

Elmham News

SEPTEMBER 2023

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See pages 17-19

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EDITORIAL

It's the end of the holidays and the children will be at school for the beginning of a new year. May we remind you to check the list of North Elmham Primary School needs published in the August magazine and to contact them if you have items to give on 01362 668318.

We were saddened to learn of yet more vandalism around the village but would like to point out that there are many things to celebrate about our village. The magazine gives a good insight into the clubs and facilities that people enjoy.

Perhaps many of these might relate to the more mature residents but we have a skateboard ramp, basketball hoop, a football pitch, tennis courts and a good sized play area for younger children to take advantage of which other villages might lack.

Apologies for calling Joan Shannon, Jean in last month's edition. Meg must learn to put her glasses on!

May we offer thanks to our regular family who send us a donation each month, we really do appreciate it. Also a lovely donation was received from Knit and Natter, we are so grateful for our supporters.

Thanks also to Derek for being a stalwart grass cutter around the Mosquito Memorial on Back Lane. He doesn't have to be asked, just keeps an eye on it and cuts the grass as it is needed.

Finally, thank you to the Hazels, who lovingly tend Jimmy's Memorial Garden opposite the shop.

To all our unsung heroes who help keep our village looking good, we salute you.

**North Elmham community
website www.elmham.org.uk**

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

Volume 46, No 8, September 2023

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NORTH ELMHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 5TH JULY, 2023

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

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

Also in Attendance: Mr. K. Webb (Clerk) and one parishioner.

Apologies for Absence: Mr. G. Bambridge (District Council)

Public Participation: None

Updated Information and Matters Arising

Land Management Matters

Village Green: Mr. Gee reported that he has removed the sides and rails of the storm shelter following the repeated vandalism. It is thought that the structure may have been compromised and some gluing may be needed. The grass has been cut but, as yet, the play area hasn't been.

Cathedral Ruins: The Charles III Coronation Seat has been ordered from an alternative supplier who does not require payment in advance. English Heritage have advised of repair work to be carried out and are seeking a scheduled monument response. Contractors have been appointed. It is hoped that the usual cutting of the banks will take place later this month.

Broom Green: Digging in the pond has been completed (on 26th June) with the very useful assistance of Mr. Goff's digger and employee which is much appreciated.

Millennium Wood (and Jubilee Wood):

A small tree has been cut back by the Chairman.

Church Meadow: Mr. Fitzalan Howard said that two new "No Parking" signs had been put up.

Allotments

Mr. Phillips reported that all the sheds had been broken into on 19th/20th June with some items being stolen.

Street Lights

Mr. Markwell confirmed that K. and M. Lighting Services of St. Ives, Cambridgeshire and T. T. Jones Electrical of Norwich are two companies interested in taking over the street lighting maintenance contract from Westcotec.

Highway Matters

The gullies in Orchard Close have been cleared out.

Pavilion and Playing Field

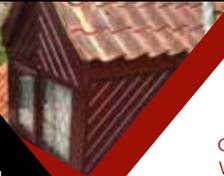
The North Elmham Junior Football Club wants to run an event for 4/5 days, using the field and pavilion.

There has been a big increase in damage to the premises caused by vandalism. The perspex windows have been attacked, leaving a number of them cracked, tiles have been lifted and goalposts have been smashed. The police have been informed and have said that the number of patrols will be increased. Mr. Smith suggested that grills should be placed over the pavilion windows and this was agreed by all as an appropriate action.

We understand that the Walking Football Team has officially split from the Football Club. They will be invited to attend the next meeting so that members can be made fully aware of their requirements and expectations.

Brookside Development Update (Boar's Hill)

Mr. Rayner reported that the developers want to change the design of the fence



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at the school end of the footbridge. They are discussing the matter with the Chair of Governors with a meeting to be held on 7th July at the school.

Defibrillators

The defibrillators are checked once per month by the Chairman.

Call for Sites Update: Breckland Council

Mr. Rayner said that Breckland Council was not being very helpful about future consultations. We are waiting to hear whether there will be one before the Draft Plan is released. Jerome Mayhew MP is to attend the next meeting of CANT on 14th July.

Archive Group Records

Prices for shelving are awaited.

Request for Funding from North Elmham PCC

The Chairman is to send an email advising of the increased amount of £1,200.

The Possibility of Planting Fruit Trees

The suggestion had been made by a parishioner to plant fruit trees at the bottom end of the Village Green. Whilst it was felt that the proposition had merit, it was considered to be a national project more aimed at inner city than rural areas. There were concerns with costs, planting, maintenance, monitoring the area and general control. As such, although it was a good idea, the issues mentioned above outweighed any potentially positive impact. Mr. Fitzalan Howard proposed not to proceed and this was seconded by Mr. Phillips. All in favour.

Breckland Council's Deployable Surveillance Cameras & Display Signage

A communication had been received from Lisa Turner, Environmental Enforcement Assistant, Breckland Council. She is aiming to procure some new mobile deployable surveillance cameras and is looking for

town and parish councils with a high level of anti-social behaviour and fly tipping to trial the cameras in relevant areas. There will be suitable signage to advise the public that surveillance is taking place.

It was agreed to propose three areas as being suitable – the village green, the pavilion and the allotments. Proposed by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Smith. All in favour.

In addition, some high quality signs for "No fly-tipping or littering" and "No dog fouling" have been offered. The estimated cost of these is approximately £41.50 per unit. It was felt by all that the additional signs are not required at the present time.

It was mentioned that the grounds maintenance service is still less than satisfactory with the playing field generally being cut as required but not the village green. Mr. Phillips proposed that the matter be discussed at the next meeting and this was seconded by Mrs. Keeble. All were in favour. The Chairman is to scan the specification and circulate it to all members.

End of the Electricity Plan: Pavilion 21st August, 2023

A letter had been received from E-on Next advising that our current electricity plan for the Pavilion comes to an end on 21st August, 2023. The current expenditure is in the region of £1,030 and we are offered a one year fixed deal of £1,186. There is also an option of a two year contract but a request has to be made for details. If we do nothing and roll on to a flexible business tariff, the cost will be £1,816. Details of the two years plan are to be requested so an informed decision on how best to proceed can be made at the next meeting.

Applications

i) Land at Brookside Farm – amendment to pp 3PL/2019/0874/F – in-fill between the two approved projecting gables to the rear of the bungalow (Plot 19) – 3NM/2023/0062/NMA



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ii) Vicarage Farm Barns, Barn 3, Church Lane – conservatory to side of barn conversion – 3PL/2023/0655/HOU.

iii) Park View, Church Lane – Mr. and Mrs. N. Moore – new single storey rear extension – 3PL/2023/0677/HOU.

iv) Land adjacent to The Chapel, County School – demolition of two agricultural outbuildings and to be replaced with self-build dwelling, new driveway and proposed vehicular access – E. Findlay – 3PL/2023/0540/F.

Determinations

i) Land at Brookside Farm – amendment to pp 3PL/2019/0874/F – in-fill between the two approved projecting gables to the rear of the bungalow (Plot 19) – 3NM/2023/0062/NMA – withdrawn.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, 2nd August 2023 at 7.30 p.m.

VANDALISM IN THE VILLAGE

In the August edition of the Elmham News there was a nice piece written by Meg White about the Diamond Jubilee Green and how the people of the village raised the money to create the play park for the children to enjoy.

In the final paragraphs she described how the storm shelter was added, which, to quote Meg's words, is being used for mindless acts of vandalism – like graffiti, setting fire to or just being kicked for the sake of it.

Well. If you have been across the village green recently you will notice it is not there anymore. The Parish Council have been spending too much effort, time and money on repairing and making it safe to use, and in recent weeks, the situation was just getting out of hand. So, we have taken it down. We apologise for having

to take that course of action, but we felt we had no choice.

However, this is not the only incident of vandalism or anti-social behaviour that is currently being carried out by a small group of youngsters late at night. The play park constantly gets their attention with benches being damaged and moved, and dog mess has been smeared down the children's slide. On another occasion, a dog poo bag was thrown through an open window and windows are regularly being smashed in the Eastgate Centre. Bus shelters are also being vandalised and the sports pavilion seems to be a target for special treatment with windows broken and tiles dislodged and smashed. The Football Club have had their goal posts broken on more than one occasion and we have recently heard that the Tennis Club's new playing surface is being damaged.

It seems that a small group of mindless individuals are going out late at night with the intent of doing malicious damage and vandalising to anything and everything that people of the village have spent time and money to provide for their enjoyment and recreation. The cost of repair or replacement is something we all have to pay for.

The Parish Council are taking this very seriously as things now seem to be escalating out of hand and measures are being taken to identify and report individuals to the authorities in an attempt to stop it happening. Anyone suspected of being involved in vandalism and anti-social behaviour will be investigated and if found guilty will face the consequences of the crimes they are committing, including prosecution.

Parents please be aware of where your children and young people are and what they are doing. Under 18s are minors and as such their parents are responsible for their behaviour. The Parish Council will support the Police in any decision to prosecute.

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Eds Notes: We urge all readers to become more vigilant and not hesitate to seek police attention by calling either 999 or 101 to deal with the vandalism and anti-social behaviour of a small number of people spoiling our enjoyment of this special place in which we all live.

If you have any information regarding recent incidents, we are happy to be advised anonymously and will pass this to the Parish Council and/or police.

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HAVE YOU HEARD OF WHAT3WORDS ?

A few weeks ago, it was unfortunately necessary to call the emergency services to the village green. When taking the details from me, the operator asked for my "what3words" location, which would have helped the Ambulance Service pinpoint the precise location of the casualty. It struck me at the time that not everyone would be aware of what3words, and how it can be used.

What is it? what3words is an app which can be downloaded (free) to your mobile phone. The developers of the app divided the world into 3 metre squares and gave each square a unique combination of three (random) words. By using what3words it can help pinpoint your exact location fast and with accuracy saving time in an emergency situation,

especially when in rural locations. The emergency services adopted the use of what3words in the last few years.

For more details about what3words and how it can be used check out: <https://what3words.com>

Having spoken with Colin from the Parish Council, he gave his agreement that what3words can be displayed on the fence by the three main entrances to the village green. (Colin also holds a key to the Spencer Close entrance if the gate needs to be opened in an emergency). Hopefully you will never have to use it, but these are the random words identified for the entrances:

Spencer Close entrance:

socialite.date.diver

Eastgate Street entrance:

moguls.clusters.bedsread

Oak Avenue entrance:

competing.tender.nibbled

Gill Rawlinson

MARMALADE THE RABBIT

I have sent a photograph of our adopted wild rabbit, Marmalade, who lives with his/her brown/grey wild cousins in the field bank near our home. I thought Dave Appleton might be interested as part of his wild-life interests! Incidentally he/she has just acquired a child or relative in the same colour but much smaller/younger whom I have not managed to picture yet.

You will find the photo of Marmalade in Dave's article.

John Labouchere

CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

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

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



BOWLS NEWS

Members and guests from Northampton West End Bowls Club, which started in 1897, played a friendly game against the Institute and Broom Green members on the 3rd August arriving by coach at 1pm. They were welcomed at the Memorial Hall for drinks and sandwiches followed by games at the green from 2pm and luckily the sun was shining all afternoon with plenty of great bowling and camaraderie between five teams with Elmham winning four out of five.



We all returned to the Memorial Hall for a late afternoon dinner of Lasagne and salad followed by trifle or apple pie.

Their captain gave a thank you speech to members and to our catering team for providing a most enjoyable day and offered a return game at Northampton. For some of them it was their first time to this part of Norfolk. They felt we were so lucky to be living in Elmham.



Ray Norman

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CHILDHOOD MEMORIES

The following two articles were printed back in 2005 but as it is Harvest time now, it seemed apt to print them again...

Reading about Meg's holidays as a child brought back memories of school holidays at harvest time.

"When I think of them, I never remember the wet days, it always seemed to be sunny and hot and we would spend hours in the harvest fields. I had a job every day, taking 'Fourses' for one of the men in the harvest field and got a halfpenny for doing it. Sometimes it was quite a long walk carrying a bag with a bottle of hot tea in a sock, a pudding basin with hot dumplings and meat and gravy, and a shortcake – and a bottle of home brewed beer. I had to get to the field while it was still hot.

As children, we always knew which field was at the end of cutting. We would go with our sticks, more like cudgels, to run the rabbits. It didn't matter how many rabbits were killed, they all had to be handed to the head horseman. Then he would lay out the rabbits in a line and the men took their pick. We children were lucky if we got one to take home, and, of course, you only got a little one if you were little yourself! If I didn't get one, my mother would say to me, "Didn't you run fast enough to catch a rabbit today?"

We kept a little book to note down how many rabbits we caught and compared the results with each other at the end of the harvest holidays. In this day and age, children are not allowed anywhere near the machinery on a harvest field, let alone run the rabbits."

Doris Yarham (from her childhood in the early 1930s)

Like my mother, I too spent time on the harvest fields. I spent the first ten years of my life living at Foxburrow Farm, the home of Mr and Mrs Fred Nicholson.

Father was cowman and horseman, so was always around animals. I loved the huge carthorses that were still being used. They were gentle creatures and I liked it when they put their heads down and blew on top of my head, but I also knew I had to respect all the farm animals. You didn't walk too closely to the rear end of any animal and if you did, someone would shout at you – in those days, all the men on the farm would discipline an unruly or inattentive child.

Harvest time meant everyone was in the fields, Father was there between milking times and well into the evening. I was put on the backs of the carthorses pulling the wagons piled high with the shocks of corn and was the 'Hold Ye' girl – I had to stop the horse and get it to move off when the men had pitchforked the shocks onto the wagon. I can still, to this day, remember how the stubble felt as it scratched my skinny, bare legs – in those days, not many little girls wore trousers!

We made dens among the corn shocks before they were carted off to be put into stacks which were built on top of hedge cuttings for the base. They were then thatched to keep them watertight, before being threshed later in the year.

Like my mother, I too took 'fourses' to the fields for my father. Everyone would stop and sit in the shelter of a hedge to have a break, then carry on, often until it was dark. Father would take our chickens and a couple of coops or a small henhouse onto the stubble, so the hens could pick up loose corn for a few weeks. This helped to fatten up the poultry before the winter set in.

Janet Woodhouse (from her childhood in the late 1940s, early 1950s)

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GARDENING CLUB SHOW

Despite the rain the show turned out to be a very good one, plenty of visitors and entries and the hall looked splendid.

There were a few new winners and everything went well. The auction, as usual occasioned much laughter. A big thank you to all our judges, auctioneer, competitors and spectators. We hope you all enjoyed yourselves. Congratulations to all the cup winners and especially Joanne James (pictured above) who won the Memorial Cup for most points in show.

All the well-deserved cup winners are listed overleaf, and there was also a members only competition of best grown geranium from seedling, won by Sarah Felton and the prize of a coffee and cake has been kindly donated by Ben at The Tea Post.







CUP WINNERS

Kerrison Cup	Most Points Classes 1–26	Vegetables & fruit	Martin Phillips
Janet Sinclair Cup	Most Points Classes 27–39	Flowers	Joanne James
Hastings Cup	Best Exhibit of Tomatoes 4–7	Tomatoes	Joanne James
Seamans Cup	Most Points Classes 40–44	Jams, pickles, etc	Theresa Phillips
J.Hitchcock Vase	Most Points Classes 45–50	Baking	Dawn Norman
David Sinclair Cup	Most Points Classes 55–58	Handicrafts	Heather Caley
Gardeners Cup	Best Exhibit Classes 1–23	Vegetables only	Martin Phillips
Memorial Hall Trophy	Best Exhibit Classes 25–26	Fruit	June Ford
Railway Tavern Cup	Best Exhibit Classes 27–39	Flowers & plants	Caroline Payne
Delia Cup	Best Exhibit Classes 45–50	Baking	Alison Watson
Jessica Cup	Best Exhibit Classes 51–52	Card & collage	Ray Norman
Marsh Cup	Best Exhibit Classes 53–54	Photography	Colin Allen
Gerald Cup	Best Exhibit Classes 55–58	Knitting & sewing	Ann Ferris
Caley Cup	Donor Personal Choice	ALL classes	Caroline Payne
Memorial Cup	Most Points in Show		Joanne James

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BRISLEY AND NORTH ELMHAM CRICKET CLUB

Although losing their unbeaten record, B&NE's Saturday side enjoyed a glorious month. First, by defeating Narborough another Division 1 team, they reached the final of the T20 Cup where they will play Hales and Loddon on Sunday August 20 and secondly by clinching their third successive promotion and the Division 2 title with 2 games to spare and a 70mpoint gap between them and their nearest challengers. In contrast the ladies have yet to register a League victory losing their latest fixture to Snettisham by 18 runs They have 4 games remaining to put this right! The men's social side also lost their final midweek game.

Results

July 15 v Sheringham (H) League:
Sheringham 109 B&NE 110-5 B&NE won by 5 wickets

Without 4 regular players, B&NE showed their strength in depth to maintain their unbeaten record and substantial lead at the top of Division 2. Lowly Sheringham started strongly and were going well until losing their final 7 wickets for 14 runs, skipper Bend with 5 wickets and Ollie Hall backing him up with 3. In reply, Josh Hall finally lost his wicket, run out at the bowlers end from a deflected drive from brother Ollie onto his stumps. Futter (29) and Ali (21no) made sure of victory as rain clouds gathered overhead.

Premier Seeds MoM: Phil Bend for his 5-23

July 22 v Drayton (A) League:
B&NE 138 Drayton 139-2 B&NE lost by 8 wickets

On paper a strong side went to second placed Drayton but were out bowled and out batted in pretty miserable conditions. Only Josh Hall (39) and Abdul Ali (30) made decent scores in a match reduced to 35 overs. A damp ball did not help the visiting bowlers and despite nabbing

2 early wickets, a century partnership enabled Drayton to reach their target with 6 overs to spare.

Premier seeds MoM: Josh Hall for his 39 and one catch

July 25 v Narborough (A) T20 Semi-final:
Narborough 106-9 . B&NE 107-4. B&NE won by 6 wickets

B&NE'S scalp of the season as they powered past Div 1 leaders Narborough to reach the final of the T20 Cup. Superb bowling and fielding restricted the home team to less than 3 an over for the first 10 overs and, despite a late rally, the target was not daunting and Abdul Ali set the tone with 2 sixes in the second over of B&NE's reply and Skipper Futter saw the visitors home with over 3 overs to spare.

Premier Seeds MoM: Abdul Ali for his 36 runs and 1 wicket for 9 off 4 overs

July 29 v Swaffham (H) league:
B&NE 286-6 Swaffham 66 B&NE won by 220 runs.

Josh Hall's second century of the season, well supported by brother Ollie's 75 left the visitors ruing several dropped catches. Callum Futter add 4 more to his growing tally of wickets, with 2 apiece for Billy Fordham, Najam Hassan and in his first appearance of the season Welsh exile Charlie Kinsey.

Premier Seeds MoM: Josh Hall for his 123 and 2 catches behind the wicket.

August 5 v Fakenham 3 (H) League:
Cancelled because of weather.

August 12 v Hockwold (A) League:
B&NE 329-7 Hockwold 216 B&NE won by 113 runs

Abdul Ali's devastating knock of 146 with 13 sixes and 11 fours from just 73 balls and an unbeaten 51 from Callum Futter guaranteed victory, promotion and the league title. Lowly Hockwold made the visitors work for their maximum batting



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points with six bowlers sharing the wickets, Ollie Hall taking 3-39.

Premier Seeds MoM: Abdul Ali for his 146.

Mark Ballman Chair

KNIT AND NATTER

Almost a full house at this month's meeting. Our thoughts went out to one of our members who is still recovering from a fall, and also to another who is unwell and could not attend. There were lots of nattering and ideas about what the Autumn will bring. Within the next few weeks, I'm going to a collection point in Sheringham, and take some pattern books, knitting needles and bits and pieces of wools we cannot use, and other knitted goods that were not sold at the Garden Fete. There is always somewhere where people are in desperate need of warm clothing, and this Norfolk Knitters and Stitchers resource centre has the contacts. However, we are still aware of

our local needs, so plenty to go at, before the Christmas Fairs are upon us.

The knitted bees went down well this summer, and what would it be like without our famous "Pick a pin" game. Our thanks go to Eileen Bent who has decided to step down, having run this game for us, sometimes three times a year at different events and bringing so much joy to the village children. Someone will take it over, no doubt.

We have had some pairs of beautifully hand knitted adult socks given to us for sale. Thank you, Eileen (yes, yet another Eileen).

We are always happy to collect donations of wool, and woollen goods, so keep them coming. Blankets and squares that can be stitched into blankets, are always welcome.

Next meeting Tuesday September 5th in the Pavilion, 2 til 4 pm.

Eileen Cotterill 01362 668 380

DATES TO REMEMBER

Tue 5th	Knit and Natter	Pavilion	2.00 pm
Wed 6th	Back to School Sewing Parish Council Meeting	Tumbleweed Eastgate St Pavilion	2.00 pm 7.30 pm
Thu 7th	RBL AGM	King's Head	8.00 pm
Sat 9th	Jumble Sale-Bowls Club	Memorial Hall	10.00 am-1.00 pm
Wed 13th	Tea at Two Mobile Library visit	Memorial Hall The Heath to Orchard Close	2.00 pm 2.30-5.20 pm
Thu 14th	Wives+All Social Evening	Memorial Hall	7.30 pm
Sat 16th	String quartet Concert	St Mary's Church	7.30 pm
Wed 20th	Sewing	Tumbleweed, Eastgate St	2.00 pm
Thu 28th	Gardening Club	Memorial Hall	7.30 pm
Sat 30th	Random I.D. Band	Memorial Hall	7.30 pm

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WIVES PLUS ALL

A gentle reminder to members that the next WIVES PLUS ALL meeting will take place on THURSDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2023 at 7.30pm in the North Elmham MEMORIAL INSTITUTE VILLAGE HALL.

Members will be able to catch up with friends again and enjoy a Social Evening.

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

Look forward to seeing you all again.

Ann Ferris

DEAR EDITORS

Just like to say we do not usually get involved or support village activities, but how much we enjoyed the few hours in the church for Music for a Summer Afternoon. Thank you to those involved in organizing it.

At the same time I would like to thank the couple who look after the garden opposite the shop, it is noticed and appreciated.

Thanks, Derek and Joan.

Ed's note: Hat's off to Jenny for organising the music and to the wonderful Hazels for their care and nurturing in Jimmy's Garden.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

As you all are aware our branch does not hold a meeting in August, due to holidays etc. The memorials to Bryan and Gerald are progressing, further updates next month. Our next meeting which is also our AGM is Thursday 7th September at the Kings Head at 8pm, again new members always welcome.

Mike Aston Branch Sec

UNWANTED GIFT

We were busy one day and it wasn't until later that we sat down, me to have a look at the paper and Bob to watch cricket on the TV.

Then I looked up and saw something green on the opposite windowsill. Living in Eastgate Street, our row of houses is right in the road, no pavement, and guess what, a kind person had dropped a green dog poo bag through an open top window. I went to pick it up and discovered there was something in it... I assume it was dog poo!!

To whoever it was who did this, I wonder why, haven't they got enough going on in their life or did they think 'this will be fun'... actually it is not!

Bob & Janet Woodhouse

DEAR EDITORS

I just wanted to put it on record, that, for the first time in my memory (still pretty good), the volunteer church cleaners received an email, individually addressed to each one, thanking them for their hard work in preparing the church for a recent big wedding from the mother of the bride. It was not that we ask to be thanked, but it was extremely gratifying to receive them plus some photos of what she called "the church in all its polished finery".

If there is anyone who has an odd hour to spare, who likes cleaning brass or just polishing wood with beeswax, why not contact one of us.

Meg

PS: we are not all regular church goers but just love the beautiful building.

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GARDENING CLUB

It was a lovely evening (despite the dire weather forecast) when we visited Julia Stafford Allen's two acre garden in Castle Acre. Tucked away, the garden surrounded the 15th Century house, and flowed over part of the Norman earthworks in the village. A long sweeping lawn led to a huge Ha-ha and then wound round a huge 18th Century dovecote. We followed Julia as she led us past a caged fruit and vegetable garden and on to a natural wild garden including a shepherd's hut with an informal pond. We spotted a mother rhea with baby, recently hatched, with proud father very much in evidence. Handsome chickens roamed in this paddock – carefully avoiding father! The new orchard naturally had beehives and everywhere the planting drew the eye.

It was possible to follow a path up to the top of the earthworks and see the magnificent view from the top. Sadly, I can only go on the delighted comments



of those who braved the climb but apparently, it was worth the effort.

We were treated to tea and an abundance of homemade cake whilst everyone chose a table and seat all around the garden, relaxed, chatted and just enjoyed the ambience.

We thanked our hostess, many of us promising to return next year when the garden opens for the National Open Garden Scheme in Norfolk, of which Julia is the County Organiser.

Our September speaker on Thursday 28th September is Richard Clarke from Panache Plants. Visitors are always welcome for a small fee. Why not come along and join a very friendly group.

Meg White

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A photograph of a set table with bread, wine, and glassware. The table is set with a white tablecloth, a glass of wine, and a plate of bread. The background is slightly blurred, showing a restaurant setting.

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A photograph of a plate of fish and chips with peas and a bowl of sauce. The fish is golden brown and the chips are thick and crispy. There are green peas and a bowl of white sauce in the foreground.

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ELMHAM WILDLIFE

It's been a really good year for Latticed Heath moths. I've caught more this year than in the previous eight years put together. They're a pretty moth, their pale buff wings are decorated by a chocolate-brown lattice pattern (photo 1). Though it wasn't in Elmham, I caught an unusual variation of Latticed Heath at the end of July. I was with two experienced friends and none of us had seen anything like it before. The chocolate colour almost covered the whole wings leaving just a few pale buff spots (photo 2). Aberrant colours in butterflies and moths occur naturally but are generally rare.

I was photographing this unusual Latticed Heath when an email from John L popped into my mailbox. John was telling me about an unusually-coloured rabbit in the field by his house and this coincidence gave me the idea of writing about unusual colour variations in our wildlife. I popped along to see John and photograph his ginger-coloured rabbit 'Marmalade' (photo 3). I've seen black rabbits a few times in the past (photo 4), though not locally, but ginger ones are less common. Of course pet rabbits come in a range of colours, unlike wild ones that are usually more-or-less the same shade of brown (photo 5), so when we see odd-coloured rabbits in the wild it's tempting to think they are escaped pets, or perhaps offspring after an escaped pet has bred with wild rabbits. The black rabbits I've seen have all been in fairly remote locations and I'm pretty sure they're naturally-occurring mutations. John's may be natural too, but being so close to the village it's perhaps a bit more likely that a domestic origin is responsible.

Hares aren't kept as pets (well, not normally anyway) but unusually pale Brown Hares (sometimes silvery-toned) occasionally appear among our normal Brown Hares. I've seen a couple of pale hares in (or very nearly in) the parish in the last couple of years, so they're worth keeping an eye out for.





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Returning to butterflies and moths, one of the most striking aberrations I've seen was a Magpie Moth. Magpie Moths are magnificent large moths, white with a generous smattering of big black spots and a bit of orange (photo 6). The aberration I caught here a few years ago had an excess of black pigment (melanin) so most of its wings were solid black with just a band of white, a few white streaks and a spot of orange at the very bases of the wings (photo 7).



Butterfly aberrations were once sought-after by Victorian butterfly collectors. Some are quite subtly different from typical examples but one I saw at the coast a few years ago was quite different. Small Coppers are common in North Elmham, an exquisite mix of bright orange and dark brown (photo 8). The unusual one I saw lacked the dark brown pigment so instead it was a mix of bright orange and white (photo 9). Abnormally pale animals are sometimes called leucistic, meaning that they have reduced melanin pigment. I don't know if it's the case with Small Copper butterflies or not, but in birds most colours (including browns and blacks) are produced by a type of pigment called melanin but some red and yellow colours are produced by different pigments (called carotenoids). This means that leucistic birds with reduced melanin or even albino ones (completely lacking melanin) can still have red or yellow colour patches despite the plumage being otherwise pure white. I wonder if that's why the orange parts of this Small Copper were normally-coloured whereas the brown parts were white.



Talking of birds, male Blackbirds are, of course, normally black, but Blackbirds bearing white patches on the normally-black plumage are not unusual. Over the years I've seen a lot of pied Blackbirds (though I don't recall seeing any in North Elmham) but one I saw in Kings Lynn a few years back had completely white plumage (photo 10). People often describe all-white birds like this as albino but its bill





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and legs were yellow as normal and its eye was black, whereas these would have been pink if it had been albino. Genuinely albino animals and birds usually have poor eye-sight so rarely survive long in the wild, so if you see a wild animal that's white, it probably isn't really albino.

Colour variations in birds occur naturally but in captive populations they are more common. Mutations occur more often because the populations are closed and small leading to more in-breeding. With some domestic species such as Mallards, these mutations have been selectively bred to create new breeds that consistently show characteristics that are not found in their wild ancestors. When these breeds get back in the wild and mix with wild birds you get a vast array of different colours and shapes, which is why you will often see some very odd-looking ducks in parks and ponds. A similar thing happens with Pheasants. "Wild" Pheasants vary in appearance anyway as they were introduced from different parts of Asia with birds from different parts of Asia belonging to different subspecies: for example some have a white neck collar (photo 11) and others don't. But you now see other variations of Pheasant such as one that's very dark, almost black but with a greenish sheen that can look blue or purple in different lights (photo 12). These are sometimes called 'Tenebrosus' Pheasants and a few years ago lots were put down by gamekeepers. I haven't seen so many recently but they still crop up sometimes.

Every now and then someone sends me a link to a newspaper article or BBC story about a "rare sighting" of a pink grasshopper. Well they're not actually all that rare, though it is a pretty small proportion of grasshoppers that are pink. Field Grasshopper is one of our commonest grasshoppers in North Elmham (photo 13) – the bits of my little lawn that I've left uncut this year have already been colonised by them. The one in the photo is a nymph (it has short wings – adults of this species are long-winged)

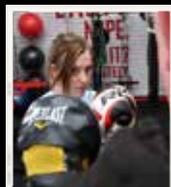


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and so too was the pink Field Grasshopper that I saw this summer (in Gressenhall, photo 14). They do look very out of place so I can understand why people get very excited when they see one.

Thanks to those of you who have been in touch and do please carry on letting me know if you see any interesting wildlife. There's always lots to see if you take the time to walk slowly and stop frequently to look and listen. If you have anything interesting to share email me at appleton.dave@googlemail.com, phone me on 668431 or message me via Twitter at @ElmhamMeadows).

PS: if last month you were wondering why my description of the bee-fly and centurion didn't match the photos it's because I got the photo numbering mixed up, sorry. Photo 8 was the Twin-spot Centurion and photo 9 was the Dark-edged Bee-fly.

Dave Appleton



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SUPPORT NEEDED

The following in this month's Elmham News made me laugh "Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, chocolate in one hand, wine in the other, totally worn out and screaming.... 'Woo Hooo what a ride! Want to go round again!"

It's quite applicable for what I am planning to do! On 10th September 2023 I will be jumping 10,000 feet out of a plane to raise funds for Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services. I say "will be" like it will be easy task, but in reality, I am terrified!!

Sadly 1 in 3 women and 1 in 5 men will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime, and 750,000 child incidents of domestic abuse are reported in the UK every year. Leeway is an independent charity providing free and confidential support to adults, young people and children who are experiencing domestic abuse in Norfolk and Suffolk. They operate eight safe houses and people experiencing domestic abuse and their children are welcome to stay as long as necessary to secure a future free from a dangerous partner.

I understand times are tough for so many, but if you can spare anything please support the amazing work Leeway do

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Now wish me luck!!

Thanks,

Bev Marshall

WVBS SUMMER UPDATE

Our first early summer outdoor meeting was at Westleton Heath and Minsmere at the end of May. The path across Westleton Heath produces many 'target' birds and it didn't disappoint. Although we were perhaps a little late for the singing Nightingales, there was a bird singing right by the path only a very short distance from our starting point. It took a bit of time, but with careful searching almost all of the group saw the bird. The sound is the real treat though – it's a wonderful rich song. Further along we could see Stone Curlews in a grassy field and then when we reached the open heath a Dartford Warbler. To top it off there were excellent views of Woodlarks around the nearby quarry, and an unexpected Wheatear. At RSPB Minsmere many of us made good use of the excellent café before walking towards the North hide. A good variety of ducks and geese were seen, and then the walk towards the shore produced several Bittern sightings as they flew over the reeds busily feeding their offspring. There were plenty of waders seen from the East hide too. In June the club met at Wheatfen, where the warden, Will, showed us around. There were not too many bird sightings but they did include Marsh Harrier and Hobby. Eight different Dragonfly species were seen and identified by Will and his trainee Felix. They included Scarce Chaser as well as the Norfolk Hawker. A beetle larva, *Galeruca laticollis* was seen, a species first found in the UK by Ted Ellis in 1997 and still only seen at Wheatfen.

Our July visit to the little terns at the East Coast had to be cancelled because of poor weather, but we did manage a visit to Broadland Country Park on 8th for Nightjars. A lovely, still evening made for pleasant waiting, and we were rewarded with several sightings and churring sounds. Not a bit like the Nightingales but equally iconic, the churring of



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Nightjars is one of the special sounds of summer. Remember that full reports of our meetings are available on the website – WVBS.co.uk.

Future Events

Outdoor Meetings

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

Sunday 13th August – Beeston Common.

Sunday 24th September – Titchwell.

Saturday 28th October – Migrant hunting, venue to be decided nearer the time

Indoor Meetings

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

21st September – 14 Days in Madagascar by Colin Smith.

19th October – Bird ringing in Norfolk followed by Round Island Petrels.

WHAT'S ON LOCALLY

Brisley Village Cinema

Dave Pearson 07816 139926 –
dpearson1954@yahoo.co.uk

Friday 8th September sees the return of cinema to Brisley Village Hall.

We have missed you over the so-called summer of '23 and now we return with some recently released films for you to enjoy at affordable prices.

Our Autumn/Winter programme is generously supported by Homebase (Dereham), their donation has enabled us to maintain the ticket price at £4.00 per person. We are extremely grateful to Homebase.

The selection for September is Empire of Light.

Empire of Light is a 2022 romantic drama film directed, written, and co-produced

by Sam Mendes. Set in an English coastal town in the early 1980s, the film is about the power of human connection during turbulent times. It stars Olivia Colman, Micheal Ward, Monica Dolan, Tom Brooke, Tanya Moodie, Hannah Onslow, Crystal Clarke, Toby Jones, and Colin Firth.

Ice cream bars, tea or coffee will be available priced at £1.00 from the kitchen 50p. The bar will be open for evening performances.

Doors open at 6.45 pm and the movie begins at 7.30 pm.

Your community cinema is dependent on your support – we hope to see you soon.

Hazardous Waste

7/8 October at Dereham, 9.00–4.00pm

Hazardous waste will be accepted from individual households These days are not for businesses or groups.

Eg Old paint, antifreeze, fertilisers, pesticides, glue, aerosols (not empty), weed killer, chemicals etc.

SHOUT OUT FOR NEW SINGERS!

Fakenham Choral Society

With the launch of its 50th anniversary season on September 5th, Fakenham Choral Society is on the hunt for new singers to help celebrate its birthday in style. The choir, which has rehearsed and performed regularly in Fakenham since 1973, has an enviable reputation for bringing great choral music to north Norfolk. Many are exciting, large-scale, pieces which depend on a sizeable choir - often with an orchestra and professional soloists - to achieve their maximum impact.

Tracey Thompson, the society's secretary, is convinced there are local people out there who would find singing in the choir a fantastically rewarding experience. Says

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Tracey: 'Singing with others is known to bring all sorts of benefits to both physical and mental health. Choir members will testify that it's also plain, good old-fashioned, fun. We are an approachable lot and many of our singers have become really good friends.'

With the prospect of three magnificent concerts ahead, including the iconic 'Requiem' by Verdi in April 2024, this will be a season to remember. More information on joining the choir can be found at www.fakenhamchoralsociety.org or by contacting the choir's secretary, Tracey Thompson on 01362 668938 (fakenhamchoralsec@gmail.com).

UNEXPECTED DISCOVERY IN THE CHURCH

Have you tried the church quiz devised by Susanna and Peter Wade-Martins? I picked up a copy from the table in the nave and set off, with a small LED torch to help in the search. There are twelve photos of things located in and outside the church. The answers are on the back of the card. It is challenging but informative. I confess I had to look up the answer to number 11 to help me unravel the carving on the choir stalls which reveals their date.

However, this gave me the idea to check the three medieval choir stalls, removed from the chancel at the time of the Victorian restorations, to the north-west corner of the nave, near the tower arch. On the seat of the middle stall I discovered an incised design that could be an old board game.

It is a neat square (2.5 inches or 6.5cm) with diagonal lines from corner to corner and lines joining the mid points of opposite sides. These all cross in the centre where there is a small circular depression (see photo, the 5p coin shows the scale).

The game is played using eight small counters of two contrasting colours.

The players have four counters each. The aim is to get three of your own counters in a row to win the game. The players introduce their counters in turn on any point on the board. Then they move one of their counters one point along a line at each turn to play until one player has three counters in a line.

The rules are similar to the Medieval game of Merrells, later known as Nine Men's Morris. This has a more complicated board and needs eighteen counters of two contrasting colours. Several examples of this were found incised in stone in the excavations at Castle Acre Castle. Variations are known with simpler boards (Six and Three Men's Morris).

As for the board in our church, I wonder when it was done, by whom and why. Was it small choir boys? What was used to incise the lines and create the central depression, or was that there already? What did the players use as counters-small coins or bone or wooden playing pieces?

It has an old worn look about it. The big question must be- did the Rector, churchwardens or choirmaster find out?

So, you never know what you might discover while you are searching for the answers to the Church Quiz. Have Fun!

Robert Rickett



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Thank you – chat soon

THE ROOD SCREEN

Over recent weeks I have been working on a project to photograph the rood screen in the village church. It is sad to see the state of some of the panels and I hope there is no further deterioration to this gem.

I decided to see what a little creative work in Photoshop could do to restore some semblance of the originals, unfortunately, the loss of paint meant that only a limited amount of "restoration" could be achieved without the result being a travesty of the original. So, I have done a series of "Before" and "After" images.

For information regarding the screen, I have consulted the excellent souvenir guide written by Susanna and Peter Wade-Martins.



Finally, I have put together a video showing the original and "restored" panels which will be available for free download at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/3b0s5bskfnik5gaw91cup/St.Mary-s-Rood-Screen-v2.mp4?rlkey=1g1pes057lhulf86fr2k7kile&dl=0>

Ian McIntosh

Saturday
16th September
7.30pm
Retiring collection

St Mary's Church
North Elmham
Dereham
NR20 5JU

String Quartet Concert

Programme to include:

Mozart Eine Kleine Nachtmusik

Max Richter Spring

Beethoven Op18 No1

La Vie En Rose

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A SEPTEMBER REFLECTION

With September comes a transition between summer and autumn. As we recall the hot days and sunshine of the summer, we remember that the "days grow short when you reach September," Maxwell Anderson. Of course, the weather can be really beautiful this month, something of an Indian summer, but can bring a storm or two!

September can be a beginning for some. It was once the start of the year for the Romans, with the 1st being New Year's Day. For our youngsters, it hails the beginning of the new Academic Year, and a start back to schools and colleges. On the 23rd we have the autumn equinox and thus the official start of autumn.

This month is of course the time for harvesting the fruits of our labours and a celebration in our churches of Harvest Festival. We will be singing harvest hymns and decorating the churches with baskets of fruits and vegetables. Perhaps most notable is the apple. Time to pick and store the fruit and look forward to those hot apple pies later in the year; and perhaps a drink of cider! It is also the month of the ripening of the grapes and hence Voltaire's note that "wine is the divine juice of September." So cheers to that!

The flowers of the month include the dahlias, chrysanthemums and the September flower or Michaelmas daisy. Which reminds us that the 29th of the month is Michaelmas Day, the Feast of the archangel Michael and All the Angels. The celebration of this holiday teaches the importance of facing fears and strengthening resolve. This day is traditionally associated with the shortening days as autumn proceeds, and the end of the harvest. The day when the Bailiff or Reeve of the manor would start making the accounts for the year.

As always we have a lot to be thankful for and to celebrate. So, let's sit in autumn

sun and reach for that glass of apple juice, cider or wine, and remember September.

Yours in Faith

Colin Ferris
Authorised Worship Assistant,
Heart of Norfolk Benefice.

WORTHING NEWS

Please come out and support your local church. St Margaret's will be open on Saturday, 9th September from 9.30am to 4.30pm to meet and greet all enthusiasts taking part either on bike, walking or even travelling by car is now permitted. This annual sponsored event is in aid of Norfolk Churches Trust, and everyone is invited to visit as many churches as possible across the County.

If you wish to take part, it's not too late.

Details & sponsor forms from:

Celia tel: 01362 668928
email: c.daniel784@btinternet.com
"Blessing", Church Road, Worthing,
NR20 5HR

September Sunday Services

August & September are (depending on the weather) extremely busy times for our farmers and growers. And on Sunday the 10th September at Worthing Church we will be celebrating our annual Harvest Praise Service at 10.30am. We hope you will come and join us and perhaps bring along some produce, packages or tins for the Harvest Table.



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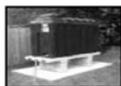
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All donations will then be delivered after the service to our local Mid Norfolk Foodbank in Dereham which helps those in need. Our offertory collection will once again be donated to WaterAid.

Sunday 24th September 10.30 am
Iona Service.

Refreshments served after each service.
We hope you can join us.

Advance Notice

Launch of our annual shoebox appeal operation christmas child, details to follow in October.

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Heart of Norfolk Group Services for September

3rd September – 13th Sunday after Trinity

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

10th September – 14th Sunday after Trinity

10.30 am	Bawdeswell*	The 10.30
10.30 am	Foulsham	Holy Communion
10.30 am	Stibbard	Harvest Morning Praise
10.30 am	Worthing	Harvest Holy Communion

17th September – 15th Sunday after Trinity

10.30 am	Bawdeswell*	Holy Communion
10.30 am	North Elmham	Harvest Holy Communion & Baptism
10.30 am	Wood Norton	Holy Communion
4.00 pm	Foulsham	Choral Evensong

24th September – 16th Sunday after Trinity

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

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

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| ELAND | ELEPHANT | WARTHOG | CIVET | |

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This Month's Photo Contributors

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

COVER: Sarah Felton,
PAGE 13: Ray Norman
PAGE 17–19: Sarah Felton, Ray Norman
PAGE 27: Sarah Felton
PAGES 31, 33, 35 & 37: Dave Appleton
PAGE 43: Robert Rickett
PAGE 45: Ian McIntosh

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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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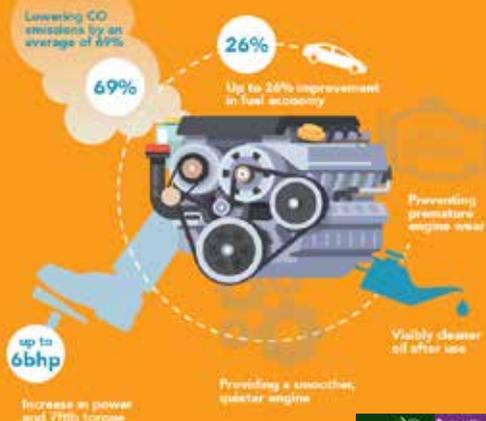
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