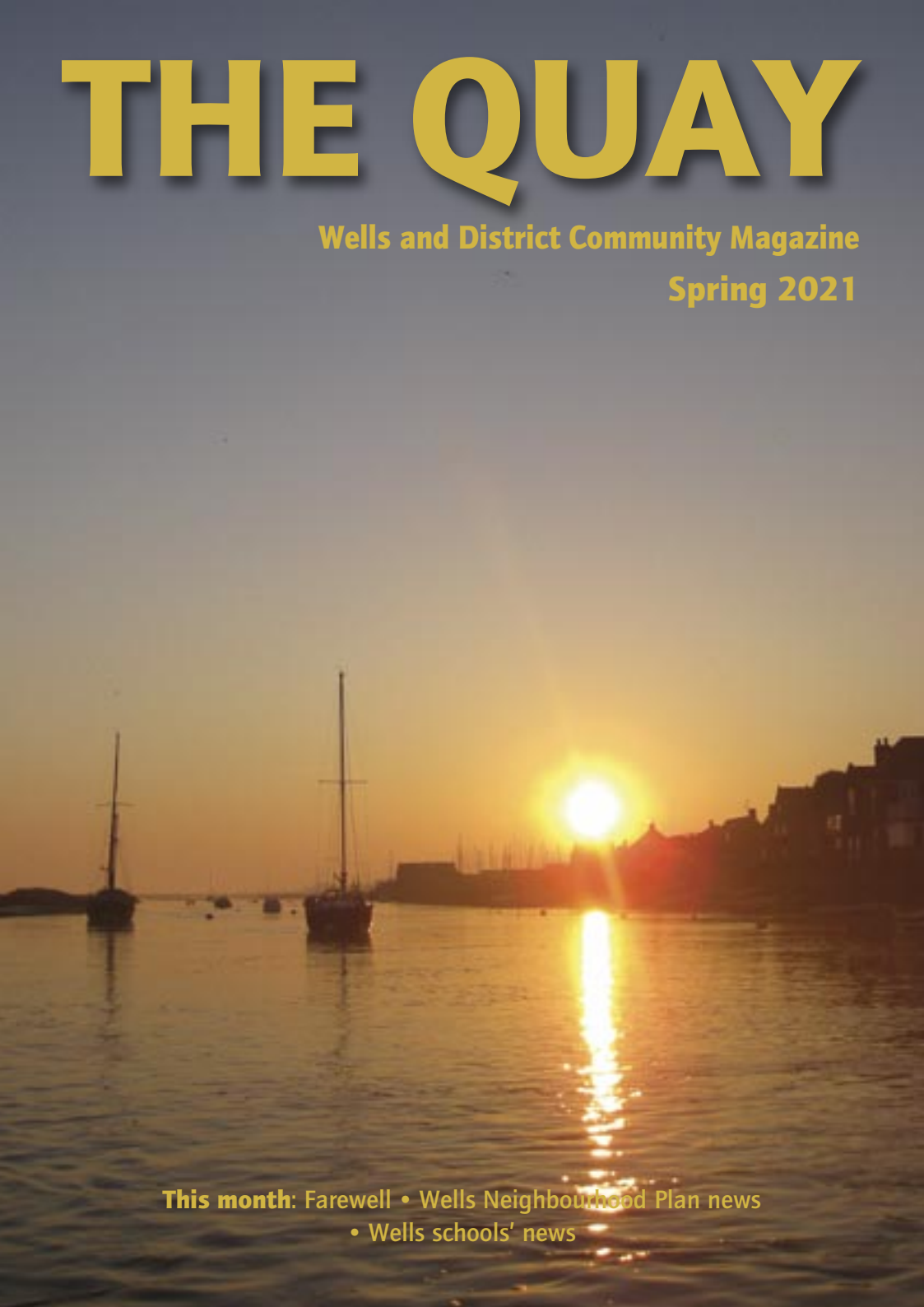
THE QUAY

Wells and District Community Magazine

Spring 2021



This month: Farewell • Wells Neighbourhood Plan news • Wells schools' news

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Welcome to The Quay

"And now the end is here,
And so I face that final curtain
Regrets, I've had a few
But then again too few to mention
Yes, there were times I'm sure you knew
When I bit off more than I could chew
But through it all, I did it my way". (VERY heavily edited, sorry!)

Too cheesy? Yes, to be honest. But one of the reasons classic songs become classics is that they say, better than one can manage, what's in your head at particular times of your life. Which is the case with *My Way* (with many apologies to Frank Sinatra).

It's time for me (and the rest of the current Quay Publishing board) to go. It's been a blast and I've had a great time and derived much satisfaction from all my time with *The Quay*. And I'm afraid, as much as I tried, that this issue of the magazine is rather self-congratulatory, for which I make some apologies but not many. I am inordinately proud of what we have all managed over the last fifteen years. The magazine compares very, very favourably with many other parish mags, it reflects Wells and its people and the things it holds dear. We can all be justifiably proud.

But all things come to an end, and I think I can step away knowing that *The Quay* will continue. It looks as though a new group has formed to take the magazine forward into the next stage of its life and I wish them all the very best of luck. The mag will change, but hopefully it will still serve its useful purpose of bringing the best of Wells to all who love the town.

Getting away from all the congratulatory stuff – some services from our post office are under threat again – Royal Mail wants to close our delivery office down and amalgamate it with Fakenham. This may affect the viability of our post office, it will have an impact on the postal services we enjoy and it will also have an environmental impact – four vans will make daily trips to and from Fakenham, instead of just one, as currently. Please sign the petition in the post office to register your disapproval.

Finally, although I have thanked lots of people, I haven't registered my thanks to my husband, Max, for providing most of the wonderful cover images for the last 10 years. He has a great eye and is a skilled photographer and his pictures have enhanced *The Quay* tremendously. To him, and to everyone else, I am truly grateful. See ya! **SP**

Please send copy for the next issue to editorial@quaypublishing.co.uk
Potential advertisers should email advertising@quaypublishing.co.uk

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Editor: Sara Phillips, 2d Maryland, Wells next the Sea, Norfolk NR23 1LY, 01328 711717. Email editorial@quaypublishing.co.uk
Advertising: Email advertising@quaypublishing.co.uk
Design and layout: Sara Phillips 01328 711717. Email editorial@quaypublishing.co.uk
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Cover picture © Max Phillips

I've had the time of my life... and I owe it all to you!

By Sara Phillips, editor

It is with much personal sorrow that I have to tell you that this will be the final edition of *The Quay* under my editorship. After 15 years and 181 issues, the involvement of the current board of Quay Publishing Ltd – Peter Rainsford, Carolyn Stocker and me – comes to an end.

A combination of many factors including, but not limited to, Covid-19 and the difficulty we have had with distribution this year, has led the Quay Publishing board to decide that now is a good time to stand down and to encourage new people to take over the reins.

But what a time we've had! *The Quay* was born out of the former parish newsletter back in 2006. The Business Forum (long-since disbanded) was asked to take over the task of putting a newsletter together and instead we came up with the idea of a small, monthly magazine to round up news and information from Wells and the surrounding district. Once the numbers were crunched (meaning once we'd got some advertisers on-board) we realised that to be truly representative we should deliver the magazine, free-of-charge, to every building in the NR23 postcode area, so that meant our spread was from Holkham in the west, to Egmere in the south and along to Stiffkey in the east, and including Warham and Wighton.

Our founding editor was Bernard Phillips, late husband of Carla, and, since I had design and editing experience, I put a layout together and was in charge of the day-to-day look and content of the magazine. I took Bernard's contributions as editor and made them fit on the page layout I had designed. From the first, we asked others to contribute to the editorial content and they did so and have continued to do so ever since.

Advertisers came on-board quickly so that we had money to operate, and the magazine was set up to be a community publication – any money we made, after operating costs were met, was put back into the community.

Over the years we've gone from a simple, black and white layout into the realms of colour, meaning that our advertisers could pay for glorious colour on their ads and that I could use pictures a bit more freely where space allowed. The page count went up too, as we got more popular, though it has dropped back recently because of the dread disease.

It has been a privilege and an honour to be in charge of *The Quay* for the years since Bernard died. I would be fibbing if I said I'd enjoyed every moment, because there have been some tough and not so good moments, but none of them lasted long and, overall, it's been fab!

But it could not have happened without all of you. You read the magazine, you let me know what you thought, many of you sent in copy, every month without fail and without prompting from me. What you submitted was interesting, funny, sad, hopeful, rude, entertaining – everything you'd expect from Wells, Wighton and Warham folk and it was a delight to deal with – even when I was cursing every, misplaced comma and Errant capital Letter!

Our advertisers have been wonderfully supportive. We've always had more advertisers than we have had space for, such that Carolyn has had to operate a waiting list for each issue. We hope that *The Quay* has helped your businesses grow and flourish.

My grateful thanks also go to my fellow Quay Publishing board members, who have been involved with getting the magazine out every month just as much as I have. So thanks especially to Peter Rainsford, Carolyn Stocker and Pete Lynn. Thanks too to Bernard and Carla Phillips (to put a long-standing rumour to rest: I am no relation to either of them!) who were solidly behind the magazine from the very beginning, and to Chris Coubrough of The Crown who was our first advertiser and who was on the Quay Publishing board at the beginning and acted as our treasurer.

Also, thank you to our printers, Cheverton Printers of Cromer, who have been with us from the start and who have produced the magazine to a high standard and without problems for 15 years.

To mention all the other people I'm grateful to would be too long a list and I know I would miss people out. Suffice it to say, again, just how grateful I am for all your help and support.

Is this the end of *The Quay*? Absolutely not – I am delighted to say that a group is coalescing to take over the publication of this lovely magazine and I wish them all the very best. I hope that you will support them too – keep writing articles and news about what you or your group is up to, keep sending it in to **editorial@quaypublishing.co.uk**

A heartfelt thank you and goodbye – I wish you all health and happiness.

The roles we played

Carolyn Stocker – advertising

It seems an age ago that a now long defunct Business Forum group discussed taking over production of the parish newsletter. Wishing to play my part, I stuck my hand up offering to recruit advertisers to pay for the project, a task I thought sounded quite do-able. Peter went off to do the costings and came back with a plan. The prices rather took my breath away but the others convinced me this was going to be no ordinary magazine. I have done quite a lot of things in my time but cold calling to sell advertising space was something I did not relish, particularly as I was going to be asking businesses to part with five or six times as much as previously with no guarantee of success.

How would I start? Having two shops on Staithe Street, I thought that would be the place but I needed to spread further afield than retail. BT had made the mistake of missing Wells next the Sea out of that year's phone book. It did the decent thing and produced our very own volume, a God send to me. I called the whole of the business section and at the end of it I managed to sign up nearly a hundred advertisers who were willing to give us a go. Whether they thought it might work for them or because they were being public spirited or just kind I am not sure, but we are all eternally grateful!

It has been incredibly satisfying helping produce the magazine that has proved so popular amongst its recipients and also with advertisers. Until Covid took its toll there were always people wanting to promote their businesses. 2020 dealt us a number of blows and although we could probably have overcome them it seemed that maybe circumstances were telling us it was time to change.

Now, as I say goodbye, I am aware there are businesses who have been with us from the beginning and endured even through the difficulties caused by the virus. Congratulations to them for enduring and huge thanks to all our advertisers past and present who made it all possible. We are confident there will be a new version of *The Quay* and we hope that you will all be happy to support it as you have supported us. Thank you all and see you around!

Peter Rainsford – finances

I have been part of *The Quay* team since the beginning and it has been an interesting and rewarding journey. For most of my working life I have been involved in management roles in small companies and have become a jack of all trades and, possibly, the master of none! I have considered it my responsibility to deal with the money side of things and the 'company stuff'. Having spent most of my life trying to make a profit, it has been a particular challenge to endeavour to cut our margins to the minimum to deliver good value advertising for the businesses that support us. I am proud of what we have achieved and am grateful to the new team for taking it on. I wish them luck and I hope that you, our readers and our advertisers, will give them the same support that you have given us.

And now *The Quay* goes forward...

By Carla Phillips

The Quay was an expanded version of a very modest parish magazine. Various townspeople felt that an expanded monthly magazine, reflecting more of our vibrant community, would be a good thing. Bernard Phillips became its first editor. He wanted it to be a forum for all of us: societies and teams, businesses and residents – from the port to the shops, from the pubs to the holiday industry.

Sara Phillips did the layout, Carolyn Stocker was responsible for the ads. From the start it wasn't difficult to fill all the pages. When Bernard became fatally ill, Sara took over and did a tremendous job, which she has continued, with ability and enthusiasm. We are all grateful.

Now we must plan for the future of our wonderful magazine. We are hoping to 're-boot' *The Quay*, and to continue to reflect our challenging and exciting town. We are committed to finding new (and hopefully younger) members of our community to carry on. The organisers behind the magazine may change and distribution will alter too. But this is an invitation – all help is welcome! Email **editorial@quaypublishing.co.uk** if you would like to be involved in any capacity – this is your chance to speak for the town we love so much.

Onwards and upwards in 2021

By Simon Daykin, director, Wells Maltings

In these difficult times for everyone, it's important to us at Wells Maltings to try and shine a little light into the darkness where we can. We can't welcome you into our venue just yet, but we are doing our very best during lockdown to keep you entertained. You can't come to us, so we'll bring things to you.

Our Lockdown Zoom programme is proving hugely popular – weekly activities, events and quizzes that you can enjoy, totally free, from the comfort of your armchair. We kicked these events off in the November lockdown, and so successful were they that we revved them back up again in the new year.

On Thursday 11 March, join us for our Funk Pop A Roll music trivia quiz, and see if you can topple reigning champions Martin and Jane Chomistek; on Thursday 25 March, it's the return of the Square Eyes Film and TV quiz, in association with Screen-next-the-Sea. If short stories are your thing, we have open mic readings to join or just sit back and listen to on Tuesday 16 March. All Zoom events start at 7pm, and again all details and joining instructions are on the website – **www.wellsmaltings.org.uk**

Look out also for our Lockdown Lowdown selection, my carefully curated box of delights from the wide world of entertainment, arts and local heritage, designed to be enjoyed at home. My Lowdown is posted on our website weekly, but join our mailing list to get the news first. Details on the website.

And take a look at the separate article in this edition from our partners at the Open University about our Sounding Out Wells project – a fascinating exercise to capture local stories and preserve them forever in the form of sonic postcards.

We are poised and ready to welcome you back physically rather than virtually for great entertainment and superb food and drink just as soon as we can. We'll be launching a whole range of activities and initiatives just for our local community when we reopen, including casual, affordable evening entertainment and your chance to bring your own activities, meetings and gatherings into our spaces totally free of charge. We believe in bringing people together again, and in safer times, that's just what we shall do. We'll be featuring more information on that on our website, around the town, via our email bulletins and in the pages of future editions of *The Quay*. We are right behind *The Quay*'s future, and committed to supporting its place as a vital part of the town's community life.

For now, stay safe and well, and keep your eyes on the horizon. Better days are within sight, but we hope you enjoy the Maltings lockdown goodies in the meantime.

Our website address again – **www.wellsmaltings.org.uk** – or drop us an email at **hello@wellsmaltings.org.uk**

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Your subscription to *The Quay*...

If you are a subscriber to *The Quay*, please don't think you have been forgotten in all the current upheaval. As you have read elsewhere, although my time with the magazine is coming to an end, **The Quay** itself will carry on. If you would like to continue to receive the magazine each month, please can you send an email to **sphillips@naturalsoap.co.uk**, letting me know your name (or the name of the recipient if you bought a subscription for someone else) and whether you wish to continue your subscription. If you want your subscription to continue, I will let the incoming team have your name and address and details of when your subscription started. If you would rather cancel your subscription, let me know your name, address and bank details and I will arrange a refund to be credited to your account.

Wells Neighbourhood Plan

By Roger Arguile and the Wells Neighbourhood Plan Working Party

The hoped-for end to lockdown is now in sight. Meanwhile we are forging ahead with the plan. In spite of everything we are looking for ways to get your views on the town and how you would like it to be. Look at the list: how you want to see the many aspects of the town develop: its housing (design, local character, affordability), the bits of the past we want to preserve, the environment, our green spaces, parking – such a pain; how to get in and out of the town, how to encourage businesses, broadband, communications, shopping, education, health. Local people need a voice and somehow a way of making ourselves heard and listened to. So tell us.

First though, communication is two way. As you know the present production team producing *The Quay* is standing down. This edition is the last. Hugely grateful as we are for their wonderful work, the Plan group wants to make sure that *The Quay* comes out again. It will not be until May but meanwhile we are encouraging the small group who are offering to take over *The Quay* as a vital, independent magazine for the whole town.

But what do you want to say? We are asking you to do something straightaway, today. When you go on your daily exercise (with or without a dog), take a pen and paper in your pocket and mark down things you like, things you don't like and things we need to work on. There is a map to pin your comments on. Take the family out for some exercise or meet up for a socially distanced walk with a friend and fill the map with your comments as you go. If you can't get out, walk round the village on google maps!

Go to our website – **www.placecheck.info/app/maps/wellsnextthesea** or, if you have a smartphone and the correct app installed, view this QR code with your phone and it will take you to the website to start making your comments.

We are also looking to speak to lots of local organisations over the next couple of months. If you would like us to talk to your group, please get in touch by emailing **wellsnextthesea-plan@gmail.com**

All aboard – Travel Matters

By David Hissey

When I started writing for *The Quay*, our local travel services in Wells were offered by several service providers including Sanders and First. Norfolk Green was a nascent company: with it came the hope that Wells would at last have a frequent, reliable bus service well integrated with other providers and other public transport forms. This turned out to be perhaps the most successful period in terms of user numbers, many travellers taking advantage of the concessionary travel card which was finally elevated to a national travel card, customer care and services in general. The Coasthopper service grew into the best known bus service in the country, featuring in national news programmes, but as we all know everything that goes up must come down and unfortunately this is exactly what has happened.

Norfolk Green was taken over by Stagecoach, services remained the same, new vehicles were introduced, notably on the Coasthopper route with brand-new buses complete with a Coasthopper livery. Staffing problems and constant breakdowns soon became the norm. Things went downhill, climaxing with the company withdrawing all services, giving the statutory minimum notice period, leaving a mixture of different operators to continue, inevitably resulting in a fragmented service with poor connections and fewer services.

With the announcement that *The Quay* team is stepping down, I too have decided, even if a new editorial team decides to continue with "Travel Matters", that it should continue with someone else writing this column. When things finally reach their new normal after all the Covid restrictions, doubtless including fewer paper timetables, more reliance on mobile communication technology and cashless travel, I look forward to travelling with you on one of our local services once again.

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Homes for Wells news

By David Fennell, chair

While the future of *The Quay* is being sorted out, please visit **www.homesforwells.com** for our news, particularly if you are a tenant, an applicant already on our waiting list, a potential applicant or one of our great many supporters.

If you are an applicant and hoping for the offer of a tenancy, we will contact you when there is a suitable vacancy and your application is near the top of the list.

If you are a supporter and would like to volunteer to help, we will be holding fundraising events as soon as Covid restrictions are lifted. Our 'Auction of Promises' should have gone ahead last March and again this March, but we will hold it as soon as we are allowed. We will publish the date on our website. If the Carnival and Christmas Tide go ahead, we will definitely participate and will be grateful for helpers on our stand.

If you would like to help us by attending our Annual General Meeting in September, you can contact us at any time and ask to become a shareholder. This entitles you to attend our AGM and to ask questions about our strategy and elect new trustees to our board.

If you would like to apply to become a trustee of Homes for Wells and attend board meetings, please contact us in good time before our AGM. Some voluntary organisations continue successfully for many years with the same tight-knit group, but eventually new trustees are needed. I believe it is good to attract new talents into our team, to help us to innovate and keep growing strongly.

If you support our aims and want to help us to influence the Wells Neighbourhood Plan in favour of more affordable homes, please attend the public meetings which will be held as soon as the lockdown is eased enough to permit them. Many people have told me of their concerns as their neighbours have had to move away, leaving 'next door' empty and dark for most of the year, but increasingly occupied by intolerably noisy and inconsiderate visitors in the summer. Yes, tourism has brought prosperity in the high season for Wells but, like the 'oil boom', its continued growth threatens to make other industries less viable. Please have your say as to how you hope to see Wells thrive all year round, with enough affordable housing and a wide variety of work, and not just at the minimum wage, all year round.

If you love Wells so much that you have a second home here, why not make it your only home? Wells has so many clubs and societies that all interests are catered for. They all need new members and helpers and are a vital part of what makes Wells a vibrant and thriving community, all year round.

Major new support for Homes for Wells

On 1 February, North Norfolk District Council's Cabinet voted unanimously to help Homes for Wells with a low interest loan. This will enable us to buy two more two-bed flats, in Northfield Waye, from Flagship. This is in addition to grants already awarded to us. The loans will be repaid from the rents we receive. NNDC is helping to support other community-led housing organisations and Homes for Wells is seen as a pioneer for taking up some of the different kinds of offers made available.

We cannot thank NNDC enough for all the encouragement and practical help it has given us, particularly over the past three years.

In January, we received news that Flagship will take on the development of the Warham project, with tenancies being offered to applicants on Homes for Wells' list. Homes for Wells is in discussion now with Flagship as to next steps.

Completion of the project will not be before late spring 2022. There is no possibility of new tenancies being awarded before then, so we ask anyone in Warham or Wells who would be interested to please be patient, but keep checking our website for updates.

We are delighted that Flagship has helped us to realise the vision of this project, which will help to keep Warham a thriving neighbouring community. Thank you also to Warham Parish Council whose unswerving support and encouragement has been invaluable throughout.

Holkham Charitable Foundation, as reported in

Continued on page 25

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

Clubs, groups and societies

RBL Poppy Appeal

Monies are still to come in from our appeal, so the total is still around the £6,000 plus mark. People can still donate and contribute to the Poppy Appeal Charity by sending their donations to me as this all helps our totals here in Wells. To date, we have raised in the region of £66,000 since I took over the Wells Poppy Appeal. My address is David Woolgar, Collwyn, Southgate Close, Wells NR23 1HG or you can telephone me on **01328 712052**.

WEA Wells Branch – still in business!

Although we've been unable to run any courses or day schools locally for over a year now, we are hoping to be able to resume face-to-face courses in Wells from the end of September 2021. In the meantime WEA has not been idle. As well as putting on weekly online lectures for members (we told you about them in our last article) WEA has been training lecturers to deliver online and now has an extensive programme of courses on offer. Currently, for obvious reasons, all these courses are 'online', but if you're familiar with *Zoom* (which many of us will have been using during lockdown) and/or *Canvas,* that won't be a problem, and if you're not, there are tutorials available on the WEA website that will help you get to grips with them.

To get started, go to **www.wea.org.uk/find-course**. Ignore all the boxes on the left of your screen and instead pick a subject that interests you from the 'Be inspired' list on the right. These include such topics as Arts and Crafts, the Performing Arts, Natural and Social Sciences and History and Culture and between them, last time we looked, there were 950 individual courses to choose from.

When you've found a course that sounds interesting, click on the 'View details' button for more information and also to find links to the *Zoom* and *Canvas* help pages. Then, if you decide that the course is for you, click on the 'Enrol online' button and follow the instructions. You can pay by card online or by telephone. Alternatively you can ring **0300 303 3464** and do the whole thing over the phone.

Although you may miss out on some of the social aspects of attending a 'face to face' WEA course, the online courses do have some advantages: no travelling, more comfortable chairs perhaps – and they're cheaper! A seven week 'long' course of the type we normally run each term will cost you £44.80 online rather than the £55 we would otherwise be charging. Tempted?

Wells Community Theatre Group

CrossFire, the community play in aid of St Nicholas church restoration, has been moved again to 2 – 5 September. Hopefully this later date will finally be successful! Rest assured the event will be widely publicised nearer the time. For those who purchased tickets for the original date in May 2020... those tickets will still be valid/exchangeable.

Wells Men's Shed

It was summer 2018 when posters were displayed around the town announcing open meetings to promote the idea of a Men's Shed for Wells. Men's Sheds are all about creating social centres to improve men's wellbeing. These meetings were organised and administered by Adult Services at Norfolk County Council and initially held in the library and then at the Wells Community Hospital.

The meetings were attended by a group of about 12, sometimes more, menfolk mostly from Wells. Although some attendees knew someone else at the meetings we were mostly 'strangers' to one another. Initial support for the concept was good and after a few meetings we decided to form a startup committee and give it a go.

We began with nothing – no venue, no assets, no plan, just a vision. So the committee set to work and a plan was hatched. Various proposals for a venue were considered including the old morgue and garage at the hospital. By the end of 2018 we had located both a site and possible Shed. The site was in the grounds of the Wells and Walsingham Light Railway, who generously agreed to have us as guests, and the Shed was a former construction site office portakabin owned by Anglo Scottish in Fakenham. The portakabin was now surplus to requirement and available at nominal costs including delivery to our site. So by January 2019 the portakabin was on site at the WWLR. Thanks to generous financial support from one of our members the portakabin and appropriate insurance was covered. We were under way.

Refurbishment was essential to customise the portakabin to our needs so we began to make our changes. The biggest issue we faced was not having

mains electricity. Five figure quotes from electricity suppliers meant it was out of our reach. At this point we made a conscious decision to use renewable energy. The idea of being the UK's first eco Men's Shed was born, and the concept of adopting 'green' principles to all aspects of our development began.

We have been most grateful to many organisations and local companies who have generously supported us on this journey. There are simply too many to mention here and we have expressed our appreciation through our updates in *The Quay* and announcements in our news on our website. The local community has also been extremely supportive, donating tools from shed clearances so we have been able to function, so we'd like to express our appreciation for their contributions.

The product of our endeavours has been to create 'rustic' items from recycling old pallets and timber. Some for community projects and some for personal use. Various commissions have been carried out as well as knowledge-sharing projects like supporting the GCSE students at the Alderman Peel High School.

Our development was set to take a real boost at the end of 2019 when the RG Carter Group kindly donated a sea container for us to convert into a metalwork shop. This coincided with the Central England Co-operative providing us with funds to acquire some cordless power tools. Then lockdown occurred, projects were cancelled or postponed and we basically retired to our satellite sheds at home. Unfortunately, the current Covid restrictions mean it will be sometime yet before we can safely reopen the Shed.

However, undeterred and unaffected by the restrictions, we have still been able to research our renewable energy requirements and solution. We have now identified a potential solar energy and storage solution and fund raising is underway. All this means that we can hopefully kickstart the reopening of the Shed when it is safe to do so. Let's hope that is not to far away, in the meantime we have are grateful to *The Quay* for giving us a platform to share our progress.

Don't forget that despite the Shed being shut we are still open to new members joining us. If this appeals to you then why not come and join us? As always, if you would like more information please visit us at **www.wellsnexttheseamensshed.weebly.com** or email us at **mensshedwells@gmail.com**

Wells Sailing Club

The members of the sailing club are all keeping our fingers crossed that we can get afloat for some racing at the start of our sailing season in April. I think all the regular sailors are almost certainly suffering from cabin fever by now.

The house committee is definitely looking forward to spending some time in our new kitchen in the Clubhouse. It was refurbished in winter 2019/20 ready for that season and sadly hasn't been used yet. I, for one, am keen to try it out and welcome members to a social evening, something we have all missed, I'm sure.

Wells United Charities

We are immensely proud to announce that during 2020, WUC gave out grants totalling £23,000.

23 local children were awarded education grants, to help them pay for school bus passes or to help with starting university.

Fuel allowance grants were given to 23 elderly local residents, who would have struggled to keep warm this winter.

Heritage House received two grants to help them deliver lunches to the elderly in the exceptionally difficult circumstances caused by Covid-19.

Covid-19 grants were issued for people struggling to pay their bills in these difficult times.

As we start 2021, we have made a grant to supply some laptops for students at the Alderman Peel High School, so that they can work successfully from home.

If you would like to help us, please consider becoming a member of Wells United Charities at a small minimum fee of £5 a year. Just download an application form from our website – **www.wellsunitedcharities.org.uk** – or pick one up from Jagger's Chemist in Staithe Street.

Wells WI

We are still in lock down, and will probably be so for some time. Life goes on, and it could be worse – oh, yes it could! Several of our members have had their first vaccination, which is a glimmer of light, and we all seem to be keeping well.

It seems very unlikely that meetings can be held for a long time yet, but we keep in touch with each other, and look to the future with hope.

Please send dates of your meetings and events (or cancellations) for 2021 to editorial@quaypublishing.co.uk

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- Putting out bins
- Financial help and assistance
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- Food parcels/essentials (toiletries/sanitary products)

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News from the Anglican churches

By Rev Brenda Stewart

After much discussion our PCCs agreed that we should suspend worship in church again but we continue to upload worship to *YouTube* on Sunday and Wednesday mornings and meet on *Zoom* on Sunday evenings.

Our last service in church was a joyful one at Epiphany when Bishop Jonathan came to Wells for a confirmation service. Mary Woolgar was confirmed and took her first communion supported by a small congregation in church and many more watching online. Bishop Jonathan has now retired and we wish him well.

We are still having funeral services in church if families wish and sadly there have been many since the new year. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have lost loved ones and whose funerals have taken place – Hazel Gill from Holkham, Joan Price, Evelyn Smith, Daphne Webber, Audrey Cox, Rita Bryant and Terry Frary from Wells, Irene Spooner from Wighton.

Notice of AGMs

This year the election of church wardens and PCC AGMs will all be conducted on *Zoom*. You can phone in to participate and a phone number will be provided. All of the meetings will be at 6pm:

- Monday 19 April – Holkham
- Wednesday 21 April – Wighton
- Thursday 22 April – Wells
- Friday 23 April – Warham

If you would like to attend, please email or phone me to give me your name and parish and I will provide you with your *Zoom* invite or telephone number.

My contact details are: email **bas@con-brio.com** or telephone **01328 710628.**

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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No news yet on Wells Carnival...

By Pat Weston, chair, Wells Carnival

Still no exciting news from the Wells Carnival Committee regarding the carnival for 2021. Until we get guidance from local or national government we are unable to commit. We hope to make a decision by the end of March. Fingers crossed we can do something but not if it affects the smooth running and health of the town, its people and its visitors.

The committee is so pleased at how the vaccination program is going and there looks like a light at the end of a very long, dark tunnel. Hope you all keep well and stay safe.

The committee is also sad to hear the news that *The Quay*, as we know it, is coming to an end. The magazine has been a massive supporter of the Wells Carnival over the years, giving us centre spreads in the August edition most years and monthly updates throughout the year. The Wells Carnival would not be so successful if *The Quay* had not been published, giving updates and times of forthcoming events.

The Quay has been invaluable to all the local groups in the town that regularly send in information and details to share, keeping alive the community spirit, for which Wells is so well known. *The Quay* also supports the local businesses in the town, giving them a superb platform to reach customers new and old. In short, the magazine has played a massive part in the town that has helped businesses and groups grow and make Wells the lovely town it is today.

The Carnival Committee wishes Sara, Carolyn and Peter the very best and thanks them for their time and support. So please join me and say thank you to the three that brought us *The Quay* about Wells next the Sea. Oh look, I could do a poetry page in the new issue!

Hopefully the new team will start soon and allow us to give information about the year ahead, especially the first week of August. *(Thanks Pat! Ed)*

Norfolk Coast AONB and Broads Dark Skies Festival

We are lucky to enjoy splendid night skies and dark landscapes on the Norfolk coast. These contribute to the rural character and a feeling of remoteness and tranquillity – some of the reasons why people like to come here. The lack of light pollution and resulting dark skies contribute to our health and well-being by allowing us to think about our place in the universe, enjoy astronomy activities and gain a sense of nostalgia, peace and romance. In addition, scientific studies show that we need the dark to help us sleep properly which in turn boosts our immune system and lowers stress levels.

Darkness not only brings us numerous benefits, but is necessary for wildlife to navigate during migration, hunt prey or avoid predators, pollinate night flowering plants, or simply to sleep as part of the 24 hour day/night cycle.

The Norfolk Coast Partnership is working with various organisations and businesses, including the Norfolk Broads National Park, to celebrate our night skies, and preserve them by reducing the impact of light pollution on our rural landscapes. We will be holding our third Dark Skies Festival this year between 25 September and 10 October and we hope you will take part. Put the dates in your diary and find out more on our Norfolk Coast Dark Skies Facebook page **@norfolkcoastaonb** or follow us via Twitter **@NorfolkAONB**

Is your community interested in preserving the night skies? We want to work with town and parish councils and local businesses in and close to the Norfolk Coast AONB. For further information contact Kate in the Norfolk Coast Partnership staff team on **kate.dougan@norfolk.gov.uk**

Night sky over Cley

ThinkingFuel – take the worry out of buying heating oil

By Steve Nunn, communications officer, CAN

If you rely on heating oil for your home, business or other premises you'll know that the price per litre can fluctuate

depending on when and how much you order. Heating oil is unregulated so, unlike mains gas and electricity, there are no rules, regulations or price controls.

Community Action Norfolk (CAN) runs a collective oil buying scheme called ThinkingFuel, which offers consistently low prices on heating oil by buying in bulk on behalf of all its members. CAN is a charity that helps develop community projects across Norfolk, and buying from ThinkingFuel helps CAN support that work at local level.

Comparing prices for oil is very difficult for the consumer because of fluctuations in price between days, quantities ordered, locations and delivery times. All ThinkingFuel members pay the same low price per litre no matter how much they order. So there's no favouritism dependent on whether you buy 500 litres or 5,000! And there's no obligation to buy – the choice is yours.

ThinkingFuel works by having two key dates each month when you can order your oil and maximise savings – but you can order oil on any working day of the month and still get a competitive price. The scheme is trusted, reliable, and well established with 3,000 members across Norfolk.

You can read more about how it works at **www.thinkingfuel.org.uk** and to read more about the work of CAN in supporting community projects visit **www.commmunityactionnorfolk.org.uk**. If you don't have internet access you could ask a friend or relative to go through the information with you – or call **01362 698216** and we'll answer your questions.

Scillitoe Brothers garage drives forward

By the Scillitoe Brothers

Since the first lockdown in 2020, here at Scillitoe Bros on the Dry Road (B1105 at Egmere) we have been expanding into the barn next door to be able to conduct our own MOTs of class 4 and 7 vehicles, with the addition of class 5 vehicles in the near future. This has been completed with a lot of hard work from friends and family including having to dig up the floor in the barn to lay new concrete to install a new ramp.

We have had all new, up to date equipment installed through Snap On to be able to deliver the most accurate tests to your cars, vans, motor caravans etc.

We would be very happy to see anyone who would like to come and have a look and see what we have been up to.

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Shop manager wanted

By Sara Phillips The Natural Soap Company

The Natural Soap Company is looking to recruit a permanent shop manager for the Soap Shop on Wells quay to replace our current manager who seems to think she has reached retirement age!

We need someone who is committed – this is not just a summer job – and who has some interest in what we do and in selling our products. You need to be customer-friendly and capable of working on your own. The job entails stock management and ordering, cleaning and tidying, gift wrapping, handling cash and card payments, answering customer enquiries and making sure that the shop looks inviting to passing potential customers. You can also let your imagination run wild – the shop window and how it's dressed is a big part of the shop's attraction so some fab ideas to make the window look great are welcome. Hours are Wednesday – Saturday, 11am to 4pm and we pay real living wage rates.

If this might be you, please email a CV and a short covering letter to **sphillips@naturalsoap.co.uk**

County council news

By Marie Strong, Norfolk County Councillor

For twelve years x twelve months *The Quay* has published a report from me. This has enabled me to share useful information with the residents in my division. For this I am very grateful. Here is my 142nd report!

May 2021 elections – or not Norwich North MP Chloe Smith, whose role as minister of state for the constitution and devolution includes elections, told the House of Commons a "high bar" would need to be crossed for the government to delay them. But whether or not there is a last minute delay to the elections, for the sake of your health and that of staff at the polling stations, a postal vote seems a good idea. Apply for a postal vote from NNDC – **www.north-norfolk.gov.uk** or telephone **01263 513811**.

Young people and mental health Norfolk County Council's 'This is how... #wevegotthis' campaign for young people's mental health promotes positive behaviours for young people to improve their mental health and wellbeing. You can find more details about the campaign at **www.norfolk.gov.uk/feelgood**

Advice and support for bereaved families I was undecided as to whether to offer the following information but then recalled the times I would have found it helpful so here goes. To book a death registration appointment call Norfolk County Council Registration Offices on **0344 800 8020**. Further information about this service can be found at **www.norfolk.gov.uk/ births-ceremonies-and-deaths/deaths**

Further information about support, including links to specialist organisations, can be found at **www.norfolk.gov.uk/births-ceremonies-and-deaths/deaths/bereavement-support**

Quay footways and pedestrian crossings Work has progressed well on this project and those who have managed to look at the work have commented 'it is looking good'.

Covid-19 Information Keep these websites for future reference since they are kept up-to-date.

- Information on the national tiers is available at **www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know**
- **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** – separate site if required but linked with the government site.

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

Wells fire service news

By Doug Kelly, Watch Manager

The station has coped very well with the challenge of Covid-19, although we have experienced a very quiet time during the main lockdowns. The pandemic has given us new challenges with some of the crew supporting the NHS with the fight to combat the virus. Our training has been affected by social distancing rules and we have seen a reduction in hours on a Wednesday due to this.

This year we should be upgrading our tower in the yard, so keep a look out for an exciting new feature to the station.

It is sad and disappointing that we have been unable to attend all the public functions last year that were sadly cancelled, which we usually really enjoy. But hopefully we will be back with all the main events over the next year or so.

Recruitment is still ongoing at the station and everyone is welcome to come and enquire about joining the service.

It only remains for me to say thank you to *The Quay* for helping and supporting us during its publication. We have gained several recruits because of your help.

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Giving birth to Screen-next-the-Sea!

By David and Joolz Saunders

For us *The Quay* has embodied the rare, precious spirit of the town and community of Wells. For many of us with ideas for activity and initiatives, it was the 'go to' place to float ideas and seek support.

So, many years ago, when we came back from holidaying on the island of Hoy in the Orkneys where we encountered community cinema for the first time, the obvious place to sound out the idea of a community cinema for Wells was *The Quay*. The WEA autumn course on Italian Cinema had already roped in Mary and Nigel Baker, Anne Krish, Kris Curtis and others, so David asked the then editor of the magazine, the late Bernard Phillips, husband of Carla the cook, if he would print a short piece inviting support to start a community cinema in the Granary Theatre. Bernard not only accepted the piece but told us that his and Carla's first date was going to see a film – in Paris.

David's piece, with a contact telephone number, was duly published in the December 2007 issue and the phone soon started ringing with eager film buffs – some of whom we didn't know – eager to jump on board. A first committee meeting was held at our home in January 2008 and the rest is history. Our first screening, *And When Did You Last See Your Father* took place to sold out houses on 9 June 2008. So *The Quay* was the mid-wife of Screen-next-the-Sea! And, as active members of Churches Together in Wells and District, we have also been grateful to *The Quay* for enabling us to emerge from our denominations and share our activities and visions with the whole community.

So a huge thank you to all who have made *The Quay* what it means to our town – we await its resurrection!

Screen-next-the-Sea news

By Linda Kerrigan

Thank you so much to all behind the production of *The Quay*, it has been invaluable in keeping everyone up to date with what is happening in our thriving community. It was an essential aid in the formation of SntS and advertising our film offerings throughout various moves from the old Granary Theatre, to Alderman Peel High School and now to the Maltings. We are hopeful that some people will feel able to take it on in the future.

We are once again in a period of difficulty and uncertainty and it will clearly be some time before we will be in the position to show movies again. However we do have some excellent films waiting in the wings to bring to you when circumstances allow.

Ammonite (15) is the story, written and directed by Francis Lee, of the real life unrecognised fossil hunter Mary Anning, played by Kate Winslet, who works alone on the rugged southern coastline of Britain in the 1800s, and her developing relationship with Charlotte Murchison, played by Saoirse Ronan. This is a fictional love story between two historical figures, which is both moving and thoughtful.

Nomadland (12A) features Frances McDormand as Fern, who embarks on a journey through the American West after losing everything in the recession. Directed by Chloe Zhao, this is a unique and compassionate consideration of what constitutes home and the very idea of human kindness against beautiful, breathtaking scenery. Both of these films are predicted to be nominated for this year's Oscars.

Rocks (12), directed by Sarah Gavron, is the story of a teenage girl in London played by Bukky Bakray. Olushola, nicknamed 'Rocks', is trying to keep herself and her brother together and out of social care after the sudden departure of their mother. Mark Kermode says "what a wonderful, heartbreaking, life-affirming gem of a movie this is".

In the meantime we can stay in touch with the Lockdown Lowdown, produced by Simon Daykin at Wells Maltings, which provides great information and ideas on what can be accessed. The Maltings is putting on events we can join in with on *Zoom* – **www.wellsmaltings.org.uk**

Here's hoping we can all meet up again soon, and thanks again, and happy retirement, to the crew of *The Quay*!

Wells primary and nursery school

By Rachel Stroulger, headteacher

I do hope that this finds you well and I would like to start with a massive 'thank you' to our community and parents for their superb support of the school through these challenging times for us all. Families have been working so hard to support those children learning at home, as well as support those children still coming into school. It shows the true community spirit and amazing teamwork that the Wells Primary and Nursery School is working within. Thanks also to some community members who have donated laptops and to businesses such as Co-Op that have donated food to children and their families. We are so grateful for all the help and support we have received.

Here's an update from all our classes with some snippets of learning that they have been doing, so you can see the immense work that has been going on through 'live lessons', recorded videos of lessons, activities sent home and work packs distributed – our families truly are great!

The nursery children have been busy at home and have been amazing us with their positive attitudes, fantastic ideas and smiley faces. They have been going on colour hunts, making cards, building rockets, making books, practicing their name and having teddy bears' picnics and of course enjoying plenty of stories. The children who are in nursery also enjoyed taking part in the Big Garden Birdwatch and enjoyed making bird feeders and bird baths.

Reception class have been busy making their own maths tins at home to support their maths learning. They have collected items from around the house that they can use for counting, shoe laces and pipe cleaners they can use for measuring and they have made their own counting bead strings too!

This half term, in Year 1 we have been learning all about toys from the past. We researched our favourite toys and found out the history of them.

In Year 2, our topic this half term has been Flight. We have found out about some of the first people to travel through the skies. In our English class, we are currently looking at the author Julia Donaldson and reading and listening to several of her stories. In art class, we watched a video all about how Axel Scheffler creates illustrations for her texts.

We are encouraging the children to get outside as much as possible whether it is for PE, woodland learning or more importantly, just for their wellbeing!

Year 3 have been studying portraits in different styles of artists as part of their online learning.

Well done Year 4 for their continued effort with home learning. We have been looking at a vast variety of different topics including history, art, science and computing. The class have produced some wonderful work on the ancient Mayans.

In Year 5, we have been learning about a wide variety of subjects. We started the year studying the rainforests and their importance in the ecosystem of the world. Children were shocked at the impact our society has on areas so far away and were keen to support buying from sustainable sources. We are currently exploring space and our solar system, alongside learning about the history of space travel. Next, we will be making a scale model of the solar system, which will just fit in the playing field!

Year 6 students have enjoyed learning about the Shang Dynasty in China and are now embarking on a journey to outer space. Alongside this, they are studying the book *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly which tells the true story of four inspirational black women – Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson and Christine Darden – and how they overcame gender and racial barriers to succeed in highly challenging STEM-based careers, helping NASA launch men into space.

We very much hope you've enjoyed our 'snapshot' of the school at the moment and the work that is being produced. We are very much keeping up that positive learning environment both in and out of school and I hope you can see this in the work that the children do.

Our next project in school is to fundraise to build a new 'learning and nurture' building on our grounds, so please get in contact if you have any ideas or point us in the direction of any grants or businesses to support us. We have a growing number of children on our roll and we would like to build or construct a specific building to develop life skills such as cooking, social skills, developing team work and generally looking after children's mental health and wellbeing which is of paramount importance to us all, especially at this time. Thank you all for your continued support of the school and do stay safe.

Wells town council – February meeting

From minutes written by Greg Hewitt, clerk

In the public forum, Cllr Mel Catton spoke on behalf of Wells harbour commissioners, who intend to open a lobster hatchery in the fisherman's hut on the quay, which would provide young lobsters to be released into appropriate areas to help sustain the fishery. It would also include a visitor centre and educational offering. The commissioners also wished to express concerns about the empty flats on Northfield Waye, after unsuccessfully trying to negotiate with the housing association with a view to buying two of the flats for use by harbour employees. Councillor Mike Gates said that the flats were being purchased by Homes for Wells and that on the day of the meeting (1 February 2021) NNDC had agreed to loan the funds to Home for Wells to purchase four more, bringing the total to six.

The clerk explained that there was always some extra soil that needed disposing of when a grave was dug at the Market Lane cemetery. Recently the soil had been removed by skip but the placing and utilisation of a skip was not working satisfactorily. The clerk asked the councillors to consider using the soil to reclaim a section of roadway which is not currently in use. Once reclaimed it would provide additional grave space. The clerk asked that councillors consider the proposal for a decision to be made at the next meeting – this was agreed.

North Norfolk District Council proposes to erect a bin compound alongside the Beach Road toilets to store wheelie bins, which will contain waste from the quayside litter bins for collection. The councillors resolved to ask NNDC to reconsider the entire location and look at Stearman's Yard as an alternative site for such a facility.

Due to the pandemic the traffic management meetings have been postponed but when they recommence all the issues raised by the public will be dealt with. The quay pavement work is progressing well, although there may be some delay due to the electricity cabling work falling behind. Holkham Estate has given agreement for two High School coaches to park on the Freeman Street car park during school term time. Reports have been received about pot holes on the Beach Road.

Gratitude was expressed by Cllr Roger Arguile for the excellent way the Wells Health Centre organised and delivered the recent Coronavirus vaccines; the other councillors wholeheartedly agreed.

Next meeting Monday 12 April, 7pm. To contact Wells town council go to wellstc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk or phone 01328 710564 or email clerk@wellstowncouncil.org.uk

A postcard to Wells

By Chris Bonfiglioli

Wells Maltings is launching *Sounding Wells*, a collaborative arts-based project that will listen to local voices and sounds and make 'sonic postcards' from Wells. The project will explore the past through the local history archives, listen to local people and explore local soundscapes to find stories which will help us all to understand how Wells has changed, is changing and will change in the future.

Can you talk about the secret smugglers' passageways up from the quay? What stories have you got about the 1953 tidal surge? Have you got something to say to your fellow residents which could shed light on the changes we all face? The project invites local people to explore and reflect upon the huge environmental, social and economic changes at play along the north Norfolk coast. What can local voices tell the world about the changes to life on the coast? What are the issues that affect our own lives? What is changing and how, and what can that tell us about Wells' future?

A sonic postcard is a collection of sounds which can include interviews, music and sounds captured from the surrounding area. These postcards will be on permanent exhibition in the Wells Maltings Heritage Centre, and they can be sent out to the world as postcards from Wells.

This project is a collaboration between Wells Maltings, The Open University and of course the people of Wells. If you would like to be involved, collect sounds for the postcards, or want to know more, look out for Wells Maltings listings of project activities in the coming months, follow us on Twitter, Instagram or Facebook **@soundingwells**, or email Kim (project manager) at **kim.hammond@open.ac.uk** or call her on **07425 609116**.

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Alderman Peel High School news

By Alastair Ogle, Principal

I would like to start by congratulating and thanking all the parents and carers who have been balancing work, home life and supporting their own children with home learning. From an educational perspective they are the unsung heroes of the school's partial closure and are doing a brilliant job. Thank you to you all for your support.

As we approach the half way point of the 2020-2021 academic year we are continuing to support students and families as much as we can, including:

- Providing over one hundred families with laptops to ensure they can complete work.
- Giving dongles and data cards to families to improve connectivity to online platforms.
- Ensuring all of our families who claim Free School Meals have received their Free School Meal vouchers.
- Providing paper copies of work to those students who need it to reduce screen time.
- Continuing to provide pastoral newsletters to families and students to ensure they know where and how to access additional specific support.
- Fortnightly live sessions for every class in every subject to support learning and allow students to ask questions.
- Weekly assemblies for all students.
- Daily online clubs to support students interacting with each other.
- Feedback on work students have submitted.
- Support with applications to colleges and sixth forms for year 11 students.
- Conducting daily calls to families and students who need support.
- Conducting weekly welfare checks on students and families.
- Daily online calls with students.
- Liaising with charities, agencies and social workers to ensure families receive the support they need.
- Remaining open for the children of key workers and other children who need to be at school.

As you may be aware schools have been asked to conduct Covid testing using Lateral Flow Tests and ten staff have completed all training to supervise these. We have been conducting Covid tests on staff twice a week (100% negative results) and intend to meet the government's request to test all children twice (within 3 to 5 days) on their return so that we can identify students who are asymptomatic to avoid further infection. We have had a large number of parents who have volunteered to complete the training and support us in testing students when they return and we are very grateful for their support. We will be in touch!

We would also like to thank all those members of the community who have donated laptops and other devices to us. We have returned them all to factory settings, updated software and reconfigured them so students can use these. When I say "we", I am referring to our wonderful IT team at school.

I would also like to thank our governors who throughout the year have volunteered a significant and considerable amount of time to supporting (and challenging) us, ensuring we provide the best support we can for all our students and their families.

We are all hoping that we can get all of our school community back together again soon. On behalf of all the staff, students and governors, thank you so much for your support. It is wonderful to be part of such a caring community.

Continued from page 9

the last issue of *The Quay*, has given its largest award yet, to Homes for Wells, to fund the refurbishments of four new homes in Northfield Waye. This is a significant new source of help and is targeted on a specific project, the benefits of which will be clearly identifiable.

This award has been followed by an invitation to benefit from the Holkham Estate's initiative in sustainability, which is launched under the name of "Wonder". Of particular interest are its biodiversity and low carbon initiatives and the fact that the estate is looking for collaborative partners. What will clearly help is any new project that reduces carbon use in our properties, while keeping tenants' homes warm and comfortable. Besides that, our Northfield Waye homes have proper gardens and we're keen to encourage our tenants to enjoy their gardens and play their part in increasing biodiversity.

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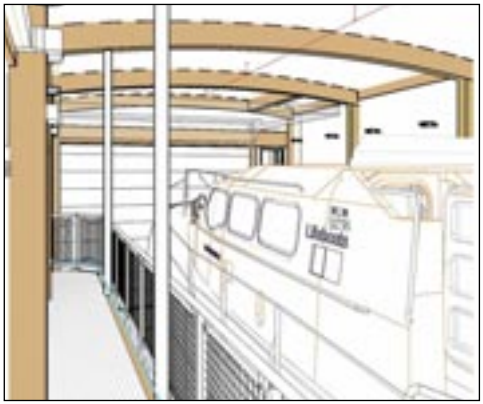
News from Wells RNLI

Shouts in January 2021
Wells lifeboats had no shouts in January.

Lifesaving work
It was about a year ago when we first stood on our doorsteps, showing our appreciation by clapping loudly for our nation's carers. Throughout the pandemic, our emergency services have worked tirelessly to keep our communities safe. Our lifeboat volunteers have been launching alongside them, (whilst observing strict PPE and Covid safety procedures) to rescue those who have found themselves in trouble from the forces of the sea, at any time of day and night and in all weather conditions. As the pandemic continues, it is reassuring to know that our lifeboat volunteers will continue to support and assist in keeping our community safe.

Boathouse build
Work is progressing well on the building to house the brand-new Shannon class lifeboat, and it is expected to be completed in 2022. We are approaching an exciting time as the lifeboat house will soon start to rise up from the ground. We are currently in the process of planning the internal layout and décor. The image below shows what the viewing gallery will look like. Interested members of the public, accompanied by a station volunteer, will be able to get up close to the lifeboats and launching vehicles when the new lifeboat station is complete.



Volunteers
In time there will be an opportunity to welcome visitors to the station and to view the lifeboat house, to give an insight and share the lifesaving work that we do. For this reason, we will be recruiting volunteers later this year to start training for roles in the new boathouse. This will include help with guided tours and volunteering in the new gift shop. We would be delighted if this is of interest to you! In the meantime, please consider if you can find the time to join us and be part of our team. Please keep an eye on The Quay, our website, and our Facebook page for more information.

Safety message
Springtime is on its way and it will soon be time to prepare boats and other watercraft for the season. We encourage you to take extra care not to cut corners and to allow sufficient time to purchase and take delivery of any materials and parts that you might need. Anything you can do to reduce the risk of calling on our services will help us all to stay safe during this Covid pandemic. However, if you do find yourself in trouble on or in the water, please do not hesitate to call for help. For any coastal emergency dial **999** or **112** and ask for the Coastguard.

Lifeboat Service and Open Day
Covid caused us to have to cancel planned public events during 2020; however, we are hopeful that we will be able to resume events by this summer. We will let you know as soon as we have finalised dates.

General information
For more information about RNLI Wells Lifeboat Station, events, or being a member of our team, please contact **01328 710230** or visit our website: **www.wellslifeboat.org** or **facebook.com/wellsrnli**

As always, any donations are gratefully received. If you would like to make a donation, please visit our 'JustGiving' page: **justgiving.com/fundraising/rnli-wells**

Visit our website at www.wellslifeboat.org

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Mailbag

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This isn't something that we ever envisaged writing, because we never thought we would use the phrase "thank you for all your condolences and well wishes", but we have been truly overwhelmed.

Joan Price died on 2 January and the cards, notes, phone calls, flowers and messages that we have received since have been beautiful. We knew that Joan was a special lady and it's been a comfort to know that so many other people thought so too.

A lockdown funeral didn't allow for the send off we might have planned, but the people of Wells helped us do Joan proud. Thank you to the harbour staff who arranged for Joan to have a last drive along the quay, despite the road closure, and thank you to everyone who stood along the route to the church. There are many individuals to thank, but we don't feel able to list them here, for fear of inadvertently missing someone out. Thank you people of Wells for your support and kindness.

Here is a goodbye from Joan in her own words:

Joan's Goodbye

I've breathed my last breath
my last smile has faded from my face
and my final tears are shed.

The smell of baking bread and cakes
will never again fill my nostrils nor
the smell of flowers gathered from the garden.

I have sat and watched the tide come in
for the last time, though the ebb and flow will
Go on forever.

My last sun has set over Holkham park,
burning orange, gold and purple.
I've eaten my last fish and chips
and licked my last ice cream.

Never again will I feel a soothing hand on my brow
or the warmth of a hand in mine.
I've heard my last song
And danced my final waltz.
It's time for goodbyes.
Goodbye world. Goodbye.

Evette Price and Alan Walker, Wells

Wells flood warden team news

By Mike and Marie Strong, joint coordinators

Over this winter period the strong winds over the country have not been from an unfavourable direction for us. Additionally, despite high spring tides over December and January, the tides have not been particularly high nor backed up by other adverse weather conditions. However we are only just moving out of the time of the year when we have to be most alert and remember that weather conditions that cause sea surges and flooding can occur at any time of the year.

When you finally put away any portable flood defences, please remember to give all grooves a good clean, remove any grit and check on the condition of any neoprene seals.

Just before Christmas the Environment Agency carried out further training on the working of the sliding flood gate.

The testing went very well and it enabled more EA operatives to be trained, and in more depth than had been anticipated. In spite of this the EA team leader is working on a plan to develop systems which will enable him to recreate the winching operation in the EA yard at Egmere. If successful this will mean the operators' skill levels can be kept up without having to disrupt traffic along Wells quay in the busy periods of the year.

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Taboo?

By Miranda Marshall, Hayes + Storr

It is often said that the Victorians were obsessed with death, but would not talk about sex, and that, in contrast, the western world of the 21st century is obsessed with sex but will not talk about death. The pandemic is changing that, somewhat.

The euphemisms of death are often hilarious. When I first started out as a private client lawyer, people would talk about 'losing your mother' which made me think of the 'departed' (there we go again!) rather like a toddler who had wandered off. In his book of the same name, Evelyn Waugh in the 1940s made fun of the term 'The Loved One', which has now entered mainstream language, even to the extent of being uttered without a hint of irony by Boris Johnson. In our modern fluid and blended society, the term is useful, rather like actors who call everyone 'darling' because they can't remember names.

In 2011 the first 'Death Café' was held in the UK to provide an opportunity for people to 'gather to eat cake, drink tea and talk about death' in a positive way and now there are 10,000 such 'cafés' around the world, including online. A bit of a niche for most, probably.

Making the right plans now to manage 'the inevitable' gives peace of mind and setting out your wishes makes it easier for those 'left behind' 'when the time comes'.

Unsurprisingly, in 2020-1 there has been a big increase in Will-making. Ancient Romans considered the success of their life to be measured by the respect and love with which they were remembered posthumously and put much effort into preparation. It was an anathema for them to die without a Will, for that very reason.

Why therefore do some people take the line that 'They can fight over it all when I'm gone, because I won't be here to see it!'?

Making a Will is the best way to think about the legacy (in the widest sense) that you will leave and how your worldly wealth will be settled – well or badly, it's your choice.

Please choose the right executors: they should be people you trust and whom you can rely upon to do the job, and to do it well. They should get on, but need not be close. Best ask them too, so it doesn't come as a surprise from which they recoil, leaving no one to do the job.

Your funeral, sadly currently a shadow of pre-Covid, too needs careful thought. The Victorians would have been mortified at the utilitarian process of the last year; certainly, no paid mourners, as in *Oliver Twist*.

Think about whether you want cremation or burial. The former requires two doctors to certify your death as there are no remains to be dug up later (maybe I have watched too much *Silent Witness* and other police dramas?). Organ donation rules have changed and there is now an opt-out (rather than an opt-in) system. Transplant surgeons want healthy young organs, so those of octogenarians are generally surplus to requirement.

Prepaid funeral plans mean that no one can skimp on your funeral and pocket the funds after your death. There are usually extras and someone makes money out of selling them but they have their appeal. Make sure you go to a reputable independent undertaker to get yours!

Digital assets can easily be overlooked. Keeping paper records is considered safer, generally, than electronic data; so hand a sheet with the information, including passwords, to your solicitor to be stored with your Will. Regular updating is important.

If it could be a problem, rather than ignore the risk of a claim against your estate, grasp the nettle and discuss it with your solicitor. Careful noting of your thinking and background are all useful defensive ammunition, should a dispute arise. Making a Will with a good and specialist solicitor is eternally fundamental, but especially where there is an inheritance dispute waiting in the wings.

And remember, in the meantime, enjoy your time on earth!

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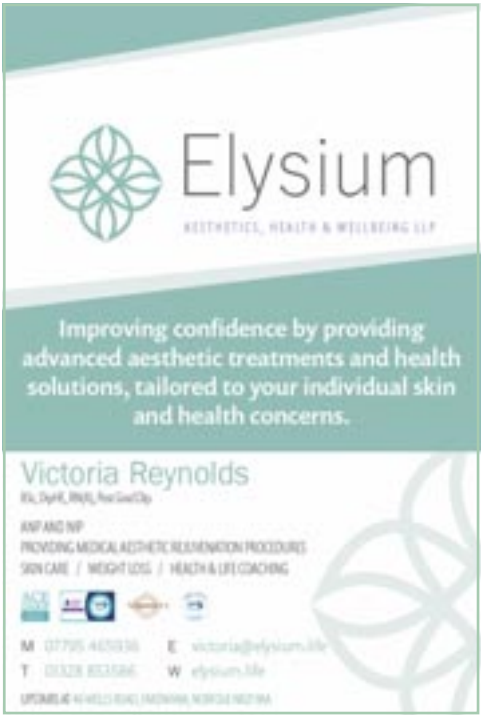
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I have, with regret, decided to cease trading. I would like to thank all my past clients for their support. If you need to find a new qualified podiatrist please go online to the College of Podiatry website – **www.cop.org.uk** – input your postcode and the distance you are willing to travel; it should come up with a list of local podiatrists.

Gill Simmons

Wells Community Hospital update

With spring around the corner and the days lengthening we have been outside in the hospital's garden getting it ready for the year ahead. We are developing the space to provide nature-based activities for the community. The garden space is a great place to 'take a breath' from your daily lives and we would love for it to be available to all. Simple connections with nature – taking a moment to look at the flowers between the pavements and the clouds in the sky – have bountiful benefits for our wellbeing. Nature connection can improve mental and physical health. It can also have a positive impact on children's educational potential and it can instil pro-environmental behaviour for the future.

Wells Community Hub

We would like to thank the renewable energy company RES (on behalf of the Egmere Solar Farm) for its contribution as part of its Covid-19 recovery fund. This will enable us to continue to support the community with the involvement of our volunteers during the current restrictions and beyond. If you need any assistance, then please call **01328 711996**, or see our information leaflet on page 15.

We also are running a weekly virtual coffee morning on Thursdays at 11am. This is a chance to meet up with others, have a chat over a cuppa and find out what's happening in the local community. If you would like to attend, then please email **admin@wellshospital.co.uk**

Food Bank

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the food bank and allowed us to support people in food poverty. We continue to offer this service, with our regular weekly delivery day on a Friday. We are asking for donations of the following items, which can be left at the hospital or at the Co-op on Polka Road in Wells – long life milk (full fat or semi-skimmed), fruit juice, microwave rice, instant snacks (Mugshot, Pot Noodle, Cuppa Soup), toilet rolls, deodorants, disposable razors, shampoo and conditioner, household cleaning products.

Virtual events

With current restrictions in place, we are busy planning events for the summer, looking forward to a time when we can return to face to face meetings. As part of this we are asking the community what they want! This is your chance to have input into the type of groups we run at the hospital, whether they be crafting, support groups, or virtual social events. All suggestions are welcome, so please get in contact via email – **admin@wellshospital.co.uk**

Clinics and services

Our essential clinics are still running from the hospital with all Covid measures in place to keep you safe. Looking forward we are developing the range of services available to the community. Keep an eye on your social media and our website – **www.wellshospital.co.uk** – for the latest updates.

Wells Christmas Tide Festival

It seems some considerable time now since we had to make the decision to cancel our 2020 events, in particular our Wells Christmas Tide Festival, which was disappointing for us all.

We would however like to thank all those businesses who again decorated and lit up their premises and created a wonderful festive atmosphere within the town, lifting some of the gloom.

Of course we must not forget the outstanding, and most talked about Quayside Crab Pot Tree, an idea put forward by the Wells harbour staff and supported by Wells Christmas Tide Festival. Yes, by public demand it will hopefully return this year.

Also whilst there is still uncertainty around the current situation, we have decided to plan our 2021 events in the hope that things will improve sufficiently to proceed with them in a safe manner for all concerned.

Our first event for 2021 is our Spring Fair, taking place on the Buttlands on Monday 31 May.

This will be followed by our Summer Fair, also taking place on the Buttlands on Monday 30 August.

Both these events are run to raise funds to go towards our main event for this year, the popular Wells Christmas Tide Festival which is on Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 December.

Full details of these events will become available on our website – **www.wellschristmastidefestival.co.uk** – or email **mel@wellschristmastidefestival.co.uk.**

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NON-EMERGENCY SERVICES	
Flood Co-ordinators	01328 710743
Police (non-emergency)	101
Wells Coastwatch	01328 710587
Wells Fire station (Fakenham)	01328 856054
Wells Lifeboat station	01328 710230
Environment Agency – Floodline	0345 988 1188
BANKS & BUILDING SOCIETIES	
Barclays Bank, Fakenham	0345 7345345
HSBC, Fakenham	0845 7404404
Lloyds TSB, Fakenham	0845 0723333
NatWest, Fakenham	0345 7888444
BUS/RAIL INFORMATION	
Burnham Market Community Car Scheme	01485 210342
Dial a Bus	01553 770310/776971
Lynx Bus Company	01553 611955
National Rail Enquiries	08457 484950
Sanders Coaches	01263 712800
CHURCHES	
Wells Group of Parishes	01328 710628
Methodist Church	01328 862174
Evangelical Congregational Church	01263 862970
Roman Catholic Church	01328 713044
Quakers	01328 711387
Russian Orthodox	01328 820108
COUNCILS	
Wells Town Council	01328 710564
Norfolk County Council	0344 800 820
North Norfolk District Council	01263 513811
HOSPITALS/HEALTH CENTRES/DENTIST	
Burnham Market Surgery	01328 737000
NHS Direct	0845 4647
N&N Hospital, Norwich	01603 286286
QEII Hospital, King's Lynn	01553 613613
Red Cross	01328 711829
Wells Health Centre	01328 710741
Wells Community Hospital	01328 711996
Wells Hospital Physiotherapy	01328 711187
LIBRARIES	
Fakenham Library	01328 862715
Wells Library	01328 710467
SCHOOLS	
Alderman Peel High School	01328 710476
Fakenham Junior School	01328 862188
Fakenham Infants School	01328 864511
Fakenham High School & College	01328 862545
Walsingham Primary School	01328 820265
Wells Primary & Nursery School	01328 710320
OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS	
Adult Education	01328 851213
Chemist – David Jagger	01328 710239
Citizens Advice Bureau	01328 856024
Funeral Directors	01328 710301
Norfolk Carers (freephone)	0500 179546
Norfolk Debt Line	01603 763980
Duncan Baker MP constituency office	01692 557140
Registration of Births & Deaths	0344 800 8020
Registration of marriages, civil partnerships	01328 863268
Relate (Marriage Guidance)	01603 625333
Veterinary Surgery	01328 711022
Wells Maltings Booking Office	01328 839000
Wells Post Office	01328 710332
Wells Tourist Information Centre	01328 710885
CONTACT NUMBERS – Local Organisations	
Art Group	01328 710923
Churches Together	01328 710584
Disabled Gardening Group	01328 786630
Fakenham Choral Society	01328 851848
First Wells Sea Scouts	01328 710577
Friends of the Granary	01328 710193
Heritage House Day Care	01328 711333
Homes for Wells	01328 711703
Hope and Smile	01328 711378
Keep Fit Group	01328 730508
Lifeboat Guild	01328 711823
Local Archaeology	01328 711449
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
Wells Carers Support Group	01328 710501
Wells Carnival	01328 713002
Wells Craft Group	01328 710019
Wells Croquet Club	01328 710558/710963
Wells Discussion Group	01328 710951
Wells Football Club	01328 710907
Wells Friendship Club	07766151715
Wells Harbour Office	01328 711646
Wells Maltings Trust	01328 711378
Wells Nelson Club	01328 711478
Wells Pensioners Association	01328 711425
Wells Photographic Group	01328 856456
Wells Sailing Club	01328 712000
Wells Town Bowls Club	01328 316411
Wells Town Tennis Club	01328 710578
Wells Travellers	01328 316021
Wells Twinning Committee	01328 738513
Wells United Charities	07764 406852
Women's Institute	01328 712078
Workers Educational Association	07856 792186

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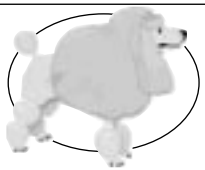

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New Year, new hope, new opportunities 2

By Peter Barton, Continuum

Imagine a time before Covid-19, face masks and lockdowns, when you could meet friends and family without wondering if it's permitted. That's right, I'm referring to spring last year – that's how quickly life can change. My article last January, entitled 'New Year, New Hope, New Opportunities', focussed on the outcome of the general election, Brexit, the economy and the importance of diversification with your investments.

Then the pandemic struck. Global stock markets crashed and the world became very gloomy. Since then, markets have recovered strongly, with the exception of the UK stock market which still lags behind at the time of writing. But the vaccine roll-out in 2021 means this article gets a second go at the title (hence the figure 2!).

When markets crashed, the importance of diversification within investments and pensions became very apparent. At one point the FTSE All Share Index was down 34% from its highest point in 2020 whereas gilts, which are UK government bonds, went up. This 'flight to safety', where investors switch from riskier assets to supposedly safer assets such as government bonds and gold, is often seen when markets fall rapidly. But it is important to be in the market when things bounce back as even missing a few of the best days can significantly undermine performance. Trying to time the market can be an expensive mistake, especially if you've sold out at the bottom and are still disinvested when stock markets rally.

Investing regularly, where contributions are spread over several months or years, also helps to reduce risk. More shares are bought when prices have fallen and fewer when they've increased, meaning the investor receives an average purchase price. Alternatively, more experienced investors may decide that market falls are the right time to buy – after all, 'buy low, sell high' is another common investment mantra.

You can also reduce risk by investing in a variety of holdings that perform differently during varying market conditions. So, when one asset class goes up, another goes down and vice versa.

Diversification can also be improved by investing across geographical areas, sectors and even alternative investments – after all, an umbrella shop and an ice cream parlour thrive in different weather conditions but what if you owned both of them?

Finally, tax year end will soon be here again so use your tax allowances if you can, including ISAs and pensions. The ISA limit is still £20,000, with all income and capital gains being tax-free. Pensions are a very tax-efficient way of saving for retirement, especially for higher rate taxpayers, provided you don't exceed your maximum contribution allowance.

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.
Peter Barton is an Independent Financial Adviser at Continuum. Tel: 01603 879875 or 07787 561087. Email: peter@mycontinuum.co.uk • www.mycontinuum.co.uk Continuum is a trading name of Continuum (Financial Services) LLP Falcon House, Eagle Road, Langage, Plymouth, PL7 5JY which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Continuum (Financial) Services LLP is a Limited Liability Partnership. Company registration number OC393363. Registered in England & Wales

Cooking with Carla Phillips

Classic Impossible

My daughter mentioned making the chocolate version of 'Impossible Pie', and I was intrigued by the name. Consulting the internet, I realised that this was the name of a sort of pudding baked in a glass baking dish – and also found this recipe, the true 'Classic Impossible', which I tried out.

Here is my modified recipe – this will serve 2 or 3 portions. It's a sort of custard pie, and is ridiculously economical and easy to make. It's best made in a flattish glass container, like a pie dish or one of those old Pyrex baking dishes which seem to be in many un-decluttered kitchens.

Ingredients 1 glass baking dish, well buttered with about 10g of butter; 2 eggs; 90g sugar; 35g dessicated coconut; 35g flour; 240ml whole milk; 1 tsp vanilla extract; a little grated nutmeg.

Method In a jug or bowl, combine the eggs, milk, sugar, coconut, flour and vanilla. Blitz with a stick blender then pour into the buttered dish. Sprinkle the nutmeg over it. Bake in a moderate oven for 35-40 minutes, until just set and beginning to pull away from the edge. Serve with a little cream.

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