

Village Voice

LOTHINGLAND

October 2025
26th Great Year
Vol 26-07

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A word from the Editor Christina Baxter

This year, for the second time, we grew our own pumpkins. Last year, we planted six plants but only managed to grow three pumpkins, though the children loved watching them grow and harvesting them just in time for Halloween. This year, we made some changes to our pumpkin garden, planted 11 plants, and so far we've grown 17 pumpkins! The children are thrilled and can't wait to carve them for Halloween. I don't like to waste food, especially what we've grown ourselves, so this year I plan to make and freeze pumpkin soup. There's a recipe on page 4 that I plan to follow; I'll let you know how it turns out. If anyone else gives it a try, we'd love to hear how it went and whether you made any tasty changes! As always, we love hearing from our readers - please get in touch with pictures, stories, or accomplishments.



We've successfully added to our VV board but are still looking for a distributor for Burgh Castle and Bradwell. If you're interested, please contact Sue on 07946 501774 for more information.

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YOUR VILLAGE VOICE
The closing date for all Articles and
Adverts for the November 2025
edition is 15th October 2025

Cover Picture: Rescued Turkey at
Midspirit, photo by BD

October 2025 **292nd** Edition

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



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAYS

These are for individual residents
disposing of hazardous household waste.
They are not for any business, group or
other organisation to make use of.

The autumn 2025 household
hazardous waste days will take place at
seven recycling centres across the county.

During these events residents will be
able to safely dispose of unwanted
hazardous materials.

Locally there will be sessions at the
Caister on Sea Recycling Centre on Friday
and Saturday, October 24th and 25th
between 8am and 4pm on each day.

You will need to book a slot to attend
on these days. Bookings will open eight
days before each event. You can either
book online or call 0344 800 8020.

You will not be able to bring other
waste during these events. Alternatively
sign up to Your Norfolk at
www.norfolk.gov.uk/newsletters for
news about hazardous waste days.

**For details of what is and is not
acceptable please refer to
[https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/
38615/Hazardous-waste-items](https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/38615/Hazardous-waste-items)**

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Letter to the EDITOR

I would first like to thank those who helped clear the footpath through the small roadside copse at Bland Corner in Belton.

This footpath has been used since before WW2, as halfway along it is a Spigot Mortar Base used by the Home Guard. This mortar base was used as a defence in case the invading army drove tanks along the railway. Roads were out of the question as there were many obstacles along them, moving tanks along railways was by far easier as the banks and cuttings were free from vegetation cut back by British Rail as they could

start fires from sparks from the railway locomotives.

Unfortunately, the local village council in Belton refuse to accept that it is a footpath, yet I and others not only use it but maintain it and clear up the litter along it.

Hearing that the small flowerbed around the sign at Burgh Castle was in need of a volunteer I was happy to offer only to withdraw because I was expected to pay for any plants or flowers that needed planting, out of my own pocket. The council could not pay for anything, of which I think is poor show.

Name supplied

MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

Locally the Norfolk Mobile Library rounds are as follows:

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

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

Burgh Castle and Fritton - No service.

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



URGENTLY NEEDED

**Distributor for Burgh Castle
and Bradwell area**

Contact Sue on 07946 501774

Parish Council Reports

Monthly Reports from all your
Local Parish Councils
Belton, Browston, Burgh Castle,
Fritton & St Olaves

Belton with Browston Parish Council

The latest monthly meeting of the Parish Council was held on September 2nd with ten Parish Councillors present along with ten members of the public and the Parish Clerk. David Mills was in the chair.

A number of residents were present to back up concerns raised by e-mail at the three planning applications currently being considered by the Borough Council for Browston Hall which include a new leisure and hospitality facility with ten pin bowling, golf, snooker and 50 luxury lodges, also requested on site are a further 32 holiday lodges and infrastructure. Councillors agreed to again object to all three applications, substantially unchanged from the original plans from 2022 and 2024 with a long list of objections and concerns and a request that all three applications be totally refused.



In other planning Members agreed to submit no objections to plans for a single-story extension at 2 Broom Gardens, a single-story rear extension at Tudor Lodge on Browston Lane, demolition of a garage and extension at The Bungalow on Browston Lane and build a two-story side extension (including garage), plus a two-story rear extension and a front porch extension. There was an application for a roof height increase to a recently approved extension at 23 Paddock Close, Belton, also no objections to a retrospective application for a rear extension at 19 Bramble Gardens. Members did however object by a 6-3 majority, to subdivision of the plot at 1 Rosedale Gardens for a detached 3 bedroomed house on the grounds that this would be too large for the plot.

Planning applications approved by the Borough

Council were:- 19 Bramble Gardens (retrospective permission for a rear extension), High House, Lound Road, Browston, work to trees covered by a TPO), 3 Amhurst Gardens (single story rear extension) and 74 Fern Gardens (removal of timber shed and construct a single width garage). The following have been withdrawn by the applicants, Beech Farm Barns, Beccles Road, (change siting and orientation of cart shed) and 19 Bramble Gardens (application for lawful use of single-story sun room/conservatory attached to the side extension).

In a written report County Councillor Carl Annison stated that he hopes that details for a suggested safety scheme for the road at Stepshort should soon emerge from the Highways Engineer.

Parish Councillor Comer reported that the Village Voice magazine is looking to put on a fun day in August 2026, the chairman of the Village Voice, Adrian Myers had reported that

there is an appetite for this event and the New Road site will allow for an expansion on the 2024 event. members confirmed that the event could be held at New Road and that all, except the first Saturday in the month in August 2026 are currently available.

The Clerk reported that she had received an e-mail with pictures of parking on the grass in Berry Close, it was agreed to pass this on to the Highways engineer, it was noted that there are other roads with the same problem and it was agreed to ask the Engineer if he would work with the Council to identify possible additional parking areas.

The next council meeting will take place on Tuesday October 7th, commencing 7.00pm at the New Road Sports and Leisure Centre details from the Parish Clerk, Kate Ruddock on 01493 602960 or e-mail clerk@beltonwithbrowston-pc.gov.uk.

There are still two vacancies on the Parish Council that can be filled by co-option, full details from the Clerk, details as above.

BELTON ALLOTMENTS Annual General Meeting

will be held on
Tuesday 28th October, 7pm
at the
New Road Sport & Leisure Centre



LOCAL COUNCIL REORGANISATION

Local Borough Councillor and vice chair of Great Yarmouth Borough Council Carl Smith gave an outline of the latest position on local government reorganisation as it applies to the Borough Council at the September meeting of Burgh Castle Parish Council.

During September the Borough Council, along with five of the other local councils published their reorganisation plans which consist of three unitary councils, one based in Kings Lynn for the west of Norfolk, one based in Great Yarmouth for the east and an extended 'Greater Norwich' as a central ring whilst Norfolk County Council favours one unitary authority to run the whole of Norfolk and South Norfolk have yet another idea, two councils, Norwich and East Norfolk along with West and North Norfolk.

Future expected dates are as follows.

November 2025 - early 2026- This and other proposals to be put out to public consultation by the Government.

May 2026 - Election for a single Mayor to cover all of Norfolk and Suffolk.

May 2027 - Shadow unitary Council elections to take place (to run in tandem with existing Councils)

April 1st 2028 - The 'shadow' authorities to take over control.

Whilst Borough District and County Councils face change Parish Councils will stay unaltered at this time.

Burgh Castle Parish Council



The September 8th meeting of the Council was attended by all six Parish Councillors, County Councillor Carl Smith, the Parish Clerk and two members of the public, Brian Swan was in the chair. Members accepted the resignation of Councillor Bob Grimmer and will write to thank him for his long service to the Council, Wendy Griffiths was elected to fill the position of vice chair of the council.

The Chairman confirmed that, with no offers to take over maintenance of the flower beds by the village sign he will get them cleared and grassed over with the daffodil bulbs left to come through annually. County Councillor Carl Smith reported that plans are going ahead for a bus shelter outside Cherry Tree Holiday Park and he is still trying to get the Millfields Footpath cleared, the chairman stated that the nettles are very high and the spoil heap is still in place as well as the trees that belong to the adjacent holiday park now

also needing cutting back.

Councillor Smith reported that all roadside gullies in the village are scheduled to be cleaned out.

There was one new planning application, by majority members agreed to object to proposals for an increased height front wall as out of keeping with the area, and a side extension as over development of the site at Tittlemouse on Butt Lane, members did not object to the trimming back of a large oak tree at The Grange Lodge on High Road and noted that the Borough Councils refusal of the application for an upwards extension to Burghwell Lodge on Market Road was being appealed against by the applicant.

The next Council meeting will be on Monday October 13th at the Village Hall, on Church Road commencing at 7.00pm, for details contact Kate Ruddock, the Parish Clerk, on 07899 846148, e-mail clerk@burghcastle-pc.gov.uk.

St Peter & St Paul's Church Burgh Castle



As we wait for news on when we will have a new priest, PPC and churchwardens continue to keep services going with the help of local and retired clergy, we are very grateful to them for their help.

OCTOBER SERVICES

5th October Holy Communion 09.30 Reverend C Straton
12th October Furse Service 15.00 Reverend Canon S Ward
19th October Holy Communion 09.30 Reverend C Straton
26th October Morning Prayer 9.30 Mary Ives

(In the event that we are unable to arrange a priest to cover the services churchwardens will lead a Morning Prayer service)

POSSIBLE FLAGPOLE IN BURGH CASTLE

To All residents of Burgh Castle

Your Parish Council is considering the possibility of an official flag pole in the village.

There are several possibilities for its location (subject to permissions) including the village sign area and outside the Village Hall and there would be costs involved including for the post, flag(s), installation and any

necessary planning permissions.

WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS ON THIS

Do YOU support a Flag Pole

If so, where?

Please contact the Parish Council Chairman, Brian Swan, preferably, by e-mail cllr.b.swan@burghcastle-pc.gov.uk or Tel 07796 982259 by the 31st October 2025. Thank you.



Burgh Castle Tea Room & Bargain Stall

(Village Hall, Church Road)



Back to normal now, Thursday and Friday 10.00 – 2.00pm
 Christmas Stock is now on display
 come and get an early bargain.



MacMillan Coffee Morning

This year we will hold the coffee morning over our two normal opening days Thursday 9th and Friday 10th October, there will be a tombola on both days and lots of lovely cake, this is an annual event which is close to many hearts your support is very much appreciated.



Please continue to think of us when you have unwanted goods to dispose of, we can arrange collection at a convenient time for you or you can drop goods off at the hall when we are open.

For more information call

01493 780126

or email: mgreenacre532@gmail.com

Fritton with St. Olaves Parish Council



The September meeting of Fritton with St Olaves Parish Council was held too late for this edition of Village Voice therefore it will be reported on next month. The next meeting of the Council will be held in St Olaves Village Hall on Thursday November 20th commencing at 6.30pm, for

any further information contact the Council via the Parish Clerk, Kate Ruddock, on 07899 846148, or by e-mail, *please note that the council now has a NEW e-mail address and the parish council should be contacted on* clerk@frittonwithstolaves-pc.gov.uk



Fritton Bingo

Please come and join me and the regular Bingo players for our next Bingo event.

BINGO to be held on **Friday October 17th** at **FRITTON VILLAGE HALL** starting at **7.15pm**.

Bingo cards 50p each Raffle tickets £2 per 5 strips

Thanking you ROY 🤓🤓🤓

ST. OLAVES VILLAGE HALL

MONDAY EVENING

Ring craft dog training (training for shows): Contact Emily Bircham – 01502 569243

TUESDAY EVENING

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

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Free and looking for a club to hire

THURSDAY EVENING

Saxon and Viking Re-enactment Society
www.jormungandrreenactment.com/

SATURDAY MORNING

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

SUNDAY MORNING

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Pumpkin Soup Recipe

Serves • 6 Easy • Prep: 20 mins • Cook: 25 mins

Ingredients:

- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 2 onions finely chopped
- 1kg pumpkin or squash, peeled, deseeded and chopped into chunks
- 700ml vegetable stock or chicken stock
- 150ml double cream

For the croutons

- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 4 slices wholemeal seeded bread crusts removed
- handful pumpkin seeds

Method

step 1 Heat 2 tbsp olive oil in a large saucepan, then gently cook 2 finely chopped onions for 5 mins, until soft but not coloured.

step 2 Add 1kg pumpkin or squash, cut into chunks, to the pan, then carry on cooking for 8-10 mins, stirring occasionally until it starts to soften and turn golden.

step 3 Pour 700ml vegetable or chicken stock into the pan and season with salt and pepper.

Bring to the boil, then simmer for 10 mins until the squash is very soft.

step 4 Pour 150ml double cream into the pan, bring back to the boil, then purée with a hand blender. For an extra-velvety consistency you can pour the soup through a fine sieve. The soup can now be frozen for up to 2 months.

step 5 To make the croutons: cut 4 slices wholemeal seeded bread into small squares.

step 6 Heat 2 tbsp olive oil in a frying pan, then fry the bread until it starts to become crisp.

step 7 Add a handful of pumpkin seeds to the pan, then cook for a few mins more until they are toasted. These can be made a day ahead and stored in an airtight container.

step 8 Reheat the soup if needed, taste for seasoning, then serve scattered with croutons and seeds and drizzled with more olive oil, if you want.

Men's Church Walk

Although we still do not have a resident Rector, Church activities are still continuing

These are a great morning out walking in the area in a radius of about 15 miles from Belton. They are around 5 to 6 miles in length with a stop for coffee at a café and hopefully a light refreshment at an inn at the end of the walk. We meet in the precinct carpark between 8.30 and 9am on the first Saturday of each month to set off.

If you would like to join us call Peter on 07914 777401 to confirm a walk's information and time of leaving Belton.

The September Walk was from Earsham, Bungay and was 7.3Km.

This proved to be a wonderful circular walk and when we arrived back at Earsham the place was full of around 200 bikers which were great to chat with and look at some stunning motor bikes.



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www.nortonpeskett.co.uk



September always makes me nostalgic. The leaves sweeping underfoot, the sharp chill of early mornings that mellow into sunshine by midday, the satisfying crunch of acorns scattered across the school field. My mind slips easily back to childhood: cold walks to school, rucksack straps digging into my shoulders, and that flutter of anticipation in my chest for the start of a new year.

Back then, September smelled of new shoes and fresh exercise books. It was the season of sharpened pencils and shiny lunchboxes, of wondering who you'd sit next to and whether the teacher would be strict. September carried the thrill of new beginnings — clean slates wrapped in autumn air.

Even now, the season still stirs the same anticipation, but now it's mixed with something else: anxiety. Not for me, but for my children. September belongs to them now. The excitement of a new term has shifted from my world to theirs — and I carry the waiting, the watching, the hoping.

Of course, it was different when we were at school. There were no mobile phones, no family apps, no digital bus timetables glowing in our pockets. Our parents couldn't track our every movement. We had long walks in the rain, forgotten homework, missed buses, and the less than occasional detour to the sweet shop. The anxieties were different then — smaller in some ways, sharper in others —

but nothing like the constant low-level hum of worry that technology both feeds and soothes for parents today.

Most afternoons, I open the family app and watch the little dot that tells me where my eldest is. I see it move faster as

he rides the bus home, then creeping closer as he walks the last stretch. I flick between cooking dinner and glancing at the screen, checking again and again as if my watching could make him come quicker. Every so often I peek through the curtains, half-hoping to catch sight of him turning the corner of the road. It's only when I finally see him there that I feel the knot in my chest loosen and I can breathe properly again.

It's in those moments I think of the father in Jesus' parable of the prodigal son. When I was younger, I focused on the son — the rebellion, the homecoming, the celebration. But now, as a parent, I find myself caught by the father's side of the story. The endless waiting. The horizon-watching. The ache of love that keeps you hoping for a glimpse. I understand him better these days. Love makes us watch. Love makes us wait.

And September is a season of waiting too. Nature itself is shifting. Trees let go of their leaves in a final blaze of gold, as if to remind us that beauty can be found even in the act of surrender. There's always a sadness in it — a reminder that nothing stays the same forever. Children grow. Routines shift. Life turns a page.

The writer of Ecclesiastes puts it like this: "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." Ecclesiastes 3:1. A time for holding hands, and a time for letting go. A time for walking with them to the classroom door, and a time for pretending not to when they roll their eyes. A time for watching the bus inch across a map, and a time for trusting they'll be just fine without your hovering.

But it's not just about letting go of our children. Sometimes, it's about letting go of ourselves. Our need for control. Our desperate clutch on certainty. Our plans and expectations of how life should look. Like the trees surrendering their leaves, we too are called to release what we hold tightly — so that God has space to move. Letting go is rarely easy, but it makes room for grace.

So, September remains for me what it always was:



a season of anticipation. The difference is, now it carries both nostalgia and hope. As I crunch through leaves, check the family app, and sneak glances through the curtains for the first sight of my son at the corner of the road, I'm reminded that each season has its beauty. Autumn whispers that letting go is part of love. Parenting shows me that waiting can be sacred. And faith assures me that God is with us in every change — in the chill of morning, in the warmth of afternoon, and in that longed-for moment when the ones we love come home.

Liz STONE, Parochial Church Council Team.



Diary Dates for October 2025			
FRIDAY 03	REFILL 9AM - 10.30AM Parent / carer and children group with refreshments YOUTH GROUP 4.30 AM - 6PM	SUNDAY 19	MORNING SERVICE 10.30am service for all the family with refreshments, led by Mary Ives
SUNDAY 05	CAFE CHURCH 10.30am Join us for a relaxed service. Enjoy breakfast, crafts, pray and singing.	SUNDAY 19	MESSY MUDDY CHURCH 4pm - 5.30pm For kids aged 4-11 to enjoy outdoor crafts, activities and food. Bring coats and boots.
TUESDAY 07	HOLY COMMUNION 11am Traditional service led by Rev Chris Straton. Coffee from 10am.	FRIDAY 24	REFILL 9AM - 10.30AM Parent / carer and children group with refreshments YOUTH GROUP 4.30AM - 6PM
FRIDAY 10	REFILL 9AM - 10.30AM Parent / carer and children group with refreshments YOUTH GROUP 4.30AM - 6PM	SUNDAY 26	HOLY COMMUNION 10.30am service with refreshments
SUNDAY 12	HOLY COMMUNION 10.30am service with refreshments.	FRIDAY 31	LIGHT PARTY 4pm - 5.30pm For kids aged 4-11 includes bouncy castle, crafts, activities and food. Buy tickets online
FRIDAY 17	REFILL 9AM - 10.30AM Parent / carer and children group with refreshments YOUTH GROUP 4.30AM - 6PM	All Saints Church, Belton https://allsaintsbelton.church allsaintsbelton	



1st Belton Scout Group



Would you be interested in helping out at the Beavers (*Beavers run at 18 beavers at present time due to not enough adult help, the colony should have 24 spaces*) or Scout section this does not have to be every week. A small amount of training on line is required (support available) and a DBS. We have a waiting list and can't fill all of the spaces as we don't have enough adult help. If you would like more information, please contact Brown Beaver (Jane) 07975 533572.

Beavers

We are now looking forward to a new term at Beavers with activities outside as long as it does not rain for as long as the light lasts. Then inside for the winter. The Beavers wanted to do some cooking now we are back at the Scout HQ to work towards the cook's badge.

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. We have 2 places open to anyone interested.

Cubs

The Cubs had their summer camp at the scout HQ during the month of August. 18 Cubs and 5 leaders had a great 3 days doing pioneering, frisbee golf, Kubb championships, lots of cooking and eating and a great camp fire as well as looking at the county code, tracking signs, and designing and naming their own team flag.

At the end of the camp the Cubs were exemplary in tidying everything away and clearing down. Awards were given for the best rap at campfire, Kubb championship winner, cub of the camp (voted by the cubs themselves) and teddy bear of the camp, moment of the camp (a 60 yard flick of a frisbee straight into the net) and everyone was given a certificate of attendance and a pin badge.

A great camp and great experience for the young people.

If your young person would like to join the adventure at Belton cubs then message Peter On 07900 494 344 or go through the 1st Belton scout group Facebook page and I will tell you more.

Scouts.

The Scouts went to Norjam25 for a week of fun and excitement in August. We enjoyed crafts in creative corner such as mug painting, making clocks and woggle making. We also took part in activities like go-karting, abseiling, paddle boarding, water Zorb's and driving mini tanks! There was a science area where we could learn about combustion and skulls. In the evenings we partied with DJ Nick and listened to Taverham brass band, Norjam's got talent and Sheringham Shantymen. We had a brilliant time and look forward to our next Jamboree. Some Scouts are now enjoying food they didn't know they liked! Our thanks to all the leaders who gave up their time to take us Rikki, Ben, Rebecca, Gov and Brown Beaver (written by the Scouts on their last evening at Norjam 25)

Brown Beaver would like to thank the Scouts for a wonderful camp they all helped as a team putting up/taking down tents, helping with cooking, washing up, collecting water etc. We even managed to get everything done before parents arrived to collect them well done. Brown Beaver and Gov were invited to a lunch where the new Chief Scout Dwayne Fields was present then he went onto meet the young people on camp and join in the fun.

Anyone aged between 10 years and 14 years who would like to come and join the fun please contact Brown Beaver phone number above.

Group

Wanted 2 bean bags to set up a quite area at the Scout HQ.

Our thanks to everyone who has supported us at the JGI coffee morning at our Bric-a-brac/books/toys as the summer break starts, we all look forward to the Saturday morning coffee, quiz and cake returning in September and hope to be back 11th October 2025.

We are planning on sales over the Autum. Our next jumble sale 15th November 2025 and 14th March 2026 at the JGI Station Rd South Belton. We would be grateful of any books/bric-a-brac/clothes/ Toys/ Jigsaws, we urgently need to re stock for sales. The items can either be dropped at 6 Station Rd North Belton or phone 01493 780965.



Down the Garden Path

Elizabeth Myhill

To plant fruit trees, first choose a sunny, well-drained spot and prepare the planting area by removing weeds and incorporating compost. Next, soak the tree's roots, then dig a wide hole, and place the tree in it, ensuring the graft union (if present) is above the soil line. Water well once planted. Finally, add a layer of mulch, keeping it away from the trunk, and secure the tree to a stake with a flexible tie.



The best time to plant fruit trees is in the autumn as well as hedging.

We have a range of different fruit trees.

Cox Orange pippin apple

Wonderful flavour, excellent crunch and juicy. They are Self fertile which means they do not need to have another apple tree nearby to produce fruit.

Jonagold apple

Known for its sweet and sharp, aromatic flavour and crisp, juicy, creamy-white flesh. Does require another apple tree for cross pollination.

They are best for cooking, baking, fresh-cut into salads, applesauce or just eating out of hand.

Conference pear

Conference pears have a balanced, sweet taste that develops from slightly acidic when firm to a rich, honey-like sweetness when fully ripe. They



have a juicy, non-gritty texture that ranges from a satisfying crunch to a soft, buttery, melting consistency, depending on ripeness.

Conference pears are self fertile so they do not require a pollinator.



Stella cherry

The Stella cherry can become very dark red, offering a sweet, satisfying taste perfect for fresh eating and other uses.

Stella cherry tree does not require other trees for pollination which makes them perfect for limited garden spaces.

Victoria plum

A Victoria plum tree typically



starts producing a small amount of fruit in its second or third year after planting. Victoria plums have balanced flavour of sweetness with a touch of tartness, and they are particularly juicy and flavourful when fully ripe.

Victoria plums are self fertile.

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MIDNIGHT SPIRIT

THE HORSE THAT CHANGED MY LIFE

This whole thing started years ago when I suffered from mental health with severe depression and anxiety. In times of struggle, I sought light in one thing that made me happy - horses - most importantly, a very special horse called *Midnight Spirit*.

He became my saviour, my soulmate and got me through every suicide attempt! He even helped me find my lovely husband who helps me with the business.

Our Facebook page originally started off as a hints and tips page but when I sadly knew I was losing him, I threw myself



into setting up a small tack shop - Midspirit, in his honour and a focus for me.

I sourced UK and overseas brands, bought out shop closures, etc. started without a penny! Now we have grown to have our own branded goods and over 3000 followers. So, in a year, my life has been turned upside down.

Alongside all of this, I care, full time, for my very disabled son called Thomas, who is now in his 30s and wheelchair-bound. My youngest son Alfie was only 15 at the time. We also cared for my husband's 91-year-old father too, but he sadly passed away recently.



Welcome to the Farm



My name is Tanya and am married to Jonathan Smith.

The Smith family bought the farm over 100 years ago from the

Porter Family - hence the Lokes name - Porters Loke.

On this small farm we have goats, cows, horses, pigs, turkeys, chickens, sheep and whippets, also home to five cats even with whippets.

We raise our pigs to fill our freezer, but raise them with love and respect.

Over a period of time, I will showcase a part of the farm or animals in detail each month.



We also have an equestrian / country shop on site - Midspirit Equestrian.



(East Norfolk Transport Users Association)
is a voluntary independent body which monitors
bus and rail provision in the East Norfolk Area.
To learn more about us please visit
our website www.entua.org.uk

My name is Dennis Ball, the new Chairman of ENTUA. I will be trying to fill the shoes of our late respected Chairman, Tony Grice.

Tony's dedication to the ENTUA is well documented and I will try my best to keep you informed of all the bus and train travel in our area as Tony did.



Tony was also a colleague at the **East Anglia Transport Museum Carlton Colville**, well worth a visit with events such as ghoulish **HALLOWEEN** Sat 25th and Sun 26th October

and beautiful and captivating **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS** weekends 6th and 7th, 13th and 14th and 20th and 21st December 2025 (eatm.co.uk)

Long term Village Voice readers may notice a change in style with this month being shorter in bus detail than normal whilst "getting my feet under the table." However a reminder that the maximum single bus fare any English operator can charge is £3 per journey.

Each month, apart from reporting time table alterations as they occur, a look what at an operator/s can offer.

Rail News - The train operator Greater Anglia is set to be nationalised on October 12, 2025 and will transfer to a new, government owned company, the Department for Transport Operations (DFTO). This is a step towards the eventual creation of the national Great British Railways (GBR) in 2027.

ENTUA has been assured that due to Greater Anglia's record for reliability and punctuality customers will carry on as usual with current timetables/tickets etc.

This year celebrated 200 years of official rail operation from George Stephenson "Rocket" 1825 to today.

ENTUA with East Suffolk Travel Association (ESTA) put on an exhibition of railways past, present and envisaged future in late September in Great Yarmouth Library. We would like to show this as widely as possible with any Parish Councils or Unitary body interested, please contact ENTUA Secretary Stephen Hewitt email shewitt52@googlemail.com or Trevor Garrod (ESTA Chairman) trevorgarrod2000@yahoo.co.uk. If anybody is interested in joining ENTUA and or meetings for an Annual Subscription of £5.00 which includes regular Newsletters please contact Stephen, Trevor or myself, dennyball39@gmail.com



G I G A N T I C JIGSAW PUZZLE SALE

Well, surprise, surprise, Malcolm Metcalf, Village Voice's former nature writer has, at the age of 91, set himself yet another challenge!

He will be asking the people of Norfolk to donate a jigsaw puzzle for his **Gigantic Jigsaw Puzzle Sale at the Shrublands Youth and Adult Centre on Magdalen Way, Gorleston on Saturday October 25th (1.00-4.00pm)**

He would appreciate good condition, complete puzzles, he is hoping that this will be the biggest ever jigsaw sale in Gorleston.

All proceeds will go to the Priscilla Bacon Lodge Hospice in Norwich.

Malcolm can be contacted on **01493 661138** or by e-mail at 43Ironhorse@gmail.com



Roman Fun at the Trust!

On Friday 15 August 2025, the volunteer events team from the Norfolk Archaeological Trust welcomed young visitors with a special Roman-themed activity day. Children followed a trail to discover what life was like for a Roman soldier, before getting creative with hands-on crafts.

Activities included making Roman soldier



models from cardboard tubes, colouring sheets, and a Roman numeral dot-to-dot. One highlight was creating a vexillum (a Roman military standard) - something Moishe particularly enjoyed (see picture).

The Trust would also like to thank everyone who uses the car park at Burgh Castle Fort. Revenue from parking directly contributes to the care and upkeep of this special place.



Charity Evening

in aid of

AT THE JGI, BELTON

Heart 2  Norfolk

Defibrillators for Schools & Clubs



On Saturday 30th August a Charity Evening was held at the JGI, Belton, with help from the Hall trustees.

Organised by Caroline Askeff and in aid of the Heart 2 Heart Charity who specialise in Defibrillators.

The evening was a complete success, everybody enjoyed all the Rock'n Roll theme raising £378 for the charity.

Music and entertainment was compered by John and given free of charge. With songs from the 60's, 70's and 80's everyone could join in singing along with John.



Organised by Caroline Askeff

A raffle with an assortment of prizes donated by Hippodrome Circus, Pavillion, Binkys of Belton, Morrisons of Bradwell, Tesco's of Belton, was laid out ready to be claimed by lucky winners.

Bingo cards were given to all free of charge which everyone appreciated and a wonderful time was had by all.

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Local NEWS in Brief

LOCAL ROADWORKS

There are not too many roadworks listed in our area for October (as at September 14th).

October 1st - 3rd St Olaves Bridge on the A143 traffic lights for works by City Fibre

October 13th - 17th Beccles Road (A143) Bradwell (Between the Crabb lane and Mill Road junctions) ROAD CLOSED for highways maintenance works by Norfolk County Council.

October 15th - 24th Herringfleet Road and Beccles Road in St Olaves again traffic lights for works by City Fibre

Please note that there can be changes or additions at any time and these closures will affect various local bus routes.



People across the borough of Great Yarmouth are being urged to check their electoral registration details or risk losing their chance to vote.

Emails or letters are being sent to all homes in the Borough with clear instructions on what steps people need to take. This includes those where people don't need to do anything if the information held is correct, as well as those who are asked to respond - either to confirm information or correct inaccuracies. In November there will be follow-up visits to properties where people have not responded as requested.

If you're not currently registered, your name will not appear in the messages sent out. If you want to register, the easiest way is online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.

Recent home movers in particular are

urged to check their details.

Electoral Commission research has found that recent home movers are less likely to be registered than those who have lived at the same address for a long time. In Great Britain, 92 per cent of those who have lived in their home for 16 years will be registered, compared with 36 per cent of people who have lived at an address for less than a year.

If you have any questions about your registration status, please contact Great Yarmouth Borough Council's electoral services team at elections@great-yarmouth.gov.uk or by calling 01493 846327.

Information on registering to vote is available on the Electoral Commission website at: www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections.

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Flu & Covid Vaccinations

IN BELTON

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Did you know that if you are eligible, you can have both Covid and Flu vaccinations in Belton, bookings can be made to have the 'Jabs' at the Wellbeing Pharmacy on Station Road North in the village and you can elect to have both or just one type of cover.

To book visit <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/vaccination-and-booking-services/book-covid-19-vaccination/> where you can Book, check, change or cancel a COVID-19 vaccination appointment.

Vaccinations are available from October 1st and bookings will be open by the time Village Voice is published.



Ashley's Monthly Column

Well, summer definitely came to a rather chilly end! The sudden change in the air has caught many of us by surprise, but it also brings with it the start of new routines and familiar gatherings.

I've started attending the Wednesday morning coffee mornings again, which has been absolutely lovely. There's something so comforting about sitting down with a warm drink, catching up, and seeing friendly familiar faces. It almost felt as though I had been away for ages — funny how quickly time slips by!

Here's to embracing the cooler months ahead, with plenty of good company and community spirit to keep us warm.

Answer to last month's brain teaser was:

Because he's playing Monopoly - his car is the game token, he landed on a property with a hotel, and now owes so much rent he's bankrupt. 🚗🏠💰



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Kate 01493 602960

Belton Judo club latest news update

We've now reached that time of year when the swimming pool feels less inviting, and the rain, wind and fewer daylight hours makes a trip to the local football, rugby or athletics club more of a chore. So why not visit our judo club in Belton on a Tuesday evening instead? (see our club timetable below for session times or alternative sessions on different evenings)

Beginners are always welcome, with each potential new member being offered 2 FREE SESSIONS before joining as a regular member. Our youngest member currently is just 4 years old, with our oldest member, Dot Goodwin, turning 79 years young in October. The remarkable thing about Dot, is not simply how old she is, but the fact that she only decided to take up the sport at the age of 70! But what's even more amazing than that, is that Dot is due to get her 1st Dan black belt in December. So if she can, YOU CAN!



The great thing about our club is that it's suitable for all levels. It's a sport that requires a partner, but we believe that the only person you ever compete against is yourself, meaning that you are free to work at your own pace. In one evening, we have a group of young children who learn judo while enjoying lots of fun and games, as well as progressing through a mini grading system that helps them build confidence without the pressure of demonstrating difficult moves or learning any confusing Japanese terminology. This session is followed by a group consisting of older children and adults who range from white belts who are just learning to fall using crash mats, more experienced members who are grading and competing locally, adults who are simply attending to maintain a level of fitness and strength, while all training alongside the experienced black belts, including 19 year old international, Ryan King who is the son of head coach, Dominic King. Ryan is currently recovering from knee surgery, so will be available to help coach our members on a regular basis over the coming months. Ryan hopes to make a full recovery as he has realistic ambitions of competing in the Olympics games in the fairly near future. Dominic, was a former British Champion and Youth Olympic Silver medallist, but despite beating many full Olympians during his competitive career, missed out on the Olympic dream due to injury and bad luck with some health issues, before turning his attention full time to coaching.

Despite our diverse group of members, everyone is friendly and welcoming and new members have no trouble fitting in from the start. So, if you'd like to start your own journey with us, you can join now! If the Tuesday evenings are not convenient, we have sessions at various venues throughout the week, which are included in the timetable below:

DOMINIC KING JUDO & MMA ACADEMY

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

THURSDAY: EAST ANGLIAN MARTIAL ARTS CENTRE, 163 BRIDGE ROAD, OULTON BROAD, NR33 9JX
4.30pm-6.30pm – MMA for children and adults (6 years + KIDS FIRST HOUR ONLY)

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+).

Anyone wanting further details can contact Dominic on 07977432756, email dominic@fightingfitjudo.co.uk

Great Yarmouth Stroke Club

Great Yarmouth Stroke Group had six weeks holiday, on our return we enjoyed ice creams from Di Mascio, Biscuit Quiz, Bingo and a Raffle.

We would just like to thank everyone who donated items for the raffle.

We had Mick with his collection of photos and arrange of cameras which everyone enjoyed.

Birthdays Brenda, Michelle, James, Debbie, John, Jean, Steven, Jackie, Margaret, Denise, Janice.

Get Well wishes to Maisie, Marg and Steven.

Our meetings in October are 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th at the New Road Sports Center, Belton

Contact Sue Casey tel 01493 781846 or 07754 571538

UP4FITNESS & SALLYANN

Belton Activity Morning – October Update

We're back for our autumn term and what a wonderful start it's been at Monday Activity Morning! It's always lovely to welcome new faces into the group, and at the same time we're keeping in our thoughts those members who are unwell and unable to join us right now.

With summer activities now behind us, this is the perfect time to slow down a little and enjoy the cosy autumn months together. We're looking forward to a visit from Yoga Rachel on Monday 13th October, which is always such a treat, as well as more of our members sharing their passions and interests with us.

Fundraising for Pathways Care Farm, who many of us enjoyed visiting in the summer, will also be part of our plans this term.

From 1st October 2025, the cost of each session will rise slightly to £6.00. This small increase is to help cover rising costs, and Sallyann is very sorry to have to make this change but hopes you'll understand. Bank transfers are available to make payments easier.

Here's to another term of fun, friendship, and fitness—we can't wait to see you!

Contact Sallyann

up4fitness@gmail.com

07599 044806 (Text or Call)

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BYGONE YEARS

Extract from 1969 Magazine

Church and Village Magazine of the Parish Churches of Belton and Burgh Castle

(3)

BAPTISMS

29th June: Lynne Diane, daughter of Thomas and Maureen Bate, "Hollyhaven", B. Castle.
6th July: John Arthur, son of Robert and Frances Bane, "Kinberley", Belton.
25th July: Dean Frank Morton, son of John and Kathleen Scott, Corner Stores, B. Castle.
(received into the Church after baptism at hospital).

CHURCH FLOWERS

At Belton Church we thank the ladies who are providing the flowers this month for the Holy Table, and keeping the vases bright: Mrs. Reynolds (3rd), Mrs. S. Sharman (10th), Mrs. Black (17th & 24th), Mrs. G. Beare (31st).

At Burgh Castle Church, our thanks for doing the same there go to Mrs. Flaxman.

HOLIDAY DUTY

While we are away on holiday, the Services on the last three Sundays of August, (17th, 24th & 31st) will be conducted at both churches by the Rev. Geoffrey Sharpe, Vicar of Ridgewell, near Halstead, Essex. He and his family will be staying at Belton Rectory, and we hope they will enjoy their visit here.

CLOSE OF BURGH CASTLE SCHOOL

The plaque on the wall tells that the present village school was born in 1863 - so it has had a life of 106 years, during which time all residents in the village have been glad to send their children there for the start of their education. The closure of the school means a sad break in the life of the village, but the step became necessary in order to provide children with proper buildings and equipment for a modern education.

For the last 34 years, the care of the School and garden has been in the capable hands of Mr. and Mrs. Burrage. In gratitude for their outstanding work, they were presented with a handsome tea and dinner service in Poole ware.

At the last day of School, the children took part in a thanksgiving Service, and farewell gifts were presented to Mrs. Jack (flowers and a book token); book tokens were given also to her colleagues Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Shepherd, and Mrs. Skipper the School secretary for 16 years, with thanks and appreciation for the service they all have rendered.

Of the children, 3 go to places at Yarmouth Technical High School, other 11 year olds to Lothingland Modern School, and the rest go on to the delights of the new Waveney School at Belton. Mrs. Jack will also be teaching there for the first term.

The future of the two school buildings in the village has still to be decided, but the village certainly needs to have a village hall, and now seems to be the appropriate time to consider the responsibilities entailed in getting one. The site of Bowgin's School legally reverts to the heirs and successors of those who gave it: the Old School or Institute is on a different footing and does not revert. I understand that the Parish Council is considering what can be done.

CHUCKLES IN THE CHURCH

Said the doctor to the vicar who was ill in bed: "It's nothing serious. We'll soon have you back on your knees again!"

All Hallows by the Tower is a church right in the centre of the business world, but still its vicar was surprised to get a letter addressed to: "All Hallows Church, for the attention of the Managing Director".

Events at the John Green Institute



Trustees of the JGI

Roger Gowen	Chair	07950 770488
Bill Richmond	Treasurer	07950 039455
Caroline Askell	Bookings	07415 650227
Robert Goffin	Maintenance	07526 201088
Bridget Lawrence		01403 780160
Stuart Murkin	Admin/Sect	07375 558120

Trustees

The Hall is as busy as ever now that all groups have returned after the summer break. To book the hall and enquire about vacant slots, which there are not very many, contact Cally on email at jgibookings@gmail.com with name and telephone number and a date and time you would like and she will get back to you within 48 hours.

A new entry system has been introduced and all groups are now aware of the procedures.

The hall has had a good year with nearly full bookings but with the cost of gas, electricity, insurance and other utilities we actually made a loss this financial year. We hope to absorb this and not increase the hiring fees over the coming year if the present support remains.

Thanks to all groups who support the hall, remembering it is Your Village Hall managed by a great group of Trustees, for you to use.

Many believe it all just happens, but without the voluntary efforts that all Trustees give to the hall it could not survive.

We started the monthly Saturday morning Coffee Mornings again in September with a reasonable attendance with a wonderful raffle by the Needlecraft Group. They raised over £150 and also over £50 for MacMillan Cancer Support. A big thanks to all.

These will now continue on the second Saturday of each month between 10 and 11.30am and in October the Camera club will have a small exhibition of their work on that morning. Please support them, come for a chat and some fun and always with a raffle for some great causes.

Contact any Trustee for further information.

Wednesday Drop In

September we celebrated 15 years of running this 'Drop In' and are still getting a large attendance each Wednesday morning. Not only can you have coffee/tea and cakes but also a great chat with friends and information about any topical items of the week. These could be Spam calls or emails to other ways to look after yourself as years creep on. The second Wednesday of each month we have a visit from representatives from DIAL. In September we had a lady who spoke to all about how simple exercises could benefit you as we get older. We also offer a 10 minute session of simple Qigong exercises to help with flexibility and stability in the body.

Contact Sue on 01493 780822 for further details.

Camera Club

The camera club met at the JGI in September and reviewed their past months activity with constructed comments from all. We are a small informal group who love photography and have as many out sessions throughout the year as the weather will allow. We will also help anyone who would like to understand the basics of photography or have a new camera and would like to know how to get the best

from it. Whether it be photographing the moon to taking portraits or capturing wild life.

We are planning to have a small exhibition of some of our photographs at the JGI Saturday Coffee Morning on October 11th between 10am and noon. Come along and see what we do!

If you would like to join us at a monthly meet or on an out-session call Bill on 07950 039455 for more information.

BELTON CAMERA CLUB



The club is holding an exhibition of its work in both prints and projected images at the JGI Coffee Morning on Saturday 11th October between 10am and noon

Come and see a great variety of photographs old and new of the local area.

Contacts for Clubs and Groups at the JGI

To book the JGI Hall contact Caroline Askell by text on 07415 650227 or email jgibookings@gmail.com. No direct call will be taken.

MONDAY

10.15am - 11.45am	Yoga	Julie	01493 780121
2.00pm - 4.00pm	Short Mat Bowls	Stuart	07375 558120
7.30pm - 9.30pm	Bingo	Toni	01493 780748
		Hazel	01493 781916

TUESDAY

10.30am - 12.30pm	Belton Crafters	Linda	07721 599559
2.00pm - 4.00pm	Over 60's	Ann	01493 780443
		Rose	01493 780784
6.45pm - 8.30pm	Belton Guides	Rose	07827 913974

WEDNESDAY

10.30am - 12 noon	Drop-In	Sue	01493 780822
2.00pm - 4.00pm	Art	Jan	01493 488683
5.00pm - 9.00pm	Slimming World	Debra	07551 975800

THURSDAY

10.30am - 12 noon	Line Dancing	Jane	07788 408801
3.45pm - 4.15pm	3-4 years Babies Ballet	Jayne	07746 141525
4.25pm - 4.55pm	5-7 years Primary Ballet	Jayne	07746 141525
5.00pm - 5.30pm	Modern/Fun Class	Jayne	07746 141525
7.00pm - 9.00pm	Belton Crafters	Linda	07721 599559

FRIDAY

10.30am - 12 noon	Line Dancing	Jane	07788 408801
2.00pm - 3.30pm	Camera Club (First Friday of each month)	Bill	07950 039455
7.30pm - 9.00pm	Belton Singers	Mick	07795 422420
7.30pm - 9.30pm	Quiz Nite (Last Friday of each month)	Bill	07950 039455

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For further information and hiring rates please contact Bill on

01493 780822

or go to www.beltonandbrowston.com

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ADVERTS WILL HAVE TO BE RENEWED EACH MONTH

WANTED

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

JUMBLE, Books, Bric-a-brac and toys Wanted for 1st Belton Scout Group, phone 01493 780965 or can be dropped off at 6 Station Road North Belton.

BOOK collector 01493 780739. Wanted to buy, large and small book collections.

FOR SALE

LOGS / firewood £6 large bag collect Burgh Castle call 07909 984740

A NUMBER of one and three-year-old desert cacti and rooted epiphyllum cuttings for sale. £2 each. Tel. 01493 780562.

TWO fishing poles 4 meters long £5 the pair ring 01493 603860

GOLF swing lasers trainer unwanted gift £5 as new ring 01493 603860

CAMPING stove new double burner with tube, butane or propane £30, ring 01493 603860

VITALITY bowl's right for in or outdoors size 4, in bowls carry bag £20, ring 01493 603860

FREE - Plastic Barrier Mesh - Green - 1m Height X Approx 30 - 40m Long Tel: 01493 665556

VARIOUS fresh water fishing rods and reels and fishing items at reasonable prices. Contact Roy 01493 543331

CANON Flatbed Scanner, CanoScan 5600 good condition £25 01493 663115

HP Keyboard and speakers and mouse including all wires good condition £8 07307 858608

DOOR knocker round solid, chrome £8 01493 663115

MAKITA electric drill good working order £20 ono 07307 858609

THREE Plastic Sun Loungers complete with cushions good condition £40 each. Telephone 07963062631

PEZTIO Dash Cam, boxed with all wiring and manual very good condition £15 01493 663115

TOM TOM Live needs updating £10 good condition £15 01493 663115

Sky Box never been used still boxed with controllers £10 07307 858608

ROGER Black exercise bike. 3 months old, good condition. £45.00 ono. Phone 01493 781198

CANARYS for sale this years birds various colours must go to Avery homes only £25 each tel 07961 513858 Blundeston

PINE single bed (with optional x2 drawer storage for underneath) - £50. **Pine** x6 drawer dressing table with mirror & stool - £50. **GREY** material sofa (3 years old) in good condition 195 cm wide - £250. **TWO** grey material recliner chairs (3 years old) in good condition 95 cm wide - £125 each. Contact / message: 07748 853133

FIVE large koi fish 11/12inch £25 each phone 07788853396

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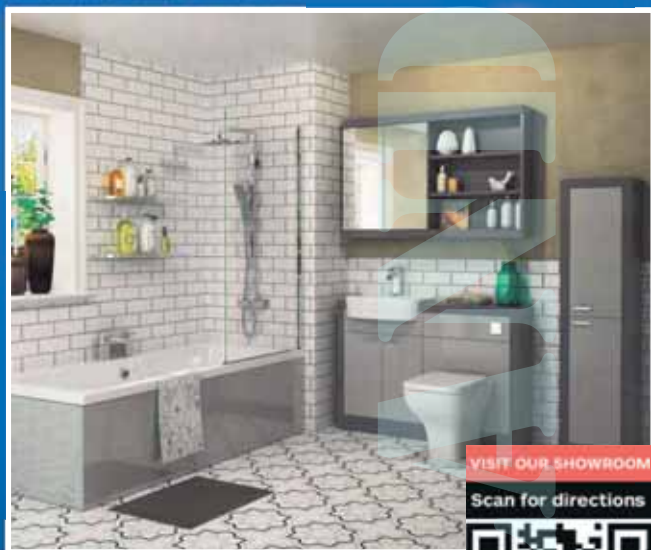
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