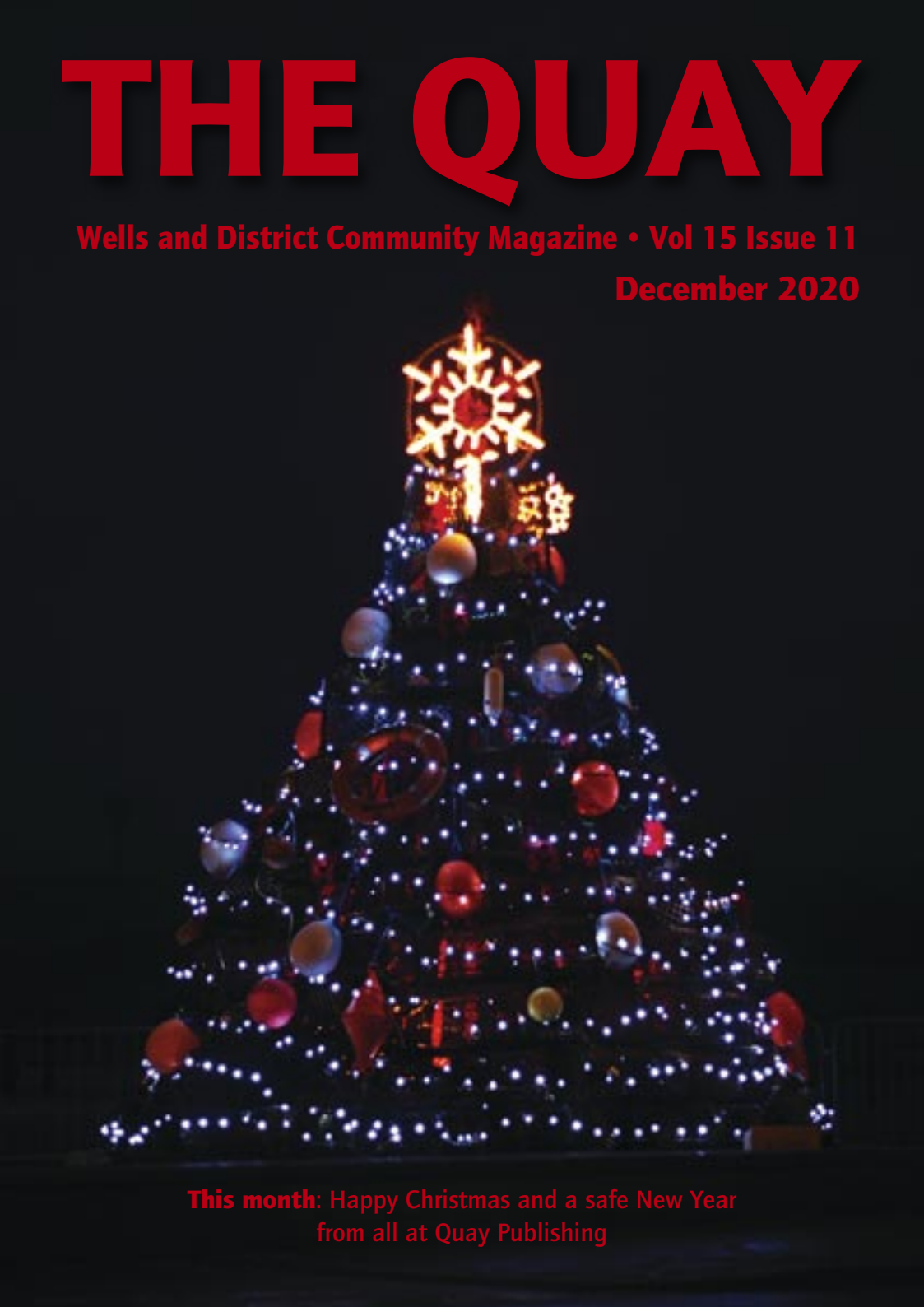
THE QUAY

Wells and District Community Magazine • Vol 15 Issue 11
December 2020



This month: Happy Christmas and a safe New Year
from all at Quay Publishing

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Welcome to The Quay

Isn't the crab pot Christmas tree fabulous? When it was being constructed I did wonder what on earth it was – a big old heap of scruffy crab pots cluttering the quay. But once the shape took shape (if you see what I mean) and then the lights went on – it looked superb. Well done to all who were involved, from having the bright (ha ha) idea to seeing it through to completion. There are occasions when I really, really love this town for its independent spirit and its willingness, in fact its insistence, on "dewing different". Dare we hope that it might become an annual 'thing'?

It's going to be a grim Christmas for many – unable to see friends and families in safety, deprived of the parties and get-togethers that go on at this time of year, even trips to the shops aren't high on many people's itineraries. But it seems that there is real light at the end of the tunnel – not one, but at least three different vaccines are here or on their way, developed by teams of scientists frantically working to bring some sort of relief to the world held in the grip of this vile disease. It's not my place to urge you to get the vaccination when your chance comes, but I'm going to do it anyway. Please disregard most of the rubbish being put out on social media. If you think about it sensibly, the vaccines will be a game-changer, and you really won't end up being controlled by Bill Gates, or having 5G chips inserted under your skin! Think of all the diseases held at bay for us by vaccination – measles, mumps, rubella, smallpox, polio, tetanus, flu, hepatitis, whooping cough, chicken pox, diphtheria – many of these are, or have been, killers in much bigger numbers than the devastation wrought by Covid-19. We have forgotten, in the developed world, just how terrifying some of these diseases can be, all because we receive vaccinations for many of them when we are small and think no more of it. Please see the Covid jabs as similar – a routine occurrence which will protect you and those you love.

And finally, as this horrid year draws to a close, I would like to say a personal thank you to all the people who have helped *The Quay* come out each month. To the contributors, the advertisers, the distributors (yes, I know there are on-going issues, but we are working on it, I promise), but mainly to all of you, who have been encouraging, patient, intermittently grumpy (and rightly so in most cases) and who have let me know what *The Quay* means to you. Thank you and have a Happy Christmas. **SP**

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Homes for Wells news

By David Fennell, chair, HfW

At our November board meeting I reported that I had been approached by a new volunteer to join us as a trustee. She had read my article in *The Quay*, asking for new board members. It shows how it pays to advertise! I sent her cv to our interviewing panel and they all agreed to recommend her to the other trustees. So, Lynne Burdon, a resident of Wells, was co-opted unanimously.

Lynne has been a great fan of Wells for many years and wants to be of service to our community. From her years in Islington, London, she has unique experience. She has been a director of Chance UK, a charity providing mentoring to children; a director of Angel Town Centre Business Development Board; a past president of Islington Chamber of Commerce; and a member of the Islington strategic partnership. Lynne is a qualified solicitor who understands a lot about property. Moreover, she grew and ran two law firms, with 200 staff.

Lynne's experience and skills will help us to maintain a good balance on our board and, in particular, our governance. I'm very proud to have Lynne as part of our team. I believe she will greatly help us to achieve good, sustainable growth, and to improve the lives of others in the Wells community.

Thanks to the encouragement of the wellbeing group, run from the community hospital, our tenants are going to start to receive offers of help from our office staff. Our first initiative is to offer to help write a cv, or to contact local employers who are looking for staff, or apply to the Job Centre.

Karen (our fundraiser) is keen to help any tenant if their employment, and hence their household income, has been affected by the impact of Covid. This is an early stage of testing the market for employment help. Our logic is that, if we can help our tenants to keep on top of their budgeted income, we can help them to head off difficulties with paying their rent. It's a straightforward case of 'enlightened self-interest'. Homes for Wells has a responsibility to protect its income and, after all, what better way to do it?

Our second new initiative is to ensure that all our tenants know about Norfolk County Council's Winter Support – **norfolk.gov.uk/covidwintersupport** – which runs until the end of March 2021. This includes things like food, including free school meals, essential items, energy costs and self-isolation payments. Lotte is there to help anyone lacking computer access or needing help with phone calls or simply encouragement to ask for what they are entitled to.

As a participant in the wellbeing group, during the next month, I would like to offer anyone who lives in Wells and the adjoining parishes, who would like help with either job seeking or access to Winter Support, the opportunity to benefit from our services. For help with job seeking, please send your details and phone number by email to **fundraisinghomesforwells@gmail.com** and, for Winter Support, please email your details to **office@homesforwells.co.uk**

Homes for Wells offers this in the spirit of corporate social responsibility – it sounds grand! – and, in fact, many companies offer help of this kind to their local communities. At this time of pandemic, with everyone playing a part in our community, we will all benefit.

Ever since becoming chair of HfW, I've wanted Homes for Wells to have a Quality Management System. Since receiving a grant from the Norfolk Community Foundation to set this up, a great deal of work has been done, to ensure that we work consistently, reliably and efficiently. All our systems and procedures had to be recorded so that, if anyone leaves, they don't take their knowledge away with them. That gives us resilience. We have prepared a Risk Register and weighed up the opportunities and threats we face, in order of priority. That helps our trustees to evolve our strategy.

Homes for Wells is the fifth organisation where I have introduced a Quality Management System and achieved the ISO9001 certificate. To get the certificate (which is endorsed by the Department of Trade and Industry), you have to go through two stages of external audit. I am delighted to be

Continued on page 23

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

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Merry Christmas from Wells Maltings

By Becca Lynn, Marketing & Development Manager

It's been a strange and difficult year for everyone, so although for the time being the change may be merely symbolic, we have to say we are very much looking forward to leaving this year behind and striding forth into 2021. We are working hard on making Wells Maltings an even better experience for our audience and community in the new year.

The Maltings café will see quite a few changes in 2021. Unfortunately, we can't launch our pre-theatre tapas platters while we're under Tier 2 restrictions, but our new head chef Lucy has been busy perfecting her recipes for winter treats like hot mulled cider, mince pies with baked marzipan, cinnamon biscuits and gingerbread. Not only that, she's drafted our new spring-summer menu, packed with fresh ingredients and vibrant flavours. We'll also be offering a mix of meat, cheese or vegan tapas platters to share before the show.

For the time being, we will be serving soft drinks and refreshments in the evening via an honesty stand, but can't open the bar until restrictions allow. Our full bar menu will be available to enjoy with your lunch, however.

Our December programme includes a brand new piece of theatre exclusive to Wells Maltings. *Merrily On High* is the newest work from Maltings regulars fEAST Theatre. Funny, thought-provoking and poignant with a dash of macabre fun, fEAST's specially commissioned new show will provide some much-needed light and warmth to Christmas 2020. Four shows, from 18 to 19 December, with tickets from just £5.

We also have a fabulous Christmas pantomime screening in our auditorium, produced by and starring *Blue Peter* legend, Peter Duncan. Filmed as-live, *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 at an affordable price.

During the November lockdown we have done our best to support our local community, in return for the fantastic support we have received over this difficult year. Our café team worked hard to produce hot, nutritious meals twice a week through our Community Kitchen scheme, offering complimentary food to one and all. Many of the Maltings staff signed up as volunteers with the Wells Community Hub, walking dogs, planting spring bulbs and collecting prescriptions. And, of course, our Lockdown Lowdown provided digital entertainment alongside a programme of Zoom events bringing you poetry, music and short stories.

We want to continue to be a place of refuge for our community, providing government guidelines allow. Starting on 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.

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.

Ho! Ho! Ho! Very Merry Christmas, Wells

By Pat Weston, Carnival chair

Well hasn't 2020 been a very strange year? We have all had to act and think differently. Our lovely little world in Wells has been turned upside down but... 2021 will soon be here so let's welcome it with open arms and make sure we make up for the lost time in 2020.

We hope the Wells Carnival Committee will be holding the Wells Carnival as we know it next year but if we can't we will make sure we support the town and help as always to bring a smile and a good time to all.

Have the very best Christmas, laugh lots, catch up with old and new friends, if not face to face, there are many ways to cheer each other up. Text, email, letter or just shout "It's Christmas" down the garden path.

Well done Wells in 2020 and very best wishes for 2021 from the Wells Carnival Committee.

Over the Christmas period, when you aren't wearing a mask, wear a smile.

Thank you and stay safe.

Wells library is open again

Wells library is open again, as is the mobile library.

Wells library hours have changed slightly:

Monday	2pm – 6pm
Wednesday	9am – 2pm
Friday	9am – 2pm
Saturday	10am – 4pm

Select and collect

You can pre-order a selection of up to 10 books for adults and young adults by using the online form at **norfolk.spydus.co.uk** or call **01603 774777**.

Books will be available within three working days (Monday to Friday), or the first day the library is open after that.

You can speak to a member of library staff on the phone line between the hours of 10am and 6pm Monday to Friday and 10am to 4pm on Saturday.

Free ebooks, e-audio books and emagazines

Did you know you can borrow these through the library with your library card? This link explains all about the service: **www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries-local-history-and-archives/libraries/find-an-item/ebooks-and-eaudio**

Online events from the library

There are lots of online events available from the library at the moment – the full list is available here – **www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries-local-history-and-archives/libraries/whats-on** The events include Just a Cuppa, Lego Club, Bounce and Rhyme plus details on how you can get support online from a Digital Champion.

Mobile Libraries

To find your local mobile library route please go to **www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries-local-history-and-archives/libraries/your-local-library/mobile-libraries**

Wighton news

While there's no village pantomime this year, there is a chance that Father Christmas might be spotted making his traditional journey though Wighton on the back of a grey Fergie tractor during Christmas week accompanied by a socially-distanced, sprightly elf. His tour will start from the Wells Road end of the village on Monday 21 December at around 4pm, but please keep an eye on the village Facebook page 'Scarecrow Festival Wighton' for up-to-date details.

Another event guaranteed to lift the spirits is the Christmas service, planned to take place at 6.30pm on Thursday 24 December at All Saints church. Expect a twinkling, candlelit atmosphere, yuletide decoration and some wonderful singing. All are welcome – the congregation is asked to keep apart and wear masks in church.

We hope that all who are currently resident in the village have remained safe and well during the second lockdown and beyond. If you are in need of assistance, including shopping for essential food or medicines, please contact our parish clerk, Barbara Clark, on **01328 820678** or email **barbaraclark@btinternet.com** She will alert willing parish council volunteers to help in any way they can.

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Become a member of Wells United Charities

Now that Wells United Charities has joined forces with the former Wells and District League of Friends, we are looking to recruit new members. If you would like to join us, all you need to do is download a membership form from our website or pick one up from Jagger's Chemist in Staithe Street, Wells.

What do we do?

● WUC is here to help local people struggling with old age, ill health or poverty. We do this by offering grants for education ie bus passes, heating allowances and this year we added a Covid grant which was mainly used to help people pay their rent in these difficult times. We also consider various other applications.

● WUC also offers grants to local charities, if they are offering a service to the community that is in line with WUC objectives. Recently, we funded a new kitchen space at Heritage House.

Once you become a member, which involves a minimum donation of £5 a year, paid by standing order, you will be entitled to attend our AGM every year and hear about the great things we have done with your donations.

Help support your local community and become a member! For more information, visit our website – **www.wellsunitedcharities.org.uk**

Screen-next-the-Sea – films for 2021

It seems like we are heading for a Christmas like no other, many of us with mixed feelings, but Wells has triumphed once again in its unique way, by making us all smile at the wonderful crab pot Christmas tree on the quay. SntS wishes everyone a happy time and a safe new year.

We were sorry to lose our November programme to the lockdown, but we will still be showing *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood* (PG) on Monday 21 December at 7pm.

We have decided to move on to newer releases for next year, circumstances permitting, and on 11 January at 7pm we are showing *Rocks* (12A). This is the tough but hopeful tale of a London teenager trying to keep her family together after her mother leaves abruptly. Directed by Sarah Gavron and featuring Bukky Bakray, it depicts the chaos of real life, and is a fresh and, at times, funny coming of age story, against the background of a stinging social critique.

In Arabic with subtitles, *The Perfect Candidate* (PG) is the story of a determined and ambitious young female Saudi doctor who runs for election to the city council. Her community and family struggle to come to terms with their town's first female candidate, while her father is off with the Saudi National Band. Directed by Haifaa Al-Monsour, whose debut film was *Wadjida*, this is a powerful challenge to oppression and advocates for change. It is showing on Monday 25 January at 7pm.

Our seasonal film noir offering is *Blood Simple* (18) showing on Monday 8 February at 7pm. A Texas bar owner suspects his wife is having an affair with one of the barmen and hires a private detective to expose them, who he then attempts to engage in a plan to murder them. Starring John Getz and Frances McDormand, this newly restored and re-edited version of the first film directed by the Coen brothers is a stylish crime thriller, both brutally violent and shockingly funny.

For Sama (18), the Oscar nominated documentary, follows a young woman, Waad Al-Kateab, filming herself through five years of the Syrian conflict and love, marriage and motherhood. A hard watch at times, there is laughter and comradeship and despite the grief and sadness there are the seeds of hope. In Arabic with subtitles, showing on Monday 22 February at 7pm.

Tickets cannot be bought immediately before the performance but can be obtained from the box office by phone on **01328 710885** or in person up to 3pm on the day, or by 5pm online at **www.wells-maltings.org.uk**

Clubs, groups and societies

The Elephant Group – bereavement group
You may be thinking that it's an odd name for a group, but death can be the 'elephant in the room'. We don't like talking about it, especially if we are trying to come to terms with the loss of someone dear to us.

The Elephant Group will meet on the second Thursday of each month – next month's meeting is on 14 January – from 11am to 1pm, at Wells community hospital. We can share a coffee and talk to people who are going through similar experiences and we promise there will be no elephants! Just friendly people chatting and asking questions. Hopefully you will make some new friends and help one another on your new journey. We are looking forward to seeing you.

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal
We were still able to hold the annual Poppy Appeal in Wells during the usual Remembrance period although on a much reduced scale. You may have seen us at our usual position outside Alex Howell's Deli on Staithe Street, but we had to call this off after a week because of the second lockdown, which required us to collect Poppies in from shops, pubs and restaurants that would be closed for at least a month.

I would like to thank all those who took part in this period with either selling or giving to the charity. I would also like to thank Mary, Sheila and Norman for their support in Staithe Street, and to the Alex Howell Deli and Nelsons for supplying us with tea and coffee.

We had a very successful Remembrance Sunday, again on a much reduced scale with no parade. I'm glad to say that the laying of wreaths at the town War Memorial seemed to work well.

Also I would like to give thanks to Alastair Ogle at the Alderman Peel High School for allowing four pupils to come to the cemetery and lay posies on each of the eighteen war graves on the morning of 11 November. At all these events social distancing was observed along with the wearing of masks, gloves and hand sanitiser at the Staithe Street stall provided by the Poppy Appeal officers.

I am unable to give a total figure for the collection as there are still monies to come in and be counted, but in due course I hope to be able to give you a figure, which at the moment, considering the Covid-19 problems, looks to be better than expected. It is not too late to donate as our year runs from 1 October to 30 September, so you can send your donation to me at any time to this address: David Woolgar, P/A Org., Collwyn, Southgate Close, Wells NR23 1HG or phone me on **01328 712052**.

Wells Good Companions
Well, it's been a pretty horrible year for everyone hasn't it? Hopefully things will start improving next year and we'll all be able to pick up our lives and be able to meet up with friends and family once again. So until such time as we can get together again, all of us on the committee send our members our best wishes and hope that you will all have as happy a Christmas and New Year as you can and, as always, keep yourselves safe and well.

Wells Men's Shed
Seasons greetings to all. At this time of the year we tend to reflect on our achievements for the year gone by. Like many community groups, our activities were put on hold as plans ground to a halt. We were in full swing with a busy programme of community projects and the development of our site – all of which got postponed. Nonetheless efforts continued behind the scenes with our Shedders working from their satellite sheds at home. All this is contrary to the objectives of the Men's Shed where social interaction improves the Shedders' wellbeing. So it's been a case of 'Stay calm and shed on'!

The Men's Shed is a not-for-profit entity and one of our goals has been to become self sufficient with our operating costs. This is largely through recycling old pallets and the like and turning them into something useful. However, as our activities this year have been restricted we have once again been grateful to a number of companies and organisations who have supported us. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following supporters who have helped us survive through this challenging period: our hosts the Wells & Walsingham Light Railway for providing our home; the RG Carter Group for its kind donation of a sea container which will become our metal workshop; CAN (Community Action Norfolk) for its donation to purchase essential PPE (Personal Protection Equipment); Wells Carnival Ltd and the Holkham Charitable Foundation for jointly funding our essential insurance; Ronseal for providing sanitiser.

We have also had a number of personal donations, mostly from shed clearances, for which we are truly grateful and we will put these tools and ironmongery to good use, thank you all.

We anticipate that not much will happen in the immediate future as regards fully reopening the Shed. Following a health and safety risk assessment we have had small working parties on site, mostly outside, to keep the site clean and tidy. Happy to report the banter has not suffered in the lockdown! So if Old Moore's Almanac gets it right, the prediction suggests it might be Easter before we can reopen. Let's hope so. Our plans remain flexible but we would like to focus on the refurbishment and fitting out of the metalwork shop as a priority as this will enable us to broaden our activities and hopefully start some blacksmithing.

Despite the Shed being shut we are still open to new members joining us – if you are thinking of making a New Year's resolution then why not come and join us? As always, if you would like more information please visit us at **www.wellsnextthesea-mensshed.weebly.com**, or email us at **mensshed-wells@gmail.com**

Wells Textile and Embroidery Group
THE TWELVE DAYS OF TEXTILES

On the First Day of Textiles our members all agree – a thimble is so necessary.
On the Second Day of Textiles our members all agree – two tiny tassels and a thimble is so necessary.
On the Third Day of Textiles our members all agree – three French knots, two tiny tassels and a thimble is so necessary.
On the Fourth Day of Textiles our members all agree – four crochet hooks, three French knots, two tiny tassels and a thimble is so necessary.
On the Fifth Day of Textiles our members all agree – five goldwork bows, four crochet hooks, three French knots, two tiny tassels and a thimble is so necessary.
On the Sixth Day of Textiles our members all agree – six cross stitch bookmarks, five goldwork bows, four crochet hooks, three French knots, two tiny tassels and a thimble is so necessary.
On the Seventh Day of Textiles our members all agree – seven rainbow colours, six cross stitch bookmarks, five goldwork bows, four crochet hooks, three French knots, two tiny tassels and a thimble is so necessary.
On the Eighth Day of Textiles our members all agree – eight sewing needles, seven rainbow colours, six cross stitch bookmarks, five goldwork bows, four crochet hooks, three French knots, two tiny tassels and a thimble is so necessary.
On the Ninth Day of Textiles our members all agree – nine silks a-woven, eight sewing needles, seven rainbow colours, six cross stitch bookmarks, five goldwork bows, four crochet hooks, three French knots, two tiny tassels and a thimble is so necessary.
On the Tenth Day of Textiles our members all agree – ten knit some, purl some, nine silks a-woven, eight sewing needles, seven rainbow colours, six cross stitch bookmarks, five goldwork bows, four crochet hooks, three French knots, two tiny tassels and a thimble is so necessary.
On the Eleventh Day of Textiles our members all agree – eleven pieces of patchwork, ten knit some, purl some, nine silks a-woven, eight sewing needles, seven rainbow colours, six cross stitch bookmarks, five goldwork bows, four crochet hooks, three French knots, two tiny tassels and a thimble is so necessary.
On the Twelfth Day of Textiles our members all agree – twelve blackwork bumblebees, eleven pieces of patchwork, ten knit some, purl some, nine silks a-woven, eight sewing needles, seven rainbow colours, six cross stitch bookmarks, five goldwork bows, four crochet hooks, three French knots, two tiny tassels and a thimble is so necessary! Merry Christmas.

Wells WI

Semi-lockdown November is over, and we all hope the pause has helped to control the virus and that we reap the benefit this winter. Let us hope and plan for some semblance of normal Christmas celebrations, just quieter and, perhaps, more thoughtful than most years.

Our WI Christmas lunch and party afterwards are cancelled, of course, but it is only for one year, and when a successful vaccine is available we can resume normality with gratitude and extra enthusiasm. It will be such a joy to be able to meet properly and enjoy each other's company. We will appreciate it all the more for having lost it for so long.

Have a happy Christmas, even if a different sort from usual, and we can all look forward to a healthy, peaceful New Year. Roll on 2021!

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

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News from the Anglican churches

By Revd Brenda Stewart

The good news is that worship in church has resumed but there are things we will not be able to do because singing inside church is still not permitted. But Christmas is definitely NOT cancelled and we would like to welcome you into our church buildings which have all been decorated for you to enjoy.

St Nicholas Wells has an Advent Saints Quiz running up to Christmas Eve and winners will be announced at our service on Christmas Day. Remember to put your name and phone number on your entries. Subject to further changes to the rules we are planning the following:

Sunday 20 December 11am – Wells Holy Communion, 4.30pm Warham Christmas Praise

Thursday 24 December 1pm to 3pm –'Collect a Christingle' at Wells churchyard (in aid of the Children's Society); 6.30pm – Wighton Christmas Holy Communion; 11.30pm to midnight – Wells Holy Communion – ticketed event. Reserve your seat by contacting Margaret on **01328 710584** or e-mail **margaret.sheppard222@gmail.com**

Friday 25 December 9.30am – Wells Christmas Day Praise; 11am – Holkham Christmas Holy Communion at St Withburga's church (wrap up warm!) There will be a Churches Together and Wells Maltings Community Carol Service in the Maltings car park area on Sunday 20 December at 2pm. Access is via the Staithe Street entrance and help yourself to free hot spiced cider, mince pies and cinnamon stars on your way through the foyer and we will be able to sing.

A selection of services will be videoed and uploaded onto our YouTube Channel, **St Nicholas Church Wells**.

It has been a very strange year and for many a very sad one. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have lost loved ones and we remember particularly the families of Peter Cook and Jean King, both from Wells, whose funerals have taken place in the last month. This will be a very different Christmas for all of us. What does remain the same is Jesus' message of peace and hope for better times. Christmas blessings to you all.

Methodist church news

By Sue Scoles

It is difficult to write this whilst we are still in lockdown and not knowing what the restrictions will be after 2 December. Whether or not the Methodist church will be open, the weekly newsletter will continue to be written and distributed around the town. If you would like a copy please get in touch with either Colin Garwood on **01328 711515** or Angela Fennell on **01328 712167**.

Rev Shanganya will take a short service on Christmas Day, starting at 11am. There will be no service on 27 December.

STOP PRESS It has been announced that we can see our families at Christmas but please take care of yourselves and don't take unnecessary risks as you may be sure the virus won't take Christmas off.

There is a new food bank set up at the hospital in Wells. You can either donate straight to the hospital or continue to use the trolley set aside for foodbank items at the Co-op. There is a very real need, perhaps even more so this year with so many people either furloughed or on reduced hours at work. Please think of them when you next do a food shop.

Everyone in the Methodist church wishes you a happy and peaceful Christmas, and that 2021 will bring us a vaccine and a return to a more normal way of life. Merry Christmas and keep safe!

Christmas message from Churches Together

By David Saunders, Churches Together

It's been our practice for many years to prepare a Christmas card – delivered to all homes in Wells – drawn by a local school pupil, containing seasonal greetings, a message and details of Christmas services.

Reluctantly we concluded this was not practicable this year and at the time of writing – late November – none of us knows what situation we will be in, Covid wise, as regards public worship.

Continued on page 17

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Continued from page 15

So here are contact points for each of our five churches. Nearer Christmas, ring to check what services are on offer!

- C of E, Margaret Shepherd, **01328 710584**.
- Catholic, Fr. Keith Tulloch, **01328 711025**.
- Methodist, Colin Garwood, **01328 711515**.
- Congregational, Neil Woodruff, **01263 862970**.
- Quaker, Joolz Saunders, **01328 711085**.

We know for many this past year has been a time of sorrow with loved ones lost. But for all of us it has been a year of thankfulness for the committed service of so many health and community workers who have cared for us and inspired us by their dedication. We can all feel grateful that some good has come from evil, that service to others has worked miracles.

We know that at our best we can, and do, care for others in our community. So may Christmas be a time for both remembering those no longer with us and reminding us that it is a time of hope, joy and renewal.

Despite Covid, Churches Together is hoping to arrange some seasonal events so watch out for more details on posters around town and on the Churches noticeboard by the bus stop in the Congregational church grounds.

Churches Together usually collects hats, scarves etc. prior to Christmas, for St Martin's Housing Trust in Norwich. Because of the restrictions we are unable to do this but they would welcome donations. Each church will have a box where cheques/cash can be offered as well as donation forms for those who are tax payers and can gift-aid. Cheques payable to St Martin's Housing Trust. All contributions will be sent on to St Martin's before Christmas. Further information can be found at **www.stmartinshousing.org.uk**

May we all know blessings at Christmas and in the New Year to come.

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, services held in Hall Chapel; Easter to Remembrance Sunday in St. Withburga's)	1st Sunday	9.30am	Holy Communion
	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

You will know that instructions/guidance regarding Covid-19 changes more frequently than my monthly newsletter. Therefore as usual I copy below websites known to be safe and updated regularly.

Covid-19 information

- **www.norfolk.gov.uk/coronavirus** – this site includes 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**

Support for Families Norfolk County Council is developing a package of support to help families over the winter months. Information will be out soon but if anyone needs support now do not wait but go to **www.norfolk.gov.uk/coronavirus** or call **0344 800 8020**.

Also NCC and Norfolk schools are encouraging more families to register and apply for free school meals, so that they begin to receive support in time for the school holidays. To find out if you are eligible and to register for free school meals visit: **www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-meals-and-milk**

As part of the wider package of support the council will be further extending the Norfolk Assistance Scheme, which already provides support for food, fuel, clothes and other essential household items to Norfolk's residents experiencing hardship. Visit **www.norfolk.gov.uk/NAS** or if you have no access to the internet, call **01603 223392 (option 5)**. If the line is busy, you can leave a message and the team will call back.

If any or all of the support described will help you, please apply because it is for you and your family. And please share the information as widely as possible.

Recycling Good news that the recycling centres were kept open during the latest 'lock down'. Hopefully, if all goes well, the same situation will pertain for any further lockdown.

Libraries As frequent library users know our libraries were closed during the 'lock down'. The good news is that people were still able to use the online services and were able to continue to reserve items online ready for when libraries re-opened. They could also take part in online activities and borrow a range of eBooks and eMagazines. I am waiting for an update on the library service but of course the online service continues. Safest for regular information is to sign up for the library customer newsletter – **www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries-local-history-and-archives/libraries/libraries-newsletter**

Please remember those you know without a lap top or a computer – if you spot something which might be of value or interest ask if they would like a copy.

Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) An Avian Influenza prevention zone (AIPZ) was declared in England (effective from 11 November). All bird keepers, whether they have pet birds, commercial flocks or just a few birds in a backyard, are required by law to take a range of biosecurity precautions. If you keep poultry or captive birds you must take action to reduce the risk of disease in your flock by following government advice on biosecurity. Further details of the measures that apply can be found in the AIPZ declaration and biosecurity guidance. However the website **www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu** is an easy site to access for all the information people will need, including a poster and biosecurity advice – plus information about how people can voluntarily register their birds.

The poster is particularly for small flock keepers and pet bird owners. Defra is promoting the Prevention Zone on the web site which has some simple but effective biosecurity advice for keepers – and additional biosecurity requirements for keepers of larger flocks. Keep up-to-date on the website, use the search 'avian influenza latest' and the main page should provide all information you need.

Public Health England advises the threat to human health remains very low. Food Standards Agency (FSA) states that based on the current scientific evidence it poses a very low food safety risk for UK consumers. Avian influenza is unconnected with coronavirus.

Continued on page 21

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Wells town council – December meeting

No meeting this month – there was nothing on the agenda so the decision was taken not to meet.

Next meeting Monday 4 January, 7pm. To contact Wells town council go to wellstc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk or phone 01328 710564 or email clerk@wellstowncouncil.org.uk

Neighbourhood Plan

By Roger Arguile, Chair, Wells Neighbourhood Plan Working Party

In spite of the second lockdown we have been busy. We can't yet go in for a public consultation to find out what people want the town to look like in twenty or so years time. As soon as we can we shall go public and ask people to come to a meeting.

Meanwhile, as everyone should know, we have been asking questions via the post office about housing. The responses have been good so far and, as I write, we hope for more. Meanwhile, our adviser, Richard Turkington, has been putting numbers to our gut feelings about the need for housing. According to him, the average gross income, from all sources, of a Wells household is £38,550. According to some clever formula, that will buy a house costing £180,000. You don't have to be too clever to know how many houses there are in the town for sale at that price. Just to put a number on that, he reckons that the average price of a three bedroom house in Wells is £415,000 and that figure is over a year old. Median house prices, according to one of our working party who is good at numbers, have gone up from £437,500 in 2019 to £557,500 this year. (That's a government figure.)

That's the bad news. The good news is that it is becoming easier to convince people in power that what the town needs is affordable housing for rent – for young families and for older people too because we have a large number of elderly in the town. When we get the survey results in we shall have a better idea just how big the need is.

The working party is under no illusions about how big the problem is and that, for that reason, there are people who think that nothing can be done. There are different solutions under discussion but we are talking to the District Council, to Holkham – with whom we have worked to produce the survey – as well as to Wells people. We have raised it with our MP who seems clued up about it. We are looking into the second homes issue. Fingers and toes crossed: something will happen!

Continued from page 19

Fireworks We know celebrations in one form or another will continue so please help the Norfolk Fire Brigade by checking 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 For those who missed this important information: 'We would like to hear from optimistic, adventurous and positive individuals who can offer a child meaningful support. Text **FOSTERING 287222**

Christmas Decorations I thought it lovely and warming to see Christmas lights being turned on early in Wells. I am encouraging my husband to produce ours from the loft. In case you are in doubt I always vote for decorations to go up early and come down late. I may win this time.

And I would again like to acknowledge the many good works which continue to take place throughout our division and not just at Christmas.

Warm Christmas wishes to you all.

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

Wells rainfall roundup for November

By Keith Leesmith

After several extra-wet months in a row, November's rainfall turned out to be less than normal with 46mm against an average of 76mm. In fact, November is normally the dampest month of the year – but not this one. Not that it seemed particularly dry, with wet ground on almost every morning. But that was down to the dew, which is also prevalent at this time of year, and will be for a while we hope. We hope, because when there isn't dew there's going to be frost.

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Time to reset some financial priorities?

By Peter Barton, Continuum

For many people this has been a tough year, both financially and health wise, but perhaps also because of feeling isolated from friends and family. Christmas is fast approaching so let's hope that 2021 brings us plenty to cheer about. Sadly, I can't do much to improve your health but, when it comes to finances, if you were writing to Santa this year what would you be asking for?

Most people just want to have enough money to enjoy a comfortable life, not to worry about whether they can afford shoes for the kids or go out for a meal occasionally, and to take a holiday if they want to. Nothing too extravagant as people are generally realistic, although some are perhaps over optimistic about the sort of lifestyle they will have in retirement compared to what they've saved to pay for it.

So, if you are feeling the financial strain it's worth considering some priorities. Firstly, rebuild an emergency fund, ideally 3 to 6 month's outgoings, so that if you lose your income there's something to fall back on. Next would be to repay non-mortgage debt, such as high interest credit cards and loans, as they add pressure to your budget. Ideally you want to repay your credit card debt in full every month as that will also improve your credit score.

Your next priority depends upon where you are on your financial journey – it could be buying a home, saving adequately for retirement or possibly your children's education. If you can afford to tackle them all that's great because the longer you put things off, such as building your retirement fund, the more difficult the journey becomes. Further down the list would be paying off your mortgage, which is likely to be your biggest debt but also have the lowest interest rate, hopefully.

Also, make sure you have sufficient insurance in place to protect what matters most. That's likely to be you and your family – how would your family cope if they lost your income or had to pay someone to do your work around the home? Finally, spend less than you earn – sounds simple but this may have been more difficult to achieve this year than in other years!

It just leaves me to say that I hope you enjoy a wonderful Christmas and I look forward to "chatting" with you again in the New Year.

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.

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Peter Barton is an Independent Financial Adviser at Continuum. Tel: 01603 879875 or 07787 561087. Email: peter@mycontinuum.co.uk • www.mycontinuum.co.uk

Continued from page 4

able to say that Homes for Wells has been recommended for this certificate.

My thanks go to our consultants who helped us achieve this – 'Clear Quality'. If any reader is thinking of introducing the ISO9001 system to their organisation, I can heartily recommend 'Clear Quality' to help them. They guided us through the intricacies and supported us through the audit, always with friendly encouragement and, for a small charitable business like ours, very modest fees. My thanks also to our office administrator, Lotte, who had to start from scratch, and who has done a very good job. Lotte now has more detailed knowledge about our systems and procedures than anyone!

A merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all our tenants, applicants, donors, friends and neighbours, our suppliers and lenders, all my fellow trustees, past and present, and the whole community of Wells and surrounding parishes. May you all stay safe and well and find contentment in this strangest of festive seasons!

A happy and safe Christmas and New Year to everyone from all of us at Quay Publishing Limited. As editor, I am hugely grateful for everyone's support of *The Quay* during this grim and stressful year. May 2021 be so much better!

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News from Wells RNLI

Lifeboat 'shouts' this month

Saturday 14 to Sunday 15 November Wells all-weather lifeboat launched at 10.30pm on Saturday to join a multi-agency search for a windsurfer missing from Hunstanton. The Wells boat remained at sea all night until 5.30am on Sunday when they came in to re-fuel and do a crew change. They went straight back out to sea and re-joined the search until they were stood down at dusk, returning to the boathouse at 4.30pm on Sunday after 18 hours.

The inshore lifeboat also joined the search at first light on Sunday morning and carried out a shoreline search between Thornham and Blakeney, returning to Wells at 11.30am.

Cromer lifeboat and other agencies continued the search on Monday and the board belonging to the windsurfer was found. Sadly there had been no sightings of the missing windsurfer by dusk on Monday and the search was called off.

Friday 20 November 6.50pm – Humber Coastguard paged for the Wells inshore lifeboat to render assistance to a 23ft 'Seamaster' pleasure boat that had got into difficulties off the coast of Wells and had contacted the emergency services to report that they were in danger of capsizing and sinking.

The Wells inshore lifeboat (ILB) launched at 7.08pm outside the boathouse on the first of the tide and proceeded to sea down the harbour channel. The lifeboat located the casualty vessel to the east of the harbour cardinal mark and ascertained there were three persons on board, as well as a dog. The boat's crew said that they had previously tied up to the buoy waiting to come into Wells but when they did this, the boat started to yaw and roll in the seaway and take on water. The lifeboat crew ascertained that the people on-board were all safe and the boat was not in danger of sinking and passed a tow at 7.50pm. They proceeded over the bar into the safety of Wells harbour and moored the craft in the outer harbour at 8.15pm where they were met by the Coastguard and emergency services team.

Monday 23 November At 3.32pm on Monday, 23 November, Humber Coastguard requested the Wells inshore lifeboat to render assistance to two people who had gone out onto the marshes at Burnham Overy Staithe and become cut off by the tide. There were concerns about whether there would be sufficient water left on the ebbing tide to enable the inshore lifeboat to make it round by sea to Overy and get into the creek system to reach the casualties. The ILB launched at 3.44pm, proceeded to Burnham Overy Staithe and entered the channel at 3.55pm. In the interim, the local Coastguard team had visually located the two persons opposite the boathouse at Burnham Overy Staithe. The ILB made its way towards the hard but, even with the crew walking the boat because it was too shallow to use the engine, it became obvious they would not be able to reach the two people cut off. At 4pm it was decided that the ILB should return on the last of the ebb to Wells, leaving the Coastguard to walk the casualties ashore when the water level dropped sufficiently. The ILB arrived back in Wells at 4.20pm and the two people returned to the safety of the mainland at 4.40pm aided by the Coastguard.

Boathouse build

Work continues on the new building to house a brand new Shannon class lifeboat. By the time you read this, the piling work should be complete and the associated plant taken off site. Work will then focus on the inshore ramp, installation of drainage and services, and making ready for the capping beam. There will be a shutdown over Christmas between 18 December and 4 January.

Christmas and New Year

We are not able to invite you down to the boathouse to join in our Carol Service this year because of Covid restrictions and we're going to miss you! Our crew will be 'on call' 24 hours a day throughout the festive period so please spare them a thought and pray for calm weather.

It remains to wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year from all at Wells Lifeboat Station.

Recovering the lifeboat after an exercise on Sunday 6 December

Visit our website at www.wellslifeboat.org

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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.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a sincere thank you to our friends in Wells who have overwhelmed me with their cards and support following the death of my beloved husband Peter on 20 October.

Gilly Cook, Wells

Thanks for the article on 34 Freeman Street in the last issue of *The Quay*. As a resident of Freeman Street I would like to say a big thank you to the builders at number 34 for their positivity during the first lockdown. They always had a friendly word to say and had smiling faces, which made a lonely day that little bit better.

I also think they have done an amazing job, given all the problems they encountered along the way. And now the scaffolding is down I think it looks better than before.

Kate Chandler, Wells

Wells flood warden team news

By Mike and Marie Strong, joint coordinators

As the mid- November spring tides were diminishing on the 19 November we experienced Force 7 north north-westerly winds; the expected height of the tide at Wells was 4.02m AODN. As the trigger point for a Flood Warning is 3.9m AODN, property owners in the at-risk areas were given a flood warning via Floodline (Environment Agency Flood Warning division). Although there was a possibility of some splashing and 'ponding', since there was no threat of any property being flooded unless the water level rose above 4.4m AODN, the warden team members were not called out.

Now is a good time to practice erecting flood defences. It is easy to forget how a defence needs to be erected and several residents carrying out such a practice found out the hard way that each part should be marked, such as 'up' or 'this side inwards'. It can take a long time experimenting so to save time in an emergency, practice now. Also, just as the Environment Agency checks the sliding flood barrier across Wells quay periodically, it makes sense to ensure that there are no grit particles in any grooves in your flood defences.

The Environment Agency carried out essential training and testing on the Wells gate flood defence on the morning of 17 December.

This closure allowed the Environment Agency to test its contingency plans in the event that the power is lost on the site during a flooding incident.

Travel matters

By David Hissey

It goes without saying that this year Christmas for many is just not going to be anything like any of us have experienced previously. Travelling to reunite the family, see friends or go to the sales usually features in most people's plans but this year nothing is straightforward and many of us will not be making the journey we usually would.

However our public transport providers are still operating with mainly reduced services so here to help you, if you are travelling, is news of our local and some not so local services over the Christmas holiday period.

Generally services on the buses are suspended on 25 and 26 December and 1 January along with late services on 24 and 31 December. On the railways it's the same but services do operate on New Year's Day.

Sanders buses has published its timetables for the period 24 December to 2 January when normal services are resumed and this can be found on the website. Lynx is waiting to see how numbers of travellers recover after the recent lockdown ended on 3 December so do check its services either on line or by telephone.

Further afield, long distance coach services are

Continued on page 29

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Three Wise Men

By Miranda Marshall, Hayes + Storr

Wisdom is a quality acquired with age. In challenging times, many people want the security of experience and steadiness. Look what has happened in the United States. There are few elder statesmen in British politics to have a 'firm hand on the tiller' and steer a steady course. If Joe Biden, the oldest US president at 77, is the first of my Wise Men, then the Queen, 94, must be the second. As lawyers state when drafting documents: "the masculine includes the feminine". Her Majesty has just announced that she has no plans to retire and will honour the pledge she gave on her 21st birthday to serve her country until the end of her days. Plans for her 70th Jubilee in 2022 are already in hand. My third wise man is Captain Sir Tom Moore, aged 100, deservedly the darling of 2020, having raised a whopping £32,795,065 for the NHS Charities Together.

As we all know, the pandemic means that the older end of the world's population is particularly vulnerable now. There are intergenerational tensions developing because of the debts building up to meet the cost of Covid which will be for future generations to pay, the reduced opportunities for the young, and the protective and restrictive social-distancing measures which are hardly for the benefit of younger people.

Christmas is a time for people of all ages to come together. Let us hope that will be possible in 2020. The time spent at pre-Christmas networking drinks events, coupled with clients' pressure to have everything completed before Christmas and the small matter of one's own Christmas preparations will be different for me, and I am sure others, this year. We still cannot plan for Christmas, which is causing much anxiety, for those for whom the day is the highlight of their year. Will the Rule of Six apply; and, if so, what about multi-household families of seven and more? It is hardly the Christmas spirit to leave people out. Apparently, the pre-ordering of turkeys is down!

Back to my theme. If we are not all together, or if the more anxious decide to avoid large gatherings, please look out for your 'elders' (as the Americans call them – which has an air of gravitas and elegance about it).

Hayes + Storr is especially proud of our long-established and ground-breaking specialist department providing elderly client services. As well as legal and other advice, it has a strong pastoral care element and a focus on support to enable independent living for as long and as much as possible.

Christmas has always been a time, with New Year, for people to take stock, especially in their role as a family member. Many new Wills are made in the aftermath of the festivities for differing reasons, good and bad. Sadly, but inevitably, the divorce department always reports a peak in new instructions after the festivities are over. New Year's resolutions prompt activity in many other areas of law: new businesses and other ventures, moving to a new house, planning for the future.

Sadly, people often pass away in the late winter, having been determined to see Christmas, but with the long dark, dreary stretch through to Easter knocking their spirit.

It is important to look for advice from an established and trusted advisor where relationships can be formed on a long-term basis. It is akin to the family doctor of the old days.

We are all hoping that 2021 will be a better year and there is a glint of hope with the development of a vaccine. I think few of us will emerge into 2021 as quite the same person as we entered 2020.

CONTACT Hayes + Storr, The Sackhouse, Wells
- **Tel** 01328 710210
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Continued from page 27

still operating, check these out at **www.nationalexpress.com** and **https://uk.megabus.com**

On the railways the normal increase in engineering works over the Christmas period will affect some services and although in the current situation services are now confirmed only five weeks in advance, last minute disruption can occur so it is best to check before setting out.

Here are useful contacts associated with the above: **nationaljourneyplanner.travelinesw.com; nationalrail.co.uk; sanderscoaches.com; www.lynxbus.co.uk/bus-times-fares**
There are useful telephone numbers in *The Quay* Directory on page 35.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year.

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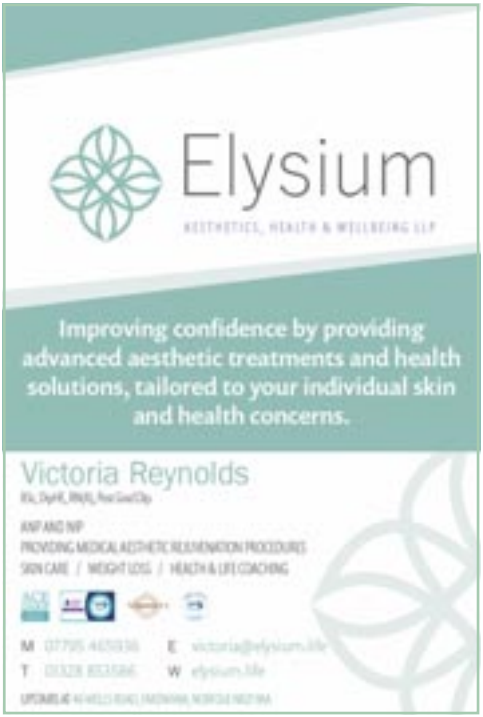
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Gill Simmons

Wells Community Hospital update

By Sarah Peberday, general manager

Whether it's a one-off or something you do on a regular basis, volunteering is good all round. As well as making a positive contribution to the happiness of others, it's a great way to meet people, get the most out of your local area and to increase your own happiness and wellbeing.

Science shows that we can get as much out of volunteering as the people we are giving our time for or to.

Giving to others through volunteering and in other ways has been associated with reduced depression and anxiety plus increased personal wellbeing and happiness. Volunteering is one way to actively participate in social and community life.

We would love you to consider volunteering here at the hospital – we don't receive any funding from the NHS so are reliant on our volunteer army to keep our groups running, maintain our gardens, assist with the foodbank or help with fundraising. Please give us a call on **01328 711996**, email **admin@wellshospital.co.uk** or message us via our Facebook page – any help however little is greatly appreciated.

What's new at the hospital?

Foodbank We are now an affiliated Trussell Trust Foodbank and we can assist with any needs you may have. You can also donate items at the hospital, as well as still being able to donate at the Co-op etc. Call **01328 711996**.

Talking Elephants A gathering for people who have been bereaved, meeting for conversation and refreshments, held on the second Thursday of each month. All welcome.

Digital safe haven and wellbeing hub We have a warm friendly space available for anyone who has a digital appointment and needs help or support. We have excellent IT and we will help you access your appointment and assist you throughout via one of our advocates. You can bring a relative, or we can enable your relative to join in remotely – you can also bring your furry companion too! This is a free service available for any appointment. You can also use the space for any other digital reason – give us a call on **01328 711996** to book or for further information.

Parents Café and Craft

A Friday morning get together at Wells Maltings for anyone who fancies a cup of tea and a chat. The session will also include participation in making your own sweatshirts, bags and T-shirts using our vinyl cutter and press. Fridays from 9.30am to 11.30am. Call **01328 711996** for more information or join us at The Maltings – £2 per session – free fruit provided for any children attending.

Norfolk Coast Partnership small grant fund

Small changes can make a big difference and we would like to support your projects through our recently-launched small grant fund.

The cash, from sales of posters, greetings cards, cycle maps and a book of poetry and pictures from local people, is already being ploughed back into taking care of the area of outstanding natural beauty through the fund.

Grants of between £500 and £3,000 are now available for local, community projects which bring environmental, economic, social or educational benefits to the Norfolk Coast and its communities. Projects encouraging people of differing ethnicities, age groups and accessibility needs to experience and enjoy the area are particularly welcomed. The funding has already enabled installation of a boardwalk at Natural Surroundings in Bayfield, near Holt, which improves the site for visitors by re-instating all weather access to the River Glaven and the riverbank hide and making the path through the wet woodland a lot easier and safer to use.

We are grateful to all those who have purchased our products, and the shops and outlets that have stocked them. The profits are all being spent on restoring and protecting the coast we look after and now we've built up sufficient funds, we're keen to hear ideas for how the money can be spent. Do get in touch with us if you think of a project you could take forward. For further information or to discuss project ideas please contact the fund facilitator Helen Timson, by phone on **01328 850541** or by emailing **helen.timson@norfolk.gov.uk**

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Fakenham Choral Society	01328 851848
First Wells Sea Scouts	01328 710577
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Homes for Wells	01328 711703
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Keep Fit Group	01328 730508
Lifeboat Guild	01328 711823
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Local History Group	01328 710261
Screen-next-the-Sea	01328 711085
Sing for Joy	01263 570117
The Royal British Legion	07469 186208
Wells Area Partnership	01328 711378
Wells Bellringers	01328 710208
Wells Brownies	07748 256714
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Wells Friendship Club	07766151715
Wells Harbour Office	01328 711646
Wells Maltings Trust	01328 711378
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Wells Pensioners Association	01328 711425
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Wells Sailing Club	01328 712000
Wells Town Bowls Club	01328 316411
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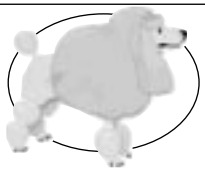

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Norfolk
NR23 1NS

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Mob: 07909 530954
E-mail: thomas18quad24@gmail.com

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The Quay Diary

Diary entries for the next issue of The Quay should be received by 28 December. Contact Editor Sara Phillips on 01328 711717 or e-mail editorial@quaypublishing.co.uk

Please let me know times, dates etc of events that may be going ahead in 2021 so that I can update the Diary. Thank you.

DECEMBER

Date	Group	Time	Place	Event
18	Holkham	8.00am	The Lookout	Winter Residents of the NNR – walk
18	Holkham	12 midday	The Lookout	Winter Residents of the NNR – walk
18	fEAST	2.30pm	The Maltings	Merrily on High
18	fEAST	7.30pm	The Maltings	Merrily on High
19	Holkham	10.00am	Lady Elizabeth Wing	Christmas Food Drink and Gift market
19	fEAST	2.30pm	The Maltings	Merrily on High
19	fEAST	7.30pm	The Maltings	Merrily on High
20	Holkham	10.00am	Lady Elizabeth Wing	Christmas Food Drink and Gift market
20	Wells St Nicholas church	11.00am	St Nicholas church	Holy Communion
20	Churches Together	2.00pm	Maltings car park	Community Carol Service – all welcome
20	Warham church	4.30pm	Warham church	Christmas Praise
21	Screen-next-the-Sea	7.00pm	Wells Maltings	A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood (12A)
22	The Maltings	2.00pm	The Maltings	Jack and the Beanstalk
22	The Maltings	5.00pm	The Maltings	Jack and the Beanstalk
23	The Maltings	2.00pm	The Maltings	Jack and the Beanstalk
23	The Maltings	5.00pm	The Maltings	Jack and the Beanstalk
24	Wells St Nicholas church	1.00pm	St Nicholas church	Collect a Christingle
24	The Maltings	2.00pm	The Maltings	Jack and the Beanstalk
24	Wighton church	6.30pm	Wighton church	Christmas Holy Communion
24	Wells St Nicholas church	11.30pm	St Nicholas church	Wells Holy Communion – tickets required
25	Quay Publishing	00.01am	Wells and district	Happy Christmas to all
25	Wells St Nicholas church	9.30am	St Nicholas church	Wells Christmas Day Praise
25	Wells Methodist church	11.00am	Methodist church	Christmas service
25	Holkham St Withburga's	11.00am	St Withburga's church	Holkham Christmas Holy Communion

Cooking with Carla Phillips

Moroccan Vegetable Soup – my version

At first I made this soup using the fine recipe from *The Soup Bible* (the best collection of soup recipes I've ever found). Through the years I've altered and added to the original and this version is truly formidable. When I cannot obtain pumpkin or winter squash, I substitute butternut squash. I incorporated the original garnish for the soup into the body of the recipe as well as adding some spice.

Ingredients 1 tblsp olive oil; 1 tblsp butter; 250g onions, chopped; 250g carrots, chopped; 250g parsnips, chopped; 250g pumpkin or squash, chopped; 1 clove of garlic; chopped; 1 tsp ground cumin; 1 tsp ground coriander; 1 tsp ground turmeric; 1 litre of vegetable stock; salt, pepper and a pinch of cayenne; a handful of fresh coriander; a handful of parsley; the juice of a lemon; a pinch of paprika.

Method In a large, hot saucepan, melt the butter and oil together, then tip in the onions. Mix them well, lower the heat and leave them to cook, covered, for about five minutes. Next, add the carrots and parsnips, stirring them well. Cover the pan and continue to cook for another five minutes. Now add the squash and garlic, cooking them for another five minutes. Add in the spices, stir for a minute, then finally add the vegetable stock. Cover and simmer until the vegetables are soft. Now, remove from the heat and add in the herbs, seasoning and lemon juice. Zap the mixture with a stick blender or purée it in a blender or processor. Correct the seasoning and add the paprika. If it seems too thick, add a little water.

The texture, colour and robust flavour of this soup are cheering during dark December days.

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