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VILLAGE MAGAZINE**

AUGUST 2026

**NORTH ELMHAM
VIEWS & NEWS**

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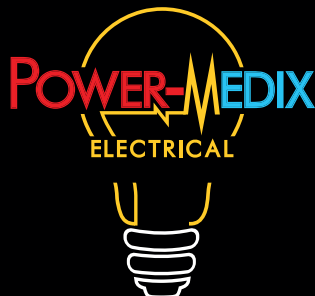
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EDITORIAL

There has not been much let-up in the heat this month, and fans and air-cooling solutions seem to be on everyone's minds. Still, in true British fashion, we are grinning and bearing it — along with the football and the tennis. The golf has only just begun, so we shall have to wait and see how that unfolds.

With the school holidays now upon us, parents, grandparents and carers will be looking forward to six busy weeks with the children — and no doubt searching out plenty of local activities to keep everyone entertained.

The cover photo shows recent destruction of the church wall, this and the fence opposite both look as though they were struck by heavy machinery rather than a car. It is a stark reminder of how much damage can be done, and we are very thankful that no one was injured.

We did not receive the June Parish Council minutes in time for last month's magazine, so this edition includes both the June and July minutes. Please note that the most recent meeting minutes appear first; the June minutes can be found later in the magazine on page 40.

Please keep in mind that church services may not take place exactly as published, as our Vicar, Reverend Sally, is currently in hospital. The Deanery Team has stepped in and will do its best to arrange services and keep things running smoothly. For the latest information, please visit www.heartofnorfolkchurches.org.uk

Our sincere thanks go to our friends on Station Road for their regular donation. Your continued support is very much appreciated.



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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 49: ISSUE 7

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DONATIONS TO

SORT CODE: 09-01-54
A/C NUMBER: 44939709
A/C NAME: Elmham News

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ELMHAM NEWS THE FUTURE ?

Our May magazine included a feature reflecting on our 50th anniversary in 2027, and an honest look at what the future of the magazine might be beyond that milestone.

As mentioned in the article, the current volunteer team remains committed to seeing Elmham News reach its golden anniversary before handing over to a new team — if people are willing to come forward and take it on in whatever form suits modern village life. Otherwise, the Elmham News will bow out at the end of 2027 with a special celebration edition.

We are, therefore, keen to hear from anyone who may be interested in forming a new team to keep the Elmham News going. We are also looking to collect stories, memories and photographs from across the decades as part of our 50th anniversary celebrations.

If you missed the article its is on page 5 of the May's edition, past copies of the magazine are available on the community website. If you feel you would like to know more about taking on the magazine, please do get in touch.

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Projection screen (5x5ft), as new £20.00
Call Rod 07884137129 or 01362668108

BATTERIES AND SMALL ELECTRICAL ITEMS

To all Parish and Town Council Colleagues

We have been made aware of some misinformation and misunderstanding circulating online regarding the recycling of small electrical items and batteries in Breckland. For clarity, please find below an update on the position – please

consider using your channels to help cascade this to keep residents informed and safe and avoid service disruptions. The council will be publishing similar information direct to residents via our social media channels, which you can support by sharing those posts.

Current Position

Unfortunately, due to a recent fire at the processing centre, we have had to temporarily pause the collection of small electricals and battery items as part of the weekly household waste collection service.

In the meantime, residents are being asked to hold on to these items and store them safely at home until the collection service resumes. We will issue a further update when this is the case.

Alternatively, residents can take old batteries to alternative collection points, such as those held at a number of local supermarkets.

Never Bin Your Batteries

It is essential that batteries and small electricals are never put inside main household bins as they are liable to explode and ignite other materials if crushed, which can happen when the bins are tipped into the collection trucks or at the waste plant.

We have unfortunately seen a number of incidents like this in Breckland and the wider county which you'll appreciate pose a serious risk for our crews and residents, causes service disruption, and strains the Fire service. Therefore, we're reminding all residents to 'Never Bin Your Batteries'

Normal Arrangements

When normal service is in operation, we ask that all small electricals, items containing batteries, and/or loose batteries are left in a separate bag on top of residents' household bins on collection day. This enables our bin crews to collect these items for recycling but keep them separate from the main waste. We will

NORTH ELMHAM GARDENING CLUB

ANNUAL SHOW

SATURDAY 8TH AUGUST

MEMORIAL HALL, NORTH ELMHAM

ANYONE CAN ENTER

We have classes in vegetables, fruit, garden flowers, flower arranging, house plants, photography, baking, jams, preserves and pickles, art and handicrafts

Separate under 16's classes.

Something for everyone to enter.

Refreshments

Raffle

Staging of exhibits 9.00am-10.45am

Judging commences 11.15am

Public entry for viewing 2.00pm

Winners presentations 3.00pm

Auction/sale of exhibits 3.30pm

Gardening Club members free entry, non members 20p per exhibit. Under 16's free.

Show schedules and entry forms available to download from:

www.elmham.org.uk/whats-on/clubs-groups/gardening-club/

or view on our facebook page search for North Elmham Gardening Club



update you when the pause on the collection service comes to an end.

Thank you for your support,

Breckland Council

Eds Notes: Good to see that the information we have been giving you in the News is correct.

GARDENING CLUB

There should follow a report on the visit to Fuller's Mill near Bury St Edmunds from last month but unfortunately it was in the middle of the first heat wave we had, and the consensus of opinion was that it would be too hot and uncomfortable. However, Ray has negotiated an alternative on September 11th when we hope the weather may be more to our liking. If you would like to join us, please do get in touch with Ray for more details. 01362 667226.

We will also have had our long anticipated visit to the Black Shuck Distillery in July, when we will be treated to a Ploughman's supper and tastes of their new range of cocktails!

August 8th will see our Annual Gardening Show, and we are weather watching to see what produce and flowers will be fit enough to be exhibited. You can obtain a copy of the schedule on line at www.elmham.org.uk or by contacting Ray to see if he has any hard copies. It is not too late. Non members are only charged 20p per entry and there are some good classes for children to enter for free.

Please note that ALL competitors must submit their completed forms in advance between Mon 3rd August and 5pm on Thursday 6th August 2026. Completed forms and entry fee (if necessary) should be placed in an envelope and delivered to either Ray at 40, Cathedral Drive or to Sarah at 91, Eastgate Street.

Tickets will be ready for collection from the Memorial Hall on the morning of the Show 9.00–10.45 am.

NB there will be an opportunity for the odd one or two exhibits to be registered on the morning of the show.

Good Luck, everyone.

ELMHAM SURGERY

Update on 'Andi' our Virtual Care Receptionist

Since introducing Andi in January 2026, we have found it to be a valuable addition to the practice, helping us improve both efficiency and the patient experience. Patient feedback has been extremely positive:

"The phone was answered quickly, and Andi spoke clearly, explaining the questions and answers well."

"Simple process, good questions, easy to complete."

"Surprisingly good. Initially worried about speaking to a machine, but it was absolutely fine and I was happy."

"A little unnerving speaking to a machine at first, but quite easy once the request went through."

Andi helps ensure that every patient contact is handled consistently by:

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- Minimising the risk of missing important details
- Andi is multilingual and can understand up to 55 different languages



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- Faster and more efficient workflows
- Reduced administrative burden for our team
- An improved experience for patients

What makes Andi particularly valuable is its ability to do more than simply record information. Andi is designed to understand how patients are feeling and respond with empathy, warmth and reassurance, especially when patients may be anxious, worried or distressed.

Patient safety remains a priority. Andi is built with safety in mind, detecting urgent concerns and escalating them appropriately when necessary. We are delighted with the positive impact Andi has had so far and look forward to continuing to use this innovative technology to support our patients and staff.

Patient Behaviour Expectations

Due to ongoing inappropriate behaviour from some patients, we would like to remind you at our practice we are committed to providing a safe, welcoming and respectful environment for all patients, visitors and staff. We kindly ask everyone to treat our team and fellow patients with courtesy and respect at all times. As per our zero tolerance policy aggressive, abusive, threatening or discriminatory behaviour will not be tolerated. By working together with kindness and understanding, we can ensure that everyone receives the care and support they need in a positive environment.

Patient Participation Group

Did you know that our Patient Participation Group (PPG) helps represent the views of patients and works closely with the practice to support improvements to the services we provide? The PPG are currently in the planning stages of future events and initiatives aimed at supporting the health and wellbeing of our patients. Further details and event dates will be shared soon.

If you would like to contact the PPG, you can do so either by emailing elmhamsurgeryppg@gmail.com or by leaving a message in one of the PPG post boxes located at both Elmham Surgery and Swanton Morley Surgery or filling out the form on our website.

FOOD WASTE COLLECTIONS

The Government has decided that ALL Councils will now have to have separate Food Waste Collections (the extra cost of which will be borne by the Council Tax Payer). Breckland is therefore making arrangements to introduce this new Service and you will be seeing some changes with your bins.

Every household will have to be given 2 new Food Caddys. They are small BLUE bins, one to keep in your kitchen and the other, slightly bigger one, will live outside with your other bins.

The small one to be used to fill the bigger one, which you will need to put out EVERY week, probably on your bin day. It will be collected but not at the same time as your main bin because it will be being collected by a different lorry.

There is a lot to take in, so everyone will receive a leaflet with your new bins, there will be a video on the Breckland website and there will be Open Days at Breckland's Offices for people who want to learn more.

The Government is keen for the collection to begin as soon as possible so the new bins/caddys will start appearing in August and the first collections are due to begin in September.

Ed's Notes: The above is taken from our District Councillor Bill Borrett's report for July which can be seen in full on the Community website elmham.org.uk.

CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS



GROUP

Archive Group
Bowls - Institute
Bowls - King's Head
Brisley & North Elmham Cricket Club
Countrysiders
Elmham Football Club
Elmham News
Elmham Surgery Patient Participation
Elmham Tennis Club
Friends of North Elmham School
Gardening Club
Guides
Knit and Natter
NELS (North Elmham Living Sustainably)
North Elmham Netball Trailblazers
Reading Group
Royal British Legion
Sewing for Pleasure
SINE (Help)
Snooker Mon & Fri
Snooker Wed
Tea@Two
The May Singers
Walking Football
Walking Group
Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society
Wensum Valley Miniature Railway
Wives + All
Yoga
Young Farmers

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Sue Gale, publicity@wvbs.gmail.com
Gordon Ford, 01263 512350
Gill King, 01362 668530
Karen Cornall, 07752 580414
Millie Fisher, fishermillie15@gmail.com



CHURCH WALL

The above photo, taken on the night of 10th July of a car pushed through the park railings opposite the church, says better than a thousand words that it is not a good idea to park on the church bend. A second car demolished a section of the churchyard wall, but miraculously nobody was injured. We can recall that this is the third time a car has driven into the churchyard wall on this bend.

The Parish Council is welcome to use this picture to make a case for having double yellow lines on the bend and alongside this part of the wall. It is much safer to park on the opposite side of the road beside the park wall downhill of the park gates.

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NORTH ELMHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 1 JULY 2026

The following information is taken from the draft minutes and may be expanded where the Editors feel more explanation is necessary. Once approved the full official minutes should be available to be viewed in the Post Office and on the community website.

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

Also in Attendance: Mr. K. Webb (Clerk), four parishioners, two leaving after the Public Participation section of the meeting, and two representatives from Broadland Housing.

Apologies for Absence: Mr. C. Smith and Mr. G. Bambridge (District Councillor).

Public Participation

The following comments were made and questions asked:

- (i) It was queried whether the Eastgate Centre and Memorial Hall were in the process of being sold. No decision has been made with the situation currently being evaluated.
- (ii) With regard to the destruction of the wildflower meadow on Boars Hill, it was confirmed that a letter had been delivered to residents living in the immediate vicinity.
- (iii) Dog mess in the village – Eastgate Centre region, Boars Hill, Millennium Wood and others. Unfortunately, the Parish Council does not have the authority to deal with this problem which is a national issue, nor does it have the resources to constantly monitor it and look for offenders. It was suggested that appropriate signs could be erected but

how likely is it that dog owners, behaving in such an irresponsible and selfish manner, will read and take notice of signs requesting decent conduct?

(iv) The dangers of foxtail grasses, which can be extremely harmful to dogs, was mentioned. This is a common problem in Norfolk and dog owners are advised to proceed with care and to be vigilant.

(v) Gates are being left open in the Millennium Wood, and it was felt that they are being opened too wide to enable bikes to get through.

(vi) A resident of Boars Hill felt that dogs were not being kept under control on the estate and were being allowed to run around off leads. It was suggested that signs should be erected requesting this behaviour to cease.

UPDATED INFORMATION AND MATTERS ARISING

Update from Broadland Housing

A meeting for the public took place in the afternoon on the day of the meeting, 1st July. Mr. Mumford-Smith gave a report and said that about 30 people had visited, with flyers having been sent out previously to all homes. He felt that everyone had been very supportive and understanding.

Two areas were mentioned – land north of Back Lane which will target 1, 2 and 3 bedroom houses, bungalows and affordable accommodation, and Station Yard which has historic contamination issues. Mr. Mumford-Smith said that about 75% of the people attending the session were in support of developing Station Yard with the remaining 25% against, mainly due to highway safety and traffic reasons. The Back Lane site, behind the Kings Head public house, received a mixed response with a rough 50/50 split of for and against opinions. Those in favour generally had reservations including infrastructure issues and some neighbours voiced individual concerns which he felt could be addressed.

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It is the intention to take Back Lane forward as a proposal and he said that it will possibly be more likely to be developed. Mr. Rayner said that Station Yard was the only brown field site in the village put forward. There would be a concern if a green field site in the village was lost with an initial view that only 50% of those attending were in favour of development taking place.

Mr. Mumford-Smith stressed that Broadland Housing would like to develop both sites but the survey, with 71 replies, demonstrated that there was very little housing need in the village with most people responding expressing a desire to move to a bungalow.

Update from North Elmham Living Sustainably (NELS) Group

NELS wants to create a CIC (Community Interest Company) to cover the financial aspects of any project. The Chairman and Mr. Fitzalan Howard are to meet the group in the near future.

Land Management Matters

Village Green: It has been too hot to install the slabs but it will be done by Messrs Gee and Sowinski when the temperature drops. New handholds have been placed on the climbing wall. A resident had reported that the frame for the infant swings had become loose in the ground and two of the rungs for the ladder going up to the large slide are also loose. Mr. Sowinski is to investigate.

Cathedral Ruins: Mr. Duffield is currently finalising his health and safety risk assessments and has already submitted his insurance policy. When these are forwarded to English Heritage, they will need to be informed that the Parish Council has incurred annual expenditure of £5,513 for the year ended 31st March, 2026. The interim CEO of English Heritage, Geoff Parkin, has acknowledged receipt of the revised interpretation of the Bishop's Chapel and described it as "a fascinating turn of events". He says that he will liaise

with his colleagues and come back to us as soon as he can.

Millennium Wood (and Jubilee Wood):

Mr. Sowinski is to inspect the gate which appears to have been over opened to allow bikes through. The possibility of holding a local referendum on the retention of gates was mentioned.

Mid-Norfolk Railway Matters:

The Mid-Norfolk Railway is to put up a notice board in the old station site on which a map will point out the path. They will say it is a permissive path from the buffers to the school. Mr. Rayner stressed that this is incorrect. He has referred them to the 2022 document which confirms that the path is not permissive, it is a footpath. It is agreed that it is a path, not a public right of way.

A request has also been made for the heading of this section of the minutes, which has been used for many years, to be changed from "bridleway on disused railway line and other railway linked matters" to "Mid-Norfolk Railway matters". This amendment is acceptable and has been duly implemented.

Prince William Wood: Mr. Markwell reported that Mr. Crisp has taken down some dead branches and a few dead trees have been removed.

Allotments: Mr. Phillips said that the last remaining allotment will probably be let in the near future.

Street Lights: Mr. Markwell said that two solar lights in Boars Hill are out. He will talk to Gary Mower of Orchard Housing, the developers.

Highway Matters

There is no sign stating "Boars Hill" at the entrance to the estate. This will be rectified.

Pavilion and Playing Field

The Police and Crime Commissioner election is to be held on 16th July. A fee of £300 has been agreed for Breckland Council to hire the pavilion for the day. There is to be a football friendly on



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Sunday, 5th July at the ground between two teams not based in the village. A booking form has been completed and insurance details have been provided. A request has been made to use the showers, (quite naturally, especially with the current hot conditions), and all items currently dumped in the showers are to be removed by North Elmham Football Club on 4th July. This includes a pool table and a barbecue. The fridge has been de-frosted and cleared of all items. Mr. Gillespie agreed to assist Miss Ferris with future Playing Field and Pavilion matters. The new contract for the Pavilion electricity has commenced with significantly better rates.

Boars Hill Update

The Chairman is to chase progress regarding the electricity vehicle charging point and also who is responsible for signage at the entrance to the estate.

Local Plan Update

Mr. Rayner attended an on-line session and advises that things are currently very fluid. The number of possible houses mentioned for the various areas in the village were as follows – land north of Back Lane 15, land south of Back Lane 25, Station Yard 23 and land south of Eastgate Street 30. Much of this information has since been contradicted!

New Village Hall

Site plans are to be obtained for the two possible options previously identified and approximate valuations have been received for the Eastgate Centre and Memorial Hall.

Report from District and County Councillors

Mr. Borrett had forwarded a July report for Upper Wensum Ward which can be read on the website.

Ed's Note: Mr Paul Carr our new County Councillor has also posted his report on the community website Elmham.org.uk.

Accounts for Payment and Schedule of Income

Payments

E-on Next (Pavilion from 01/05/26 to 31/05/26) – (d/d) £216.30

Drax (electricity for street lights – 01/05/26 to 31/05/26) – (d/d) £246.34

E-on Next (electricity for Boars Hill– 01/05/26 to 31/05/26)–(d/d) £9.76

Breckland Council (Business waste– 16/05/26 to 15/09/26) –(d/d) £53.30

D. Tyson (pavilion cleaning for June) £152.52

K. Webb (Clerk's pay for June) £900.67
HMRC (Tax and N.I. on Clerk's pay) £331.53

Richard Roos (repairs following street light removal) £360.00

NGF Play Ltd (play equipment spares) £21.00

T. T. Jones Electrical (street light maintenance Oct,Nov,Dec) £119.24

T. T. Jones Electrical (street light maintenance Jan,Feb,Mar) £119.24

T. T. Jones Electrical (street light maintenance Apr,May,Jun) £119.24

T. T. Jones Electrical (street light maintenance Jul,Aug,Sep) £119.24

T. T. Jones Electrical (completion of EICR Certificates) £1,009.80

Joe Sowinski (picnic seat bases) £146.02

Joe Sowinski (picnic seat fixings) £15.02

Joe Sowinski (aggregate bags for seats) £9.00

J. Duffield (work in Cathedral Ruins – March to June) £500.00

Expenditure approved by all members.

Income

HSBC (coif inc div) £50.65

HSBC (coif inc div) £31.31

Bank interest (02/03/26 to 07/06/26) £144.17

Pavilion lettings £10.00

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2026

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Current a/c: £74,367.36

Business Premium a/c: £51,208.00

Cambridge Building Society: £84,092.62

To Consider Planning Applications and Determinations

Applications

i) Proposed replacement of existing 2 bed bungalow and garage with new 6 bedroom house and garage – Fortunes Well, 25 Holt Road - PL/2026/0809/FMIN. (No details available on website – District Council have requested additional information from applicants).

ii) Tree work (medium larch) - PL/2026/0828/TCA -Mole End, Eastgate Street -information only.

iii) Removal of hedge – PL/2026/0837/TCA – The Bungalow, 53 Eastgate Street –information only.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Fencing and gate at Millennium Wood.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, 5th August 2026 at 7.30 p.m.

CLOSURE OF FOOTBALL PITCHES

To all parishioners,

I believe we have a consensus within the Parish Council which is underpinned by the professional opinion of our contractor that we have no option but to close the football fields until further notice due to the extreme weather conditions we have all experienced.

In summary, we have been advised that the grass should not be cut to prevent long term damage to the pitch and also to avoid fire risk from potential of cutting blades hitting flints etc.

As a consequence, the Parish Council believe the playing surface is unsafe and risk of injury if played on unacceptably high. This means that there can be no organised matches or practice sessions as the ground cannot be prepared to be safe.

It is not closed to parishioners but everyone is advised that the ground is not safe for ball games.

Many thanks

Paul Grainger

North Elmham Parish Council

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

We held our last meeting at the Kings Head on the 7th July. As only a few members turned up, it was a very quick meeting.

The next meeting is on the 1st September which is also the AGM.

Mike Aston . Branch Sec

FAKENHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

We are taking a break for the summer and will be starting rehearsals on 8th September for our Christmas concert. If you enjoy singing and would like to join us do get in touch at <https://www.fakenhamchoralsociety.org/join-us> particularly if you're a tenor or bass.





COUNTRYSIDERS

As this month's issue goes to print, we will be hanging up our leaders' hats for six weeks as we enjoy the summer holidays. What a busy and successful month we've had!

On 15th June, we had an amazing visit to Wells Lifeboat Station, where we enjoyed a fascinating tour and a sea safety talk. The children listened brilliantly to the crew and asked some fantastic questions.

On 24th and 25th June, we attended the Royal Norfolk Show. Not only did we help with the show build, but nine Countrysiders also competed in the Stock Judging Competition. Congratulations to Iona-May, who came 1st in the Finished Lamb section, and well done to everyone else who took part.

On 29th June, we visited a farm at East Rudham. After a tour of the fields with an agronomist, who explained all about the crops, we headed back to the farm for a range of challenges. The Countrysiders had the opportunity to drive a Gator, take part in grain shovelling, and tackle a telehandler challenge.

On 4th July, fifteen Countrysiders took part in the Rally Competitions at the Royal Norfolk Showground. There were lots of certificates won, plenty of smiles, and a fantastic day was had by all—especially in the pool made of bales!

Our End of Year Social took place on 10th July, where we celebrated another successful year together. Trophies were presented, with some fantastic results, including a 1st place and several 3rd places. Of course, there was also plenty of pizza and fizzy drinks enjoyed by everyone.

Our final meeting of the year was on 13th July at West Raynham SHQ Veterans Centre, our Seniors' Charity of the Year. Together with the Senior Club, we raised £130 for the centre to help them continue their amazing work. During our visit, we presented them with a cheque, and we were delighted

to hear that the money will go towards funding the veterans' monthly breakfast.

As another YFC year comes to an end, I would like to say a huge thank you. Thank you to all our parents and carers, the Norfolk YFC office staff, our Senior Club, and all the organisations and companies who have supported us with visits, tours and talks throughout the year. We simply couldn't do it without you.

A special thank you also goes to our incredible leadership team—Rob, Kirsty, Ella, Natalie and Ben. Your hard work, enthusiasm and commitment every week help make our meetings fun, varied and memorable for the children.

Most of all, thank you to this year's Countrysiders. Your enthusiasm, determination and willingness to get involved have made this a truly successful year. Without you, there wouldn't be a club, and we're incredibly proud of everything you've achieved.

We hope you all have a fantastic, relaxing and safe summer, and we can't wait to welcome everyone back on 7th September for Paddle Boarding—more information will be shared nearer the time.

Signing out for the summer... have fun and stay safe!

Wendy Cottrell
Leader

Interested in Joining?

If you have a child aged 10–16 who is interested in meeting new people while learning more about the countryside and farming, we'd love to hear from you.

The first two sessions are free to try. After that, there is an annual administration fee (which includes insurance for meetings and events) plus £4 subs per session.

Email: north_elmham_cs@norfolkyfc.co.uk
You can also find us on Facebook and Instagram by searching North Elmham Countrysiders.



BRISLEY AND NORTH ELMHAM CRICKET CLUB

We welcomed Patrick and Sarah Saunders from sponsors Black Schuck at the Ladies home fixture against Hethersett and Tas Valley on Sunday July 5 and what an exciting game was served up. Having lost by 9 wickets in the away fixture just 2 days earlier, this match went down to the final ball with the hosts scrambling 3 runs off it to tie the match. The Ladies team is very much in transition with some young recruits coming through and playing significant parts in the action which bodes very well for future seasons.

Thanks as always to James Peeling for his photography and yet again to Adam Mackay for his breakfast BBQ. Adam has also launched the Brisley and North Elmham CC website which you can find at www.brisleynorthelmhamcc.co.uk This is still at

an early stage and we shall be adding more content as the season progresses.

Results

June 13th

*1sts v Fakenham (A) League B &NE 135
Fakenham 138-6 B&NE lost by 4 wickets*

On a good track the visitors again struggled to put a decent score on the board in this bottom of the table clash. Only skipper Ollie Hall with 43 made a decent contribution. However, Fakenham were in trouble at 84-6 thanks to 3 wickets from Mayfield and 2 from Hassan but a 50 partnership saw the home side take the vital points.

Black Schuck MoM: Euan Mayfield for his 3-40

*2nds v Lowestoft (H) League Lowestoft
133 B&NE 134-6 B&NE won by 4 wickets*

3 wickets for Phil Bend and Archie Thompson restricted the visitors to a low score, most of which were down to one player's 92. Billy Fordham led the reply with an unbeaten 79 as the hosts cruised to their third win of the season.

Black Schuck MoM: Billy Fordham for his runs and 2 catches behind the wicket

June 19th

Ladies v Denver (H) League B&NE 178-1 Denver 72-5 B&NE won by 106 runs

The visitors were playing their first ever hardball game and both sides had a great mix of experience and youthfulness on a gloriously hot evening. Co skipper Sophie Hall retired on 50 having been supported by Read 15no and Waters 21no. Wickets for Burton, Fordham, Waters and Read saw Brisley win comfortably.

Black Schuck WoM: Sophie Hall for her unbeaten 50

June 20th

1sts v Hardingham (H) League B&NE 139 Hardingham 142-6 B&NE lost by 4 wickets

A familiar story as the hosts again failed to put a defendable target on the board despite 41 from Futter. The visitors were coasting before losing 4 wickets for 10 runs but emerged comfortable winners.

Black Schuck MoM: Ollie Hall for his 26 runs ad 3-27

June 27th

1sts v Castle Acre (A) League B&NE 203-6 Castle Acre 176. B&NE won by 27 runs

A welcome return to winning ways as the visitors built on a decent opening partnership from Harvey and Tuthill with skipper Ollie Hall again top scoring with 62 to enable B&NE to gain maximum batting points. With catches finally sticking and Tom Mathers taking early prize wickets B&NE climbed off the bottom of the table with a morale boosting victory.

Black Schuck MoM: Tom Mathers for his 5-50 and 20 not out

2nds v Great Yarmouth (H) League Great Yarmouth 124 B&NE 108. Lost by 16 runs

At half time it seemed a good position for the hosts as father and son Wiseman took 3 wickets each to reduce Yarmouth to a very gettable target. However it was disappointment for B&NE as despite 5 batters getting into double figures with Tom Thorpe smashing 34 off 18 balls they fell short by 16 runs.

Black Schuck MoM: Finlay Vincent for his battling resistance at the tail end of the innings

June 30th

T20 Grimston (H) Tom Bartram Plate Grimston 92-5 B&NE 94-1 B&NE won by 9 wickets



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B&NE moved into the semi finals with an emphatic victory after Grimston were restricted to under a 100 with Sinclair the pick of the bowlers with 3-10 off 4 overs. Despite losing an early wicket, the hosts raced home with 8 overs to spare.

Black Schuck MoM: James Tuthill for his 52 no

July 3rd

*Ladies v Hethersett and Tas Valley (A)
League B&NE 95-6 H&T Valley 96-1 Lost
by 9 wickets*

The visitors were well beaten by a strong home team. Brisley battled hard against an accurate bowling attack but Tas Valley made light work of the chase getting home with 5 overs to spare.

Black Schuck PoM: Racheal Eayrs for her runs

July 4th

*1sts v Overstrand (H) League Overstrand
273-8 B&NE 161 Lost by 112 runs*

Another tough and hot afternoon for the hosts as they found it hard to control the runs despite Sinclair's 3 wickets. The loss of 2 early wickets slowed down the chase, and a mid-order collapse was only rescued from a heavier defeat by a last wicket partnership between debutant Tom Snelling and Sinclair

Black Schuck MoM: Iain Sinclair for his 3-43 and unbeaten 25 runs

*2nds v Blundeston and Somerleyton (A)
League B&S 251-4 B&NE 198 Lost by 53 runs*

This was a good effort against the League leaders. After toiling in the sun for little reward, the visitors just fell short of maximum batting points. A good opening partnership backed up by a great knock from Billy Fordham was followed by a middle order collapse despite some lusty blows from Tyler Bidewell.

Black Shuck PoM: Billy Fordham for his 66 runs

July 5th

*Ladies v Hethersett and TasValley (H)
League Hethersett 124-4-8 B&NE 124-3
Match tied.*

A dramatic finish to this Sunday morning game as the hosts managed 14 runs off the last over to tie the game having lost by 9 wickets two days earlier in the corresponding away fixture.

Black Schuck PoM: Racheal for her last over heroics with the bat.

WENSUM VALLEY BIRDWATCHING SOCIETY

Report from June 2026 Meeting

Malcolm Fisher is from the Norfolk branch of Butterfly Conservation, which started in 1982 and now has around 900 members.

In Norfolk, we currently have 37 of the 58 species present in the UK, but unfortunately some are either under threat or in decline. Figures from 2024 show that the Peacock Butterfly was down by 59%, the Red Admiral by 49% and the Small Tortoiseshell by 62%. Reporting butterfly sightings can help Butterfly Conservation to keep track of these declines and work towards improving the situation.

Some of the species we see here in Norfolk are migrants and arrive on our shores in small or very large numbers. This year there seems to be a big influx of Painted Ladies; last year huge numbers of white butterflies were seen arriving at the coast. The Clouded Yellow is a migrant butterfly which seemed to have a good year last year, seen at Warham Camp, Kelling Heath and inland too, the photo on the left was taken at Taverham.

Purple Hairstreak, a small butterfly, is the commonest of the hairstreaks, and can be seen in Norfolk where it favours Oak

trees. If you look up to the tops of an oak tree on a still, warm evening in late June and July you may see some small 'silver-looking' butterflies chasing each other. Its numbers are increasing, so it's good to hear a success story.

One of the most iconic Norfolk butterflies must be the Swallowtail which is only found in the Norfolk Broads. It's a large colourful butterfly and is restricted in area as the caterpillars will only feed on Milk-parsley (*Peucedanum palustre*). The population here is reported as stable. Other large butterflies include the White Admiral, Purple Emperor and the Silver-washed Fritillary (pictured right) which is increasing in range in England and can be seen all over Norfolk but especially in Foxley Wood. The Purple Emperor, also found at Foxley, lives at the top of oaks and is often difficult to spot.

The Grayling is a coastal butterfly and the Wall butterfly is also now restricted to the coast. The Small Heath is a species which is in decline on the coast but can still be seen at Winterton Dunes and also in the Brecks where it is faring a bit better.

Other species mentioned by Malcolm were Dingy Skipper and Grizzled Skipper which are just about hanging on in Norfolk and can be seen at Foulton Common, Narborough Railway Line and the Stoke Ferry Cut-Off Channel. If you go to the Butterfly Conservation website and click on local groups map and bring up Norfolk, you can find out all details about the species found here.

The Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society is local, friendly bird club. We meet on the third Thursday of every month at Great Witchingham Village Hall. Meetings start at 7.30pm. New members or guests are always welcome. For more information, please visit our website: wvbs.co.uk

KNIT AND NATTER

There were only nine of us that attended the meeting this month, due to illness or holidays. Nevertheless, we had a really good discussion regarding which way our charity work can go after all the recent edicts, regarding toys. We know that not everyone wants knitted goods like blankets and woollen hats but would miss our regular donations of actual cash. So now we are asking around for contacts where they might actually want our items for free. In the past, we have regularly been sent a message saying, "no more please our cupboards and drawers are full". There are over 4,000 knitters in North Norfolk alone, all doing the same thing, so be careful what you wish for. To keep this local, if any of our readers who know of a local group that would really need our knitted goods, we would only be too pleased to follow it up.

On the lighter side we have been informed that Christmas decorations, which can be hung or attached to a knitted chain CAN be sold, but only if we have a large notice saying that these items are for decoration only and must not be given to children as a toy. Maybe that's the way to go, until, of course, the next health and safety edict comes out.

We would like to send a special thank you to the family of Pat Brown, who sadly passed away recently and was one of our founder members, for the enormous amount of lovely wool. Pat would have been delighted that her wool had gone to a good home.

Next meeting August 4th 2-00 til 4-00 at the Pavilion.

Eileen Cotterill

THE PURCELL SCHOOL OF MUSIC

On Wednesday 17th June this year the Purcell (Outreach Impulse Project) held a special Assembly at our School. The Outreach students are gifted musicians who are studying at the prestigious Purcell School of Music. It was an opportunity for our children to share the joy of engaging with 'live music' in an accessible way. Class Teacher Mrs Hunter put it this way, "It was brilliant, the children thought it was wonderful."

This happened because the Monday Walkers raised £550 for the Impulse Project from a charity lunch held in October 2024. The Assembly came about

as a thank you for the donation. I am sure we can agree that the Assembly was a rich learning experience for our children.

I would like to explore how, in a small but significant way, the children of North Elmham School are engaging with live music when they visit for Tea @ Two (a community tea party held on each second Wednesday in the Memorial Hall). For example on 8th July they sang together accompanied by Teresa Williams. Mrs Hunter arranged for a number of children to attend.

Once again, I am sure we can all agree that making live music is special, perhaps most important for our children to enjoy as part of their development and learning into the future.

DATES TO REMEMBER: AUGUST

Tue 4th	Knit and Natter	Pavilion	2.00 pm
Wed 5th	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30 pm
Sat 8th	Garden Club Annual Show	Memorial Hall	Staging of exhibits 9.00-10.45 am, public viewing 2.00 pm
Wed 12th	Mobile Library visits	The Heath to Wensum Drive	1.15-4.40 pm
Thur 14th	Content deadline for September Elmham News		
Fri 21st	Iceni Concert	St Mary's Church	7.30 pm
Mon 24th	Ralph Allwood Singers Concert	St Mary's Church	6.00 pm

ADVANCE NOTICE

Sep 19th	Haley Glennie-Smith Singing Workshop	St Mary's Church	2.30-4.00 pm
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DON'T FORGET

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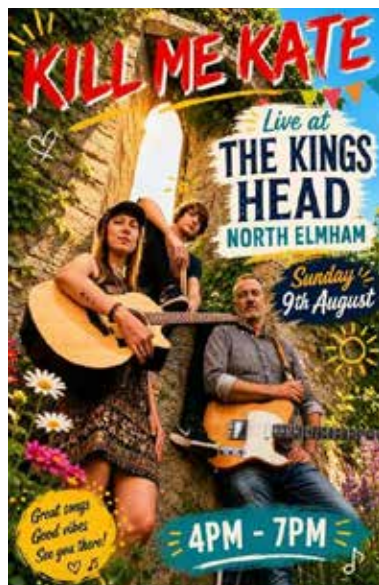
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ELMHAM WILDLIFE



One month after I wrote my last piece for Elmham News about Spotted Flycatchers, the Spotted Flycatcher I had seen from my study window is still around. I think it must be paired and breeding in a neighbour's garden, but I've not managed to see both birds at the same time so I can't be 100% sure of that yet. Hopefully I will soon be watching a family of Spotted Flycatchers – if they are nesting the young should fledge fairly soon.



Last week Julia brought me a leaf from her garden. The leaves on her shrub were covered in tiny white specks (photo 1) which she had attempted to remove but realised that they were living creatures of some kind. There was also a larger (but still very small) spiky black object attached to the leaf, but on first glance neither of us knew what they were.



When I looked under the microscope I realised that white spots all had an even tinier oval flat olive-coloured object attached to one end (photo 2), and I recognised those as being scale insects. I believe the white bits are ovisacs, or egg cases. There were other scale insects on their own (without ovisacs). Scale insects are really peculiar creatures, so flat and scale-like that it's hard to believe they're really animals even when looking at them under a microscope. You can't see any head or body or legs or much else, just a very flat oval blob.

Scale insects tend to be ignored by naturalists, partly because they're hard to see, but largely because it's very hard to find any information about how to identify them. As a result I'm rarely confident enough to identify them to species level. In this case I've discovered





that there's a species called Hydrangea Scale Insect that looks very similar and occurs on various shrubs in addition to Hydrangea. I'm not 100% sure that's the correct identity of Julia's scale insects, but I suspect it might be.

Previously I've seen similar tiny flat scale insects on my Viburnum – probably Viburnum Scale Insects (photo 3) – and some similar scale insects on Ivy. In fact if you want to see them turn over a few ivy leaves and look carefully at their undersides, and there's a good chance you'll find some. Some scale insects are found on twigs rather than leaves and these are often less scale-like and more domed (photo 4). I think the two in this photo are probably Nut Scales. They could easily be overlooked as buds.

Scale insect are often thought of as pests, and indeed some species can cause damage to their host plants. But, like aphids, which are distantly related to scale insects, they have a number of natural predators. Ladybirds and lacewings are among those insects that keep scale insects and aphids under control. In a natural ecosystem pests and predators live in equilibrium – when the prey species reaches high levels their predators species thrive. This in reduces the prey numbers, which in turn leads to a reduction in the number of predators so the prey can build up again, and so the cycle goes on. Man's impact on the environment can disrupt this cycle. Whether it's climate change, importing of non-native plants (and, by accident, their pests but not necessarily their pests' predators) or through the indiscriminate destruction of insects through spraying and habitat loss, we interfere with the ecosystem and very often suffer the consequences.

Sometimes our attempts to rectify the problem only make it worse. For example, indiscriminately spraying a plant infected with pests will result in you



killing the pests' predators but may leave some of the pests themselves which will then thrive in the absence of their predators, leading to a long-term outcome that's worse than it would have been if you hadn't done anything. I am not a gardener, but I know some gardeners who tell me that they find it most effective to tolerate the occasional outbreak of aphids understanding that if left to their own devices populations will return to a normal (non-problematic) population in future years. This won't necessarily work with non-native species like the Box-tree Moth I mentioned last month, but even there I recently heard about someone in the south who's Box had been defoliated by these caterpillars for several years before eventually returning to normal as some sort of equilibrium was restored.

Going back to Julia's scale insects, I recognised the larger black spiky object on the leaf as being a ladybird pupa, though not a species I had seen in pupal stage before (photo 5). Two species of ladybird are known to predate Hydrangea Scale Insects: the declining 2-spot Ladybird and the Pine Ladybird (which occurs on much more than just pines). I see the adults of both ladybirds from time to time but was not familiar with the larvae or pupae of either species. After looking them up I was able to establish that the pupa on Julia's leaf belonged to a Pine Ladybird. Adult Pine Ladybirds are rather small black ladybirds with red spots, the front pair of which are distinctively irregularly-shaped (photo 6).

Having talked about moths and scale insects that are considered to be pests, I feel I should remind everyone that the vast majority of moths and other insects are completely benign, doing no harm to us or our garden plants. Indeed most of them do much good, whether directly (e.g. pollinating our plants, decomposing our



waste or controlling our pests) or indirectly (e.g. providing food for other species). We cannot survive without them!

Many are beautiful, like the Reed Beauty I caught recently, I tiny elongated moth with a band of shiny orange scales bordered on either side by bands of glistening silvery-white scales. The photo (photo 7) doesn't do it justice – in real life it sparkled like a tiny jewel! The Reed Beauty is a new arrival in Norfolk, first recorded in 2023. They live in reed beds, but as there aren't any reed beds in my little garden this one was presumably on the move, perhaps looking for new sites to colonise. Another reed-loving moth I caught recently which I hadn't caught before in North Elmham was a Reed Dagger (photo 8). These are common in the Broads and in some of the marshes along the north coast of Norfolk but they are much harder to find elsewhere in the county.

Two more people have contacted me about Hummingbird Hawk-moths in their gardens (or in one case inside their house) this month. It's always good to hear about the wildlife you've seen around the village so please do continue letting me know about it. You can get in touch with me by emailing me at appleton.dave@googlemail.com or phoning me on 668431.

Dave Appleton

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WIVES PLUS ALL

For the July Meeting, a small group of our members enjoyed an evening walk in Jo and Tom's garden at Elmham House. The weather was perfect and we all enjoyed the walk immensely. We followed the path which took us through the azalea and rhododendron area into the woodland section with the magnificent and stately trees - then into the walled garden, where with the usual vegetables and fruit, it was interesting to see the not so usual mulberry and medlar trees. We finished our walk in the delightful formal gardens near the house. Despite the recent weather, all parts of the garden were stunning and we found the gardens very peaceful and calming. Jo and Tom kindly treated us to delicious refreshments to round off the evening - thank you Jo and Tom and thank you also for giving up your time for us.

We do not meet in August, our next meeting will be on Thursday 10th September when Simon Harrup from Natural Surroundings, Norfolk's Wildflower Centre based on the Bayfield Estate, Nr. Holt, will give an illustrated talk "Norfolk's Wild Flowers".

Gill King

WENSUM VALLEY MINIATURE RAILWAY

The past few months have been busy at County School Station in anticipation of the summer running season. The carriage shed has been fitted with additional storage facilities and new steaming bays fitted at the turntable end. Improvements have been made to the points, and a signalling system is next on the list that will run on batteries and is charged by eco-friendly solar panels.

The warm sunshine has certainly benefitted the local wildlife with many species of moths and butterflies to be

seen, as well as different varieties of birds, from woodpeckers, red kites and buzzards to our summer visitors house martins, swallows and swifts. Our reptile shelters provide homes for the population of slow worms and lizards and occasional grass snake. The chestnut trees provide a shade framed view of the Wensum. Just the spot for a relaxing picnic or pleasant amble. We are looking forward to welcoming our visitors on Sundays.

So, if you are looking for a pocket friendly activity for children and adults in the holidays, come and pay us a visit. Discover the fascinating history of the station, enjoy spotting local wildlife and take a ride on the miniature railway. Train rides £1 (cash only) open Sundays 10.30 – 15.30.

We hope to see you soon, new members and volunteers welcome, just speak to one of our team or email us northnorfolkmodelengineering@gmail.com

VETERANS CENTRAL

The Veterans Central charity (#1208763) is based at West Raynham SHQ (NR21 7PL) and is a facility for military veterans, serving personnel and families, to support activities, wellbeing and social engagement. Veterans Central is open every Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday from 1000 to 1500. The Veterans Central Swaffham drop-in centre is now well established (and popular) and we have now fixed dates for the rest of 2026.

4th Tuesday of the month. Join us for hot drinks, cakes and conversation. Location: The George Hotel is located on the corner at the Traffic lights of Swaffham and there is free parking and easy access. You are welcome to bring partners or carers.

For More Information

Contact: ops@veteranscentral.co.uk
Mobile: 0771 3860040



NORTH ELMHAM PRIMARY ACADEMY

Whole School News

Tea at 2

Some of our children visited Tea at 2, we shared a selection of songs and enjoyed chatting to members of our community.

Round Robin and Water Based Games

Our Round Robin and Water-Based Games sessions brought everyone together for a fantastic mix of friendly competition, teamwork, and fun. We enjoyed rotating through a variety of activities, giving everyone the opportunity to get involved and cheer each other on. The water-based games were a particular highlight, providing plenty of laughter, refreshing excitement, and memorable moments as everyone embraced the summer spirit. It was wonderful to see such enthusiasm, sportsmanship, and smiles throughout the day, making the event a great success for all involved.

Community Day

Our Sensory Garden Community Day was a fantastic success, bringing together staff, families, volunteers, and members of the local community to help transform our outdoor space.

Everyone worked together to plant colourful flowers, fragrant herbs, and a variety of sensory plants, as well as building, painting and creating a peaceful and engaging garden for all to enjoy.

The day was filled with teamwork, laughter, and a wonderful sense of community spirit. It was inspiring to see so many people contributing their time, creativity, and enthusiasm to make the project a reality. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to FONES for securing the grants and to everyone who supported the day and helped create a beautiful sensory garden that children can enjoy for years to come.

Class News

Woodland Room Nursery

This term has been full of excitement, exploration, and imagination as the children enjoyed our loose theme of Commotion in the Ocean. They have dived into pirate adventures, discovered all sorts of under-the-sea creatures, created jellyfish, and made their own colourful sea-life pictures. The seaside small world has been a constant source of storytelling, curiosity, and shared play, with children leading their own ideas and building on each other's imaginations.

Alongside this, they have been busy in the kitchen making their own pizzas and have started having cereal as an occasional snack, proudly choosing, pouring, and serving with growing independence.

We have also spent time exploring the books *Pants*, *More Pants*, and *Pantasaurus*, supporting the children to learn about body safety, privacy, and body awareness in a gentle and age appropriate way. Outdoors, the sensory garden is beginning to take shape, with the children helping to paint tyres and showing great interest in watching the space develop. If families have any sensory friendly items they would like to donate to help us continue building this area, we would be very grateful. The children have also enjoyed making their own keyrings, exploring bugs around the garden and investigating natural materials.

The water butt has now been moved to the end of the garden near the mud kitchen, and this has transformed the space. The children have been using it so much more, creating imaginative mixtures, soups, potions, and all sorts of wonderful inventions using natural resources. Indoors, they have explored wooden and magnetic blocks, colour matching games, slime, and lots of hands-on making and building. Every day has been filled with interaction, curiosity, and play, with the children leading their own learning and staff supporting them to follow their interests.



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As we reach the end of the year, we want to thank all our families for their continued support.

We wish you a wonderful summer and send our very best wishes to the children transitioning to Reception — good luck as you begin your next adventure. We look forward to welcoming everyone else back in September.

Acorns

Acorn Class has had a fantastic end to the term, enjoying lots of exciting learning both inside and outside the classroom. During the warm weather, we took great care of one another by staying hydrated and keeping cool with lots of fun water play, which helped us explore scientific ideas through investigation and play.

We have been busy developing our outdoor area, creating a wonderful marble run and a flower shop to inspire imaginative play and teamwork. We have also enjoyed looking after living things by watering our classroom plants and helping to care for our new sensory garden. As part of our geography learning, we explored Cromer and compared it with North Elmham, identifying similarities and differences between the two places.

In English, we have been using our creativity to write engaging openings to traditional tales. In PE, we have enjoyed field games, learning the rules of rounders and developing our teamwork and sporting skills. In maths, we have built our confidence using money and have explored directions and positional language. We are incredibly proud of all that the children have achieved this term and wish everyone a happy and restful summer break.

Oak

What a fantastic way to finish the school year! Oak Class has enjoyed a wonderful few weeks filled with learning, laughter and celebration as we counted down to the summer holidays. The excitement of the

World Cup has brought plenty of football fever into the classroom, with children proudly supporting our national team while embracing the true values of sportsmanship, teamwork and resilience. We would also like to say a huge congratulations to our amazing Year 6 pupils. They have been fantastic role models throughout the year, and we wish them every success and happiness as they begin their exciting journey to secondary school.

Learning certainly didn't stop as the holidays approached. In RE, we completed our fascinating discussions by comparing scientific ideas, including the Big Bang and evolution, with religious beliefs about creation, encouraging thoughtful conversations about different ways people understand the world around us. In English, the children rounded off their writing by exploring *The World Beneath Our Feet*, producing imaginative and informative pieces packed with ambitious vocabulary, creativity and carefully crafted descriptions.

Our maths lessons finished with exciting problem-solving challenges that encouraged everyone to think critically, explain their reasoning and work collaboratively to find solutions. It has been wonderful to see the confidence, independence and determination the children have developed throughout the year. As another successful year comes to an end, we would like to thank all of our families for their continued support and wish everyone a safe, relaxing and well-deserved summer holiday. We can't wait to see what next year brings!

Book a tour today and see how your child could flourish with us.

Please contact the school office to arrange a visit — we'd be delighted to show you around.

01362 668318
office@norhelmham.norfolk.sch.uk

NORTH ELMHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 3RD JUNE 2026

The following information is taken from the Draft 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 they have been approved.

Councillors Present Were: Mr. P. Grainger (Chairman), Mr. M. Phillips (Vice Chairman), Miss A. Ferris, Mr. T. Fitzalan Howard, Mrs. A. Keeble and Mr. J. Sowinski.

Also in Attendance: Mr. K. Webb (Clerk) and twelve parishioners, seven leaving after the Public Participation section of the meeting which ended at 8.23 p.m.

Apologies for absence: Mr. B. Gee, Mr. F. Gillespie, Mr. N. Markwell, Mr. M. Rayner, Mr. C. Smith and Mr. G. Bambridge (District Councillor).

Public Participation

The following comments were made:

a) The Parish Council was thanked for the new picnic table in Millennium Wood. It is thought to be an excellent addition.

b) The table is being misused by a small number of people with some younger people sitting and jumping on it. Lots of rubbish is being discarded in the woods. Trees are being vandalised and gates are being left open.

c) There is anti-social behaviour but a lack of community policing.

d) Adults as well as youngsters are behaving badly in the wood.

e) Bikes being ridden in the wood are a danger to others using the wood.

f) A report has been made to Breckland Council regarding excessive lorry noise

and movements from 4.30 a.m. each day in the Station Road/Wensum Drive area of the village.

Norfolk County Council, Highways, has also been informed. It was suggested that both the County Councillor and the M.P., George Freeman, should be appraised of the situation.

g) It was felt that a greater part of Back Lane should be subjected to a 30 mph limit. It was advised that the Parish Council had previously raised this matter but had been informed by the police that it was not possible. This is an issue that may well be of interest to the new County Councillor.

h) Some motorbikes have been involved in racing on land near to Back Lane. Diggers have been involved in constructing a track. Mr. Bambridge is to be advised as there may be a planning issue.

i) It was mentioned that there has been destruction of some land in the Boars Hill area. The Parish Council took over control of this land some nine months ago. It is apparent that chemicals have been used which is of concern with the negative impact on a number of things, including the watercourse. Trespassing on and poisoning of the land cannot be tolerated.

j) A number of letters regarding the Boars Hill land had been sent to and published in Elmham News. It was stressed that the Parish Council has no control over Elmham News and the decision on what to publish lies solely with the editors.

UPDATED INFORMATION AND MATTERS ARISING

Update from Broadland Housing

A meeting for the public is due to be held on 1st July. A confirmation of this date has not yet been received.

Land Management Matters

Village Green: Slabs are coming on 4th June. Mr. Sowinski is to liaise with Mr. Gee.

Cathedral Ruins: Mr. Sowinski is to look at the wall on the right side of the pathway entering the site with a view to removing loose masonry from the gap between the walls. Mr. Duffield is to provide copies of his health and safety risk assessments and insurance policy. English Heritage have confirmed that they do not have any details themselves. Information regarding the Parish Council annual expenditure (£5,513) will be given to them.

Millennium Wood (and Jubilee Wood): A sign is to be put up advising that the large gate is to be kept lock with access available via the entrance from Boars Hill. A sign is not to be erected indicating "no bicycles".

Street Lights: Two repairs have been successfully completed.

Highway Matters

The repair to the drain on Church Hill has been done.

Pavilion and Playing Field

Mention was previously made of the fact that the entrance/exit to the field is sometimes blocked by vehicles. As a result, two signs have been installed stating "keep clear, emergency access". Miss Ferris reported some vandalism to the referee's room. The Football Club has been informed. The fridge/freezer needs defrosting.

The new waste collection arrangement with Breckland Council has started. Unfortunately, the Christmas tree has died.

A company called Watt Utilities has produced a quotation covering a period of three years for the existing arrangement with E-on Next regarding the electricity supply for the pavilion which could reduce the annual cost by about £800. Mr. Sowinski proposed that this be accepted, seconded by Mr. Phillips, subject to obtaining similar quotations for one year and two years so that an informed decision can be made. All in favour.

Dates for your Diary

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Eastgate Centre

The next meeting is to be held in October.

Boars Hill Update

No decision has yet been made regarding the electricity vehicle charging point.

New Village Hall

Two possible options have been identified regarding location together with an estimate of the size of the building required. More work is required and a further report will be made at the next meeting.

Digital and Data Compliance: AGAR Assertion 10

It was agreed by all that a free gov. uk address and domain would be obtained from Parish Online and detailed instructions have now been received. This will enable a new e-mail address to be provided for the Clerk and action to enable this to happen will be taken.

Report from District and County Councillors

None received since the last report mentioned previously.

Accounts for Payment and Schedule of Income

Payments

Drax (electricity for street lights – 01/04/26 to 30/04/26) – (d/d) £275.76

E-on Next (pavilion from 01/04/26 to 30/04/26) – (d/d) £182.83

E-on Next (electricity for Boars Hill– 01/04/26 to 30/04/26)–(d/d) £9.45

Public Works Loan Board (V/Green-half yearly payment)–(s/o) £626.45

D. Tyson (pavilion cleaning for May) £152.52

K. Webb (Clerk's pay for May) £900.67

HMRC (Tax and N.I. on Clerk's pay) £331.53

J. Fencing/Groundscape (grounds maintenance) £1,414.00

Medlock & Young Ltd, T/As Surelock Security (padlock) £27.89

Clear Insurance Management Ltd (annual insurance) £795.11

G. Murray (annual internal audit) £110.00

Mole Country Stores (rock salt) £127.80

Joe Sowinski (fixtures and fittings for picnic seats) £35.76

Joe Sowinski (playing field signs) £64.90

Breckland Council (Business waste– 17/3/26 to 15/5/26) –(d/d) £106.60

North Elmham PCC (annual grant re churchyard) £2,000.00

Expenditure approved by all members. (Proposed by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Fitzalan Howard).

Income

Pavilion lettings £40.00

Allotment rents £30.00

Community Heartbeat (defibrillator batteries refund) £288.00



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Breckland Council (hire of pavilion for County election) £300.00

Balances (at 02/06/26)

Current a/c: £80,843.24

Business Premium a/c: £51,063.83

Cambridge Building Society: £84,092.62

Approval of AGAR (Annual Governance and Accountability)

The Clerk presented the financial information for the year ended 31st March, 2026. The Income and Expenditure Accounts showed income of £78,049 (£74,192), expenditure of £72,934 (£61,144) and General Fund (Bank and Building Society balances) of £196,755 (£191,640). This information will be placed on the website together with the following items which will also 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 Miss Ferris and seconded by Mrs. Keeble. All in favour.

The Clerk wished to express his sincere appreciation for the continued highly valued support of Mr. Phillips with the provision of the Financial Management Reports, Mr. Murray for his professional work on the Internal Audit and Mrs. Ball for the highly efficient transfer of financial and other key documentation to the website.

Renewal of Annual Insurance Cover

Renewal documentation for the Parish Council's insurance arrangements had been received from Clear Councils with

an increased annual premium of £795.11 (£737.04). Acceptance of this figure was proposed by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mrs. Keeble. All in favour.

To Consider Planning Applications and Determinations:-

Applications

- i) Remove ash tree – 2 Corner Cottage, High Street - PL/2026/0633/TCA (information only)
- ii) Tree work (scrub oak and yew) – St Marys Church, Holt Road – PL/2026/0760/TCA (information only)

Determinations

None

Correspondence

Road closure of Great Heath Road, North Elmham on 19th June.

E-mail from a parishioner regarding excessive lorry noise and movement on Station Road due to the A47 works.

Any Other Matters (For Information Only)

The football field will need to be spiked in readiness for the new season.



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WILDFLOWERS & SCHOOL

Ten schools from the Diocese of Norwich are helping bring wildflower meadows back to Norfolk as part of a new partnership with Norfolk Wildlife Trust.

The schools are taking part in Seeds of Hope, a project that will see pupils create meadow seed banks on their school grounds while learning about caring for the natural world. Three schools have already explored the initiative through collective worship, helping children connect their actions with Christian teaching on stewardship and responsibility.

The school programme forms part of Norfolk Wildlife Trust's wider Meadows for the Future project, launched during the charity's centenary year. Working with schools, landowners and communities, the initiative aims to restore and create meadows across South Norfolk at a time when traditional wildflower grasslands have become increasingly scarce.

Pupils will play an active role throughout the project, helping to survey sites, sow native wildflower seed and care for the developing meadows. As the meadows mature, they will not only provide valuable habitat for wildlife but will also produce seed that can be used to establish new meadows elsewhere in the county.

Barbara Bryant, Environment Officer for the Diocese of Norwich, said; "We are delighted that 10 of our schools are taking part in creating meadow seed banks for Norfolk Wildlife Trust as a practical way of caring for God's creation and supporting local biodiversity.

"By collecting and growing native wildflower seeds, pupils help restore habitats for insects, birds and other wildlife, contributing to the long-term health of the natural environment across Norfolk.

"This project reflects the Christian ethos of our diocesan schools by encouraging stewardship, responsibility and service to others. It helps children understand that caring for the world is an important part of living out Christian values, demonstrating respect for creation and working together for the common good of both people and nature."

Norfolk Wildlife Trust hopes to create 15 hectares of new meadow over the next three years. Seed collected from those sites will help establish further meadows in the future, creating a legacy for wildlife across the county.

Participating schools are Drayton VC Junior School, Horsford CofE Primary School, Stibbard All Saints CofE Primary Academy, North Elmham CofE Primary Academy, Taverham VC Junior School, St Peter's Easton CofE Primary Academy, Dereham CofE Junior Academy, Salhouse CofE Primary Academy, Rudham CofE Primary Academy and Fairhaven CE VA Primary School.

PAUL CARR OUR NEW COUNTY COUNCILLOR

New Party in Control

Reform UK are now in overall (minority) control of the County Council. The Party has been elected on the promise of providing best value services to residents in Norfolk and is committed to eradicating wasteful expenditure.

Councillor David Bick, leader of the Council's 40-member Reform group, was elected at the council's annual general meeting on 28 May 2026 has appointed his Cabinet team.

My Involvement

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Since being elected to Norfolk County Council in May 2026, I have been busy undergoing various induction training, and other task specific training including mandatory training. I have been appointed to the following Committees:

- Strategy and Corporate Select Committee (Including Trading Standards, Norfolk Fire Service and the NCC Constitution).
- Adult Social Services and Public Health Select Committee.

Both committees are very influential in key areas of the Council. My first meetings took place in July and I plan to meet all Parish Councils in due course.

The following is a list of the key issues and activity listed in Paul's report, full details are given in his report on the community website www.elmham.org.uk

- Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Update
- Judicial Review Developments
- Next Steps and Implications
- Norfolk Crisis and Resilience Grant Programme
- Trading Standards update
- Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service – staying safe with lithium batteries
- NCC Children's Services - judged to be Outstanding
- Free composting workshops across Norfolk
- Community Pharmacy services – expansion of services

Our Savings this Month

1. Cancellation of 3 Political Assistants no longer deemed necessary or beneficial to Norfolk residents - £166,000.

2. Work on LGR preparation stopped, saving many thousands of pounds, especially as the previous administration had chosen to employ expensive external consultants.

*Paul W Carr FCA
Norfolk County Councillor
for Elmham & Mattishall*

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING

This is extract from one of their extraordinary meetings.

The Charmun opund the mertin: Well har we are tergether, can we hev order tew git this mertin gorn? Mrs Marsh hev just arsk David how he reckon she shud prepae har sweet peas so therd really git a moov on. When David sed she shud pinch orf thar tendrils Eva reckon thet it was cruel cos it wus just like cutting orf thar little mawlers and wus cruel and it wus bound to make em scream. In reply, a committee member arsked is shed thort about how therd react to har cutting orf ther flowers cos then shed be choppin orf ther reproductive organs! On deciding wot David's cup shud be awarded for, the committee cum to agree tehet it shud be for the biggest leek.

After the wine and corfee Eva wus gorn for ten minits and we orl decided to presend har the cup thar an then. In conclusion Mr Marfy sed thet he wud not enter the odd potato clars, The mertin closed at 10pm. Sekertery.

Ed's Note: Not sure of the date of this meeting, but we don't have wine at our committee meeting now, but we do have cake!

HEART OF NORFOLK CHURCH SERVICES

Church services are listed overleaf. Services at Bawdeswell All Saints are available on Zoom: ID: 656 174 6525 Passcode: TwKH7n

Contact: Revd Andrew Whitehead, a.p.whitehead@me.com. (urgent requests only) for Billingford, Bintree, Guestwick, Guist, North Elmham, Stibbard, Twyford, Wood Norton and Worthing.

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

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Dear all,

When I wrote the June letter for our Rector Reverend Sally, I didn't expect to be writing again so soon. In case you have not heard I am writing to say that Sally has been admitted to hospital and is extremely ill. Our thoughts and prayers are with her. If you would like to know more, please do contact a member of your local parish church who will be able to help.

Whilst Sally is away, we are intending to continue to hold the usual pattern of services throughout our group of churches. Do see the schedule in the magazine though please do check for any late changes with parish church contacts before each service. We are grateful for the support of the visiting members of the clergy and all those who are contributing to keeping the worship, praise and thanksgiving going. The offerings of Summer Music which Sally has helped to curate is also going ahead. Again, see the magazine and posters for details.

During Sally's absence any genuinely urgent requests of the church such as for Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms should

be addressed to the Rural Dean, Andrew Whitehead at a.p.whitehead@me.com.

With every blessing for a happy and healthy summer. We hold Sally in our hearts and prayers.

Mark Burdon
Authorised Worship Assistant

WORTHING NEWS

Sunday Services

Our Sunday Services for the month are Aug 2nd, Holy Communion at 9.00am and Aug 16th, Iona Morning Praise at 10.30am. We hope you will be able to join us.

The Norfolk Churches Trust Bike, Ride and Walk! Saturday 12th September 2026

This is the date that should be in everyone's diary whether you cycle, walk, ride, or whatever non-motorised means you use, or act as a 'sitter' at a church to give a welcome. Please join us on the day and visit these unique buildings and help to sustain what we are all proud to have around us.

Details & sponsor forms from:
Call: 01362 668928
Email: c.daniel784@btinternet.com
Collect: "Blessing" (Millstream Cottages)
Church Road Worthing NR20 5HR

Harvest Morning Praise

Sunday 20th September at 10.30am

In Aid of Mid Norfolk Food Bank together with Trussell Trust and Tap into WaterAid

Thank you for your support.
Worthing: www.facebook.com/StMargaretsChurchworthing/

And please visit the following website to sign up and continue supporting your local church, <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/worthing-church-and-town-lands-charity/>



Services
across the
Benefice
and
Neighbouring
Churches

August
2026



2nd August : Ninth Sunday after Trinity

9.00am	Worthing	Holy Communion
9.30am	Wood Norton	Morning Praise
10.30am	North Elmham	Holy Communion
10.30am	Stibbard	Holy Communion
10.30am	Bawdeswell	Word and Praise

9th August : Tenth Sunday after Trinity

10.30am	North Elmham	Iona Holy Communion
10.30am	Bawdeswell	Holy Communion
10.30am	Foulsham	Holy Communion

16th August : Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

10.30am	Wood Norton	Holy Communion
10.30am	Worthing	Iona Morning Praise
10.30am	Bawdeswell	The 10.30
6.00pm	Foulsham	Said Evensong

23rd August : Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

10.30am	Guist	Holy Communion
10.30am	North Elmham	Morning Praise
10.30am	Bawdeswell	Holy Communion
10.30am	Foulsham	Morning Praise

30th August : Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

10.30am	North Elmham	Heart of Norfolk Group Service - to be confirmed
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*Please check with local churches in the Heart of Norfolk Benefice,
as Services in August may be subject to change.*

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*To advertise in the Elmham News please contact
Martin Phillips: martin.s.phillips@outlook.com*

This Month's Photo Contributors

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

COVER: Ian McIntosh

PAGE 11: Peter Wade-Martins, Ian McIntosh

PAGE 20: Wendy Cottrell

PAGE 22: James Peeling

PAGE 25: Sarah Felton

PAGE 31–33: Dave Appleton

PAGE 36: North Elmham Primary Academy

PAGE 45: Peter Wade-Martins



NORTH ELMHAM PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chair: Paul Grainger, 01362 667135

Vice Chair: Martin Phillips, 01362 668409

Ann Ferris, 01362 668580

Tom Fitzalan Howard, 07760 164515

Brian Gee, 01362 422799

Fraser Gillespie, 01362 422293

Ann Keeble, 01362 668216

Nick Markwell, 01362 668557

Michael Rayner, 07512 029393

Colin Smith, 01362 668585

Joe Sowinski, 07960 287528

PARISH CLERK

Kevin J Webb, 01328 855046

northelmhampc@outlook.com

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.

VILLAGE FACILITIES

Allotments.....Martin Phillips

Broom Green & PoundTo be confirmed, contact Parish Clerk

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

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

Eastgate Centre.....Martin Phillips, Paul Grainger, Tom Fitzalan Howard

Millennium & Jubilee Wood.....Joe Sowinski

Playing Field & Pavilion.....Colin Smith, Ann Ferris

Prince William Wood.....Nick Markwell, Brian Gee

Village GreenColin Smith, Brian Gee

Footpath Warden.....Ann Ferris

SERVICES

Environment & Maintenance.....Martin Phillips

Highways.....Paul Grainger, Fraser Gillespie

Mid-Norfolk Railway Liaison.....Michael Rayner, Nick Markwell

Planning.....Michael Rayner, Martin Phillips

Street Lighting.....Tom Fitzalan Howard, Nick Markwell, Colin Smith

Tree WardenTom 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.

NORTH ELMHAM DIRECTORY

Elmham Surgery, Holt Rd - 01362 668215

Group website: elmhamsurgery.com

Opening Times Surgery: Mon–Fri 8.00am–6.30pm Dispensary: Mon–Fri 8.30am–12.00, 2.00–6.30pm

Swanton Morley Surgery, Dereham Road - 01362 638100

Opening Times Surgery: Mon–Fri 8.30am–6.00pm Dispensary: Mon–Fri 8.30am–12.00, 2.00–6.00pm

Other Useful Contacts

NHS Medical Help

Dial: 111

111 online: 111.nhs.uk

POLICE: Non Emergency Dial: 101 - EMERGENCY Dial: 999

Breckland District Councillors	Gordon Bambridge Bill Borrett	01603 881364 01362 860200
Norfolk County Councillor	Paul Carr paul.carr.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk	07562 276765
Member of Parliament	george.freeman.mp@parliament.uk	01953 600617
Nth Elmham CEVA Primary Academy	Mrs Carol Jeary, Head Teacher	01362 668318
Chair of Governors	John Robson chairofgov@flourishfed.co.uk	
Memorial Institute	Bookings: Kayleigh, elmhammemorial@outlook.com	07595 637031
Pavilion	Bookings: Ann Ferris, p.ferris84@yahoo.com	01362 668580
Eastgate Centre	Heather Caley	01362 668245
Breckland Dog Warden	Confidential message or texts 07771 617417	01362 858500
London Express Tickets	Travel Centre	01362 694211
Sanders	Wednesdays to Norwich	01263 712800
Konect Bus		03300 539358
Community Website	www.elmham.org.uk	

Dereham Library, 59, High Street, Dereham, NR19 1DZ - 01362 693184

Opening hours: Mon–Sat: 8 to 9.30am (Open Library access) Mon–Fri: 9.30am to 7pm (Staffed)

Saturday: 9.30am to 4pm (Staffed) Sunday: 10am to 4pm (Open Library access)

Mobile Library calls in Elmham every 4 weeks

Anglian Water		0845 7145145
Dereham Leisure Centre		01362 693419
UK Power Networks	Power Cut (24 hours)	0800 31 63 105
Samaritans		116 123
Citizens Advice Bureau	www.ncab.org.uk	0800 144 8848

Clergy - All telephone numbers local code (01362)

Church of England	Reverend Sally Kimmis	heartofnorfolkrector@gmail.com	668850
	Reverend Richard Turk	revdrichardrww@gmail.com	07721 035009
Roman Catholic	Father Jay T Magpuyo	35 London Rd, Dereham	694066
Methodist	Rev Betty Trinder	31 Trinity Close, Dereham	695582
Salvation Army	Major Diana Bennetts	dereham@salvationarmy.org.uk	696341

Church Wardens

Elmham	Michael Newey	668424
Worthing	Celia Daniel	668928



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