THE MARDLER

A round-up of stray news and previews from around the county.
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SCHOOL'S ROYAL GUEST

Excited flag-waving pupils from Gresham’s greeted a very special visitor to the Holt school’s speech day when the Princess Royal in by helicopter to officially open the new music school, the Britten Building, and to hand out prizes at the annual speech day celebration.

She was the guest of honour in her new role as the Prime Warden of The Fishmongers’ Company. As part of that role, she will be Gresham’s ex-officio governor.

The Princess Royal was met by prep and prep pupils as she made her way to the school’s Memorial Chapel for a service for upper sixth leavers and their parents. To commemorate the opening of the Britten Building, she planted a tree outside and, after a tour of the building and time spent chatting to donors and school governors, unveiled a plaque in the building’s foyer.

Headmaster Douglas Robb said: “We feel deeply honoured that HRH The Princess Royal has agreed to become a governor of Gresham’s in her capacity as Prime Warden of The Fishmongers’ Company. She follows in the footsteps of her father and Gresham’s patron, the Duke of Edinburgh, who has been a governor previously. Gresham’s is also very excited to welcome Sir James Dyson OM CBE as a governor from September. The school is in great spirits after a lovely speech day and the opening of new facilities.”

The Princess Royal handed out prizes to 80 pupils and took the time to speak to each one. After her departure guests enjoyed lunch and many stayed to watch a staff against leavers cricket match.

WI puts heart and soul into map update

Walkers at Erpingham have put their best boots on to update a 30-year-old walks map set around their village. Erpingham with Calthorpe WI devised the original route with Norfolk County Council in 1987 and recently their walking group used it as one of their regular Tuesday walks after a copy of the map came to light.

It was so popular that they decided to update it, extending it to take in Thwaite Common, a wildlife haven, and the A140 bus stop to encourage non-drivers.

As the group updated the map information, interest grew to the extent that a new history group was formed, meanwhile the crafters and needlewomen have seized on the map as the theme for their next long-term project.

The group plan to unveil the new-look map this month.

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