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**DECEMBER '23
& JANUARY '24**

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EDITORIAL

As we approach the festive season, we are reminded that despite the atrocities in the world, the message of Christmas to everyone is always that of peace and joy to the world. Often, in our sheltered haven of Norfolk, the doings of the outside world seem to pass us by, and we just go on from day to day. However, it affects us, we can all try to be nice to each other and kind to those around us, with a smile and a greeting as you meet, or a short conversation instead of just a nod, and being grateful for the help of others.

Thank you to the Parish Council for continuing to be there. They get lots of brickbats but not enough bouquets for what is not an enviable job.

Thank you to all the people who serve on committees and help keep organisations running so well.

Tea @Two might not be everyone's cup of tea, pardon the pun, but those that go do enjoy being with other people and seeing friendly faces and enjoying conversation

and music. It must break up the monotony for many folk and it is lovely to have someone else make the tea, sandwiches and cake. Thank you to all the volunteers who make it happen.

Thank you to the Hazel family who keep Jimmy's Garden looking beautiful all year round and to Terry Maidstone for his care of the roses at the top of the village. They always look good. Thank you to Derek Shoesmith for keeping the Spitfire Memorial looking cared for.

Thank you to all our subscribers for without you, there would be blank pages every month. Talking of blank pages, if you had any in your magazine last month can you let Sarah know on sarahefelton@yahoo.com please. Apparently ,there was a hiccough at the printers, but they have got it sorted but it would be good to know how many people had blanks.

The Editorial Team must thank all our kind deliverers, who month in and month out, deliver your Elmham News. We would be

PLEASE NOTE: Submission deadline for articles to be included in the FEBRUARY 2024 edition is 14TH JANUARY 2024. Please email your article to each of the editors listed below asap before the deadline.			
Volume 46, No 11, December 2023/January 2024			DONATIONS APPRECIATED
EDITORS			
Chris Hill	Editor	laine.hill@icloud.com	01362 667028
Caroline Payne	Editor & Chair	carolinejpayne@hotmail.co.uk	01362 668704
Meg White	Editor	megandnigel@gmail.com	01362 668302
Janet Woodhouse	Editor	robert.woodhouse2@gmail.com	01362 668525
ADVERTISING			
Martin Phillips	Advertising & Treasurer	martin.s.phillips@btopenworld.com	01362 668409
PRODUCTION & DISTRIBUTION			
Sarah Felton	Magazine Layout & Design	sarahefelton@yahoo.com	
Chris Hill	Distribution	laine.hill@icloud.com	01362 667028
OTHER MEMBERS			
Bob Fletcher	Committee Member	Beverly, Nr Church, NR20 5JU	01362 668514
Brian Wheeler	Committee Member	21 Cathedral Drive, NR20 5JH	01362 668621
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nothing if you didn't give your time and energy to deliver it.

Talking of deliverers, if you feel you could deliver half a dozen or so magazines in your street, please contact any one of the team please. Your regular deliverer might give a sign of relief at your kind offer.

Thank you to all our donors, named or anonymous who give to the magazine. We really appreciate your donations.

Your next magazine will be delivered in February 2024 so may we take this opportunity to wish ALL our Readers a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR.

NORTH ELMHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 4TH OCTOBER

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: Mrs. J. Borgnis (Chairman), Mr. M. Phillips, Miss A. Ferris, Mr. B. Gee, Mr. P. Grainger, Mr. N. Markwell, Mr. M. Rayner and Mr. C. Smith

Also in Attendance: Mr. K. Webb (Clerk) and three parishioners.

Apologies for absence: Mr. T. Fitzalan Howard Mrs. A. Keeble Mr. J. Labouchere Mr. G. Bambridge (District Councillor)

Public Participation

A parishioner asked a question on behalf of another parishioner who wasn't present at the meeting regarding the proposed car park at Boars Hill. Work will start on construction when 50% of the properties have been built and it will be completed when 80% of the properties are occupied. At this point it will be passed to the Parish Council.



VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Elmham News

We are looking for someone to take over the task of co-ordinating the distribution of the magazine to the delivers each month.

Initially this person would shadow Chris Hill with a view to taking over the task in the New Year. They do not necessarily have to deliver individual magazines.

Please email Sarah Felton at sarahfelton@yahoo.com for more details or to offer your services.

Church Cleaning

Do you have approx. 1 hour to spare say every four weeks? We are looking for persons to join our Church cleaning team - any offers of help will be greatly appreciated. Thank you. Please call Gill 668530.

There is a new bus route through the village, and it was reported that a parishioner attempted to wave down a bus but it didn't stop. This is unfortunate but the advantage of utilising official bus stops was stressed.

A number of problems at and close to the Eastgate Centre were reported. These involve anti-social behaviour and mindless vandalism, things which have become apparent throughout the village in recent times. Matters have been reported to the police and it is important that this continues on every occasion. Police patrols have been stepped up. The Parish Council confirmed support for any measures that officials of the Eastgate

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Centre wish to take including CCTV cameras and additional lighting.

It was suggested that the setting up of a youth club may help to provide an interest for younger people. Mr. Markwell and Miss Ferris volunteered to be involved with this initiative. Mr. Markwell is to write a piece for Elmham News.

Updated Information and Matters Arising

Land Management Matters

Village Green: Mr. Phillips is to chase NGF Play for progress in respect of planned repairs and work required on the play equipment.

The first two trees are to be cut on 25th and 26th of October. Most of the hedges have already been cut with some remaining to be done.

Cathedral Ruins: The mobile mower has visited and cut the slopes. The new bench has been delivered and Darren Brown will be asked to fix it in place. The Chairman is to contact him.

Millennium Wood (and Jubilee Wood): A quotation has been received for some thinning needed in Jubilee Wood from Nick Saunders for £450. Acceptance proposed by Mr. Markwell and seconded by Mr. Phillips. All in favour. One post holding up the deer fencing needs to be replaced.

Prince William Wood: Mr. Markwell is to get a second opinion regarding the dead trees.

Church Meadow: The ditch has had the brash cleared and a lower invoice than expected has been received.

Allotments

Mr. Phillips said that annual rents are to be collected at 6.00 p.m. on 11th October. Another plot has become available.

Street Lights

Light number 103 in Eastgate Street has gone off and light number 106 has been fixed. Mr. Markwell is to contact T.T. Jones

with a view to requesting the reinstallation of the light at number 29, Eastgate Street.

Call for Sites Update: Breckland Council

Mr. Rayner has finally received a response from Sarah Suggitt (Breckland Council) to the email sent in June and the subsequent chaser sent on 17th August.

Eight sites have been suggested and put forward totalling 179 and 204 houses, plus the strangely named "Railway Village" site for 5,000 houses. Consultation will take place after it is decided which of the sites they decide to select. Mr. Rayner attended a meeting in Dereham and the new consultation, which appears to be asking the same questions, will be running until early November. Mr. Rayner will answer the eleven questions and various sub questions raised and submit to the members for approval. The Parish Council reply will then be sent. There is a drop in public meeting at Dereham on 17th October.

Annual Budget

The budget is to be fully discussed at the next meeting.

Archive Group Records

Mr. Smith is waiting for a quotation and will chase.

CGM Group and Grounds Maintenance for 2024

Norse has been chased for their decision on whether to tender for next year's contract but no response has yet been forthcoming.

Community Car Scheme

The Chairman has visited Mr. D. Wheeler, co-ordinator of the Bawdeswell scheme which has some 15 drivers. The customers pay 20p per mile with the remaining 25p per mile being claimed. He says that the cost to the Parish Council is about £300 per annum. A DBS check, costing £250 per person, is needed every two years. A committed co-ordinator is the prime requirement, together with between 10 and 15 drivers. The Chairman is to put a



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piece in Elmham News advising details of the scheme and requesting volunteers.

Report from District Councillor Gordon Bambridge

As always happy to answer questions by email etc or to arrange to visit and meet with councillors or indeed parishioners at other times. In recent times I have met with Highways England and discussed their progress on A47 (not too close to you I know). I have also pressed for matters of the Western Link to be higher on agenda, this of course, does affect the whole ward as the overspill along the A1067 then filters through all the small link roads between that and A47 and right up to Fakenham, this includes the B1145 being used as a rat run, which does affect you. Strictly this is out of George's constituency, but I have asked if he can take an interest. Attended various drainage boards and of course Breckland full council, cabinet and OSC plus meetings with officers.

Also met with George F online last Friday and f2f on Friday plus hoping to get together this week or early next regarding housing matters not least the proposed new town and nutrient neutrality.

This has been a busy month with matters raised by villagers, and I have several items of casework going through, most of which must remain confidential to the individual for now.

Expecting to see you in November.

Christmas Lights

A tree is needed (Mr. Saunders is to be approached) and the lights are to go up on December 8th.

Discussions took place with regard to the investment of surplus funds on current account into an account paying interest. This proposed action results from the recent rise in rates after the historically low rates which have been prevailing for a number of years. After examining alternatives, it was agreed to place £80K

with the Cambridge Building Society into a Council Saver account, currently paying 2.9%, with immediate access. Proposed by Mr. Grainger and seconded by Mr. Phillips. To satisfy due diligence requirements, the Clerk will forward a link to all members to enable details of the account, including terms and conditions, to be fully examined before the investment is made.

To Consider Planning Applications and Determinations

Applications

- i) 3 Beatie Gardens – to change roofing material from concrete tiles to shingles with no colour change – amendment to 3PL/2022/1234/HOU – no objections.
- ii) Gorse House, Heath Road – variation of condition number 2 on 3PL/2022/0799/HOU – larger porch area and internal alterations – no objections.
- iii) Mardle Barn, Back Lane – discharge of condition 10 on 3PL/2021/0285/F and amendment to planning permission 3PL/2021/0285/F – variation of cladding colour, two additional roof lights and variation of external door and window frame colour – no objections.
- iv) The Old Vicarage, High Street – T1 – elm – fell due to Dutch elm disease.
- v) Mr. R. Mumford – Rackham House, 39 Holt Road – single storey side extension (amended design) – 3PL/2023/0937/HOU – no objections.

Determinations

- i) 25 Cathedral Drive – Mr. A. McKay and Ms. E. Henderson – proposed single storey front and part replacement of garage two storey rear extension – 3PL/2023/0580/HOU – approved.
- ii) 3 Beatie Gardens – to change roofing material from concrete tiles to shingles with no colour change – amendment to 3PL/2022/1234/HOU – approved.
- iii) Mardle Barn, Back Lane – discharge of condition 10 on 3PL/2021/0285/F

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and amendment to planning permission 3PL/2021/0285/F – variation of cladding colour, two additional roof lights and variation of external door and window frame colour – complete.

iv) Land at Brookside Farm, 74 Holt Road – 3PL/2023/0751/VAR – variation of Condition 2 on 3PL.2019/0874/F – revise plots 18,19 and 22, and amend garage roofs and garage blocks – permission granted.

Correspondence

1) Request from the Walking Football Club for the Parish Council to install a TV/ Screen in the Pavilion. (Clerk to respond – Parish Council unable to finance this equipment).

2) E-mail from the Walking Football Club asking to book the Pavilion on Saturday, 4th November. (Clerk to respond reiterating the previous advice given).

3) Request from a parishioner for Norfolk County Council to create a hard standing area at the new bus stop on the side of the road by County School, (Clerk to contact Matt Lines, Norfolk County Council).

4) E-mails from parishioners reporting further cases of anti-social behaviour. (Various actions are being considered by local clubs which are supported, in principle, by the Parish Council but unfortunately, contributions cannot be made to finance the infrastructure of individual clubs).

Any Other Matters

The Clerk had drafted some dates for 2024 Parish Council meetings which had been circulated to members and will be discussed at the next meeting.

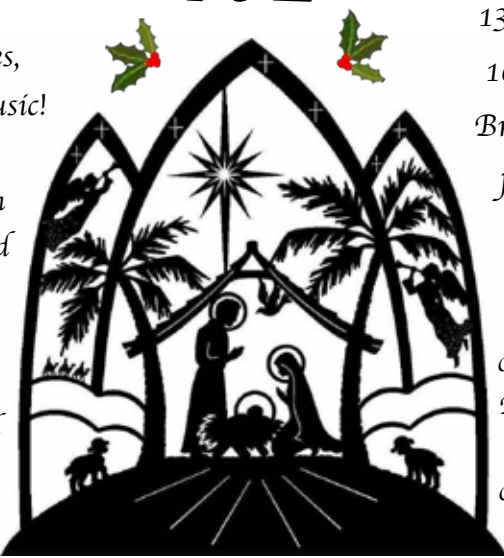
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CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

This is a list of people who can be contacted if you would like to know more about any of the following:

Archive Group	Janet Woodhouse 01362 668525
Art4 All	Angie Redwood 07979 666197
Bowls - Institute	Tony Langford 01362 668854
Bowls - King's Head	Martin Phillips 01362 668409
Brisley & North Elmham Cricket Club	Mark Ballman 01362 668935
Elmham Football Club	Chris Reeve 07468 569699
Elmham Guides	Marion Morgan 01362 696221
Elmham News	Meg White 01362 668302
Elmham Surgery Patient Participation Group	Roger Thornley 01362 668804
Elmham Tennis Club	Geraldine Leeder northelmhamtennis@gmail.com
Friends of North Elmham School	Naomi Brien 07447 016620
Gardening Club	Ray Norman 01362 667226
Guides	Marian Morgan 01362 696221
Knit and Natter	Eileen Cotterill 01362 668380
North Elmham Trailblazers	Fliss von Christian 07787 161446
Reading Group	Eileen Church 01362 668330
Royal British Legion	Michael Aston 01362 668959
Sewing for Pleasure	Janet Woodhouse 01362 668525
SINE (Help)	David Fairbairn-Day 07398 758421(10-5)
Snooker Mon & Fri	Neil Page 01362 668296
Snooker Wed	Tim Smith 01362 668487
Tea@Two	Jo Fitzalan Howard 01362 668232
The May Singers	Tony Langford 01362 668854
Walking Football	Paul Carr carrpaulus@aol.com
Walking Group	Jenny Cunningham 01362 668224
Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society	Sue Gale publicity@wvbs.gmail.com
Wives + All	Gill King 01362 668530
Young Farmers	Will Swan 07818 786424



KNIT AND NATTER

It was party time at our November meeting. We were celebrating 11 years of North Elmham's Knit and Natter, with sparkling elderberry fizz, nibbles and a fantastic birthday cake, made by Pat Newsome's granddaughter, who is a professional specialist cake maker. We were also lucky enough to have Linda Brown, our founder, join us and give us an informal, enthusiastic, talk about how K & N began with an idea of using her front lounge as a meet and knit for a charity group using donated wool. I joined when I answered one of her advertisements, and later agreed to form a group in North Elmham. From these small beginnings, a whole movement emerged, with knitters and stitchers forming groups all over Norfolk, turning a hobby into an organisation which supplies items and financial help to charities far and near. We then congratulating ourselves on realising that even our small group had, during the 11 years given over £1,500 in donations to charities, and produced many, many sacks of clothing, taken to Knitters and Stitchers distribution centres. We also provided items donated to local care homes, charity shops and the N & N University Hospital.

We then turned our attention to the items that we have been collecting to support the local Christmas Pop up Shop in the



Eastgate centre. By the time you read this it will have taken place, and I am sure we will all have enjoyed lots of games and competitions, and Christmas presents won or bought.

Our next meeting will be (a little quieter perhaps), on Tuesday 5th December in the Pavilion at 2 til 4 as usual. However, since the January meeting is so close to New Year, there will not be a meeting that month, but we will resume as normal on Tuesday February 6th in the Pavilion 2 til 4 pm.

Best Christmas Wishes to all our readers and keep warm.

Eileen Cotterill, 01362 668380

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NORTH ELMHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 1ST NOVEMBER

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: Mrs. J. Borgnis (Chairman), Mr. M. Phillips, Mr. T. Fitzalan Howard, Mr. B. Gee, Mrs. A. Keeble, Mr. J. Labouchere, Mr. N. Markwell, Mr. M. Rayner and Mr. C. Smith

Also in Attendance: Mr. K. Webb (Clerk).

Apologies for Absence: Miss A. Ferris, Mr. P. Grainger, Mr. G. Bambridge (District Councillor)

Updated Information and Matters Arising

Land Management Matters

Village Green: Work has been carried out by NGF Play. The tree cutting has not yet taken place due to the wet weather. A dry spell is needed.

Millennium Wood (and Jubilee Wood): The thinning needed in Jubilee Wood is to be done by Nick Saunders. Mr. Phillips is to chase the contractor regarding the deer fencing post.

Prince William Wood: Many of the trees (oak, ash and cherry) were planted more than 30 years ago. A report summarising recommendations for action to be taken, together with a quotation, is to be submitted to the Parish Council for consideration.

Church Meadow: Some additional work has been carried out on the ditch.

Allotments

Mr. Phillips reported that annual rents had been collected. There had been four plots available of which two have since been let. A quotation of £75 had been received to

chip some hedge cuttings and all agreed that this work should be carried out.

Street Lights

The work required for the lights in Cathedral Close and Eastgate Street has been completed.

The Eastgate Centre light is faulty and has been sent away for repair. A resident in Holt Road needs to have his wall rendered and there is a streetlight attached to it. The power will have to be detached for a short period. Mr. Markwell will contact the parishioner on receipt of a response from Westcotec.

Highway Matters

The request for a hard standing area next to the new bus stop on the side of the road near County School has been referred to Matt Lines (Norfolk County Council). A reply is awaited.

Pavilion and Playing Field

Payment of hire fees is due from the Football Club. Another e-mail has been received from the Walking Football Club and the Chairman is to respond. The matter was discussed at length and the decision not to amend the existing booking arrangements, which had worked perfectly well for a long time, was unanimous.

The Police and Crime Commissioner Election is scheduled to take place on 2nd May, 2024

Eastgate Centre

CCTV cameras are to be purchased.

Defibrillators

The Chairman has again checked the equipment.

Call for Sites Update: Breckland Council

Some members attended the drop in public meeting at Dereham Market Place on 17th October.

CGM Group and Grounds Maintenance for 2024

This matter is to be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

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Community Car Scheme

The Chairman has written a piece for Elmham News.

Climate Positive Group

The Chairman has written a piece for Elmham News.

Christmas Lights

The Chairman is to request a slightly bigger tree. Lighting up will be on Friday 8th December at 6pm Everyone invited

Annual Budget

Mr. Phillips produced anticipated income and expenditure figures for the 2024/2025 year. Unfortunately, information including the Tax Base has not yet been received from Breckland Council so a final decision will have to be made at the next meeting. Discussions will be held regarding the possible requirement for additional car parking spaces in the village, especially near the pavilion and football pitch.

Parish Council meeting dates for 2024

The dates for Parish Council meetings in 2024 are as follows:

3rd January, 7th February, 6th March, 3rd April, 1st May (Annual Meeting of the Parish Council), 22nd May (Annual Parish Meeting), 5th June, 3rd July, 7th August, 4th September, 2nd October, 13th November and 4th December.

To Consider Planning Applications and Determinations

Applications

64 Station Road – change of use from cartlodge to home office/ gym -3PL/2023/0959/HOU. (This is a retrospective application and work has started. It appears that a previous condition is being ignored. Mr. Rayner is to draft some comments for submission to the District Council).

Determinations

i) Gorse House, Heath Road – variation of condition number 2 on 3PL/2022/0959 - approved.

ii) 44 Primrose Cottage, Holt Road – TPO – tree work on common boundary - consent given.

iii) The Old Vicarage, High Street – fell elm due to Dutch elm disease - no objection.

Correspondence

1) Clerks and Councils Direct magazine for November, 2023.

2) Letter from a parishioner regarding a large hole that has appeared in the wall close to the Cathedral Ruins. (We will be advised when the work is to be done)

3) Report on the Pavilion as an election site from the County/District Councils.

4) Comments from a parishioner on planning application 3PL/2023/0959/HOU (64 Station Road, North Elmham)

5) Message from George Freeman MP advising that he will be reconvening the Mid Norfolk Flood Partnership following the recent Storm Babet.

Any Other Matters

It was agreed that close contact should be maintained with George Freeman MP regarding the highly controversial development proposal for the curiously named "Railway Village".

Mr. Labouchere said that the first English woman to climb Mount Everest is giving a talk at Norwich School on 11th January, 2024 and tickets are available from him.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, 6th December at 7.30 pm.



When is Pizza an acceptable Christmas Food?

When it's deep pan, and crisp and even!

Old & Forgotten Christmas Carols Singing Workshop

Led by Natasha Hood & Marian Fox

1.30pm - 3.45pm

Sunday 17th December

North Elmham

Memorial Hall

cost by donation

4pm - 5pm

Join St Mary's church Christmas Carol service
to sing two carols

followed by bring & share tea (Memorial Hall)

6.30pm - 7pm

The evening is opened to the village
beginning with a Showcase of old carols

7.30pm onwards

Community carol singing
accompanied by Teresa

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

What are your memories of Christmas when you were a child?

I taught in two primary schools, locally, always with children who were in the 5–7 years band. How excited they became the nearer we raced towards December. The girls particularly had endless lists of things they wanted Father Christmas to bring them. I'm sure there were many times their lists were ignored!

The second school I taught in was not far from here and we always celebrated Christmas. The older classes usually put on a play – with lights, because we had a teacher who loved lighting the stage (middle of the hall). I used to joke that come the end of October, the lights came out of the cupboard and were up and running ready for December and the 'big production', long before the cast was organised.

Now the younger children always had a small play, acting out the Nativity. I have this abiding memory of one boy who was the Inn Keeper who kept threatening to say "No room, no room, b....off" but thankfully he managed to restrain himself!

We did this in the school hall for the mums and grandparents to come and watch. We always had a battered doll in the dressing up box for baby Jesus. One year I thought wouldn't it be nice to have a real live baby lying in the manger.

Now I knew the local farmer's wife had a baby, very new, and I asked her if we could borrow him for our little Nativity. She agreed, so long as she could sit fairly close to the action! So, we had our Nativity in the school hall – and the baby was impeccably behaved! It was successful, not a dry eye in the house!

The next year I asked if we could come and perform in one of the farmer's smaller barns. The farmer agreed and we did the same thing again but this time we had a donkey to swell the cast. Her role was to carry Mary being led by her owner.

Can you see how this is going?

The next year I asked if we could come to the farm for our Nativity and could we possibly do it in the big barn. The farmer was delighted and cleared out the junk which had accumulated there. He put out straw bales for the children to sit on also for the rest of the school, and then more bales for the audience.

By now the other 'infant' teacher and myself (infants is a word not used in school today) were wondering if we could pull it off. We borrowed some of the older children who were brilliant playing their recorders for the music.

We also had bullocks there as well, safely behind bars but they jostled for pole positions and a good look! I'm sure if they had known the words to our songs, they would have joined in too.

We had Abbie the donkey once again. Our school secretary had to ring County Hall and ask them for insurance cover for the morning of our Nativity and Abbie, who like the baby, never put a foot wrong,

Our little production always brought a lump to my throat – the children, the baby (we started asking around for a baby in October each year) the donkey and the audience – it was pure magic.

We always had this celebration of Christmas in the morning and in the apex of the barn was a small window and as the sun was rising, the barn was flooded with sunshine making it more atmospheric.

We all loved it and I am sure these children will always remember their Nativity with Baby Jesus and Abbie the donkey. Sadly, after I retired from teaching I don't think this little tradition carried on.



**What do you get if you cross
Santa Claus with a duck?**

A Christmas Quacker !

Michael Cummings, HCPC Registered, D.Pod.M., M.Ch.S.,
Chiropodist/Podiatrist,

DEREHAM CLINIC: 1 QUEBEC STREET, DEREHAM, NR19 5DJ

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- Nick Long -

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JANUARY

14th

February 2024 deadline

One year, I can't remember exactly, Anglia TV heard about our Nativity play and rang to say would it be OK to come and film it all. They said it would be broadcast on the local News in the evening. Of course, we all agreed, and the television cameras made our production even more special (I still have a copy of it all). The film crew followed us back to school and came into our two classes to chat to the children.

More magic and great excitement!

For me I always felt that Christmas didn't start until we had this Nativity performance and having taught for 34 years this is always what I loved the most.

Anon

Ed's Note: Here is an addenda from "Mary" alias Beverley.

There are many things I remember about school, especially the annual performances. I vaguely remember

Scrooge, when we used my toy duck as one of the props. Cinderella with the two James as the ugly sisters (I was the wicked stepmother) and of course the pearly queen when you made me hold hands with a boy- Christopher East. I wish we still had the old videos. I also remember giving Mrs Bell some flowers when she retired after one performance.

Nothing will however top when I was Mary in the Nativity one year with the real donkey. I have spoken about it so many times and have always had the impression that people thought I was crazy! It does make me sad that this would never be allowed nowadays as it was very special. Sadly, Mum looked but couldn't find any photo's.

We did have a 99 year old witch with a broomstick in her cupboard too! Do you remember telling us that? We always found it hilarious.



CHRISTMAS TREE

LIGHTS SWITCH ON

Friday 8th December 6.00 pm

Outside the Pavilion

Sing-a-long

**Mulled wine and hot
chocolate provided**

Do come along and join us

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CHARITY LUNCH

On Thursday 26th October at the Eastgate Centre, 72 guests and helpers sat down to share a simple lunch of homemade soups and delicious cakes.

This event, our fourth charity lunch, was held to help support the work of St. Martins Housing Trust, based in Norwich. The work of this charity also reaches out to provide support for homeless and vulnerably housed individuals and families across the region.

Michael Newey, representing Broadland Housing Association, gave an illuminating talk about not only St. Martins, but also included references to other relevant charities which offer support in these difficult times of housing crisis and inevitable rising numbers of homeless people in Norfolk - as Michael succinctly pointed out 'but for fate and chance homelessness could affect us all'.

However, the charity lunch was a joyful occasion. Thank you to the willing team of soup and cake makers and special thanks to Robert Rickett who managed to keep the soups hot. Thank you too to the musicians



and poets who provided heart warming and thought provoking entertainment.

Grateful thanks to all who came and gave their generous support, together we raised a fantastic £580 for St. Martins Housing Trust. Needless to say, they were delighted.

Jenny Cunningham



**What does Prince George play
at Christmas ?**

Game of Thrones!

DATES TO REMEMBER DECEMBER & JANUARY

DECEMBER			
Tue 5th	Knit and Natter	Pavilion	2.00 pm
Wed 6th	Parish Council Meeting Mobile Library visit	Pavilion The Heath to Orchard Close	7.30 pm 2.30–5.20 pm
Fri 8th	Lighting Up Tree	Pavilion	6.00 pm
Sat 9th	Music Night: Three Up Two Down	Memorial Hall	7.30 pm
Wed 13th	Tea at Two	Memorial Hall	2.00 pm
Thu 14th	Wives+ All Talk & Supper	Memorial Hall	7.30 pm
Sun 17th	Christmas Carols Workshop	St Mary's Church	Various times
Wed 20th	Last day of term		
JANUARY			
Mon 1st	New Year's Day		
Wed 3rd	Mobile Library visit Parish Council Meeting	The Heath to Orchard Close Pavilion	2.30–5.20 pm 7.30 pm
Thu 4th	First day of term		
Wed 10th	Tea at Two	Memorial Hall	2.00 pm
Thu 26th	Gardening Club AGM	Memorial Hall	7.30 pm
Wed 31st	Mobile Library visit	The Heath to Orchard Close	2.30–5.20 pm
ADVANCE NOTICE FEBRUARY			
Tue 6th	Knit and Natter		
Thu 8th	Wives Plus All AGM		
Thu 8th	Royal British Legion		

Please remember, we can only print dates that YOU give us.

POST COLLECTION CHANGES

The daily collection at the Post Office is now 12.45 pm Monday–Friday

11.45 am on Saturday

There is a 6.00 pm collection from Dereham Post Office.

LAST POSTING DATES FOR CHRISTMAS

2nd class: Monday 12th December

1st class: Wednesday 20th December

FAKENHAM CHORAL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Join Fakenham Choral Society for an extra special Christmas concert, full of festive favourites and a magical start to its 50th anniversary season. The event, which is free to attend, is at Fakenham Parish Church on Saturday December 16th at 5.30pm. There will be a retiring collection, with donations going toward two further anniversary concerts in 2024, including Verdi's magnificent Requiem.

The choir, directed by Mark Jones, will be joined by musicians and soloists for works by Pergolesi, Charpentier and John Rutter, as well as audience participation in some much-loved Christmas carols.

As admission is free, the choir is expecting a full house so please arrive in good time to secure your seat. There will be a cash-only bar and opportunities to purchase fundraising Grand Draw tickets with some fabulous prizes up for grabs. Information about the choir and its 50th anniversary can be found at www.fakenhamchoralsociety.org

GARDENING CLUB

We had another excellent speaker in October, Peter Skegg Gooch from Thorncroft Clematis from Reymerton.

The actual nursery shop there has closed but it is now a thriving Mail order business. The actual clematis are grown in Worcestershire and obviously plants can be collected from there if you are in the area. For the rest of us, Peter brought their new beautiful catalogue for us to drool over. It is full of excellent photographs and accompanied by plenty of instructions to allow you to buy your clematis from them with confidence.

He opened our eyes as to the wide variety of clematis and their growing habits and

most of us were engrossed in browsing the catalogue and asking questions in our refreshment break. He was warmly thanked for his talk.

Tish won Flower of the Month with a beautiful cream dahlia.

The meeting in November is the last one for this year and as usual will be our Christmas Social. Please bring a small plate of food to share, wine will be provided, so if you could bring a glass, that would save on the washing up!

It is traditional by now to also bring a gift wrapped packet of seeds. It is always fun to receive an unknown packet.

Our AGM will be held on January 25th, when subs of £10 are due. New members are always welcome.

Looking forward to seeing you all in November

Meg White

APOLOGY



My personal apology to Chris Skipper for omitting this charming photo of her great niece. I just didn't 'see' it. Here she is in her christening gown.

Meg

DEAR EDITORS

The Campaign Against New Town (CANT) noted in our parish magazine, the developer proposal to build 5000 new properties between North Elmham, Billingford and Bintree. In the Oct magazine we were told that Breckland Council were unexpectedly holding two additional meetings in September to preview the community consultation on this plan; but there were unknown reasons for these meetings? Furthermore, CANT noted the convincing arguments against the New Town, ie the lack of demand, the lack of access, lack of employment and lack of infrastructure. But living close to the river Wensum, I firmly believe there is also another issue the Council planners need to be aware of, and that is of potential flooding in this area. The river Wensum has many surrounding floodplain fields, relief drains and many blocked dykes; the prospect of any new buildings close to this river has the potential to exacerbate pre-existing flooding issues.

Having lived in North Elmham for 39 years, we experience flooding in our back garden every year, and it can be up to 2 to 3 times each year. Several other properties close by, also experience flooding in their back gardens. We have a river Wensum relief drain at the bottom of the garden, beyond the relief drain there is a floodplain field, and beyond that the river Wensum. My house is approximately 300 yards from the river Wensum, but some properties are much closer to the river. During prolonged heavy rain, the river Wensum breaks its banks and starts to flood the floodplain field, the relief drains cannot cope with the excess of water, and the flooding progresses up and into our gardens. During this Nov, the rain was excessive causing the flood level in the garden to reach a depth of 3 foot. This was exceptionally high, and over halfway up our garden towards the house. The flooding has never reached our property, but it is not that far away from doing so. Presently the area is designated as a low risk area, but that can easily change if and when properties do suffer from

flooding. Flooding insurance would be denied as a consequence.

The recent update by CANT in the Nov Magazine advised that as many as possible local residents need to respond on the Breckland website Commonplace, to note your concerns or give your comments regarding the proposed building plans. I have done this, but with specific reference to the risk of potential and increased flooding in this area. Any flooding will have a catastrophic impact on not only our existing established properties, but also on any new developments.

The village of Attleborough recently suffered the worst flooding in living memory after Storm Babet's torrential rain. Families had to flee their homes, in a town that does not normally suffer major flooding. It's believed that a new and significant development of houses being built near to and on the floodplain was the cause for the flooding. The residents of Attleborough are now calling for flood protection measures in the village. It's just too late for that now, the damage has been done.

I note with interest that the parish council of Outwell gave their concerns against plans for a new development of affordable homes, which has been overruled. Maybe their voice was insufficient to avoid such plans. Therefore please have your say on the Breckland Commonplace Website; refer to your Oct and Nov 23 parish magazines advice from CANT for specific details.

Jon Paling

FAKENHAM & DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

Tuesday 5th December 2023

"Festive Floral Flair" with Gill McGregor

Hempton Memorial Hall,
Hempton, Fakenham, NR21 7LG

Members £40 Annual Sub - Visitors £8

More details: Jackie on 01328 851933



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Whitwell Remembrance Day Service was held on Saturday the 11th November which was very well attended with over 40 people attending. The Last Post was played by Paul Frostwick-Wilson and the Standard carried by Andrew Marsh, it was very touching to see two very young children laying crosses at The Memorial.

The Remembrance Day Service held at St Mary's Church at North Elmham was also very well attended. The Girl Guides joined in the ceremony with their standard. The service was conducted by our Vicar Sally, with thoughts for all people suffering from the effects of wars past and present.

Two wreaths were laid one on behalf of the Parish Council by Colin Smith, the other for the RBL by Jenny Dagless. After the service, we gathered at The Memorial Hall for the dedication of the two memorials to Bryan Tidnam and Gerald Marsh. After the unveiling, these were both dedicated by the Vicar Sally, and Tom Fitzalan-Howard said a few words as to how both

gentlemen had served their country, the RBL, and the village of North Elmham.

A wreath was laid by Derick Shoesmith on behalf of the Branch, and crosses laid, one, by Kelly Upton on behalf of The Kings Head Hotel, our current meeting place and the other by Colin Smith on behalf of The Railway, our previous meeting place.

The church collection raised £276.78

Our next meeting will be Thursday 8th February, 2024.

On behalf of the committee and myself, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Toby Winterbourn, our village blacksmith for the fabrication of the memorials, and Simon Harper of Willowtree Printing for the plaques and to Mr & Mrs R Clark for refreshments and to everyone who attended these events.

Michael Aston

Eds note: May we, on behalf of everyone involved, thank the First Responder, Paramedic, and Ambulance crew for their prompt attendance to the medical emergency during Sunday's service..

Eileen Bent would like to offer her heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in treating her so well and assures us that she was passed fit after a thorough check up.

A GET TOGETHER

On the 14th October, a group of people who lived in the village as children in the early 1940's, met at the Institute to talk about their school days here in the village.

It took a few minutes for us to get going – then everyone was talking at once.

Most of us had different memories of our early lives at the village school, especially of the three teachers, Milly Wright, who had already been teaching at the school since the 1920's, then Gladys Caley, wife of Frank Caley the coal merchant, and finally Miss Dawson, the Head Teacher who lived in the School House.

This meeting had come about because I had said to Maurice Clarke (who must be one of the oldest of village people) that when we both had time, I would have a cup of tea with him and write down some of his memories of his life here in the village school. I saw him a few days later and he said he had been in touch with one or two others of a similar age - and so it went on. I rang a few others; Maurice did the same and Carole Taylor (nee Clarke) did likewise. Sadly, for various reasons several of them couldn't come.

It is a strange thing, but suddenly when you are in a group of people all talking about similar things, you hear a snatch of conversation and you remember something which happened over 75 years before as if it was yesterday. It was a lovely afternoon reminiscing, a happy time... let's do it again perhaps in the Spring.

Here Are The Thoughts Of Others Who Were There

Many memories were of the boys climbing trees, general mischief and damming the stream near the school during the Summer holidays so children

could paddle in it and one little girl falling in and forever being known as 'Duck'.

County School featured a lot in those memories – Rev Ward took the Boy Scouts up there and the Watts Naval Boys taught them to climb the rigging. He also took the members of the church Sunday School for a picnic and to swim in their pool. There were some poignant memories of returning in later years and finding the names of the Watts Naval boys etched into the wooden changing huts. People also remembered attending their cinema, some even recalling the films they had seen.

Mrs Caley, one of the teachers at school, was remembered with great affection and admiration for the way she managed to teach us the three R's. The Headteacher using the cane, was not remembered quite so fondly. All remembered the playground divided by a wall separating the Infants from the older children, the large sycamore tree and the excitement when the wall came down and the playground gravel surface was replaced by tarmac. Not remembered so fondly, were the outside toilets!

There were memories of Miss Frost's shop in Station Road and the one at the bottom of Eastgate Street where it was one of the delights to go and look at the brightly lit Christmas display. Some recalled attending the Congregational Chapel in Holt Road run by Mrs Anderson who lived in the village until she was 100 years old. Later the Chapel became the meeting place for the St. Ambulance Brigade run by Mr Power (?) and later by Mr and Mrs Stanley.

Janet Woodhouse



What do elves learn at school?

The Elfabet!



Ingredients

359g/12oz sultanas
 225g/8oz raisins
 115g/4oz chopped ready to eat dried apricots
 85g/3oz chopped dates
 4 tbsp dark rum or brandy
 Finely grated rind and juice of 1 orange
 225g/8oz unsalted butter plus extra for greasing
 225g/8oz dark brown sugar
 4 eggs
 70g/2 ½oz chopped mixed peel
 85g/3oz glacé cherries quartered
 25g/1oz chopped glacé ginger or stem ginger
 40g/1 ½oz blanched chopped almonds
 200g/7oz plain flour
 1 tsp ground mixed spice

Method

Place sultanas, raisins, apricots and dates in a large bowl and stir in rum. Cover and leave soak overnight.

Preheat oven 150C/300F/Gas Mk 2 grease and line a 20cm/8inch round deep cake tin.

Cream together the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Gradually beat in eggs, beating hard after each one. Stir

in soaked fruits, mixed peel, cherries ginger and blanched almonds.

Sift together flour and mixed spice, fold lightly and evenly into the mixture. Spoon mixture into prepared cake tin and level surface, making a slight depression in the centre with the back of a spoon so the cake top keeps flattish whilst cooking.

Bake in the preheated oven for 2 ¼ to 2 ¾ hours, or until the cake is beginning to shrink away from the sides and a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean. Cool completely in the tin.

Turn out the cake and remove lining paper. Wrap in grease proof paper and foil and store (should be for 2 months but carry on anyhow!) . To add a richer flavour, prick the cake with a skewer and spoon over a couple of extra tablespoons of rum or brandy before storing.

This is a really good cake and worth all trouble of preparing and storing. As we are not too fond of icing, I just marzipan the cake using little pieces of marzipan left over coloured with food colouring and fashioned into holly, Ivy etc etc. find a Father Christmas or a snowman to put on the top and it's all done. Or maybe make up some royal icing and for quickness make a snow scene. Enjoy.

Julia W

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TO 2.30PM
D 9.00PM

TO 5.00PM

Christmas '23

At North Elmham Kings Head

Whats On

Folk Club Wednesday 6th December At 2.30pm
Ken Hosts Our Last Folk Afternoon Of The Year

Christmas Eve

Bar Open 12.00 - 8.00pm

Food Service.....12.00pm - 4.30pm

Christmas Day

Closed

Boxing Day

Closed

New Years Eve

Bar Open 12.00pm- 12.30am

Food Service 12.00pm - 5.00pm

Join Us In Ringing In The New Year.

New Years Day

Bar Open 12.00pm - 6.00pm

Food Service 12.00pm - 4.30pm

Tuesday 2ND Wednesday 3RD & Thursday 4TH January '23

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Reopening Friday 5th January at 6.00pm

North Elmham Kings Head

www.kingsheadnorthelmham.co.uk

01362 668856

A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

Rebecca Stephens who was the first English woman to climb Mount Everest, will be talking about her experiences and her mountaineering.

11th January 2024 at the Norwich School, off The Close. Tickets are £5 and proceeds are for the Royal Geographical Society.

Contact John Labouchere 668306

WILLIAM AMBROSE BETTS

Recently the Parish Council received a letter from a gentleman who lives in Suffolk. Here is what he said, 'I wonder if the Parish Council can help with this please? I recently bought a "Silver War Badge" from an antiques centre in Holt, that belonged to William Betts who is buried in the churchyard.'

According to the seller, it was bought by him from a local metal detectorist but he did not have any information on exactly where it was found.

'I feel it would be appropriate for the badge to be returned to the village if that was possible...'

The Parish Council passed his letter on to me as they know I have done some research on the Fallen of both World Wars.

The Silver War Badge and Discharge Badge was for people invalided out of the Forces. The Silver War Badge was issued to Service personnel who had been honourably discharged due to wounds or sickness from Military service in WWI.

This is what I wrote about William Betts in 2014.

Private William Betts, 76555, 29th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, died aged 42, on 17th August 1918. He enlisted on the 19th October 1916 and is buried in St Mary's churchyard, North Elmham. His parents were Henry, a blacksmith, and Mary Ann

Betts of the High Street. He was born on 17th April 1878 and was admitted to Elmham School in May 1883 and left 9th October 1891. He was readmitted in October 1891 and left 14th April 1892. His address was 'Top of the Town'. (He may have been ill, which would explain why there is a gap in the school admission register).

On the 1911 Census he was a cowman on a farm. Despite being over 40 years of age, very deaf and of poor physique, he was given the medical category of Bz (fit for ordinary purposes). He was discharged on the 22nd January 1917 and died the following year. His age is recorded variably here, but often mistakes were made on documents.

The top of the town meant he was living somewhere past the church, so I have always wondered if he worked at Grange Farm? Despite working on a farm, he wasn't very strong and wasn't fit enough for military life. I also wondered if his father, who was a Blacksmith worked at the smithy just round the corner near Nelson's House.

It is sad the badge was lost but the pin on the back was missing so I guess it fell off whoever was wearing it and subsequently found by a metal detectorist in a field.

I have been in touch with the gentleman who wrote, and he is kindly sending the Silver Badge to me to be kept in the village.

Janet Woodhouse

WANTED

If anyone in the village has a copy of the small book I wrote about the Fallen from here and no longer want to keep, I'll be delighted to buy it. I only have one copy left and it is getting very dog eared and about to give up! The book is called "North Elmham's Memorial of the World Wars". Thank you

Janet Woodhouse, 668525



SCHOOL NEWS

Whole School News

We all came together in our school hall to pay our respects and remember. Reverend Sally led the service with each class supporting. Sheep class showed their poppy art, some children from Whales and Lions class read their own poems, songs were beautifully sung and Lions class performed the famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'. Reverend Sally read out the names of those who died from North Elmham in the two World Wars and children said some prayers.

Key Stage Two braved the torrential weather to compete in a local cross country event. The children made us very proud, despite the terrible weather!

To raise awareness for Anti-Bullying Week, all children were invited to wear odd socks to remind us we are all unique. Sheep class made their own "Kindness" sock designs!

A huge thank you to FONES who have supported each class with a donation to subsidise the cost of school visits for our children. We are thankful for their fundraising events including the Book Fair, Christmas card designs & a Disco!

Class News

Sheep: Sheep class made an incredible start to the second part of the autumn term. We have been busy learning about our local environment, exploring our local school grounds and our village! In Science, we have been noticing the world around us; changes in the seasons and how the day length varies. As we start to learn about our parents' childhood, we have been looking at events in our own lives, sharing photos from when we were a baby and as toddlers. We continue to explore during our learning through play, we enjoy

Three
Up **Two down**

**COME AND JOIN US
FOR ANOTHER GREAT
MUSIC NIGHT AT THE
MEMORIAL HALL**

**Saturday 9th December, 7.30pm
Memorial Hall, North Elmham**

£7.50 per head

Bring your own drinks and nibbles

Tickets available from:

Colin Smith 01362 668 585

Theresa Gower 01362 668 589

**Tickets also available on the door
(Booking is preferable)**

Proceeds for the Memorial Institute Village Hall



Playing all the hits

creating with our loose parts and learning using our indoor and outdoor classroom!

Whales: Whales class has been a busy bunch since half term. We have continued our topic of ancient Egypt, and we began the term with mummifying some tomatoes! We have been learning all about the process of mummification, and in English, children wrote some fantastic instructions for any wanna-be embalmers! We have also been reading about Tutankhamun and the discovery of his tomb by Swaffham-born Howard Carter. In geography, children have been learning about the river Nile and the Aswan High Dam. The class has also been designing and making healthy sandwiches in DT - yum!

Lions: Lions came back to school after half term and worked hard to pull off a good performance of the poem 'In Flanders Fields' for our Remembrance Service in the school hall. In DT they enjoyed making their mechanical moving toy, some confidently using hacksaws for the first time. The children enjoyed making them and the finished products looked good. The class continued to be interested in The Slave Trade, our learning in history, with many asking pertinent questions and learning the new vocabulary to do with the journey of a river.

We are looking forward to the festive season. We have some lovely trips planned and are excited to perform our Nativity!

Reception Intake 2024: If you are interested in a place for your child from September 2024, please contact the school office on 01362 668318. A member of the team will be delighted to show you our wonderful school!

Please follow us on Facebook (North Elmham Primary School) and check out our website for recent updates!

www.northelmhamschool.com

Term ends on Wednesday 20th December 2023, reopens on Thursday 4th January 2024.

WHATS ON LOCALLY

BRISLEY VILLAGE CINEMA

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Fri 19th Jan 2024: OPPENHEIMER

7.00 pm, doors open at 6.30 pm.

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Licensed bar, light refreshments, ice cream.

Dereham Walkers are Welcome

Please come and join us for a walk in the local area. Our short walk of around four miles is always on the first Friday of the month. As usual, we are celebrating the beginning of the New Year with a longer walk (around 6 miles) on Monday January 1st as well as continuing our walks of just two miles later in the month for those wanting an easier walking experience.

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

WIVES PLUS ALL

At November's meeting of Wives Plus All on Thursday 9th November in the North Elmham Memorial Village Hall, members were given a very interesting talk by fellow members Eileen and John Cotterill who now reside here in North Elmham. The subject of Eileen's and John's talk was on their 25 year career in the Youth Hostel Association. Eileen had met John on a caravan holiday, and they settled into married life living and working with the Birmingham Corporation Children's Department. Eileen had a background in Nursery Nursing and John in Telecommunications.

Always interested in wild life and having been on a Bird Watching Holiday with the YHA which they enjoyed, being

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adventurous led them in 1979, being ready for a change. So, Eileen and John applied for, and were appointed to the positions of joint managers of a Youth Hostel, and began a career, which lasted 25 years, working for the Youth Hostels Association (YHA).

The YHA was set up in 1910 by German School teacher Richard Schirrmann and was established in the UK on 10th April 1930, in order to provide affordable holiday accommodation, mainly for younger people and school groups, to get them out of an urban environment, and into the countryside. Eileen and John with their young family managed four hostels in total. They always applied for the changes and were not required to move. At the time of their careers, they had a menagerie of animals to care for as well - goats, rabbits, chickens, a cat and 2 dogs and they became members of their local communities wherever they lived at the time.

The four hostels where they worked and lived were:

Welsh Bicknor; 70 beds. A Victorian Rectory on the River Wye between Ross-on-Wye and Monmouth. The main activities were canoeing and environmental and natural history, centred on the river and the Forest of Dean.

Castle Hedingham; 50 beds. A 16th century house and modern extension, set in the village of Castle Hedingham in North Essex near Sudbury.

Borth; 60 beds. A large semi detached house that had been converted to a single property on the coast of mid Wales between Aberystwyth and Aberdovey. A field study centre with classrooms used by school parties. Also sea kayaking and sand yachting.

St Briavels; 70 beds. A 13th century castle in St Briavels, a village overlooking the River Wye between Monmouth and Chepstow. Mainly for the Forest of Dean (again), and medieval banquets.

A very enjoyable evening was had and thank you Eileen and John for a very interesting talk.

The last meeting for 2023 of Wives Plus All is in the Memorial Hall, North Elmham on THURSDAY 14th DECEMBER 2023 at 7.30pm. Dave Appleton will give an illustrated talk on "Elmham Wildlife through the Seasons"

There will be a raffle and please will members kindly bring along a plate of food in order to enjoy in a shared supper.

Wives Plus All does not meet in January. The first meeting of 2024 will be the Wives Club AGM and will take place in the Memorial Hall, North Elmham at 7.30pm on THURSDAY 8th February 2024.)

HAPPY CHRISTMAS and a prosperous and healthy NEW YEAR 2024 to ALL Members and their families.

Ann Ferris

ELMHAM ALLOTMENTS

The allotment season has finished for the year which ends traditionally at Michaelmas, 11th October. Most of the tenants have renewed for another twelve months, although a few members have decided to hang up their wellies and spades.

So, there are a few plots available to rent. If you are interested in growing your own fruit and vegetables, now is the time to get stuck in. It may be early winter but many of the plot-holders still have a range of winter veg in the ground which will be harvested over the next few months, such as parsnips, carrots, leeks, sprouts, broccoli, cabbage etc. It's also time to think about sowing some of the early spring crops like garlic, onions, and beans. There is always something going on.

If you would like to have a plot, please contact me on 07810 487543 and I will show you round the site.

Martin Phillips



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ELMHAM WILDLIFE

Last month I wrote about the Sepia Bolete, an unusual mushroom that Kathy found in her garden. It's easy to look at a mushroom and think it's just a mushroom, but in nature nothing lives in isolation. Not only does the mushroom depend on other life, with different species associated with different types of plant, wood or other substrate, but there's also a whole community of wildlife that uses, or even depends on, the mushrooms. Larger animals might nibble them or even (like us if we know it's not a poisonous species) eat the whole cap and stem, but smaller creatures often live inside the mushroom.

While I was examining Kathy's Bolete I noticed a number of insect larvae inside the gills and identified these as belonging to flies (fly larvae are often called maggots). The mushroom didn't last long – they never do – but before the mushroom melted away the larvae finished feeding and pupated. I kept some of the little orange pupae (photo 1) to see what type of fly would emerge and at the beginning of November most of them cracked open to release a rather attractive little fly with an orange and silver face, red eyes, grey back and orange body (photo 2). Identifying such flies to species level is hard, requiring microscopic examination to see precisely which bits of the body have hairs and which way the bristles point, among other things. Eventually I identified them as a species called *Pegomya winthemi*. There isn't much published information on the status of this species but it seems to be relatively scarce (but undoubtedly under-recorded as not many people go to the effort required to identify them).

Just as a mushroom plays host to a community of wildlife, so too do leaves. I write this in autumn as the leaves are turning colour and looking as glorious as ever, but start looking at leaves closely and a whole amazing world opens up that most people have no idea even exists. I could





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just write about the leaves themselves – the variety of shapes and patterns of leaves on the various types of plants is in itself fascinating, but instead I thought I'd delve into the communities of life that live on and in leaves. It turns out that I've got far too much to say about this, so specifically this month I am going to tell you about those creatures that live inside leaves, the leaf-mining insects. Maybe another month I will explore some of our wildlife that lives on the outside of the leaves.

Leaf-miners are insects that lay their tiny eggs on a leaf and when the larvae hatch they burrow inside the leaf carving out a pattern between the top and bottom surfaces of the leaf. This pattern varies depending on what insect it is, some forming round or irregular blotches (like the Nut-leaf Blister Moth, photo 3), while others form galleries – long and sometimes winding paths through the leaf (like the Apple Leaf-miner, photo 4).

The little larvae leave a trail of excrement, or frass, behind them and the pattern of frass can help us identify what species of larva it is. Some deposit their frass in neat tidy lines (as with the Apple Leaf-miner above, a species that mines not only apple leaves – this one was on Wild Cherry). In others the frass is more dispersed throughout the width of the mine, a good example being the caterpillars of the Small Beech Pigmy moth, a common moth that feeds exclusively on beech leaves (photo 5 – you should just be able to make out the caterpillars still feeding at the ends of the mines). Others drop their frass in rows of dots, like the fly larva *Aulagromyza cornigera* (photo 6) which is one of several species that mine Honeysuckle leaves. Leaf-mining insects are often host-specific, that is a particular species of insect will only eat one particular species of plant. Others are less fussy but most are specific at least to a family group of species. Lots of the smaller moths mine leaves as do several groups of fly, some sawflies and a few of the tinier beetles.



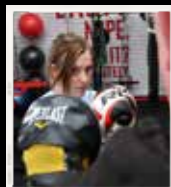
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You are probably already aware of photosynthesis, the process whereby plant leaves absorb energy from the Sun. This process depends on the leaf producing chlorophyll, the pigment that gives leaves their green colour. In turn the leaf can only produce chlorophyll if it has a chemical called cytokinin. Normally in autumn the leaf stops producing cytokinin so the leaves' chlorophyll production stops and the leaves turn brown before falling. When certain leaf-mining moth caterpillars eat through a leaf they pass bacteria to the leaf that manipulate the levels of cytokinin produced in that part of the leaf. So instead of levels of this chemical dropping as they normally would in autumn, the cytokinin levels actually increase, causing this part of the leaf to remain green while the rest of the leaf turns brown, even after the leaf has fallen.

An example is the White-spot Pigmy moth which makes a tiny mine near the vein of an oak leaf, but the whole section of the leaf behind the mine stays green (photo 7). The mine itself is so small it would be hard to find, but the "green island" is much easier to spot and makes it far easier to detect the moth caterpillar. If you walk under an oak tree in autumn and look at the fallen leaves you stand a good chance of seeing some green islands among them.

I don't know if you've ever tried counting the leaves on a mature tree. I doubt if you got very far if you have! Sometimes a single leaf can have lots of mines on it, each one caused by a separate caterpillar. The whole tree might have literally millions of insects feeding on it, or rather in its leaves. The Horse Chestnut Leaf-miner is an attractive orange moth with black and white stripes (photo 8). These tiny moths (several could fit on one of your finger nails) colonised the UK as recently as 2002, first being recorded in Norfolk two years later and rapidly becoming one of our most abundant moths. Their mines aren't as pretty as the adult moths, brown blotches on Horse Chestnut leaves, but they can be



so numerous that the mines run into one another turning the entire leaf brown (photo 9). In the mid 2000s many people started asking why autumn was coming early for Horse Chestnut trees as their leaves had suddenly started going brown earlier than usual. The answer was that the leaves weren't turning brown due to the normal autumnal process, but they were getting covered by mines of this new colonist. Although the mines might be considered unsightly, they do not appear to harm the trees in any way.

Horse-chestnut Leaf-miners arrived here naturally, at least apparently so, having spread across Europe from the Balkans. The moth was first found in North Macedonia in 1984 and described as new to science, leading to speculation that it had spread there from somewhere in Asia where the moths are poorly studied and so easily overlooked. Another theory was that the species had switched host, moving to Horse Chestnut from another rarer species, allowing its population to grow to levels where it could be discovered more easily. But subsequent research has found that preserved Horse Chestnut tree leaves collected from Greece in the nineteenth century contained their mines, so in fact it must have existed on Horse Chestnuts in southeast Europe for at least a century before it was discovered.

Getting back to North Elmham, there's always lots to see around the parish or in your gardens if you take the time to walk

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slowly and stop frequently to look and listen. If you have anything interesting to share please do drop me an email me at appleton.dave@googlemail.com, or phone me on 668431 or message me via X (formerly Twitter) at @ElmhamMeadows).

Dave Appleton

WVBS

Our August outing was unusual in that it was not mainly focussed on birds. We met at Beeston Common, just outside Sheringham, for a guided tour by the long-term warden of the common, Francis Farrow. We did see 20 bird species but they were easily eclipsed by the over 70 species of plants, 12 butterflies and a good and interesting variety of insects

In September a small group from the club took a very enjoyable trip to Wexford in Ireland, led by Ashley Saunders of Oriole birding. The weather was delightful and the accommodation excellent (who could fault a hotel with rooms overlooking an estuary so that we could do birding from our balconies before breakfast?) The journey there, with an overnight stop near Newport wetlands in South Wales, got us off to a brilliant start, with a field of Yellow Wagtails, a smart young male Redstart, a Green Woodpecker and some Little Ringed Plovers, among others. All birds you hope to see! The sea journey, after a quick and successful search for Chough, provided plenty of Guillemots and Razorbills, plus Gannets, Terns and Kittiwakes. Manx Shearwaters appeared closer to the Irish Coast, and we saw Harbour Porpoises and a couple of Common Dolphins. Once at Wexford the main attraction was Tacumshin lake, with its wonderful population of waders. We were a little surprised to find ourselves wading through the lake at times, but that only adds to the satisfaction of seeing the masses of small waders. A full report of the visit can be found on our website.

The more usual group outing in September sadly did not enjoy the same lovely weather, starting out at Titchwell RSPB in rain. However those that braved it were rewarded with a total of 81 species of birds. They were led by Chris Stone, who is also a volunteer at the reserve.

For the October field trip, the club decided to try something a bit different – a linear walk along the North coast from Burnham Overy Staithe to Holkham to look for autumn migrants. Obviously, this involved a bit of juggling with transport, but it was a very successful outing and very enthusiastically enjoyed. A report on this to come.

Indoor meetings have been very varied also. They include a talk from Waderquest about a safari trip; an account of a trip to Madagascar by club member Colin Smith, mainly focussed on lemurs, but including some birds; and a double deal of a talk on bird ringing in Norfolk followed by an account of research into Round Island Petrels from Stephen Vickers and Kirsty Franklin. Reports of all of these can be found on our website – WVBS.co.uk

Future Events

Outdoor Meetings: Everyone is welcome on these guided walks. See the website for meeting times and places.

Sunday 26th November – NWT Hickling and Stubb Mill. Sunday 7th January – Annual Bird Count in the Wensum Valley. Do get in touch if you would like to take part – we may be able to arrange some small teams. Saturday 27th January – Horsey, Brograve and St Benet's Abbey. Sunday 25th February – Scuthorpe Moor HOT

Indoor meetings: These are all held at Great Witchingham Village Hall at 7.30 pm, and visitors are welcome for a small charge. Thursday 14th December – Christmas social including a talk from Steve Cale. Thursday 18th January – Reflections from Mark Avery. Thursday 15th February – Molotovs and Merlins by Gordon Hamlett.



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BRISLEY AND NORTH ELMHAM CRICKET

B&NE CC held its first one club Awards Evening at the Brisley Bell on October 1 and are grateful to Amelia Nicholson and Marcus Seaman for the use of the Garden Room. Chairman Mark Ballman began proceedings and thanked all the sponsors for their support and generosity followed by all three captains giving a report on their seasons, Tom Donnelly for the Social Team, Catherine Newey for the Ladies and Phil Bend for the Saturday side. The latter had enjoyed great success in terms of results winning Division 2 of the Norfolk Cricket League and a third successive promotion as well as lifting the T20 Cup beating several Division 1 teams on the way. The Ladies had fared less well but had integrated several new youngsters and were optimistic about next season while the Social Team had again embodied the spirit of the Club with their closely fought but highly entertaining and convivial Friday evening fixtures. Team awards were made and Dave Pearson concluded with an appreciation of all the volunteers who have helped with catering, ground, pitch and equipment maintenance, league liaison and social media reporting and photography before presenting the Club Volunteer Award to Adam Mackay (photo) who among many other contributions has brought the Club into the digital age.

Full list of Awards

Snag Doctor Ladies Batter

Alice Waters

FG Personal Trainers Ladies Bowler

Ashleigh Beale

Thurlow Nunn Standen Players Player

Ellie Longworth

Ladies Committee Award

Dave Pearson

Premier Seeds Men's Batsman

Josh Hall

Payne Crops Nutrition Men's Bowler

Callum Futter

CTM Players Player

Callum Futter

Men's Committee Award

Abdul Ahad Ali

Club Volunteer of the Year

Adam Mackay

Some of the photos from the evening above are (from left to right), Adam Mackay, Callum Futter, Josh Hall

Stop Press

We are sad to report the very recent passing of David Yaxley at the age of 90. David played for and supported North Elmham CC for over 50 years, playing his final game for the Second team at the age of 79. We will post a fuller obituary in the next edition.

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Heart of Norfolk Group Services for December

3rd December – Advent Sunday

9.30 am	Wood Norton	Morning Praise
10.30 am	North Elmham	Holy Communion
10.30 am	Stibbard	Holy Communion
4.00 pm	Bawdeswell*	Advent Carol Service

10th December – 2nd Sunday of Advent

10.30 am	Bawdeswell*	The 10.30
10.30 am	Foulsham	Holy Communion
10.30 am	Stibbard	Morning Praise
10.30 am	Worthing	Holy Communion
6.00 pm	Guist	Christmas Carol Service

17th December – 3rd Sunday of Advent

10.30 am	Wood Norton	Holy Communion
3.30 pm	Foulsham	Christingle
4.00 pm	Bawdeswell*	Christmas Carol Service
4.00 pm	North Elmham	Christmas Carol Service

24th December – 4th Sunday of Advent/ Christmas Eve

10.30 am	Guist	Holy Communion
10.30 am	Foulsham	Christmas Carol Service
4.00 pm	North Elmham	Christingle
7.00 pm	Bawdeswell*	Christmas Holy Communion

25th December – Christmas Day

10.30 am	Bawdeswell*	Word & Praise
10.30 am	North Elmham	Christmas Family Communion
11.00 am	Foulsham	Christmas Family Service

31st December – 1st Sunday of Christmas

10.30 am	Worthing	Group Holy Communion
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Other Christmas Carol Services

Foxley	Saturday 16th December, 3.30 pm
Twyford	Tuesday 19th December, 6.00 pm
Themelthorpe	Tuesday 19th December, 6.00 pm
Wood Norton	Friday 22nd December, 4.00 pm

*Services at Bawdeswell Church are also available on Zoom.

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With Christmas and New Year coming up, this is always a very busy time within the Surgery. To help us during this time please order your medication no later than 8th of December, ensuring you have ordered enough to last you over the Festive Period. Please also ensure you have enough medication to last you until the next delivery slot and check with your remote delivery site when their opening hours are to ensure you have collected your medication before they close for the festive period.

Please note: Any orders received after the 8th of December, will make it harder for us to guarantee your medication will be ready in time. Usual business and opening hours thereafter. During the times that we are closed if you have a life-threatening emergency, please dial 999. In all other cases, please dial 111.

Please note there will be NO HOME DELIVERIES, OR REMOTE DELIVERIES on the days that we are CLOSED.

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Soon be Christmas! If I had a pound for every time, I have heard these three words before December, I would be a rich man. However, we really are now in advent, the countdown to Christmas. Nowadays, we start on the first day of the month,

opening a window each day on our advent calendars. Maybe even to find a little piece of chocolate inside; certainly, an image of something to remind us of what is coming. For the church, advent (which means 'the coming') starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day, so we start on December 3rd this year.

So, what is to come? Presents, parties, cake, decorations, and lots more. Amongst all this we should remember the true message of Christmas and what is to come. Each Sunday we will light a candle, four candles for the four themes; Hope, Peace, Joy and Love; represented by the Patriarchs, the Prophets, John the Baptist and finally the Virgin Mary.

On Christmas Day we will light the fifth candle to celebrate the Nativity, Christ's birth and arrival as a light in the world.

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Sunday 24th	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Monday 25th	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Tuesday 26th	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Wednesday 27th	08:30 – 18:00	08:30 – 18:00	08:00 – 18:00
Thursday 28th	08:30 – 18:30	08:30 – 18:00	08:00 – 18:00
Friday 29th	08:30 – 18:30	08:30 – 18:00	08:00 – 18:00
Saturday 30th	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Sunday 31st	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Monday 1st	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Tuesday 2nd	08:30 – 18:30	08:30 – 18:00	08:00 – 18:00

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I look forward to the advent hymns and Christmas carols that we will singing at our church services and making Christingles with the children.

The Christmas rose, *Helleborus niger*, with its white flowers representing purity, is a common plant grown at this time of year. But perhaps the most popular plant, is the poinsettia with its leaves growing in a star shape and bracts that turn red to symbolise the blood shed by Jesus.

Christmas tide, or the twelve days of Christmas, takes us to January 5th and then into the New Year. While the weather may be harsh at this time, the winter aconites and snowdrops may start peeking through. Lots of new beginnings to look forward to.

So, while you are opening your presents, celebrating, and enjoying all the wonderful things that these two months bring, take some time to remember the true message of Christmas.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Yours in Faith

Colin Ferris
Authorised Worship Assistant
Heart of Norfolk Benefice

MORE 2 LIFE

As we come into the Christmas season, it is a joy to behold for Christians that in a world of darkness there is hope. As the carol says: "The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight". There have been many hopes and fears this year alone, never mind of all the years, yet it is as at Christmas that we find a hope like no other. A hope that there is more to life than this. A hope that there will be true justice one day. A hope that sickness, pain, and sorrow will cease. A hope that is caught up in one tiny bundle, God incarnate, Immanuel, God with us.

If we have asked "Why doesn't God do something?" The answer is seen here. He

did. An old Honda advert had the tag line "Hate something. Change something. Make something better". That's exactly what God has done. God hated the fact that our sin, the wrong things we have done, separated us from Him because of His holiness. He could have left us dead in our sins. But He didn't. He was moved to change something. In order to change things so we could once again have fellowship with God, He came to earth as a baby, as Jesus, to take our sin upon himself, so that He could make the situation better. To experience this hope, all we need to do is put our trust in Him.

Still, seasons come and go. Christmas will soon be over and a New Year will begin.

For us at More 2 Life Christian Fellowship, following some changes, our season here has come to an end. We would like to extend our gracious thanks to all who have supported us in one way or another over the past years. We will miss you! If you would like to stay informed on what happens next, do follow our facebook page.

Once again, many thanks and have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year! And if you haven't already, give Jesus a try this year - you may just be surprised at where He takes you!

Every blessing,

Anne-Marie Fewell

WORTHING NEWS

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child

Your packed shoeboxes are now making their way worldwide. Over 100 countries receive these boxes of joy, thank you for your continued support.

Lest We Forget !

St Margaret's Church "Remembers." A simpler but reflective service took place on the 13th November bringing together our local community. Remembering the bravery of our lost heroes and also families left behind.

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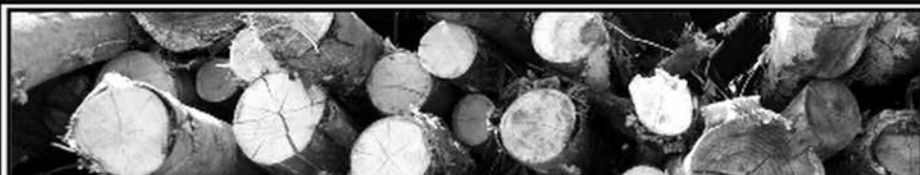
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May we pray and give thanks to our Armed Forces who everyday work in keeping us safe.

We will remember them

Christmas Raffle

Following the recent WINE TASTING & BEER SAMPLING EVENT and the launch of our Christmas Raffle Including name the Hamley's Teddy and other prizes, the raffle will be drawn at the end of our Christmas Carol Service, 19th December. GOOD LUCK! Raffle tickets still available form: Celia – tel: 01362 668928 or or Sharon – tel: 01362 668622.

Traditional Christmas Carol Service

will be held on SUNDAY, 19th December at 3 pm. All family and friends are welcome to celebrate the Christmas

Festive Season. We hope you are able to join us.

As we approach the New Year, a Group Sunday Service will be held in Worthing on 31st December at 10.30am and then dates for January 2024 are 14th Holy Communion 10.30am & 28th Morning Prayer, also starting at 10.30am. These will be published should there be any changes on the HONC website and on the church noticeboard.

And finally, Worthing PCC members would like to thank everyone who has supported our Church, events and most importantly, charities during 2021. May we wish you all a wonderful time over the Christmas holiday and a Happy & Healthy 2022.

Our Prayers and best wishes to you all.

Heart of Norfolk Group Services for January 2024

7th January – Baptism of Christ

9.30 am	Wood Norton	Morning Praise
10.30 am	Bawdeswell + Zoom	Holy Communion
10.30 am	North Elmham	Holy Communion
10.30 am	Stibbard	Holy Communion

14th January – Epiphany

10.30 am	Bawdeswell + Zoom	The '10.30'
10.30 am	Worthing	Holy Communion
10.30 am	Foulsham	Holy Communion
10.30 am	Stibbard	Morning Praise

21st January – 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

10.30 am	Bawdeswell + Zoom	Holy Communion
10.30 am	North Elmham	Holy Communion (Iona)
10.30 am	Wood Norton	Holy Communion
4.00 pm	Foulsham	Sung Evensong

28th January – Candlemas

9.00 am	Guist	Holy Communion
10.30 am	Bawdeswell	Word & Praise
10.30 am	Foulsham	Holy Communion
10.30 am	Worthing	Iona Morning Praise
10.30 am	North Elmham	Morning Praise

*Services at Bawdeswell Church are also available on Zoom.
www.heartofnorfolkchurches.org.uk

ADVERTISERS INDEX

Children

North Elmham Childminders50

Eating Out/Eating In

Kings Head Hotel30-31

Willie Weston (Fishmonger)..... 4

Fitness, Health & Beauty

Alison Watson (Beauty & Podiatry) 4

Bloomfield Clinic (Podiatry & Physiotherapy).....16

Cameron Reid (Osteopathy)36

Creative Chiropractic40

Joanne Medler (Hypnotherapy).....52

Lou Goldsmith (Counselling)46

Michael Cummings (Podiatry).....20

Park Physiotherapy.....44

Tim at FG Personal Training.....42

Tina Barnes (Podiatry)52

Unisex Hairdressing & Nails36

For The Home & Garden

Aquanique Plumbing.....46

Anglia Roofline (Soffit & Fascia Boards, Gutters) ... 2

Ant's Carpets.....48

Assured Boiler Care.....52

Dereham Hire (Digger & Tool Hire/Sales).....16

DKC Plumbing & Oil Boiler Specialists.....36

D Thompson Chimneys (Chimney Sweep)40

Extra Pair of Hands (DIY/Garden/Decorating)22

Firing Squad (Woodburners)8

Garrod Partnership (Building)20

Greensleeves (Lawn Care).....22

Help at Hand (Garden Maint).....52

Jaggard Sweeps (Chimney Sweep)54

John Coles (Electrician/Property Maint)..... 8

Neil Allsebrook (Plastering & Rendering)50

The Norfolk Sweep (Chimney Sweep)..... 8

Norfolk Woodburners (Installations).....36

Power-Medix (Electrician).....44

R P Pest Control..... 2

Ravencroft Tree Services.....14

Richard Roos (Property Maint) 6

S&C Window Repairs 4

Tree Work East59

White Pine (Tree Maint/Fencing/Landscaping).....54

Worzels Roofing.....48

Zinka' Help at Home.....20

Firewood

Mark Bane (prev MB Logs).....14

Wildwood.....54

Funeral Directors

Fakenham & District Funeral Services10

H Brett & Sons14

Hendry & Sons.....50

Littleproud & Son42

Holiday Accommodation

Kings Head Hotel30-31

Pets

Four Paws (Dog Grooming) 6

Furry Dogmother's (Dog Grooming).....22

Tuition

Kay Barker Fine Art..... 6

Nick Long (Driving)20

Peter Wild (Music)50

Vehicle Maintenance

Norwich Road Garage.....10

North Elmham Service Station.....59 & 60

Venue Hire

Eastgate Centre14

Elmham Memorial Hall48

Other

Broadland Lifting Services.....14

Clan Press.....59

Computers@Home 4

Fakenham Prepress22

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

This Month's Photo Contributors

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

COVER: depositphotos.com

PAGE 13: Meg White

PAGE 23: Jenny Cunningham

PAGE 25: Christine Skipper

PAGE 27: Mike Aston

PAGE 33: North Elmham Primary School

PAGES 39, 41 & 43: Dave Appleton

PAGE 47: Mark Ballman

Chair: Jennie Borgnis
Vice Chair: Martin Phillips
Clerk: Kevin J Webb
01328 855046
northelmhampc@hotmail.co.uk

Group Leader ✓
Group Member ●

Meetings are normally held on the first Wednesday of the month and take place in the Pavilion, commencing at 7.30pm. Parishioners are entitled to attend and are most welcome. Our County and District Councillor is also in attendance whenever possible. If, in between meetings, you wish to raise a specific matter for the attention of the Parish Council - please refer to the contact list above.

And finally... have you got something interesting you would like to say or think others might be interested in something you do - why not email the Editors (see front of magazine for contact details) and let us know, we are always on the lookout for new contributors.

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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	Bill Borrett	01362 860200
Member of Parliament	george.freeman.mp@parliament.uk	01953 600617
North Elmham VC School	Ms Victoria McConnell, Head Teacher	01362 668318
Chairman of School Governors	Robert Plant chairofgov@northelmham.norfolk.sch.uk	
Memorial Institute	Bookings: Ann Ferris p.ferris84@yahoo.com	01362 668580
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
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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
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
More2Life	Anne-Marie Fewell		01328 701830

Church Wardens

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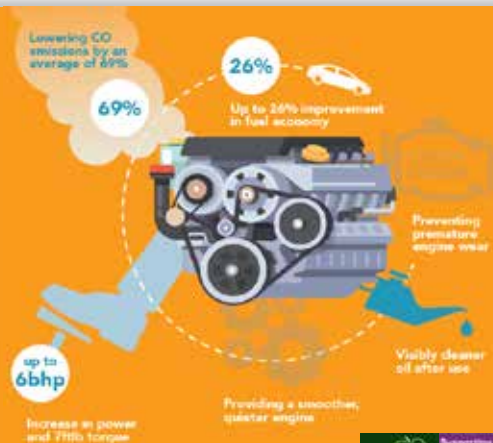
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