

-Since-
1969

May 2025 Edition

Norwich Group Newsletter

Sister Monica Matron at Coonoor

Thursday 8th May



Dale Wiseman will give us a presentation about a house called Coonoor on the Yarmouth Road in Thorpe Village..

The owner Mrs Dods gave the house to the War Office for the full four years. Sister Monica was the matron who ran the house, as an Auxillary home, during the Great War.

With access to many personal items including an autograph book, over 100 postcards and other letters belonging to Sister Monica, Dale is able to tell many stories about her and the happenings of an Auxiliary Hospital during this period.

The talk will be held at The Sugarbeat eating house Norwich Rd, Norwich NR14 8PU, from 2pm.

Food and refreshments are available before and after the talk, but you will have to pay for them yourself.

We look forward to seeing you there

The opinions and recommendations in this newsletter are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of Boundless by CSMA, the editor or the Norwich Group

Guided Tour of The Plantation Garden

Wednesday 11th June



We invite you to join us on our visit to
The Plantation Garden, Earlham Road, Norwich, NR2 3DB.

The garden is open from 9am to 6pm and we have a guided tour booked for 2pm. The tour takes approximately 50 – 60 minutes and provides a history of the Garden and how it is managed today.

The Garden contains several quite steep flights of steps and paths, but can be adapted for those who wish to remain on the flat.

There are toilets on site, one of which is wheelchair accessible. There are no refreshments in the Garden but the RC Cathedral Narthex next door has a hospitality centre open for refreshments.

You are welcome to stay in the Garden as long as you wish and bring a picnic. We regret that we have no parking at the Garden. There are car parks paid for by mobile phone (using RingGo) adjacent to the Garden. For those with a disabled parking badge we can make space for up to 2 cars by prior arrangement only. The Garden is run entirely by volunteers.

The charge for the guided tour is £3 per person, which includes admission. You must pre-book if you wish to join us on the tour.

Admission is £2 , payable on the day if you do not want to take the tour.

Dunwich Heath talk



On the 10th April 2025 a talk was given by Richard Symes (National Trust) about events that have taken place at Dunwich Heath.

Richard began his talks with an 1826 hand painted map of Dunwich showing various features such as the German Ocean, which we now call the North Sea, which highlighted

and just how much of the coastline has been taken by the sea. Also he described a document showing that the Dunwich Town Trust sold Permits for the grazing of animals and walking on the heath. The heath was important to the local people because of the gorse and bracken which was gathered for fuel in order to keep warm.

Over the centuries Dunwich has been a Roman fort, the capital of a Saxon Kingdom and the base from which St Felix, the first Bishop of Dunwich, converted East Anglia to Christianity.

By the 11th century Dunwich was one of the greatest ports on the east coast, it had many large churches, monasteries, hospitals, and even a mint. All of this has been lost to the North Sea except for the ruins of the 13th century Franciscan friary on the edge of the cliff and a Lepar Hospital in the present churchyard.

In 1827 the coastguard cottages were built in an attempt to deal with the large smuggling gangs that worked the area due to the tax on important goods. The gangs worked with as many as 60-80 horses, with carts, unloading and taking goods all over the country from wrecked trading ships. John Harvey ran The Hadleigh Gang around Sizewell and Dunwich. Harvey was caught and sent to Australia for two years and when he came back he bought his freedom for a handful of gold.



The Coastguard Cottages were painted white, showing clearly where help could be had for wrecked ships. As the cottages were decommissioned they were painted black. One occupant, Richard Clark, a Quaker with a wife and five children, was

called to fight in the Crimean War. As a Quaker he refused to fight, and was imprisoned on a prison hulk. His case was pleaded in the House of Commons by John Bright MP and as a result he was released.

During the Industrial Revolution many ships were bringing iron and coal down the East Coast from the North of England and many floundered along the east coast. A World War I German map showed how they were using submarines to lay mines on the route of ships bringing iron and coal. At the end of the war, mines were dragged out of the sea on the end of a rope. At the end of World War II, 30,000 mines were found from Pakefield all the way down the coast.

Dunwich Heath was established early on in the last war as a training area for hundreds of troops in which live firing for training purposes could be carried out without hindrance. It was particularly important in pre-D-Day training for exercise `Kruschen`, which was one of the first exercises to trial the specialised equipment that would be needed to break the concrete defences of the German Atlantic Wall.

Dunwich was a Chain Home Low (CHL) radar station designed to give early warning of low flying enemy aircraft. It became operational in 1940 and initially was fairly rudimentary comprising two 29ft gantries, one receiver and one transmitter. Continual improvements were made to the CHL system to improve performance against the wave-skimming approaches by German aircraft attempting to avoid the radar screen.

In 1941 a battery was built on the cliffs at Dunwich comprising two six-inch guns in concrete gun houses. The battery observation post, now known as the lookout, was built onto the end of the existing row of coastguard cottages both to give an excellent view out to sea and also in order to conceal its true purpose from German reconnaissance.

During the 1960s a major heath fire caused large quantities of unexploded ordnance to be detonated and so a decision was taken to systematically clear the area of its WWII remains, as a result, only a small percentage of the wartime archaeology remains to be seen today.

There is a macabre folklore, that tells of a local maiden with a broken heart who haunts the area around the beach searching for her lost love.

Many people say that during storms you can hear the bells of the lost churches ringing from the waves, but if that is the case they must be ringing wet by now.

It could be classed as disappointing for those who wish to explore the site given all the military activity that was carried out on Dunwich Heath.

Our Local Correspondent

Quiz Time? – Pot Luck Quiz 3?

1. What was the television pioneer John Baird's middle name?.....
2. What word can go after "nut" and before "jack"?
3. Who is the US state of Virginia named after?
4. Which Elvis song has the words "you ain't never caught a rabbit"?
5. Which stimulant is found in tea and coffee?
6. Who has a dog called Gnasher?.....
7. Which Leonard starred in 'The rise and fall of Reginald Perrin'?
8. Which make-up item is the French word for red?
9. Who wrote 'Send in the clowns'?
10. Which French phrase used in English means already seen?.....

Pot Luck Quiz 2 Answers

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|---|------------------|
| 1. Which UK car manufacturer produced the Cambridge? | Austin |
| 2. What word can go after 'roller' and before 'board'? | Skate |
| 3. In which country is the city of Acapulco? | Mexico |
| 4. How many millimetres in three centimetres? | Thirty |
| 5. Al is the chemical symbol for which element? | Aluminium |
| 6. Ben Gurion airport is in which country? | Israel |
| 7. What colour appears along with white on the Polish flag? | Red |
| 8. DEAR CASH is an anagram of which indoor game? | Charades |
| 9. Which city was the setting for TV thriller 'The Fall'? | Belfast |
| 10. How many sides does a trapezium have? | Four |

Joke Corner

We are trying to teach our 4 year old Spanish, but he doesn't even know how to say please yet.

That's poor for four.

Norwich Group Communications

For up-to-date information on forthcoming Norwich Group events,
see: **-The latest edition of your newsletter.**

Our home page at - boundless.co.uk/norwich

Call Leader Mike Holmes on 01508 558312

email mike.holmes377@outlook.com

**Please send change of address details & articles for inclusion in
the next edition to Mike Holmes**

by Monday 12th May 2025.

We respect your privacy and if you no longer wish to receive this
newsletter, please let us know by email to
norwichgroup@boundlesscommunity.co.uk

Coming Soon – a new venue

We aim to have a comfortable venue for our Afternoon Talks, with
room to accommodate a larger audience and it has been
recommended that we may be better to use:-

**The George Hotel
10 Arlington Lane,
Newmarket Rd,
Norwich NR2 2DA**

This is actually fairly close to the Eaton Golf Club where we used to
meet.

So, our meeting in **September** will take place there, to see if it works
for us. Please let Mike know if you are aware of anything we should
know about this venue.

Coming to Peterborough in May

Peterborough Mosque Visit - Wed 21st May

Join us at Masjid Faizan e Madina, 169-175 Gladstone Street PE1 2BN. We will meet in the car park by the Mosque for a 7pm start. During the tour, you will explore both the exterior and interior of the mosque, including the prayer hall. Our knowledgeable guides will delve into various themes, such as general Islamic principles, the five pillars of Islam, the mosque's history and architecture, minarets, and the call to prayer (Azaan). We sincerely hope you find the tour enriching. Tours last around an hour and a half. To ensure a pleasant and respectful experience for all, we kindly request that visitors observe the following: Before entering the prayer halls, please remove your footwear and utilize the shoe racks provided outside.

To maintain the sanctity of the space, please adhere to our modest dress code, avoiding see-through, tight-fitting, or low-cut clothing. Sleeves should extend below the elbows, and shorts are not permitted. Women are kindly requested to wear a headscarf covering the head and chest; we are happy to provide headscarves upon request.

Food and beverages are not allowed inside the prayer halls.

Smoking and vaping are strictly prohibited within our premises.

All are Welcome

Coming to Ipswich in May

"Wildlife in East Anglia"

Wednesday 14th May



Tonight we welcome back wild life photographer Barbara Meyer who will present an illustrated talk on wildlife in East Anglia. Last year she entertained us with a talk on Big Cats around the world.

Book this date in your diary as this promises to be an unmissable talk

Tea or coffee will be served after the talk

We look forward to seeing you there.

Fish and Chips at the Hut



Wednesday 4th June
Food arrives at 6.30pm

It's time for our annual trip to the seaside, for our Fish and Chip supper at "The Hut". This is right on the promenade at the bottom of Bath Hill in Felixstowe and has unrivalled views over the sea. We will provide a portion of fish with chips and all the condiments, plus a sweet and hot or cold drink (or you can bring your own bottle), We then have a light-hearted quiz to finish off the evening.

Booking is essential, as the food is pre-ordered.

Last orders will be taken on Friday 17th May



Order form
Wed 4th June
Food arrives at 6.30pm

Large Fish & Chips with Dessert @ £13.25			
Small Fish & Chips with Dessert @ £8.75			
Beef & Onion Pie & Chips @ £7.30			
Chicken & Mushroom Pie & Chips @ £7.30			
Mushy Peas extra £1.60			
Total Cost			
Coffee / Tea included			

Name:

Address:

Please make cheques payable to **"C S M A Ipswich Group"**

BACS sort code 09-01-52 account number 01676508
and hand menu choices and payment to any committee member
or send to peterboroughgroup@boundlesscommunity.co.uk

Payment of £..... enclosed/BACS