



WELCOME



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## A BRIEF HISTORY

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by Margaret Bird, Kingston upon Thames

The King's Head has been open for business in this part of the village from the early 18th century and possibly earlier. The present building dates from March 1808.

### MOVING THE HOUSE

Until then it had stood gable-end to the main road beside the Letheringsett maltings and brewery (themselves dating from before 1720) on roughly the spot where the inn sign now stands. Early that year William Hardy junior (1770-1842), the maltster and brewer who lived at Letheringsett Hall, diverted the course of the main road south, creating the great bend for his new gardens.

The pub was in the way so he demolished it in February 1808. It was one of more than 25 outlets, which he owned; he also supplied another 20 without any pub tie.

### DESIGNED BY AN ARCHITECT AND BRIDGE-BUILDER

The style of the present building of 1808 shows the hand of William's architect William Mindham (1771-1843), of Wells and Holt. He designed and built the malt-kilns by the road bridge and many buildings in Holt. He also built the first Foundry Bridge across the Wensum close by the present Norwich railway station; also the road bridge here in Letheringsett.

### THE VILLAGE LOCK-UP AND HUB

Two of the long-serving innkeepers in the 18th and early 19th centuries were also the elected parish constables in the days long before there was any police force. The pub therefore served as the village lock-up when offenders were waiting to be brought before the magistrates.

It was the hub of village life from its earliest days. Clubs, parish ratepayers' meetings, harvest suppers, tithe frolics; they all happened here, as with most other inns and alehouses in the past. Badger-baiting and shooting matches are recorded here around 1800. Banquets, known as election suppers, were held during general election campaigns - funded by the candidates!

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### A DIARY WRITTEN JUST ACROSS THE ROAD

We know a great deal about what happened here from the diary of Mary Hardy, William's mother. She recorded the work of the farm, maltings and brewery in great detail from 1781 to her death in 1809 and we can read about life in the village and much further afield in the full text edited by Margaret Bird and published in 2013. Four commentary volumes, *Mary Hardy and her World*, were published in 2020. [www.burnham-press.co.uk](http://www.burnham-press.co.uk)

### **Margaret Bird**

Kingston upon Thames, 5 January 2014; updated 26 November 2021  
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## LITTLE GUESTS

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Children are very welcome here at The Kings Head and we hope they enjoy our lovely spacious garden and play area. We ask that children are not left in the rooms unattended.



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## FOUR LEGGED FRIENDS

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We are very happy to accommodate well behaved dogs in all of our guest rooms and can assure them of a happy stay too! Please note that your dog must not be left unattended in your room unless a prior arrangement has been made with reception.

Any damage caused by dogs during their stay will be charged for.



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## OUR ROOMS

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### ROOM 1 KING SIZE

**The Glaven** named after the river which flows for 17 km through one of the most beautiful valleys in England. Rising from tiny headwaters in lower Bodham and Baconsthorpe, the main river begins just below Selbrigg Pond where three streams combine at the outfall. Thereafter, it descends through wooded hills of glacial debris and passes through lush countryside and picturesque flint villages. Finally, the river meets the sea behind Blakeney Point.

The Glaven is surrounded by arable land, coniferous plantations, grazing meadows and wetlands. The river is a haven for wildlife - providing a habitat for sea trout, white clawed crayfish, insects and invertebrates such as damselflies, dragonflies and hawkers. The critically endangered European Eel has also been recorded in this river.

### ROOM 2 SUPER KING, CAN BE USED AS TWIN

**The Bayfield** named after Bayfield Hall a Grade II listed building which stands in a small estate close to the village of Letheringsett and the hamlet of Glandford. The house that stands today was built in the last part of the 18th Century replacing an earlier manor house thought to have been built in the 16th Century. That house had been constructed as an early medieval manor house.

The house seen today is a late 18th century Georgian style construction built on a rectangular plan with a service wing running off to rear facing east forming a right angle to the body of the house.

The name Bayfield devolved from the Anglo-Saxon language and has the means Open Field. Bayfield Hall stands next to the ruins of the medieval church of Saint Margaret which once was the parish church.

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## OUR ROOMS

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### ROOM 3 DOUBLE

**The Watermill, Riverside Road, Letheringsett NR25 7YD** is over two hundred years old and was first mentioned in the Domesday Book. The structure was built in 1802 but there were other mills on the site all of which burnt down. Richard Rouse built the mill that stands today. He made it twice the size of any of the former mills in order for it to house four sets of grind stones. The mill was fitted with an iron wheel so that it was capable of driving the four sets of stones, two of which are still working.

The mill now is recognized as one of the great Norfolk mills and their flour and bread is sought after all over the country. Now that the mill is virtually fully restored the mill turns over an average of three and a half tons of flour a week. The mill grinds three types of flour all grown from English wheat. It sells its flour to customers far and wide and some has even been exported to Russia and New Zealand.

**The Watermill next door is open for visitors 11am to 3pm Monday to Friday & 9am to 1pm on Saturday.**

### ROOM 4 DOUBLE

**The Malting** which was a brewery and has been in existence on this site since 1721. The maltings expert and architectural historian Amber Patrick, in a report of 1996, described the building as a maltings 'of national importance' for its scale and its early date.

The diarist Mary Hardy and her husband William came to live in Letheringsett to run the business. They converted the malt-mill and brewery to water power in 1784, using the force of the River Glaven just downstream of the watermill.

Mechanisation represented a significant move for the brewer. He created a channel from the River Glaven to run under the Malthouse and into the brewery yard before heading south under the main road to re-join the river. The large waterwheel under the malt-mill, was destroyed in the brewery fire of 1936.

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## IT'S GOT BE SEASONAL, FRESH AND SOURCED FROM LOCAL PRODUCERS

We love seasonal produce and are very fortunate to be situated in a beautiful part of the world with lots of fabulous food suppliers on our doorstep.

Chef's menus are built around what can be sourced locally, including coastal fish, Brancaster mussels and oysters landed just at the bottom of the marshes of our sister establishments The White Horse and The Jolly Sailors in Brancaster Staithe, Norfolk. We source quality game from the parkland nearby when in season, homegrown produce from local farmers and lots of foraged finds from local contacts.

Our menu changes regularly and is created around the best seasonal pickings on offer. We have a choice of different menus so you will always find something to tickle your fancy. The result is a menu that constantly changes and consistently delights.

### FOOD SERVING TIMES

Breakfast is served from 8am–10am every day.

MONDAY TO FRIDAY  
Lunch: 12noon - 2.30pm  
Dinner: 5pm –8.30pm

SATURDAY  
12noon - 8.30pm

SUNDAY  
12noon - 6pm



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## THINGS TO DO LOCALLY

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### FAKENHAM

A bustling market town that records its trading as early as 1250, that comes alive on race days. Thursday's market day still takes place close to its medieval location near the parish church.

### FAKENHAM RACECOURSE

A fun day out for all. Fakenham Racecourse has been home to National Hunt racing for over 100 years. Fakenham The Racecourse is small and rural and prides itself on its friendly and casual approach.

[www.fakenhamracecourse.co.uk](http://www.fakenhamracecourse.co.uk)

### LEATHERINGSETT WATERMILL

Over 200 years old and mentioned in the Domesday Book, is situated next door and is the last remaining watermill in Norfolk producing flour. The Watermill can be seen working several days a week. A speciality wheat, Spelt, is milled there.

Guided tours by prior arrangement. The Letheringsett Watermill Village Store offers a store cupboard selection of the best quality local produce and fine quality stoneground flours.

[letheringsettwatermill.co.uk](http://letheringsettwatermill.co.uk)

### HOLT

Thriving market town, listed in the Domesday Book as far back as 1086. Eclectic mix of stylish independent retail shops, beautifully compact with fine Georgian buildings.

### CROMER

A quintessential Norfolk seaside town, sandy beaches, museums, shopping and wonderful walks along the Norfolk Coastal Path. Famous for Banksy's Great British Spraycation artwork! The Pier is home to a lifeboat station and Pavilion Theatre, the UK's only traditional end of the pier show takes place. The Pier is an enduring example of Victorian architecture.

### LANGHAM DOME

RAF Langham was an active airfield for 18 years and played a key role in World War 2 and The Cold War. The Dome is a great little museum and displays lively hands-on family activities. Be inspired by the story and marvel at the ingenious way in which the Dome solved a perplexing problem in desperate times.

[langhamdome.org](http://langhamdome.org)

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## THINGS TO DO LOCALLY

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### SCULTHORPE MOOR NATURE RESERVE

Internationally recognised for its rich variety of wildlife, woodland, fen and reed habitat.

[www.hawkandowl.org/sculthorpe/about-sculthorpe/](http://www.hawkandowl.org/sculthorpe/about-sculthorpe/)

### LOCAL BEACHES, BLAKENEY

The serene Blakeney Quay and village is set in an impressive stretch of coastline.

Blakeney Point in the distance is a stunning focal point for nature with a sand and shingle spit, salt marshes and sand dunes.

### SHERINGHAM PARK

Is a must to get some real Norfolk air in your lungs and go for a ramble. Nationally important collection of rhododendrons, giving colour throughout much of the year, especially during May and early June.

### PENSTHORPE NATURAL PARK

Located just outside Fakenham & Hootz at Pensthorpe for a rainy day – a kid’s epic indoor adventure engaging with the natural world – rope bridges, ginormous tree towers, winding slides – it’s really magical. When the weather is good, swoop like a falcon, scramble like a spider and dig like a mole, zip wires, assault course all natures way!

[www.pensthorpe.com](http://www.pensthorpe.com)

### HOLT COUNTRY PARK

Fantastic for walks, dogs and children and just a short drive from the Georgian town of Holt on the Norwich road. A wonderful escape from the hustle and bustle

### TEMPLES SEAL TRIPS

Take a boat trip, to see seals in their natural environment basking on Blakeney Point, with Temples Seal Trips. A ‘Must do’ experience for all ages. See temples red and white boats Morston Ferry & the Four Sisters leaving from Morston Quay.

[www.sealtrips.co.uk](http://www.sealtrips.co.uk)

### THURSFORD COLLECTION & CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR

A fabulous day out. See the world’s largest collection of steam engines and organs, hear Robert Wolfe (a world leading theatre organist) play the mighty Wurlitzer, ride on fairground carousels and the gondola, enjoy ‘Back Stage Tours’ and watch silent movies.

At Christmas, experience their Christmas Spectacular an extravaganza of non-stop festive entertainment, a cast of 130 or more professionals giving it their all. Recognised as the largest show of its kind in the country.

[www.thursford.com](http://www.thursford.com)

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## USEFUL INFORMATION

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### WI-FI PASSWORD

WI-FI: Log on as The Kings Head

**CHECK IN:** 15:00 – 22:00

**CHECK OUT:** We kindly ask you to vacate your room by 11:00 on the day of your departure and leave your key at Reception.

The Kings Head is a non-smoking establishment however there are outdoor seating areas, and of course, the beer garden.

Unfortunately, mobile and wi-fi connection may be 'slow'.

### HANDY CONTACTS

**FLORIST:** The Passion of Flowers, Holt; 01263 713933 or 01263 713050

**HAIRDRESSER:** Six Appleyard, Holt; 01263 711911

**BEAUTY TREATMENTS:** Bellisima, Holt; 01263 710 071

**SUPERMARKETS:** Budgens, Holt

**PETROL STATION:** BP in Holt

**TAXI SERVICE:** Please book well ahead – Tiny's Taxi 01328 888888  
or ask for our recommended list

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## EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

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Here are some important pieces of information, let's hope you never need to use.

Emergency in event of fire: The warning for fire on these premises is the sound of a siren. The assembly point is at the top of car park at the front of building. Please familiarise yourself with the exit routes and doors which are clearly marked. You will see a map on the back of your room door.

On discovering a fire: Sound the fire alarm by operating the nearest alarm point. Only if the fire is small, attack it with the firefighting equipment provided but do not take any personal risk. If in doubt, close the door to the room in which the fire has occurred and (if possible) make your own way to the assembly point.

Fire prevention: prevent all possible causes of fire, all rooms are non-smoking inside, never obstruct a fire door, fire risks should be drawn to the attention of the management, fire doors should not be wedged open.

Emergency Contact Numbers can be found by the front door.

General Manager - 07467 909904

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### OTHER EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

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Holt Medical Practice: 01263 712461

Cromer Hospital (minor injuries): 01603 646230

Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital: 01603 286286

Holt Dental Care: 01263 802556

Boots Pharmacy: 01263 712160

Veterinary Practice, The Glaven: 01263 713200

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## OUR OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS

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We really hope that you enjoy your stay, maybe you would like to visit one of our other establishments.



A gem of a village pub serving up pizzas, pints and playgrounds in north Hertfordshire, with a local's bar, pavilion restaurant and acres of beer garden. Families, muddy boots and dogs welcome!



Stylish village pub with fine dining restaurant, local's bar, real ales, cosy guest rooms large garden and accommodates Willian village store and post office.



hermitage rd.  
BAR AND RESTAURANT

Set in an impressive former ballroom in the heart of Hitchin, Hermitage Rd Bar & Restaurant offers exciting food with added theatre from the open kitchen, quirky cocktails and beer from the bar and live music from local talent. Downstairs, grab coffee and bagels from our award-winning coffee shop.



Voted the nation's favourite family pub, our 18th century village local on the Norfolk coast serves our own real ales, home cooked food, stone baked pizzas and ice cream from a beach hut in the garden not forgetting the largest selection of rum on the coast!



Our award-winning inn on the north Norfolk coast with a menu boasting shellfish from the village, 15 cool comfortable bedrooms and restaurant overlooking the saltmarshes to Scoll Head Island and the sea beyond.



THE  
LYTTON  
ARMS

This much loved 'watering hole' of years gone by has been restored to its former glory keeping all the facets of its wonderful history intact and focuses on quality ales, wholesome food and a warm welcome to boot. A beer lovers dream with plenty of guest ales on tap and a beer garden overlooking acres of the Knebworth estate.



THE  
FARMHOUSE  
AT REDCOATS  
RESTAURANT & HOTEL

A restored 15th century farmhouse with beautiful gardens and views across the Hertfordshire countryside. Experience farm-to-table dining across our restaurant and private dining rooms or relax in the old kitchen and snug sitting rooms with stunning original barns across the courtyard to befit any banquet. Make yourself comfortable in our bespoke bedrooms in the farmhouse, converted old stables and barns, each one boasting its own historic features.



hermitage rd.



The Jolly Sailors



The Lytton Arms



The Farmhouse at Redcoats



The Cricketers



The Kings Head



The White Horse



The Fox



**The Good Pub Guide 2022**  
**The National Pub & Bar Awards County Winner**  
**Cool Places**  
**The Epicurean Club**  
**The Hotel Guru**  
**The Publican Award Winner**



We are proud members of the Sustainable Restaurant Association

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