# Elmham News

**MARCH 2023** 

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Unusual pedestrians spotted in Eastgate Street page 5

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# **EDITORIAL**

This month we are mindful of the dreadful events in Turkey and Syria following the earthquake. As we write, the news is reporting 35,000 people have lost their lives which is devastating. We are sure you will share with us our thoughts and sympathies. If you would like to donate to the DEC Appeal please visit dec.org.uk. We must all feel so grateful for the lives we have here.

Elmham News Committee held their AGM in February and our long standing Chairman, Bob Fletcher, decided to hand over the reigns. Bob not only Chaired the committee but also coordinated distribution until recently. We are very grateful for all his efforts over the years. Bob was presented with a bottle of his favourite tipple to enjoy! He will continue as one of our deliverers. Caroline Payne had kindly agreed to take on the role of Chairman for one year. The rest of the team will carry on regardless! We have received many kind words of congratulations for our recent Award, please see page 17 for a sample of these.

We are very sad to announce the recent death of Chris Werrell, a long-time Elmham News deliverer at County School and we offer condolences to his loving family.

Thanks for donation from Anon, Orchard Close.

# WARNING TO ALL OUR ADVERTISERS

Martin was approached by one of you to query the text he had received regarding payment for his account . It was from Elmham Parish Directory. This has nothing whatsoever to do with Elmham News and would appear to be a scam. Please ignore.

North Elmham community website www.elmham.org.uk

PLEASE NOTE: Submission deadline for articles to be included in the APRIL edition is <u>14TH MARCH</u>. Please email your article to each of the editors listed below asap before the deadline.

Volume 46, No 2, March 2023		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 & DI	STRIBUTION		
Sarah Felton	Magazine Layout & Design	sarahefelton@yahoo.com	
Chris Hill	Distribution	laine.hill@icloud.com	01362 667028
OTHER MEMBERS			
Bob Fletcher	Committee Member	Beverley, Nr Church, NR20 5JU	01362 668514
Brian Wheeler	Committee Member	21 Cathedral Drive, NR20 5JH	01362 668621
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# **GARDENING CLUB**

The first meeting this year of the Gardening Club took place on Thursday 26th January in the Memorial Hall, when the Club held its AGM. The committee were re-elected along with Chairman Ray Norman. He thanked the committee for their help and support. The past year had been very successful with a mixture of activities such as the annual dinner. a range of interesting garden related visiting speakers at monthly meetings, a coach trip to Cambridge Botanical Gardens, and the excitement and great success of the Annual Gardening Show being held once again after a lapse of three years thanks to the Covid epidemic.

After the formal AGM business, it was social time and great fun was had with teams battling their brains against Ray and his quiz. Successful winners were Colin and his team.

The next meeting of the Gardening Club will be on THURSDAY 24th MARCH in the Memorial Hall, North Elmham at 7.30pm when Andrew Sankey will give a talk to members entitled "A Year in the life of a Cottage Garden."

There will be refreshments and a raffle. New members are always welcome. Why not come and join us.

Ann Ferris

# NORTH ELMHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

#### WEDNESDAY 1ST FEBRUARY

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.

# OFF TO PASTURES NEW

This recent interesting photo shows two Swiss Valais rams, owned by Josh Hill, on the right and accompanied by Alex Walpole, being walked down Eastgate Street to their new pasture behind the Fish and Chip Shop.

No doubt you may have seen several programmes including this charming breed recently on TV, especially on "This Farming Life" where we met "wee Elfie" the orphan lamb who thought she was a puppy!

Thank you Peter, for this unusual photo.

**Councillors Present Were:** Mrs. J. Borgnis (Chairman), Mr. M. Phillips, Miss A. Ferris, Mr. T. Fitzalan Howard, Mr. P.Grainger, Mrs. A. Keeble, Mr. J. Labouchere, Mr. M. Rayner and Mr. C. Smith

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

**Apologies for Absence:** Mr. B. Gee, Mr. N. Markwell and Mr. G. Bambridge (District Councillor).

#### **Public Participation**

The following matters were raised:

The drain at the station end of Eastgate Street is blocked. Mr. Grainger is to advise Highways and Mr. Labouchere will speak to the Drainage Board (Mr. George)

Some disapproval was expressed at the naming of the new development – Boars Hill. The issue will be brought to the attention of the developers. Alternative suggestions were Basil's Meadow or Basil's Place.

The Archive Group has a lot of material. Drawers and cupboards are needed





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With the Autumn and Winter months upon us ....

It's time to snuggle up and gather with friends and family....Our Christmas, New Year's Eve & plans for January 2023 are on our website & on posters in the pub. Any questions, feel free to give us a call.

Recently we put together a project called Local Voices, the aim of the project being to preserve our local heritage. A part of the project is to have portraits of people in our community painted by a talented local art group as well as anecdotal voice recordings. If anyone is interested in taking part, we'd be delighted to hear from you. Please email or call Laura at the pub to arrange this.

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for storage purposes with perhaps the Institute being used to house the records. Mr. Fitzalan Howard suggested that the records be put on line so that they were readily accessible for all and that the Archive Group could hold discussions with Norfolk Archive Office. The matter will be discussed further at the next meeting when detailed information will be given regarding the amount of material, i.e. measurements to be provided of storage capacity required.

Delight was expressed by all that Elmham News had won a national competition in which it was judged to be the best A5 magazine out of 450 entries, a truly wonderful achievement and a fantastic effort by everyone involved.

#### Updated Information and Matters Arising

#### Land Management Matters

*Village Green:* The new dog waste bin has been received and duly erected. Trees have been cut near the power lines.

*Cathedral Ruins:* The railings placed around the tower are back in place.

*Cathedral Meadows:* Brown and Co recommend that the Stewardship Agreement be extended for a further five years. The necessary forms have been submitted.

# Bridleway on Disused Railway Line and Other Railway Linked Matters

Mr. Rayner had received a reply to the query as to why the path notices are still referring to "permissive". The Railway Company is checking with their solicitors. Signs without the word "permissive" have been made and are ready to be installed.

#### Allotments

A skip was hired to enable rubbish to be moved and, as a result, the area is much tidier than before. Some work is to be carried out on the water system.

#### **Street Lights**

Work on the light in Eastgate Street has commenced. Breckland Council needed to do some drainage work in Pump Street so the work has been delayed but is due to start on 3rd February.

#### **Highway Matters**

The bollard near the Surgery has been reinstated. Mr. Paul Carr is preparing a Community Speedwatch flier to go in Elmham News. There are nine volunteers and activities should commence by the end of February. Sincere thanks were expressed for Mr. Carr's efforts.

Mr. Grainger reported that investigations into the serious accidents last year have not yet been completed. Drivers were breath tested but, according to the police report, alcohol was not involved.

The drain issue on Eastgate Street is to be raised with Highways.

The possibility of extending the 30 mph limit southwards was mentioned. If the affordable housing scheme proceeds, the boundary is likely to be moved back.

#### **Pavilion and Playing Field**

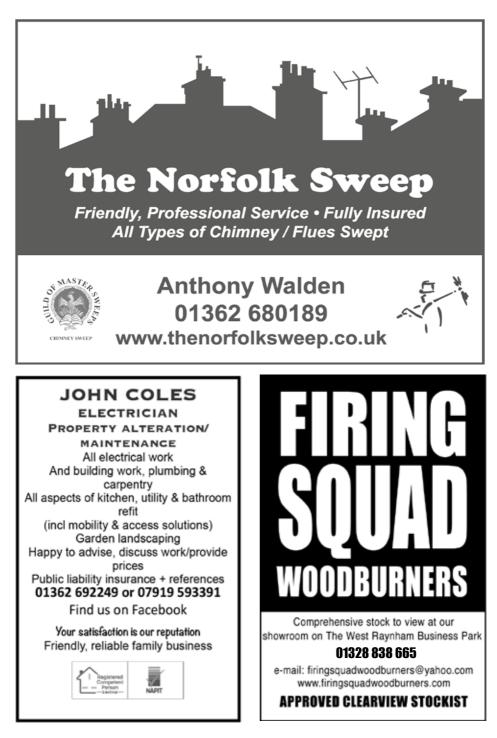
Mr. Smith reported that most of the lights had been done. The defibrillator and cabinet are due to be received within the next few days. North Elmham Football Club is about to make a payment shortly for the hire of facilities. The local elections are due to take place on 4th May, 2023 and the District Council has been advised of a charge of £240 for the hire of the pavilion.

#### **Brookside Development update**

It has been reported that the development is to be renamed Boars Hill.

#### Defibrillators

The defibrillator is awaited. Volunteers to be trained will be contacted when it arrives.



#### Call for Sites Update: Breckland Council

A start date has still not been announced for the consultation. Mr. Rayner has formulated a draft response which is to be submitted after the final questionnaire is received. The importance of question 13 was stressed and there are two key areas – new settlements and settlement boundary

issues with implications for affordable housing schemes. Mr. Rayner was thanked for his excellent work on this highly important matter and he will prepare a piece for Elmham News.

George Freeman M.P. has replied to our letter but hasn't confirmed that he will speak out against the curiously named "Railway Village". He will be asked to do so in a further letter to be drafted by Mr. Rayner. There have only been two responses to the suggestion of 22nd February as a meeting for CANT. The Chairman will chase those who have not replied.

#### **Pavilion Funding**

Norfolk F.A. have indicated that grants of up to £25K may be available and have requested further information, including size of areas. Mr. Grainger is to prepare a plan illustrating what is required and this will be submitted for consideration. A professional plan will be drawn up at a later date, if needed.

#### Police Community Resolution for Criminal Damage Incident

Mr. Gee is to contact the young person responsible for this crime with a view to arranging the next piece of work to be carried out.

#### **King's Coronation Celebrations**

The Coronation weekend is to be from 6th to 8th May. Mr. Smith felt that the Playing Field should be used rather than the Village Green with a barbecue provisionally booked and the suggestion being for everyone to receive a free burger. The intention is for music to be provided by two bands. It is also hoped that the Football Club will get involved. It was felt that the 70th Jubilee celebrations received a generally poor response although the inclement weather may have played a part. The fireworks were well attended. Mr. Smith is to investigate the possibility of obtaining grant finance.

The contract with Biffa is to be examined in May as it is understood that Breckland Council currently provides a more cost effective alternative.

#### Planning Applications and Determinations

#### Applications

T1 – Ash – Fell at Field View, Pump Street. Unsteady tree with wet rot fungus – TRE/2023/0002/TCA

#### Determinations

Mr. and Mrs. Robson – demolition of existing structure and erection of side/rear extension, alterations and widening of access – 3PL/2022/1324/HOU – 7 Eastgate Street – approved.

#### Correspondence

1) Police Safer Neighbourhood Team – next meeting 24/5/23

2) Details of the photo ID needed to vote in the May elections.

#### Any Other Matters (For Information Only)

The Clerk reminded all that the local elections are due to take place on 4th May and those wishing to stand will need to follow the procedures for submitting the necessary documentation.

#### Agenda items for next meeting:

Archive Group records.

#### **Next Meeting**

Wednesday, 1st March 2023 at 7.30 p.m.

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The early morning walkers, joggers and dog walkers have witnessed beautiful sunrises during January and February. The sun rising in the early morning mist has been breathtaking. *Sarah Felton* 

# BRECKLAND LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION

Just a brief update this month, as at the time of writing (13th February) the Breckland DC Issues & Options Consultation has not been started. However, by the time of publication it is likely this will have begun and will run for eight weeks. Once we know the final details of questions about potential new towns, I will put out another update in next month's Elmham News.

Michael Rayner, Councillor & Planning Lead, North Elmham Parish Council

# FREE TO A GOOD HOME

Dyson Ball Vacuum Cleaner with attachments.

Call June and John 668666

# **CHARITY LUNCH**

A Charity Lunch will take place at the Eastgate Centre on Wednesday 22nd March, at 12.00 noon for 12.30 pm running until 3.00 pm.

The purpose of the lunch is to raise funds for North Elmham Church Larder and the Village School Gardening Project.

We will be offering a range of homemade soups, cakes and bread rolls - gluten free options will also be available. Acoustic music, singing and poetry will be offered from friends and supporters.

Do join us, there is no fixed charge, but all donations will be most welcome.

However, since numbers are limited, please contact Jenny Cunningham by 15th March, either by telephone on 668224 or email jennycunningham@mac.com.

# **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
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
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	Steven Britton 07810 897792

# **JOHN CALEY**

John was born at Station Farm, North Elmham on 20th September 1940. He went to North Elmham Primary School where his mother, Gladys Caley, was a teacher, before going onto Hammonds Grammar School at Swaffham, travelling there daily by train from Elmham Station. His father Frank was the local coalman and farmed land around the railway station.

Upon leaving school, John went to work in Ipswich, and studied at night school to become an Industrial Chemist, and he worked for several different companies in that field.

John met and married Priscilla and they went on to have two children together: James and Joanne where they lived in Shotley and then in Bentley, Suffolk.

Time went by and life changed, and he met and went on to marry Heather in 1977. At this time, he worked for Fisons Fertiliser. Their son, Nicholas was born 1978 and John moved the family back to North Elmham in 1981 from Ipswich.

John continued his work for several small companies and then decided to start up "Station Farm Organics" making composts for gardens and then went onto making Charcoal in the woods behind their house.

He sold them to businesses in various places both locally and around the country. The charcoal kilns are still there in the woods to this day – a little overgrown and decrepit! but nevertheless still there.

In his spare time, John loved golf playing at Wensum Valley and would spend may happy hours there.

He also loved his sailing holidays in the Caribbean having always been a keen sailor, at one time ferrying yachts from one port to another.



John also volunteered at the Jubilee Sailing Trust, sailing the tall ships. This Trust specialises in helping disabled people to sail the tall ships, and on many occasions, he held the prestigious role of Watch Leader.

Sadly, his hobbies stopped when his memory began to fail him.

Heather would then take him to Merle Body Day Centre in Swaffham two days a week for a time, before health dictated that he spent his last years in the care of The Paddocks home in Swaffham.

An intelligent, much loved husband, father and grandfather.

His funeral at Cromer Crematorium was well attended by family and friends. Emma Duggan conducted the moving, yet uplifting service on a bright, cold morning in late January. People then went back to Station Farm where Heather and her daughters had laid on a delightful lunch.





# A Great Day Out on your Doorstep!

# Re-opens for 2023 on Monday 13 March

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<image>

# **A NEW ROAD**

We don't have many named roads here in Elmham, but did you know they haven't always had the name we recognise today.

Eastgate Street in the not so distant past was called Low Street, at least the last few hundred yards towards the old railway station had that name.

The main road through the village which we call the High Street, used to be called Chapel Street, and Church Street . Chapel Street was obviously named after the Congregational chapel which stood almost opposite Spencer's Close. Church Street started somewhere near the school and continued up past the church.

Pump Street began where the public pump, near the phone box stands and continues down the Pound Hill. We have written about the Pound in the past in the News, a part of our history long gone.

Years ago, it would have been an 'event' to see a new house being built in the village. Until the early 1900's, most of the houses here would have been thatched with reeds as the building material for the roofs. Now there are just two still in existence.

However, after the First World War, new houses were needed for troops coming home to live and local councils had to provide them. Our first council houses were built opposite the Green Field alongside the present road as were the houses alongside the road at Broom Green in the 1920's and 30's. Orchard Close also built by Breckland, just off Eastgate Street in the 1950's.

The biggest complex of private housing was built in the 1960's, early '70's and is Cathedral Drive with its associated other small roads and finally Wensum Drive followed. These estates had local names for their roads.

However, did you know there is a complex of houses being built, up to 25

on Brookside Farm, near the school? This is going to have a public car park and a walk way with a bridge over the stream (the Town Beck) and into the school playground. It is hoped children coming to school by car will use the car park and walk over the bridge to school. These houses will have its own road off the High Street.

We were wondering what the name of this estate would be—the land belonged to Basil Myhill who farmed it, and it was always called Brookside. Brookside would have been the obvious choice we thought! Now we know it is to be called Boars Hill.

Knowing Basil, we knew he did keep a few pigs along with bullocks and he also had a cattle truck for taking farmers' livestock to market. But Boars Hill—we found it very hard to accept the name. So, one of the Editors rang Neil Binks, the Managing Director for Orchard Homes asking how he had come up with that name.

He explained! He said he had contacted Breckland Planning Department with various names, none of which were accepted by the council. He said Breckland were very difficult to deal with, far harder than other local councils.

He told us he had a list of about 20 names altogether which once again were turned down. He understands that the fire, police and ambulance services must be able to find property easily and quickly, hence the turning down of his names. He said he had suggested Brookside but was told there was another property in the vicinity with that name, so it was a no go!

As the farm had always in the past been known as Brookside we assumed it would retain that name.

So, as he knew Basil had kept pigs he came up with the name of Boar's Hill for the new estate.

#### Editors

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AT THE BLOOMFIELD CLINIC ON THE THEATRE STREET CAR PARK IN DEREHAM



# **DEAR EDITORS**

Congratulations to the "Magnificent Seven", as displayed on February's Elmham News! ...and of course, to all of the others who played a part in the recent achievement!

To come first in a competition of 450 competitors can be little more than a dream!? But it has happened, so very well done to everyone.

Having lived in Elmham since before the "birth' of Elmham News, it's interesting to remember how it has developed. Yes, I recall the ancient Gestener machine in the Church Vestry and some of the problems it created.

Committee members, past and present, have worked hard over the years, persevering to produce the excellent publication we get today.

It's so well presented and full of information and items of local interest, all of which clearly appealed to the judges.

Perhaps the 'icing on the cake'... was the part played by Clan Press, producing the glossy, coloured magazine that we can all enjoy today! Well done to everyone involved!

#### Arthur Smith

Here are a just a few more congratulations from well wishers:

Congratulations on winning the National Parish Magazine award – what a fantastic achievement.

#### Dave Appleton

Many, many congratulations from Wives Plus All and The Gardening Club. *Ann Ferris* 

#### Ann Ferris

I was so pleased to read the news of the success of Elmham News in the national competition. It is doubtless a well-deserved boost to you all to know that you are doing a 'good job'. Many years ago, having been responsible for a scout magazine (I think quarterly), I have a small idea of how the cyclical nature of the process never seems to stop!

You are all to be very warmly congratulated - my hope is that it encourages you all in the future. Keep up the splendid work.

#### Dr Richard Baker"

Many congratulations on the National award- well deserved.

#### Paul Carr Speedwatch

Many congratulations to you all for your richly deserved award!

#### Geraldine Leeder, Tennis Club.

Martin told me the news yesterday about your fantastic (and very well deserved) award... many congratulations. It is fine recognition of all the hard work and dedication you all put into the EN month after month. Well done.

#### Jennie Borgnis

Thank you also to the many people who took the time to ring and email to offer congratulations and to those we met out and about who also offered their best wishes. One most unexpected call came from Mike Wyatt in his care home, he said "I always knew we could do it!" and he was right, we did!

We will continue to try to do our best.

# **EASTER PRIZE BINGO**

In aid of Cystic Fibrosis Trust Monday 27th March North Elmham Memorial Hall Eyes down 7.30 pm

#### THE CYSTIC FIBROSIS BINGO IS BACK

Following an enforced break because of Covid, I am pleased to say that the Cystic

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

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Fibrosis Prize Bingo is coming back to Elmham in March 2023!

I have booked the North Elmham Memorial Hall for Monday 27th March with eyes down at 7.30 p.m.

Various prizes have been received so far, including various days out in Norfolk, tickets to Fakenham Races, a photo sitting in Norwich, bottles of wine, lots of Easter Eggs and much, much more.

Look forward to seeing you there.

#### Sharon Moore

*Ed's note:* Sharon has been fundraising for Cystic Fibrosis over the last three years and has raised an amazing  $\pounds 64,102$  so far. She would love to hit the  $\pounds 75,000$  mark, so do go along and support her.

# **KNIT AND NATTER**

As we opened the pavilion door for our February meeting, we found two very nice electricians at work with all their gear. I did suggest that they got their knitting out and joined us, but, strangely enough, they cleared up and disappeared very quickly. Having settled we spent some time discussing our plans for the future Summer Garden Fête, and what interesting things we could produce by then.

The national "warm bag" scheme must be coming to an end soon, but we still have two large black bags filled with hats, gloves, scarves etc to take to the collection point. The North Elmham group certainly does it's bit. Will we be asked to knit for the earthquake victims we wonder?

It was nice to welcome a new person to our group, like many of our other village groups, we are looking to attract new members in order to remain viable. Sign of the times I guess, although we can still find charities who are grateful for our items.

Next meeting in the pavilion (without the electricians) will be on March 7th at 2.00 pm.

Eileen Cotterill 668380.

The pressure of the cost of living is hitting everyone, with prices on almost all goods and services on the rise. The cost of printing our prize-winning magazine is no exception and we have been doing our best to ensure that income from advertising is balanced with the increasing costs of production to enable Elmham News to continue to be a free-of-charge publication, delivered 11 months of the year to the 780 households in Elmham, Worthing and Billingford.

We are therefore very grateful for ad hoc cash donations from several villagers over the last year, which have helped to offset our costs. Please keep them coming, no matter how small, by passing them to Meg White at 2 Cathedral Drive.



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# **IN DECEMBER 1977**

#### **Arrival of First Elmham News**

Meg and Bob were both on the Steering Committee for the News. Delving through the December 1977 edition of our local news we found...

Meg, Mike Vincent and Roger Virgo were the original Editors.

Contributions for the monthly magazine were asked both from individuals and organisations and pieces of general interest. The Elmham News was asking for ideas and sketches for the cover.

There were Christmas greetings from the Bishop of Norwich and also from our Vicar, the Reverend Albert Derisley.

The Methodist Chapel was still going strong, services were on Sunday evenings.

Doctor Earle retired, a very well-liked doctor with a loud voice. If you went to verify if you were pregnant... the whole waiting room knew at the same time as you!! Only three doctors then.

Here is a list of most of the organisations in the village at that time, sadly many have fallen by the wayside now.

Mother's Union	Friends and Neighbours
Playgroup	Mother & Toddler Group
WI	Brownies
Cubs	Scouts
Youth Club	Young Farmers
Social Club	Whist Club

We hope the Elmham News is still a popular magazine to land on everyone's doormat.

Janet Woodhouse



# **45 YEARS OF SERVICE**

Recently the Elmham News team presented Meg White with a bouquet of flowers in recognition of her 45 years of service to the magazine... thank you Meg for all your hard work and dedication.

# FAKENHAM & DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

Tuesday 7th March 2023

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# **HONEY BEES - IN WINTER**

A beehive is made up of a brood chamber and supers. The brood chamber is at the bottom and the supers are stacked above. This is where the honey is stored.

The queen, the largest bee in the colony, lays eggs in the cells in the brood box and the young bees are reared here. A queen excluder is placed above the brood box to prevent the queen from entering the supers as she is too large to get through the bars of the excluder. This prevents her from laying eggs amongst the honey.

The beekeeper provides the bees with a wooden frame and a flat sheet of wax. The bees construct cells on the flat sheet. The cells are constructed at 15 degrees from the horizontal to contain the honey. The photos show a new frame and one which the bees have worked on.

The beehive is made up of a queen who is the mother of all the hive and worker bees who are all girls. The male bees are called drones whose only task is to fertilise other queen bees. I often imagine that drones spend their time learning to fly upside down and backwards to occupy their time. By the way, the girls do get their own back on the drones as in the autumn they kick out all the drones to die as they do not want them consuming valuable food during the winter.

This time of the year the bees are in the hive. They survive in clusters around the brood frames. This is where the young larvae are developing. By this time the beekeeper has removed the honey supers to leave only the brood box where the bees will maintain a temperature of over 25°C. This is necessary for the young larvae to survive. The queen does not lay many eggs at this time of the year but must lay a few to maintain the strength of the hive.





In early December the beekeeper uses chemicals to control a parasite that sucks the blood of the honey bee. This is called Varroa. We chose this time when the amount of capped brood is at its lowest as when the queen lays an egg in a cell the varroa mite can lay up to six eggs in the cell before the cell is capped with wax. We cannot kill the varroa inside the capped cells so the less cells with young bees in the better. When the larva hatches out several varroa mites come with it which will attach themselves to healthy bees. Varroa mites also carry other viruses that cause the bees to have damaged wings which means they cannot fly and quickly die.

On warm sunny days the bees will emerge from the hive to collect water which they need to help break down the honey stored in the brood chamber for winter food. Also, for cleansing flights as the hive is kept exceptionally clean. Adding to this is their use of propolis which they collect



# MARCH LAUNCH CONFIRMED

We have obtained approval from the Police for the CSW to operate at four different locations in the village. Initially, we are concentrating on Holt Road. Stage 2 will address other areas of concern within the village.

Permanent signs will be placed at either ends of the village.

The Group comprises 9 volunteers who all live in the village. Training has been completed in February.

Please support this important community initiative.

If you would like to be involved or want further information, please contact the group's organiser Paul Carr at <u>carrpaulus@aol.com</u>.





The Community Speed Watch (CSW) initiative allows members of the community to address the issue of speeding by becoming actively involved in road safety, monitoring speeds at safe locations with speed detection equipment.

The aim of the CSW initiative is to address the problem of speeding through a partnership of the police, the local community, parish councils and other partners.

The aim of the initiative is NOT to catch as many speeding drivers as possible.

It is to reduce speed in areas of concern, make drivers aware that excessive speed is socially unacceptable, educate drivers about the dangers of speeding and address concerns from local residents about cars speeding through their neighbourhoods.

Police forces across the country implementing Community Speed Watch can show a reduction in overall average speeds and a significant reduction in drivers travelling well above the speed limit.

# Together we can make a difference





from trees and plants. It has bacterial properties which helps to keep the hive sterile as they use the propolis to fill any holes or spaces in the hive. Unfortunately, this can hinder the removal of the honey frames at a later date as propolis is the equivalent of superglue!

March is the beginning of increased activity by both the queen, laying more eggs, and the worker bees, collecting pollen from early flowers and catkins.

More of this another time.

The ever learning beekeeper.

# NORTH ELMHAM TENNIS CLUB

#### **Five Members Receive LTA Honours**

It's another bumper year for North Elmham Tennis Club, with five members recognised in the 2023 Norfolk LTA Awards.

Andrew Parsons, our treasurer, has been named The Cathie Sabin Volunteer of the Year for his many roles at North Elmham over the past 15 years, including our recent LED light and court resurfacing projects.

Additionally, our Club President Lynda Denmead, Geraldine Leeder, Linda Smith and Jim Biggie have received Lifetime Achievement Awards for their outstanding voluntary contributions to the Club and the local community.

As part of a small group, the four helped to raise  $\pounds$ 130,000 for the construction of the pavilion and hard-court facility we all enjoy today, between 1995 and the Club's reopening in 2002. Geraldine and Jim were committee members until 1989, when the grass-court venue closed. All four continue to give up their time for the Club.

They were presented their richly deserved awards at the Norfolk LTA AGM on Tuesday, 28 February at Easton. The Club was also shortlisted for the 2023 Norfolk Tennis Club of the Year award, but narrowly missed out this time to the county's newest venue, Loddon Tennis Club, that was established in early 2022.

#### **Tuesday Junior Coaching**

Group tennis coaching is underway on Tuesdays at North Elmham Tennis Club. LTA Level 3 coach Jonathan Lindner provides fun, technical sessions for children ages 4+. Sign up online at https://www.northelmhamtennisclub. co.uk/Coaching.

Ages 4-7: 3:45-4:30pm Ages 8-9: 4:30-5:30pm Ages 10+: 5:30-6:30pm

James Buddell

*Ed's Note:* Many congratulations to you all. Enjoy the feelings. We too know how delighted you all are!

# WHAT'S ON LOCALLY

#### **BRISLEY VILLAGE CINEMA**

#### Friday 17th March

Fisherman's Friends: One and All Showing at 7.30 pm, doors open 7.00 pm Tickets £4.

Bar, ice cream and hot drinks available

Register interest or confirm to book with Dpearson1954@yahoo or message 07816139926

#### **Six Nations Rugby**

#### Sat 11th March: England v France

Kick off 4.45 pm, doors open 4.00 pm Pizza Roma on site from 5.00 pm

#### 18th March: Ireland v England

Kick off 5.00pm doors open 4.00pm Food to be confirmed.

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#### FAKENHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

#### Handel's 'Samson' Saturday 25th March

After their hugely successful Christmas concert, Fakenham Choral Society delves deep into the story of Samson, from his betrayal by Delilah to his dramatic demolition of the temple. Composed by Handel immediately after 'Messiah', 'Samson' is just as compelling and lyrical, concluding with the scintillating aria 'Let the bright seraphim'. With orchestra and professional soloists, Rosamund Walton, Tabitha Reynolds, Dan Bartlette and Simon Crookall, this promises to be one of the choir's most memorable performances.

Led by Musical Director, Mark Jones, the concert will take place at Fakenham Parish Church on Saturday 25th March at 7.00 pm. Tickets are £12 (under 16s free), and can be purchased either by calling 01485 544335, via the website www.fakenhamchoralsociety.org or on the door. So do come along for an unforgettable evening.

#### WALKERS ARE WELCOME

Dereham Walkers are Welcome is a not for profit organisation

Our September walk was most enjoyable; perfect weather and friendly chat.

We meet on the first Friday of each month to complete a short walk of up to four miles.

There is also a programme of longer walks and one town walk planned for later in the year.

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

Wed 1st	Mobile Library visit Parish Council Meeting	The Heath to Orchard Close Pavilion	2.30–5.20 pm 7.30 pm
Tue 7th	Knit and Natter	Pavilion	2.00 pm
Wed 8th	Tea @Two	Memorial Hall	2.00 pm
Thu 9th	Wives + All PACT talk	Memorial Hall	7.30 pm
Wed 22nd	Charity Lunch	Eastgate Centre	12.00 for 12.30 pm
Thu 23rd	Gardening Club	Memorial Hall	7.30 pm
Fri 24th	Spring Quiz	Memorial Hall	7.00 for 7.30 pm
Sat 25th	Jumble	Eastgate Centre	10.00 am–1.00 pm
Wed 29th	Mobile Library visit	The Heath to Orchard Close	2.30–5.20 pm

# **DATES TO REMEMBER: MARCH**

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♦ CHIPS & FRIES♦				
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♦ MAINS ♦				

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GRILLED HALLOUMI, ROASTED PEPPER & MUSHROOM BURGER, BRIOCHE BUN, SIRACHA MAYO & FRIES (V) (GFO) (VEO)	£ 15.00
BREADED CHICKEN BURGER, BRIOCHE BUN, KATSU MAYONNAISE, PICKLED VEGETABLES & FRIES	£ 16.00
BEER BATTERED HADDOCK, CHUNKY CHIPS, CRUSHED PEAS & TARTARE SAUCE	£ 16.00
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♦ SWEETS & CHEESE♦

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# **WVBS**

By the end of 2022, WVBS was feeling back to normal, and we were able to mix and socialise with very little restraint. We celebrated with a very enjoyable Christmas party that included a photographic competition for the best bird photos taken in the Valley last year and a series of guizzes. Members brought plates of food for sharing and the standard was, as usual, very high. So now we have a full programme of events for 2023, and it is available on our website - www.wvbs.co.uk Do have a look at the site if you are interested. It includes useful information about bird-watching sites in the valley as well as reports of previous meetings and a way to report your own sightings for inclusion in the County records.

The last field trip of 2022 took us all the way to the Wildlife and Wetland Trust reserve at Welney, with a stop at Denver Sluice on the way. Here we were lucky to get several views of a Kingfisher, which finally perched on the metalwork of the sluice just in front of us. Across the road a flock of Yellowhammers delighted us, with Redwings and Redshanks also seen. In spite of the rain we headed off for Welney, where the big bonus is the visitor centre with views over Lady Fen and then the main hide which is heated! We were there for feeding time, when the visiting wild swans and waterfowl are fed grain in front of the hide. Its always fun to see, although the very high water levels meant there were not as many swans as usual. Nonetheless the Whooper swans and Pochards made a great spectacle, and we saw a good selection of waders by carefully examining the banks and edges. These included a Spotted Redshank, a good flock of Black-tailed Godwits and some Ringed Plover. Back over the bridge at

the visitor centre we mostly had some lunch and then looked out for the Shorteared Owls that seem to be regulars over the Fen. We weren't disappointed, and some members then headed for Methwold where a Great Grey Shrike could be seen.

We kicked of 2023 with the annual bird count in the Valley, and at this point I know that over 90 species were recorded in total. One of those species was Bewick's Swan, seen near Colkirk and an unusual visitor to this area More details next time! Meanwhile here are our next few meetings – more information on the website.

#### **Outdoor Meetings**

Everyone is welcome on these guided walks . See the website for meeting times and placesSunday 26th February – Breydon Water. Saturday 25th March – Sculthorpe Moor

#### **Indoor Meetings**

These are all held at Great Witchingham Village Hall at 7.30 pm, and visitors are welcome for a small charge.

**16th February:** Nick Acheson on his biking birding.

**16th March:** Drew Lyness on the Mid-Yare Valley (Strumpshaw Fen and around).

# **WIVES PLUS ALL**

2023 meetings are to be held on the 2nd Thursday of the month commenced with the Wives AGM on Thursday 9th February at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall. The committee were elected en bloc as was the Chair Person, Gloria Feeke. A vote of thanks by Gloria was given to all committee members with thanks also to Dawn and Chris and Colin for arranging refreshments and also June and John for enabling the raffles.

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It was decided that a Bingo evening will be held on MONDAY 17th APRIL 2023. Donation of prizes for the Bingo will be gratefully received.

Wives Plus All next meeting will be on THURSDAY 9th MARCH 2023 at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall, North Elmham, when a talk will be given by George, co-founder of PACT Animal Sanctuary.

PACT would be pleased to receive donations of towels, bedding etc. for use at the Sanctuary.

There will be a raffle and refreshments. Please come along. ALL WELCOME.

Ann Ferris

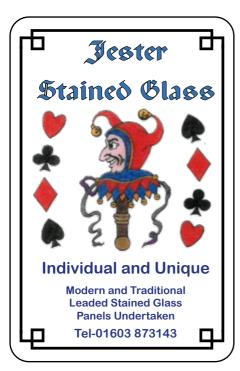
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Norwich Castle Meadow	13.20
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### NORTH ELMHAM WILDLIFE

This month I've picked a topic that cuts across many different types of wildlife – **signs of early spring**. I don't know what the weather will be like by the time you come to read this, but if it doesn't already feel like spring is on its way, then you'll no doubt be looking forward to when it does.

Spring is an exciting time of year for so many reasons, migrant birds arriving, resident birds and other animals becoming more vocal and active as they prepare for breeding, insects emerging, flowers blooming and so on. 'Early' spring narrows things down a bit - today I'm going to focus on the first signs of spring, not the whole season. When is early spring? Well, if you define spring as section of our calendar then early spring is probably March, but of course the natural world doesn't follow our rules and isn't so easily defined. Take Great Spotted Woodpeckers for example (photo 1). Their territorial drumming marks the beginning of their breeding season. It peaks in April and is, I would argue, a sign of spring. But on a fine day you can hear them drumming in December and then increasingly through January, February and March. Early spring for Great Spotted Woodpeckers is probably December to February. Other signs of early spring in resident breeding birds include a change in behaviour for Long-tailed Tits (photo 2) - no longer roaming around in large flocks as they have been through the winter and instead now forming pair bonds ready for the breeding season.

The changes many birdwatchers look forward to in spring are the arrivals of migrants that haven't been around during the winter. The earliest to arrive, like Chiffchaff and Blackcap, haven't come far – a few may even spend the winter locally – but among the first to arrive from overseas is the Sand Martin. I don't









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6.15 pm (beginners) and 7.30 pm on Fridays.

For further information regarding these classes or classes in Norwich, please contact Krystyna Doherty on 01362 695581. Email: info@pilatesnorfolk.com or visit www.pilatesnorfolk.com see these very often in North Elmham but another common hirundine (that's the family name for all of the martins and swallows) is arriving increasingly early. The Swallow never used to appear before late April, but climate change is bringing their arrival dates forward and it's no longer exceptional to see one in March. Unfortunately, they're declining at the same time, so although we may find them earlier, we aren't seeing as many as we used to. The saying goes, "One swallow doesn't make a summer" but the speed at which we're destroying the insects they depend on it may not be long before no swallows make a summer. The Swallow shown here (photo 3) was one of a breeding pair watched from my study window in Eastgate Street in 2016 - I haven't seen a pair here for a few years now though fortunately they haven't completely vanished from our village yet.

A few pairs of Oystercatcher (photo 4) breed around the parish but they aren't present over winter. Typically they arrive at their inland breeding locations in February so these certainly qualify as early spring arrivals. Lapwings will also be returning to their breeding fields at around the same time.

Early spring is when some of our reptiles and amphibians start to become active too. If you have a garden pond you may well notice Common Frogs spawning in March. The dyke alongside the railway footpath is another good place to see frogspawn, sometimes covering whole sections of the dyke (photo 5). The adult frogs dive beneath the surface when you approach but when they're very active, or if you wait patiently, you can see their heads above the water (photo 6). There can be lots of Common Toads here at the same time – I counted 60 one day in March and I'm sure I only saw a fraction of them.









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Perhaps the most obvious of our insects to appear in early spring are our butterflies. Typically the first to appear in March (if not before when it's really warm and sunny) are Brimstone (photo 7), Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell and Comma. You might also see bumblebees flying on sunny days – the first ones to fly are often Buff-tailed Bumblebee but other species flying in early spring include Common Carder Bee, Garden Bumblebee and Early Bumblebee (photo 8).

There are lots of other insects starting to fly in early spring. Among the common moths one of the most spectacular species flying in early spring is the Oak Beauty (photo 9). Yellow Horned is another one (photo 10), a little more localised – I only occasionally catch them in my garden but they can be very numerous in woodland round here. The "horns" in its name are its antennae, though I would describe them as orangey-red rather than yellow. Another smart moth that starts flying in March is the Water Carpet (photo 11). There are of course many more species – the diversity in moths is far greater than in butterflies.

I could write about all sorts of other insects and invertebrates that start appearing in early March, but I only have so much space and it would be remiss of me not to mention some plants. For some people spring flowers, whether they be garden flowers or wildflowers, epitomise spring. Some might choose willow catkins ("pussy willow") but If I was to pick one flower that represents early spring I think it would be the Primrose (photo 12), though like the drumming Great Spotted Woodpeckers I started this piece with, they can start to appear as early as December. Sweet Violet is another, slightly more subtle, wildflower that is characteristic of early spring and can sometimes appear as early as December. It comes in a number of colour forms but



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As spring begins to appear there is no better time to get out and enjoy the wildlife around our parish. Do get in touch if you have anything interesting to share (email appleton.dave@googlemail. com, phone 668431 or message me via Twitter at @ElmhamMeadows).



Dave Appleton



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## CHOCOLATE AND BANANA CAKE

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175g caster sugar
175g self-raising flour
½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
4 tbsp cocoa powder
100g chocolate chips or chunks
175g very ripe bananas
3 medium eggs, 2 separated
50ml milk

For the topping 100g milk chocolate 100ml soured cream handful dried banana chips, roughly chopped

#### Method

Heat oven to 160C/140C fan/gas 3. Grease and line a 2lb loaf tin with baking parchment (allow it to come above top of tin). Mix the sugar, flour, bicarb, cocoa and chocolate in a large bowl.

Mash the bananas in a bowl and stir in the whole egg plus the 2 yolks, followed by the oil and milk. Beat the egg whites until stiff. Quickly stir the wet banana mixture into the dry ingredients, stir in a quarter of the egg whites to loosen the mixture, then gently fold in the rest. Gently scrape into the tin and bake for 1 hr 10-15 mins. Cool in the tin on a wire rack.

For the topping melt the chocolate and soured cream together in a heatproof bowl gently over a pan of just simmering water. Chill in the fridge until spreadable. Remove cake from tin, roughly swirl icing over and scatter with the banana chips.

## **ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**

We had our first meeting of the New Year on the 2nd February at The Kings Head Hotel at 8pm. 9 members attended, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and passed.

David Green said that the Union flag at The Memorial Institute was getting tatty and a new one should be bought to mark The Kings Coronation. This was agreed and Mike Aston said he would look into this, any donations towards this would be much appreciated, please contact any committee member.

Ian Taylor said that the Poppy Appeal fund for last year was £4500 so far.

This year it is the branches hope to be more involved in village occasions, and will be having a stall and tombola at the Garden Fete on the 21st May, with several other ideas for future events. Again we need new members to join us. We are in the process of thinking of a memorial to our late, long serving member Mr Bryan Tidnam, further details will be posted in the Elmham News in due course.

Our next meeting is 6th April

Well done to Elmham News for your award.

Mike Aston Branch Sec.

## NEW DISPENSARY OPENING HOURS

From Monday 6th March, the dispensary at the surgery will be closed between 12 noon and 2.00 pm daily.

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## CONVERSING WITH THE PSALMS

A new monthly ecumenical study group open to all on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

1st meeting 22nd February in Stibbard Methodist Chapel starting at 2.30 pm

Each month we will discuss a chosen psalm, read from different versions of the Bible and comparing how the wording might change the sense. Tea and refreshments available.

More Info? Contact Norman on nwjohnson@btinternet.com or 01362683344

## **ST MARY'S CHURCH**

#### A Month of Drama

Of March it is said "it comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb." A very transitional month, hailing a move from winter to spring and bringing with it those muchneeded longer days and stronger sunshine. However, it is also very variable, as noted by Charles Dickens; "it was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold - when it is summer in the light and winter in the shade."

Despite the weather, we are greeted in March by a reawakening of the dawn chorus from the robin, song thrush and blackbird and the arrival of beautiful spring flowers such as primrose, camellia, and daphne. Of course, it is the flower of the month, the daffodil that gives us swathes of bright, golden yellow at the roadside and in our gardens and woodlands. Also known as the lent lily, this icon of optimism reminds us that during this month we are indeed in the holy season of lent. Traditionally a time to give something up until Easter. Perhaps a few weeks without chocolate, cake or biscuits!?! Many do undertake this period of fasting as a sign of sacrifice and selfdiscipline. For Christians this represents Jesus Christ's sacrifice when he entered the desert to pray and fast for forty days before he died for us on the cross.

As we move through this month, we can look forward to celebrating the coming of a new season. With those longer days and the clocks springing forward an hour, summer really seems to be just around the corner. So too can we see March as a transition to our new church season of Easter, enabling us to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, a sign of rebirth, new life, and a promise of the good things to come.

Yours in Faith

*Colin Ferris Authorised Worship Assistant Heart of Norfolk Benefice* 

## **MORE 2 LIFE**

First of all, may I offer my congratulations to the amazing Elmham News team on their thoroughly well-deserved award! You are a fantastic, hardworking team, and we are grateful for all you do!

I've been reflecting recently on people coming together in times of tragedy; people who would previously not speak to their neighbour, or didn't get on with certain family members or work colleagues; or people with racial, cultural, or religious differences that caused division.

This month we have witnessed the tragic, overwhelming devastation in Turkey and Syria. An earthquake so big, and causing destruction on such a scale, that we can barely comprehend what the people there are going through, or the images we are seeing on our TV screens.

Yet in the midst of this devastation, we see glimmers of hope. People laying aside



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their differences and coming together in their grief to support, to comfort, to rescue; and to recover the dead. Humanity working together like this would almost be beautiful if it wasn't borne out of such deep pain and suffering. That communal joy, expressed when someone had been found alive against the odds regardless of colour or creed, producing tears of joy interspersed with tears of pain for those who didn't make it.

We may not be facing a tragedy like that in Turkey and Syria personally, but let's choose today to not wait for a tragedy to happen before laying aside any bitterness or hate towards others. Let's choose compassion. I finish with a prayer:

Dear Lord, we cannot begin to comprehend the tragedy in Turkey and Syria. We seek your compassion upon all those affected, those who lost their lives, and those who remain. We thank you for those who have given their time, energy, and money to help those affected. We ask that you would help guide these resources to those areas who need it most, and that they may find hope in you. We ask these things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Every blessing,

Anne-Marie Fewell Pastor, More2Life Christian Fellowship





### Heart of Norfolk Group Services for March

#### 5th March – 2nd Sunday of Lent

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

#### 12th March – 3rd Sunday of Lent

10.30 am	Bawdeswell	The 10.30
10.30 am	Foulsham	Holy Communion
10.30 am	Stibbard	Morning Praise
11.30 am	Worthing	Holy Communion and Lent Lunch

### 19th March – Mothering Sunday

10.30 am	Bawdeswell	Word & Praise
10.30 am	North Elmham	Holy Communion (Iona)
10.30 am	Wood Norton	Holy Communion
4.00 pm	Foulsham	Sung Evensong (Book of Common Prayer)

#### 26th March – Passion Sunday

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

www.heartofnorfolkchurches.org.uk

## **DISNEY ANIMATED MOVIES WORDSEARCH**

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*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: Peter Wade-Martins, PAGE 11: Sarah Felton, PAGE 13: Heather Caley, PAGE 21: Sarah Felton PAGE 23: Vic Leeder PAGES 37, 39, 41 & 43: Dave Appleton

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<b>Clerk:</b> Kevin J Webb 01328 855046 northelmhampc@hotmail.co.uk	<b>a</b> 668	668 580	(1	422 799	r 🛥 667 135	<b>a</b> 668 216	nere 🖬 668	ll ┲ 668 557	is ┲ 668 409	<b>a</b> 667	<b>a</b> 668 585
Group Leader 🖌 Group Member 🔹	Jennie Borgnis	Ann Ferris 🗃	Tom Fitzalan Howard	Brian Gee 🕿	Paul Grainger 🕿	Ann Keeble	John Labouchere	Nick Markwell	Martin Phillips	Michael Rayner	Colin Smith
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Environment & Maintenance											
Railway Liaison								٠		•	

Meetings are normally held on the first Wednesday of the month and take place in the Pavilion, commencing at 7.30 pm. 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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Major Diana Bennetts	dereham@salvationarmy.org.uk	696341					
Anne-Marie Fewell		01328 701830					
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