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AUGUST 2025

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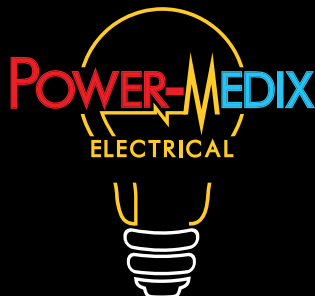
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EDITORIAL

The cover photo shows the children who attend The Madhouse delivering Elmham News. It was suggested by the Sewing Group that they might like to put the magazines they were delivering, in a specially made bag, just for them. They did and here they are in the process. We hope you enjoyed your very "Special Delivery" by the many little helpers from Madhouse, do give them a wave if you see them out and about.

We hope that some of you managed to support the recent Eco-friendly day at the church. It was extremely well organised, and the participants were friendly and helpful. Well done to everyone.

Please note that there will be VJ Celebrations in the village on Saturday 23 August at the Memorial Hall when there will be music from the Fakenham Ukes, tea and refreshments from 2.30–4.30pm. Everyone is welcome to help remember those especially from this village, who were involved.

We hope you all agree that the bus shelter near the Pavilion is looking very good in it's new coat of paint, both inside and out. It was looking very jaded but our brilliant volunteers, the Hazel family have done an extremely good job. On behalf of us all, thank you for what you do for the village, not forgetting your sterling work on Jimmy's Garden, opposite the village shop.

Thank you also to Derek who keeps the grass beautifully cut around the Mosquito Memorial on Back Lane. Thank you also to the unknown person who left flowers on there recently. Also thanks to Terry Maidstone who tends the rose garden, the roses always look so delightful.

Finally, thank you for donations from Mrs S Overy of Boar's Hill, North Elmham Parochial Church Council from the Fete Committee and our regular donors from Station Road. We appreciate your gifts very much, thank you all.

DISCLAIMER: The views expressed in the Elmham News are often those of individual contributors and might not necessarily be shared by the editors. Whilst the editors and committee of the Elmham News accept advertisements in good faith, the credibility of the contents is the sole responsibility of the advertiser.

NEXT DEADLINE: 14TH AUGUST

We welcome contributions from everyone in the village. Please share your stories, events, club activities and heartfelt tributes to loved ones with us. Your participation is crucial in making the Elmham News a true reflection of our village. Please email your article to each of the Editors.

VOLUME 48: ISSUE 7

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NORTH ELMHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 4TH JUNE 2025

The following information is taken from the Draft PC minutes and may be expanded where the Editors feel more explanation is necessary. The full official minutes can be viewed in the Post Office and on the Community website, once approved.

Councillors Present Were: Mr. P. Grainger (Chairman), Mr. M. Phillips (Vice Chairman), Miss A. Ferris, Mr. T. Fitzalan Howard, Mr. B. Gee, Mrs. A. Keeble, Mr. N. Markwell, Mr. M. Rayner, Mr. C. Smith and Mr. J. Sowinski.

Also in Attendance: Mr. K. Webb (Clerk), Mr. G. Bambridge (District Councillor) and one parishioner.

Apologies for Absence: Mr. F. Gillespie.

Public Participation

Concern was expressed that the Union Jack flag had not been flown in the village on VE Day. It was explained that, unfortunately, it was not possible to fly the flag at the Institute on that day as it was broken with a damaged rope. It was confirmed that it is the intention to fly the flag, after it has been mended, on VJ Day on 15th August.

Updated Information And Matters Arising

Land Management Matters

Village Green: At the entrance from Eastgate Street, a rail has rotted and been replaced by Mr. Gee. The tower has been strengthened. The general view is that the standard of grass cutting, carried out by the new contractor, is excellent.

Millennium Wood (and Jubilee Wood): A lot of cutting has been done by Mr. Sowinski and two volunteers. It is hoped to arrange a work party in the near future.

The use of a chipper has been kindly donated and it is the intention to leave the wood on the ground.

Bridleway on disused railway line and other railway linked matters: It has been noted that a wagon has been moved to a prominent position close to the crossing gate.

Street Lights

A light near the Eastgate Centre is currently out. This will be reported.

Highway Matters

The Chairman has had a meeting with the installer of the village gates and the Speedwatch team to confirm the precise positioning. There has been no response from Norfolk County Council to the request for an update regarding the temporary bus stop at the junction of the County School Station.

The cameras at Station Road and Pump Street have had solar energy supplies installed and six new locks have been ordered. The new dog bin for the Boars Hill car park is to be put in place as soon as the land is transferred to the Parish Council. The installation cannot take place until the legal formalities have been completed.

Pavilion and Playing Field

Paint has been applied to the bus shelter and the graffiti has been removed. The outside is to be painted as well. CCTV cameras are to be considered. Sincere thanks were expressed to the volunteers for this work. Biffa and Breckland Council have produced quotations, which will be considered, for the trade waste collection service.

Eastgate Centre

Anglian Water had confirmed that they accepted liability for the Centre being charged and duly paying for water used by adjoining properties, believed to number three. A refund is to be made.

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Brookside Development Update

The legal documentation has been received, signed by the Chairman and duly returned. Some form of official confirmation is awaited from the Land Registry. An amended quotation in respect of fencing next to the bridge has been obtained. This is for £2,890 and was agreed by all (proposed by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Sowinski). With regard to the EV charging, it was suggested that contact should be made with other parishes to find out how the administration procedures are carried out and by which third parties. Mr. Bambridge is to speak to Mr. Paul Hewett at Breckland Council to ask if he could contact us to provide some advice.

Local Plan Update

Mr. Rayner attended two meetings at Breckland Council regarding the updating of the Local Plan. There has been a large increase in the annual target of new

houses to be built in the area – from 625 to 903. Numbers have not yet been given for each parish and Breckland has requested thoughts to be expressed in what is not, at this stage, a formal consultation. Two new potential sites have come forward for North Elmham – Pump Street (6 houses, originally rejected for Highways reasons) and Blackhall Farm (8/10 houses after demolition of farm buildings). Members were requested to forward any comments to Mr. Rayner who will coordinate a response.

North Elmham Living Sustainably (NELS) Group

Mr. Fitzalan Howard is to arrange an informal meeting with the Group to discuss a way forward.

New Village Hall

A visit had been made to Swanton Morley. District Councillor, Mr. Atterwill had been very helpful and stressed the importance

NORTH ELMHAM GARDENING CLUB

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Saturday 2nd August

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APPROVED CLEARVIEW STOCKIST

of financial calculations being very accurate from the beginning. He suggested that a visit to the Marshland Hall and Tea Room could well be of benefit. Mr. Bambridge also felt that a trip to look at Lyng Village Hall would be useful.

The Future of the Churchyard

The Chairman had previously written to Rev. Sally Kimmis confirming that the Parish Council was of the opinion that conditions for closure had not been met. Mr. Bambridge had also written to Sarah Wolstenholme-Smy and Senior Management at Breckland Council.

North Elmham Football Club Facilities

A meeting had been held with the Chairman of the Football Club, Stuart Darbyshire. It was stressed that the main room of the Pavilion has to be left free of all football related items as it is used by a number of other groups, organisations and clubs.

A supply agreement has been prepared by Mr. Gillespie for the purchase of the referee's hut for £1,500. The invoice is initially to be paid by the Parish Council with half of the cost (£750) being repaid by the Football Club at the rate of £75 per month. On the possible disposal of the referee's room at a future date, the Parish Council will be entitled to 50% of the sale proceeds, excluding any additional costs. A standing order of 12 monthly payments of £75 is also to be signed to cover the cost of hiring the facilities over the coming season. The arrangements detailed above were proposed by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Smith. All in favour.

Roles for Parish Council Members

Mr. Gee is to join Mr. Markwell at Prince William Wood, not as previously reported at Broom Green.

Reports from District and County Councillors

Reports submitted by the County and District Councillors can be viewed on the community website www.elmham.org.uk.

Mr. Bambridge asked if there are any parts of the village that are susceptible to flooding. The area at the bottom of Wensum Drive has experienced problems from time to time. A new type of flood bags is available, (sand bags that do not need filling), which absorb approximately 15 litres of water.

Approval of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return

The Clerk presented the financial information for the year ended 31st March, 2025. The Income and Expenditure Accounts showed income of £74,192 (£75,746), expenditure of £61,144 (£53,647) and General Fund (Bank and Building Society balances) of £191,640 (£178,592). These will be placed on the website together with the following items which will be forwarded to the External Auditors, Annual Internal Audit Report, Annual Governance Statement, Accounting Statements, Bank Reconciliation Report, Explanation of Variances Report and the Notice of Public Rights.

Any interested person has the right to inspect and make copies of the accounting records for the financial year. Initially, contact would need to be made with the Clerk.

The accounts and associated documentation were proposed for acceptance by Martin Phillips and seconded by Mr. Sowinski. All in favour.

To Consider Planning Applications and Determinations

Applications

- i) Granary Buildings, Eastgate Street
– PL/2025/0611/DCA – discharge

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of conditions 5,12 and 13 on PP 3PL/2017/0361/F and PL/2025/0608/VAR - removal of condition 14 on PP 3PL/2021/0050/VAR – construction of a 2.0M high acoustic fence to the Eastern boundary. (Details in respect of PL/2025/0611/DCA had been forwarded for "information only". The closing date for responses to 3PL/2021/0050/VAR was 2nd June, 2025.

No views had been expressed prior to the meeting and it was apparent that, from remarks made by members, there was no clear consensus. As such, it was considered that a position of "no comments" was the correct course of action.

JULY PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

There are no Parish Council minutes for the July meeting in this edition as they had not been received in time.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 6th August at 7.30 pm in the Pavilion. Parishioners are always encouraged to attend.

FOR SALE

McGregor Electric Lawnmower. 1200w; 32cm cut; 5-cut heights; 33 litre grass bag; rear roller. Only used a few times and no longer required.

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GARDENING CLUB

The weather was hot for our visit to the Green Island Gardens, Ardleigh near Colchester. The coach was filled with our members, and we welcomed members from Swanton Morely Gardening Club.

None of us knew what to expect as none of us had been before, however, we were

not disappointed with the actual gardens though there were few seats and none in the shade. The owner is obviously a dedicated gardener and holds two National Collections of plants which is pretty prestigious.

The journey to and fro was uneventful and the coach cool enough.

We will have been to the Black Shuck distillery at the end of July and everyone is making preparations for our ANNUAL SHOW on SATURDAY AUGUST 2nd.

We hope that you will find time that afternoon to visit the Show after 2 pm and enjoy the refreshments and perhaps take the opportunity to purchase some of the fruit, flowers and vegetables on offer.

Meg White

VJ DAY

Enjoy the occasion at the Institute on August 23rd remembering the Second World War against Japan, which did not end until after the war in Europe had finished. This will be an occasion to reflect as well as enjoy.

The fighting in the far East was in many instances far crueller than some of the things we have read about or seen in films.

What brings it home to us is the fact that the Norfolk Regiment was involved in Malaya and many were captured, including men from here in Elmham. Men who you might have stopped to chat with or played football or cricket here on the Green Field.

Some of them thought they would not survive... their bodies survived but their minds carried those bad memories for ever! Sleeping was not the solace they craved as their families could attest to, being woken up by a father or brother screaming and sobbing night after night.

Think about it and remember.

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 North Elmham Netball Trailblazers
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 Royal British Legion
 Sewing for Pleasure
 SINE (Help)
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 Snooker Wed
 Tea@Two
 The May Singers
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 Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society
 Wensum Valley Miniature Railway
 Wives + All
 Yoga
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NORTH ELMHAM COUNTRYSIDERS

What a Summer We've Had!

We've had an amazing summer program this year, filled with exciting activities and great memories.

We enjoyed many outdoor visits, and were lucky with the weather during our final few meetings. A standout evening was on Monday, 16th June, when the seniors took part in a fantastic night of orienteering at Holt Country Park. Huge thanks to Joe Savory for leading the session—it was a brilliant experience!

Royal Norfolk Show Success

The Royal Norfolk Show was a big highlight! We had two successful days and a third dedicated to our show build. Our team did incredibly well in the Stockjudging competition, bringing home an impressive set of results: 1x First, 2x Seconds, and a Third place, along with a Runner-Up for Junior Stockperson of the Year. We're so proud of our Countrysiders—well done, everyone!

Soaked in Fun

Our final meeting in June, on the 30th, was a blast—literally! "Water Wars" took place at the pavilion and playing field,

with water pistols at the ready. Everyone got involved and had loads of fun. We wrapped up the night with a massive water balloon fight, and even the parents joined in. It was the perfect end to a fantastic evening.

Looking Ahead

By the time this goes to print, our final competition of the YFC year will have taken place. We'll share the results in our next update—fingers crossed for more great news!

Our last meeting of the year will be held at the West Raynham Veterans Centre on 14th July, and we're thrilled to finish the season there.

A Festive Announcement

We're excited to share that we've once again been accepted to take part in the Fakenham Christmas Tree Festival. This year, any funds raised will be split 50/50 between our group and the West Raynham Veterans Centre.

Here's to a wonderful end of the YFC year and lots more to come.

Wendy Cotterill

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TOWNSEND'S ELMHAM PART ONE

It was in the autumn of 1898 that Ernest Horace Townsend (1865-1947) of Pembroke College, Cambridge, moved into the fine rebrick Georgian vicarage next to the ruins at the top of the hill to become vicar of North Elmham, where he would remain for the rest of life.

The near-50 years of his incumbency covered a period of immense change across rural England which was reflected in our mid-Norfolk village. The period covered two world wars as well as technical advances and social changes that can be followed through the pages of Townsend's diaries as well as the Parish Magazine which he edited throughout the period. A more general view can be obtained from entries in the County Directories.

The first half of the 20th century was generally a period of population decline in the countryside and Elmham was no exception. It was a time when the contrasts between the living conditions in rural and urban settings was at its greatest. Dereham provided more and varied employment opportunities and housing conditions were better with running water, sanitation and gas the norm. There were many pubs, regular entertainment and from 1927 a cinema. From a population of about a thousand in 1900, Elmham had declined to 837 in 1921. Townsend feared that if this trend continued some villages would become completely deserted. This, in spite of the fact that there was employment for much of the period at the railway station where there was a bacon factory and a United Diaries depot.

Reading the county Directories the first thing that strikes one is the large number farms. The 1911 volume lists 21 farmers. Many of these would have been very small enterprises with fewer than half of these

being over 150 acres and so possibly employing up to 20 men each.

Not only was this a period of population decline, but also a fall in farming prices. Farms frequently changed hands, with five farms having new tenants in 1911 while others moved away. This could also mean that farm workers living in cottages tied to these farms would also be on the move. Townend wrote in the Parish Magazine that autumn, 'The sad sight of van loads of furniture passing told of those either moving into different cottages or leaving the parish'. This pattern was only broken by a few years of higher food prices at times of wartime scarcity.

By the time of Townsend's death changes were beginning to be seen on the larger farms. New crops such as sugar beet were grown. The first tractors were appearing, although it would not be until the 1950s that they really began to replace horsepower. The first cars began to be seen on the roads and the roads themselves began to be improved and tarmacked. Bridges replaced fords with that at Worthing Mill dated 1929. A 'motor engineer' in Elmham is listed in the 1911 Directory and the newly formed Scout group took over a redundant blacksmith's shop in Eastgate Street as a headquarters in 1912. A cycle agent had opened up shop by 1925.

Social changes were also taking place. Through much of the 19th century Lord Sondes (later Earl Sondes) had been resident at Elmham Hall and was regarded as the leading member of County society. However, by the time of Townsend's arrival in the village the family fortune had fallen on hard times, and the hall was let to Mr and Mrs Wilson who took on many of the duties of the local squire, providing the parish with a reading room in the park lodge. They left after ten years in 1904 and their place was taken by Mr and Mrs Roberts who continued to run the reading room but only stayed until 1908 at which



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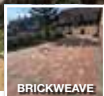
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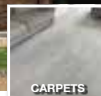
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point the Wilsons agreed to finance it again. By now it occupied a cottage on Church Hill and in 1905, 235 people were borrowing books.

'It fills a very important place in the life of the village. What would the young men of the parish do without its valuable shelter, especially on winter evenings, we know not,' wrote Townsend in 1910. The hall became a Prisoner of War camp during the First World War and was left in a poor state. The Hall, plus the farms and cottages were all sold in 1919. Many of the farms were bought by their long-term tenants. The Hall was demolished and not until the site of the hall within its park, was bought by Mrs Birkbeck in 1920 was the hall rebuilt.

As well as the reading room, there were other forms of entertainment available for a winter evening. A rifle club was formed in 1907 with Mr Roberts 'kindly providing a range in the loft above the stables at the Hall', and there was a lively cricket club. The Horticultural Society held a show every year. There were concerts and lectures on a wide range of subjects as well as courses provided by the County Council on such subjects as poultry keeping and fruit cultivation as well as more general further education classes for those who had achieved at least Standard 5 at school. A ladies' Working Party made clothes for the children's ward at the hospital. In 1911 scholarships were offered by the County Council, for girls to go on residential courses at the School of Cookery on St Georges Plain in Norwich, on housewifery, cooking and laundry work. Entering domestic service was still seen as an important source of employment for girls, for which they needed to be trained.

One of the first activities being encouraged through the pages of the parish magazine was the establishment of 'some form of industry which might be a source of profit and recreation during

the winter months.' The craft chosen was basketry. Miss Dyman of the Home Art and Industries Association organised a series of nine classes of two hours each for which nine people were enrolled. 'Large strong baskets for farming and gardening purposes were made' and they all sold. Withies from the water meadows near County School were harvested for use. Bushel skeps, hampers and fruit baskets continued to be made at the vicarage in 1901 and 1902, but there is no mention of them after that.

An important lifeline to many of the poorer Elmham residents which would have kept them from the workhouse was the introduction of Old Age Pensions in 1908. Those over 70 could apply for one at the Post Office. In 1911 there was a meeting to explain the working of the National Insurance Act. 'The meeting will be non-political, and it is hoped that ladies will also attend'.

Entries in the parish magazine change dramatically with the outbreak of the First World War in 1914. Not only did prayers for those in the army become a regular feature of church life, but a Red Cross Society was set up in 1914 making shirts and knitting for the troops. Belgian refugees began to arrive, and funds were raised to support them. A regular feature in the magazine was 'News of absent ones' in which sections of letters home from the front were included. Townsend noted in the magazine that the letters showed that 'rich and poor were all mixed together, and all appear to be anxious to do their bit'. A letter from a Prisoner of War was quoted in full. Thirty four Elmham men enlisted in 1914 and by the end of 1915 the number had risen to 66. Some officers and men were camped in the grounds of Elmham House and there were regular church parades. A Soldiers' evening club was set up with an average attendance of about forty of which Townsend was the Hon. Treasurer. There were games and reading matter as well



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as music and a buffet. A concert in May by the West Norfolk yeomanry attracted an audience of 182. In November news came of the first casualty, George Drewry (not on the list of the fallen on the plaque in the church,) and thereafter casualties were listed. By the end of the war the number of Elmham men killed had risen to 34 (there are 38 names on the memorial plaque). There was a hospital for the wounded in Dereham and there were regular requests for eggs which always seemed to be in short supply. As Christmas approached, gifts such as tobacco and chocolates were collected to be sent to the front.

36 Elmham men who worked in protected industries such as farming and so were not called up, joined a volunteer corp. for home defence, attending regular drills and training.

The end of the war in November 1918 was celebrated with a thanksgiving service and in 1919 by a dinner in the Kings Head organised by The Demobilised Soldiers and Sailors Federation. December 1919 saw the erection of an army hut from Mattishall as a temporary memorial hall and in 1920 a memorial plaque to the fallen was unveiled in the church.

Susanna Wade-Martins

WIVES PLUS ALL

A group of members enjoyed their visit to the gardens at Severals Grange, Wood Norton, on 10th July. Jane Lister, the owner, welcomed us and started the evening by giving us the history of the gardens which she took over in 1992. The structured gardens evolved and now feature a background of trees with the beds containing leafy shrubs, interspersed with many different species of beautiful ornamental grasses and alpine and the vivid colours of herbaceous plants complete the scene. After the tour of the garden, we were kindly offered and

enjoyed refreshments and bought plants to bring home - another warm sunny evening, so much to see and enjoy, a joy to be there. Severals Grange Gardens will be open to the public (NGS) on Sunday 10th August 1 – 5pm.

We do not meet in August, but at our next meeting to be held on 11th September we will welcome back Kathy Dentton, the title of her talk will be "Costumes for the Stage". Kathy came to us last year the subject then was "What you can do with a Nun's dress" – this was very much enjoyed by all, and we look forward to seeing her again.

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Please come and join us for a walk in the Dereham area.

We have two regular walks each month. Our shortest, easiest walk of around two miles is on the second Tuesday of the month and a slightly longer one of around four miles is on the first Friday of the month.

August 25th is the date planned for our annual Garden Party Walk and our Heritage Open Day Walk is on September 20th. A great way to discover Dereham.

For up-to-date information, please check our website www.derehamwaw.org.uk, email or call Ken Hawkins: ken-hawkins@tiscali.co.uk 07505 426750



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10th September

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ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

We held a meeting on Tuesday 24th June at the Kings Head, and welcomed a new member BJ to our branch, the second in two years not bad.

The meeting was about the branch and the institute holding VJ Day celebrations on the 23rd August between 2.30–4.30. There will be live music provided by Fakenham Ukes, refreshments, tea, home made cakes and sandwiches will be available.

Entrance will be £5 to cover the cost of refreshments etc. children free, also a raffle will be held.

Before closing the meeting both the Chairman and Secretary Andrew and Mike presented Ian with a branch certificate celebrating his nine years as Poppy Appeal Organiser, also for collecting over £53,000, now retiring from the post, it was last year that Ian presented Eileen our president for her 40 years as a Poppy Appeal Collector.

Please attend the VJ Day celebrations if you can, it should be a good afternoon.

Mike Aston, Branch Secretary



VJ DAY CELEBRATION

23rd August
2.30–4.30 pm

Memorial Village Hall
North Elmham

Live music by Fakenham Ukes
Refreshments
Raffle



Entrance £5
Children free



'Come and Sing'

A workshop led by

Caz Jeffreys



Saturday 23rd August

2.30pm until 4pm

St Mary's Church, North Elmham

Leaving collection, donations welcome

Refreshments available

TENORS AND BASSES NEEDED

Fakenham Choral Society is looking to recruit more tenors and basses for the coming season.

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We meet in Fakenham to rehearse on Tuesday evenings from September to June.

For details of how to join, see here:
<https://www.fakenhamchoralsociety.org/join-us>.

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DATES TO REMEMBER: AUGUST

Sat 2nd	Gardening Club Annual Show	Memorial Hall, Open for entries 9am-10.45 am Public entry from 2.00pm	
Tue 5th	Knit and Natter	Pavilion	2.00 pm
Wed 6th	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30 pm
Sat 9th	Book Sale	St Georges House, Church Lane	10-2.00 pm
Wed 13th	Mobile Library visits	The Heath to Wensum Drive	1.15-4.40 pm
Fri 22nd	Jewellery Sale	St Georges House, Church Lane	10-2.00 pm
Sat 23rd	VJ Day Celebration Come & Sing Workshop	Memorial Hall St Mary's Church	2.30-4.30 pm 2.30-4.00 pm

NB: No Countrysiders, Sewing Group, Tea@2 or Wives Plus All in August

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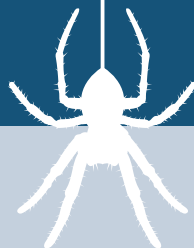
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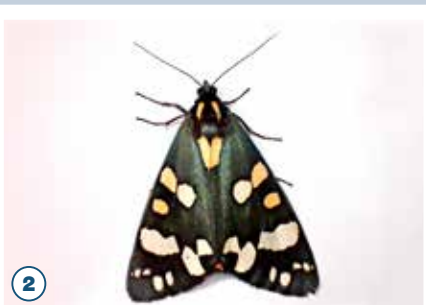
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ELMHAM WILDLIFE



During the past month I've received messages from three different people telling me that they've seen Hummingbird Hawk-moths in the village. These are chunky-bodied migrant moths that feed on nectar at flowers. What sets them apart is that they are adept at gathering the nectar while still flying, hovering beside the flower and extending their long proboscis (tongue) into the flower – rather like an actual hummingbird (which they are sometimes mistaken for, but real hummingbirds don't occur outside of the Americas). In fact there are a few moths that can hover at flowers and feed in this way, but none do it in daylight as much or as well as the Hummingbird Hawk-moth. If in doubt, look out for the orange hindwings.



I clearly don't have enough flowers in my garden as Hummingbird Hawk-moth doesn't feature among the over 1,000 species of moth I've identified here. I have seen one along the railway but too fleetingly to photograph, so in order to show you a photo I'll resort to including one from elsewhere (photo 1).



One of the people who emailed me was Rod, the same Rod who emailed me last year with a photo of a Scarlet Tiger moth that he had seen in his garden. I was rather envious then, never having seen this recent colonist, but it gave me hope that I would do so before long – after all his picture proved they were now in North Elmham. It turned out that I only had to wait a year, as I've now caught a Scarlet Tiger in my garden moth trap (photo 2).

They are magnificent moths, big, triangular, glossy black-green with bold





white and cream spots on their forewings. But in normal resting position you might wonder why they're called Scarlet Tigers. Well if it opens its wings out so you can see the hindwings, then you will see the scarlet (photo 3). It will be interesting to see how this marvellous species spreads – in some places in southern England it's gone from being non-existent to one of the commonest and easy-to-see moths. They're active in the daytime as well as the night so like Rod, you may well find one in your garden too.

Anyway, I wrote about moths last month, so I didn't want to focus on moths again this month. Instead I thought I'd talk about the Red Kite. You could make a very strong argument for saying that Red Kite is one of the most impressive British birds, and not many years ago you would have had next to no chance of seeing one in North Elmham. Formerly a widespread breeding bird their British population had shrunk to just a few pairs in central Wales. In the early 90s when I saw my first, they were very rare visitors to Norfolk, the few records undoubtedly involving Continental birds rather than wanderers from Wales.

But they were making a comeback. The Welsh population was going from strength to strength and soon spread across the border into England. Continental migrants were appearing in Norfolk more and more – I used to watch migration at Sheringham regularly and you could always rely on seeing one or two coasting west along the clifftop at some point during the early spring (photo 4). We know that Continental birds have now bred in England and so there is absolutely no doubt in my mind that the species would have recolonised most of England naturally within a few years.

But unfortunately, some people like to meddle, and thought it would be a good idea to speed things up by reintroducing them. Birds were released



first in the Chilterns and then at various other locations, and it was hailed as a huge conservation success. I'm afraid I disagree. Sure, we have ended up with a thriving population of a magnificent species that was once almost extinct, but for the initiative to have been a true conservation success then it would have had to have not happened anyway without the intervention. All we achieved is that we brought it forwards by a few years – but at considerable cost, not least in the lost opportunity of gaining valuable insights into the process of natural recolonisation.

Red Kites were never actually reintroduced in Norfolk, but the reintroduced population spread into Norfolk. In fact the very first pair that bred in Norfolk consisted of one bird from the reintroduction scheme and a second bird of Continental origin that had arrived here naturally. It took a few years before they became common across most of the county. I saw my first in North Elmham before we moved here, on the day I came to look at the house in 2014, but it was another five years before I saw another one. It was around then that a pair nested in Bintree Wood but unfortunately someone who didn't take kindly to their presence took it upon themselves to shoot the bird on the nest, completely illegally of course. Fortunately it didn't have a long-term impact on their population and Red Kites are now commonly seen in and around North Elmham.

Sadly all species raptors still face a great deal of illegal persecution from a minority of small-minded folk. Some believe that they are responsible for the loss of our songbirds, but this is far from the truth – predator populations cannot thrive if they wipe out their prey populations. Others are concerned about their impact on gamebirds, perhaps from a commercial perspective, but really this comes down to greed. If a few gamebirds are taken by birds



of prey there will be plenty left. In any case, Red Kites are the least of their problems as kites are far more likely to feed on carrion that is already dead than they are to kill something for food. The only kite I've seen with what was probably live prey was one that came up from a stoop carrying a large frog in its talons – which it began to eat, or at least peck at, while still flying with it in its talons (photo 5).

Red Kites are easily recognised thanks to their long forked tail, orangey-red from above (photo 6). They are masters of flight, using their tail as a rudder twisting it as they manoeuvre while always remaining graceful and making flight look as effortless as breathing. From below they have contrasting white patches on their outer wings extending almost to the rear of the wing (photo 7). Adult Red Kites have grey heads contrasting with their reddish-toned bodies but this contrast is reduced in juveniles (photo 8).

As much as I would have been happy to wait for their natural presence here, I love watching Red Kites around the village – I even see them from my study window sometimes. I always appreciate hearing from you about the wildlife you've seen so please keep the reports coming. You can let me know what you see by emailing me at appleton.dave@googlemail.com or phoning me on 668431.

Dave Appleton





NORTH ELMHAM CEVA PRIMARY ACADEMY

Our Class News

Acorn Class (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2)

This term Acorn class have journeyed back in time to learn about the first moon landing and even created our own space-themed film! In RE, we have explored different parables and reflected on their meaning. Acorn class cared for our class caterpillars and were thrilled to watch them become butterflies and enjoyed setting them free. We have also been learning about different animal diets which the children have included in their mini-beast habitats. The children have written beautiful explanation texts on how seeds grow. As part of recognising and embracing change, the children worked alongside their adults to help shape their new learning environment for next year. We also enjoyed our transition morning, warmly welcoming new Reception children to our school. We are so excited. Well done, Acorn Class a fantastic end to the year.

Oak Class (Year 3 to Year 6)

Oak class have worked hard in their writing this term. The children have spent time researching newspaper reports and sourcing information all linked to our topic work on the environment and the world around us. Oak class have written their own newspaper report about an unknown sea creature that has been washed up on the shores of Norfolk's coastline. As the academic year has drawn to a close it is important we celebrate the wonderful achievements of our students. Year 3's moving into a new Key Stage, Year 4's completing their multiplication check and the Year 6's finishing their SATs and moving onto the next part of their school career—something I'm sure everyone will wish them the best of luck

with. All the teachers in Oak class are in awe of the hard work and we are excited to see this continue next academic year.

Whole School News

School Bridge Opening

We are excited to announce the opening of our bridge linking the school and the car park. The bridge will be open each morning and closed after all the children have left the premises.

Transition Morning

We held our transition morning, welcoming our new Reception children into school to meet their new teachers. All of the children had a lovely morning with their class teacher and children who will be in their class in September.

Beautiful Butterflies

We watched our butterflies take their first flight right before our eyes!

Thank you Debbie (our local child-minder) for donating the caterpillars.

Tea@2

Thank you for inviting us to join such a wonderful community event this year! We are looking forward to joining you again in September.

Friends of North Elmham School (FONES)

Our amazing Friends of the School have been busy fundraising for the school. The recent Yard Sale raised £142, Sports Day refreshments raised £65 and the cake sale, which has been held weekly throughout the year, has raised a staggering £935!

This year, FONES have contributed towards school trips, for each child, reducing the cost of the trip for our families. We chose new books for our library from the funds raised from the book fair. We have been able to purchase new sports equipment for break times and

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PE lessons, new resources for our outdoor learning and plants and seeds for our EYFS garden. FONES have also organised Leaver's Hoodies and a Leaver's outing for our year 6 children.

Thank you to our brilliant families and local community who help raise such important funds for the school. It really makes such a difference to our children.

North Elmham Primary Academy Nursery

We are busy setting up our brand new nursery ready for September.

We will offer wraparound care, term time only, where families can use their government funding flexibly to suit their needs. Funded and non-funded places available. Please contact the school office for Registration and Funding forms.

We also have space in other year groups, we would love to welcome you and your child to come and have a look round our wonderful school and see what we have to offer!

Please contact the school office if you are interested in a place.

office@northelmhamschool.norfolk.sch.uk
01362 668318

www.northelmhamschool.uk

WENSUM VALLEY BIRDWATCHING SOCIETY

Mid-summer is usually a very quiet time for birdwatching, so WVBS went to Foxley Wood in early July to look for butterflies. A sunny day is best, and we didn't quite manage that, but it was warm and dry and there were glimpses of the sun. Luckily the butterflies didn't seem to mind, and although there were fewer individuals we found 18 different species. The big attraction at this time of year is the Purple Emperor, always seen as a challenge but it didn't disappoint. With a tip-off to

help, we searched the Oaks near the path and found one with a small area of sap running on the trunk. It had attracted Hornets and also Red Admirals, but most importantly there were also female Purple Emperors feeding on the sweet sap. My guidebook says they can become drunk on oak sap! We did also see a male or two flying high in the tops of the Oaks but had to be content with the browner females for a close view. Other spectacular butterflies are the Silver-washed Fritillaries, of which there were plenty, plus Red and White Admirals and Purple Hairstreaks. Of course we did also take note of the birds, mostly heard only, and included Bullfinch and Oystercatcher in our list.

From now on we can expect an increase in the numbers of migrant birds passing through so next month we will be back to bird watching. Here are our next meetings.

Forthcoming Events

Indoor meetings are held at Great Witchingham Village Hall on the third Thursday of each month. Visitors are welcome for a small charge (£3.00)

Thursday 21st August – Susan Jones of BTO Garden Birdwatch.

18th September – Steve Rowland on the East Atlantic Flyway.

Outdoor Meetings

Full details of outdoor meetings can be found on the website - WVBS.co.uk

Sunday 31st August – Carleton Mashas (Suffolk Wildlife Trust)

Sunday 28th September – Minsmere





MILLENNIUM WOOD TRANSFORMATION

Thanks to the tireless efforts of local volunteers, Millennium Wood has undergone a wonderful transformation in recent months. Through careful coppicing and cutting back of overgrown areas, they've opened up the woodland canopy, allowing much more natural light to reach the floor. The difference is striking it's brighter, greener, and more inviting than it was.

Newly opened pathways are now easier to navigate, and the sunlight dances through

the trees, encouraging a burst of new growth and making the wood a real joy to walk around.

As a regular walker in the wood I am truly grateful to those who are putting in so much hard work.

Millennium Wood is a special place, and thanks to these good people it's looking and feeling more alive than ever.

Sarah Felton



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BRISLEY AND NORTH ELMHAM CRICKET CLUB

The Saturday firsts starred this month as they put together a winning run of five games to close the gap at the top of the table as they remain in 4th place. The Club has been delighted to host Litcham High School boys and girls games over the last few weeks and look forward to developing the link next season.

June 13th

Ladies v Sheringham (A) League
Sheringham conceded

June 14th

1sts v Hardingham (H) League
Hardingham 232-6 B&NE 236-4
B&NE won by 6 wickets

Back to winning ways after the visitors set a good target, Futter and Sinclair taking a couple of wickets each. Ollie Hall opened the batting and his 84 was the foundation of the run chase, supported by brother Dan (41) and Josh Jex (57) which lifted the home team to fourth in the division.

Payne Crop Nutrition MoM: Oliie Hall for his 84 runs and 1-38

2nds v North Runcton 3 (A) League
North Runcton 227-4 B&NE 58
B&NE lost by 169 runs

Another tough afternoon for the seconds against a side pushing for promotion. Although taking the first 3 wickets fairly cheaply again B&NE couldn't press home their advantage and the target was far too much against the home team opening bowlers, only Tom Thorpe making it into double figures.

Payne Crop Nutrition MoM: Tom Thorpe for his 20 runs

June 16th

T20 Snettisham (H) Tom Bartram Cup
Snettisham 86 B&NE 88-5
B&NE won by 5 wickets

The defending champions moved into the quarter-finals with a comfortable victory over fellow Div 1 opponents Snettisham. The four second team regulars all played a part in the victory especially Phil Bend with a brace of wickets including a stunning return catch.

Payne Crop Nutrition MoM: Skipper Tom Donnelly for his 3-13, 21 runs and a run-out.

June 21st

1sts v Sandringham and Dersingham (A)
League S&D 151 B&NE 152-6.
Won by 4 wickets

Abdul Ali and debutant Euan Mayfield grabbed 4 wickets apiece although the visitors were disappointed with the extras conceded. The first 5 B&NE batters all reached double figures with opener Ollie Hall hitting a decisive 57 to see the visitors home with 15 overs to spare.

Payne Crop Nutrition MoM: Debutant Euan Mayfield for his 4-15 off 5.5 overs

2nds v Gt Withingham 3 (H) League
B&NE 169 Gt Withingham 170-5.
Lost by 5 wickets

An improved batting performance by the home side was not enough to secure victory. George Bridges made a half-century in his second match since returning to the club and five other batters made double figures. The bowling attack however found the visitors' opening batter a handful as he was eventually run out for 97.

Payne Crop Nutrition MoM: George Bridges for his 52 runs

June 23rd

Ladies v Aylsham (A) League
Aylsham 148-2 B&NE 80-7.
Lost by 68 runs

A first defeat for the Ladies as they travelled without key players and went on to concede too many extras in the field. In reply, only skipper Sophie Hall made

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double figures, but B&NE remain top of their pool at the half way stage.

Black Shuck WoM: Sophie Hall for her unbeaten 30 and 1-17 off 4 overs.

June 23rd

T20 Great Witchingham (H) Hunts Cup
B&NE 255-5 Gt Witchingham 236-5.
Won by 19 runs

A phenomenal 80 boundaries in this amazing match witnessed by a good crowd as B&NE moved into the mid county pool final. For the home side Ali (108) and Futter (92) showed scant regard for their Alliance opposition to set a mammoth target. The visitors however also dominated the bowling attack and with 5 overs to go looked to be in a strong position before Ben Wall (3-16) eased B&NE to a famous victory.

Payne Crop Nutrition MoM: Abdul Ali for his 108 runs and 1-27.

June 30th

1sts v New Buckenham (H) League
New Buckenham 191-8 B&NE 193-1.
Won by 9 wickets

3 wickets for Tom Donnelly and two apiece for Ollie Hall and Adam Mackay restricted the visitors to below 200, a target made to look very easy after an opening stand of 124 between James Tuthill (64) and James Harvey who went on to reach his century.

Payne Crop Nutrition MoM: James Harvey for his unbeaten 102 runs

2nds v Grimston (A) League B&NE 127
Grimston 128-7 Lost by 3 wickets

B&NE almost pulled off a major shock against League leaders Grimston. Despite only posting 127 with Wheddon hitting 29 and Tom Thorpe an unbeaten 23, B&NE had the home side at 75-7 before a half century partnership guided the hosts home.

Payne Crop Nutrition MoM: Tom Thorpe for his runs and energy in the field

July 4 Ladies v Sprowston (A) League
Sprowston 184-2 B&NE 102-5
Lost by 82 runs

The Ladies came up a very different Sprowston team than earlier in the season and which featured several County players. This was evident as 4 batters reached the 30 mark. In reply the Belladonnas were always behind the required run rate despite 27 from Catherine Newey and 22 from Rachael Eayrs

Black Shuck WoM: Rachael Eayrs for making her best ever score and energetic fielding

July 5th

1sts v Snettisham (H) League
Snettisham 175-8 B&NE 179-6.
Won by 4 wickets.

B&NE continued their winning streak with an edgy victory over second placed Snettisham but remain in fourth place with just under half the season remaining. Five bowlers shared the wickets with Futter leading the way with 3-27. In reply the home side struggled to 95-6 but a match winning partnership between Abdul Ali (65) and Futter (28) saw them to their fourth consecutive victory.

Payne Crop Nutrition MoM: Callum Futter for his unbeaten 28 and 3-27

2nds v Narborough (A) League
Narborough 236-7 B&NE 216-6
Lost by 20 runs.

Another narrow defeat against highly placed Narborough. Despite Max Wiseman's 3-41, the visitors faced a challenging target but were well in the hunt until the final few overs with 5 batters making double figures lead by skipper Phil Bend.

Payne Crop Nutrition MoM: Phil Bend for his 75 runs and 1-37.

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July 10th

v Beehives (A) Hunts Plate
B&NE 165-4 Beehives 166-1
Lost by 9 wickets.

B&NE's debut venture into this competition ended with a last over defeat to a team comprised of players from two leagues higher. Ali's 70 at the top of the innings set a good target on a challenging wicket but the home opener profited from a life from the very first ball to go on to make a match winning century.

Payne Crop Nutrition MoM: Abdul Ali for his 70 runs

July 11th

Ladies v Sheringham (H) League
Sheringham conceded

August Home Fixtures

Sat 2nd 1sts v Overstrand
Sat 9th 1sts v Saham Toney
Sat 16th 2nds v Beeston
Sat 23rd 1sts v Sandringham
Sat 30th 2nds v Thornham

Mark Ballman, Chair

NORTH ELMHAM YOUNG FARMERS CLUB

With only a few weeks left of the Young Farmer's year, and as members prepare for the final competition/rally, we are reflecting on the brilliant year we have had. We have raised over £4000 for our chosen charity of the year, The Brittle Bone Society, which will go towards supporting individuals and families affected by Osteogenesis Imperfecta. We have raised this money through multiple successful events including: a dinner dance, tractor run and a ploughing match. We would like to thank everyone who has supported these events and we hope to continue putting on events like this in the future.

Our weekly meetings have taken us to the coast for a tour of the Holkham Estate, to Dereham Fire Station and we have spent some time building our show build which was displayed on the Norfolk Young Farmers stand at the Royal Norfolk Show.

In September, we start up again, when we have our Drag Bingo on the 12th of September held at the Kings Head hosted by the brilliant Dee & Mindy. £10 per person with amazing prizes and a guaranteed hilarious night out. To book: contact Millie on 07876197845 or fishermillie15@gmail.com

If you think Young Farmers might be for you; we meet Wednesdays at 7.30pm at The Kings Head (or see our socials for more information on where to find us!) open to ages 15-28, You don't have to be a farmer to be a young farmer! @northehelmhamyfc

STANDING WITH GIANTS MEMORIAL

I went to Normandy with my daughter, son-in-law and grandson a few weeks ago to see the British Normandy Memorial, which I shall never forget. It is in a village called Ver Sur Mer.

The Memorial records the names of all those under British Command who lost their lives in Normandy between 6th June and 31st August 1944, near Juno Beach, which was the British beach for landing on the 6th June 1944.

We visited the Memorial in the evening of two days and each time Emma and I were reduced to tears. I had thought I won't cry, famous last words. It was so atmospheric we couldn't help it. The days had been beautiful and the sun was just sinking down into the sea and everywhere was silent.

The whole idea for the Memorial had been four years in the making. Silhouettes had

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been made for everyone who had perished and each one was slightly different to who was nearest to them. Every one of the 1475 figures has a name and their military number there beside them. There were two women also there. They were nurses on a ship called the SS Amsterdam. They were given the opportunity to leave the ship, but they refused and stayed to help the soldiers get off safely. Very sadly they perished which is why they are also there. Their silhouettes are slightly bigger than the men.

It is called 'Standing with Giants'. The silhouettes are made from recycled signs and are part of the 80th year celebration of the end of World War II.

Janet Woodhouse

Ed's note: If you are interested, Youtube Standing with Giants will give you a very moving idea of what Janet and her family saw and felt.

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Dear Friends

On the 22nd of June I received the great privilege of being commissioned as one of the first group of Eco-Chaplains in the Diocese. Earlier that day the Bishop of Norwich had led the Heart of Norfolk service for Creation. The day before we had held our Heart of Norfolk benefice Ecofair at North Elmham. For me it was a weekend focused on religion and its role in the environment.

The primary purpose of this voluntary role is to encourage and support churches to respond to the climate and ecological crisis, by advocating for environmental action, resourcing others, and helping churches on their Eco Church and net zero journey.

Conservation has been an interest I have pursued since the mid 1980s and worked

for some years with the East Norfolk volunteers when we lived near Great Yarmouth I felt that this was an integral part of my being a Christian.

I have found great joy in the fact that the Church is becoming more involved with the environment in what I consider the right way. For far too long the Church has taken a human centred attitude to the world about the world about us. It has taken the Creation story to mean that the rest of creation is purely for us to dominate. At last, it has seen that we are part of the web of life not apart from it. We are stewards of this earth and should show more care for it.

In the New Testament Jesus tells to consider the lilies of the field and the birds of the air. I believe that he is telling us to take care of them and all creatures around us. The creation story in Genesis tells us that God at the end of each of his "days" labour looked at what he had created and saw that it was good, even after creating humankind! I sometimes wonder if he still feels the same.

We are travellers on the earth "bus" our task is to keep it healthy for those who come after us so that they can continue to enjoy the wonders of nature, the glorious creation that God has endowed to us.

*Norman Johnson, Licensed Lay Minister
Heart of Norfolk benefice.*



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CHURCH SERVICES AUGUST



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3RD AUGUST – 7TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

9:00am	Worthing	Holy Communion
10:30am	North Elmham	Holy Communion
10:30am	Stibbard	Holy Communion
10:30am	Bawdeswell	Word & Praise

10TH AUGUST – 8TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

9:30am	Wood Norton	Morning Praise
10:30am	North Elmham	Iona Holy Communion
10:30am	Bawdeswell	Holy Communion
10:30am	Foulsham	Holy Communion

17TH AUGUST – 9TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

10:30am	Wood Norton	Holy Communion
10:30am	Worthing	Iona Morning Praise
10:30am	Bawdeswell	The 10:30

24TH AUGUST – ST BARTHOLOMEW

10:30am	Guist	Holy Communion
10:30am	Stibbard	Morning Praise
10:30am	Bawdeswell	Holy Communion
10:30am	Foulsham	Holy Communion

31ST AUGUST – 11TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

10:30am	Worthing	Group Holy Communion
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Services at Bawdeswell All Saints are available on Zoom – please contact Robin Taylor for joining details: robin.bawdeswell@gmail.com

CONTACT DETAILS

Billingford, Bintree, Guestwick, Guist, North Elmham, Stibbard, Twyford, Wood Norton, Worthing: Revd Sally Kimmis, 01362 668850, heartofnorfolkrector@gmail.com

Bawdeswell, Bylaugh, Elsing, Foulsham, Foxley, Lyng, Sparham, Themelthorpe: Revd Richard Turk, 07721 035009, revdrichardrwv@gmail.com

WORTHING NEWS

St Margaret's Church in Worthing forms part of The Heart of Norfolk Group of Churches. Recently, the Ministry Team, including Miranda and Celia from Worthing has agreed an additional way in reaching out to our communities. The Group has produced a "Welcome Card" which will be available from the 1st August for your use. May we invite residents and visitors alike to collect, complete and return a card to your chosen church. We would like to hear from you. With your permission, the information you provide will be held as per General Data Protection guidance and will help churches to address individual needs within our communities. A sample of the card may be viewed on:

[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/StMargaretsChurchworthing/)

[StMargaretsChurchworthing/](http://www.facebook.com/StMargaretsChurchworthing/)

www.facebook.com/heartofnorfolk/

Sunday Services

Our Sunday Services for the month are 3rd Holy Communion at 9am and 17th Iona Morning Praise at 10.30am. We hope you will be able to join us

Harvest Morning Praise

Sunday 21st September 2025 at 10.30am

In aid of Mid Norfolk Foodbank and Tap into WaterAid

The Norfolk Churches Trust

Bike, Ride and Walk!

Saturday 13th September 2025

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Our thanks go to everyone below who submitted and gave permission for the images included this month.

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PAGE 13: Liz Vince

PAGE 14–15: Wendy Cotterill

PAGE 23: Mike Aston

PAGE 29–31: Dave Appleton

PAGE 32: North Elmham CEVA Primary Academy

PAGE 36–37: Sarah Felton



NORTH ELMHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Colin Smith, 01362 668 585

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PARISH CLERK

Kevin J Webb, 01328 855046

northelmhampc@hotmail.co.uk

MEETINGS

Held on 1st Wednesday of the month in the Pavilion at 7.30pm. All parishioners welcome. Public participation takes place at the beginning of each meeting. County and district councillors attend meetings whenever possible.

Between meetings specific matters for the Parish Council can be notified according to the list below.

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Cathedral Ruins..... Ann Keeble, Tom Fitzalan Howard

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Tree Warden Tom Fitzalan Howard, Nick Markwell, Colin Smith

Website Martin Phillips

PARISH CHARITIES

There are a number of charities that make grants to individuals resident in the parish. Please consult the community website for information elmham.org.uk/parish-council/village-charities.

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Church of England	Reverend Sally Kimmis Reverend Richard Turk	heartofnorfolkrector@gmail.com revdrichardnwv@gmail.com	668850 07721 035009
Roman Catholic	Father Jay T Magpuyo	35 London Rd, Dereham	694066
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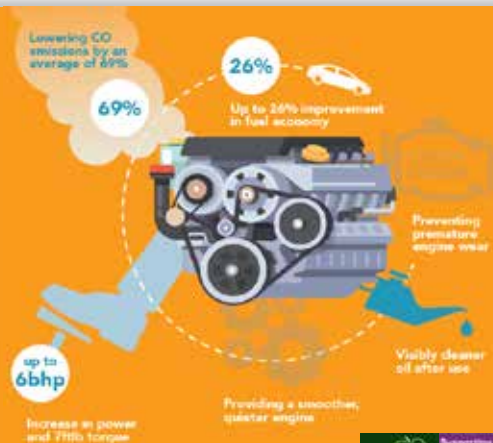
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