

Elmham News

MAY 2023

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EDITORIAL

In one weekend in March, this village raised the incredible amount of £2,312.35, £950 for Cystic Fibrosis; £600 Charity Lunch for School and Church Larder; £200 Quiz for Memorial Hall, and finally a Jumble Sale for Bowls Club £562.35 !! Didn't they all do well and how great that people turned out to support them.

Sadly, the Royal British Legion need support to help them to participate in village events. Anyone can join, you do not have to have been a member of the Armed Forces. A few extra knitters who like to natter wouldn't go amiss either.

We suppose people are gearing up for a long weekend in May, courtesy of King Charles and it is hope that as many of you as possible will turn out on the day after the actual Coronation to attend The Big Lunch and be with fellow residents. See the posters. Perhaps you might like try making The Coronation Quiche, you will

find the official recipe on page 37. Fingers crossed, the weather will be kind.

Don't forget to take your photo ID with you when you go to vote on May 4th and get your NO answer sheet to the Post Office before 12th May (see below).

CAMPAIGN AGAINST NEW TOWN

Hopefully, everyone will have been visited by a volunteer bearing a form for your signature in support of denying the proposed planning application for the so called "Railway Village".

If anyone has received, but not yet returned the RESPONSE form delivered thro' their letter box, please, would you kindly return it to the collection box in the Post Office by the 12th May.

Many thanks.

Jennie Borgnis, Parish Council Chairman

PLEASE NOTE: Submission deadline for articles to be included in the JUNE edition is 14TH MAY. Please email your article to each of the editors listed below asap before the deadline.

Volume 46, No 4, May 2023 **DONATIONS APPRECIATED**

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BINGO! – WHAT A FUNDRAISER

I would like to say a huge thank you to everybody who supported my Cystic Fibrosis Easter Bingo which took place on 27th March either by donating prizes or attending on the night – I couldn't have done it without you all!

I am pleased to say that we raised £950 which is the most I have raised at a bingo for a very long time! The money raised at this event will be used to undertake further research and to continue to make the lives of CF sufferers better.

Over the past 23 years you have helped me to raise £65,068 and that target of £75,000 is now looking a lot more achievable.

Once again thank you for your support, it is highly appreciated.

I hope you all had a great Easter.

*Sharon Moore
Volunteer Fundraiser
Cystic Fibrosis Trust*

CHAPEL RUINS

The following has been copied from the parish magazine, December 1946 and written by our Vicar, the Rev Townsend about the ruins near the church.

The Ruins in the Vicarage Garden and the Ministry of Works.

Several years have passed since a notification was received at the Vicarage, that the ruins on which the Rev. A. G. Legge, vicar from 1867–1894, had with great zeal largely excavated, and had many discoveries, were now scheduled as an ancient monument and were not to be interfered with. Recently there have been indications that the Ministry of Works was hoping to take further steps in their preservation, and a notice was received that on December 10th certain officials of the Ministry, together with some other

visitors, would arrive to look into the matter and report.

Thus that morning there arrived at the Vicarage the following three members of the Ministry of Works, the Inspector of Ancient Monuments, the Inspector of Ancient Monuments for England, and an architect in the Ministry. In addition the Bishop of Thetford, the Rural Dean of Elmham, and the Rev Noel Boston, Vicar of Dereham also arrived.

The result of the report of the three officials of the Ministry will be of interest to all who recognise that had it not been for the Ministry many historic buildings would have ceased to exist, but which by judicious work have been preserved. The Elmham ruins which are ecclesiastical property will remain as such, but the upkeep and rules connected with them will be under the Ministry of Works.

The vicarage was the Georgian house and garden adjoined to the land on which the Ruins stand. I can remember the site being properly dug out and the gates being put beside the George and Dragon pub.

Janet Woodhouse

FAKENHAM & DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

Hempton Memorial Hall
Hempton, Fakenham NR21 7LG

Tuesday 2nd May 2023

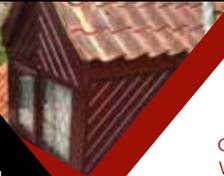
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STOP PRESS

There are no Parish Council minutes for the April meeting in this edition as they were not received in time to include.



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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.

www.thebrisleybell.co.uk 01362 705 024



CHARITY SOUP LUNCH

Almost 70 people met in the Eastgate Centre on Wednesday, 22nd March and enjoyed a simple lunch of homemade soup (7 varieties on offer), bread rolls and cake. It was a delightful occasion where we shared music and songs.

Sally, our rector gave a short talk on the workings of the food larder at St. Mary's. The usage of the Food Larder has proved that there is a need for this in the village and half the proceeds of the Lunch would be donated to this necessary and worthy cause.

Eileen Church explained the School's proposed venture in constructing a new garden, the late Pam Neve had very kindly left a legacy to the School which would be used in constructing this garden which would be called The Pam Neve Garden. Half the proceeds from the Lunch would go towards this venture.

Grateful thanks to all those who came and gave their generous support to this event.

Thanks as well to the helpers who made and served the soup, baked the cakes and did the washing up and thank you to Morrisons for the bread rolls.

Thank you to Natasha Hood for leading the singing. Together we made an amazing £600.

Jenny Cunningham

KNIT AND NATTER

Our meeting this month in the Pavilion had a slow start as some of the group were in the car park watching the capture of a riderless, fully grown horse, who had just galloped through the village. Inside, I had wondered why a bucket of water was required. The young ladies who had caught the animal did excellent work



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APPROVED CLEARVIEW STOCKIST

calming him down, and telephoning round for help. Then we all got back to the knitting bit.

We now have 14 regular members, but would like to see some additional like-minded friends, even if it is just for a natter. There would always be a warm welcome and a cup of tea, and we would especially like some new ideas from anyone, concerning a worthwhile charity that needs supporting.

Next meeting (hopefully without the horse) will be in the Pavilion on May 2nd 2.00 til 4.00 pm

Eileen Cotterill 668380

GARDENING CLUB

Our March speaker was Andrew Sankey, a garden designer and landscaper who has become a passionate advocate of the Cottage Garden style.

He has recently moved to Norwich from Lincolnshire where he lived in a mid 19th century cottage with a half acre of garden. He showed many lovely photographs of his garden there, divided into three sections and explained his reasons for what he had planted in different areas. He gave examples of the best plants to grow and where to put them, even producing a typed list of these plants.

He had an easy manner and everyone was listening carefully to his anecdotes. He also brought some surplus plants which were all snapped up.

He chose the Flower of the Month which was brought by Jo James, a delicate dark pink hellebore and was heartily thanked for his presentation.

As usual, excellent refreshments were served and there was an excellent raffle for club funds.

Ken Abel, a well known grower of Pelargoniums will have been with us in April.

Our May meeting on Thursday May 25th has Sarah Howard from English Peonies at Knapton in Norfolk. We welcome visitors, so do come and join us if you love these glorious flowers. There is a nominal charge of £3.50 or you could join for the year for £10.

Meg White

PS Our Annual Show is on Saturday 5th August this year.

Here are a list of categories you can enter so that you can get prepared. Non-members are most welcome.

Vegetables of all types from Beans to chillies. Flowers – Roses to cacti and arrangements celebrating the King's Coronation.

Jars of jam, marmalade, lemon curd, chutney and piccalilli; add in fruit crumble, sausage rolls, cheese straws and cup cakes and there is a feast waiting to be judged.

A chocolate swiss roll and traditional tea loaf – no need to search for a recipe, one is provided.

Art section needs to be a greetings card or a collage, on any subject using recycled materials.

Photographs of reflections or scenes from our village.

Knitters can produce slippers or a child's toy and the sewers are invited to produce fabric bunting and a fabric place mat.

Children are invited to produce A King's Crown.

Plenty there for everyone so why not get a full schedule and enter on the day.

The schedule and entry form are available as a pdf to print at home, if you would like a copy please email sarahfelton@yahoo.com or george.keeble@btinternet.com, they will also be available on the community website to download.

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GARDENING CLUB VISIT

The Gardening Club has organised a coach visit to Peter Beales Roses at Attleborough on the 22nd June leaving North Elmham at 1.30 pm. The visit will include a guided tour of the garden and tea/coffee and cake for £17, depending on numbers.

There are a few seats available if interested please contact Ray on 667226 for further details.

DEREHAM WALKERS ARE WELCOME

We are a not for profit organisation, please come and join us for a walk in the local area.

Our short walk of around four miles is always on the first Friday of the month. There is a programme of longer walks planned for 2023 as well as trialling walks of just two miles for those just beginning their walking experience.

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

CLERK WANTED

The North Elmham School House and Land Charity is looking for a Clerk to carry out the administrative duties. This is a voluntary role.

You need to be computer literate and have access to a computer to carry out online banking and submit annual returns to the Charity Commission. You will also undertake simple accounts and compose and print letters to successful applicants applying for grants.

If you are interested in offering your services, please contact the current Clerk, Caroline Payne on 668704.

JACK LAST THE GAMEKEEPER

Last year I wrote about Jack Last, whose father was Gamekeeper for the Birkbeck family at Elmham House. His father taught him the correct way to handle animals, how to catch them and how to despatch them!

He caught vermin around the estate using poisons. His father taught him how to poison rats using arsenic (when he was 14!) He said that he mixed the poison but had to remember to tie a large handkerchief over his nose and mouth. His tools were a tablespoon and a long stick!

When he had to sort out wasps and hornets nests, he used cyanide of potassium which came from a chemist in Dereham. The cost of a bottle of cyanide was one shilling, one pound of arsenic was nine pence.

All of this as a teenager, leaving school at 14 years old.

As well as poisons he used traps to catch vermin. He says in the book that gin traps were the best traps ever invented. We realise today those traps were inhumane causing untold agony to whatever creature was caught, very often cats. Thankfully gin traps were made illegal in 1958.

Trapping he vowed was an art – animals have a keen sense of smell and will know if anything is misplaced in their home entrance.

There was a lot of killing in his job, rabbits, foxes, moles and crows all had to be kept under control. This was because of the regular shoots held on the estates where he worked.

He left Elmham quite young for pastures new as there wasn't enough work here in the village for his father and himself.

He was called up just before the second World War – he said in his book 'the yanks

CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

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

Archive Group	Janet Woodhouse 01362 668525
Art4 All	Angie Redwood 07979 666197
Bowls - Institute	Tony Langford 01362 668854
Bowls - King's Head	Martin Phillips 01362 668409
Brisley & North Elmham Cricket Club	Mark Ballman 01362 668935
Elmham Football Club	Chris Reeve 07468 569699
Elmham Guides	Marion Morgan 01362 696221
Elmham News	Meg White 01362 668302
Elmham Surgery Patient Participation Group	Roger Thornley 01362 668804
Elmham Tennis Club	Geraldine Leeder northelmhamtennis@gmail.com
Friends of North Elmham School	Naomi Brien 07447 016620
Gardening Club	Ray Norman 01362 667226
Guides	Marian Morgan 01362 696221
Knit and Natter	Eileen Cotterill 01362 668380
North Elmham Trailblazers	Fliss von Christian 07787 161446
Reading Group	Eileen Church 01362 668330
Royal British Legion	Michael Aston 01362 668959 (Temporarily)
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

were everywhere'. Don't think he liked them very much! He was sent to France but was not there very long and was demobbed in January 1947. There was no help financially for a single man so he managed to get the job of Gamekeeper on 1,200 acres of farmland and woods at Swanton Morley working for E.C. Keith.

He moved around Norfolk with his 'keeping' jobs and was married twice. He married his second wife not because he loved her but he didn't like coming home to an empty house and having to cook his own meals! Despite being married twice he doesn't mention any children in his writing.

At the end of his book, he is adamant that all the sprays used on the land are polluting the ground and destroying wild life. He talks about vixen foxes with no young cubs, deer no longer having so many fawns – and on a bag of dog food he read there was even 'Sugar Beet Pulp' listed in the ingredients!

There was not much he didn't know about Nature and in spite of being a country girl I found his knowledge of the land and wild creatures mind boggling.

If ever you see his booklet in a second hand book shop, and can get over the killing of wild creatures, it is an excellent historical book about Keeping. Buy it!

(The last entry in the book was Easter 2002 and he was born in 1915, just wonder how old he was when he died.)

Janet Woodhouse

This is the last bit about Jack Last and his book. It is an interesting little booklet which I guess he paid for it to be published. As a small child I can remember at Foxburrow seeing rows of moles, rats and various birds strung along lines on the edges of fields. I think Fred Nicholson shared a gamekeeper with another farm. One old boy used to visit the farm on a Saturday morning in a battered old green van. He set snares

around the farm to catch the rabbits and they were hung on lines inside tea chests, inside the van. He used to stop for a cup of tea and a chat with my Grandmother who lived with us. He always left a brace of rabbits for the next week's meals... I couldn't eat a rabbit today to save my life!

RECIPE

SALAD OF CAULIFLOWER

1lb raw cauliflower

Salt and pepper

Mayonnaise

1 tablespoon chopped mint or tarragon

Juice of 1/2 lemon

Break cauliflower into very small sprigs, season well.

Stir chopped herbs into mayonnaise, add a few drops of lemon juice.

Mix into cauliflower and leave for an hour before serving.

Of course, you don't have to use 1lb cauliflower, just use what you would like to serve and adjust everything else accordingly. EASY PEASY

Brought home after a visit with my daughter in France.

Julia W

FOOTBALL AND CRICKET IN THE 1900'S

There has always been a long tradition of competitive ball games in Elmham. Here are some snippets garnered from the local newspaper. I think these all took place in the early 1900's.

Notes from North Elmham by "Player" November 1903

I was sorry to hear the visitors so unfair in their remarks to our referee, a gentleman



Community Speed Watch

NORTH ELMHAM GROUP

THE SIGNS ARE UP



5 Permanent CSW signs have been placed at either ends of the village.

The NE CSW Group will be starting their checks at the beginning of May.

The Group comprises 8 volunteers who all live in the village. Training has been completed but more volunteers would be welcome. 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 carrpaulus@aol.com.

PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY

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.

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



who we all consider absolutely fair – especially so to opposing teams.

It would be well for the Dereham Guild to remember that the office is an unthankful job at any time, let alone when the players and even linesmen pass uncalled for remarks. We hardly expected this from a club such as the St. Nicholas.

Melton Institute scratched on Friday and for what reason we could not understand. What a pity it is that fixtures are made and then cancelled.

Such clubs will, I hope, in time be boycotted.

October 14 1904 by “Player”

Elmham played Dereham Albion, Elmham winning 7–2.

Well the game continued in ding-dong fashion and a penalty was awarded to our opponents. The kick was entrusted to E. Smith, but tell it not in history, publish it not in the streets of Dereham, he failed! Yes, he shot yards wide. The

final solo came immediately, and we were conquerors by 7 goals to 2.

Our victory came as a surprise packet for Dereham Albion.

July 2 1904

Mid Norfolk Village Shield, Elmham District

Funny things happen in cricket at times. The Elmham men, after defeating Billingford had counted upon being returned group winners. The mythical secretary who had prepared a possible lodgement for the shield need no longer worry about it nor trouble his head as to whether he is Secretary on a big hitter for Elmham, lost all chance of winning the shield in the first year of the Competition by losing to Ryburgh on Saturday mainly thro’ their execrable fielding.

Janet Woodhouse

King’s Head Bowls Club

The 2023 out-door season is looming. We play from the beginning of May to September, and Keith has started getting the green ready.

During the season the Team play in 3 evening leagues, 1 afternoon league and various cup matches throughout the Mid-Norfolk area. Members can also compete for a variety of Club trophies. The Green is also open for practice sessions and social “roll-ups”.

However young or old you are, male or female, if you feel you would like to play bowls, either as part of the Team or just as a sociable way to while away an hour or two on a summer afternoon. If you would like to try your hand at playing bowls just contact Lilian on Martin or any other member to arrange a “roll-up”. We can show you how.

Contact: Lilian on 668007, Martin on 668409 or or any other member

As a club we enjoy our bowls and enjoy several Bar-B-Q’s and other social events during the year. We would love to see you.

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JUMBLE SALE REPORT

The Institute and Broom Green bowls club would like to thank you for your support at the recent jumble sale raising a fantastic £562.35 for club funds.

Due to its success, we will be holding another Jumble Sale on the 9th September 2023 10am - 1pm at the Memorial Hall, Holt Road.

Our green at the Pavilion playing field will be open for anyone interested or who would like to try green bowls on the Coronation Day celebrations between 2pm and 4pm. Everyone is welcome to come and have a go .

Ray Norman

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The meeting at the King's Head on 6th April at 8.00pm was attended by eight members, including one new member, Darren Padgett. Apologies were received from Jenny Dagless due to illness. The meeting welcomed new member, Darren Padgett who is a long serving member of the Armed Forces.

It was agreed that the new Union Flag to be purchased would be 6x4. Jenny Dagless and Eileen Bent volunteered to assist with a Tombola at the Garden Fete on 21 May and Eileen has produced approximately 50 prizes for the event.

Mike Aston then asked what else they were going to do for the Fete and the King's Coronation. No offers of any help were given as several members had arranged to do other things. He then suggested that perhaps attendance at both events should be cancelled due to lack of support as far as the Legion was concerned and this was agreed.

Next meeting will be Thursday 1st June at 8.00pm at The King's Head.

Michael Aston

Royal British Legion ADDENDUM

Further to the last meeting, I have given the matter a great deal of thought and on Monday I informed the committee and members that I have resigned with immediate effect due to lack of support, after saying in the last month's Elmham News, the branch would attend both The Coronation and the Garden Fete and other future village events.

However, I have stated that I will carry on with the Memorial to the late Bryan Tidnam which is hoped to be in place and dedicated within the next few weeks, due to time scales this will not appear in The Elmham News, but I will put posters up around the village of times and dates.

*Mike Aston
Ex-Branch Sec*



**Elmham
News**
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THE NORTH NORFOLK MODEL ENGINEERS CLUB

I'd like to introduce myself. I am Gordon Ford, Chairman of the North Norfolk Model Engineering Club who are building a raised track miniature railway at County School Station within the parish.

We have been on site since late 2019 at the invitation of the Mid Norfolk Railway as they were looking for an amenity to enhance the small works at the Station. We saw the County Council, who wanted more amenities for this part of Breckland. We had built up a good reputation with the locals and landlord at our previous site and were keen to build a facility available for our club members, visitors and local families. This summer we will again run on our track, taking members of the public for rides around what we have built so far on summer Sundays in July and August

from 11.00 to 16.00 hrs and also on the MNR Bus Day Sunday 14th of May.

As a model engineering club, we were established 30 years ago this year at High Kelling. We have senior members and junior members who are able to drive miniature trains. We do this as fund raising for the club as this keeps cost down for our meetings, repairs and maintenance to our track and locos and supporting local charities. We have a range of members with differing skills but all interested in model engineering subjects both large and small. Our members range from teenagers to 90 year olds. Anyone looking for a career in Engineering might be interested in what we are doing.

We hope you might come and see how we are getting on with our project. There is normally someone on hand to speak about our work at County School on Thursdays and Sundays. We appreciate the beauty of the natural site and have



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encouraged nature by providing owl boxes, bug hotels and homes for wildlife to maintain diversity and work closely with the MNR team to do this.

The MNR station is due to open its cafe for teas and cakes this summer. From May to October.

BRISLEY AND NORTH ELMHAM CRICKET CLUB

By the time of publication, the cricket season, weather permitting, will be under way and all the winter preparations will be exploited. Players have been refreshing their skills at net practice, members have been busily spring cleaning the clubhouse and preparing the wickets and outfield and all have been supporting fund-raising events. In addition to Premier seeds, we are also delighted to welcome new sponsors TNS and Snag Doctor. We have also launched an online club shop where you can buy playing kit and other sportswear. Please visit mrcrickethockey.com and search for Brisley and North Elmham in the Club Shop section. Fixture lists for both the Ladies and Social teams are close to completion and the provisional dates are at the end of this article.

In March a Quiz evening at Brisley, masterfully set by Dave Pearson, witnessed almost one hundred competitors raise over £800 for the Club, money which will be used to purchase a boundary rope which will eliminate the weekly task of marking out a boundary line.

As previously mentioned Coronation Day, May 6, sees the Saturday team entertain Sandringham and we invite everyone to come along from 1pm onwards to enjoy the cricket and sample the food available (Coronation Chicken included!) from Sophie Hall and her team of volunteers as well as a drink to toast the King from the Pimms and Prosecco Bar.

Finally on behalf of everyone at Brisley and North Elmham CC, we would like to offer our warmest congratulations to Ed Savage and his new wife Jo who celebrated their marriage on Easter Saturday. We wish them happiness in their new life together. To the Savage family, our sincere thanks for donating to the Club the unused stock from the wedding breakfast bar – we shall continue to raise a glass to the newlyweds throughout the season!

Mark Ballman
Chair

Ladies Team Fixtures 2023

Date	Comp	H/A	Opponents
21.5.23 (tbc)	League	A	Brooke
16.6.23	League	H	Topcroft
30.6.23	League	H	Swardeston
9.7.23	League	H	Hethersett
16.7.23	League	A	Downham/ Stow
28.7.23	League	A	Snettisham
20.8.23	League	A	Great Melton
1.9.23	League	H	Sheringham

Social Fixtures

Date	Comp	H/A	Opponents
26.5.23	Friendly	H	Adie Greef XI
9.6.23	Friendly	H	Dereham Hockey Club
22.6.23	Friendly	H	West Norfolk
7.7.23	Friendly	H	Nocturnes
21.7.23	Friendly	H	Holkham
August (tbc)	Friendly	H	Gateley



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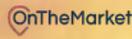


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TENNIS CLUB

Junior and adult group coaching is back underway at North Elmham Tennis Club, ahead of a busy summer.

Mondays (ages 14-16, development): 5.00–6.00 pm.

Tuesdays (ages 4–14): 3.45-4.30 pm (ages 4–7), 4.30–5.30 pm (ages 8–9) and 5.30–6.30 pm (ages 10+).

Sundays (adults): 9.00–10.00 am.

You can book here. <https://www.northelmhamtennisclub.co.uk/Coaching>. The Club has three LTA Level 3 Accredited+ coaches.

Inter-club summer league tennis starts on 3rd May, with a total of 43 matches (including 23 home fixtures) through mid-August in the Norwich City League, Castle Acre League and North Norfolk League.

Last year, the 2021-22 Norfolk Tennis Club of the Year won four of the five leagues it competes in. Details of tennis 2023 fixtures can be seen on the tennis noticeboard in the Playing Field car park.

New members are welcome, whatever your age or standard. The Club has kept subscription packages the same since April 2018. Find out more here. <https://www.northelmhamtennisclub.co.uk/Membership/Join>



One Day Closure of Footpath along the old trackbed for bridge maintenance

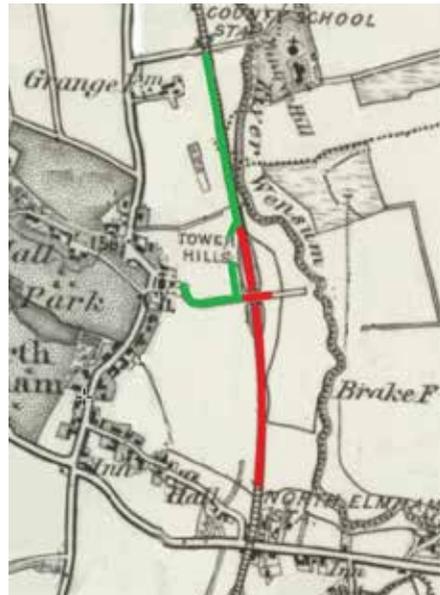
Date: Wednesday 10th May 2023

The Mid-Norfolk Railway gives notice that due to maintenance work being carried out on the bridge at the bottom of Church Lane, North Elmham, the footpath from the farm crossing just north of the buffer stop near the level crossing at North Elmham to the point where the path from Cathedral Meadows joins the trackbed near the river bridge south of County School will be closed to all members of the general public on the above date (the section marked in red on the map).

In addition, the bridge itself will be closed and there will be no public access from the bridge to the footpath

below. Alternative access to the open section of path (shown in green) can be made through Cathedral Meadows.

The MNR would like to apologise for any inconvenience this may cause. The footpath and bridge will be reopened as soon as the work has been completed and it is safe to do so.





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WIVES PLUS ALL

Mr Jim Stebbings came to the Wives Plus All April's meeting in the Memorial Hall, North Elmham and gave members an illustrated talk on "The Topsy Turvy World" of Gilbert & Sullivan".

Gilbert & Sullivan was a Victorian era theatrical musical partnership. Between 1871 and 1896 they created together fourteen comic operas. Although their productions were very successful their partnership was not always cordial, so much so that after some years in their career they split up but came back together again in later life. The Mikado, HMS Pinafore and the Pirates of Penzance are among the best known comic operas enduring international success in English speaking countries and continuing to be performed today in many professional and amateur theatres.

Dramatist W.S. Gilbert (1836-1911) wrote the libretto for these operas creating "topsy-turvy" worlds where absurd logical situations were enacted such as fairies in the company of British Political Lords, flirting was a capital offence, Gondoliers ascended to the monarchy and Pirates emerged as noblemen who had gone astray.

Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900) composed the music and contributed melodies that were and are memorable that conveyed both satirical sadness and humour.

The Producer Richard D'Oyly Carte brought Gilbert and Sullivan together and promoted their collaboration. He built the Savoy Theatre in 1881 in which to present their joint works which were then known as the Savoy Operas. He also founded the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company which performed and promoted Gilbert & Sullivan's works for over a century. Thanks go to Jim for presenting an interesting topic.

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WIVES PLUS ALL will hold their next meeting in the Memorial Hall, North Elmham on THURSDAY 11th MAY 2023 at 7.30pm when Lucy Cox will give an illustrated talk entitled "Iconic Norwich Tofu, how it's made and why it is Hairy Biker approved"

Lucy appeared recently on the Hairy Bikers' TV programme. She is the Production Manager at "Tofurei" in their Norwich City

Centre Cafe where locally grown soya is used to make Tofu for customers.

Please come along to hear all about why the Hairy Bikers visited and how the humble soya bean is transformed into wondrous things.

REFRESHMENTS will be available and there will also be a raffle.

*Ann Ferris
On behalf of Wives Plus All*

DATES TO REMEMBER: MAY

Mon 1st	Bank Holiday		
	Worthing Cream Teas	Worthing Church	2.00–4.00 pm
Thu 4th	County Council Elections	Pavilion	7.00 am–10 pm
Sat 6th	Coronation of King Charles III		
Sun 7th	Coronation Big Lunch	Playing Field and Pavilion	12.00–5.00 pm
Mon 8th	Bank Holiday		
Tue 9th	Knit and Natter	Pavilion	2.00 pm
Wed 10th	Tea at Two	Memorial Hall	2.00 pm
	Annual Meeting of the Parish Council	Pavilion	7.30 pm
Thurs 11th	Wives Plus All	Memorial Hall	7.30 pm
Fri 12th	Completed response forms for CANT to be returned	Tea Post/Post Office	Tea Post closes at 3.00 pm
Sun 14th	Mid Norfolk Bus Day	County School	
Sat 20th	Singing Workshop	St Mary's Church	2.30–4.00 pm
Sun 21st	Garden Fete	Elmham House	12–4.30 pm
Wed 24th	Mobile Library	The Heath to Orchard Close	2.30–5.20 pm
	Annual Parish Meeting	Pavilion	7.30 pm
Thu 25th	Gardening Club Peonies	Memorial Hall	7.30 pm
Mon 29th	Spring Bank Holiday		

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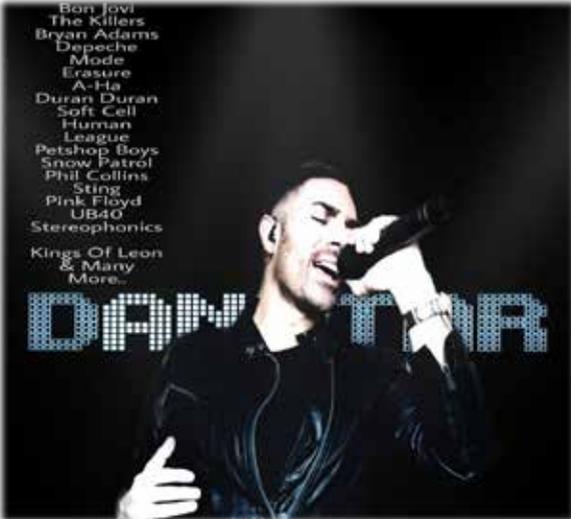
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NORTH ELMHAM WILDLIFE

Earlier this month, on 5th April, it was National Dandelion Day. I wonder how many of you even knew, let alone marked the occasion in any way. Well, depending on when you get this month's Elmham News there may be another chance to celebrate the glorious dandelion. Perhaps you will be reading this on 30th April – if so, this year's International Day of the Dandelion is today! Admittedly it seems to be a pretty niche occasion marked by just a handful of enthusiasts, but it's a good excuse for me to talk about the humble but hugely important dandelion.

So what's so great about dandelions? You may be thinking they're just weeds. You might even wage war against them, seeking to eliminate them from your garden. If so I hope to reveal another side to them that will perhaps make you think differently about them. Dandelions are interesting in their own right but they are particularly valuable for the insects that feed on their nectar and pollen. This is especially important early in the year as peak dandelion flowering time comes before many other plants have started producing nectar. In fact in early spring dandelions produce up to 90% of all the available nectar in grasslands. So when you remove the dandelions in grasslands (and that includes your lawns) you're taking away nine tenths of the vital food supply for the pollinating insects living there, including bees, butterflies, hoverflies and much more. This is why more and more people are taking part in "No Mow May" – not cutting their lawns during May and so providing a space for nature.

Apparently 90 different species of bee have been recorded visiting dandelion flowers. You're likely to find many of these in North Elmham, including the Red-tailed Bumblebee (photo 1) and Orange-



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tailed Mining Bee (photo 2). A single queen bumblebee needs 50g of nectar to start up a very small colony. Someone has worked out how much nectar is produced by a single dandelion each day and based on the flower lasting around 10 days before going to seed it's been calculated that this single bumblebee needs 2,340 dandelions!

Butterflies are among the insects you're likely to see on dandelions. Examples in spring include Brimstone (photo 3), Peacock (photo 4) and Orange-tip (photo 5, a female that lacks the males' orange wing-tips). You may also see beetles on dandelions – perhaps the most conspicuous ones being the metallic-green Swollen-thighed Beetle – you can sometimes find several on a single dandelion head (photo 6). Usually less common is the 16-spot Ladybird but I found thousands on dandelions at the Cathedral Meadows a couple of years ago (photo 7). You will have to look a little closer to see one of our most abundant beetles, the Common Pollen Beetle (photo 8), because they're so tiny they can disappear right into the flowerhead. Look out for hoverflies too, for example the Common Spotted Euceps (photo 9).

It's not just dandelion flowers that are important to insects, but also the leaves and stems. The caterpillars of many different species of moth eat dandelion leaves. The Garden Tiger (photo 10) is a large and spectacular moth that a few decades ago was a very common garden moth but is now rarely encountered round here – I've run a moth trap in my garden pretty much every night since moving here in 2014 and I've caught just four Garden Tigers here over that time. Climate change is thought to be the main driver for its disappearance, but its caterpillars eat dandelions among other things. Might our intolerance of "weeds" like dandelions be adding to the problem?



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When the dandelion flower is over, we are left with a beautiful head of dandelion seeds, the so-called dandelion clock. The transformation of a dandelion-rich meadow from golden yellow to soft white can be spectacular (photo 11). The picture of a small child holding up a dandelion clock and blowing the seeds away must be one of the most iconic images of children interacting with nature – I’m sure you have all seen photos like this, and you may well remember doing it as a child. Well it’s not just children that like dandelion clocks but they’re also a great food source for birds like Linnets (photo 12), a declining farmland finch which needs all the help it can get.

I’ve written about the creatures that use dandelions, but I haven’t said much about dandelions themselves yet. The word dandelion comes from the French words for “lion’s tooth”, a reference to the toothed leaf edges. The precise shape of these teeth is one of the things you need to look at if you want to tell the different species of dandelion apart from one another. In some wildflower books you may see dandelion listed as if it’s a single species, *Taraxacum officinalis*, but in fact the plant we call dandelion is a complex of some 250 different species – and that’s just the ones that occur in Britain and Ireland. Telling them apart from one another is a skill I haven’t yet developed, though groups of species are divided into ‘sections’ and recognising the different sections is not so difficult.

In some of my photos you might see dandelion pollen stuck to the insects. That is of course how insects pollinate plants, transferring pollen from one plant to another (although some dandelions are able to reproduce without pollination). It is abundantly clear to anyone who has been interested in insects for more than a decade or two that our insects are declining at an alarming rate. If you’re





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not already a fan of dandelions you might think it doesn't matter if there aren't so many insects pollinating dandelions, but most of these insects don't just pollinate dandelions – so it isn't just dandelions that suffer as our insects disappear. A large proportion of our plants, including over a third of our crops, depend on these insects visiting them to transfer pollen from plant to plant. And then there's all the other services insects offer us, like controlling pests, decomposing fallen leaves and dead animals (imagine if they just stayed there) and providing food for our larger better-loved wildlife. Humankind literally needs insects to survive, and yet we still treat them as pests, and the foodplants they depend on as weeds.

I hope after reading this you will have developed a greater appreciation of these marvellous plants and the biodiversity they support. Why not go out now and see what you can find on the dandelions near you? Most of the insects will be easiest to find on warm sunny days. Get in touch if you have anything interesting to share (email appleton.dave@googlemail.com, phone 668431 or message me via Twitter at @ElmhamMeadows).

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INGREDIENTS

Filling	Pastry
125ml milk	125g plain flour
175ml double cream	Pinch of salt
2 medium eggs	25g cold butter, diced
1 tablespoon chopped fresh tarragon,	25g lard
Salt and pepper	2 tablespoons milk
100g grated cheddar cheese,	Or 1 x 250g block of ready-made shortcrust pastry
180g cooked spinach, lightly chopped	
60g cooked broad beans or soya beans	

METHOD

To make the pastry... Sieve the flour and salt into a bowl; add the fats and rub the mixture together using your finger tips until you get a sandy, breadcrumb like texture. Add the milk a little at a time and bring the ingredients together into a dough. Cover and allow to rest in the fridge for 30-45 minutes

Lightly flour the work surface and roll out the pastry to a circle a little larger than the top of the tin and approximately 5mm thick.

Line the tin with the pastry, taking care not to have any holes or the mixture could leak. Cover and rest for a further 30 minutes in the fridge.

Preheat the oven to 190°C.

Line the pastry case with greaseproof paper, add baking beans and bake blind for 15 minutes, before removing the greaseproof paper and baking beans.

Reduce the oven temperature to 160°C.

Beat together the milk, cream, eggs, herbs and seasoning.

Scatter 1/2 of the grated cheese in the blind-baked base, top with the chopped spinach and beans and herbs, then pour over the liquid mixture.

If required gently give the mixture a delicate stir to ensure the filling is evenly dispersed but be careful not to damage the pastry case.

Sprinkle over the remaining cheese. Place into the oven and bake for 20-25 minutes until set and lightly golden.

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ST MARY'S CHURCH

This joyful Eastertide

We start the month with May Day bringing festivities and a bank holiday! May is a beautiful and welcome transition between the seasons with the last month of Spring, and with summer just around the corner. Bird song is in full force and the wild flowers bring colour to the roadsides. Insects are plentiful now with the humming of bumblebees, the bright flash of the holly blue butterfly, the presence of hawk moths and dragonflies and maybe an encounter with impressive maybugs or cockchafers. On a May evening you could be enchanted by the song of a nightingale.

Flowers of the month include the lily of the valley, cowslips and of course the flowers of the hawthorn otherwise known as mayflower. This flower heralds the start of the warmer weather, as reminded by the old saying "ne'er cast a clout till may be out." So now you should be safe to put those warm clothes into storage. However, is it best to remember the old saying that it's very unlucky to bring mayflowers indoors.

According to legend, the Glastonbury Thorn is a may tree said to have sprung from the staff of Joseph of Arimathea when he visited England to set up the very first Christian church here. For the church, this month celebrates Eastertide and the resurrection of Jesus. Eastertide started last month on Easter Sunday and runs for fifty days up to Pentecost which this year is on the last Sunday of the month. Pentecost, or Whitsunday, proclaims the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ. Just cause then for celebration and another bank holiday.

Of course we cannot forget that this month brings us the Coronation of King Charles III involving street parties and

revelry, along with, yes, another bank holiday. We really do have a lot of reasons to enjoy this month!

Yours in Faith

*Colin Ferris
Authorised Worship Assistant,
Heart of Norfolk Benefice.*

MORE 2 LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

A key moment in our British history is finally upon us. After much talk and speculation the Coronation of King Charles III has arrived, and with it, an opportunity to celebrate and get together as communities. There has been much controversy surrounding his coronation - both within his family, and his relationship with the Church of England. However, at the coronation, King Charles III will commit to a 'life of service'.

For Christians, the idea of a leader who serves, rather than lording it over those of lower status is shown most clearly and perfectly in the person of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 22.24-27 Jesus said. 'A dispute... arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But he said to them, 'The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves... I am among you as one who serves.'

May our Lord God guide King Charles III and the Queen Consort Camilla, by His Holy Spirit, and bless him with wisdom, discernment, and humility.

Every blessing,

*Anne-Marie Fewell
Pastor, More2Life Christian Fellowship*

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WORTHING NEWS

Our Annual Easter Duck Race on the 9th April, was an amazing day. In recent days we had been dodging rainy days but thankfully we were blessed with sunshine all day. This clearly encouraged everyone to come out and join in the fun day to watch their sponsored duck reach the finishing line.

We greeted in the region of 120 adults and around 20 + children. Most visitors arrived on foot, some cycled or scooter and of course the little ones in pushchairs or on piggy-back.

Our winners Virginia, Hannah, Millie, Ginnie, Finley, John, Penny, Liam, Seb and Poppy all scooped an Easter Egg.

Everyone helped raise just over £400 which as many will know; our church heating requires replacement costing

almost £20K. Therefore, your generous donations will certainly have to work hard!

St Margaret's Church would also like to thank all our volunteers that made this such a successful day, in particular, our thanks to Ben & Will in the kayak - Duck Race Marshals. Thank you all and hope to see you next year!

Pilgrim Cross

Worthing once again welcomed Pilgrim Cross (previously known as Student Cross) to our church on Maundy Thursday.

30+ young people / students walked in very wet conditions and so when they arrived, St Margaret's were able to greet them with warm drinks and muffins and to prepare them for the next leg of their journey.

The pilgrimage is a way of celebrating Easter, and they walk every year to Walsingham - an ancient site of pilgrimage in Norfolk. They live and



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In Aid of Church Fabric Fund.

For further information, please contact.
Celia on 01362 668928

Church Service Dates for May

Sunday the 7th Holy Communion led by The Rev'd Sally Kimmis

Sunday the 14th, a special Holy Communion Service led by The Archdeacon of Lynn, The Venerable Catherine Dobson

Sunday the 28th an Iona family service led by Licensed Lay Minister Norman Johnson

All services starting at 10.30am followed by refreshments and local banter.

PLEASE NOTE – ANNUAL ELECTION OF CHURCH WARDEN(S) ON THE 7TH MAY, PLEASE COME ALONG AND SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL WORTHING PAROCHIAL CHURCH COMMITTEE.



**CALLING ALL
CANT SUPPORTERS**

The Campaign Against New Town (CANT) are asking if people can display their posters (opposite) in as many places as possible eg. local windows, shops, cafes, pubs, churches, village halls and notice boards, in fact anywhere and everywhere!

Whilst the Breckland Council public consultation ends on May 19th, it is important to ensure everyone remains aware that the threat remains until the Council eventually announces that the site has not been allocated, which could be a very long time. So CANT would like us to display the posters over the summer as well.

Please email John Hoskins
campaignagainstown@gmail.com
if you would like some posters.

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Heart of Norfolk Group Services for May

7th May – 5th Sunday of Easter

- 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

14th May – 6th Sunday of Easter

- 10.30 am Bawdeswell The 10.30
10.30 am Foulsham Holy Communion
10.30 am Stibbard Morning Praise
10.30 am Worthing Holy Communion

21st May – 7th Sunday of Easter

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

28th May – Pentecost

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

www.heartofnorfolkchurches.org.uk

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*To advertise in the Elmham News please contact
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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: Jenny Cunningham,
PAGE 7: Jenny Cunningham,
PAGE 19: Gordon Ford,
PAGES 31, 33 & 35: Dave Appleton

North Elmham Parish Council

Chair: Jennie Borgnis

Vice Chair: Martin Phillips

Clerk: Kevin J Webb
01328 855046
northelmhampc@hotmail.co.uk

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Group Member ●

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Nick Markwell	☎ 668 557									
Martin Phillips	☎ 668 409							●		
Michael Rayner	☎ 667 859							✓		
Colin Smith	☎ 668 585									

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✓	●									

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						●		●	✓	
		✓					●			●
								✓		
							●		✓	
✓								●		

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

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

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Norfolk County Councillor	Bill Borrett	01362 860200
Member of Parliament	george.freeman.mp@parliament.uk	01953 600617
North Elmham VC School	Ms Victoria McConnell, Head Teacher	01362 668318
Chairman of School Governors	Robert Plant chairofgov@northelmham.norfolk.sch.uk	
Memorial Institute	Bookings: Ann Ferris p.ferris84@yahoo.com	01362 668580
Pavilion	Bookings: Ann Ferris p.ferris84@yahoo.com	01362 668580
Eastgate Centre	Heather Caley	01362 668245
Breckland Dog Warden	Confidential message or texts 07771 617417	01362 858500
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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
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Church Wardens

Elmham	Michael Newey	668424
Worthing	Celia Daniel	668928



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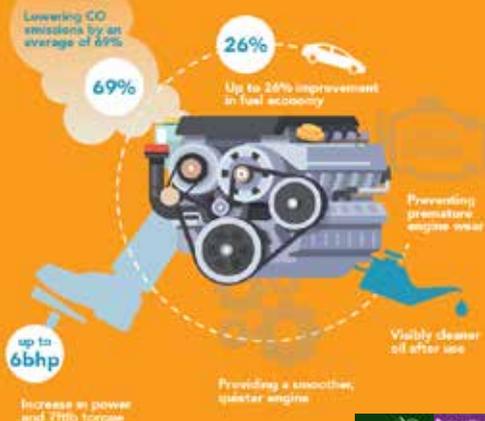
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