it's no different for dogs. If you've ever raised a puppy, you know that the early stages are filled with cute moments, cuddles, and lots of training. However, as your puppy grows, they enter their teenage years, and just like human teenagers, they start to be challenging, exhibit new behaviours, and push your patience to the limit. Adolescent dogs are more likely to end up in rescue than any other age bracket. In this blog post, we'll explore the challenges that adolescent dogs can present and provide some tips on how to deal with them.

The Adolescent Stage in Dogs: What to Expect

The adolescent stage for dogs typically begins around 6 to 18 months of age, depending on the breed and size of the dog. Each puppy's development stage can vary dog to dog. The adolescent phase can be characterised by several challenges, each owner might experience some or all of them.

Rebellious behaviour

It can feel like your adolescent dog is challenging your authority and the boundaries you have been setting. You will find they listen to you less and it will feel like they are less responsive to what they are asked to do. However, this is less to do with them 'disobeying you' and more to do with the changes they are going through. As well as the hormonal challenges they face, their brain is also undergoing changes. If you have a hound or gundog, they will also be developing their 'nose'. If all these elements collide, it is like taking a bottle of fizz and shaking it then waiting for the bubbles to pop out.

Brain Changes

Much the same as humans, the brain matures from the back to the front. This means part of the brain (the frontal lobe) has not finished developing. It is this part of the brain which has the capacity for self-control, which results in a lack of impulse control. Basically, the parts of the brain responsible for dampening emotions are not fully formed, this happens at the end of adolescence. Communication between two key parts of the brain (frontal cortex and amygdala) are decreased during this phase which makes learning skills harder. In addition, the part of the brain that is used to help forget experiences is impaired. If your dog learns something here (wanted or unwanted) it will be remembered more, likewise, if they experience something negative. These behaviours are more hard-wired into the memory banks, they are more vulnerable to stress.

Hormonal Changes

For intact male and female dogs, this is when hormonal changes can lead to increased marking, roaming, and in the case of females, their first season. Hormones can reduce appetite (especially in male dogs) and in some instances an increase in aggression (less likely to do with hormones but something else).

Increased Energy

Many adolescent dogs experience a surge in energy levels, making them more rambunctious and prone to destructive behaviour if not properly exercised. Exercise is not just in physical form but mental exercise through training and enrichment to ensure the extra energy is channelled well.

Emotional Struggle

Adolescence can be a vulnerable time for your dog's emotional development, leading to an increased likelihood of separation anxiety. Though signs would probably have been present prior to adolescence, it will be more obvious once in this stage. They can also become more selective with their interactions with other people and dogs. Once friendly they can become fearful or reactive in unfamiliar situations or start challenging dogs of the same sex. This is also a time where issues might be experienced in a multi-dog household.

Dealing with Adolescent Dog Challenges

Adolescent dogs can be a handful, but with the right approach and plenty of patience, you can help your friend navigate this challenging phase. Consistent training, exercise, and socialisation are essential components of raising a well-adjusted adult dog. Remember that it's just a phase, and your commitment to their well-being will pay off in the long run. Your dog will eventually mature into a well-behaved, happy, and loving companion, and you'll have the satisfaction of knowing you played a significant role in their development. So, stay strong and keep guiding your adolescent dog with love and understanding as they grow into the wonderful adult they are meant to be.

Want to more about the steps to help with these changes? Come over to the website to read the full article: www.kateyaldred.co.uk/

Get in touch

Is there a dog related topic you would like to know more about? Feel free to get in touch on 07841040171 (WhatsApp in the first instance) or contact through the website. More articles to read at www.kateyaldred.co.uk



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'Lily' the school dog



Lily the school dog from Peterhouse Church of England Primary School, has been promoted to The Ark Federation School Dog as she now shares her time between the two schools, Peterhouse and Moorlands Church of England Primary Schools.

Coinciding with her promotion, Lily has also launched two new important initiatives.

The School Dog Blog -

<http://www.theark.dneat.org/school-dog/>. 'Lily' writes a blog post after each visit to let the families know what she has been up to. As she finds typing tricky, she is currently searching for Year 5 and 6 co-writers in each school.

'Paw'fect Work - Lily has splashed out (her own money of course) on some personalised stickers. Class teachers will be sending children to show Lily their best work in exchange for a sticker and a photograph of their work featuring in the blog post for that day.

Since the beginning of the new term, Lily the three-year-old Cockapoo has begun visits to Moorlands for short periods of time to get used to the children, staff and surroundings and has settled in well to her new role.

Ryan Freeman, Executive Headteacher of The Ark Federation said: "Lily is an important member of our school team. The staff love having Lily in school, we get people coming down throughout the day to see her or offer to take her for a walk. She is definitely a good aide for well-being."

Mr Freeman added: "We have a high number of vulnerable children and Lily has proved to be a fantastic way to break down barriers. She has helped school refusers to get into the building, withdrawn children to smile and talk, and helps to calm children at times when they have become disregulated. She is also very popular with some of our parents, who come to see her on the school gate in the mornings.

We have wanted to introduce Lily into Moorlands for a while, but we have taken it slowly to make sure that she is ready. Lily is our

family pet and was bought with the fact that she may become a school dog in mind. We looked carefully at breeders and temperaments, making sure that she had the best chance possible of being calm and loving with children and adults. Being allergic to most breeds of dog myself, we were also conscious of the 'hypoallergenic' qualities that cockapoos have. Lily has been attending training classes since she was a few months old and still goes weekly to ensure that she is calm and responsive to commands. Once she had completed her first bronze award, she began making short visits to school to get used to the people and environment. This was built up over a few months and then gradually we have introduced her to more elements of the school day."

He also added: "It is wonderful to have Lily working across both of our federated schools. We are working on joint initiatives more and more, and this is the latest benefit of being federated. Lily loves being in both schools and is totally at home. She can often be found curled up asleep under a desk or visiting office staff for a little affection. During the day, Lily meets children as part of the school's pastoral provision. They take her for walks, complete training activities, or simply come for a cuddle. Lily does not visit classrooms, as we are very careful that children with allergies are able to move around the school without any limits being imposed on them, but she is a prominent member of the Federation family all the same."



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Malcolm's



Challenges

As many of you will know Malcolm Metcalf is a good friend of the Village Voice, with his extensive knowledge of nature he wrote over 100 monthly articles for the magazine up to June 2021. Malcolm has now written the following for the Village Voice.

I was born in Gorleston in 1933 and have lived there all my life except for evacuation as a school boy to Abingdon for part of WW2 and indeed have been in the same house since 1949. At the age of 19 I was hospitalised for a year laying flat on my back for much of the time with T.B. and vowed that if I recovered, I would travel the world. Over 50 years ago I started my first adventure hitchhiking to Australia and worked there to earn my passage home, since that I have visited 58 countries, including the USA 23 times where I have visited 43 states.

Earlier this year, as I saw my 90th birthday coming up on December 4th, I decided to take on 90 challenges, one for every year of my life and have recently achieved this target, indeed when I went to Norwich City FC on October 24th for the Match against Middlesbrough that was my 100th challenge. At the match it was announced that I am their Community Hero of the season and as part of the afternoons events I placed the match ball on the centre spot for kick-off



All of my fundraising this year has been for the new building at the Priscilla Bacon Lodge in Norwich and I have thoroughly enjoyed my seven months of challenges throughout Norfolk and beyond and made many new friends in the process.

Over the last few months some of the highlights have been Visiting Sizewell Power Station, Feeding Noah the Giant Turtle at Great Yarmouth Sea Life Centre, ringing bells at Great Ryburgh Church, riding a Harley Davidson motorcycle, shearing a sheep, having my own 2 hour show on BBC Radio Norfolk, a two-hour interview on Harbour Radio, Visiting Gleneagles Golf Course in Scotland and flying in a 4-seater Piper aircraft when the pilot allowed me to take the controls.

I achieved my 90th challenge on Saturday September 30th when I put together a list of 15 challenges, large and small on the same day starting at my Gorleston home and ending at Saddlebow Road Speedway stadium in Kings Lynn, **this is the list.**

1. Riding in a police car from my home to Great Yarmouth Bus Station
2. A Mustang car from Yarmouth to Acle.
3. In a chimney Sweeps new van from Acle to the Maids Head Hotel in Norwich.



4. A Bentley car from there to the Priscilla Bacon Hospice in Norwich.
5. Riding in a big blue articulated cab unit from the Hospice to Silfield near Wymondham.
6. A 1934 Wolsey car to Dereham.
7. The famous Elvis Presly Cadillac car to Swaffham.
8. Lunch at Swaffham.
9. Honda motorbike to Narborough.
10. Ride on a 3 wheeler motor trike.
11. Riding a tractor.
12. Ride in a 'Rustic' home-made car.
13. Ride on the Excell service bus to Kings Lynn.
14. Taken to Saddlebow Road by car for a Stock car meeting.
15. Being driven round the track at speed for 6 laps in a Formula 1 Stockcar by Lady driver Phoebe who had travelled all the way from Yorkshire to drive me.



Quite a day . . . quite a few months of challenges!

(Anyone wishing to donate towards the Priscilla Bacon building, Malcolm Has a 'Just Giving' page - <https://www.justgiving.com/page/malcolm-metcalf-90-challenges-in-my-90th-year>).

Photographs on 30th September taken by Jordan Cooper

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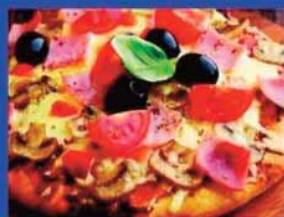
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CHANGES TO LANDLINE TELEPHONES

The UK's telephone network is being upgraded, which means that landline services are changing. You can still have a landline in your home, but the technology that powers it will be different. For most, switching over will be straightforward, but some people may need new equipment or support to make the changes.



What's changing and when?

Traditionally, landlines have been delivered through an analogue network, but this is being replaced by digital technology. The new system is called 'Voice over Internet Protocol' (VoIP), but you may also hear the terms 'Digital Voice' (from the landline provider BT) or digital phone.






Once you've moved to the new digital system, your landline will mainly work as it always has, although there'll be some differences – for example, it won't work if there's a power cut unless you have a battery backup.

The changeover has started, and some people have already been moved to the digital system.

For almost all networks, the changeover will have happened by December 2025.

The BT network, which is used by some other telecoms providers, will close by December 2025. Most other companies with their own networks, like Virgin Media, plan to follow the same timescale.

BT has now started to contact a limited number of customers, having paused its changeover programme, and will begin to roll out the programme on a region-by-region basis from summer 2023. However, they aren't currently switching certain groups, including:

-  people aged 70 and over
-  people with additional needs
-  people who only have a landline (and not broadband)
-  people with telecare alarms
-  people with no mobile signal at home.

Other companies have also started rolling out digital systems. In some areas, changes to the network will mean that everyone needs to move to the digital system. You may also be moved to the new system if you decide to move to a new phone and broadband package.

If you haven't been moved over yet, don't worry – your phone company will get in touch with you when they want you to make the change.

Throughout this page, we'll be talking about broadband and broadband companies or services. When we say 'broadband', we just mean a high-speed internet connection.

Why are these changes happening?

The current landline network needs to be replaced because it's old and is becoming difficult to maintain. The new system uses the internet to make phone calls – this offers better quality calls as well as some additional features. Phone and broadband companies are leading this change. The Government is supporting it. The aim of Ofcom (the communications regulator) is to make sure customers don't face unnecessary disruption or harm because of the changes.

What happens when I change to the digital system?

Your telephone provider will contact you in advance to let you know when your system's changing and what you need to do. In some cases, an engineer will need to visit to make changes. For lots of people, the change will be straightforward. If you already have a broadband connection, you may just need to plug your phone into your broadband router or you'll be sent an adapter that connects to your phone and plugs into your router. If you have more than one phone socket with separate handsets, you may need additional adapters.

When you're contacted by your provider let them know if you have any questions or concerns about moving to the digital service, or if you need any additional help.

Can I keep my phone number?

Yes – in most cases you'll be able to keep your current phone number.

Will I need a new phone?

If your phone handset is very old, you might need to change it. Your phone provider will be able to advise you on this.

Will anything else be affected, like my telecare?

The switch to digital landlines may affect telecare devices and other equipment such as personal alarms and security alarms if they're connected to your phone line.

Although your telephone service provider will contact you before the switch takes place, you may want to let them know about any telecare devices that you have in advance. It's also a good idea to contact the supplier of your telecare device to check that this will work with the new system or whether any equipment will need to be upgraded.

If you're buying a new device that's linked to the phone system, you should also check with the seller or manufacturer that this will be compatible.

What if I don't have, or don't want, the internet at home?

If you already have a broadband connection, for example to connect to the internet, then the new digital landline system will use this.

If you don't have a broadband connection, your provider will supply one specifically to support the new digital system, but you shouldn't pay extra for this if you don't move over to a broadband service.

Will I have to pay more?

BT has committed to not raise prices above inflation for 'voice only' customers until 2026. 'Voice only' customers are those who don't have home broadband. Virgin Media has also said that people won't pay more than what they already pay for their current service.

This means that you shouldn't face extra costs if you need a new simple internet connection to make calls.

What happens if there's a power cut?

Unlike some traditional corded analogue phones, a digital phone will only work in a power cut if it has a battery back-up, because it'll run using your home electricity. In these instances, phone companies are advising people to use mobile phones as a backup.

If you're dependent on your landline phone – for example, if you don't have a mobile phone or you live somewhere where there's no or poor mobile signal, then your telephone provider must offer you a 'resilience solution' to make sure you can make emergency calls during a power cut. This could be a mobile phone (if you have mobile signal) or a battery-backup unit for your landline phone.

This resilience solution should be provided free of charge to people who are dependent on their landline. If you're not eligible for a free resilience solution, you may be able to purchase one from your provider or another retailer – talk to your provider about the options available to you.

Is there anything I should watch out for?

As the switchover is affecting millions of homes, this can create an opportunity for criminals to develop new scams. These scam attempts could happen over the phone, via email, or in person on your doorstep.

Remember the following scam advice when someone's contacting you about the switchover:

STOP – take a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or your personal information.

CHALLENGE – could it be fake? It's OK to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. You should never feel rushed or pressured into making a decision.

PROTECT – contact your bank immediately if you think you've been a victim of a scam and report it to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040.

Other unscrupulous people may also try to sell you equipment or get you to sign up to expensive contracts that you don't need. In these cases, it's important that you don't rush into making any decisions. You can always seek a second opinion and speak to your phone company – they should be able to advise you about what you need.

Local NEWS in Brief



AUTUMN CONCERT with the BELTON SINGERS

We enjoyed a good evening's entertainment on Saturday 30th September at the John Green Institute listening to a selection of popular songs performed by 'The Belton Singers' under the musical direction of Justin Bindley, supported by pianist Karen Smith.

This is the third performance of the group that we have attended and while we have always enjoyed their renditions, the harmonious quality on this occasion gave a more polished finish. The £5.00 admission included refreshments with wonderful cakes in the interval and free entry in the raffle, which we thought was excellent value for a great evening's entertainment.

If you have a flair for singing, The Belton Singers always welcome new members, especially male singers. They meet on Friday evenings 7.30 – 9.00 pm at the John Green Institute.

Please look out for future concerts performed by 'The Belton Singers' either in the Village Voice or social media – we guarantee you will have an entertaining experience. Look out for their Christmas Concert in December.

In Memory of Martin Henderson

July 31st 1945 – January 1st 2023

This money was raised by family friends, for the Marie Curie Nurses, to say a very big thank you for all the help and the support they gave us, looking after Martin.



Also to thank everyone who donated to this worth while cause.

In Loving Memory of Martin Henderson. A much loved Husband,

Brother, Father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather.

Carole Henderson

ROCK SOLID

A really big thank you to the village voice for the grant to paint the stables. It is now a much tidier and healthier environment for us to run from. We do have some money left over from the money given and this will go towards some new games for winter activities. Thank you to everyone who contributes to the running of rock solid. Rock solid is a group for 6 to 11 year olds to come to and learn a bit about the bible stories in a very relaxed manner. There is fun games and craft along with tuck shop as well. We welcome all attendees old and new every Thursday term time 4.30 until 6. We look forward to seeing everyone each week old and new. Thanks again for making a difference to our group with this grant. Paula and the Rock Solid team.

Paula Guard

COME TO THE DARK SIDE!

DARK SKIES IN OUR PARISH



The Green & Environment Group of Ashby Herringfleet and Somerleyton Parish Council are investigating establishing a Dark Skies Village status.

We know from consultations on the Neighbourhood Plan and recent planning applications that people in our community value and wish to preserve dark skies.

As well as giving people a clearer view of the dark skies above, reducing light pollution can also benefit wildlife and improve your health.

Starry skies are one of the most magical sights the countryside can offer. Light pollution not only limits our views of these skies but disrupts wildlife's natural pattern.

Questionnaires will soon be delivered to residents in Ashby Herringfleet and Somerleyton asking for their views on this plan whether they would support Dark Skies status for our villages, have guidance in reducing stray lighting such as restricting all external lights to motion sensitive lights.

We would also like to know if people would be interested in joining an organised Dark Skies walk or a wildlife and bat walk and taking part in a Star Count in February.

Look out for the questionnaire which can be returned to Somerleyton Cycles by 17th November

Follow us on

Facebook - Somerleyton Green Group and
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ALL SAINTS BELTON

Rev Rosie writes . . .

What do you do to help you remember what you mustn't forget? Does it work?

There are some dates that might be etched in your memory, such as your own birthday, your children's birthdays, the day someone you loved died, a wedding day/anniversary, or Christmas Day. But what about Remembrance Day? The eleventh hour, of the eleventh day of the eleventh month – it has been made as easy as it is possible to remember, and with the poppies on sale nearly everywhere we go, it isn't easy for that date to pass us by.

Looking back, it was five years ago that we remembered the 100 year anniversary of the end of the First World War with a giant "Tommy" created with hand-made crocheted and knitted poppies, hanging from the church tower of All Saints, Belton. We have long passed that time when the last veteran of that war died, and in a few years there will not be any veterans from World War 2 alive. Last year it was the 40th anniversary of the Falklands war; it is 88 years since the end of World War 2.

When I look at the news on the TV or hear it on the radio, I wonder what our world has learnt in the time since our world wars. Have we learnt anything? In recent years we have seen many nations begin conflicts with neighbouring

countries, or even invade them. Currently we are seeing nations taking one side or another in the conflict between Israel and Palestine, with the danger of escalation of this conflict. Israel and Palestine have been involved in wars a number of times in the last century, and generally the people do not want it.

Remembering the cost of war to our nation is important; the loss of lives of so many military personnel, the devastation of bombing that occurred in this area with the loss of life that came with it, significant, too. In remembering those who lost their lives in the first and second world wars and the conflicts our nation has been involved in since then, has to go some way to keeping war off the agenda for us. Teaching our children about it in a way that doesn't seek to glorify war, but tells the story honestly, is vital.

Having the Belton Scouts attend the Remembrance Service at Belton again this year is part of this, and so important. I still remember going to Remembrance services with my Dad, when I was quite young. Dad had been in the RAF and served in Africa towards the end of the war. He and my Mum both did a lot of work with the Royal British Legion, especially in the care of ex-

servicemen and women in their local area, and my Dad carried the Royal British Legion Standard at numerous parades around the county.

I will be leading Remembrance services during the week at Burgh House, and for Moorlands Academy on Friday 10th November in church, as well as the usual All Saints Belton service at 10.30am and the Burgh Castle Remembrance Service at 4pm on Sunday 12th November. Some of us will have members of our family who served this country during the wars and recent conflicts; it is so important to remember with thanksgiving every one of them, and especially those who lost their lives as a consequence. Do come along and join us for one of the Remembrance services, you will be made very welcome.

Rev Rosie Bunn

Dates for the Diary: November 2023

Sunday 5th November 2023

Holy Communion

9.30am at St Peter & St Paul, Burgh Castle

Morning Celebration – Café Church

10.30am All Saints Church, Belton

Tuesday 7th November

Traditional Holy Communion

11am All Saints Church, Belton

(Coffee available from 10am onward)

Wednesday 8th November

Remembrance Service

10am Burgh House

Saturday 11th November

8.30-10am – Burgh Castle Breakfast at the Rectory

Sunday 12th November Remembrance Sunday

No Morning Service at Burgh Castle

Remembrance Sunday Service
10.30am All Saints Church, Belton

Remembrance Sunday Service
4.00pm St Peter & St Paul Church
Evening Celebration

6.30pm All Saints Church Belton

Friday 17th November

10.30am – 12 noon Women's Bible Chat

Sunday 19th November

Holy Communion

9.30am St Peter & St Paul Church

Morning Celebration

10.30am All Saints Church, Belton

Messy Muddy Church

4-5.30pm in The Rectory Garden and the stables

including a Campfire

Sunday 26th November

Morning Prayer

10.30am at St Peter & St Paul Burgh Castle

Holy Communion

10.30am All Saints Church, Belton

Sunday 3rd December Advent Sunday

Holy Communion

9.30am St Peter & St Paul Church

Morning Celebration Café Church

10.30am All Saints Church, Belton



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New career opportunities are coming to Great Yarmouth

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NORFOLK

Volunteering in your Community

VOLUNTEER



A national Scheme which is being delivered in various parts of the country is going to be rolled out in Great Yarmouth. The scheme will be creating career opportunities to work in the NHS, starting in GP Practices. This scheme is a "volunteer to careers" and is part of the Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care System. The idea is really a quite simple one, anyone who might have thought about working in the NHS but was unsure how to even start, can through this scheme find pathways to over 300 career posts. Just some of the opportunities on offer are, as an Occupational Therapist, A Radiologist, a Receptionist, Biomedical Sciences or working in IT. Volunteer to Career will connect volunteers with professionals with varying expertise for career conversations and mentoring.

It would start with you expressing an interest, an interview (very informal so don't worry) with a co-ordinator to discuss your various interests and what opportunities you

would like to explore in the NHS. If after the interview you would like to take part in the scheme a full one days training is given, this training is the same that is given to all NHS workers. If you are worried about your English or Maths academic levels, there is support for this on the scheme as well, so please do not think that this would be a bar to you participating.

This is truly an exciting opportunity for people to work in our NHS which has been caring for people since 1948 and of which literally millions of people are grateful for. Imagine, just for a minute, being able to try out a particular job with great support just to see if you would like it and which could lead to a worthwhile and fantastic career. I started as a volunteer in a local authority and ended up with a 14 year career supporting young adults in residential settings and qualifying as a social worker.

The scheme will be starting in January of 2024 and contact details for applying are

below. Here is a testimony from Dom who took part in the scheme.

"I wanted to volunteer to give something back, having grown up in and around a caring environment. I also wanted experience in a healthcare setting. Being my first experience on a ward style setting and knowing how busy the ward is I felt slightly intimidated by it but got comfortable very quickly thanks to the help of an experienced volunteer to show me the ropes, helped me settle in quickly. I would recommend volunteering to everyone, especially younger people, it can really shape how you deal with all types of people and build your confidence. This experience as the healthcare volunteer has helped me achieve a place at university to study adult nursing, including the 4th best nursing school in the world"

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Belton Judo club latest up-to-date news

October was a busy month for DOMINIC KING JUDO & MMA ACADEMY, as we planned to run yet another half-term fun day, deliver a club grading for both judo and MMA members and hopefully send some players to compete in the Eastern Area Judo Championships in Thetford. The club's most competitive member,



17-year-old Ryan King, will not be attending this year, as he will now be travelling to another high-level training camp in Paris at Europe's largest dojo. These camps are to prepare him for competitions of the highest caliber that regularly include the best juniors on the planet. When Ryan is at home, he always trains alongside our most inexperienced members and often helps his dad and head coach, Dominic King, with the coaching by passing on some of his up-to-date knowledge.

But it's not all just about winning gold medals at our club, as we believe that the ongoing success is due to our ability to make every single member feel SPECIAL! From the moment they walk through the door, everyone is welcomed and made to feel important. Dominic is an expert at helping beginners feel at ease and he will never forget a name.

Many of our members attend each week with the simple intention of keeping fit and having fun. However, we provide opportunities to grade and compete at every level and nobody is excluded.

We currently have a 76-year-old lady attending regular judo sessions each week. That may sound impressive, but you may be even more astonished to learn that she only took up the sport at 70 and hopes to achieve her black belt before the age of 80. She is currently a brown belt so is very much on schedule.

We are now well into September, which tends to be our busiest time for recruiting new members along with January. So, if you fancy giving Judo (or MMA) a go, don't hesitate to get in touch. We offer the FIRST 2 SESSIONS FREE to give everyone the chance to experience the club first, although we're very confident that you'll want to return.

We train at Belton on Tuesday evenings, but if this isn't convenient, we have sessions at various venues throughout the week which are included in the timetable below:

TIMETABLE:

MONDAY: EAST ANGLIAN MARTIAL ARTS CENTRE, 163 BRIDGE ROAD, OULTON BROAD, NR33 9JX
5pm-6pm - MMA for children (6-16 years)

TUESDAY: BELTON NEW RD (NR31 9JW)

4.45pm-5.30pm - Judo for younger children (fundamentals/fun)

5.30pm-6.30pm - Judo for older children and adults (technique/theory/randori)

WEDNESDAY: OULTON BROAD (EAST ANGLIAN MARTIAL ARTS CENTRE), 163 BRIDGE ROAD, USE POSTCODE NR33 9JX

4.30pm-5.15pm - Fitness & Wellbeing Circuit Training (FREE FOR ALL MEMBERS & NON-MEMBERS - Supported by National Lottery Community Fund)

5.30pm-6.30pm - Judo (All ages welcome)

THURSDAY: EAST ANGLIAN MARTIAL ARTS CENTRE, 163 BRIDGE ROAD, OULTON BROAD, NR33 9JX

5.00pm-6.00pm - MMA for children (6-16 years)

THURSDAY: BUNGAY CHAUCER DOJO (NR35 1EB)

7.30pm-9.30pm - MMA for older children and adults (12 years +)

FRIDAY: EAST ANGLIAN MARTIAL ARTS CENTRE, 163 BRIDGE ROAD, OULTON BROAD, NR33 9JX

6.15pm-7pm - Judo for younger children (fundamentals/fun)

7.00pm-8pm - Judo for older children and adults (technique/theory/randori)

8.00pm-9.30pm - MMA for older children and adults (12 years +)

If you have any concerns about taking your child to judo, you may wish to consider this: UNESCO (world children's organisation) and the International Olympic Committee believes our sport is best suited for children and is the most complete for promoting friendship and mutual respect.

Lastly, you can find DOMINIC KING JUDO & MMA ACADEMY on Facebook and Instagram, which will give you further information, training videos and general club news. Dominic also has a YouTube channel titled WORLD CLASS HAPPINESS, which is a spin-off from his book of the same name (available on Amazon) and well worth a look. You can subscribe in order to get regular positive messages to help with your mental health.

Anyone wanting further details of any future sessions can contact Dominic on 07977 432756 or email on dominic@fightingfitjudo.co.uk or contact him via Instagram, Facebook or WhatsApp



UP4FITNESS & SALLYANN

We are now heading for Christmas 2023! I know what a shock to the system that is! We have had mixed emotions to our first half of the autumn term. During this time we heard of the sad passing of one of our dear members Pat Carter. She and her friends joined us a few years ago and like everyone who comes along, is a valued member of the group and Pat will be sadly missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family and friends at this sad time.

Thank fully Sallyann is back to fitness and don't we know it. She's defiantly back on form. From a meeting we held prior to opening in September, we discussed what issues we would like to cover over this winter period. So on our coffee sessions at the end of each month we can watch a video or a talk about a specific topic.

September was 'How to get up off the floor' something we all dread, but the practical demonstration was helpful. Other talks and videos will be 'how to reduce the risk of falling', Balance, walking gait and posture.

To help with the winter months it's helpful to have some sort of plan. Maybe you can visit someone or maybe arrange someone to visit you on a regular basis. It's a long day if you haven't spoken to at least one person. So, if you know of a person living on their own, pop in and have a coffee or take the coffee round in a flask, they will be pleased to see you. Having company, a chat and a laugh can really help your mental health during the winter time.



We are still contributing to 'The Pantry' at Belton church and we know as winter, Christmas & New Year comes, times can be tough. We have still got a few more weeks in 2023 to help the families helped by the pantry in Belton. Our donations are delivered once a month after coffee time. Sallyann wishes to thank everyone who has donated

this month, either food or money to the Pantry. It really does make a difference. Thank You!

As we are coming to the Christmas season when it's possible you may have extra post delivered to your door. Please remember we are still collecting used postage stamps for the RNIB and Sallyann will send them off in February 2024.

Our final run through is to 11th December 2023. This will be our last session of the year. As normal we will be having our Christmas get together after that session too.

Sallyann would like to thank everyone who she has worked with over the last year. We've had our ups & downs but we are fortunate to be here to talk to one another about them.

Please contact Sallyann on email or mobile, should you wish to know any information about the above. emailup4fitness@gmail.com Mobile 07599044806

Great Yarmouth Stroke Club

We have had some new members join.

We have music, speakers, quiz's, various games.

Tea coffee cakes biscuits and fruit. Raffle lottery.

Thank you to Bill and Sue Richmond for a very interesting and enjoyable slide show of one of their holidays.

Also to Chris with music to entertain the members we had a Halloween theme as well.

All a bit Spooky.

Get well wishes to Ellen, Sam and Maisie.

Birthdays Michelle, Jean, Marilyn, Denise,

Janice, Allen, Darren, and Maisie.

We are very grateful to our transport from Miss Daisy, Gary and Centre 81.

Contact Sue Casey on 01493 781846

We Meet at Sports Centre, New Road, Belton each Thursday 2-4pm.

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Belton FC Season Report - October 2023



As you would have seen from September's report the season hasn't got off to the best of starts and unfortunately October hasn't been any better. There have been a number of factors for the poor start, including long term injuries to a number of players, work commitments for a few.

Following on from the last update where we had made the long trip to Kings Lynn, the following week we then made the trip back to Kings Lynn to play Dersingham Rovers in the Junior Cup. Dersingham play in a division 2 higher than us so it was always going to be difficult but this was made worse with just 11 players available, including the Manager and Club Secretary, 2 injuries just after half time meant that we played 35-40 minutes with just 9 players! if we take the positives out of the result, we scored 2 goals!

The following week on 23rd September we were on the road again in The Fosters Solicitors Anglian Combination Division 4, where we found ourselves against Feltwell United. We got off to a great start by going 1-0 up early on but then a lapse of concentration saw Feltwell awarded a Penalty which they converted. The following 10 minutes saw Feltwell score 3 more to lead at the break 4-1. In the second half we managed to get back on level terms with 15 minutes remaining but whilst we pushed for a winner Feltwell managed to hit us on the counter and the final score finished 6-4. The following week, we were at home on New Rd as we welcomed AFC Lynn, although we played some good football at times we were missing that composure in front of goal and lost 3-0.

On the 7th October we were back on the road however not too far this time as we travelled to Yelverton Reserves. It was another week of struggling to get a team together and we had to call on a few of

the vets players to help out. Yelverton were a young, well organised team and with Yelverton taking the lead just before half time we were still in the game but in the end the younger legs continued until the end scoring 2 more late on to end the game 3-0 to the visitors.

It was back to New Rd on the 14th October as Holt United Res visited in the CS Morley Cup. They came full of confidence with 6 wins from 6 in the league! They started the game well and we never really got going which saw our cup run come to an end!

Belton FC Veterans have made the trip to Framlingham Town FC since the last update. We went with optimism and took the lead early on however Framlingham equalised shortly after but we went into the half-time break 1-1. Framlingham took the lead early in the 2nd half but we then got back on level terms with 20 minutes remaining. In the end fitness came into play as Framlingham were able to bring on fresh legs and they ran out 4-2 winners.

Belton FC's upcoming fixtures:

November fixtures are yet to be released but can be found on the clubs, Facebook and Twitter pages as well as the fixture board at New Road Playing Field.

Belton FC Vets will also be in action:

19/11/23 against A.F.C Hoxne Veterans Reserves (Home) at New Rd, with a 2.00 PM kick-off
03/12/23 against Somersham FC (Away)
10/12/23 against Great Yarmouth Town (Away) at Wellesley, with a 2.00 PM kick-off

Players or Club Sponsorship:

For those interested in playing for either team or sponsoring the club, please contact **Nathan Brown** on **07771 731235** or **Craig Sayer** on **07810 771130**. Your support is greatly appreciated.

We look forward to welcoming fans to New Rd and hope for your continued support throughout the season.

Thank you for being a part of Belton FC's journey.

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1st Belton Scout Group



Beavers

The Beavers this month have been on a treasure hunt. They made a compass using a paper plate and put the clock face numbers on with hands. They then had great fun following the trail. At the end of the evening, they all got a share of the pot of gold.

We have had a great indoor sleepover themed loosely around basic scouting. The beavers started the evening setting out their tents ready for bed, made biscuits to eat for their snack, had a camp fire light by Gov, sang some camp fire songs. Toasted marshmallows on the fire, off to bed at 9.30pm. In the morning the Beavers helped pack up the tents, ate breakfast, washed up and played some games. They were all presented with a badge to remember the camp for their camp blankets.

The Beavers had a wonderful day at Eaton Vale Activity Centre in Norwich they played games on the climbing wall, went out in Canadian canoes, had a go at suction archery and went crate stacking (see the pictures)

If you have a young person 6 years or about to be 6 years and are interested in Beavers, please contact Brown Beaver (Jane) 07975 533572

Cubs

The Cubs ended September learning how to cope with a disability themselves by partaking in a pack night with an arm sling on and playing games with blindfolds. This was a fantastic and always demonstrates to the young people how fortunate we are. The Cubs have spent the last 2 weeks (the 1st 2 weeks of October) learning back to basics cub scouting skills such as knots, scouting history, flag recognition, tracking signs and first aid in preparation for the Wiltshire trophy District competition in a weeks' time.

Things to look forward to are a visit to Belton Church to complete our, my faith badge and a visit to seething observatory to complete their astronomer's badge.

If you have a young person between 8 to 10 years old both boys and girls who would like to come and join the fun, please contact Peter (Akela) 07900 494344 or email peterclarke222.pc@gmail.com for more information. We play games, learn about the world, learn scouting skills like pioneering and building fires as well as camps and much more.



Scouts

The Scouts this month spent an evening learning how to do bike maintenance from how to mend a puncture, put the correct amount of air in

the tyre, how take a wheel off etc. Our thanks to Adam for a great evening.

They spent an evening shooting foam balls at targets using catapults and doing archery. They spent an evening with the Cubs. The

Scouts had an opportunity to have a go fishing on the river Thurn at Potter Heigham on a Saturday morning where they were shown the rudiments and then had a go. Lots of small fish were caught and put back.

There are places at Scouts (10 years to 14 years) please contact Brown

Beaver contact details above.



Group

We would be grateful of any books/ Bric-a-brac/ Toys for sales they can either be dropped at 6 Station Rd North Belton or phone 01493 780965

A word from your Local MP

BRANDON LEWIS MP writes



At the time of writing this column, we are reaching the end of the Conference season for the major political parties. Although these large-scale affairs can seem remote, they are essential parts of the political process, and I thought it would be helpful to offer readers an insight into these gatherings, and my own experience this year, at the Conservative Party Conference.

For ten years, I attended as a government minister. That can be particularly difficult because you are walking the tightrope of answering tough questions from conference representatives without slipping up. Saying something that will excite the pack of journalists that prowl every

corridor and bar in the conference complex will see you quickly in the newspapers and on political blogs. Then you are pursued everywhere by a range of lobbyists representing businesses, charities, professional organisations, and many more interest groups all desperate for you to hear how you should change government policy.

So, it was a welcome change to spend time at the conference this year as a backbench Member of Parliament. Gone were the constraints of ministerial collective responsibility. I could pop into a fringe event, to listen to a debate or a speaker, without any speculation about why I was there. In many ways, the hundreds of smaller fringe events are more important than the set-piece speeches in the main conference hall. It is here that you can listen to the new ideas presented by other MPs, think tanks, and other organisations. These ideas can be robustly challenged and debated. It's an incubator for future policies that may find their way into a General Election manifesto, become government policy, and eventually law.

Unlike other political parties, as Conservatives we enjoy genuine debate and members can dissent from the normal party line. That's why senior politicians could openly question the current tax burden, putting forward a strong case for reducing taxes to help our economy grow. It's an argument I resolutely support, as not only would they drive growth lower taxes would help families across the Borough with the cost of living, especially those in rural communities who need to use a car to get around and are living with still very high fuel prices.

FRITTON PLANT CENTRE NOTICE

Derek Mallard owner of

Feathered Friends Pet Centre

died suddenly on Sunday 24th September at work. We are all very shocked and saddened by this event and our thoughts and sympathies go out to his wife, Kim, and the rest of the family at this sad time.

THE PET CENTRE IS NOW PERMANENTLY CLOSED.

**FRITTON FLEA MARKET,
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Last serving 3.00p.m. Closed 4.00p.m.

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Events at the John Green Institute



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Bill Richmond	Treasurer	07950 039455
Sheila Evenden	Bookings	07984 443808
Geoff Evenden	Bookings	07984 443808
Robert Goffin	Maintenance	07526 201088
Bridget Lawrence		01403 780160
Suzanna Craig	Hon Secretary	01493 789019

Trustees

The Saturday Coffee morning held on October 14th was well attended with the raffle hosted by the Belton Crafty group together with a sales table with the Belton Crafty Ladies. The proceeds from both the raffle and sales table of £200 was donated to Belton Food Pantry. A representative from the Food Pantry was there to gratefully accept the donation. There were some great knitted items on sale and display. Thanks to Linda Davis and her great team. Also thanks to Shelia for some wonderful cakes again.

The next Saturday Coffee morning will be on November 10th when the raffle will be hosted by "The Art Group" who meet at the JGI on a Wednesday afternoon at 2pm. Come along for a great morning out with Coffee/Tea and cake at a price you cannot get anywhere else. The December coffee morning raffle will be hosted by "Rock Solid" to support the great work they do for young people in our community.

Contact any Trustee for further information.



at the JGI

These are proving as popular as ever and are always a very enjoyable evening out with great prizes and a raffle. Quiz nights for

the rest of the year are on November 24th and the Christmas Quiz on Friday 22nd December.

Do you need Help or Advice

A "DIAL" representative who can advise and help anyone in need of financial advice or other matters is available at the JGI on the second Wednesday of the month between 10.30am and noon. This can be a private and confidential meeting in the rear room at the JGI with access to it by the side path.

Also if you are truly in need of food DIAL can also help and advise in these matters.



Over 60's Club

On Tuesday 19th September 46 members and guests went on what is becoming an annual trip to Southwold and Dunwich for fish and chips.

The weather although very windy was kind to us and only started to rain as we left Southwold.

Sadly at the moment our membership is full so we will not be taking on any new members until the New Year.

Ann Manthorpe



Wednesday Morning Drop In

We meet every week between 10.30am and noon for tea/coffee and cake and a lot of chat and exchange of information. If we can help with a problem with your laptop or mobile then come along with it and discuss the problem WiFi is available at the hall.

Call Sue on 01493780822 for more information.

Contacts for Clubs and Groups at the JGI

To book the JGI Hall call Geoff or Shelia Evenden on 01493 298164

MONDAY

10.15 – 11.45 am	Yoga	Julie	780121
2.00 – 16.00 pm	Short Mat Bowls	Mike	07754 503666
7.30 – 9.30 pm	Bingo	Toni	780748
		Hazel	781916

TUESDAY

10.30 – 12.30	Belton Crafters	Linda	07721 599559
2.00 – 4.00 pm	Over 60's	Ann	780443
		Rose	780784
6.45 – 8.30 pm	Belton Guides	Louise	07826 919517

WEDNESDAY

10.30 – 12.00 am	Drop-In	Sue	780822
2.00 – 4.00 pm	Art	Jan	488683
5.00 – 9.00 pm	Slimming World	Debra	07551 975800

THURSDAY

10.30 – 12.00 am	Line Dancing	Jane	07788 408801
7.00 – 9.00 pm	Belton Crafters	Linda	07721 599559

FRIDAY

10.30 – 12.00 am	Line Dancing	Jane	07788 408801
2.00 – 3.49pm	Camera Club (First Friday of each month)		
7.30 – 9.00 pm	Belton Singers	Mick	07795 422420
(Except last Friday in month)			
7.30 – 9.30 pm	Quiz Nite	Bill	780822
(Last Friday of each month)			

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ELECTRIC BUSES FOR NORWICH

The first batch of 6 battery powered buses have been delivered to Norwich. Two of the fleet have been used on driver training and are now believed to be in service, four others are stored. In total 49 Street Deck Electro liner manufactured by Wrights will see service on Norwich City's major routes.

ENTUA'S SUBMISSION FOR IMPROVED BUS SERVICES

We are becoming increasingly frustrated at the reluctance of Norfolk County Council officers to agree to our requests for

- a) A regular hourly bus service from Market Gates to Gapton Retail Park,
- b) Extension of Bradwell Service 6 to Belton (hourly) and
- c) An all year round bus connection to the railway station.

Norfolk County Council say they are allocating £5 million of their share of Government allocation for improved bus services in the Great Yarmouth area. However they are not convinced that an hourly bus service to Gapton Hall Retail Park would be financially viable after the County's bus subsidy ceased in April, 2025. They argue that passengers would become dissatisfied with the service due to late running buses and stop using them. ENTUA argues that given an hourly frequency at Gapton Hall Retail Park would only lose 15 minutes at worst when traffic is congested and this would only be at certain times of the day, but even then the bus would still have time to get back to Market Gates in time for the next hourly departure. We also argue that Great Yarmouth is the only large conurbation in Norfolk where the non-driving population do not have public transport access to their main shopping centres.

Likewise with extending Service 6 to Belton so Belton residents can access doctors and dentists in Bradwell, Norfolk County Council are not convinced that enough passengers would use the service once the subsidy expires in April, 2025, for the service to be cost-effective. However we are still persevering with our requests for these proposed services to be given more consideration.

To be fair to Norfolk County Council they are undertaking a feasibility study with a view to creating a bus hub on North Quay close to the bridge access to the railway station and are proposing to create lay-bys on either side of the A47 at the entrance to the railway station where passengers can alight from or board the X1/X11 bus serving between Gt. Yarmouth and Norwich. Great Yarmouth Borough Council has some funding available towards these schemes.

PASSENGER FOCUS SURVEY.

Passenger Focus has undertaken a survey of 14,000 bus passengers and the main points are as follows:-

1. Satisfaction with the bus driver consistently scores the highest – with 85% satisfied overall. We know from our past research that the bus driver can make all the difference between a good and great journey.
2. 67% of passengers say they are satisfied with the value for money of their fares – and nearly 4 in 10 very satisfied. This is against the backdrop of cost of living issues and changes in service provision in some areas. The introduction of some fare initiatives in areas, such as the £2.00 capped single journey fare, appear to be making a positive difference to some passengers.
3. There are some mixed results with significant ranges between some of the 35 participating survey areas. These include the passenger wait time at the bus stop which at its highest was 84% and at its lowest 57% - nearly a 30 percentage point between areas.

This large scale, independent survey of bus passengers provides a new benchmark for local transport authorities and bus operators – and it is encouraging to see many passengers are satisfied with their journey. However, the variations across areas and operations seem so far to show that more needs to be done for passengers.

RAIL NEWS

Unfortunately the industrial action on the railway continues with strikes every month. It is always advisable to check Greater Anglia's website for up-to-date information.

However despite disruption on certain days, Greater Anglia's performance over the past week was 96.3%, this is trains arriving at their destination within 5 minutes of their arrival time.

The `Hare Fare` sale ran from 25/9/23-17/10/23 offering a range of discounted fares to be used between 25/9/23 – 3/12/23. Among the savings was a return fare Gt. Yarmouth to London for £20.00 (normally £64.00 off peak return). Check Greater Anglia's website regularly for any further offers. www.greateranglia.co.uk

£2.00 MAXIMUM SINGLE FARE

The good news from the Government is, the £2.00 maximum single fare that was to expire on 31st October, 2023 has now been extended until the end of December 2024. Good value for money at £4.00 return from all local areas to Norwich, but if you need to travel elsewhere in Norwich as well, it is better to get an `Explorer Daily` ticket at £8.00 which you can use all day on any service in Norwich and on the Coast!

ENTUA always welcomes new members, all we ask is for a minimum annual donation of £5.00 which helps us cover the cost of printing and postage of our very informative quarterly newsletter and for the hiring of venues for public meetings. To join please write to: ENTUA, 18 Wensum Way, Belton NR31 9NY

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Closing date for December edition

Wednesday November 15th

WANTED

Burgh Castle Village Hall sales stall. Tel. 01493 780126 (local collection Any Saleable items, Bric-a-Brac, Books, Games, Jigsaws unwanted gifts etc)

Wanted Jumble, Books, Bric-a-brac and toys

Wanted for 1st Belton Scout Group, phone

01493 780965 or can be dropped off at 6

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Councillor Ivan Murry-Smith

I am pleased to introduce myself one of the two newly-elected borough councillors for Lothingland (alongside my colleague Graham Carpenter), the ward where I have been fortunate enough to live since 2016. It has been a very busy six months since my election, with a flurry of reports, working groups and committees, but the aspect of political life I enjoy the most is getting out to talk to people and hear residents' views and concerns.

The summer saw a seen a lot of excitement, with the very successful wheels festival where I was able to see an original Ford Model T, I hope many of you were able to visit and enjoy the Great Yarmouth seafront.



We have also had some rather different excitement in St Olaves, where we witnessed a large-scale emergency services response to reports of a boat fire on the river. Fortunately on this occasion it turned out to be a false alarm, but the scale of the response is a salutary reminder of the dangers that can be encountered on water. It was not how I was expecting to spend Saturday night but I had the opportunity to liaise with my neighbours and the emergency services to ensure prompt access to the river, and my thanks go to all blue light personnel who work around the clock to keep us all safe.

As the temperatures drop and the evenings draw in, I am mindful that autumn weather can cause some challenges, such as the localised flooding as we have seen on The Green in Belton, I am however informed that all gullies were cleansed in August 2023 so hopefully this will prove to be a one-off incident.

A few of you have been in touch about various issues but should anyone wish to contact me, please drop me a line at cllr.ivan.murrysmith@great-yarmouth.gov.uk.



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