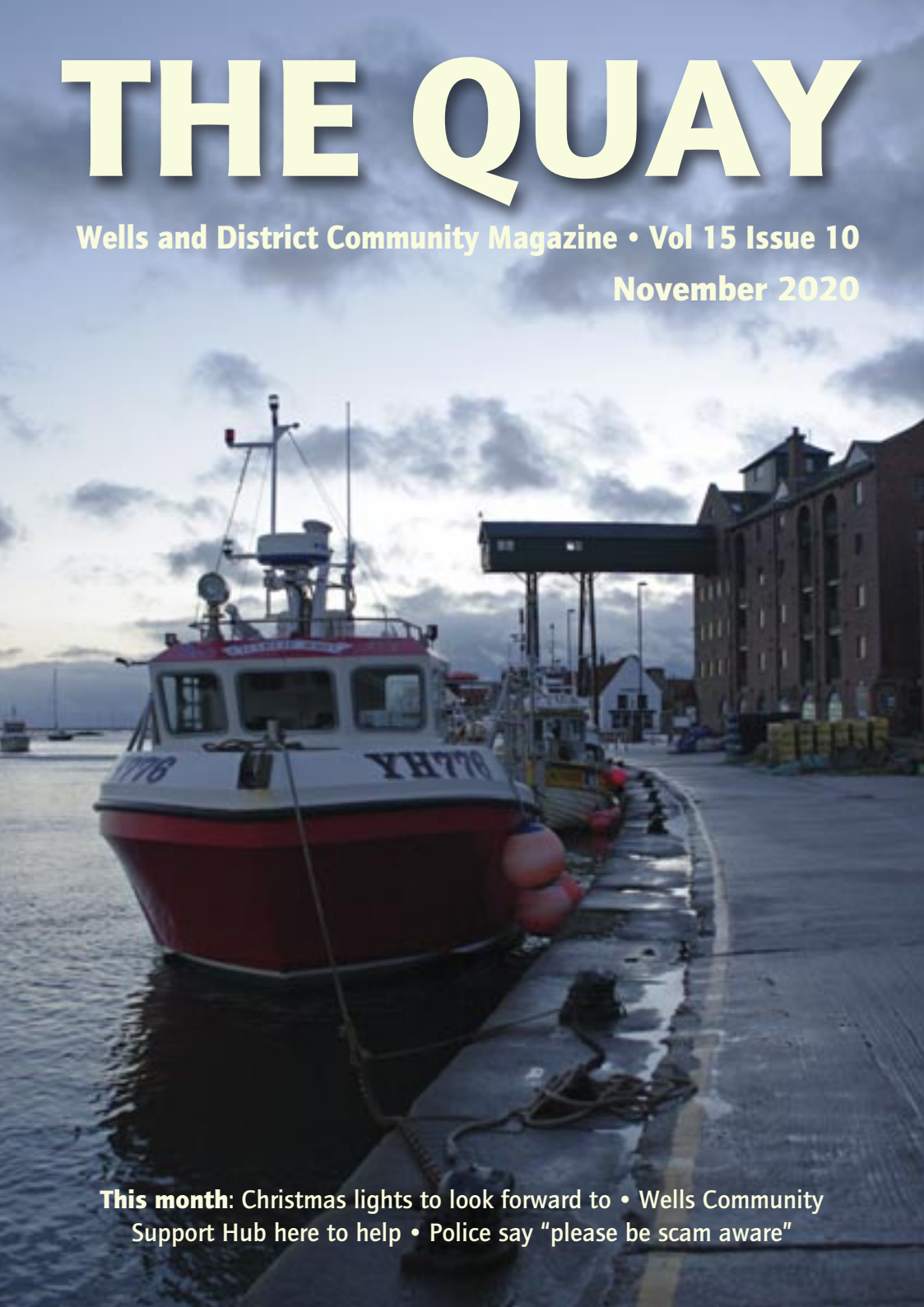
# THE QUAY

Wells and District Community Magazine • Vol 15 Issue 10
November 2020




**This month**: Christmas lights to look forward to • Wells Community Support Hub here to help • Police say "please be scam aware"

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# Welcome to The Quay

I clearly misjudged the mood last month with my editorial, so I would like to tender an apology to the people who were upset, offended or otherwise made uncomfortable with some of the things I wrote. To upset people further in this time of ongoing unpleasantness was not my intention and I am sorry to have done so.

The response to Marcus Rashford's Free School Meals drive to stop children going hungry during school holidays has been heart-warming in the extreme. Local food establishments have been helping out where they can too, for which they should be praised.

I would also like to acknowledge that I personally owe a huge debt of thanks this year to the Wells post office. My business mail order parcels have been accepted and dealt with by Carol, Trudy, Teresa and Erica, all doing a wonderful and very cheery job in the face of much uncertainty. And not to forget the team of posties who turn up come rain or shine every single day. Thank you.

And thank you too to the people who are again helping out at the Wells Community Support Hub, especially as we go back into a month of lockdown. Please use the Hub if you need to – that's what it's there for, even if you just need a friendly voice to talk to. The number to call is on page 5.

Even though it's been a pretty soggy autumn so far – see Keith Leesmith's rainfall roundup on page 21 – the suggestion of going outside for some exercise is still a good one, especially during lockdown. Just a ten minute walk in fresh air can improve my mood enormously – it's a chance to take some deep breaths, shake off some of the stress and just re-centre myself. If there is the beautiful sight and sound of skeins of conversing geese overhead, then that just adds to the experience. The geese are such an iconic sight in Wells and although their return heralds winter, their first reappearance still has me dashing outside to watch them fly over and marvel.

And finally, word of the month. *Latibulate* has been mentioned on Twitter recently and I think it is deeply suitable for our current times. Its definition is "to hide oneself in a corner" and although I have, reasonably successfully, avoided mention of the circumstances we are still experiencing, I think you'll agree that hiding in corners seems entirely appropriate on some days. You're welcome to join me in my corner, or find one of your own if you'd rather. **SP**

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# Homes for Wells news

***By David Fennell, Homes for Wells***

My first thought about Covid was that, like a particularly bad flu, it would be over by the summer; then, that we'd have a vaccine by the end of the year. There would be a recession, but it would be 'V' shaped. It was looking like that just two months ago.

Now we're seeing a second wave of this strange virus, not like flu, although the NHS is getting better at treating it. But it's hard to be afraid of something that is so often symptomless. Yet hospital admissions are rising fast again. It looks as if we'll have a 'W' shaped recession, this time both cause and effect of redundancies.

Homes for Wells, like many organisations, has got better at coping during the course of this year. We've become regular users of *Zoom*, both for internal weekly, bi-monthly and annual meetings, and also for meetings with outside organisations. Our employees are adept at working from home. We've become more pro-active at communicating with our tenants and offering practical support and guidance to those who need to access benefits and prepare claims.

What is happening in coastal north Norfolk and how will it impact on Homes for Wells? Right now, we're hearing of redundancies being announced. It is likely that more will follow. For anyone who's been in the same job for many years, this will be hard to handle, and even more difficult if their work until now has provided a tied house.

Those affected will need help to find new work and some will also need help to find new homes. A local employment agency service would be a great support, because it will help an applicant to identify their skills, write a CV, find out where to look for work, be coached for an interview; it will help with finding unadvertised jobs and encourage applicants to persevere.

Homes for Wells staff already offer help to tenants. The possibility of adding a job-seeking service is something I aim to explore, with the help of other participants at the Health and Wellbeing group, based at the community hospital. If you, the reader, have experience of checking CVs, or supporting job-seekers, your skills will be invaluable! This will be a key item on the agenda for the November meeting of the Health and Wellbeing group. Volunteers with recruitment experience will be in demand!

Homelessness is something to be avoided at all costs. We already have a very long waiting list for affordable homes and this could extend much further. At two recent meetings we have enjoyed the support of our local MP, Duncan Baker. We've had a chance to explain our work and the challenges we're tackling. His office has already provided some useful help and information, for example with additional sources of funding. We've also redoubled our efforts to secure more homes in recent discussions with Flagship.

The property market might suddenly go quiet once the Stamp Duty relief ends. However, Covid is changing many things in our lives. Increasing numbers of people are moving away from big cities, to enjoy more open air and healthier and safer places. Some of them will be established professionals who can work more from home. Some will be people wanting to start up a new business. Some will be the active retired, who particularly want to come to Wells to enjoy life here full time.

These newcomers will keep the lights on in their homes through the low season and will bring some of their household expenditure to local suppliers all the year round. Many will become good, supportive neighbours. Some will be fortunate enough to be able to afford to buy. Some, like young entrepreneurs, will hope for an affordable home and an affordable space to work.

They will also want to employ builders, decorators, DIY help, gardeners, IT support services, dog walkers and minders, cleaners, carers. By buying more on-line, they will be creating even more demand for drivers and delivery staff. These are just a few examples of where there will be more jobs. In short, there is much potential for Wells to prosper – we just need to find ways to help each other to get through the next year successfully and be ready to seize the opportunities that will surely arise.

**CONTACT** Homes for Wells, The Sackhouse, Jicklings Yard, Wells next the Sea, Norfolk, NR23 1AU
- Telephone: 01328 711703
- E-mail: office@homesforwells.co.uk
- Website: www.homesforwells.co.uk

# Wells Community Support Hub

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- Putting out bins
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# The show must go on

***By Becca Lynn, Marketing & Development Manager***

As we prepare for another lockdown here at Wells Maltings, the shape of the next few months is uncertain. We continue to be cautiously optimistic, and hope to welcome you all back into our Covid-safe building for top notch entertainment this Christmas season. As many of you will know, we were lucky enough to receive essential funding from The Culture Recovery Fund, which will see us through the months ahead. We have some fantastic things lined up for you, and we can't wait to share them. Throughout lockdown we will be sharing and creating a selection of online entertainment and doing what we can to serve our community. More information will be available on our website and social media, and if you'd like great content to come straight to your inbox, make sure you sign up for our mailing list!

We have made all tickets completely refundable so you can book ahead for December without worrying about cancelled shows or quarantine. We have a few events already on sale for December – Saltmarsh talk *The Game's Up* is on 10 December, *My Rembrandt* (12A) offers a mosaic of gripping stories from the world of the Old Masters on 14 December and Bolshoi Ballet returns with festive classic *The Nutcracker* on Sunday 20 December.

Looking ahead to the rest of the holiday season we hope to bring you a fantastic selection of festive treats which should be available to book soon. We are thrilled to bring you the National Theatre's hugely popular and visually stunning show *Warhorse*, screening on 3 and 4 December. This is an emotional and powerful show with astonishing life-size puppets bringing breathing, galloping, charging horses to thrilling life on stage. We have live jazz from Trypl on 6 December and Midwinter Revels from GreenMatthews on 11 December with Christmas carols, winter folk songs and toe-tapping tunes. We have a few other surprises up our sleeve as well so watch this space!

We also have some exciting news, hot off the press – details of two fantastic Christmas events, Covid safe and ready to thrill and entertain. We are again collaborating with fEAST Theatre to bring you a live Christmas show, *Merrily On High* – a trio of light hearted and deeply funny sideways peeks at Christmas, through the eyes of its unsung heroes. Four shows, from 18 to 20 December, with tickets from just £5.

We are also teaming up with partners at PantoOnline, to bring a specially produced as-live pantomime to our screens, produced by and starring Peter Duncan (of *Blue Peter* fame in the 80s). *Jack and the Beanstalk* will be all you need and more from your traditional festive panto – on screen here in Wells from 22 December and for just £5 a ticket so the whole family can enjoy some seasonal entertainment without breaking the bank. Bring your best shouting, cheering and booing voices!

As we progress through the dark and cold of the winter months, community will become more important than ever to all of us. Assuming restrictions allow, starting 1 January 2021 we would like to offer our Kiln Room as a community meeting and gathering space, free of charge to local people and groups (subject to availability). The Kiln Room is a fairly large space, suitable for socially distanced events for up to 25 people. More details to follow, but please do get in touch if you would like to use the space early next year. Contact **hello@wellsmaltings.org.uk** to find out more.

Everything is online – **www.wellsmaltings.org.uk** – and we will be updating our programme when we can. We will also be posting information on our noticeboard outside the front door. Take care everyone, stay safe and we'll see you on the other side.

## An annual £15 subscription to *The Quay* makes an ideal gift

*The Quay* is delivered free of charge to all properties in the NR23 area. If you have friends or relatives who live in other parts of the UK, or even abroad, but who would like to know what goes on in Wells, please help us to keep our costs down by suggesting that they take out an annual subscription – it's only £15! Send cash or a cheque made payable to Quay Publishing Ltd, for that amount to 2d Maryland, Wells next the Sea, Norfolk NR23 1LY and include the name and address of the person to whom the subscription should go.

# Information about 34 Freeman Street

***By Allen Playfair, designer and advisor to the owner of the building***

With regard to the item in the October edition of *The Quay* concerning the ongoing work at 34 Freeman Street, I would like to correct some misconceptions about the project:

**a)** The project started as a simple refurbishment, however, as the stripping out work progressed it was found that the roof and some of the exterior walls were beyond repair so the decision was taken to repair these elements. Initially we tried to retain the front and side walls and (a firm of) structural engineers, Plandescil, produced designs to restrain the walls with an internal steel frame. This was built inside the building but as work progressed the builders, Simon and Graham, became uneasy about the stability of the side gable wall which had a bulge of about 100mm and was out of plumb. It was decided to rebuild this in new masonry.

Unfortunately the removal of the gable wall meant that the front wall was in danger of falling onto the public footpath and it was decided to rebuild the front wall as well. The walls are now rebuilt and rendered and the front elevation will look exactly as it did before, only in better condition. The original plastic windows will be replaced by timber sliding sash windows which are more appropriate for a building in a Conservation Area. Work on the roof is largely complete and the original tiles have been used to retile the roof and I think the roof looks a lot better than it did before. The roof is visible from the car park opposite so you can judge for yourself.

**b)** The work is being done to comply with current building regulations and the completed house will be a well-insulated and energy efficient dwelling. In fact the U values will be better than those required for a new house. All the internal electrical and mechanical services (i.e. the wiring and plumbing) will be replaced as the systems that were there were at the end of their useful life. The boiler will be replaced by a modern high efficiency boiler.

**c)** At no point was the old building razed to the ground in its entirety and much of the old structure is retained. The unstable old elements of the building were replaced sequentially, however, the rules of the Planning system meant that a planning application was required to regularise the work and this has been submitted. Far from losing an original building (it was not a Listed Building), the character of this part of Wells is being enhanced and preserved for future generations. A stop notice was not imposed upon us and so we decided to carry on to make the building watertight, as it is semi-detached and the neighbouring building could have been adversely affected.

Whilst we appreciate that the work has been major, we have always tried to be considerate to the neighbours and we thank them for their understanding and help. By the time this article is published the scaffolding should be down and I hope that the people of Wells will think that it is a building to be proud of and one that enhances the Conservation Area.

# Screen-next-the-Sea – farewell to David and Joolz

David and Joolz Saunders have left the Screen-next-the-Sea committee after nearly 13 years, and we celebrated their hard work, fun and friendship at our AGM on 10 October.

David and Joolz were inspired to try and get community cinema going in Wells after discovering a community cinema on a holiday to Orkney. They put out the word, committed people gathered and Screen-next-the-Sea was born.

Starting with two films a month, it expanded to take Live performances via satellite from the National Theatre, the Bolshoi Ballet from Moscow, and Metropolitan Opera from New York. Not to mention immersive showings of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* and *Life of Brian*, and

***Continued on page 17***

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# Alderman Peel High School news

***By Alastair Ogle, Principal***

We have had the most challenging, yet also one of the most rewarding, starts to any school year. The way students and staff have worked together has been heart-warming to see. Student attendance across the whole school has been over 98%. Compared to reports of national figures at approximately 89%, I believe this clearly demonstrates the confidence parents have in our Covid procedures and how much students enjoy their learning at APHS.

Our Covid systems are working well and I am pleased to say no students or staff have tested positive. While we all hope this remains that way we have detailed plans in place and we will follow all advice from Public Health England (PHE) if positive tests do occur. A reminder to all parents and carers that we have a dedicated phone number (**07365 627232**) for you to contact us in the case of a student receiving a positive test result in the evenings, weekends or school holidays. Please only use this number if a student from APHS tests positive. Receiving this information quickly will allow us to implement our plans, acting upon advice from PHE.

Staff have been working incredibly hard in sometime frustrating circumstances. The inability to handle the student's books means assessing has been done in a number of different and very creative ways. It is this information we will use to provide additional support for individual students who need it. We have focussed on reigniting the positive relationships between all students and all staff, getting our school community back together again, which has been a huge success.

Assemblies are being delivered online to tutor groups and I would like to thank Reverend Brenda Stewart for providing a video for us to share with all students too. Unfortunately, unlike all previous years, our friends from the Royal British Legion will not be allowed to visit us for our Remembrance Assembly. However, we will post an assembly on line and our Head Boys and Head Girls will place poppies at the gravestones in the cemetery in remembrance. We will be holding a two minute silence at 11am on Wednesday 11 November and I will place a wreath on the War Memorial on behalf of all students and staff, past and present.

We have had a great deal of interest from parents wanting a school place for September 2021 and I would encourage all parents who have not yet expressed their preference for their child's secondary school to do this online as soon as possible. The deadline was 31 October. All parents of year six students must express their preference online via this website: **www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-admissions/transfer-to-secondary-school**

Thank you again for your continued support.

# Lighting up the town!

***By Mel Catton, Christmas Tide Committee***

Wells Christmas Tide Festival Committee will be putting up the town's Christmas lights and Christmas trees during November so they will be ready to light up Wells through the festive season for everyone to enjoy.

Whilst the current situation has prevented us from holding our annual Christmas Tide Festival, we trust all traders will support us again this year by decorating their premises to create the usual holiday atmosphere the town has had in recent years.

There may be a few surprises in Staithe Street during the run up to Christmas, so be on the lookout for them.

May we also take this opportunity to thank you all for your support in recent years, and hopefully we can return next year, on Saturday 4 December with many new things for you all to enjoy.

We would also like to thank everyone in these difficult times for supporting all our local businesses, showing the true spirit of our community.

On behalf of all our committee, may we wish you a (slightly early) Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to one and all.

# Clubs, groups and societies

**Wells Men's Shed**

Firstly, we would like to say a big thank you to the Carnival Committee and its supporters, along with the Holkham Charitable Foundation, for jointly granting us an award in support of our operations fund. Our goal has always been to become self sufficient, eco friendly and to support activities within the community. Like many other groups, 'Covid' has derailed our plans, income and development, so this award will fill a big hole in our operational costs, in particular our essential insurance cover.

November is our second anniversary and although we have achieved a lot, many projects have been mothballed, postponed or cancelled as a result of the lockdown. Nonetheless some of our Shedders have been able to support requests from the community, like the three members who helped erect some impressive ceramic artwork – 'Where sand meets sea' – created by Kate Allsop of the Wells Pottery Group, on the external walls of the Wells Health Centre.

We are gradually reopening the Shed, but only for members, it's our attempt to get life back to normal, but it is challenging. With this in mind it is proving tricky for us to continue to respond positively to requests from the general public for either donations of tools, timber and the like or for us to help them. So please continue to get in touch but also please be patient as we have limited resources to respond at present.

As always, if you would like more information please visit us at **http:www.wellsnextthesea-mensshed.weebly.com**, or email us at **mensshedwells@gmail.com**

**Wells Pensioners' Association – Lesley Jarvis**

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of our friend Lesley Jarvis. Although Lesley had been persuaded by her mother to volunteer as the treasurer for the Wells Pensioners' Association, once she had agreed to do so she threw herself into the task with all the energy and commitment that she showed in everything she did.

Lesley was brilliant at fundraising for our group, collecting numerous prizes and spending many a bank holiday sitting on the Buttlands with her tombola as well as decorating the Club's Christmas tree in the church. She also decorated the tables at our Christmas party as well as buying and wrapping all the members' gifts.

Always willing to give a helping hand, Lesley happily took over the writing and printing out of the minutes of every committee meeting as well as the monthly meetings of the Association when that job became a chore for our secretary due to arthritis in her hands. Lesley often talked of her daughters and grandchildren and our condolences go out to her family and also her close friends for their loss. She will be greatly missed by all.

**Wells Sailing Club**

We have obviously had a reduced season's activity this year. Sailors have had few racing opportunities and personal cruising and kayaking have been limited as well.

Our sailing season is now officially over and members are reminded to take their boats away to winter storage.

Sadly there will be no social events at our clubhouse over the winter months.

The commodore and committee wish everyone health and happiness and they hope for a better sailing season in 2021.

**Wells Textile and Embroidery Group**

Re-cycle, re-use, re-invent and have fun. This month why not sort out a new idea?

Old woollens can be turned into new bags, scarves or even coats for your pets.

If you just find one item of clothing that is past its best, look at it with a different eye. A cotton t-shirt that has lost its colour can be dyed using onion skins (yellow) or red onion skins (pinks) bringing new life to something ready to be used as a rag. Look on line for recipes for dyeing. Avocado skins and stones can be used, as can turmeric – the list is long and cheap if you just want an afternoon of fun. Old gloves and mittens can be turned into great hand puppets for kids. Help the kids make their own. Buttons and ribbons, bits of braid can add decoration and it's all free if you recycle.

Let your ideas flow (*Pinterest* is a great place for ideas).

If you want help, as soon as we are meeting again, come and have some fun with us.

**Wells Town Tennis Club**

Covid 19 did not stop junior tennis thriving this season. We held two six week programmes over summer and early autumn. Each group ran with six children who were taught the major disciplines of tennis, they all seemed to learn a lot and had a really good time. We plan for junior tennis to continue next spring. For further details check our website – **clubspark.lta.org.uk/wellstowntennisclub** or call **07775 654082**.

Remember our courts are open for members of the public to play and can be booked through the online booking system on our website. If you are thinking of joining, come along to one of our club sessions on Wednesday afternoons or Sunday mornings, you will be made very welcome.

**Wells WI**

Well, it seems clear we shall not be holding our monthly meetings any time soon, thanks to that pesky virus. However, we are keeping in touch with each other by various means, and we all seem to be coping pretty well – well, we would, wouldn't we?

When the changing weather keeps us indoors and feeling rather fed-up, just think, it's crumpet and toast weather! No need to feel guilty about not doing all those outside jobs which need doing, the library is open, telephone a friend or family member, close the curtains and hunker down. Get through this and we will really appreciate our WI life afterwards for all the friendship that's been shown.

**To keep the Quay Diary up to date, please send dates of your meetings and events (or cancellations) for 2020 and 2021 to editorial@quaypublishing.co.uk**

## Little Fishes Parent and Toddler Group

St Nicholas church Little Fishes Parent and Toddler Group would like to thank the Carnival Committee for its very generous grant. This means that we will be able to continue visiting 18 families, taking a craft activity every three weeks. The crafts have included puppets, seaside mobiles and wind chimes and now autumn activities.

# Travel matters

***By David Hissey***

One of the first announcements made by the government at the beginning of the pandemic was to avoid using public transport. Although there have been many adjustments to this first announcement, it appears to me that there are still many regular travellers staying away from public transport, fearing that they are exposing themselves to the virus, so a recent news item attracted my attention.

Several international studies have shown that the risk of coronavirus spreading on public transport has remained substantially low through the pandemic.

Public transport expert Mohamed Mezghani, secretary general of the International Association of Public Transport (UITP), told Sky News: "Public transport was stigmatised at the beginning of the pandemic and as a result rail stations, trains and buses have been disinfected regularly from early on." He also pointed out that "transport systems have increased their ventilation so they are actually much safer than other smaller spaces."

Although there is no expert consensus, in Hong Kong, one of the most densely populated areas in the world where public transport is relied on heavily, researchers have suggested that the wide-spread use of masks could be one of the main reasons for the low transmission rates. Several studies have concluded that the transmission of droplets and aerosols can be prevented, or at least limited, by using a face covering, even in more confined spaces such as public transport. Rail companies have information on their web sites – for our local operators go to **www.greateranglia.co.uk** or **www.greatnorthernrail.com** for their latest guidance and news and as always do check your journey before you travel. Here are some other useful contacts – **nationaljourneyplanner.travelinesw.com**; **nationalrail.co.uk**; **sanderscoaches.com**; **www.lynxbus.co.uk/bustimes-fares** and there are useful telephone numbers in *The Quay* Directory on page 35.

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# News from the Anglican churches

***By Rev Brenda Stewart***

As I write we are just going back into lock-down. It won't be the same – we've been through it before, but I wonder whether that makes it worse. Having had a taste of comparative normality, going back to isolating from friends and family is going to be tough. It will be all the more important to use all those alternative ways we have found to keep in touch with each other.

On a more cheerful note, Ben and Alice managed to get married at Holkham. After all the twists and turns of changing regulations it was a relaxed and joyful occasion and they and their 15 guests enjoyed socially distanced drinks in the Marble Hall after the ceremony.

The funerals of Brian Hawes and Stephen Foster of Wells have taken place this month. Please keep their families in your prayers.

Sadly public worship has been suspended again so I'm back to live-streaming and you will be able to join me by googling **YouTube.com St Nicholas Wells** on Sundays at 11am and Wednesdays at 10am. However this time our church buildings will remain open for private prayer: Holkham 10am-4pm Thursday to Sunday, Warham and Wells 10am-4pm daily and Wighton 10am-4pm Sundays only. We are very glad that we were able to have our annual Churches Together All Souls service before everything shut down again. Christmas will be very different this year so look out for the alternative ways in which we will be sharing the season's greetings with you all.

# Methodist church news

***By Revd Colin Garwood***

We continue to publish a weekly newsletter which keeps our members in touch with each other and enables us to keep up to date with our prayer list. Since we re-opened the church in early October we have seen approximately half our congregation returning, plus some visitors.

Each week the preacher provides in advance a copy of his/her service and sermonette and this is published in the weekly newsletter, thereby enabling those who worship at home to join with those in church, using the same material. This is proving most helpful and we are grateful to the various preachers for providing their material in advance.

By request, several copies are sent to friends in other parts of the country. At the service in church, all the Covid restrictions are observed, including two metre spacing, one way walking, masks, glass screen for the preacher, records of attendees and not singing aloud. Members and friends try to keep in touch by telephone, this is important with an elderly congregation, many of whom cannot take the risk of mixing with other people.

At present it has not been possible to re-start the Wednesday prayer and praise, but its revival is being kept in review.

Throughout this time of national emergency our church is ready to offer what help it can through bodies like the food bank, Wells Churches Together and the Wells hub.

**Special services** Sunday 29 November – the start of the Advent season. 11am service to be led by Revd Colin Garwood. On all other Sundays the service starts at 11am.

# Plea from the police – please be scam aware!

***By Pc Jason Pegden***

We have experienced a great deal of scams whilst the Covid situation has been going on, to the point where a lot of elderly people have actually parted with large sums of money.

Please look out for our posters, read what they say and bring the information in it to the attention of any elderly relatives or friends you have. I really want everyone to see it. These incidents seem to be increasing as time goes on and we want the public to be more aware than ever.

Scammers can be enormously persuasive on the phone and you need to be super-vigilant. If ANYONE asks you for any financial details at all, please be on your guard immediately and DO NOT give up any personal information, no matter how genuine you think they may be.

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***Continued from page 7***

the near seven hour silent film, *Napoleon*.

From its early beginnings at the old Granary Theatre, with its unstable pink toilet seats, a concussion-threatening low beam, the most unusual stairs and great character, through the two and a bit years at the Alderman Peel High School, with lots of blue chairs and sociable tables, Screen-next-the-Sea went from strength to strength in providing a varied and unusual film choice and special events, and our loyal audiences have stuck with us through thick and thin.

Our return to the renovated and extended Wells Maltings has brought a new partnership offering a wide range of entertainment to residents and visitors alike.

We have been called 'the friendly cinema', as everyone is welcomed and helped to feel comfortable, especially important for folks going on their own or needing an accessible seat.

Screen-next-the-Sea still aims to retain the 'community' feel, true to the vision of David and Joolz when they started it all off in 2008.

While all the committee share responsibilities, David was our founding chair and our pianist – we will miss his tinkling of the ivories before each performance, and Joolz has been the hard working secretary throughout, and the friendly contact for people on our mailing list.

We wish them all the best and thank them for enabling Wells to have a thriving and well loved cinema.

And just to remind you, we are showing *Misbehaviour* (12A) on 23 November, *My Rembrandt* (12A) on 14 December and *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood* (PG) on 21 December, all at 7pm. Tickets in person and by phone (**01328 710885**) from the box office up to 3pm on the day, and up to 5pm online at **www.wellsmaltings.org.uk**.

# Church service times

| CHURCH | DAY | TIME | SERVICE |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Church of England – Rev Brenda Stewart – 01328 710628** | | | |
| St Nicholas, Church Street, Wells | Sunday | 8.00am | Holy Communion |
| | 1st Sunday of month | 11.00am | Worship for All |
| | 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays | 11.00am | Sung Eucharist |
| | 1st Sunday of month | 6.30pm | Taize service |
| | 2nd Sunday of month | 6.30pm | Evening Prayer |
| | 3rd Sunday of month | 6.30pm | Healing service |
| | 4th Sunday of month | 6.30pm | Celtic Worship |
| | Wednesdays | 10.00am | Holy Communion |
| | 1st and 3rd Thursdays | 10.00am | Quiet Prayer |
| | 2nd Saturday of month | 11.00am | Messy Church |
| | 2nd and 4th Fridays | 1.45pm | Little Fishes Parent & toddler group |
| St Withburga, Holkham (Remembrance Sunday to Easter, | 1st Sunday | 9.30am | Holy Communion |
| services held in Hall Chapel; Easter to Remembrance Sunday in St. Withburga's) | 2nd Sunday | 11.00am | Matins |
| All Saints, Warham; St Mary, Warham (Jul and Aug only) | 3rd Sunday | 9.30am | Holy Communion |
| All Saints, Wighton | 2nd & 4th Sundays | 9.30am | Holy Communion |
| **Methodist Churches – Revd. Cliff Shanganya – 01328 862174** | | | |
| Theatre Road, Wells | Sunday | 11.00am | Morning worship |
| | Wednesday | 10.30am | Prayer & praise |
| Holkham Longlands | 4th Sunday | 2.30pm | Sunday worship |
| Wighton | 1st and 3rd Sunday | 2.30pm | Worship service |
| Little Walsingham | Sunday | 2.30pm | Sunday Worship |
| **Evangelical Congregational Church Centre – Revd. Neil Woodruff – 07891 968966** | | | |
| Clubbs Lane, Wells | Sunday | 3.00pm | |
| | Tuesday | 7.30pm | Prayer & Bible study |
| **Roman Catholic – Father Keith Tulloch – 01328 713044** | | | |
| Our Lady Star of the Sea, The Buttlands, Wells | Saturday | 6.00pm | Holy Mass |
| | Sunday | 9.15am | Holy Mass |
| **Quakers – 01328 711387** | | | |
| Friends Meeting House, Church Street, Wells | Sunday | 10.30am | Meeting for worship |
| | Thursday | 5.00pm | Meeting for worship |

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# County council news

***By Marie Strong, Norfolk County Councillor***

**Starting with a reminder of normal life... fireworks, fostering and Cherry Tree Corner**

Fireworks – Bonfire Night will be over when you read this issue of *The Quay* but various small celebrations may be considered. Though it's a bit late for this year, it's worth remembering that whilst we all know to buy fireworks from reputable sellers, Norfolk Fire Brigade would like us to check on firework and bonfire safety by going to **www.norfolk.gov.uk/fire**.

**Norfolk Fostering Service is Looking for Local Foster Carers for Local Children** A stable and loving home can make an incredible difference to a child or young person, while also being an enlightening and rewarding experience for the foster carer. Carers are needed for children of all ages. The Council welcomes people from all sorts of backgrounds to care for our children and young people in different ways. They need someone who meets their particular needs and these differ greatly – so children and carers are matched very carefully. Some carers still work full or part-time while fostering, mainly as respite carers. Some welcome the children and young people into their homes to live with them all the time, while for others it might just be a weekend a month; some are emergency carers we can call on if we need them. Foster carers are paid an allowance which is dependent on experience and training. If you are interested the Norfolk Fostering Service would like to hear from the optimistic, adventurous and positive individuals who can offer a child meaningful support.

Call them on **01603 306649**, or email **fostering@norfolk.gov.uk**. The Fostering Service website can be found at **www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/adoption-and-fostering/fostering/contact-us**

**Cherry Tree Corner** A while back some eight local councils expressed interest in a roundabout to ease the Cherry Tree Corner congestion. I am not yet privy to the concept of the proposal (which will, I am told, be subject to planning) but here is an EDP extract: 'Funding secured for new A148 roundabout – paving way for 950 homes and school. North Norfolk District Council has secured £928,000 in matched funding to help finance the building of the £2m roundabout to support new housing ...'

**Clear face masks** Good news – NHS and care workers are to be given clear face masks to help communication with people with conditions such as hearing loss, autism and dementia. The masks are see-through and have an anti-fogging barrier ensuring the face and mouth are always visible to aid communication. Social care providers will have access to the masks through a new pilot system.

**Rough sleepers to be helped to keep safe this winter** The government has announced support to give local areas the tools and funding they need to protect people from life-threatening cold weather and the risks posed by Coronavirus. This includes a £10 million Cold Weather Fund to support councils to get rough sleepers off the streets during the winter and an additional £2 million for faith and community groups to help them provide secure accommodation for rough sleepers.

**Apply for a kickstart scheme grant** I am told it is worth looking again at the government's guidance for employers looking to create job placements for young people – the Kickstart Scheme provides funding to create new job placements for 16 to 24 year olds on Universal Credit at risk of long term unemployment. NNDC has applied to become a 'Gateway' organisation, managing a cohort of placements from partner organisations, which means that it will apply en bloc for small businesses in our area who only want to take on one or two people. The information and the 'expression of interest' form can be found at **www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/tasks/economic-growth/north-norfolk-district-council-kickstart-gateway/**

**Covid-19 Information** Guidance and instruc-

***Continued on page 21***

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# Wells town council – November meeting

The issue of the school buses in Market Lane has not gone away. Cllr Mel Catton has done a great deal of work on the matter and he has come up with a suggested solution which he presented to the council at this month's meeting. In essence, Mel is proposing timed bus bays on Market Lane opposite the school. The buses would arrive, the students would get off and go into school and the buses would then depart and park, if they can't go back to the depot in Holt, on the Freeman Street car park.

The bus bays would then be available for locals and visitors to park in until later on in the afternoon, when the buses would reappear to take the students home. The plan relies on the co-operation of the bus company, Sanders, Alderman Peel High School and Holkham, not to mention getting the agreement of the Highways department at Norfolk County Council. So, much work is still to be done, but Mel wanted to assure the council and residents that the plans are inching forwards.

A roundabout at Cherry Tree corner (at the bottom of the Dry Road where it joins the A148 Fakenham bypass) has long been discussed – the congestion there in the summer can be awful. However, the council has been presented with a new proposal – a roundabout further along the A148 in the Holt direction, at the top of Water Moor Lane leading down to Fakenham High School. This new roundabout is part of the planning application for 950 new houses for Fakenham and a new road, probably to 'replace' Water Moor Lane, would lead down into the proposed new estate. There is some suggestion that this might relieve some of the congestion at Cherry Tree corner, but the councillors weren't totally convinced and want very much to be consulted on these proposals as they go through the planning process, as whatever is built will impact heavily on traffic coming to and from Wells. Again, something to watch as planning takes its course.

The budget was discussed last night and thanks were tendered to clerk Greg Hewitt for his work in preparing the figures. It was agreed that the precept for Wells next year would be £80,000. **SP**

**Next meeting Monday 7 December, 7pm. To contact Wells town council go to wellstc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk or phone 01328 710564 or email clerk@wellstowncouncil.org.uk**

***Continued from page 19***

tions change rapidly and are becoming more localised. Check for updates via the official and updated websites:

- **www.norfolk.gov.uk/coronavirus** – this includes the effect on local services as well as the latest regulations for Norfolk and reference to many if not all of the government schemes
- **www.gov.uk/coronavirus** – all the government schemes are to be found on this site
- **www.nhs.uk/coronavirus**

Please keep remembering those without a laptop or computer etc. If you spot something which might be of value or interest to such a person consider asking if they would like a copy.

Finally I would like to acknowledge the many good works which continue to take place throughout our division – sometimes without the recipient knowing who performed the good deed.

**CONTACT Marie Strong by e-mail on marie.strong@norfolk.gov.uk or phone 07920 286597**

# Wells rainfall roundup for October

***By Keith Leesmith***

The rainfall in October was 98mm as opposed to the 30 year average of 72mm. In most months 98mm would have been made up of a handful of downpours, but this October we only had a handful of dry days with all the others wet, though they only produced a few millimetres each day. There is a well-established saying that "the weather always catches up with itself", and I have found this to be true over the years. In this year the very dry spring and normal (ish) summer has been followed by a very wet autumn. If we have an average amount of rain in November and December, we are on course for an average year. But who knows what the next couple of months will bring? Watch this space!

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# Wells Carnival AGM 2020

***By Pat Weston, Chair***

**Chairman's Report 2020**

Well, 2020 has been a very strange year so far – we can only hope 2021 is a better year and some sort of normality returns to us all.

Some families in the town were affected a great deal and we are all so pleased to hear they are moving forward together, and will have great times ahead. Our very best wishes to them and a speedy full recovery.

Up until March the committee had been very busy arranging a fun packed week in August. Then, overnight it all changed, in so many ways for all. The committee had a meeting, just before the first lockdown was announced, and decided to cancel Carnival week. A year off, we thought, we can now enjoy the summer, first time in 20 years for some.

The committee decided, during the restrictions, to send out craft packs to children in the town and surrounding villages to help them through the difficult times. Different themed packs were sent out and delivered by the committee, as part of their daily exercise, the craft and garden packs were greatly welcomed and kept young minds busy. The committee continued to help with other deliveries in the town, delivering *The Quay* and assisting the Covid Support Hub, again delivering leaflets around the town and local villages. The committee members then thought they could put their feet up and try to enjoy the summer.

Then: "Hang on", someone on the committee said, "can we do a Virtual Carnival week?" A few said "oh", the rest said "yes, that sounds fun". And the quiet week in August was now going to be busy again. Cancel the Pimms and deckchair.

A *YouTube* channel was formed, events that were usually held in the normal Carnival week would now be held before, and shown throughout the week and after, for all to see and enjoy.

The committee arranged for pet shows, raft races, workshops, cooking demonstrations, a desert island disc show, quizzes, cocktail workshops, children's painting competition, tennis demonstration, footballing gnome hunt (only Wells could hold that), a sandcastle competition, a science workshop with Steve, carnival parades and garden competitions.

All to be held before and during the week, with opportunities for people to send in their pictures and videos.

This went better than the committee could have hoped for, we had a great response from adults and children sending in their entries, we then had judges to pick the winners in each category. All had great fun taking part and good fun watching the *YouTube* channel and seeing the videos.

At this point I must say a massive thank you to Nigel and Fran for all the expertise in receiving the entries and editing the videos so they could be seen by all on the *YouTube* channel and the *FaceBook* page.

The videos can still be seen on the Wells Carnival YouTube Channel, please take time to watch. The Desert Island Disc show is very good! (Go to *YouTube* then put Wells Carnival Ltd – Norfolk in the search box).

There are many reasons why the committee holds Wells Carnival. To promote Wells, help to bring people to the town, put on a fun filled Carnival week that is affordable to all, and hopefully to raise money to support local charities and groups in the town. The committee has always had fantastic financial support from townsfolk and visitors. With the restrictions this year we couldn't raise funds in the same way we have in recent years.

The committee looked at many ways to raise funds. The first idea was to sell our now famous wristbands, these have become a collector's item over the years. The committee thought long and hard about this and they all thought it would be a lovely idea to say a big thank you to the NHS. We are all so grateful for their amazing work and commitment. Thank you to all that bought the wristbands, all funds raised go to NHS Charities. We still have wristbands available, please pop in to Ele & Me or Goldings in Staithe Street. A great way to say thank you!

A Crowdfunding page was set up and received amazing support. This raised over £3,000 and we can't thank you enough for your generosity.

The committee agreed to match this, from carnival funds, and with the donations we received from local businesses, a figure of nearly £7,500 was reached. Wells Carnival Committee has received great support in recent years from the Holkham Estate and the recently formed Holkham Charitable Foundation gave the committee additional funds of

***Continued on page 25***

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# News from Wells RNLI

**Rescues** We have had two shouts since our last report. On Monday 28 September, Wells lifeboat was paged at 2.09pm by Humber Coastguard to rescue two persons who had gone out onto the foreshore at Wells and had become cut off by the incoming tide which had filled in the low ground behind them. The Wells inshore lifeboat (ILB) launched outside the boathouse with a crew of three onboard at 2.20pm and proceeded down the harbour channel to the beach on the west side. The lifeboat was quickly on scene at 2.26pm and picked up the two persons, who were both well, and brought them back to the boathouse via the main harbour channel where they were met by Wells coast guards. The lifeboat was sanitised, refuelled and ready again for service at 3.15pm.

On Thursday 8 October, a request was received from Humber Coastguard following the receipt of a distress call from an unidentified vessel 13 miles north of Wells harbour. Wells ALB was launched at 9.02am and proceeded towards the casualty. As the lifeboat was launching, further information was received from Humber Coastguard that the casualty was a Wells fishing vessel. The coastguard had spoken with the crew and ascertained that the vessel had suffered mechanical failure and was at anchor awaiting assistance. The lifeboat started a tow back to Wells harbour in quite choppy water and the vessel was brought into the harbour at 11.43am and secured safely alongside the main quay.

**The Boathouse Build** Good progress is being made as many of you have seen. If you would like to see pictures and reports from the comfort of your home please visit the Wells Lifeboat website at **www.wellslifeboat.org**

**Presentation** A presentation was made to John Mitchell to mark his service as the station's press officer. He received an oak doorstop hand-crafted by head launcher, Ray West, depicting the all-weather lifeboat, the *Doris M Mann of Ampthill*, and noting his term of office. John said "the door stop was such an unusual present and now has pride of place by our front door. Every time we pass it, it makes me proud to have been Wells' first lifeboat press officer."

**Farewell** Adrian Underwood took on the post of deputy press officer in January 2020 firmly expecting to be in post for some years. However, a personal setback in August has meant an early retirement from the role at the end of October. As Adrian penned his final piece for *The Quay*, Lifeboat Operations Manager, Chris Hardy, said "On behalf of all the crew we thank you for all the support and hard work you have undertaken during this difficult year as our Press Officer – it's very much appreciated. We are looking forward to working closely with you in another capacity when we get the new boathouse built."

If you would like to find out more about what is involved in being our Lifeboat Press Officer and think it might be something you could do then please get in touch with us (see below), we would love to hear from you and our need is great!

Please contact Chrissie Farley or Peter Rainsford by email – **chrissie_farley@rnli.org.uk** or **peter_rainsford@rnli.org.uk**. Alternatively telephone coxswain Nicky King at the boathouse on **01328 710230** to arrange a callback.

**Visit our website at www.wellslifeboat.org**

***Continued from page 23***

£6,000. So in partnership with Holkham Charitable Foundation we are able to give £13,500 to local charities and groups. This support will enable the groups to continue and to plan for the future. Over twenty different charities and groups shared the funds, covering all ages in the town. We look forward to hearing how the grants were used.

So 2020 was a strange year but the Wells Carnival Committee helped to raise a smile and keep spirits up. I am very proud to part of this amazing team.

A big thank you to all the committee and their families and for all the support we received in donations and help. The committee helped make Wells well again.

Wells Carnival is nearly 110 years old, it's been in different formats and in difficult times and this year has proved the committee can continue to hold an event whether in the town for you to attend or on line for you to watch. I am very proud of the committee and the great town of Wells. Let's hope 2021 allows us to hold the Carnival in the good old way and welcome you all back to Wells to join in.

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# Mailbag

**Please address your news, views and comments to The Quay, 2d Maryland, Wells next the Sea, NR23 1LY. Please note that the views expressed in the letters we print are the views of the letters' authors and NOT the views of the editor or the board of Quay Publishing Ltd.**

Can I just say a very public thank you to the lovely people of Wells who have been so kind and supportive during Steve's illness and his sad death on 13 October.

He fought a long and brave battle against cancer but was rallied by all his friends who consistently asked how he was and cheered him up with Whatsapp messages.

So to the wonderful crowd gathered outside the Eddie on Monday, Jacqui, Vicky and Co at the Bowling Green, Guy and Denise at Suttons and every single one of you who have sent cards, flowers, offered to help or sent cheery messages, a huge heartfelt thanks.

Wells is a lovely community to live in, full of kind and supportive people. We should be proud of ourselves!

**Glenda Foster and Steve's family**

Would you be so kind as to include this picture of my parents in your next issue. They quietly celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on 11 October. No mean achievement these days. They are John and Mary Tuck who have lived all their married life in Wells. A little bit of happy news amidst all the gloom. Thank you.

**Janet West, Wells**

# Wells flood warden team news

***By Mike and Marie Strong, joint coordinators***

**Testing the sliding flood gate on the quay**

On Sunday 18 October the Environment Agency carried out a test of the sliding flood gate on the main quay. This date had been chosen because it coincided with the highest predicted tide of the year. We are pleased to report that all went well. All members of the North Norfolk EA team were present, including some 'new starters'. They paired up into smaller groups so that everyone had sufficient time to familiarise and remind themselves of the working of the sliding flood barrier going into the winter season. The gate was put across the road on both the generator and manual controls in the cabinet which meant a simulation was carried out in the event of any future power cut. The EA is hoping that it will be able to do another training session before Christmas.

**Significant widespread coastal flooding**

For significant widespread coastal flooding to occur three things need to happen:

**1** High astronomic tide

**2** Large, storm-generated, coastal surge or waves arriving at the same time as high tide

**3** The combination of high tide plus surge and waves creating sea levels greater than the height of flood defences.

Significant flooding will not result if:

• There are high astronomic tides without a large surge or waves

• There is a large surge but this occurs at low tide.

We know what the astronomic tide will be for years in advance. This is controlled by well-known and predictable astronomic cycles and published in tide tables. However it is not possible to determine the severity and timing of a storm surge more than five days in advance of it occurring as this is controlled by the weather.

As much warning as possible is given to us by the Environment Agency Flood Warning Duty Officer. The closer we get to the relevant tide the more accurate the predictions become, as we found approaching Sunday 18 October when the

***Continued on page 29***

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# The Rule of Law

***By Miranda Marshall, Hayes + Storr***

The Rule of Law in relation to the Brexit negotiations is much in the news currently. At least it makes a change from the pandemic.

In England we do not have a written constitution: nor should we. The closest thing we have is the Rule of Law. It may sound like a computer game or the title of an airport novel, but it is ancient. Lawyers and others can get emotional about it. To some it has become emblematic of what makes English law great. Its origins are ancient and found in many societies and philosophies worldwide.

The Rule of Law is defined in the *Oxford English Dictionary* as: 'The authority and influence of law in society, especially when viewed as a constraint on individual and institutional behaviour; (hence) the principle whereby all members of a society (including those in government) are considered equally subject to publicly disclosed legal codes and processes.'

The Rule of Law means that Law is supreme and is above every individual. The Rule of Law is a system to protect citizens against their government, so as to ensure it does not treat them unfairly, or arbitrarily deprive them of their rights. It has evolved into being viewed by the liberal young as synonymous with human rights.

As a rookie law student in the 1980s I, along with all other aspiring lawyers, had the sturdy orange book on *Constitutional Law* on my shelves. The first edition was written in 1885 by British jurist AV Dicey. It was not a fun read but had weightiness and determination about it which made us feel that what we were studying really mattered. Dicey coined the expression 'The Rule of Law' but did not invent the idea lying behind it.

In England the Rule of Law is a long-standing principle of the way the country is governed, dating from Magna Carta in 1215 and the Bill of Rights of 1689. The 19th century brought the twin pillars of the British constitution which are the rule of law and parliamentary sovereignty.

Thomas Bingham, successively Master of the Rolls, Lord Chief Justice and Senior Law Lord of the United Kingdom, and the only person to hold all three offices, wrote *The Rule of Law*, published in 2008, six months before he died. It was chosen as 'book of the year' by several eminent people across the political spectrum.

Bingham said he first chose the title as a subject for a lecture he was asked to give some years before, as he was not sure he knew what it meant. He also said that those who used the expression did not know either or did not mean the same thing. Following the lecture, *The Guardian* newspaper described Lord Bingham as 'the most revolutionary man in Britain'.

The Rule of Law has come to mean an amalgam of human rights and civil liberties on the one hand, and security against a terrorist attack on the other. It is a good thing, but the meaning is different and tailored (and twisted) to suit the purposes of those that use it.

**CONTACT** Hayes + Storr, The Sackhouse, Wells
- **Tel** 01328 710210
- **Email** law@hayes-storr.com
- **Website** www.hayesandstorr.co.uk

***Continued from page 27***

Environment Agency's Flood Alert threshold would have been exceeded based on the natural tide level alone i.e. without wind and wave action or any surge.

**13 October** We were given early warning via the NNDC Resilience Officer that some action may have to be taken.

**15 October** The message was revised. The weather forecast had greatly improved with lighter winds and no surge. In fact a negative surge was forecast on 17 and 18 October.

**16 October** The message changed once more to 'final high water level' at Wells on Sunday morning of 3.62m AODN (12 cm above the Flood Alert threshold) with north-westerly winds of Force 3 i.e. not likely to be problematic.

The next high astronomic tides are expected between 14 and 18 November, hopefully unaccompanied by any other factors. Why not nip down to the quay between Saturday and Wednesday to find out what happens? No doubt some of us will be around...

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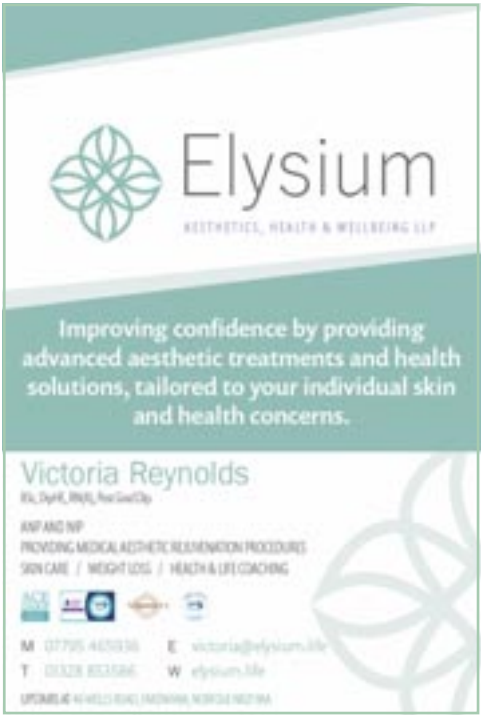
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# The performing arts in lockdown

***By Rodney Slatford, Chair, The Yorke Trust***

Unless financial assistance is forthcoming for the hundreds of freelance musicians out of work since March, most of whom fall between the cracks for government support, many talented and dedicated young people will give up. Theatres, concert halls, orchestras, choirs and festivals are facing permanent closure. It's been a treat to have so much free online theatre, music and opera, but there's no substitute for live performance.

Singing is not yet permitted and although churches are open again, a harvest festival service where the congregation hummed 'We plough the fields and scatter' through a face covering didn't warm the heart as a large congregation did 25 years ago when I first came to the village. In those days the church was bedecked with produce, dressed by the village's long-since departed Bob Keeley. Elizabeth Sands played the organ and we sang our hearts out.

This year Yorke Trust plans were well in hand for a new summer opera production of Handel's last oratorio *Jephtha* which would have lent itself to performances in St Mary's church with our brilliant young conductor Christopher McMullen-Laird at the helm, as he was for Purcell's *Tempest* last summer. On 29 February we held our first ever Come and Sing day when Chris took our community chorus through Mozart's *Requiem*, producing a more than creditable performance from scratch, with a number of non music-readers taking part. Our Old Chapel was bursting at the seams.

Then disaster struck not once, but twice. As with many other small organisations, we found ourselves in limbo, not knowing when we would be able to resume operations but hoping that by July things would be getting back to 'normal'. Not so. *Jephtha* had been put on hold until 2021 when I received an email asking me to call Conor Gricmanis who was to have led his ensemble Noxwode for the production. His news was devastating. Chris McMullen-Laird had died quite suddenly from a previously undiagnosed heart problem, after two days in hospital. He was just 36. He had won the hearts of all of us who had got to know him. As a tribute we'll perform Mozart's *Requiem* at some future date in his memory; we have found a promising young conductor to take on the project. But at the moment, with everything so unpredictable, we can't yet fix a date.

Turning to more cheerful matters, although we have been closed since mid-March, August saw our facilities well used, within government guidelines. Caroline Emery ran her Bass Club course for young double bass players, although with a reduced class, and some students attending remotely by *Zoom*.

Another regular visitor, Vanessa David, a London-based violin teacher, gave her students an opportunity to play to one another before taking important exams or diplomas. I dropped in to see how things were going and was amazed to find a performance of Strauss' *Metamorphosen* for 24 solo strings in progress. After that, pupils tackled movements from Tchaikovsky's violin concerto, the Sibelius concerto, and more. The value of these opportunities for the young musicians is inestimable.

It remains a fact that the future for music making looks bleak. The North Norfolk Music Festival promoted a few concerts at Burnham Norton church with audiences sitting in the open air, socially distanced. Nearer the coast The Maltings in Wells promoted informal concerts in the car park, but a Schumann piano quintet on an electric keyboard was compromised by the sea breeze which blew pages everywhere. A curious amalgam of fine artistry, fish and chips and gulls...

Opera performances have taken place in the open air. The Yorke Trust tried it once, using the magnificent west front of Houghton Hall as a backdrop. But the weather was against us. The wind got up, blew a lighting tripod into the harpsichord, and dislodged its lid. The singers couldn't hear the instrumentalists and the instrumentalists struggled to hear themselves. With the imminent arrival of an audience, a generator was produced and we decamped to St Martin's church where there was no mains electricity. Our patron and host Lord Cholmondeley was spotted carrying huge candles from the house and the production was salvaged – our baroque ensemble improvised while Jennifer Hamilton re-staged the action and explained the plot from the west gallery.

We have been fortunate to receive a grant to enable us to sustain operations. Trustees have also raised funds to have the Old Chapel redecorated while it isn't in use. Concerts that should have taken place this year are being re-scheduled for 2021. And there is thirteen-bed accommodation for hire, including over Christmas and New Year – details can be found on our website at **www.yorketrust.org**

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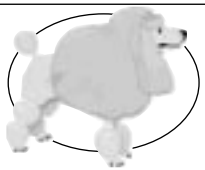

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# Reviewing your pension

***By Peter Barton, Continuum***

Covid, Brexit, recession, stock market volatility – all of these may have affected your pensions so now could be a good time to review them, especially if you're relying on them to produce an income when you retire. Pension funds are investments so when the stock market fell sharply in March some pensions suffered as a result, although most have probably recovered by now. But the threat of recession and Brexit uncertainties are still with us and these could affect the performance of your pension fund and hence the amount of pension you will receive.

The possibility of a pension shortfall is only one of the reasons why you ought to review them now. You may have had the foresight to set up a pension plan in your 20s but too many people fall into the trap of believing that with a pension in place, they have done all that they need to do. There are several reasons why this is not true. You may want to retire early – or need to for health reasons. You may want to take advantage of pensions freedoms, or to use drawdown rather than an annuity as the answer to your funding needs.

A pension review carefully examines your current pensions to ensure that they are on course to deliver the financial targets you need. This means looking at their past, present and projected performance, and at your financial resources and needs. The process involves such things as how much your pension funds have grown, how their performance compares to that of other similar pensions schemes – and most important of all what can be done if your pensions are falling short of your needs.

Alternatively, a pension review could show that your original options are performing poorly, and that by transferring to a different plan, your funds could grow at a faster rate. Also, a review will look at the risk involved in your current pension investments, and whether this fits your current needs – remember, higher risk could mean greater chance of higher returns, but it could increase the chance of losses too.

Most of the people I've met who are not in the financial industry have either very little or no idea how their pension works or where it's invested. Therefore, if you feel I can be of any help then please get in touch.

The information contained in this article is based on the opinion of Continuum and does not constitute financial advice or a recommendation to suitable investment or Retirement strategy. You should seek independent financial advice before embarking on any course of action. The value of investments can fall as well as rise and you may get back less than you invested. Past performance is not a guide to future performance. Accessing pension benefits early may impact on levels of retirement income and your entitlement to certain means tested benefits. Accessing pension benefits is not suitable for everyone. You should seek advice to understand your options at retirement.
Peter Barton is an Independent Financial Adviser at Continuum. Tel: 01603 879875 or 07787 561087. Email: peter@mycontinuum.co.uk • www.mycontinuum.co.uk

# The Quay Diary

**Diary entries for the next issue of The Quay should be received by 26 November. Contact Editor Sara Phillips on 01328 711717 or e-mail editorial@quaypublishing.co.uk**

**You will understand why there is no Quay Diary this month. It's only a temporary omission, so please send me any information about events that you hope to hold in the future and I will reinstate the Diary next month**

# Cooking with Carla Phillips

## Smoked Haddock 'Surprise'

This is an excellent dish – easy to assemble with readily available ingredients. Served with mashed potatoes, a dark green vegetable (broccoli or calabrese, maybe), it's an elegant dish to present to friends, or it works as a supper dish for two.

**Ingredients** approximately 400ml whole milk (2 teacups); 1 shallot, sliced; 1 bay leaf; a few stalks of parsley; 3 peppercorns; 2 serving portions of smoked haddock (I prefer undyed); 70g strong cheddar, grated; 5 or 6 cherry tomatoes, halved; a handful of breadcrumbs; a little butter; a small amount of cayenne and paprika.

**Method** Heat the milk with the peppercorns, shallot, parsley stalks and bay leaf. When it has begun to simmer, remove from the heat and allow it to stand. Butter a baking dish large enough to contain the fish fillets, and place them in it. Cover them with the cheese, then with the sliced tomatoes. Rewarm the milk, then strain it on to the fish-cheese-tomato mixture. Dot the top with the breadcrumbs, a few sprinkles of cayenne and paprika, then bake it in a hot oven for 20 minutes. Leave it to stand for five minutes before serving with the potatoes and veggies. Bon appetit!

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