

REEPHAM TOWN NEWS



News and information for Reepham and surrounding villages

Issue 4



Are we going to celebrate the Coronation?

For many of us this will be first coronation that we will experience. We celebrated the Queen's Jubilee less than a year ago and we are now faced with the big question:

How should we celebrate such an important event in our modern history?

Would you or your organisation like to become involved in the planning and organising Reepham's celebration of the King's Coronation over the long weekend of 6th May?

Communities across the country are being encouraged to come together on the Sunday for celebrations such as street parties or family picnics etc. Do you have any thoughts you would like to share?

There will be an extra bank holiday on Monday May 8th. It has been suggested

that people could get involved in local volunteering projects in their community as part of the 'Big Help out' initiative. Do you have any suggestions of suitable projects that could provide a lasting memory of the day?

Some have already submitted their interest but the celebrations can only go ahead if there is sufficient interest and enough volunteer helpers.

With only 2 months until the big weekend, time is of the essence if we are to develop a memorable event fit for a king and Reepham as a whole.

If you can help, or have any ideas get in touch with Kirsty Cotgrove, our Town Clerk. A planning meeting will be arranged in due course.

Kirsty can be contacted at clerk@reephamtowncouncil.org.uk by phone on 01603 873355 or by dropping by the Town Council office during office hours.



Queen's Jubilee celebrations 2022

Photo: John Tym

Reepham Town News is published by Reepham Town Council with the welcome support of Reepham and District Rotary Club. We hope to be able to address the cost issues by keeping print runs to a minimum, making copies available for collection in local shops/venues, and encouraging readers to go on line wherever possible.

To achieve our aims we ask for your help, only taking printed copies as necessary so that those of us that are less IT familiar can access the news.

There will always be an up to date online copy available at <https://adobe.ly/3LxGzuT> or by scanning this QR code with a smartphone.



Do you need a copy of Reepham Town News delivered to your door?

If so please ring 01603 879269 to give your name and address (or leave a message).

COPY DEADLINE

for the April 2023 issue is 18th March 2023. Please send all copy to

reephamnews@gmail.com

Reepham and District
Rotary
supporting
our community



Meeting Dates

Dates of future Town Council and Stimpson's Piece Charity meetings:

Wednesday 8th March 7.30pm Town Hall

Wednesday 12th April 7.30pm

Members of the public are welcome to attend Town Council meetings as observers and are given the opportunity to comment briefly on any agenda item.

Meeting Notes

From the Town Council meeting on 8th February 2023

Permission was given to the Kings Arms and Reepham Music Festival to fence off a small section of the Market Place on 13th August 2023, from 12 noon to 6pm. This is to facilitate using the Kings Arms as a venue for the Music Festival.

Vehicular access through the Market Place, and pedestrian access to Pudding Pie Alley will be maintained throughout.

Grants were given to Reepham Rotary for the Food Festival (£400) and New Age Kurling (£50).

It was agreed not to raise rental for the allotments or hire fees for the Town Hall. Cemetery fees will raise in line with Church of England fees.

Concern has been raised that Orsted are going to suspend HGV restrictions through the town during the construction phase of Hornsea 3. The Clerk has been in contact with Norfolk County Council Highways department, who have advised that this is highly unlikely to happen. A copy of the Construction Traffic management plan is available on request from the Town Clerk.

Insulation work at Stimpson's Piece has been completed, and quotes are being obtained for LED lighting in the Pavilion, and for external lighting.

Hire fees at Stimpson's Piece will not be increased for the time being. This will be reviewed in September.

The Town Hall and Stimpson's Piece are available to hire. Please contact the Town Clerk on 01603 873355 or clerk@reephamtowncouncil.org.uk for availability and prices.

Reepham Good Neighbour Scheme



A free service that can help you with for example:

- lifts to medical appointments
- collecting prescriptions
- picking up shopping

To request help, or to volunteer



07936 576 684

Goings on at Reepham's churches

The 12 churches in the benefice are at the heart of their communities and try to care for and serve them. Here are some examples of how we're trying to do that in Reepham.:

The current cost of living crisis has hit many people hard. We are glad that **32 hardship grants** were given out to Reepham residents from the Town Lands & Neale's Charity during January & February.

The **Tuesday Welcome Café** in St Michael's from 11.30 - 1.00 pm offers a "Warm Space" and the chance for coffee and a chat, craft or board games.

Two Hot Soup Lent Lunches are being offered on 21st and 28th March 12.30-2pm in St Michael's. Donations to the Bishop's Lent Appeal which is for the hospice, Priscilla Bacon Lodge.

Saturday coffee mornings: every week, St Michael's, 10-12. With around 30 townspeople and visitors coming each week, these are a popular way of meeting or making friends, especially if new to Reepham. There is usually a bric a brac stall too. Donations help fund the (real!) coffee, biscuits and heating.

There has been a good response from people of all ages to Rev Richard Turk's, "**Ring for the King**" Friday bellringing sessions (alternatively held at Reepham and Lyng) encouraging people to learn bellringing – hopefully for the coronation, but also just for fun and to make new friends!

Lent is a good time to pause and take stock of our lives. This year in Reepham there are weekly "**Pauses in Lent**" informal sessions at St Michael's and a separate book group meeting. Details given on the church website and on posters at the church.

Did you Know?

The Reepham & Wensum Benefice Office

is no longer at the Bircham Centre and is now at:
The Rectory, Station Road, Reepham. NR10 4LJ
01603 879275 email: parishofficerwv@gmail.com

CHURCH SERVICES, CHAPEL, RICHARD'S THOUGHTS

Morning Prayer - Monday to Thursday at 8.00 a.m.

Evening Prayer - Tuesday and Wednesday at 6.00 p.m.
and Zoom on Thursday 6pm.

These services are held in Reepham in addition to the services stated below.

All Reepham services are in St Michael's Church unless otherwise stated.

Further details about [events in local churches](#) can be found on line.

Sunday 5th March

9.0 am Salle Holy Communion

10.30am Reepham Morning Worship

Sunday 12th March

10.30am Reepham Holy Communion

Sunday 19th March

10.00am Reepham Café Church
(Service starts at 10.30am)

Sunday 26th March

10.30am Reepham Holy Communion

visited Britain. Patrick and David did. They walked the countryside that we walk. They lived in the places we still live. I have not long returned from a holiday in Pembrokeshire: whilst there, I will have walked the countryside. I may have stood in places where David stood. That is a connection between the past and present that inspires people's hearts and minds. I think it's why so many people like old church buildings: when you stand or sit in one you can feel the history of all the people who stood or sat in the same place over the hundreds of years before you did. There is something about physical presence. We connect more readily to saints who were physically present where we are. We value the physical presence of a church that has remained a landmark in our communities, sometimes for as long as we have had a community. These places connect us with our ancestors like anchors in time, whilst things around them change and develop.

So, if you ever have the need to feel connected to those who have come before; if you ever feel the need to experience the peace that generations of others have experienced in a place; if you want to spend a little while feeling anchored in time, instead of being pulled backwards and forwards by unpredictable tides: your local church is there for you. Just pop in and sit, stand or kneel. 'Be' in a place, as so many others have been before.

Richard's thoughts

*from Revd Richard Turk, Assistant Curate
Reepham and Wensum Valley Team Churches*

March sees the feast days of two saints who are particularly important to the United Kingdom: St David and St Patrick, the patron saints of Wales and Ireland respectively. Legend surrounds both. But both of these patron saints seem to me to hold more sway over, and capture the imagination of, people than the patron saint of England, George. Perhaps this has something to do with the way we look at ourselves?

Patrick and David were both British; George was not. Patrick and David were said to have been great speakers, and to have brought people to faith in Christ by talking to them and engaging in human relationships and interactions. George was held up as the ideal knight, and his popularity during the crusades helped him to be established as our patron. These days, we don't see ourselves as crusaders or warriors. We value human relationships and we're far more likely to get involved with something because of the personal recommendation of a friend. St Patrick and St David operate on a level that we instinctively respond to. But maybe it's something even deeper than that.

There is enough scope for historical arguments that all three saints existed outside of legend. But George never

Reepham Methodist Chapel

SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Minister; Revd Sharon Thraves. 01263 478283

Every Sunday 10.30am Worship Service

11.30am. Coffee morning

All Age Worship; first Sunday of the month

TOTS SPOT/WARM SPACE Every Wednesday 9 - 11.0am (term time) see facebook page or just drop in. No charge. Contact Candy Rogers for details 01603 872466

WARM SPACE Every Thursday 10 - 12

Bible study house group run in the style of a book club. Fortnightly in term time.

Contact Michael Price for details 01603 871831

Church Steward Frances Price 01603 871831

For Hire of the church premises contact Candy Rogers 01603 872466

More information on the Circuit Website

www.northnorfolkmethodist.org.uk

BIRCHAM CENTRE, ROVER TRIPS, LUNCH CLUB

Bircham Centre

Exciting Spring for Bircham Centre

As the days slowly lengthen, we can look forward to Spring: the Bircham Garden bulbs and tree blossoms will soon be giving us a splash of colour... Do pop in and enjoy them. We have weekly volunteer sessions in the garden every Friday from 10 am to 1 pm led by Jayne Bowen of Eves Hill Veg Co, so do come and join us if you would like to get involved.

We have some exciting things planned for this year. We have a major fundraising campaign to launch very soon, so watch out for notices in and around the town. No clues here, but we're appealing to everyone to support us. Full details will be in the April issue of Reepham Town News.



Photo supplied - Bircham Centre

Bircham Centre garden

Our big news this month is that we are launching our brand-new website. You can find it at www.birchamcentrereepham.org. We hope you'll love it. It will be featuring news about what's going on at the Bircham Centre, as well as providing critical information about opening times and what you can find here.

It's also worth mentioning that, if you use social media, you can keep up to date with what's going on by visiting our Facebook page – just search for The Bircham Centre Reepham – and our Instagram page – search for @thebirchamcentre.

The Charity Shop has had a busy February both from a sales perspective and with donations of new things to sell. Thank you to everyone who has supported us. The shop is open Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 9 am to 1 pm.

The Reepham Rovers

We have set out the proposed trips with the Reepham Rovers for March and April.

If you fancy joining them please get in touch on on 07765 321458 or e-mail: reephamrover@whitwellhall.org.uk.



WHITWELL HALL
COUNTRY CENTRE

Incorporating Reepham Patient Care Fund

	March	April	Cost exc food
Aylsham Tesco	16 th	13 th	£4.00
Sheringham	11 th	1 st	£6.50
Wells fish'n chips	21 st	18 th	£7.00
Kings Lynn shopping	7 th	4 th	£7.50
Dereham Tesco	2 nd & 30 th	27 th	£4.50
Wroxham shopping	25 th	22 nd	£6.50
Wednesday Lunch Club	Every Wed		£2.00
Monthly mystery trip	17 th	28 th	£variable

The Reepham Rover offers a door to door service 'to relieve those in need by reason of their youth, age, ill health, disability or financial hardship' by offering these trips.

Passengers will be charged a fare to help cover the vehicle's operating costs.

To book your seat on any of these trips (or for further details) please call Reepham Rover on 07765 321458 or e-mail: reephamrover@whitwellhall.org.uk

Reepham's Warm Spaces

There are now 4 spaces where people can gather. These rooms are not only heated but you are also assured of a warm welcome with drinks provided.

These are listed below:

- Bircham Centre Room 7 Mondays 9-1
- St Michael's Tuesdays 11-2
- Methodist Chapel Wednesdays 9 - 11 and Thursdays 10 - 12
- Whitwell Hall Wednesdays 12 - 3

Activities are arranged at some of these but even if not they provide a welcome opportunity for a good natter particularly if you take a friend along as well.

REGULAR EVENTS

Adult Exercise Class (over 50's) in Stimpson's Piece every Wednesday at 10am followed by coffee/tea. All exercises can be done standing or seated. Cost £6/session. For more details contact Sam on 07925 602862

Baby Play sessions (suitable from birth to 2 years) Baby play session with the opportunity to meet other parents while your little ones enjoy some sensory play based around development. Tuesdays, 11:45-12:45 at Stimpson's Piece Pavillion. Contact Katie Brown Squidgeandme@outlook.com

Knit & Natter, 2.00-4.00pm, Bircham Centre, 1st Monday of every month

Kurling, Tuesdays 2.00-4.00pm, Town Hall. First session no charge but if you do decide to join us it will only cost £2.00 per session with tea/coffee/biscuits included. Equipment provided. Kurling is easy to learn, non strenuous for all ages and abilities and is adaptable for the disabled.
Details– Maria Jones 01603 871751

Line Dance with the Wednesday Weavers Town Hall, Wednesday. Beginners 2-3.45pm All ages, easy paced. Mainly country/ rock /50s/60s/golden oldies/pop. Sing along encouraged. £5.00 per session, first taster free. Tel: Sandra 01603 872102 sandradancer57@yahoo.co.uk

Reepham and District Gardening Club. Meetings are held in Reepham Town Hall on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.45pm. New Members and Visitors always welcome.

Reepham & District Photographic Club Meets 7.30 pm on the first and third Thursday of each month in the Sidings Marquee, Whitwell Station Contact: Kevin Penney 01603 870850 www.reephamphotoclub.org.uk

Reepham Badminton Club Meets at Reepham High School Sports Hall every Thursday evening from 8 - 10 pm. Sessions are friendly and informal. Experienced, new players welcome. Please call Diana 01603 873244 or David 01263 584221 for further details.

Reepham Country Market every Wednesday 8am-11am, Bircham Centre. Homemade cakes, pies, biscuits, savoury dishes, vegetables, fruit in season, free range eggs, jams, jellies, chutneys etc

Reepham Golf Society meets monthly at various courses around Norfolk & Suffolk. New members welcome. For information contact Mark Smith on 07824 849397 or Dean Mears on 07825 299634, daytime 01603 870814

Reepham Library: Mon 2-7, Wed 9.30-1 and then 2-5, Friday 10.00- 1 and then 2-5, Saturday 9.30 - 12.30

Reepham Lions Club Meets at 7.30 pm on the first Thursday of the month at St Michael's, Reepham. Come along from 7 pm for a cup of tea before the meeting starts. For more information, visit the website www.reephamlions.co.uk or email reephamlions@gmail.com

Reepham WI – 7.30pm, St Michael's, on 3rd Thursday in the month. New members always welcome

Rotary Club of Reepham & District 7.00pm for 7.15pm every Monday, in St. Michael's. For information call James Fraser, President on pres@reephamrotary.org.uk or John Tym on 07760 272422 email: admin@reephamrotary.org.uk

Sunshine Café in St Michael's on 2nd and 4th Thursdays each month 10.00 to 12.00. No charge, just turn up. Peter Williams 01362 686860

Table Tennis Wednesday afternoons fortnightly at Reepham Methodist Chapel. 2.30 - 4pm. Contact Rob Holman 01603 870740

Tai Chi class Mondays 11 am – 12 noon, St Michael's, Reepham. For further information contact: Dr Ian Kenwyn 07769 348231 or ian.evexia@gmail.com

The Bircham Centre Charity Shop, Market Place, Shop opening hours Mon, Wed, Fri and Saturday 9-1pm

The Reepham Archive, upstairs in the Bircham Centre, is open on the first Wednesday and Saturday of each month from 10:00 am - 12:00 noon and at other times by arrangement. Contact reephamarchive@gmail.com or 01603 870334

Tots Spot at Reepham Methodist Church 9.00 - 11.30 on Wednesdays for parents and toddlers. Croissants, coffee and singing - all free
Contact: Candy Rogers (01603 872466)

Welcome Café: In St Michael's weekly on Tuesdays from 11.30 -1pm. Contact Revd Helen Rengert for details 01603 879275

W.I Crafters at the Bircham every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month 2.30-4.30pm

Reepham Town News

can accept no responsibility
for the accuracy of these details.

If you organise a regular activity in Reepham please let us know at reephamnews@gmail.com or any of these activities, please don't forget to inform us of any changes.

Thank you.

REEPHAM LIONS, ROTARY

Reepham Lions



Helping Good Causes both at Home and Overseas

Reepham Lions have donated £500 to a local initiative to provide generators to families in the Ukraine. Their donation will help fund a large number of generators which have been gathered together and will be delivered to the Ukraine by North Norfolk MP Duncan Baker. Mr Baker visited the Ukraine in November with donations of food, clothing and other essentials and became aware of the worsening situation there where families are struggling to cope with no power in sub-zero temperatures.

The Club has also helped with a need much closer to home. Scrapbox is a charity based in Reepham and promotes the reuse of reclaimed resources, selling materials for use in community art and craft activities. They contacted Reepham Lions with a request to help them fund an anti-fatigue mat for volunteers who man the shop. The 14mm thick mat provides a cushion underfoot for the volunteers who have until now been standing long hours on a cold concrete floor. Members were happy to approve the request.



Lions Barry Howes and Gill Long presenting cheque to representatives of Scrapbox

Reepham Lions meets on the first Thursday of the month, 7.00 for 7.30pm at St Michael's Church Hall. Prospective new members are very welcome to come along.

Reepham Rotary Club



One disaster after another - Ukraine, Turkey, Syria....

2023 has been a very busy time for us. Our "Share the Warmth" appeal was generously supported by members, the public, and the high school, raising over £7,000 to help in the Ukraine. We sent 8 generators with the North Norfolk convoy and have donated over £5,000 to 'Starenki', a Kyiv based charity that focusses on helping the elderly. The money will provide over 100 'Warm Kits'.



Photo supplied Reepham Rotary

North Norfolk MP Duncan Baker (centre), with President Jim Fraser and other donors of generators

We joined up with the Kyiv Multinational Rotary Club in early February for a Zoom meeting and were amazed to learn where the various members were located from the Netherlands to Italy as well as Kyiv itself and their day to day knowledge of events on the ground was amazing. It transpires that shortages of particular items can occur quickly and that regular contact will be essential to provide targeted support into the future. Arrangements for these meetings are always on a short notice as power outages are very frequent and often unannounced.

Recent events in Turkey and Syria have demanded a response and the Club has contributed some £5,000 to Shelterbox (See opp page), a Rotary sponsored charity that delivers tents and basic survival equipment into areas affected by natural disaster.

There is now a pressing need to replenish our funds. At the time of writing we are hoping that our annual Quiz Night on 25th February will start the process.

Should you wish to help with our work you can donate to the Club by making a BACs payment to Reepham Rotary a/c 90387088 sort code 20-03-26 or look out for the buckets that will be reappearing around the town.

REEPHAM WI, HARDSHIP FUND, BRITISH LEGION



We are looking forward to returning to the Primary School after half term to listen to the children reading, a rewarding experience that provides real improvements to their skills over time.

Youth Speaks will return to the High School shortly and more local bits are to follow - more next month...

Reepham WI



At the end of January Reepham WI hosted an "Open" meeting in St Michael's, Reepham. Members invited family and friends to hear Julian Barnwell recount childhood memories of how he, and his brother Lincoln, came into diving as well as surfing - an idyllic childhood pastime which has become a life-long passion for both.

The main topic of the evening was, of course, the search and their discovery of The Gloucester shipwreck, off the coast of Great Yarmouth in 2007. Julian went into fascinating detail of the research so far carried out by Professor Claire Jowitt, Dr Ben Redding and their team at UEA. The precious artefacts, which are gradually being brought to the surface, are helping piece together how this terrible tragedy came about, as well as offering a rare glimpse into life in 17th century society.

The event, which was sold out, has enabled Reepham WI to make a sizeable donation to The Gloucester charity, headed by Lord Dannatt. The end goal is to one day open a dedicated museum to house so many artefacts which still have to be discovered. Fund raising is vital for the project's ongoing success.

Readers might like to join WI members help this initiative by visiting the forthcoming exhibition UEA is partnering with Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery, which will showcase some of the fascinating objects to the public for the first time.

The Last Voyage of The Gloucester: Norfolk's Royal Shipwreck 1682 will take place from 25th February to 10th September 2023. An informative and commemorative catalogue will also be available from the Museum. All proceeds will be used to carry out further exploration work.

As well as the monthly meetings on the 3rd Thursday of each month, the WI looks forward to welcoming other topical speakers to Reepham for Open meetings in future months. These are proving to be most enjoyable get togethers for members as well as the local community.

Hardship fund exhausted

Reepham Church have advised :

The current cost of living crisis has hit many people hard. We are glad that 32 hardship grants were given out to Reepham residents from the **Town Lands & Neale's Charity** during January & February.

British Legion



You are reminded....

The branch recently resolved to hold a decisive meeting on Wednesday 12 April 2023, 7 pm in the Bircham Centre, where the branch's future will be discussed and a decision made.

Current Branch Chairman, Trevor Bevan, is appealing for anyone who is an existing or prospective member of the RBL to come along to the meeting. "We are looking for people who would be prepared to be actively involved", he said. "I suspect there are people in our area, with or without forces experience who were not aware of our existence until now, who would be willing to get involved. It would be sad to lose the branch now if there is support in the area for its continuation." He hopes that the potential closure of the branch will prompt them to get in touch.

If you would like to know more about the role of the RBL in Reepham, please contact Mr Bevan at trevorbevan@sky.com or come along to the April meeting.

TOTS SPOT, LUNCH CLUB, FOOD FESTIVAL ...

Tots Spot Sharing Table

Tots Spot (Time Out To Sit Sing Play Or Talk) meets every Wednesday during term time at the Methodist Church in Reepham from 9 until 11.30am.

New members are always welcome -parents, grandparents, carers, babies and toddlers. It is free to attend and there is no charge for refreshments - croissants, tea, coffee, fruit and fruit juice. More information on our Facebook page.

Our 'Sharing Table' has become a new feature. The vibe is 'Take what you need, leave what you can" everything is free. Thank you to everyone who brought stuff last term. There were some wonderful toys, books, children's clothes, and shoes which found new homes and in the summer the table groaned under the weight of apples, courgettes, beans, plums and other delicious garden produce.

From December we have had a Warm Space open on Thursday mornings from 10am till midday in the Methodist Church Schoolroom, the Sharing Table will be open then too. If you can't make the Wednesday Tots Spot, come along on Thursday instead, or come to both.

The Thursday group is for all ages - the in phrase is ***intergenerational activity!***



REEPHAM
FOOD
FESTIVAL
2023

FREE
Admission

- Wine & Dine in Reepham
- Cookery Demonstrations
- Food and Drink Market
- Picnic Area
- Art Trail

Sunday
28th
MAY
10am - 4pm

Rotary

Principal Sponsor **VATTENFALL**



Wednesday Lunch Club



The Wednesday Lunch Club is in full swing at Whitwell Hall. We are always looking for new people to come and join in the fun. Age is no barrier. We can even provide a door to door service and collect you and return you home afterwards.

Why not give it try? You never know you could be in for a surprise - the room and tables were decked out for a Valentines lunch recently!

The cost of a 2 course meal is £9. If you would like the door to door service the total cost of the meal and transport in the Rover will be £11. We shall be moving shortly to our new summer venue at the Kings Arms, as the Hall becomes busy with residential groups.

Not Only Lunches and the Reepham Rover but also:

We hold a stock of mobility aids that are available to local residents, free of charge, although a donation would be acceptable. Our aids include mobility scooters, wheelchairs, walkers, sticks, comodes etc that help and relieve mobility issues.

For further details about any of our services (Reepham Rover, Lunch club or mobility aids) please get in touch on 07765 321458 or email reephamrover@whitwellhall.org.uk

