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FEBRUARY 2025

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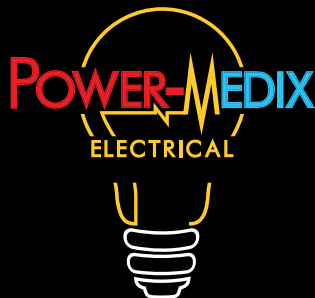
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EDITORIAL

As we welcome February, the start of another year brings renewed energy and opportunities for our vibrant village community. The frosty mornings may still linger, but the days are slowly lengthening, promising the first signs of spring and the new possibilities it brings.

We looked for signs of flowers in the garden and whilst the snowdrops are starting to put their leaves above the soil, it seems that the primroses are the heroes and have bloomed despite all the frost and cold weather. Don't forget to have a wander up to the Millennium Wood to hunt for snowdrops (front cover).

The days start lengthening and we may be more inclined to get out and about and try some exercise, tennis, walking football, walking group to name a few ideas.

More gentle activities, knitting, sewing and reading in the afternoons and then in the evening there is the Wives Group plus the Gardening Club, Royal British Legion, locally and Choral society and flower arranging in Fakenham.

The younger people have two terrific groups to choose from, Countrysiders and Young Farmers, both bursting with things to do.

So, it's up to you to find something you would like to do and if it doesn't exist, why not find out likeminded people and start a group.

Our sincere thanks for a donation from Sue Andrews and a photograph (on page 48) in memory of her mum, Mollie Goodyear who was one of our avid readers and couldn't wait to read each issue from cover to cover.

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

NEXT DEADLINE: 14TH FEBRUARY

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

VOLUME 48: ISSUE 1

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NORTH ELMHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

4TH DECEMBER 2024

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.

Public Participation

The condition of 55 Eastgate Street was queried. It has been empty for a number of years and is becoming derelict. It is believed that the owner previously applied for permission to build an additional property on the site. It was agreed that the Clerk would draw this matter to the attention of Breckland Council.

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

Also in Attendance: Mr. K. Webb (Clerk), Mr. B. Borrett (County and District Councillor), who left after a few minutes to attend another meeting, and one parishioner.

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

Report from County and District Councillor

Mr. Borrett provided an update on the reorganisation of local government and devolution. The leader of Norfolk County Council had recently met with the minister in Westminster, and it was confirmed that the previous devolution deal is no more. A white paper has not yet been produced but it should be available by the end of the year. Norfolk and Suffolk are expected to have a combined mayoral authority. There is a real fear that this may result in a future loss of local democratic accountability.

Updated Information And Matters Arising

Land Management Matters

Village Green: Work on some repairs to the zip wire has not yet started and Mr. Phillips is to chase. It has been mentioned by some parishioners that dog waste is regularly not being cleared up at a number of places in the village. There are signs on the Village Green. It was stressed that the registration plates of any vehicle owners guilty of not clearing up after their dogs should be noted and duly reported.

Church Meadow: The new trench is working well.

Street Lights

Westcotec are dealing with the issue of the smaller light near 29 Eastgate Street. The older one was hanging by a thread.

Highway Matters

The matter regarding the temporary bus stop near the County School Station junction will be chased by the Clerk. Matt Lines, Highways Engineer, has assisted with our Parish Partnership bid for measures to improve road safety throughout the village. An application has been made covering a cost of £15,668.51 with the County Council requested to provide 50%, i.e. £7,834.00. Proposed by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Miss Ferris. All in favour.

Pavilion and Playing Field

Miss Ferris reported that work on the showers is to be done on 12th December. She has contacted the Football Club regarding outstanding fees and the sum of £250 is to be paid in the near future.

The switch on of the Christmas lights is to take place at 6.00 p.m. on Friday, 6th December. Thanks were expressed to all volunteers for their work with the lights.

The contract for the general waste bin is due for renewal. Biffa had previously suggested an increase of 17% but, after



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negotiations, a rather more appropriate rise of 4.2% was offered. This would effectively increase the four-weekly charge from £51.04 to £53.20. All agreed to accept the new figure. The Clerk will advise Biffa accordingly.

Both Nurture and Groundscape had visited with a view to providing quotations in respect of the grounds maintenance contract for 2025. They were shown round by Messrs Phillips and Gee, and Mrs. Keeble. John Piller, principal of Groundscape, impressed all members and has submitted a quotation, covering 17 cuts per season (March to October), totalling £5,718.00. This price is fixed for three years. Unfortunately, nothing was forthcoming from Nurture. Mr. Phillips proposed to employ Groundscape as the grounds maintenance contractor for next year and this was seconded by Mrs. Keeble. All in favour.

Eastgate Centre

A tarpaulin is in place.

Brookside Development Update

Solicitors from both sides are liaising regarding the current position.

Overview of Parish Council Financial Situation

The Chairman is to make contact with Cambridge Building Society so that he can be included as one of the authorised signatories on the account.

Defibrillators

Miss Ferris has bought a new torch for £9.99.

North Elmham Living Sustainably (NELS) Group

An invitation has been made to the Group to attend a future meeting of the Parish Council.

Churchyards – Current Situation and Future Plans

Mr. Rayner said that some concerns had been raised at the last meeting and there

hadn't yet been a response from the PCC. Mr. Fitzalan Howard felt that this was not a religious issue and that every parishioner has the right to be buried in the village. It is a facility for all residents. Mr. Labouchere supported this view but accepts that not many people actually attend church. It is, however, a village asset which is available for all to use. Mr. Gillespie said that if an annual grant of £2K was to be given for the next three years, it should be acknowledged that this would be the limit of the Parish Council's assistance over that period. Mr. Phillips proposed that the Parish Council should make a grant of £2K per year to the PCC for the next three years. This was supported by Mr. Fitzalan Howard. Six members were in favour of the proposition, with two members being against.

Parish Precept 2025/2026

A small deficit of about £800 is forecast for the year 2025/2026. The Band D contribution remains at the current figure of £80.64 for the seventh consecutive year. The tax base has increased to 523.4 (from 503.9) which results in a Precept of £42,207.

Village Hall

Mrs. Keeble is of the opinion that the Memorial Hall is becoming in a state which makes it not fit for purpose. Miss Ferris concurred with this view. It was agreed that progress needs to be made with the plans for a new village hall. The matter will be discussed at the next meeting.





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Parish Charities Update

Mr. Phillips confirmed that the merger of the Church and Town Land General Branch Charity with the North Elmham United Charities had been completed. In addition, all funds in the Diamond Jubilee Green Support Trust, (£6,752.69), have been transferred to the Parish Council's Bank account.

Christmas Arrangements

A Christmas tree is up and the invoice will be received in due course.

Planning Applications and Determinations

There were no applications or determinations.

Correspondence

1) Advice from Highways that the Rangers will be visiting the village "over the coming weeks" (the Chairman will attempt to obtain a more specific time when he next speaks to Mr. Lines of Highways).

2) Request from parishioner for assistance with trimming some trees that are next to the property's garden and for a dog waste bin to be sited on the adjacent path (members to visit the site to inspect)

3) Notification of the commencement of a draft consultation on draft recommendations for ward boundaries in Breckland.

4) Request to instal a memorial bench in the village. All in favour and suggest siting on the Village Green. The Clerk is to establish the preferred type of bench – low maintenance suggested.

Any Other Matters (For Information Only)

Mr. Labouchere mentioned that he is still in possession of his extremely popular camel which had been in the play area for some time before it was "temporarily"

removed. It was agreed that the camel should be welcomed back soon.

This was to be Mr. Labouchere's last meeting and he had notified the Parish Council of his intention to stand down in a letter dated 12th October, 2024. He was warmly thanked by all for his outstanding contribution to local communities over a considerable period of time which involved 44 years as a Councillor for three parishes and 16 years as a District Councillor.

JANUARY PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

There are no Parish Council minutes for the January 2025 meeting in this edition as they had not been received in time.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 5th March at 7.30 pm in the Pavilion. Parishioners are always encouraged to attend.



FOR BOARS HILL

We're on the lookout for new volunteers to help deliver the magazine around Boars Hill.

Could you spare an hour on the last day or first day of the month to deliver to your neighbours? If so please contact Debbie Coull by email at elmhamdebbie@aol.com or call/text her on 07591 754 411.

If we can't find someone we might not be able to continue to deliver there.



COUNTRYSIDERS

Happy New Year from North Elmham Countrysiders

As Christmas seems to become a distant memory, we are looking forward to our year ahead. We have many competitions and events coming up.

Winter comps at the beginning of December took place at Easton College. A mix of 2nd's and 3rd's were received for our entries.

Since the last issue, we have attended the Fakenham Christmas Tree Festival at Fakenham Parish Church. The money we collected at this event was £280. We were lucky to get invited to have a tree at Brisley Tree Festival, so the leaders took the Fakenham Tree down on the Thursday and put it up again on the Friday at Brisley Church. It was a busy time but another £26.78 was raised making our total £307.09. This is to be equally split between The Countrysider 's Club and YANA, (You Are Not Alone) a rural mental health charity.

Our last meeting of the year was our Christmas Party, 23 Countrysiders attended and had lots of fun dressing each other up as snowmen, musical chairs, balloon games and Paper Plate Secret Santa, where the members took turns to pull a string attached to a paper plate with a wrapped gift on. Sweets, food gifts and even sprouts and carrots were won. Another successful meeting of fun.

Looking towards 2025 we have our first competition coming up on 2nd February. This is our Sports Day at Langley Prep School, Taverham. Where our Countrysiders will have taken part in rounders, badminton and relay races.

Our upcoming meetings are as follows:

February 10th: Valentines Needle Felting TBC.

February 24th: Yana Money Presentation.

Sunday March 2nd: Cake Stall at North Elmham YFC clubs Ploughing Match.

March 10th: Pancake Fun.

March 24th: Easter Quiz and Easter Egg Competition.

Half Term: 17th–21st February.

Easter Break: 7th–22nd April.

We are hoping to run a Easter Family Bingo on April 7th, this is TBC. More information to follow.

If you have a child aged 10–16, who would like to meet new people, get involved in competitions and generally have fun. And enjoy various outside visits and talks, bring them along.

We meet at the Memorial Hall in North Elmham Every other Monday 7.00 pm–8.30 pm. Unless otherwise advertised.

Email: north_elmham_cs@norfolkycf.co.uk or WhatsApp Wendy 07557388228 for more information.

Also find us on Facebook and Instagram.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

We would take this opportunity to wish everyone a belated Happy New Year from the village branch.

The Poppy Appeal raised £2,185.62, and the Pop up shop at the Eastgate Centre raised £38.50, thank you to all those that made a contribution. The next meeting of the branch will be Thursday 27th February, 8.00pm at the King's Head.

Mike Aston, Branch Sec

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LETTERS TO THE NEWS

Dear Editors,

Re: Concern Over Nuisance Dogs

We are lucky to have lots of lovely areas to enjoy in North Elmham. There's the meadows, the woods and our village green, which are all popular with families and walkers and dog walkers.

It's a dog-friendly village which is reflected in the number of people in and around the village who use the amenities. With that level of use, it's the responsibility of dog owners to make sure that everyone feels relaxed and happy when out and about, by keeping our dogs under control. It can be frightening when dogs cause a nuisance by jumping up and running around unchecked.

If you are concerned or affected by a nuisance dog you can report it to the local dog warden by visiting the Breckland Council website brecklandcouncil/dogwarden, where you will find a link to report nuisance dogs. If you are injured by a dog or it damages your property you can report it to the Police by either phoning 101 or going online at Norfolk Constabulary and looking up "Abandoned and Nuisance Dogs".

Two Very Concerned Dog Owners.

Dear Editors,

Re: Irresponsible Dog Owners

I do hope you will be able once again to mention in the Elmham News, the non responsible dog owners that walk on the Green, and the pavements. I know the subject has been mentioned before.

I walk my two girls (dogs) on the Green every morning and sometimes evenings usually with a friend or just meeting up with other dog walkers. We have noticed that there seems to be more dog poo that isn't being picked up and disposed of in one of the many bins that are placed at the three entrances.

It saddens me to think that people have no regard for the other people that are responsible dog owners and do the right thing and clear up after their dogs. If they can't clear up after their dogs, they should not have them, or keep them at home to foul in their own back garden.

Sorry to burden you with an unpleasant subject, but as a relatively newcomer to the village and having found it such a friendly place, this disregard for others just makes me rather angry.

Kind regards

Val Perry

Ed's Note: It's a shame that a few dog owners spoil it for everyone. If you are holiday maker in the village and reading this please also help keep our village a lovely place to visit by picking up after you dogs too. Of course our magazine can't reach all the visitors the village gets so if you see someone new point out where the dog bins are.

Dear Editors,

Re: North Elmham Service Station

Hi, just to let anyone interested, the garage is not closing. Thank you to our many loyal customers. The garage is very busy and has plenty of MOT's, repairs and restoration work for the foreseeable future which is great.

Ashley has left us after 20 years to pursue a new career with a local Motor Racing Team which is something he has always wanted to do and is very excited about.

We might have to make some changes to opening hours etc in the future as there is only four of us instead of five and the amount of work we can perform, but everything else stays the same.

Thank you for your support.

Simon Drew

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SUBMITTING PHOTOS FOR THE ELMHAM NEWS

We love including your photos that capture special moments and scenes from our community in the Elmham News. To ensure your photos can be featured, we need them to be submitted in high quality. Often, photos sent via email or messaging apps on phones or tablets are compressed, which reduces their resolution. While they may look great on your screen, they often appear blurry or pixelated on my computer and will reproduce the same way in the printed magazine.

Best Ways to Submit Photos

To help us include your photos in the magazine, please submit the originals using one of the following methods. If you are forwarding a photo from someone else please ask them to send it to me direct.

1. Upload to a Cloud Service

Upload the original, unedited photo from your device to a cloud service such as Google Drive, Dropbox, or OneDrive. Once uploaded, email me the link. If you prefer, I can provide access to a Dropbox folder—just email me for details.

2. Email

Email is fine as long as you attach the original, "actual size" photo. Many phones and tablets compress photos when sent via their mail apps, so please check your mail app settings. If you're unsure how to do this, email me your device model, and I'll try and help you figure it out.

On a Mac or PC, ensure you attach the JPEG file rather than embedding or pasting it in the email body.

3. WhatsApp

Sending photos via WhatsApp is okay if the "Media Upload Quality" is set to "HD."

To enable this, go to "Settings", then "Storage and Data" in the app.

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Please do not copy and paste photos into a MS Word document (or similar program). This results in low-resolution images that often cannot be used. Instead, attach your photos separately from your article as JPEG files.

If you're still having trouble, then we could arrange a time for you to pop in and see me, I'm always happy to help you find the best way to submit your photos. Don't hesitate to contact me if you need any help!

Sarah Felton

Email: sarahefelton@yahoo.com

KNIT AND NATTER

There was no meeting arranged for January, but some of us enjoyed a meal together at the Teapost instead. Well, Christmas has gone, but with the frosty cold weather, we are still thinking of cozy knits. Lots of squares have been knitted, which we are now busy joining together to make knee blankets for local care homes, and larger blankets for the homeless.

Many thanks go to the gentleman in Orchard Close who donated a large amount of wool, needles and many knitted items, after his wife had passed away last year. Everything will be made use of. Ever since our group started, she had contributed many, many knitted items. Though she never attended our meetings, we were very grateful for her high quality items.

Next meeting: Tuesday 4th February at 2 o'clock in the Pavilion, everyone one welcome.

Eileen Cotterill 01362 668380.

REMEMBERING LOVED ONES

JACQUIE BRAYBROOK

Jacquie was born on 11th March 1941 at Senter Farm, the first child of Rene and Gilbert Clarke, followed by a brother, Roger. The Clarks, of course, are one of the big farming families in Elmham and Senter Farm was very much the hub of Clarke life. Gilbert himself was one of seven children and so there were a lot of cousins!

The other Clarke spur was 'Tuddy' – South Tuddenham – home to Gilbert's cousins, now farmed by Stephen (brother David died last year).

Jacquie's school life begun at Elmham School; then onto Neatherd, taking the train from here to Dereham. Jacquie went on to Teacher Training College and it was through teaching that she met Trevor, when they were both teaching in Newmarket.

Trevor was promoted to Deputy Head at Methwold School and following their marriage, the couple bought a house in Watton. John was born in 1969. After a couple of years, Jacquie's parents decided to retire, and it was around this time that Roger moved to New Zealand.

And so it was that Jacquie and Trevor moved to Senter Farm – a homecoming for Jacquie. Trevor continued teaching and the couple managed the farm between them. Mostly arable, with 25 acres of barley, they also had a beef herd, keeping the cows for breeding, and sheep, which Jacquie hated! Mark was born in 1972, completing their family.

For Jacquie, the 1950s, 60s and 70s were the golden era, forming lifelong friends in the local farming community, including the Bidewell family and friendships formed through Young Farmers (John Caley). She resisted modernisation, preferring a



traditional rural lifestyle. The Norfolk Show was a 'must' and she would regularly be selling at Norwich Saturday market when the boys were at Norwich School.

Jacquie's heart was always her home and family, coming together at Christmas and New Year in each other's houses, as well as picnics, barbeques and bonfire night.

Family holidays when her boys were young would be spent around the UK once the barley and hay were in – staying at Farmhouse bed & breakfasts.

Outside farm and family life, Jacquie was a big John Wayne fan and loved music – especially entertainers like Val Doonican and Don Williams. She saw many bands performing live, including Status Quo and Hot Chocolate; another of her favourites was Roxy Music and their front man Bryan Ferry.

But Jacquie also threw herself into Village life – she was a governor at Elmham School

and a member of the Parochial Church Council and Flower Festival Committee.

And, of course, there were the dogs: Nestle the English Sheepdog; Dick the terrier; Sherpa, a golden retriever; and Moses, a longhaired German shepherd. The surprise was Chester; a Labrador/Collie cross – Trevor just went and got him one day as the latest in a long line of dogs.

The other surprise were the donkeys, when the boys were each given a donkey for Christmas! It was Jacquie, of course, who cared for them!

Trevor died 2002 and this hit Jacquie really hard. Life, of course, would never be the same, but Jacquie took strength from family and friends. She had a particularly close bond with her aunt Ruth (Gilbert's youngest sister) and the two of them would travel together and Ruth was a regular for Sunday lunch at the Farm. Her cousin Ann Ketteringham and friend Beattie Gay were constant companions and Jacquie and Ann explored the world together, including Peru, Botswana, New Zealand and Australia.

John and Mark tell me that Jacquie lived a charmed life in many ways – a life well lived, despite developing Parkinson's and dementia in older age. Having already had a knee replacement, it was following a hip replacement that Jacquie – rather reluctantly at first – moved into the Annexe that John and Mark had had built at Senter Farm, with her family all around her. She was very stoic, suffering in silence and not wishing to be a burden to those she loved.

As well as supporting her family through education, being the hub of their social life and being on-site baby sitter, Jacquie kept her lifelong friends. Very kindhearted and always looking after other people, Jacquie led a life of service to others.

May she rest in peace.

IAN LOTHIAN 1944 – 1924

Every village has a 'character' and Worthing had Ian.

Ian had lived in the village with his wife Steph for 35 years and everybody knew him. Ian was outspoken, said what he thought and didn't suffer fools. He had a wealth of knowledge about almost everything and was always keen to impart this knowledge to anyone who would listen, whether they wanted it or not. He loved his garden and growing vegetables which were always to be found at the end of his drive for anyone to take.

Ian and Steph were my neighbours for 15 years. I was a novice gardener when I arrived and Ian taught me everything I needed to know. He gently steered me in the right direction if he thought I wasn't doing things quite right (or his way) which I greatly appreciated. From the outset we got the measure of one another and had a good understanding of each other – he talked and I listened.

Ian had a heart operation early 2023. It took a long time for him to regain his strength and he wasn't able to do so much in the garden, it became a chore and he became very frustrated. He struggled on until it became too much and recently he was admitted to hospital and it was discovered that his heart was failing. During his time in hospital his wife Steph became poorly and she was also admitted to hospital - they were in adjoining wards and Ian would sit by her side each day. Sadly, Steph passed away in October with Ian by her side. Ian was lost without Steph, they had been together for 55 years and everything Ian did was for Steph. Ian discharged himself from hospital to be at home where he passed away on the 18th November – he didn't want to be without his Steph.

The village has lost a 'character', I have lost my friend. I will miss our long chats over the garden fence, I will miss his long stories, I will miss his guiding hand.

I will miss Ian.

Sharon Colks



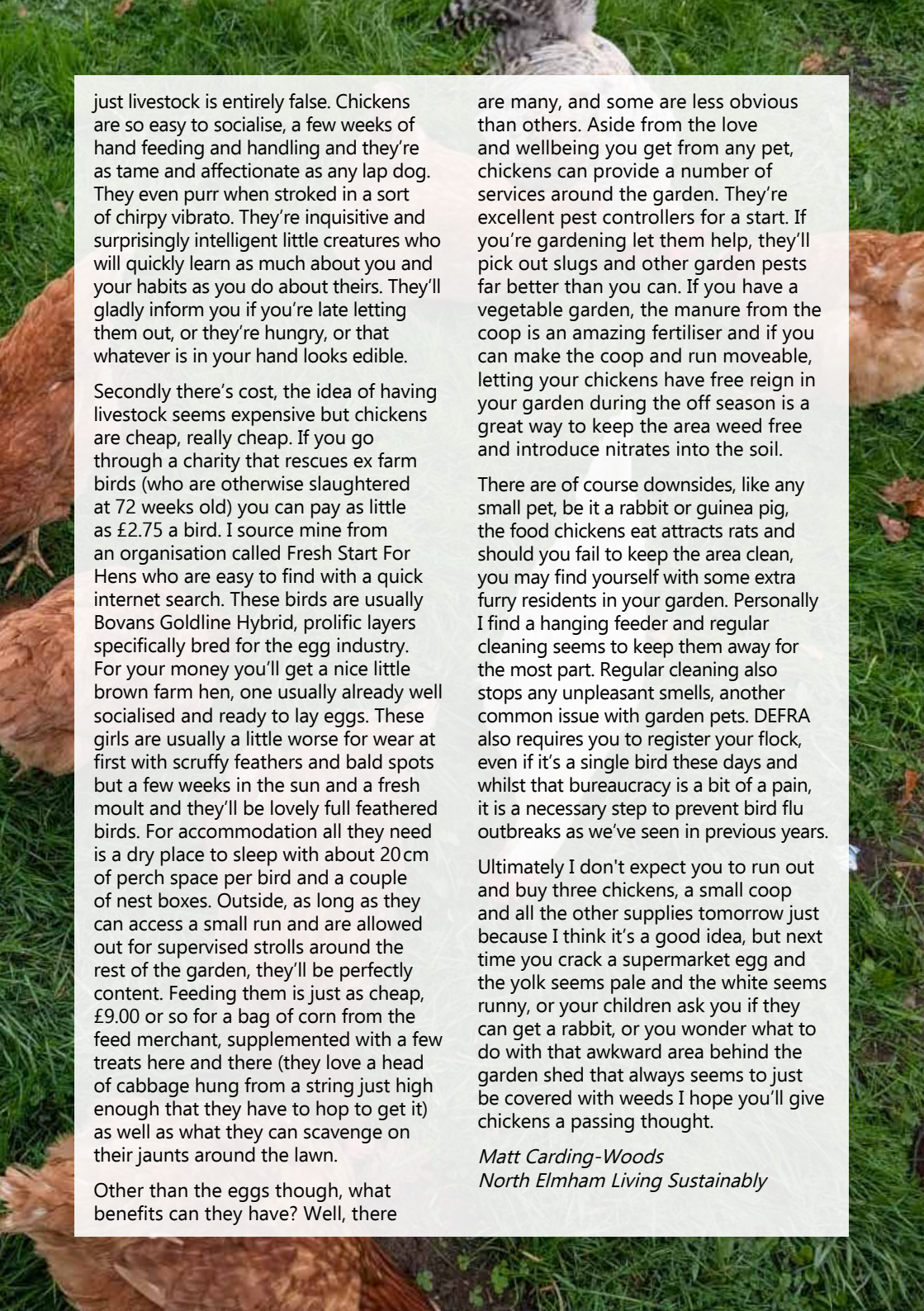
CHICKENS

THE PET THAT PAYS RENT

Living in a village, particularly a small Hamlet like Broom Green, I've always had the opportunity to keep a flock of chickens. The humble hen has been a part of my life since before I could walk. My grandparents kept them and when they in their old age moved into an annex next to us the chickens came with them. My grandmother favoured Coucou Marans, a medium weight breed with mottled feathers that lay lovely dark brown eggs whereas I, being around six at the time would take anything with interesting colours or odd feathers leading to my contribution to the flock being a mixed bag of fluffy multi coloured birds of questionable parentage. Throw a few ducks and a couple of geese into the mix and I was never far from poultry although back then my keenest subject of study was their eggs. In my opinion there is nothing so glorious on a miserable autumn morning than a couple of nice soft boiled eggs and toasted soldiers. And here, after my mildly self-indulgent nostalgic rambling, we get to the

point. I think more people should keep chickens, and many would be surprised at just how cheap and easy they are to buy, house, feed and care for. The other surprise for many is just how useful these birds can be, particularly in a small garden. Eggs of course are the very obvious bonus, having a pet that pays rent can't be bad. The average hen lays one every day and a half and they keep (unrefrigerated as long as you don't wash them) for two weeks so unless you have an enormous appetite for eggs, three chickens is more than enough to keep the average household well supplied. Chickens are easy to tame, can be loving pets, fascinating to watch and can provide services to the gardener well beyond a supply of eggs so why don't more people have them?

I think firstly there's a misconception that chickens are solely livestock and cannot provide the other salient benefits a garden pet such as a rabbit can, and I use rabbits as an example because the investment in time, space and feed costs is similar. This perception of them as



just livestock is entirely false. Chickens are so easy to socialise, a few weeks of hand feeding and handling and they're as tame and affectionate as any lap dog. They even purr when stroked in a sort of chirpy vibrato. They're inquisitive and surprisingly intelligent little creatures who will quickly learn as much about you and your habits as you do about theirs. They'll gladly inform you if you're late letting them out, or they're hungry, or that whatever is in your hand looks edible.

Secondly there's cost, the idea of having livestock seems expensive but chickens are cheap, really cheap. If you go through a charity that rescues ex farm birds (who are otherwise slaughtered at 72 weeks old) you can pay as little as £2.75 a bird. I source mine from an organisation called Fresh Start For Hens who are easy to find with a quick internet search. These birds are usually Bovans Goldline Hybrid, prolific layers specifically bred for the egg industry. For your money you'll get a nice little brown farm hen, one usually already well socialised and ready to lay eggs. These girls are usually a little worse for wear at first with scruffy feathers and bald spots but a few weeks in the sun and a fresh moult and they'll be lovely full feathered birds. For accommodation all they need is a dry place to sleep with about 20cm of perch space per bird and a couple of nest boxes. Outside, as long as they can access a small run and are allowed out for supervised strolls around the rest of the garden, they'll be perfectly content. Feeding them is just as cheap, £9.00 or so for a bag of corn from the feed merchant, supplemented with a few treats here and there (they love a head of cabbage hung from a string just high enough that they have to hop to get it) as well as what they can scavenge on their jaunts around the lawn.

Other than the eggs though, what benefits can they have? Well, there

are many, and some are less obvious than others. Aside from the love and wellbeing you get from any pet, chickens can provide a number of services around the garden. They're excellent pest controllers for a start. If you're gardening let them help, they'll pick out slugs and other garden pests far better than you can. If you have a vegetable garden, the manure from the coop is an amazing fertiliser and if you can make the coop and run moveable, letting your chickens have free reign in your garden during the off season is a great way to keep the area weed free and introduce nitrates into the soil.

There are of course downsides, like any small pet, be it a rabbit or guinea pig, the food chickens eat attracts rats and should you fail to keep the area clean, you may find yourself with some extra furry residents in your garden. Personally I find a hanging feeder and regular cleaning seems to keep them away for the most part. Regular cleaning also stops any unpleasant smells, another common issue with garden pets. DEFRA also requires you to register your flock, even if it's a single bird these days and whilst that bureaucracy is a bit of a pain, it is a necessary step to prevent bird flu outbreaks as we've seen in previous years.

Ultimately I don't expect you to run out and buy three chickens, a small coop and all the other supplies tomorrow just because I think it's a good idea, but next time you crack a supermarket egg and the yolk seems pale and the white seems runny, or your children ask you if they can get a rabbit, or you wonder what to do with that awkward area behind the garden shed that always seems to just be covered with weeds I hope you'll give chickens a passing thought.

*Matt Carding-Woods
North Elmham Living Sustainably*

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January

It seems that all the usual organisations will be meeting – in the past many groups had a rest, not so now.

If you fancy sandwiches and a piece of delicious cake and have nothing in your diary go along to Tea @2, there is always a warm welcome. Some of our school children will be there to chat to you (what a good idea this was).

Countrysiders are going from strength to strength if you are aged between 10 – 16 why not join. This is an off shoot of the Young Farmers Club.

February

We do have a number of sporting organisations in the village always chasing after new members, if you are new to the village please go along and have a look. All relevant phone nos are at the back of the editions of the News.

Did you remember to submit your thoughts to Breckland about the Local Plan – but do remember we are a village and are different to towns.

If you are new to the village we whizzed through our local businesses – we are lucky that we have so many.

March

The Countrysiders seem to be enthusiastic and having fun at their meetings – we all want to join!

Well done to Kieran, a 15 year old who took it upon himself to clear the drains at Broom Green.

Stunning wildlife photographs, though have never heard of 'harlequin' ladybirds.

An interesting piece from John and Eileen Cottrell which ran for several months on their work with the YHA.

April

The Elmham News is a monthly magazine going strong for 46 years. Let's hope it keeps going. At the beginning we thought it might do well.

We often write snippets about Watts Naval School and those young boys and latterly girls and families too all living at the top of the hill overlooking the valley. Originally the boys would mainly have joined the Royal or Merchant Navy. Some of us fell in love with those boys in their uniforms worn on formal occasions!

May

As with every other community we are plagued with pot holes in and around the village as Paul Grainger (Chair of the Parish Council) was saying.

A 24 hour Tennisathon from was suggested to raise money for Brisley church. It was a success.

Gordon Bambridge reported that the plans for a new so called railway village appears to have fallen at the initial stage (think we all said 'Yippee').

We had an interesting article about living in Australia and being a Bush Policeman – no uniform but had to blend in with the background... this was from Bob Gilbert.

North Elmham Living Sustainably (NELS) suggested we don't cut our lawns this month to let the wild flowers have a go at flowering.

June

Our Editorial was a lesson about the Memorial Institute and how it became a village asset. We knew how hard the village had pulled together to raise the money for it after the first World War.

Did you see the Aurora Borealis with your telescope... it was fantastic.

We have various bus routes in the village but if you are a newcomer you might not realise that from here you can get to anywhere in the country, might take you a long time but it is achievable.



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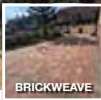
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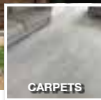
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East Coast Truckers gave an informative talk to Wives Plus All about their charity for young people and the exacting things there are to do.

July

The cover of this month's News shows a patch of Jimmy's Garden opposite the shop . Jimmy Brown was a Parish Councillor when he retired from being a long distance lorry driver.Bless his heart, any job which needed doing, Jimmy was the man who always did it.

Gordon Bambridge explained to the Parish Council about the work he did for Upper Breckland, an interesting talk, very wide ranging.

Norfolk Blood Bikes are a team of volunteers who give their own time to transport urgently required blood. There is a volunteer here in Elmham.

Elmham is being asked by Breckland to say which are their preferred sites for new housing.

August

We were being encouraged to join the Norfolk Churches Trust to bike,ride and walk in the middle of September: visiting churches en route... and remembering to fill the Sponsor forms up!

Caroline wrote about a beautiful double rainbow she had seen in the sky. This is where the colours are reversed.

Wives Plus All had a wonderful evening with a talker who was charismatic, talking about Guide Dogs – it sounded wonderful.

September

The cover photograph shows the station at County School. We were lucky to have two stations in the Parish, now sadly no more. Since 1999 the station has been owned by the Norfolk Railway Preservation Trust.

The end of the season for Brisley and North Elmham Cricket Club showed them retaining the Tom Bartram T20 Cup.

The photo of the Lacewing was stunning.

FEBRUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

Tue 4th	Knit and Natter	Pavilion	2.00 pm
Wed 5th	Parish Council	Pavilion	7.30 pm
Mon 10th	Countrysiders Needle Felting	Memorial Hall	7.00–8.30 pm
Wed 12th	Tea at Two	Memorial Hall	2.00 pm
Thu 13th	Wives +All AGM	Memorial Hall	7.00 pm
17th–21st	Half Term		
Mon 24th	Countrysiders YANA talk	Memorial Hall	7.00 pm
Wed 26th	Mobile Library visits	The Heath to Orchard Close	1.15–4.40 pm
Thu 27th	Royal British Legion	King's Head	8.00 pm
Fri 28th	Gardening Club Dinner	Memorial Hall	7.00 for 7.30 pm
DON'T FORGET			
Wed's	Norwich Bus	Bus Shelter by Pavilion	9.37 am
		Opposite Orchard Close	9.39 am

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October

The cover of the News featured an historic Ash tree in the churchyard, in its day it must have been magnificent.

A pat on the back goes to Sharon who regularly runs Bingos here in the Memorial Institute in aid of Cystic Fibrosis. She has raised £84,000 in total. Our hats off to Sharon.

There was fun to be had at North Elmham school when the children were taught some of the circus acts from a visiting circus which came to the village.

The Countrysiders had a trip to Wells Quay for crabbing! Is it easy or not?

November

We wrote about Charlie Frost's medals which he sold to buy a car – then many years later they were for sale and bought by his family. Charlie would have been quietly pleased.

Drains were installed along the North side of the church and a pipe laid across the church meadow and beyond. This was because of the dampness along the inside wall of the church.

We featured stunning photos of the night sky, well lit up fantastic.

December

The Rood Screen in church was being cleaned and re varnished and restored to its former glory. This was finished by Christmas.

Tracks Charity was being advertised. So far the Charity has raised £35,000 for The Big C.

Each month the churches in our immediate area remind us of the date and times of services and briefly a note of any social occasions to do with the churches in our area.

A Plea

Please remind us about any social occasions your Club or Group is putting on. Also, if you have a personal memory

of something from the past, do drop us a few lined to see if we remember it too!

Last month we asked if anyone had ever heard where a small aircraft had been able to land and take off here in the village. This was in WWI.

We have since discovered it probably was on one of the King's Head fields.

WIVES PLUS ALL

November's monthly meeting saw Wives Plus All and Friends venturing out by coach in the evening to see Thursford Spectacular Christmas Show and members had a very enjoyable and entertaining time there. With the year of 2024 coming to a close, Wives Plus All's December's meeting saw members meet together for a shared Christmas Social buffet supper and a glass of good cheer.

The first meeting of Wives Plus All in 2025 will be our AGM, please also note the earlier time of the AGM as 7.00 pm

WIVES CLUB AGM

THURSDAY 13th FEBRUARY 2025

MEMORIAL INSTITUTE HALL

NORTH ELMHAM

7.00 pm

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A photograph of a plate of curry with various accompaniments like naan bread and chutneys.

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GARDENING CLUB

Our last meeting of 2024 was a sociable supper with wine preceded by an excellent demonstration by Jo on how to create a lovely door wreath using simple materials. Other members, Chris, Ray, Tish and Meg had also produced Christmas decorations in a variety of containers, including a set of old milk measuring jugs, a wine glass plus the usual hopefully giving everyone ideas.

The January meeting was our AGM with the Chairman, Ray being unanimously re elected. The only change in committee was that Ann and George Keeble, who after many years of service and support, had decided it was time to step down. They were warmly thanked for all their hard work. Ray gave a precis of the past year and the accounts were presented. Subs were taken and programmes for 2025 distributed.

February will see our Annual Dinner which will be catered for by Ben from

the Teapost. The venue will be confirmed when numbers are known but it is likely to be The Memorial Hall. Please let Ray know if you are interested.

Meg White

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BRISLEY & NORTH ELMHAM CRICKET CLUB

As the weather causes local rugby matches to be cancelled it seems strange to be writing about cricket but preparations are well underway for the 2025 season. Work on the pitch and outfield has continued throughout the winter under Dave Pearson's direction and the seeds have literally been sown for a superb playing surface. The first indoor nets have been held at a new venue, the Norwich Cricket Centre at Arminghall and further sessions are being planned with details to follow in next month's edition. The new committee has met and focussed on addressing the criteria that will enable another successful season to result in a positive outcome for promotion to the Norfolk Cricket Alliance for the Saturday First Team. One of those criteria is establishing a youth team and there is flexibility under what format: softball, hardball, ranging from U9 to U15, boys, girls or mixed. Any potential players are invited to contact the club on 07980 027124. The same applies to the senior Saturday teams and Ladies team with players of all ages and abilities most welcome. We would also be delighted to

hear from any potential sponsors of the club which continues to grow in numbers and track record.

Finances are vital to any grassroots club and cricket is not a cheap sport to maintain and provide for the community. The club has a successful record of fundraising through social events and the next date for diaries is:

Brisley Quiz

Saturday 22nd March, doors open at 6.00 pm, quiz starts at 7.00 pm at the Brisley Village Hall. Teams of 4 to 8 people.

Entry is £20 including food or £10 without food. Fish, sausage or veggie all with chips from Drifters.

All proceeds towards Brisley & North Elmham Cricket Club changing rooms and junior cricket.

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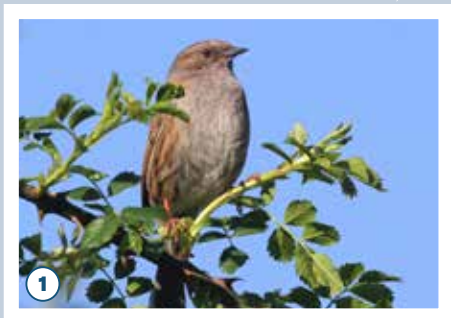
Hope to see you there.

Mark Ballman

Note: The photo above shows verti-draining being carried out on the square.



ELMHAM WILDLIFE



This year I will try focusing on just one or two species each month. There is so much amazing wildlife on our doorstep but hopefully a narrower focus will enable me to explore a few things in a little bit more depth without rabbiting on for too many pages.

I'm going to start off with the Dunnock, a common but unobtrusive garden bird that many of you will be familiar with, but some of you might never have noticed.



The Dunnock is sometimes called Hedge Sparrow. They're not sparrows but they are often seen in hedges and I suppose they do look a little bit like sparrows – at least in so much as they're small greyish-brown birds (photo 1). Their diet is completely different as you can see from the shape of their bill. Sparrows are largely (though not entirely) vegetarian and like finches, buntings and other seed-eaters, they have thick bills suited for cracking open seeds. Dunnocks eat a lot more insects and other small invertebrates and like other insectivorous species they have much finer bills suited for picking off small moving prey.



The powers that be tried to rename them Hedge Accentor, a name that is more accurate than Hedge Sparrow as they belong to a family of birds called accentors, but this name isn't used very much in the UK and most of us still call them Dunnocks. It's the only species of accentor that normally occurs in Britain but you might possibly have seen the slightly larger Alpine Accentor if you've been skiing in the Alps (for example).



Dunnocks are usually shy birds that spend a lot of time on the ground. You may see them out in the open (photo 2) but as often as not they'll be discreetly shuffling around in borders or at the base of hedges. Sometimes they can be seen under bird tables picking up scraps dropped by other birds.

They do fly up into hedges and trees (not usually very high up) and when they sing (photo 3) they might choose a relatively prominent position to sing from. They have a pleasing warbling song, somewhat repetitive and sometimes rendered as "leathery leathery leathery". The other sound they make most often is a much less pleasant call, a shrill "tseep".

Dunnocks have brown backs streaked darker (photo 4) but underneath they are plain greyish (photo 5) with streaking restricted to the sides. Juvenile birds seen in the summer (photo 6) are more extensively streaked below.

You will very likely have a Dunnock or two in your garden. They don't flock in large numbers like sparrows so you probably won't see many at one time. If you haven't noticed them before look out and listen out for them. Although some do migrate Dunnocks can be found in our gardens and the countryside all year round. You can find them virtually anywhere around our parish.

Keep an eye out for Dunnocks next time you go for a walk or look out into your garden, and notice if you hear them singing (they are already singing at this time of year). Let me know what else you see – it's always good to hear what you've been finding. You can email me at appleton.dave@googlemail.com or phone me on 668431.

Dave Appleton



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25 YEAR CAREER IN THE YHA

After 25 years of working in the YHA, we approached retirement. We had managed four very different hostels, one in the Wye Valley, one in north Essex, one on the mid Wales coast and one in the Forest of Dean. A Victorian rectory, a timber framed building in a cute village, a house that had once belonged to a retired sea captain, and a medieval castle. How's that for variety. We had some good times and some not so good, but never boring. When we first started we had two pieces of advice from an experienced warden. The first was that no matter how much the job was getting us down, always remember that due to the nature of the job we would live in beautiful places, and we did. The second was to stay in the housing market so we would have somewhere to live if it all went wrong. This we did. Upon retirement, we thought about where we would like to live. Our hearts were in Wales and the Welsh borders, but the wet weather of the West is a drawback. We decided to move to the drier East of England, and so finished up in North Elmham, a decision we have never regretted. Incidentally Eileen and I first met on a caravan site in West Runton in 1959, and were married in 1962. These holiday romances never work!

Meanwhile, the YHA carries on. Nothing like the organisation we joined. There was always a hostel within an easy days cycle ride, and in some areas, within a days walk. Since then a number of hostels have been sold, to either carry on as cheap accommodation, or as private dwellings. The remainder have been hugely upgraded, and prices hugely increased. In our area there used to be hostels in Kings Lynn, Hunstanton, Wells, Sheringham, Great Yarmouth, and Norwich. Now, only Sheringham is in the hands of the YHA. The emphasis seems now to be in cities,

though, coming from Birmingham, as I do, I am surprised that the second city still does not have one!

Thank you for following these ramblings and for the nice things that have been said to us about them. Thank you also to those who produce our wonderful village magazine, it does you credit.

John and Eileen Cotterill

DEREHAM WALKERS ARE WELCOME

Please come and join us for a walk in the local area. We have two regular walks each month. Our shortest, easiest walk of around two miles is on the second Tuesday of the month and a slightly longer one of around four miles is on the first Friday of the month.

We have a longer walk planned for the middle of May which will involve catching a bus to Beetley and then walking back to town.

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

FRIENDSHIP & FLOWERS

Fakenham & District Flower Club

Tuesday 4th February 2025
(and the 1st Tuesday of month thereafter)

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Jackie on 01328 851933
or Barbara 01328 701218



NORTH ELMHAM CEVA PRIMARY ACADEMY

Our class news

Acorns (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2)

Acorns return from a well deserved break after a dazzling nativity performance! The children have made creations to celebrate the new year, braved learning out in the cold weather and taken on the responsibility of running a vets in our role play area. This term we are exploring different animals, learning all about their diets, habitats and comparing different species to one another. Acorns have also been investigating the changes in weather, discovering the signs of winter. The children will be writing their own stories inspired by 'The Train ride', as we delve deeper into Transport during our History topic which explores George Stephenson's History of wheeled transport.

Oak (Year 3 to Year 6)

Happy New Year from all of us in Oak Class. So far this term we have been exploring the wonderful coastline of Norfolk. Oak Class have spent time looking at changes in the environment and how the impact of events such as erosion leads to an adaptation in our coastline. We further deepened our learning by looking at the impact erosion has had on the environment around the coastline of the UK. In addition to this the children in Oak Class are researching environmentalists and writing their own Biography in response to the wonderful work of Sir David Attenborough.

Whole School News

Christmas

We had a wonderful yet very busy lead up to Christmas! The children took part in our Nativity 'Hey Ewe!' They were amazing at learning their lines, the songs and the actions!

We held a beautiful Christingle service at St Mary's Church, we sang carols at Tea @ 2 and enjoyed a delicious Christmas Lunch whilst wearing our Christmas jumpers!

Tea at 2

This month, we visited Tea at 2 to enjoy music from a Jazz band. We of course tucked into some delicious cakes and sandwiches as well as sharing our lovely work with those that attended.

Nursery

Good news! We are looking to open our own Nursery in the near future! If you have a child aged 2-4 and would be interested in our provision, please contact the school on 01362 668318 to register your interest!

Building work

In the next few weeks, we will be starting building works to add toilets to the main teaching block for the use of all year groups. This will create a dedicated room to run our nursery from with their own toilets. The work should be completed by Easter. This has been funded with money from the Diocese.

Do you have a child who will start school 2025-2026?

If you are interested in a place for your child next academic year, we would welcome you and your child to come and look round our wonderful school and see what we have to offer! Please contact the school office 01362 668318 to book an appointment.

Currently we also have places in other year groups so please contact the school office if you are interested in a place!

New web address

Please note our website has a new link www.northelmhamschool.uk

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ST MARY'S CHURCH ROOD SCREEN UPDATE

Many of you will have noticed that we have been publishing photos and information about the beautiful Rood Screen in our church which divides the Chancel from the main body of the church, or the Nave. There has also been extensive coverage in the press.

The original screen was composed of three parts and work begun in 1457, painting begun in 1474 and in 1561 parts were whitewashed and others dismantled. The current screen was restored in 1882. The Reformation played havoc with churches and many rood screens were vandalized, ours was cleared away and the painted panels shifted into obscure corners, and some were used as floorboards!

The actual layout of the Saints is a legacy from the 19th Century when



there was a certain amount of carpentry rearrangement. Not all the panels match, some are taller, wider, more ornate and with a section of unpainted wood.

A comprehensive explanation of the panels is to be found in the "Jewel in the Crown. The riddle of Elmham's Rood Screen" by Rebecca Bradshaw who wrote this as part of an in depth study for her degree at the University of East Anglia. A copy of which is to be found at the back of the church and it makes fascinating reading.

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At the present time the screen was in urgent need of restoration and protection against woodworm.

However, the church was extremely fortunate to receive a gift in memory of a beloved parishioner which enabled a team of professional restorers to be called in to appraise and then carry out the work immediately.

Conservators from the firm of Kiffy Stainer-Hutchins of Houghton began work and finished the first stage of the conservation at the end of October 2024.

We know that several people went up to see work on cleaning progress and were made welcome by the team who were happy to explain what they were doing. First, a layer of recent (19th century?) varnish had to be removed and the dirt behind it was cleaned away. This has now been done for the entire screen. The next task was to remove a further layer

of varnish under the dirt in one panel. The middle figure in the photograph had this extra cleaning and it was clear that it would be good if the whole screen had this extra clean before a new layer of protective varnish was put on. As all this could be done within the budget, we asked that the work continue so that the whole screen was cleaned and restored to its former glory.

Work began again mid-November and was completed by Christmas 2024, when it was enjoyed by all those who came into the church over the festive season. We hope that many more people will come and see the completed work and enjoy the beauty of this fine example of fifteenth-century art.

*Susanna Wade Martins,
Parochial Church Secretary*

Thanks also to Rebecca Bradshaw for her insight and study.



T@2 - Afternoon Tea 2~4pm - T@2

*At the North Elmham Institute on 2nd Wednesday of the month
Bring yourself, a friend and a neighbour for cake, sandwiches, savouries & music!
Save the date 13th November, 11th December 2024
8th January, 12th February 2025*

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*Any questions?
Call Jo 07796 493 495*

*All costs covered by
St Mary's Church*

FAKENHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

Come and Sing Saturday 1st March

Join Fakenham Choral Society for a day singing choruses from Verdi's fabulous Requiem on Saturday 1st March. The day will be led by FCS's musical director, Mark Jones.

Verdi's Requiem is a highlight of the choral repertoire but opportunities to sing this wonderful work do not come round very often so this is your chance to reprise or learn some of the iconic choruses.

We'll also be raising money for Nelson's Journey, which supports bereaved children and young people.

More details & registration at www.fakenhamchoralsociety.org/come-and-sing-full-info

Elgar's 'The Music Makers' Saturday 22 March

Fakenham Choral Society (FCS) will perform an all English programme at its spring concert on Saturday 22nd March at 7pm in Fakenham Parish Church. Elgar's 'The Music Makers' and his 'Sea Pictures' will be paired with Hubert Parry's 'Blest Pair of Sirens'

The 1874 poem 'Ode' by Arthur O'Shaughnessy provides the text for 'The Music Makers', set in its entirety by Elgar. 'Sea Pictures' is a song cycle for mezzo soprano, consisting of five pieces written by various poets and premiered on 5 October 1899 at the Norfolk and Norwich Festival. At the concert in March, this will be performed by mezzo soprano, Judy Brown. Hubert Parry's 'Blest Pair of Sirens' is a setting of John Milton's ode 'At a Solemn Music.'

Mark Jones, musical director of FCS, says: 'Music Makers is a large scale choral work with full orchestra, which, whilst being less

well known, features familiar extracts from other of Elgar's compositions. This and 'Sea Pictures' will be complemented by Parry's rousing and joyful work, 'Blest Pair of Sirens'.

Information about the choir can be found at www.fakenhamchoralsociety.org. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram: @fakenham_choral_society

Admission: Early bird price of £15 before 8th March; £18 after 8th March or on the door.

Shirley Collyer fakenhamchoralsociety@gmail.com 07711 142 147

Fakenham Choral Society is based in Fakenham - a living, working, energetic market town in North Norfolk. We draw our members from Fakenham itself and from surrounding villages. Our aim is to bring the pleasure of live, large scale choral music making to a wide public. Our repertoire embraces both sacred and secular music, and we have performed with a succession of distinguished soloists and orchestras. In 2023/4 FCS celebrated its 50th anniversary season. In this it was led with great enthusiasm, expertise and flair by musical director Mark Jones.

FCS is a charity and has attracted funding from the National Lottery, from our own active association of Friends and from a network of corporate sponsors.

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Holt Road

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YOUNG FARMERS

Young farmers have had a busy few months including winter comps, different meetings and lots of hockey training.

Over the Christmas period we had meetings at winter wonderland, wreath making and our Christmas meal. The winter wonderland many of our members had a enjoyment time ice skating (falling over on the ice) bumper cars and many more. We also had wreath making which was hosted at Black Water Highlanders in North Elmham. We really enjoyed making our wreath and playing with the animals after so massive thank you to Harriet and her amazing team for a lovely night. With it also being the festive time we had to celebrate with a Christmas meal and secret Santa at the Kings Head, with lots of laughter and food it was really nice to see members come and enjoy a evening together. Thank you to the Kings Head for hosting and such a lovely evening.

Winter comps was the first competition this year to which many of our club to part in and done extremely well so very proud of everyone for that, and thank you for all the time and effort you put in to your exhibits!

Coming up we have highball climbing, dinner dance prep ready for our dinner dance 15th February! We also have our charity shoot coming up which will be a great day with lots of laughs and fun. Our aim this year is to help raise as much

money as possible for our charity the Brittle Bone Society so by having different events we can try and make as much money as possible.

If you'd like to get involved with North Elmham Young Farmers then do get in touch and help support us in which ever way you'd like!

ST MARY'S CHURCH

I'm sure, like me, you've packed away the Christmas decorations for another year and are looking forward to Spring returning. The Church brings the Christmas season to a close on 2nd February, when we have the wonderful celebration of Candlemas, when Mary and Joseph took the infant Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to present him to God – an ancient tradition for the firstborn child (Luke 2:22-40).

A key theme that runs right through the story of Jesus' birth and throughout his adult life is hope. A new hope for a world that seemed to be in darkness. That message of hope is still with us today because of Jesus, who became one of us to share God's love and to teach people about the joy of living as one of God's children in his glorious kingdom.

We will be exploring more about this hope this month. Hope Explored is an informal and relaxed three-week course. It's for anyone who wants to find hope, peace and

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Or you can scan this QR code

February also heralds a new ministry and the reorganisation of how our local churches are managed. We welcome the Revd Richard Turk on 1st February as the new minister for a group of eight churches based around Lyng, where he and his family live. The new group will include Bawdeswell, Foulsham, Foxley and Themelthorpe, formerly part of the Heart of Norfolk Group. North Elmham, Billingford, Bintree, Guestwick, Guist, Stibbard, Twyford, Wood Norton and Worthing stay under the care of the Heart of Norfolk Team.

With every hope and blessing for 2025,
Revd Sally

I hope I am not too late to wish you all a happy New Year! Hopefully all of your New Year resolutions are still going strong.

'Thirty days hath September, April June and November; all the rest have thirty one, excepting February alone, which has about SIXTY'. At least that is how it feels as we wait for the spring to truly arrive. 'As the days do lengthen, the cold doth strengthen,' really does ring true this month and perhaps we may get some snow. There is nothing sweeter than seeing the first spring flowers peeking

out from beneath the snow. However, with extremes of climate change bringing problems for many around the world, we are truly fortunate here in our part of the U.K. and should count our blessings.

The snowdrops, or candlemas bells, may be small and delicate but they push through with a regularity of strength and endurance that should give hope to us all. Pick one and savour its delicate perfume as, surprisingly, many varieties are scented.

In the church the 2nd of February marks the end of Christmas and Epiphany with Candlemas, the feast of the presentation of Jesus Christ. It is a time of hope toward new beginnings with the arrival of new plant growth and the birth of animals and birds of spring. As I write this in the middle of January the birds already have a different song and there are flowers on the winter jasmine and the hazel.

In our church we are preparing for our new Benefice structure as we leave the Heart of Norfolk Benefice and form a new benefice with part of the Reepham group. We welcome Richard Turk as the new leader of our group from February 1st.

We celebrate many saints during February but of course the best known is St Valentine on the 14th. Perhaps the opportunity of beginning new relationships or celebrating existing ones. So, while we are back in ordinary time, let's think of the extraordinary things to come.

Yours in Faith

Colin Ferris
Authorised Worship Assistant, Heart of Norfolk Benefice.

WORTHING NEWS

Happy New Year everyone and I sincerely hope you all are well, keeping warm and safe. Hopefully the freezing fog is now behind us and spring is just around the corner.

St Margaret's Church would like to report that the work for removing the "vintage" heating & lighting units installed around 1927 have now been replaced with three new chandelier style units providing efficient light and warmth for many many years to come. Please drop in to view and appreciate this facility part funded by The Diocese of Norwich, The Round Towers Society, Benefact Trust and our Community. Without your continued support, we would not have been able to complete this essential work. Our sincere thanks to you all.

Christmas Raffle draw took place on Sunday the 22nd December. Everyone that took part helped raise £176 which was allocated to fund our new heating and lighting, thank you.

First prize – bottle of Champagne won by Penny, second prize – Christmas cake won by Sharon, third prize – Mulled wine won by Karen. CONGRATULATIONS!

Due to the reorganisation of the Benefice, we are trialling a slight change to the

pattern of services. Going forward, our services will now fall on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month until further notice. This month we invite you to meet in church on the 2nd starting at 9am Holy Communion and 16th Iona Morning Praise starting at 10.30am.

Refreshments will be available after each service together with an opportunity to meet up and share in some friendly banter. We hope you can join us.

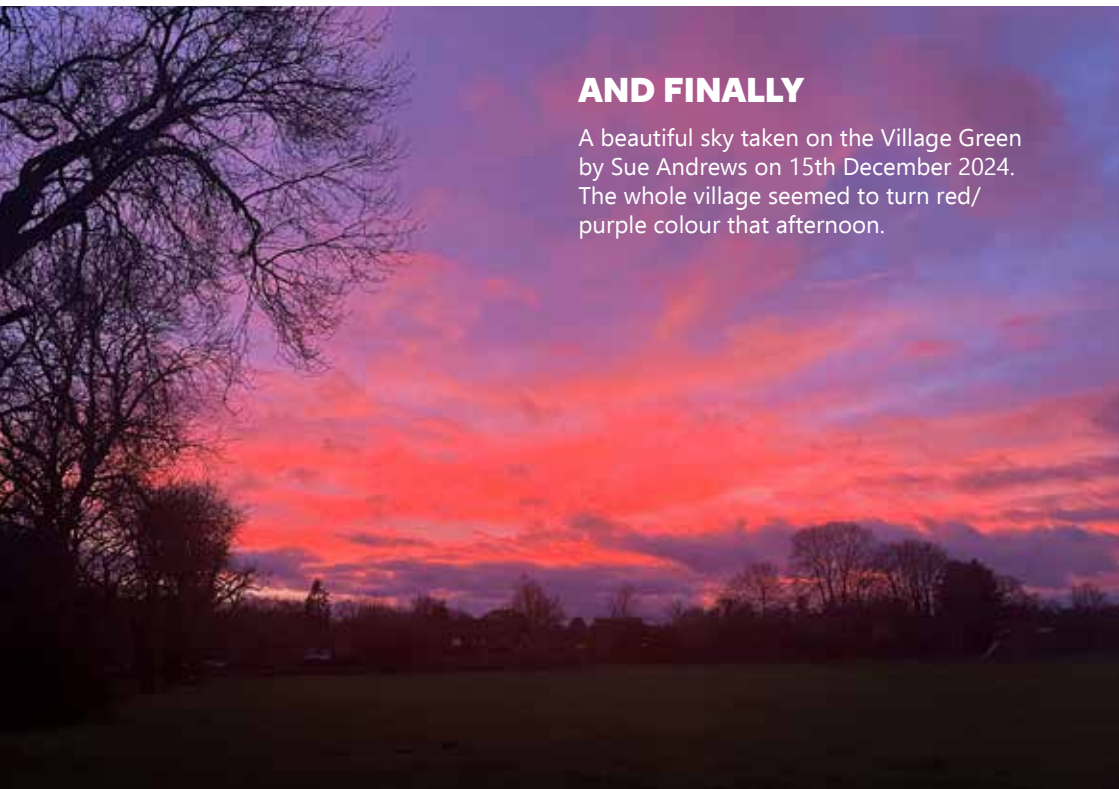
Advance Notice

The Christian tradition of Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday 5th March and ends 19th April. Details of The Bishop's Diocesan appeal – Lent luncheon will follow next month.

And finally, please check out our facebook page for additional information and stories. www.facebook.com/StMargaretsChurchworthing

AND FINALLY

A beautiful sky taken on the Village Green by Sue Andrews on 15th December 2024. The whole village seemed to turn red/purple colour that afternoon.





CHURCH SERVICES

FEBRUARY



HEART OF
NORFOLK
CHURCHES

2ND FEBRUARY - CANDLEMAS

9:00 am	Worthing	Holy Communion
9:30 am	Wood Norton	Morning Praise
10:30 am	North Elmham	Holy Communion
10:30 am	Stibbard	Holy Communion
10:30 am	Foulsham	Group Holy Communion (see box below)

9TH FEBRUARY - 4TH SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

10:30 am	North Elmham	Iona Holy Communion
10:30 am	Billingford	Word & Praise
10:30 am	Foulsham	Holy Communion

16TH FEBRUARY – 3RD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

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

2ND FEBRUARY – 2ND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

9:00 am	Guist	Holy Communion
10:30 am	Foulsham	Holy Communion
10:30 am	North Elmham	Morning Praise
10:30 am	Stibbard	Morning Praise

SUNDAY 2ND FEBRUARY – CANDLEMAS

A service of Holy Communion will be held at Foulsham Holy Innocents, 10:30 am, to celebrate the creation of a new Benefice and to welcome the Revd Richard Turk. See "Vicar's letter" on page 43/45 for more information.

*Services at Bawdeswell Church are also available on Zoom.

www.heartofnorfolkchurches.org.uk

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This Month's Photo Contributors

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

COVER: Sarah Felton

PAGE 10: Wendy Cottrell

PAGE 18-19: Matt Carding-Woods

PAGE 29: Sarah Felton

PAGE 31: Mark Ballman

PAGE 32-33: Dave Appleton

PAGE 36: Elmham CEVA Primary Academy

PAGE 39: Peter Wade-Martins

PAGE 43: Ella Jeary

PAGE 46: Sue Andrews



NORTH ELMHAM PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chair: Paul Grainger, 01362 667 135
Vice Chair: Martin Phillips, 01362 668 409
Ann Ferris, 01362 668 580
Tom Fitzalan Howard, 01362 668 232
Brian Gee, 01362 422 799
Ann Keeble, 01362 668 216
Nick Markwell, 01362 668 557
Michael Rayner, 01362 667 859
Colin Smith, 01362 668 585

PARISH CLERK

Kevin J Webb, 01328 855046
northelmhampc@hotmail.co.uk

MEETINGS

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

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

VILLAGE FACILITIES

Allotments..... Martin Phillips
Broom Green & Pound To 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
Millennium & Jubilee Wood..... To be confirmed, contact Parish Clerk
Playing Field & Pavilion..... Colin Smith, Ann Ferris
Prince William Wood..... Tom Fitzalan Howard, Nick Markwell
Village Green Colin Smith, Brian Gee
Footpath Warden..... Ann Ferris

SERVICES

Environment & Maintenance Martin Phillips
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Planning..... Michael Rayner, Martin Phillips
Street Lighting..... Tom Fitzalan Howard, Nick Markwell, Colin Smith
Tree Warden Tom Fitzalan Howard, Nick Markwell, Colin Smith
Website Martin Phillips

PARISH CHARITIES

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

NORTH ELMHAM DIRECTORY

Elmham Surgery, Holt Rd - 01362 668215

Group website: elmhamsurgery.com

Surgery Opening Times Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri 8.30 am–6.30 pm, Wed 8.30 am–6.00 pm)

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Surgery Opening Times Mon–Fri 8.30 am–6.00 pm

Elmham and Swanton Morley Dispensary

Dispensary Opening Times Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri 8.30 am–12.00 pm, 2.00 pm–6.30 pm
Weds 8.30 am–12.00 pm, 2.00 pm–6.00 pm

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
Nth Elmham CEVA Primary Academy	Ms Victoria McConnell, 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 times: Mon–Fri 09:30–19:00, Sat 9:30–16:00, Sun 10.00–16.00 (Open Library access only)

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
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

Elmham	Michael Newey	668424
Worthing	Celia Daniel	668928



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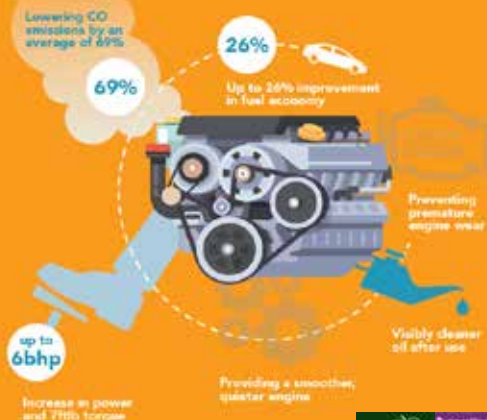
Monday - Friday 8:30am-5:00pm
Saturday 9:00am-12:00pm

Station Road, North Elmham, NR20 5HH

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