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VILLAGE MAGAZINE**

OCTOBER 2026

**NORTH ELMHAM
VIEWS & NEWS**

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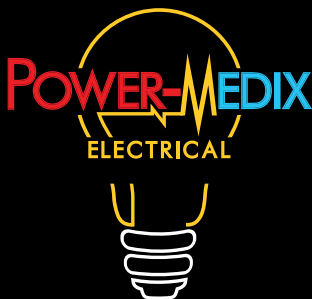
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EDITORIAL

As we head in Autumn and our village settles into a new rhythm, this issue comes with more than the usual mixture of news, dates, and local updates. In recent weeks, our community has said goodbye to several much-loved residents, and it feels only right to pause and acknowledge the sadness felt by families, friends, neighbours, and all those whose lives they touched.

Our village magazine often records the ordinary pattern of community life; meetings held, events planned, achievements celebrated, and notices shared. But they also remind us that a village is made up of people, and that each life leaves its mark in quiet, lasting ways: in conversations at the gate, years of service, kindnesses offered, friendships formed, and memories carried by others.

A huge CONGRATULATIONS to Brunhilde Neal of Station Road, who celebrated her 100th birthday in August. What a wealth of memories she must have, from her childhood in Germany, meeting her dear George and coming to live in a strange country. Have you written them down?

As we move towards, dare we say it Christmas! there will still be opportunities to gather, support one another, and take part in the familiar activities that help keep village life connected. It is particularly good to see the Young Farmers and the Countrysiders flourishing and enjoying their activities, bringing energy, friendship, and encouragement to our wider community.

We also send our heartfelt thanks to the Knitters, whose good work over the years has brought comfort, colour, and practical help to so many. Their efforts have been a lovely example of quiet service within village life, and we very much hope the group will continue. Particular thanks must go to Eileen for all she has done to encourage, organise, and support this much-valued part of our community.

We would also like to say a sincere thank you to all our contributors, and to everyone who has supported the magazine with financial donations. Your generosity helps keep the publication going and enables us to continue sharing news, notices, and stories from across the village.

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

NEXT DEADLINE: 14TH OCTOBER

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

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NEWS FROM SCHOOL

It has been a lovely start to the new school year, and we have been delighted with how well the children have settled back into school. Classrooms are once again full of enthusiasm, curiosity and the familiar sounds of children learning, playing and enjoying time together. We have been particularly pleased to see the children embracing our school values and beginning the year with such a positive attitude.

The beginning of term was also marked by sadness as we shared the news of the death of Rev Sally. Sally was a much-loved and valued part of our school community, and her warmth, kindness and faith touched the lives of many children and staff. She will be greatly missed.

Our older pupils have been reflecting on their memories of Sally and the impact she had on our school. They have created their own prayers, expressing their thoughts, gratitude and sadness, and took these to the church to share. It was a very special opportunity for the children to remember Sally, celebrate her life and consider the lasting influence she had on our school community.

As we begin a new academic year, we are grateful for the continued support and prayers of our parish community. We look forward to another year of learning, growing and flourishing together.

A LITTLE BIT OF NORFOLK SQUIT !

"I lorst mu glasses" said the old Norfolk man "hev ya sin em?"

Wife, "No darling" (she wanted to be posher than her husband) "Don't worry the Hyter Sprites must have hid them".

Eventually the glasses reappeared. "I've found 'em, they' re on the tearble. Thank ya Hyter Sprites" he said.

What are Hyter Sprites I hear you ask. I must admit I've not heard of them in the Elmham area but in North Norfolk is where I'm from, they played up and according to our Dad, they haunted Norfolk and Lincolnshire.

These were Dad's words, "Don't go near the pits (ponds to the non Norfolks). The Hyter Sprites will push you in, and you will drown" and "Don't go out after dark the Hyter Sprites will catch you and take you away".

You see the Hyter Sprites couldn't be trusted because they could be evil at times. Did we listen? Of course not!

Whether there are still Hyter Sprites about in North Norfolk I really don't know but with so many holiday makers and incomers for them to annoy, they must be very confused.com!

If you don't believe in faeries or Hyter Sprites please check Google (What are Hyter Sprites?) you'll find they are real... so watch out!

Fare ye well together. Keep a troshing.

From Juliana Rockcake.

Ed's note: Hyter Sprites are "A kind of beneficent fairy in a lane called Blow Hill, Great Melton, which was prettily overshadowed with beech, Not to be confused with Hayter Spirits – lawn mowers!



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COUNTRYSIDERS

We've had a busy start to our new Countrysiders year!

On Monday 7th September, we kicked off our programme with a trip to Hautbois Activity Centre, where paddleboarding and kayaking were on the agenda. A group of 21 Countrysiders and 3 adult leaders enjoyed paddleboarding, while 13 Countrysiders and 3 adult leaders took to the kayaks. A wonderful, fun-filled evening followed, with games taking place both on the paddleboards and in the kayaks. There were plenty of laughs, splashes and, of course, some very wet children and adults! Everyone eventually disembarked the water tired but happy, after what can only be described by some of our Countrysiders as a "slay night" — which I have been informed by a young member means good!

We were also approached through the Norfolk Young Farmers & Countrysiders office in July about meeting up with a farming family from Nebraska, USA, who were visiting the area for a few days.

Last week, some of our Countrysiders had the opportunity to meet the family. While the adults chatted, shared stories and compared life on farms on opposite sides of the Atlantic, the children enjoyed a couple of games of ten-pin bowling together. The family attend a youth group back home which is very similar to Countrysiders and, like our group, it is run by parents. We are looking forward to keeping in touch and swapping photos of our meetings. It was a fantastic evening and a great opportunity to make some new friends across the pond!

So, what does the next month hold for Countrysiders, I hear you ask?

By the time this goes to print, we will have taken part in the Hunstanton Soapbox Derby on Sunday 20th September. This year,

we have two teams racing, with one team aged 10–12 and the other aged 13–16.

Our meeting on Monday 21st September at North Elmham Memorial Hall, will have been our Welcome Meeting with some fun games and talk about what Countrysiders have planned for the year ahead.

We're looking forward to another exciting year of fun, friendship and countryside adventures!

Interested in Joining North Elmham Countrysiders?

If you have a child aged 10–16 who is interested in meeting new people, trying new activities and learning more about the countryside and farming, we would love to hear from you!

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

Some meetings may have an additional cost, but parents will always be informed in advance.

Email: north_elmham_cs@norfolkyfc.co.uk

OH WHAT A SURPRISE

Today I thought it was about time I should check the oil and water in my car. Well what a surprise. After lifting the bonnet there stuck beside the battery was a dead rat. Very decomposed. Rubber gloves on, a poke with a stick, then a wriggle and a pull out it came. A passenger I knew nothing of and we must have travelled miles together.

It did look very sad with very little fur and very little of everything else. Poor thing.

Julia Williamson



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BRISLEY AND NORTH ELMHAM CRICKET CLUB

Pictured is the Legends reunion that was the brainchild of Rob Drew, whose father John had been one of the founder members of the Brisley Club and one of the builders of the first clubhouse. Rob played for Brisley himself as a young man before emigrating to USA. He returned a couple of years ago and has rejoined the joint club and plays a very active role in looking after the ground as well as umpiring. His father and a couple of other stalwarts had been down to watch a game or two and this inspired Rob to plan a get together for former players of both clubs.

I think Rob himself was taken aback by the response that Saturday morning which coincided with the newly set up mini section as well as a first team home game. It was a great opportunity for former teammates to catch up and share memories. All agreed that this should not be a one off and plans are already in hand for an event in 2027.

The League season ended well for the Club as the First team showed their true capabilities by winning their final 2 league games to ensure Division 1 cricket next season. The Seconds unfortunately lost their last game to the weather but the Ladies also enjoyed victory in their final match.

August 15th

1sts v Malayalees (H) League Malayalees 387-7 B&NE 247. B&NE lost by 140 runs

A tough day in the field for the hosts as they conceded over 8 runs per over. In reply there was a great innings by MoM Noah Poole to take B&NE to maximum batting points to add to their 4 bowling points.

Black Shuck MoM: Noah Poole for his 77 runs.

2nds v Horsford (A) League B&NE 286-6 Horsford 289-6 B&NE lost by 4 wickets

The second team's highest score of the season with a half-century for Daimon Wheedon and Archie Thompson cruelly falling just one short of a century was not enough as for the second week in a row they fell victim to an unbeaten century this time from the young opposition

CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS



GROUP

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Bowls - King's Head
Brisley & North Elmham Cricket Club
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Elmham Football Club
Elmham News
Elmham Surgery Patient Participation
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Young Farmers

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Millie Fisher, fishermillie15@gmail.com

wicketkeeper. There were 3 wickets for Taylor Bidewell.

Black Shuck MoM: Archie Thompson for his 99 runs

August 16th

Ladies v Aylsham (A) League B&NE 125-5
Aylsham 126-1 B&NE lost by 9 wickets

Some good contributions from the top 3 batters set a reasonable target for the hosts but a 99 run opening partnership proved decisive and Aylsham eased home with 8 balls to spare.

Black Shuck PoM: Sophie Hall for her 44 runs

Aug 22nd

1sts v Hardingham (A) League Hardingham 71 B&NE 72-3 B&NE won by 7 wickets

A massive win for the visitors as this comprehensive victory lifted them out of the relegation places with just one fixture remaining. On a lively pitch, Hardingham had few answers to a potent bowling attack with all 4 bowlers getting wickets. B&NE were wobbling a little at 16-3 but a fine partnership between Noah Poole and George Bridges saw them home comfortably.

Black Shuck MoM: Euan Mayfield for his devastating figures of 4-1 off 4 overs and Noah Poole for his composed unbeaten 28

August 29th

1sts v Castle Acre (H) League Castle Acre 134-3 B&NE 137-3 Won by 7 wickets

With heavy rain forecast and both sides eager to play for different reasons, it was agreed to play a 20 over match with an early start. The visitors, in contention for promotion, looked at one point to be heading to 150 plus but Mayfield's 2 wickets one courtesy of a brilliant Tuthill stumping put the brakes on. B&NE who needed victory to be certain of avoiding relegation were positive in the run chase and despite losing an early wicket powered home with a century partnership between

Jex (62) and Fordham(52no) with Callum Futter adding some lusty blows at the end.

Black Shuck MoM: Josh Jex for his momentum bringing runs

2nds v Great Yarmouth (A) League Great Yarmouth 117-3 B&NE 19-0 Match abandoned

August 30th

Ladies v Denver (A) League B&NE 135-3
Denver 126-4 B&NE won by 9 runs

A win on the road to conclude the League season.

Mark Ballman, Chair

NORTH ELMHAM YOUNG FARMERS CLUB

September marks the start of a new year in the Young Farmer's calendar; we take a break over the summer while those who farm get on with harvest. We have elected a new committee, started preparations for the new year and look forward to another exciting year.

Following success at the Mixed Hockey Nationals last July, gaining a second place, we are looking forward to this year's competitions and events. We also have chosen our charity for the year; Norfolk and Waveney Mind, we are excited to start fundraising for this amazing charity.

Our first meeting back was a trip to the arcades at Wells-next-the-sea followed by a night of team games at the Kings Head for our new members night.

If you think young farmers might be for you, we meet at the Kings Head, North Elmham at 7:30pm every Wednesday. All information can be found on our Instagram or Facebook pages @northehmamyfc

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GARDENING CLUB

We finally made it to Fuller's Mill, near Bury St Edmunds on a cloudy but warm afternoon. The visit had been postponed from earlier in July when it was baking hot and would not have been as enjoyable.

The recent rains had totally refreshed everywhere, and we were delighted to see stunning beds of shrubs still in full bloom. It had been National Colchicum Day the day before, so lots of colchicums popping up all over the beds.

The whole garden was lovely and not too large to occupy the whole afternoon with a break for excellent refreshment on a lovely lawn or under tall trees. Plenty of water is encompassed in the garden coming from the River Lark and the Culford Stream. There were also plenty of seats placed at strategic points in the garden, for us to rest and feel the ambience of the garden.

I think I can safely say that we all enjoyed our visit and would recommend it, especially as it is not too far away. Thank you Ray for organising, it was a good choice.

By the time the magazine comes out, we will have had our September meeting with Dr Ian Bedford talking on Companion Planting.

October will see us visiting the Medlar Orchard at Eastgate near Aylsham and we need to be there by 1.30pm. Details will have been given out on 24th September.

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ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

It is with great sadness that we learnt of the passing of Sally our Rector, the branch sends its condolences to her family, friends and associates, she will be greatly missed.

The AGM was held on the 1st September at the Kings Head and as there was a group of diners in the restaurant, we held the meeting outside. All committee members resigned and by unanimous vote all then reinstated.

The main points raised were for Remembrance Sunday, and as the light was fading fast with the aid of mobile phone torches, we ended the meeting.

Our next meeting is Tuesday the 3rd of November, 8pm King's Head.

FAKENHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

Fakenham Choral Society will perform John Rutter's 'When Icicles Hang' and Bob Chilcott's 'Christmas Night' at its Christmas Concert on Saturday 12th December at 5.30 pm in Fakenham Parish Church. The concert will also include carols from the choir and some for audience participation.

Rosemary Dear, Chair of the Society, said: 'The two short works were chosen as both are seasonal but contrasting in content and style. Bob Chilcott's, 'On Christmas Night', written in 2010, is very Christmassy, being a delightful compilation of well known carols and will complement other carols the choir will perform.

'John Rutter's 'When Icicles Hang', written in 1975, is a very seasonal but a more secular work, reflecting winter themes rather than Christmas itself. Rutter has set to music a variety of poems from some 14th to 16th century poets, including Shakespeare, ('Icicles' and 'Blow, blow thou winter wind'), Campion (Winter Nights) and several Anon's, including 'Good Ale!'

Tickets are £10, with under 18s free (but do require tickets) and will be available here: www.fakenhamchoralsociety.org/forthcoming-1

Shirley Collyer, Publicity, Fakenham Choral Society, 07711 142 147

KNIT AND NATTER

Having recently stepped down from my position as organiser of the North Elmham Knit Natter group, I have been asked to write a short history of how it all started, 14 years ago.

I had answered an advert on How to Knit for Charity and found myself, with five other knitters in Linda Brown's front room complete with bags of wool, knitting needles and patterns. We were immediately swept along by Linda's compelling enthusiasm. Some of us in the North Elmham group remember how she came to give us a talk at the Wives Club and so, by November 13th 2012, I had organised our first meeting of eight knitters in the Pavilion. Linda was there supporting us and paid our very first rental.

Our group has continued meeting every month for the last 14 years. In our first year we received a boost, financially, with a £100 donation from the Quiz Group at The Teapost. We also used The Teapost for our meetings, but after the break for COVID, we decided to move back to the Pavilion, and were still, thankfully, paying the £10 rent as before. I have kept a monthly record and have made a list of organisations which have received money from us. Up to date the total is over 45, some many times over, and range from hospitals, care homes, local groups and even countries i.e. Ukraine. These donations amount to a total of £6,050, which coming from a group of 10 to 12 knitters is quite an achievement, even if it did take 14 years. I will take this opportunity to thank all our lovely members of the group, past and present, for all their hard work, supervising the



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games which made so much money during the North Elmham Fetes and Fairs.

As for Linda, she, of course, has gone from strength to strength, and had become famous for her hard work and enthusiasm, especially for winning an enormous lottery award, whilst still finding time to visit and assisting new or struggling groups. The organisation now has a membership of 2,742 in Norfolk and her ideas are spreading further afield to Suffolk and Essex and are now known as Knitters and Stitchers. To date there are 148 groups, large and small, meeting in libraries, village halls, care homes, pubs etc. There are also 5 resource centres, not only providing equipment and yarn, at much reduced prices, but have the means to send knitted items to communities all over the world. Of course, there is a web site, Norfolk Knitters and Stitchers: About Us. I have been proud to represent them and can honestly say it has been a very enjoyable hobby.

Ann Ferris has volunteered to act as our treasurer and has offered to become the newsletter correspondent. The group have to face some problems which have to be solved but everyone is being very supportive and are looking to the future.

Eileen Cotterill (now just a knitter)

Ed's note: you will never be just a knitter, Eileen. I was one of those who joined in the early days, and it was yours and Linda's enthusiasm that fired the original group. That the group has survived Covid and many changes of knitters and thrived and raised so much money, is down to you – THE KNITTER.

Thank you for all your hard work, not forgetting your willing husband, you have brought meaning into the lives of a lot of ladies and joy to the recipients of all those blankets, scarves, gloves and toys.

Please Note: Knit and Natter will be meeting in the Eastgate Centre on 6th October AND NOT the Pavilion.



A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Brunhilde Neal celebrated her 100th birthday on 21st August 2026.

She had an open house for friends and family, followed by a fabulous meal for family at the Railway Arms in North Elmham.

*Veronica and Karin
(daughters)*

NORTH ELMHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 5 AUGUST 2026

The following information is taken from the Draft minutes and may be expanded where the editors feel more explanation is necessary. The full official minutes can be viewed in the Post Office and on the Community website once they have been approved.

Those Councillors Present Were:

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

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

Apologies for absence: Mr. C. Smith, Mr. G. Bambridge (District Councillor) and Mr. P. Carr (County Councillor)

Public Participation

The following comments were made and questions asked:-

(i) It was mentioned that a dung heap in Eastgate Street has shown recent significant growth insize with an ever-increasing number of flies. Mr. Markwell agreed to contact the owners andit was also felt that the Environmental Health Department should be appraised of the situation.

(ii) A parishioner said that the company he works for is recruiting staff and would like to putsome posters on the parish notice boards. He was advised to make contact with ElmhamNews who owns and maintains the boards.

(iii) It was felt that there was an increased level of speeding down Holt Road from the church. Asecond build-out is again under consideration and the Chairman has recently contactedHighways.

UPDATED INFORMATION AND MATTERS ARISING

Update from Broadland Housing

Mr. Rayner reported that there has been a response from Mr. Mumford-Smith regarding somequestions asked, most of which have not been answered.

Land Management Matters

Village Green: The climbing frame has received some unwelcome attention resulting in all four legs being badly damaged. Repairs are to be carried out as a priority. Some dog owners have been taking their animals into the Play Area. This is strictly forbidden and a suitable sign emphasising this point will be erected. A bin from the Pavilion will be repositioned in this area, if it is considered suitable after being inspected.

Cathedral Ruins: A notification regarding work on three trees had been received from the District Council. It was recognised that it was disappointing that no information had come from English Heritage. The owner of a neighbouring property has drawn attention to overhanging branches. English Heritage are to be advised of this matter. Mr. Fitzalan Howard is to investigate the matter of the rampaging ginger cat and the distress resulting from his antics.

Millennium Wood (and Jubilee Wood):

Mr. Sowinski reported that the gate has recently been left unlocked because leaving it closed would, in all probability, have resulted in it being broken. He will continue to make repairs to the fence from time to time, as required. It was stressed that the original purpose of the fence was to enable the wood to become established. This objective has been achieved. It was proposed by Mr. Rayner, seconded by Mr. Gee, that there would no undertaking to maintain the fencing indefinitely because of the increasing cost. Six members were in favour of this

proposal, two were against and there was one abstention. It was agreed to report this decision in Elmham News.

Mid-Norfolk Railway Matters: The Mid-Norfolk Railway has accepted that the path from the buffers to the County School is not permissive or a right of way. Discussions are to commence with MNR in the near future regarding the prospect of having a permissive path from Station Road to the buffers. Fencing may be needed.

Prince William Wood: An anonymous e-mail had been received mentioning various matters. No response has been given.

Allotments

Mr. Phillips said that the last remaining allotment has been let and there is now a waiting list. Water is being used carefully.

Street Lights

There has not yet been a response from Gary Mower of Orchard Homes, the developers, regarding two solar lights in Boars Hill.

Highway Matters

The need for a sign stating "Boars Hill" at the entrance to the estate has been acknowledged by Breckland Council. The bollard outside the doctors' surgery has again been demolished and duly reported.

Pavilion and Playing Field

It was agreed by all to request Breckland Council to move the commercial waste bin away from the car park area and to leave it unlocked. This will enable it to be more readily utilised by those hiring the Pavilion.

Boars Hill Update

There is no signal available for the electricity vehicle charging point. No complaints have been received in respect of the service not working. In the circumstances it was agreed to decommission the machine. An estimate to establish the cost involved will be obtained from Electrode.

A parishioner's request to place a sign on Boars Hill regarding the conduct of dog owners was fully discussed. It was felt, on balance, that the request should be declined as members did not wish to set a precedent for similar signs to be erected in other areas of the village.

Risk Management – considerations and updates

Notification has been received from SAAA (Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd). They are responsible for appointing external auditors such as PKF Littlejohn. They will be introducing a new Digital

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AGAR Portal which is expected to be available for the 2027 AGAR submissions. Further information will follow in due course.

Overview of Parish Council Financial Situation

The new County Councillor, Mr. Paul Carr, has asked if the Parish Council has any plans to utilise funding opportunities. The intention is to explore the possibility of a second build-out on Holt Road at the northern end. He also asked if it was the intention to use any of the funds held for the benefit of local residents (see Local Plan update re Village Hall).

Defibrillators

Miss Ferris reported that there had been a few temporary difficulties but she is confident that she has matters under control.

Local Plan Update

The latest consultation is under way and runs from 31st July to 16th September. Comments can only be made as to the legal compliance and "soundness" of the Plan at this stage, before it goes to an Inspector for examination.

On 3rd July, Breckland Council published the latest draft of their new Local Plan which resulted in some surprise and disappointment. This announced that Broadland Housing will be looking to build at Back Lane North and Back Lane South, (combined into one site named NEL2), 75 houses in total, but will not be including the Station Yard site. In addition, a further site south of Eastgate Street called NEL1 is included in the draft Plan for 30 houses, put forward by a different developer. This latter site is one which the Parish Council has objected to throughout the Local Plan process, while it has favoured the brownfield Station Yard site. Mr. Rayner will draft a response and arrange for an update to be placed in Elmham News.

New Village Hall

The Chairman expressed frustration with a project that had commenced with discussions some 18 months ago. Little positive progress has been made in that time. Mr. Fitzalan Howard suggested a survey of all residents to establish whether or not there is a general desire for a new village hall. Mr. Phillips has made contact with Jon Barnard, Director of Greyfriars Project Management, with a view to having a discussion regarding the best way to proceed.

Fencing & Gate at Millennium Wood

Please refer to Millenium Wood and Jubilee Wood report.

North Elmham Football Club and the Future

The Football Club had advised that they only had one team in the season 2025/2026, although the League's website indicated that they had a reserves team taking part in the Central and South Norfolk League, Division 3, with 20 games played. There is not going to be a second team this season. This information is confirmed by the Club's Facebook page.

The CCTV cameras are to be adjusted to cover the referee's hut. All formal playing is to be suspended due to the current drought and unprecedented hot weather conditions, although permission to use will be granted in exceptional circumstances. A cutting schedule for the coming season is to be agreed and put in place.

All agreed that the Football Club should have use of the facilities for another year with a charge of £50 per game (league, cup and friendlies) but with no exclusive use of the building. The rental of the building (inside and out) will be at a rate of £15 per hour.

Report from District and County Councillors

Reports received from District and County Councillors were circulated to members in advance of the meeting and can be viewed on the website.elmham.org.uk.

Financials

Expenditure

Resolved to approve the following Accounts for payment, expenditure approved by all members.:-

E-on Next (Pavilion from 01/06/26 to 30/06/26) – (d/d) £116.11

Drax (electricity for street lights – 01/06/26 to 30/06/26) – (d/d) £219.75

E-on Next (electricity for Boars Hill– 01/06/26 to 30/06/26)–(d/d) £9.45

Breckland Council (Business waste– 16/06/26 to 15/07/26) –(d/d) £53.30

D. Tyson (Pavilion cleaning for July) £152.52

K. Webb (Clerk's pay for July) £900.67

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

Anglian Water (playing field from 20/04/26 to 19/07/26) £152.66

Anglian Water (Pavilion from 20/04/26 to 19/07/26) £180.86

Mrs. S. L. Hines (key keeping – March to July (inc)) £156.25

Playsafety Ltd (annual play area inspections) £204.00

Edit Websites Ltd (annual website fee– hosting/support)–(d/d) £250.00

Groundscape (grounds maintenance – June and July) £1,076.00

Schedule of Income

North Elmham Football Club (hire of facilities) £100.00

North Elmham Football Club (hire of facilities) £125.00

Rural Payments Agency (Basic Payment Scheme) £58.69

Bank Balances (at 03/08/26)

Current a/c: £69,809.92

Business Premium a/c: £51,708.00

Cambridge Building Society: £84,092.62

Planning Applications and Determinations

Applications

- i) Proposed single storey rear extension – 25 Eastgate Street - PL/2026/0881/HOU.
- ii) Tree work (tillia) - PL/2026/1012/TCA – 49 Holt Road - information only.
- iii) Removal of apple tree – PL/2026/0923/TCA – 43 Eastgate Street – information only.
- iv) Deferred decision regarding 55 Eastgate Street – PL/2025/1285/FMIN – update on progress.
- v) Tree work – Anglo Saxon Cathedral, Church Lane – PL/2026/0987/TCA – information only.

Correspondence

- 1) Advice from FM Promotions Ltd regarding the Field Manoeuvres Festival due to take place at Sennowe Park from 21st to 24th August.
- 2) Notification from Breckland Council of two Town and Parish Forums being held on 21st September (Great Dunham) and 30th September (Little Ellingham).
- 3) Letter of introduction from the new Deputy Leader of Norfolk County Council.
- 4) Local Plan consultation meetings taking place at various locations between August 17th and 9th September.
- 5) Email from the Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd (SAAA) advising that a new Digital AGAR portal will be introduced for annual submissions.
- 6) Hard copies of RoSPA Play Area inspection reports from Playsafety Ltd.

REVEREND SALLY KIMMIS

It is with great sadness that I announce the death of our dear Rector Sally whose ministry included writing this letter for the Elmham News for many years. Our sadness is mixed with deep thankfulness for her ministry here as Rector of the Heart of Norfolk Benefice in the Diocese of Norwich.

Sally had been feeling unwell and received a diagnosis of cancer in the middle of July. After a few weeks at home she was taken back into hospital and then on to the Priscilla Bacon Lodge (PBL). I was able to be with her as she died peacefully on the 2nd of September. Sally was immensely grateful for the care showed to her in the last weeks by her caring team, the hospital staff at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital and the wonderful staff and facilities at the PBL.

Sally was also inspired and lifted by the outpouring of love and prayer received from members of the church family, neighbours and friends both in North Elmham and from Sally's group of parishes that make up the Heart of Benefice. During a brief stay at home Sally was able to enjoy a lunch party in the Rectory garden in the late summer sun where friends brought plates of food and cakes.

Whilst home Sally jotted down the various expressions of loving support she had received and for which she was grateful.

Sally accepted her diagnosis grace and a profound dignity which inspired all who saw her in her final weeks.

The Bishop of Lynn, the Rt Revd Dr Jane Steen said; "Sally saw the benefice grow, become a team ministry and then be reshaped as a smaller benefice again. She was a very private person, a thoughtful preacher and a priest of deep spirituality. In the last weeks of her life, following a completely unexpected terminal cancer diagnosis, she exercised a remarkable ministry of joy and reconciliation,



receiving outstanding care from the benefice and unfailingly grateful for all the blessings God had given her. May she rest in peace and rise in glory."

Our church family are volunteering to do what we can to keep things going as best we can without Sally and it's a steep learning curve! Please do continue to watch usual sources throughout the group for Church service times et cetera. Please forgive any errors and omissions which are bound to occur!

I will write again in one of the next issues with a tribute to Sally's life and ministry.

Sally's funeral was conducted by the Bishop of Lynn at St Mary's church, North Elmham on the 21st September at 11am followed by refreshments in the Memorial Institute Hall (There was a private cremation at Breckland Crematorium).

Finally, we hold Sally's daughters, Jo, Laura and Alice in our prayers.

With every blessing,

*Mark Burdon
Authorised Worship Assistant and
Authorised Pastoral Assistant.
Heart of Norfolk Benefice.*

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WIVES PLUS ALL

After a summer break in August, Wives plus All met again in the Memorial Hall, on the evening of Thursday 10th September, and were visited by Simon Harrup from "Natural Surroundings" Norfolk's Wildflower Centre, which is based on the Bayfield Estate, near Holt. Simon gave members a very interesting, illustrated talk on Norfolk's Wildflowers and in particular Wildflowers found along our North Norfolk coastline. A special Sea Wildflower - Matted Sea Lavender is a rare coastal Wildflower in Britain that is almost exclusively found along the North Norfolk Coast growing in drier upper salt marshes, flat sand and shingle areas, forming what looks like low cushions. Its location is said to be unique to North Norfolk in the UK, although there is a small separate colony existing at Snettisham.

Many wildflowers grow at the coastline, on the dunes, at the salt marshes and beneath the sea and bloom and survive even though they are washed over by the oceans tides twice daily. Sea Wildflowers are highly specialised Halophytes (salt tolerant plants) eg. the Sea Astor which grows right down to the seaward edge and lower mud flats blooms in late summer with daisy like pale purple or blue flowers with yellow centres and the Sea Milkwort is a low lying succulent like plant that forms dense mats directly below the high water mark. It is regularly completely submerged by tides and produces small delicate pink flowers in the summer. Most inland regular wildflowers would immediately dehydrate and suffocate from the salt and lack of oxygen if they were washed over by the tide twice daily. So how do sea Wildflowers survive to withstand being drowned in salt water twice a day. Research tells that these plants use remarkable evolutionary adaptations ie Aerenchyma - spongy tissues

in their stems and roots that trap and store oxygen so they can breathe while being held under water and Salt Glands - specialised cells that actively pump excess salt out of their tissues to prevent cell damage Fleshy Succulence that are thick leaves that store a reserve of fresh water to filter out the heavy brine of the ocean.

Thanks to Simon for a very interesting evening with his talk on Sea Wildflowers.

The next meeting of Wives Plus All will be on THURSDAY 8th OCTOBER 2026 at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall, North Elmham, when we will meet to have a Business Meeting, & a chat over tea, coffee and cake. There will also be a raffle.

Ann Ferris

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North Elmham United Charities

Current formula for grants

Over the past year we have received complaints from several parishioners that the Charities handouts have wandered from the ideals of those registered with the Charity Commission. Many people over the last few years have therefore received payments that were not justified under these ideals, which are for payments to be made to:

“Elderly or Old persons, resident in the parish of North Elmham, who are in conditions of NEED, HARDSHIP or DISTRESS.”

Charitable payments are not designed to be given to people as a matter of right, just because they are over 65 or have lived in the village all their lives.

The Trustees have therefore attempted to formulate a framework to try and give the payments to the people who would most benefit from them. We wanted the charity money to be distributed fairly to those who needed it most. The guidelines were to consider payment to be made to parishioners as follows:

- *People who have lived in the Village for a number of years*
- *Who are over 65*
- *Who live on their own*
- *And who have no source of income other than a State Pension*

The Trustees know that changing the old distribution list would upset a few people. We apologise if we have. Also, by using the Elmham News to ask people to apply for the payments if they fell within the guidelines, we were able to add a few worthy recipients to the list that had previously not been considered.

There maybe exceptions to the distribution guidelines and we may not have got it right yet. But we are trying. If you have any further comments or, if you know of someone who would benefit from a future charitable gift, please contact the Trustees with their details.

For and on behalf of The Trustees
North Elmham United Charity
And North Elmham Church & Town Lands Charity

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Speak to a member of our Dispensary Team who will be happy to help with any queries.

DATES TO REMEMBER: OCTOBER

Sat 3rd	Sonrisa - Singing Workshop Institute & Broom Green Bowls Quiz	St Mary's Church Memorial Hall	2.00–4.00 pm 7.00 pm
Tue 6th	Knit and Natter	Eastgate Centre	2.00 pm
Wed 7th	Mobile Library visits Parish Council Meeting	The Heath–Wensum Drive Pavilion	1.15–4.40 pm 7.30 pm
Thu 8th	Wives+All - Business Meeting	Memorial Hall	7.30 pm
Sun 11th	TRACKS Charity Ploughing	Horningtoft	10.30 am onwards
Wed 14th	Tea at Two	Memorial Hall	2.00 pm
Thu 22nd	Gardening Club -Visit to Medlars	Details to follow	
26th–30th	Half Term		
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ELMHAM WILDLIFE



Julia sometimes brings me interesting creatures that she has found in her garden or, in this case, on her person. This week she brought me a little fly in a jam jar which she had found crawling on her back. I must admit that on first glance I didn't think it looked very interesting, but on a second look I noticed it was a very flat fly with thick legs sticking out to the sides. This made me think it might be one of the flat flies, sometimes known as louse flies or keds. I'm not an expert on flies, so haven't spent much time collecting or attempting to identify louse flies, and the only one I have previously identified is the Deer Ked, a strange-looking (some might say ugly) brown fly that usually lives on deer, but which I've found in my moth trap a couple of times (photo 1).



But Julia's was different – it wasn't brown for a start, it was bluish-green (photo 2). It was a Bird Louse Fly, and would have probably have preferred to be living among a bird's feathers rather than Julia's plumage. Bird Louse Flies are parasites, living on birds and sucking their blood. Healthy adult birds can tolerate the odd fly on them but heavy infestations of nestlings, or already-sick birds, can sometimes be fatal, and the flies can also transmit diseases.



Most flies lay eggs (lots of them), and then larvae (often called maggots) hatch from the eggs, feed for a while before pupating. Later the pupa transforms into a new adult fly. Louse flies are unusual among flies in that although they technically do have same four lifecycle stages of egg, larva, pupa and adult, each adult fly only produces a single egg and that remains inside the adult fly. It stays





in the fly even when it hatches into a larva, then getting its nourishment directly from the parent. Only when the larva is about to pupate does it leave the parent fly. In the case of bird louse flies they are typically deposited in a bird's nest, ready to crawl on to a bird once they have finished pupating.

Some species of louse fly are very specific about their host, but these Bird Louse Flies are generalists, feeding on a wide range of different birds. They tend to go for larger species that live in trees, like pigeons, owls and birds of prey, or perhaps thrushes.



Once a louse fly has found its host, they often bite their own wings off. They no longer need to fly as they normally spend the rest of their life on their host, and so the wings just get in the way when they're moving around through the bird's feathers. Julie's fly looks like it had bitten one of its wings off but not the other, or perhaps a bird had managed to peck it out of its feathers while preening, damaging it in the process. If it had fallen into the vegetation where Julia was gardening it may have crawled onto her in the absence of any birds to attach itself to.



I received a fascinating email from Nicky recently, enclosing a couple of photos of a pink grasshopper found in a Cathedral Drive garden (photo 3). Nicky had read that pink grasshoppers are extremely rare, and indeed they are unusual. There are several different species of grasshopper and pink ones aren't a separate species, they are an abnormal colour variation that occurs in any of several different species. Although they are not found very often, it's one of those natural phenomena that tends to get picked up and reported in the media with greatly exaggerated claims about how rare they are! One such story reports that only 1



in 500,000 grasshoppers are pink, according to an un-named "expert". I suspect they're not actually that rare, but they are unusual – I've only seen them on a very few occasions.

I'm pretty sure Nicky's is a Field Grasshopper, a very common species and probably the one you're most likely to see in your garden in its usual brown form. We don't have many different species of grasshopper in North Elmham – perhaps half a dozen true grasshoppers, although I've not found all of them here yet, plus related insects like ground-hoppers, bush-crickets and coneheads. Different species of grasshopper make different sounds so it is possible to identify them without even seeing them, if you know what to listen for. I recommend the iRecord Grasshoppers app if you want to compare what you're hearing with the sounds of different grasshopper species.

Ground-hoppers are closely related to grasshoppers and look like small dark grasshoppers. The Common Ground-hopper (photo 4) and Slender Ground-hopper are both fairly common but not easy to find – Slender is much more elongated than Common but otherwise similar.

Bush-crickets have very long antennae and are also closely related to grasshoppers. You may see Speckled Bush-crickets in hedgerows during the daytime but Oak Bush-crickets (photo 5) will come to light and often enter houses through open windows when the lights are on. The Southern Oak Bush-cricket is a very recent colonist which I've seen in my garden a couple of times now (photo 6). It looks very similar to the Oak Bush-cricket but is flightless and has extremely short wings (but confusable with nymphs of Oak Bush-cricket that haven't yet grown their wings).



Another bush-cricket that is spreading north is the Roesel's Bush-cricket (photo 7). This one's been in Norfolk a bit longer, since the end of last century, and is now very common in grassland such as the Cathedral Meadows. It makes a long, continuous, mechanical buzz that sounds like the electrical hum of overhead power cables. Even when you can hear them though, they can be remarkably hard to locate to get a view. If you do see them, they have a distinctive broad yellow edge to a flap covering the thorax (that's the bit behind its head).

Like many of the grasshoppers, Roesel's Bush-crickets can be heard on sunny days, but a common species that you're more likely to hear at night is the Dark Bush-cricket (photo 8). I could hear several calling in my little garden a few nights ago, but as soon as I shone my torch in their direction they shut up, so finding them was impossible. I've occasionally bumped into them during the day, and rarely one will appear at light when I'm out moth-trapping, though I don't think they're attracted to the light like the Oak Bush-crickets can be.

It's been great to hear about the wildlife you're seeing around the village so please carry on letting me know what you find. You can get in touch with me by emailing me at appleton.dave@googlemail.com or phoning me on 668431.

Dave Appleton

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CHURCHYARD WALLS IN NEED OF CARE TOO

Some readers will notice that we have taken down a nice oak tree in the old churchyard (picture). That is not something we wanted to do, but we discovered earlier this year that the roots of the tree were gradually pushing over the south churchyard wall by possibly as much as an inch a year. Sadly, we could not allow that to continue. We did first obtain the permission of both the Diocese and Breckland Council's tree officer.

We have already put steel straps around the south-west and south-east corners of the same wall to stop the two large beech trees in each corner doing the same thing there. But I do worry about the south-west corner because, despite all the straps we have in place, the cracks are getting wider. Let's just hope the straps hold; otherwise, will have a difficult decision to take. We don't want to remove a fine tree of such high landscape value. We can hope for the best!

Also, you may notice that we haven't had sheep in the old churchyard all summer. That is because in the spring a ewe died of yew tree poisoning. So, once we have cut back and fenced the yew trees, we hope the sheep can return to the churchyard.

Peter Wade-Martins
Church Fabric Officer

NORTH ELMHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER

The following information is taken from the Draft minutes and may be expanded where the editors feel more explanation is necessary. The full official minutes can be viewed in the Post Office and on the Community website once they have been approved.



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

Also in Attendance: Mr. K. Webb (Clerk), Mr. B. Borrett and Mr. G. Bambridge (District Councillors), and five parishioners.

Apologies for absence: Mr. C. Smith and Mr. J. Sowinski.

Public Participation

The following comments were made and questions asked:-

(i) Two members of the Knit and Natter Group were present. They have met at the Pavilion on the first Tuesday of each month for the last fourteen years. The meetings last for two hours and a fee of £10 has always been charged. Following a review of costs, the hiring fee for all groups and associations has been increased to £15 per hour to reflect the expenditure incurred for opening and using the building. The number in the group is usually ten but can be as many as fifteen. They advise that they can no longer sell as many knitted toys as in the past because of new Health and Safety legislation. All knitting is carried out with the purpose of donating to charity. It was agreed that members would discuss the matter with a view to exploring any way in which the group could be assisted.

(ii) Three residents from Boars Hill were unhappy with the condition of the public area on the estate. They said that flower beds were full of weeds and paths were covered by brambles and weeds. It was understood that the intention had been for a group of volunteers to do this work but it appeared that the required progress had not been made. The position will be investigated and some of the residents had offered to join the volunteers group.

UPDATED INFORMATION AND MATTERS ARISING

Land Management Matters

Village Green: The climbing frame has been repaired. A broken bench is to be removed. A new plastic bin is needed. Mr. Gee will advise the Clerk of the type needed and it will then be ordered.

Cathedral Ruins: All documentation has been received from Julian Duffield with copies sent by Mrs. Keeble to English Heritage. She has also contacted them again about trees needing attention but, to date, there has not been a response. Mr. Duffield has started to mow the flat areas and Hardy Landscape are to be contacted to bring the remote mower for the banks. There is no set routine for mowing as it is largely weather dependent. Pathways are mowed regularly but there is never any mowing in May. Weather concerns have prevented cutting over the past two months but it has now been resumed. There is no agreement with English Heritage who carry out one per year inspections of the whole site. There have been no further reports concerning the rampaging ginger cat.

Millennium Wood (and Jubilee Wood): Some bird boxes have been vandalised.

Mid-Norfolk Railway Matters: Messrs Rayner and Markwell met with two members of the Mid-Norfolk Railway. The intention is to relay track from

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OCTOBER 2026
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County School to North Elmham. They are prepared to provide a permissive path from the buffers to Station Road. This area will need to be fenced off and the Parish Council will be asked to make a contribution to the cost. Some notices have been vandalised.

Prince William Wood: It is understood that the recently reported "funny smells" seem to have disappeared, for now.

Street Lights: The two solar lights in Boars Hill have been repaired.

Highway Matters

The need for a sign stating "Boars Hill" at the entrance to the estate is being attended to by Breckland Council. Mr. Bambridge will check to ensure that all is in order. The demolished bollard outside the doctors' surgery has been replaced. Notes dating 2017 relating to the plans for a second build-out on the church end of Holt Road have been located.

Pavilion and Playing Field

Miss Ferris reported that a wasp nest had been discovered near the Tennis Club. A pest controller has visited and remedied the problem at a cost of £50. The Breckland waste bin has been emptied.

It was agreed that the universal charge of £15 per hour will apply to all hirers of the Pavilion. An offer to support the Knit and Natter group with some support for their charity efforts from the Parish Council, and possibly the District Council as well, will be considered.

Eastgate Centre

The annual insurance policy has been renewed. It was asked whether the Centre could provide any space for the collection of Archive material.

Boars Hill Update

The ownership of a small strip of land next to the bridge near the school is in doubt.

The solicitors have advised that the Parish Council should confirm that there is no desire to have ownership of this.

With regard to the electricity charging point, Electrode has recommended that it should be fitted with an out of service cover. The Clerk will advise E-On that the service is not going to be utilised for the reasons detailed at previous meetings.

Risk Management: Considerations and Updates

The Clerk has registered with the new AGAR portal. The Asset Register is to be reviewed and updated.

Defibrillators

Miss Ferris reported that all matters were in order.

Local Plan Update

Mr. Rayner had drafted a response which was agreed by all members and will be duly submitted.

New Village Hall

A meeting was held with Jon Barnard, Director of Greyfriars Project Management. Present were Messrs Phillips and Sowinski, Mrs. Keeble and the Clerk. Some key issues on how best to commence the project were discussed and a further meeting is to be arranged by Mr. Phillips.

North Elmham Football Club and the Future

Mr. Gillespie has held meetings with the Football Club. The Vice Chairman, Ben Pearce has replaced the Chairman, Stuart Darbyshire, for the purpose of future discussions. The storing arrangements at the Pavilion have been reorganised.

The outstanding funds to cover the costs in respect of recent hiring have been received. The cutting schedule for the season has been given to the Club. A facility hire agreement has been signed



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and this includes payment of £110 per month for the next ten months.

Report from District and County Councillors

Reports received from District and County Councillors were circulated to members in advance of the meeting and can be viewed on the website.

Mr. Borrett reminded that, following Government instructions, use of the new food waste bins commences on 8th September. The Local Plan is in the last consultation stage with comments able to be made up to 23rd September. The Government has a new regime for planning with the law due to be changed at the end of this month. This will result in a large majority (estimated 95%) of planning applications being decided by planning officers and far less being referred to planning committees.

Mr. Rayner pointed out that the Parish Council comments on the Local Plan over the last few years have been completely ignored by Breckland Council. It has been a similar story with site allocations with no notice being taken of Parish Council suggestions. A recently recommended brownfield site was ignored and duly replaced by a greenfield site with no explanation offered. Mr. Bambridge confirmed that he supported the comments made by Mr. Borrett.

Financials

Expenditure

Resolved to approve the following Accounts for payment, expenditure approved by all members.

E-on Next (Pavilion from 01/07/26 to 31/07/26) – (d/d) £134.02

Drax (electricity for street lights – 01/07/26 to 31/07/26) – (d/d) £235.20

E-on Next (electricity for Boars Hill– 01/07/26 to 31/07/26)–(d/d) £9.77

Breckland Council (Business waste– 16/07/26 to 15/08/26) –(d/d) £53.30

D. Tyson (Pavilion cleaning for August – 5 weeks) £190.65

K. Webb (Clerk's pay for August) £900.67

K. Webb (Clerk's quarterly computer allowance) £20.00

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

NGF Play Ltd (repairs and maintenance to play equipment) £999.60

A.R. Crisp Farm & Landscaping (remove dead trees in PWW) £850.00

Joe Sowinski (signs – Village Green play area) £47.86

Joe Sowinski (pole extension for hedge trimmer) £105.00

Joe Sowinski (air filter and sharpen chain saw) £21.69

R P Environmental Services (treatment of wasp nest) £50.00

Schedule of Income

Pavilion lettings £20.00

Breckland Council (recycling for 2026) £790.49

Breckland Council (hire of hall – police comm. election) £300.00

Hire of Pavilion – private function £45.00

HSBC (coif inc div) £50.65

HSBC (coif inc div) £31.31

Balances (at 31/08/26)

Current a/c: £67,210.59

Business Premium a/c: £51,708.00

Cambridge Building Society: £84,092.62

Expenses Forms

A Councillor expense and mileage claim form has been produced and is to be used for all travel and incidental expenses incurred by members on official pre-approved council business outside the parish boundary. Completed forms are to be handed to the Clerk for processing.



Do you remember when Gressenhall workhouse was a care home?

We're collecting memories of our site during the 1940s-70s. If you lived, worked or visited here, or know someone who did, we want to hear from you!

Email: gressenhall.museum@norfolk.gov.uk

Or call us: 01362 869263 for a friendly chat.

To mark Gressenhall's 250th anniversary we'd love to hear from anyone with memories or photographs of the site from 1940s-70s when it was Beech House Care Home and family accommodation. No story is too small!



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Claims are to be made in the month in which expenses occur or, at the very latest, the following month.

Planning Applications and Determinations

Applications

i) Outline planning application for five custom and self-build dwellings with all matters reserved except for vehicular access – land to the east of Pump Street, North Elmham–PL/2026/1116/OMIN. (This application was discussed at length. It is the same plot of land that was rejected previously and all members were in favour of objecting. The objection will be drafted by Mr. Rayner for consideration/confirmation and then submitted by the Clerk to the District Council)

Determinations

Various tree work at Grey Gables, Pump Street, North Elmham –PL/2026/1172/TCA – information only.

Various tree work at 10 Spencers Close, North Elmham – PL/2026/1114/TCA – information only.

Any Other Matters (For information only)

a) Commencement of Budget preparation for 2027/2028.

b) Arrangements to be made for the archiving of Parish Council documents

Next Meeting

Wednesday, 7th October 2026 at 7.30 p.m in the Pavilion.

DID YOU KNOW?

Paul Whitehouse and Bob Mortimer were filming their "Gone Fishing" TV programme at Billingford Lakes recently. Ben and the Teapost provided their takeaway lunches.

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ANNE KETTERINGHAM

Anne was born on June 23rd 1936 in Didlington, Suffolk, to her parents Sidney and Marjorie. Sid was a horticulturalist at Didlington Hall gaining experience of exotic plants grown in the greenhouses. But Didlington was a remote location, so the family moved to Horringer to allow Anne to start at a good school. Sid moved to Horringer Manor and during wartime he worked with Italian prisoners of war growing produce for a pharmaceutical company.

When Anne was 8 she attended Horringer school where she met a girl called Emily who became a lifelong friend. Anne and Emily worked hard together and were moved up a year which put them in good stead for the 11+. Both went on to Grammar school in Bury St Edmunds where Anne studied Latin and the Arts and Emily moved towards the sciences. In her final year Anne was elected Head Girl.

Anne defiantly resisted pressure to go to Secretarial College, and went instead to Birmingham University where, oddly, she studied economics, a subject she didn't really enjoy. However, she clearly recalled one of her essays entitled "Equal Pay for Equal Work for Women" which was described as her best piece of work by her tutor, as it was written from the heart. At University Anne made other lifetime friends with Valerie Shaw, Margaret Thomas, Judy Arthur and Maureen Hudson.

On leaving University Anne accepted a job at Macleans, the toothpaste factory in London, where she first met Jack Gilby. Beecham, who owned Macleans, had invested heavily in Penicillin research and when Jack was offered the job of plant manager for the new Penicillin factory in Worthing, Anne was also appointed as Personnel Manager. Initially she worked in both London and Worthing, before somewhat reluctantly moving there – a sleepy seaside town even further away from her roots in East Anglia. Jack and

Maureen welcomed Anne into their home and Anne would baby sit for their two young children Nicola and Susie, developing a close relationship with the whole family.

Anne was closely involved with the rapid growth of Beecham in the 1960s, as the availability of cheap synthetic penicillin transformed world health, and she eventually moved back to London and into a role at Beecham House as Personnel Controller for Beecham's International Division. This meant training and mentoring local managers in overseas companies with restructuring and mergers, whilst reporting directly to the Chairman. With this new position Anne was able to travel and work in places scattered around the globe like Singapore and South Africa, as Anne put it "It was the best job ever, having the opportunity to travel the World at someone else's expense!"

Whilst not working Anne continued to travel not just in Europe but further afield to Morocco and Canada, she visited her school friend Emily who was now serving as a diplomat behind the Iron Curtain, as well as Maureen Hudson and her family in Jamaica and then later in Iran when her family moved there.

In Anne's mid 50s she decided to retire and move to North Elmham, back to the village where she had fond memories of visiting her grandparents and her cousins at Senter Farm. She immersed herself in village life, the Art Fund, local walking and archive groups as well as indulging her love of gardening.

Her passion for travel continued unabated. She was never short of travel companions with Ruth, Beatty and Jacquie, as well as Judy and Jack and Maureen accompanying her on countless trips. It's an exhaustive, perhaps exhausting list; Australia, New Zealand, Russia, South America, South Africa, Zambia, Botswana, Gambia, India, USA, Canada, the Great Wall of China,

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Terracotta Warriors and also a plane ride over the Himalayas.

When Anne's cousin Jacquie asked if she would take her to visit her brother Roger in New Zealand, Anne thought about it for a moment and this was her reply "Yes but it will be on my terms" (those that know Anne well, will appreciate that most things were on Anne's terms, in Anne's world). Anne wanted this time to be able to do a full trip around the world starting in San Francisco onto Sydney, Christchurch, Auckland, Adelaide, Perth and finally going to Johannesburg and Cape Town in South Africa.

Over the years Anne always kept in close contact with her university friends, as well as her cousins Sarah and Margaret and took an active interest in each of their families as they grew. She acquired five Godchildren who remained very important to her, Clare and Andrew (Jack and Maureen's grandchildren), Caroline Arthur (Judy's daughter), Andrew (Maureen Hudson's son) and Graham (son of Anne's cousin Amy). Anne always enjoyed the Arts spending time at art galleries, she enjoyed opera, ballet, classical music concerts and the theatre.

Anne's generosity was, of course, legendary, though always discreet, whether it be through hospitality, support for local organisations or personal gifts. She supported numerous charities for many years; Alzheimers research was close to her heart with her mother suffering from Alzheimers and she believed research was the key to help find a cure for this illness. Anne was also Charter Patron to a children's charity Coram based in London. The collection at her funeral was towards The Thomas Coram Foundation for Children as Anne's final contribution. Anne enjoyed giving but also delighted in the effect on her tax bill; it gave her great pleasure to watch the pennies!

Anne's life was non-stop from always being a high achiever in a male dominated workplace, her love of culture and travel and keeping up to date with a large circle of family, friends and friend's families. With the amazing ability to make everybody she knew feel special and close to her, Anne had a lot of people whom she loved and who loved her. She was so interested and caring about the people that she was close to; they all became her family. She never lost her gracious ways, manners, sense of humour or her lovely smile, right to the end.

NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

The Norfolk County Council September report should be available on the community website. Space in the News is tight this month so we have just included a summary of Paul's information.

Elmham & Mattishall County Councillor Activity

Since election in May 2026, Paul Carr has undertaken induction, mandatory and specialist training. He serves on the Strategy and Corporate Select Committee, Adult Social Services and Public Health Select Committee, and Audit and Governance, and represents the Council on Active Norfolk, the Breckland Area Museums Committee and the Norfolk against Scams Partnership.

Paul Carr reports ongoing work on highways, planning, environmental concerns and access to local services, and says he intends to meet parish councils, attend community events and continue raising residents' concerns through council business.

Parish councils and local residents can raise local concerns directly with Paul Carr FCA, email: Paul.carr.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

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WENSUM VALLEY BIRDWATCHING SOCIETY

In August we welcomed Simon Harrap from 'Natural Surroundings' which is based on the Bayfield Hall Estate. His company focuses on championing wildlife-friendly gardening and conservation, especially of wildflowers

Flowers on the coast are split between three main areas of habitat – shingle, sand dunes and salt marsh. Each group has special adaptations to cope with the harsh conditions that they endure. The iconic Horned Poppy, for instance, has a very long tap route to enable it to reach down and find water. Others have small leaves, which may be spiky or succulent, to reduce moisture loss. Most are wind pollinated and therefore have small, unscented flowers; no need to be showy if you don't have to attract pollinators!

To talk to a bird watching group about wildflowers must have been daunting,

but Simon's talk was entertaining and informative. I think the whole group was surprised by the diversity of plant life in coastal areas. Many of us realised we need to look down at the flowers as well as looking up at the birds!

On Thursday 15th October, Tim Fisher from The Norfolk Rivers Trust is coming to talk to the group about the River Wensum. The October outdoor trip will be to Hickling Broad Marshes on 24th October.

The Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society is local, friendly bird club. We meet on the third Thursday of every month at Great Witchingham Village Hall. Meetings start at 7.30pm. New members are always welcome, or pop along to the meeting as a guest.

For more information, please visit our website: wvbs.co.uk or email: Alan Hughes wvbs.chair@gmail.com, Mandy Etherington wvbs.editor@gmail.com or David Laurie wvbs.memberships@gmail.com

THE MISTLE THRUSH

This wonderful photo of a Mistle Thrush was taken by Steve Heaton in June.

The Mistle Thrush is much rarer than the smaller Song Thrush. It feeds on insects and earthworms and berries in season. Often found in open woodland, parks, fields and hedgerows across the UK, this one was spotted in Steve's garden in North Elmham. They can be distinguished from the smaller Song Thrush by their size, the lack of warm brown tones in their plumage and the very heavy dark spots on the breast.



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WORTHING NEWS

The Norfolk Churches Trust annual event, returned on Saturday the 12th September to raise funds and to support our local churches. Overall, the day offered comfortable conditions particularly for cyclists however, as I toured the Benefice, our roads and parishes seemed quiet!

Nonetheless, may I take this opportunity of thanking all those that took part and for sponsorships secured. We are all very grateful for your help and support.

Should anyone still wish to donate to The Norfolk Churches Trust, further information may be found on their website: <https://norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/support-our-work/donate-now/>

We hope to welcome you into our churches next year, if not sooner.

Church Building Appeal Can You Help?

It's almost a year ago when Worthing Church first registered with EASYFUNDRAISING. This gives us all a chance to contribute and grow our Church building appeal campaign via shopping online AT NO EXTRA COST TO OURSELVES.

Choosing from over 8,000 retailers who donate direct to our cause is a WIN for our community. For more information, all you need to do is sign up for your weekly shop and other special occasional shopping (CHRISTMAS IS COMING!) to meet your home, personal, or business needs as required. To go to the Worthing Church account, go to the webpage:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/worthing-church-and-town-lands-charity/>

October Sunday Church Services

4th October: 9am Holy Communion

18th October: Iona Morning Praise at 10.30am.

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

Christmas is Approaching!

With your help, we continue to develop Worthing & Heart of Norfolk Churches involvement with Samaritan's Purse and all that they do around the world. As in previous years, we aim to support as many children as possible that are in desperate need by sending out your Christmas Boxes via "SAMARITANS PURSE." These gestures bring sheer joy to children who feel they are remembered and loved.

To get involved and for more details please visit the Benefice website:

www.heartofnorfolkchurches.org.uk
or contact Celia Daniel 01362 668928
c.daniel784@btinternet.com

Deadline for getting filled boxes to Celia for despatch is 8th NOVEMBER. A leaflet with details may be obtained direct from St Margaret's Church

ADVANCE NOTICE

"THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS"

SATURDAY, 28th NOVEMBER FROM 3PM

Free Admission although donations would be welcome.

Confirmation and full details next month.

Further details may be obtained from: Celia tel: 01362 668928 / email: c.daniel784@btinternet.com

www.facebook.com/StMargaretsChurchworthing/ or www.facebook.com/heartofnorfolk/

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/worthing-church-and-town-lands-charity/>

WORDSEARCH

ASTRONOMY

Y	R	U	C	R	E	M	C	E	N	O	O	M	O
Y	U	S	R	A	M	P	M	S	H	E	E	E	L
T	G	A	L	A	X	Y	H	T	R	A	E	T	R
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N	V	R	W	H	I	T	E	D	W	A	R	F	E
S	E	O	D	N	H	E	T	N	U	S	E	N	E
A	N	I	N	O	I	R	O	A	O	W	L	S	I
T	U	D	E	U	F	J	U	P	I	T	E	R	M
U	S	O	R	U	S	S	U	A	L	U	B	E	N
R	H	S	I	B	L	A	C	K	D	W	A	R	F
N	E	C	S	O	C	E	O	T	U	L	P	L	R

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BLACK DWARF

BLACK HOLE

COMET

EARTH

ERIS

GALAXY

JUPITER

LEO

MARS

MERCURY

METEOR

MOON

NEBULA

NEPTUNE

ORION

PLUTO

SATURN

SUN

SUPERNOVA

VENUS

WHITE DWARF



Services
across the
Benefice
and
Neighbouring
Churches

October
2026



4th October : Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

9.00am	Worthing	Holy Communion
9.30am	Wood Norton	Morning Praise
10.30am	North Elmham	Holy Communion
10.30am	Stibbard	Holy Communion
10.30am	Bawdeswell	Harvest Festival

11th October : Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

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

**18th October : Twentieth Sunday after Trinity
/ Luke the Evangelist**

10.30am	Wood Norton	Holy Communion
10.30am	Worthing	Iona Morning Praise
10.30am	Bawdeswell	Family Service
11.00am	Billingford	Morning Praise
6.00pm	Foulsham	Evensong

25th October : Last Sunday after Trinity

10.30am	Guist	Holy Communion
10.30am	North Elmham	Morning Praise
10.30am	Bawdeswell	Holy Communion
10.30am	Foulsham	Service of the Word

*Services at Bawdeswell All Saints are available on Zoom
ID: 656 174 6525 Passcode: TwKH7n*

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

This Month's Photo Contributors

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

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NORTH ELMHAM PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chair: Paul Grainger, 01362 667135
Vice Chair: Martin Phillips, 01362 668409
Ann Ferris, 01362 668580
Tom Fitzalan Howard, 07760 164515
Brian Gee, 01362 422799
Fraser Gillespie, 01362 422293
Ann Keeble, 01362 668216
Nick Markwell, 01362 668557
Michael Rayner, 07512 029393
Colin Smith, 01362 668585
Joe Sowinski, 07960 287528

PARISH CLERK

Kevin J Webb, 01328 855046
northelmhampc@outlook.com

MEETINGS

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

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

VILLAGE FACILITIES

Allotments.....Martin Phillips
Broom Green & PoundTo be confirmed, contact Parish Clerk
Cathedral Meadows.....Tom Fitzalan Howard, Ann Keeble
Cathedral Ruins.....Ann Keeble, Tom Fitzalan Howard
Eastgate Centre.....Martin Phillips, Paul Grainger, Tom Fitzalan Howard
Millennium & Jubilee Wood.....Joe Sowinski
Playing Field & Pavilion.....Colin Smith, Ann Ferris
Prince William Wood.....Nick Markwell, Brian Gee
Village GreenColin Smith, Brian Gee
Footpath Warden.....Ann Ferris

SERVICES

Environment & Maintenance.....Martin Phillips
Highways.....Paul Grainger, Fraser Gillespie
Mid-Norfolk Railway Liaison.....Michael Rayner, Nick Markwell
Planning.....Michael Rayner, Martin Phillips
Street Lighting.....Tom Fitzalan Howard, Nick Markwell, Colin Smith
Tree WardenTom Fitzalan Howard, Nick Markwell, Colin Smith
Website.....Martin Phillips

PARISH CHARITIES

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

NORTH ELMHAM DIRECTORY

Elmham Surgery, Holt Rd - 01362 668215

Group website: elmhamsurgery.com

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

Swanton Morley Surgery, Dereham Road - 01362 638100

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

Other Useful Contacts

NHS Medical Help

Dial: 111

111 online: 111.nhs.uk

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

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

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

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

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

Mobile Library calls in Elmham every 4 weeks

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

Clergy - All telephone numbers local code (01362)

Church of England	Reverend Richard Turk	revdrichardrwv@gmail.com	07721 035009
Roman Catholic	Father Jay T Magpuyo	35 London Rd, Dereham	01362 694066
Methodist	Rev Derek Grimshaw	trinitydereham@gmail.com	01362 882116
Salvation Army	Major Diana Bennetts	dereham@salvationarmy.org.uk	01362 696341

Church Wardens

Elmham	Michael Newey	01362 668424
Worthing	Celia Daniel	01362 668928



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