
THE BIRCHAMS NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2023

BIRCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Council had its most recent meeting on 26th July, and our next is on Wednesday 6th September, as usual at 7.30pm in the Social Club.

As you will know, Council has agreed the installation of four pieces of outdoor gym equipment on the Playing Field. We have been grateful for the support expressed by Members of the Public along with the Surgery and our Borough and County Cllrs; we hope that this will help our recent application for Borough funding which will pay for just over half of the cost. This will be decided shortly.

We received reports from Bircham in Bloom and the Speedwatch/SAM2 speed sign teams. We thank all those who volunteer in these two areas. With regard to the latter, Council has sent a letter to the Police and Crime Commissioner, noting the efforts of the volunteers, and effectively asking "what happens now?". The efforts of residents going out in all weathers to gather data is something that we feel should be recognised with more practical support. We will, as ever, keep you informed.

Council agreed to sign the Armed Forces Pledge, reinforcing our strong commitment to support those in uniform, especially when they return to "civvy street" - we are all aware that this transition can be difficult with work, housing and so on. Cllr Morley has agreed to be our "Armed Forces Champion".

We have also signed up to the pilot programme to use a "gov.uk" domain for Council emails and website. This will involve a new site which will be more user-friendly and keep us legally compliant, both for audit purposes and making it accessible to those with visual and other disabilities. Please bear with us on this, as it will take some time to complete, but we should have our new Noticeboards up soon, and the WWI Memorial case in the Church, so things are moving!

Council also noted the recent crash at the Fakenham Rd crossroads. We have been in touch with Docking and Stanhoe Councils to support them, and they have been working with Highways on some immediate improvements.

We hope you manage to get out and about and enjoy our glorious local environment during what remains of our alleged summer, and that the weather improves soon!

Please note that the Clerk does not have a dedicated phone number at present, so if you cannot email (birchamparishcouncil@gmail.com) please post to: 7, Glebe Avenue, Hunstanton, PE36 6BS. www.birchamparishcouncil.wixsite.com/birchamparishcouncil

Mobile Post Office

Located at Bircham Social Club Carpark - Opening times are as follows:
Mon 10.45 - 11.30 * Tues 10.45—11.30 * Thurs 10.45—11.30 * Fri 12.10-12.55

St. MARY'S 100 CLUB DRAW 2023

The first prize of £25 goes to number 81 and the 2nd prize of £10 goes to number 77.
Congratulations to the winners.

Sally

CELEBRATION

We do hope you will join George Hall to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood at a service in Bircham Church on Sunday 1st October at 11am.

WEATHER in BIRCHAM

Following the long periods of sunshine and high temperatures of June the expectation of "more of the same" (as often quoted in the media) was soon dashed as more unsettled conditions took over in July, bringing with it cooler, wetter and often windier weather. From the start a fresh westerly wind blew until the 5th, accompanied by spells of rain, before we enjoyed the best period of the month which spanned the 6th to the 10th, delivering a maximum temperature of 29.3C on the 7th. This was to be the highlight though as some particularly unseasonal conditions were to prevail from the 11th when the 14th saw the wettest day with 12.9mm of rain, the 15th and 16th endured gale force winds and the 22nd brought rain for much of the day with a maximum temperature of just 15.9C. Even though the gales were not to be repeated during the remainder of the month, it still stayed unsettled with periods of rain such that a total of only 9 days were completely dry. All this brought the grand total to 88mm which is around double the average for July. The average maximum temperature was 21.2C which is around the norm but looks poor against June's 23.0C and who could forget last year's maximum of 39.1C on the 19th compared with this year's 19.7C on that day.

Bryan

FRIENDS OF BIRCHAM (Banter))

We will be meeting on the 7th September, 2023 at St. Mary's Church, Great Bircham at 2.30.pm - 4pm for our monthly get together with a cup of tea and cake. Hope to see you then.

Sue

BOOKS

There is a considerable library of books in the Church (open daily) which are free to borrow. These include children's books, sport, cookery, non-fiction, thrillers to romance and quite possibly anything in between!

There are also DVD's and a few jigsaws.

Please feel free to borrow and return. Penny.

STANHOE & BARWICK W.I.

Thursday 7th September Claire Howard will be demonstrating jewellery-making.

Thursday 5th October Norfolk's Indian Princess, a talk by Juyna Lewis.

The Reading Room, Stanhoe. 2pm.

Visitors are most welcome. Our charge is £5, which includes refreshments.

Please contact Valerie (01485 576261) for further details.

BIRCHAM SOCIAL CLUB

The members and Committee of Bircham Social Club are delighted to announce the culmination of alterations and decoration of the internal parts of the building. We can now offer 2 bars, complete with serving areas and comfortable seating, and a newly fitted kitchen. We invite all old and new members to come in and enjoy the refurbishments. Our membership fees remain the same - £5 for 16 - 65, £2.50 for Seniors, due annually from June each year.

We welcome back the Folk & Acoustic Night - 8p.m. Saturday 26th August 2023

Other dates for your Diary :

Bingo - £100 Cash Jackpot ! - Monday 11th September 2023

Quiz Night - Saturday 30th September 2023

BSC was delighted to support Rose Edmonds with her Fund Raising Folk Night. She will be representing England in a Sailing Challenge in 2024, and needs to raise £2,500 to be able to participate. Rose is a 'Bircham Girl', with her family being village residents for more than 50 years. There are plans to hold another event to assist with the Fund Raising, so look out for advertising and come along to show your support. We wish her every success in this Challenge.

HUNSTANTON & DISTRICT COMMUNITY VOICES

We are hosting a come and sing evening on Monday 25th September 2023, 7.00 pm The Way, Christian Fellowship Hall, Downs Close, Hunstanton.

Here are a few comments from our members on why they sing:-

"Singing makes you feel good."

" Singing brightens even the sunniest day."

"Singing is your passport to a short break from everyday stress."

"Singing has added a new dimension to my life."

Parking on site, free entry, and free refreshments provided.

Come and try us out, and see if you like it, you never know how much you may enjoy the experience!

For more information contact: lesley.trebbick@btinternet.com 07802 879976

THE MAGPIE CENTRE

A West Norfolk charity's Open Day, making a return post-Covid, netted welcome donations for two charities.

The Magpie Centre, home of West Norfolk Riding for the Disabled Association, at Wallington Hall, hosted an exciting day for the local community on Saturday July 29, which raised a total of £1890 for the Centre.

The day included a host of equestrian demonstrations, including an introduction to side saddle riding for Yard Manager Natalie Dade, an equine physiotherapy session, an Equine Assisted Learning Therapy lesson, and a sample lesson for a group of RDA riders, to showcase the Centre's work.

In addition, the event gave an opportunity for the Norfolk Writers' Exchange, a group of creative writers, to present donations of £350 each to the Magpie Centre, and to West Norfolk Deaf Association.

The Norfolk Writers' Exchange published an anthology of poems and short prose entitled 'Changing Tides' and, having covered publication costs, divided the profits between the two charities.

Said 'Changing Tides' editor, Tim Cashmore,

'The Norfolk Writers' Exchange are thrilled that our creative endeavours have been able to raise funds for two worthy local charities, as well as supporting Biddles, a local printer, and giving enjoyment to the readers of our anthology.'

There is no doubt that the donations were much appreciated.

Anna Pugh, Manager, West Norfolk Deaf Association, explained how their cash would be used:

'We always need money for our Children and Family Services, including our Baby Sensory Group. Up to 90% of deaf children are born to hearing parents, and those families need support in managing their expectations and enabling their children to attain their full potential,' she said.

The Magpie Centre cash has been earmarked for a project which helps Young Carers.

Said West Norfolk RDA Chairwoman Mrs Bee Ford:

'This will enable us to run our hugely popular sessions for Young Carers this summer. We didn't manage to secure a grant this year, but with the generosity of people via JustGiving, and this donation from the Norfolk Writers' Exchange, we have been able to run the sessions,' she said.