

Take five with North Norfolk

WHAT'S ON, WHAT'S GOOD AND WHERE TO GO! LIVING



The Marble Hall, Holkham Hall © Holkham Estate

Headlining this week

OPEN HOUSE

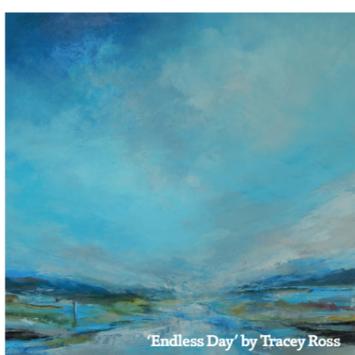
News from Holkham: the Hall will be open from Sunday 16 August until the end of September, for 50-minute guided tours run by their knowledgeable stewards, with numbers limited so it is possible to social distance, and other safety measures in place. Tickets must be pre-booked and are timed entry. For more details and to book, visit www.holkham.co.uk



MARKET DAY

The Village Market returns to North Wootton Village Hall this Saturday 15 August for the first time since Lockdown. Visitors will find a slightly different market from before so that the Village Hall can adhere to government guidelines - a limit on the number of people in the Hall at any one time, hand sanitising stations, a one-way system, the use of face coverings, and taking part in the NHS Test and Trace everyone are all new measures to help keep everyone safe.

There will be local produce and foods, handcrafted items, and more, all to raise funds for North Wootton Village Hall. Doors open at 9am and close at 2pm. Parking is available at The Woottons Surgery.



'Endless Day' by Tracey Ross

ARTY FACTS

Local artist Tracey Ross' solo exhibition at Salthouse Church opens today. 'Heaven and Earth' which continues until 28 August, is a celebration of art and faith, and the beauty of creation, inspired by the North Norfolk coast, says Tracey. Think soft skies, stormy seas, fiery sunsets, creeks, reeds and golden sands. Open daily, 10am to 5.30pm. www.tracey-rossart.co.uk

2 Foodie facts



Gin-spirational!

A new distillery will be opening its doors in King's Lynn this Saturday 15 August. WhataHoot, founded in 2018 by husband and wife team Jason and Nicky Crown (pictured), has outgrown its original home on the Sandringham Estate, so they've transformed a historic site on King Street, King's Lynn, into a bespoke new distillery with increased capacity. On the ground floor, there's the Pantry, open daily for supplies of WhataHoot's gins, HootFruit and more, plus local artisan produce; on the first floor, there's the Gin School & Spirit Lounge, offering Make Your Own gin experiences.

To mark the occasion, WhataHoot are launching a brand-new flavour - a Navy Strength Gin, inspired by the county's naval heritage and King's Lynn's seafaring history.

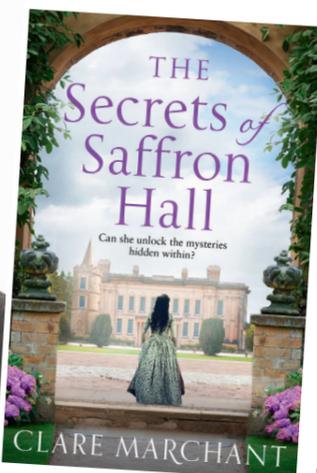
To book tours and experiences, call 01553 401870 or email sales@whatahoot.co.uk

The North Norfolk coast is the inspiration behind the works at Debbie Lyddon and Mary Blue Brady's pop-up outdoor gallery in Wells this Sunday 16 August, from noon till 4pm, at 4 The Old Whelkshed, East Quay. Expect to see mixed media textiles, paintings and books. If it's raining, the event will be postponed until 23 August. www.marybluebrady.com



3 Lockdown living with...

Local author, Clare Marchant, whose debut novel, *The Secrets of Saffron Hall*, was published last week



Working

I'm currently writing my second book, another dual timeline Tudor and present day. The Tudor story is set in London, the present day is once again in lovely Norfolk.

Reading

I'm reading two books as I am currently in research mode (is that allowed?!): *The Watchers*, by Stephen Alford for work, and *The English Wife* by Adrienne Chinn for relaxing.

Watching

I don't watch a lot of TV, but during lockdown I really enjoyed the special Sky Arts Portrait Artist of the Year programmes on a Sunday morning where I could join in using their model. I'm not very good.

Listening to

I'm a great lover of classical music and especially choral music. As I type this, I'm listening to Thomas Tallis' 'Spem in Alium'.

Discovering

I rarely bake in normal circumstances, but I've discovered I'm pretty good at a sponge cake and there have been no complaints from the rest of the house!

Following

Unsurprisingly, most of the people I follow on social media have some sort of link to the publishing world, so authors, book bloggers and readers.

Destressing by

The newly discovered love of art and sketching has been so relaxing and is something I shall definitely continue as a way of destressing.

Growing

I don't have green fingers at all, but I currently have more tomatoes growing than I will ever eat, I shall be making and freezing bolognese sauce for weeks, maybe I will become as proficient as the cake making!

The Secrets of Saffron Hall is published by Avon, £8.99

4 BOOK CHAT

A NEW CHAPTER

The Holt Bookshop reopened at the beginning of this month in its new home in the town, Lion House Court (behind Black Apollo Coffee House). There's also a new team at the helm, Pam Horrocks and Keith Britten, following the retirement of David Makinson. I asked them for three summer reading recommends.

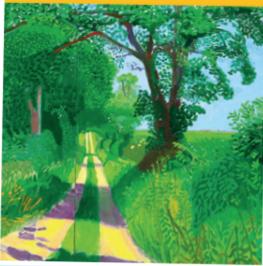
The Glass Hotel by Emily St. John Mandel Picador, £14.99

From the award-winning author of *Station Eleven*, a captivating novel of money, beauty, white-collar crime, ghosts, and moral compromise in which a woman disappears from a container ship off the coast of Mauritania and a massive Ponzi scheme implodes in New York, dragging countless fortunes with it.

Summer by Ali Smith Hamish Hamilton, £16.99

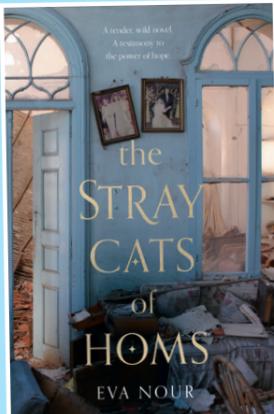
This is a story about people on the brink of change. They're family, but they think they're strangers. So: where does family begin? And what do people who think they've got nothing in common have in common? Summer. The fourth and final book in the quartet.

Ali Smith Summer



The Stray Cats of Homs by Eva Nour Doubleday, £12.99

Inspired by extraordinary true events, this is a story of a young man who will do anything to keep the dream of home alive, even in the face of unimaginable devastation.



Tender, wild and raw, it is a novel which will stay with you for ever.

All three titles are available from **The Holt Bookshop**. www.holtbookshop.co.uk

5 Fab finds... FOR SUMMER LIVING



EMILY AND FIN KATE DRESS was £85, now £42.50, from Nomad & the bowerbird, Wells; www.nomadandthebowerbird.co.uk



DECK CHAIR £135, The Red Dot Gallery, Holt; www.thereddotgallery.com

MEN'S BORDEAUX SWIM SHORTS £60, from Norfolk brand Whale Of A Time Clothing; www.whaleofatimeclothing.com



GREEN TOUCAN SWIM SHORTS, boy's £30, men's £60, Robert & Son, Holt; www.robertandson.co.uk

ROCKAHULA KIDS STRIPY WOVEN BASKET £12, Glitter & Mud, Wells; www.glitterandmud.co.uk

