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SEPTEMBER 2026

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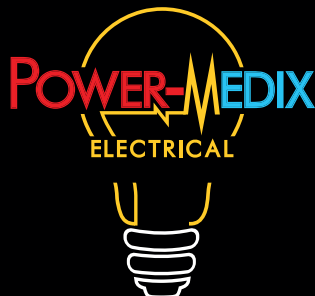
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EDITORIAL

What a month August was! We hope that you survived the heat and lack of rain. How did you cope?

The Annual Gardening Show went off well despite the difficult circumstances called weather, and the turnout of both entries and visitors was very satisfying. It always has a lovely atmosphere and people seem to enjoy themselves.

The eclipse brought people out and about looking for good places to view this phenomenon, which will not be seen again in most of our lifetimes. Sarah asked for any photos from you and was delighted by the response. Hope you like the photos.

Jenny has worked hard with her team to produce a series of uplifting concerts, varied enough to satisfy all tastes. We hope you sampled at least one of them.

Did you get a fright in mid August when the National Alarm hit your mobile phone regarding the excessive hot weather and the danger of fires?

September sees the children back to school and the clubs that closed over the summer will re-open re energised for the Autumn. Check the Dates for somewhere to go. You don't have to join permanently, just go along for a taster and see if it ticks your box. The Countrysiders are going from strength to strength and have a wide and varied programme for young people.

By now you should have received your two new blue Food Waste bins. The system is due to start on 7th September.

You will also see the Parish Council Chairman's Report from the Annual Meeting in May. Normally because this meeting is only once a year, the minutes, reports etc would not be published until the next meeting ie next year! However, we thought it important that everyone gets to see more about the work of the Parish Council, hence the report.

Our thanks go to our regular donors on Station Road. Thank you for your commitment.

Finally, we ask you for your special thoughts for our Rector Sally who is very ill and for her daughters at this time.

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 SEPTEMBER

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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CARE QUESTIONS

Able Community Care is a Norfolk, family owned, Home Care provider which was established in 1980. We are often asked by our clients, carers and members of the public, questions across a wide range of care issues. Care information is often time-consuming and difficult to access, so we are happy to share some of our questions and answers with you.

Question: I am beginning to think that an older relative may be starting to show behaviour that may be dementia. Could you recommend any leaflets that I could read to help me either understand or dismiss the thoughts that I have?

Answer: Yes -For anyone who has a relative with dementia, is concerned that they or a loved one may be developing dementia or would simply like to learn more about the condition, The Dementia Guide from the Alzheimer's Society is an excellent resource. This comprehensive 96-page booklet can be downloaded free of charge or requested in printed form from the Alzheimer's Society website at Alzheimers.org.uk, or by calling the Alzheimer's Society Dementia Support Line on 0333 150 3456.

The guide provides clear and practical information to help people understand dementia, including day-to-day coping strategies, ways to stay safe and well, and details of the support services and care options that may be available.

Written in an easy-to-read format and carrying the NHS symbol on its front cover, the guide is a valuable source of information for anyone affected by dementia.

Question: Do I have to pay for the Attendance Allowance?

Answer: You do NOT have to pay to apply for the Attendance Allowance or Scotland Pension Age Disability Payment (PADP).

We recently heard of a pensioner who was contacted unexpectedly and told she could receive up to £114.60 per week* and that their company could complete an application for her.

A little research revealed that some businesses charge between £250 and £650 + VAT to help with Attendance Allowance claims, while others work on a No Win, No Fee basis or take a percentage of the award.

Before paying anyone, remember:

1. You can apply yourself online or by requesting an application form.
2. Free help is available from trusted organisations, including:

- Age UK – 0800 678 1602 or local branches
- Independent Age – 0800 319 6789
- Your local Citizens Advice branch

Advice organisations consistently point out that you do not need to pay for assistance with an Attendance Allowance application.

Please share this information with older relatives, friends, and neighbours who may benefit. *Lower rate is £76.70



Defibrillator

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Doctors Surgery,
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Pavilion,
Holt Road

Only by calling 999 can you gain access to a defibrillator

Call 999

Start CPR

Switch on defibrillator

Follow its instructions



COUNTRYSIDERS SUMMER UPDATE

As we reach halfway through the summer break, we've been taking a moment to reflect on another fantastic year of Countrysiders meetings, activities and adventures, while also starting to plan our programme for the year ahead.

We are currently in contact with a few exciting places and people and are busy finalising dates. There is lots in the pipeline, so watch this space for more information!

Our First Meeting of the New Year

We already have our first session of the new year booked, and it's proving to be very popular!

We will be heading to Hautbois Activity Centre near Coltishall, for an exciting session of paddleboarding and kayaking.

With a mixture of old and new members, we currently have 32 children and 8 adults taking part.

We love being able to give our Countrysiders opportunities to try new things, both within the farming and countryside network and further afield. We're sure this will be a fantastic way to start the new year!

Betty Jars for the RNLI

During our visit to Wells Lifeboat Station, we collected some Betty Jars, with the aim of filling them with 5p coins and returning them to the station once full.

The jars are a simple but fantastic way of raising money for the RNLI and helping them continue their amazing lifesaving work. Each jar holds around £2 in 5p pieces, the photo top left shows us dropping in the donation of £110 we had collected.

A huge thank you to all the children, parents and families who got involved and

collected their 5p coins. This is a brilliant club achievement, and we are very proud of everyone who took part.

Ed's note: A Betty Jar is a small recycled jam or marmalade jar used to collect 5p pieces for the RNLI charity. Named after Betty Frith who was an honorary Treasurer for the RNLI in Hertford.

Finally, we have an entrepreneur in the making!

One of our Countrysiders, William Neave, (cover photo) has come up with the fantastic idea of planting sunflowers on his family farm to create a Pick Your Own Sunflower Patch.

What a brilliant idea!

We are incredibly proud of William for coming up with his own business idea and wish him every success with his sunflower venture. We can't wait to see how it develops!

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

You can also find us on Facebook and Instagram by searching North Elmham Countrysiders.

Come along, give it a go and see what Countrysiders is all about!



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BRECKLAND LOCAL PLAN UPDATE

A brief update to explain what happens next with Breckland District Council's Local Plan including plans for housing in the village.

Many residents attended the public meeting held by Broadland Housing on 1 July. At that meeting Broadland Housing announced their intention to proceed with plans for housing on sites north of Back Lane and at Station Yard. You will therefore be surprised and possibly disappointed, as was the Parish Council, when on 3rd July Breckland published the latest draft of their new Local Plan. This announced that Broadland Housing will instead be looking to build at Back Lane North and Back Lane South (combined into one site named NEL 2) for 75 houses in total, but will not be including the Station Yard site. In addition, a further site south of Eastgate Street called NEL 1 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.

The latest version of the Local Plan is currently out for consultation, although comments can only be made as to the legal compliance and 'soundness' of the proposed Plan at this stage, before it goes to an Inspector for examination. The consultation runs until 16 September and the Parish Council will be submitting comments, which will be available to read at www.elmham.org.uk following the Parish Council's September meeting.

Michael Rayner – Councillor and Planning Lead, North Elmham Parish Council

GARDENING CLUB

Need I say it ? – but our visit to the Black Shuck Distillery to enjoy a Ploughman's Supper and Cocktail tasting – went well!

Thirty-three of us descended upon Sarah and Patrick's beautiful barn and proceeded to enjoy the patter interspaced with tastings of various cocktails. We were shown round the central hub where all the magic happens before returning to eat a splendid Ploughman's supper. They have received many prestigious awards, some national, since we were there last year.

Not surprisingly, many people took home full sized bottles, obviously to check and see if the sample was as good as promised!

The Annual Show on Saturday 8th of August went off really well and there is a separate report and photographs elsewhere in the magazine.

September has two dates for us. The first is Friday 11th September when we will leave Boar's Hill Carpark at 12 noon to visit Fuller's Mill. This visit had been postponed because of the heat earlier in the summer. Contact Ray if you need more details. 01362 667226

Our club meeting on 24th September sees an old friend, Dr Ian Bedford returning to talk about Companion Planting. Everyone is welcome and he is well worth listening to.

We look forward to seeing you all and a bit like Young Farmers where you don't have to be a farmer to join – you don't have to be a gardener to enjoy out talks, company and cake!

Meg White

CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS



GROUP

Archive Group
Bowls - Institute
Bowls - King's Head
Brisley & North Elmham Cricket Club
Countrysiders
Elmham Football Club
Elmham News
Elmham Surgery Patient Participation
Elmham Tennis Club
Friends of North Elmham School
Gardening Club
Guides
Knit and Natter
NELS (North Elmham Living Sustainably)
North Elmham Netball Trailblazers
Reading Group
Royal British Legion
Sewing for Pleasure
SINE (Help)
Snooker Mon & Fri
Snooker Wed
Tea@Two
The May Singers
Walking Football
Walking Group
Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society
Wensum Valley Miniature Railway
Wives + All
Yoga
Young Farmers

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Gill King, 01362 668530
Karen Cornall, 07752 580414
Millie Fisher, fishermillie15@gmail.com



KNIT AND NATTER

Having got over our disappointment of not being able to make toys to sell for charity, we began to search for different interesting items we could knit, which would be of use to local and national good causes. Liz brought in some lovely large bobble hats she is making for the Mission to Seafarers charity. This easy pattern can be found online. June is collecting pairs of red hearts for the Baby unit in our local hospital. The rest of us are knitting or crocheting blankets for local care homes or rescue animal centres.

We have received some very nice thank you letters recently, which were much appreciated by the group.

Liz has made and collected from our group, 100 large poppies, which have gone to join a display in Chelmsford town centre. This has been organised by the town council and the British Legion. All donations will go to charity.

We have to happily report that we are in a position that we do not require any more wool etc. Fourteen years ago, we had nothing, but now your kind donations have overtaken us, such that we have 4 large bags full of wool of every kind and colour, and so many needles that we could build a small battleship. Thanks to everyone who have generously supported us in the past.

Next meeting Tuesday September 1st.
2-00 til 4-00 at the Pavilion.

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CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

As noted last year, national and international events look set to continue to significantly influence life in North Elmham.

Local Government Reorganisation, has reached the stage where three unitary authorities are now planned, with Breckland District being amalgamated into the much larger West Norfolk authority with the new arrangements due to commence in 2028.

A revised local plan is intended to substantially increase new homes in the area with the existing Breckland area targeted with around 900 additional houses each year by 2040. By the time this filters down to North Elmham we will be required to provide a proportionate number within the village.

The local elections, having been initially cancelled, were held earlier this month and it is, I believe, fair to say the outcome heavily influenced by national rather than local issues. We are yet to discover how the significant political shift seen in these results will impact us.

Local Matters

The parish council has overseen a variety of changes during the year. A new grass cutting contract was negotiated which apart from a few teething issues has yielded a much improved service and we have been able to support the grass cutting in the church yard for another year.

New fencing has been installed around Cathedral Meadows, and a great deal of maintenance has been carried out in Millennium Wood.

Concerns over the condition of the wall by the pathway to the Cathedral Ruins have been raised but, after much chasing, we now have full assurance from English

Heritage after a structural survey was conducted that it is safe.

New village gates were installed in partnership with Norfolk County Highways at the Dereham and Broom Green entrances to the village, and our Speed Awareness Monitors were upgraded to recharge the batteries by solar power. It is hoped that the data collected from these devices can support the work of the local speed watch group.

A new defibrillator was purchased to replace the ageing unit located in the Surgery car park.

At the Pavilion, the Football Club continues to expand and achieved promotion this season. The Parish Council supported the club in helping with the procurement of an additional stand alone referee changing facility necessary to meet regulations applying to a higher league. A new contract was taken out to supply and empty the waste bin in the car park; however, I take this opportunity to remind parishioners this is not a public facility. The recycling centres in Dereham and Fakenham should be used for household waste disposal.

We have upgraded the CCTV capability covering the Pavilion, car park and Playing Field in response to concerns over abuse of facilities, vandalism and anti-social behaviour. Another consequence of this sadly was the decision to remove the skate ramp on the playing field along with the basketball net nearby.

During the year, responsibility for the car park and open space associated with the Brookside development was handed over to us from the developers. Additional fencing alongside the bridge to the school was installed by us for safety reasons and the uptake of parents using the car park for dropping off and collecting children has been great to see. Unfortunately, the charging point located in the car park remains ornamental only, as it transpires that questionable design and installation

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decisions taken before we assumed responsibility have severely restricted our operational options. We continue to seek a resolution on this issue.

The green space beyond the car park was set out to provide a pleasant and environmentally friendly area and I hope this can be achieved. I take this opportunity to remind everyone that the parish council will maintain this space in cooperation with our local living sustainably group. Please do not cut back or poison the wild flowers that have been sown for everyone's benefit.

Village Buildings

Last year we embarked upon an exercise to evaluate options for new / improved village hall facilities in the village. Visits to broadly comparable areas have been conducted this year including Swanton Morley, Marshland Hall & Tea Rooms and Lyng village hall. I am very grateful to our hosts at these locations for giving up their time to talk us through their journey

to a new hall and providing very useful lessons learnt.

Whilst each location has differing opportunities and challenges there are some common factors for success have emerged which include:

- Formation of a financially independent charity and management team to oversee the development and running of the facility.
- Parish Council support is important, but independent management is strongly recommended.
- Creating flexible accommodation which can be moulded to suit multiple different facilities is essential, with equipment storage nearly always having a greater demand than supply.
- Whilst indoor sports should be provided for, attempts to integrate changing

facilities and car parking for outside sports such as football tend not to work.

- Sound financial planning is required to provide realistic projections of income likely to be generated and balanced against equally realistic costs. This extends to design considerations to ensure as many groups and activities can be hosted, and avoiding overly complex technical solutions which yield overly expensive repair budgets.

Parish Council Members

This year has seen no changes to our membership, and I am extremely grateful to all for their time and commitment to the village. This extends to our colleague Colin Smith, who despite fighting ill health continues to remain part of the group, and on behalf of all members I wish him a full recovery.

Looking to the future, I do believe we need to actively encourage both new and younger residents to become involved with the work of the Parish Council. Please feel free to attend meetings and participate where you see an opportunity to use your skills or experience to influence how we can keep North Elmham as a special place to live.

Paul Grainger
26th May 2026





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THE RUINED CHURCH AT NORTH ELMHAM

Our understanding of the ruins has changed several times in recent years and now seems to be a good moment to give you what we believe to be the timeline for the site which is one of the most significant heritage monuments in the county. It is mostly built of dark brown stone called ferruginous conglomerate found as iron-rich deposits in post-glacial sands and gravels.

This is a locally quarried stone mainly used in the eleventh and possibly early twelfth centuries before imported limestone was easily available.

In 1066 at the time of the Norman Conquest, this was the location for the Anglo-Saxon cathedral for a diocese which roughly corresponding to Norfolk.

1072 The bishop at the time, Bishop Herfast (1070-1085), left North Elmham and established a cathedral for a short while in Thetford, which had become an expanding industrial town.

But that didn't last long because it was already clear that Norwich was to be the capital town of the county, so Bishop Losinga, Herfast's successor, moved the throne again, this time to Norwich.

1095/6 Bishop Losinga started building in Norwich his great Norman cathedral while demolishing quite large areas to make room for the cathedral close, while another area of the Norwich was also being cleared to build Norwich castle. In the new cathedral under the present bishop's throne are the remains of a stone seat which are thought to be the one Bishop Herfast took from North Elmham.

In about 1100 Bishop Losinga started to build our present church, St Mary's, while converting the old cathedral into a chapel. To do this he blocked up the old

west doorway and inserted new north and south doorways.

1326 The bishops of Norwich still retained ownership of the North Elmham manor and manorial accounts show that at this time a large quantity of floorboards were purchased, probably to floor over the old chapel to convert it into a manor house. This then gave a new upper living space at first floor level, and it was probably at this time that the dividing walls were inserted and the internal stairway was constructed down to the ground floor which had become the bishop's wine cellar.

1387 Bishop Despenser was granted a licence by the king to fortify his North Elmham house thus, making it into a castle. He dug the massive earthwork ditches around his house, piled soil against the walls and probably constructed a drawbridge over his new moat to his first-floor doorway. But in doing so, he disturbed the burials of the probably thousands of the Christian faithful who had been laid to rest around the old cathedral for hundreds of years.

Presumably that didn't bother him, for he was most concerned about his own safety having become very unpopular and known as the Fighting Bishop who ruthlessly put down the Peasants Revolt at the Battle of North Walsham in 1381.

In 1538 the old manor house was still the meeting place of the manorial court and was presumably still habitable.

But by 1561 we know that it the building had become a ruin and was a quarry for stone for repairing the church.

In 1864 the whole of the church except the tower was refaced with Brandon flints which is why you can't see any of the brown stone from the cathedral used to patch up the church in previous centuries.

In the 1870s the North Elmham vicar, Augustus Legge, began excavations clearing the ruins 'with his own hands'

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**Saturday Sept 19th
2.30pm - 4.00pm**

 [haleyglenniesmith](https://www.facebook.com/haleyglenniesmith)

flyer by lisaallsop@me.com

finding many human bones. He thought he had just found a bishop's manor house set within the earthworks of a 'Roman station', not realising he had found the cathedral.

In 1903 the ruins were first recognised to be the remains of a pre-Conquest church in an article published in *The Builder*.

In 1948 the site, when still in the ownership of the Diocese, was handed into the care or 'Guardianship' of the of Ministry of Works. The site was cleared of undergrowth, and further excavations began in 1954.

In 1963 these excavations were published in the journal *Medieval Archaeology* confirming the ruins to be the Anglo-Saxon cathedral.

From 1967 to 1970 excavations in the Park, across the road from the ruins, found considerable evidence for Anglo-Saxon occupation including traces of a wooden bishop's palace. A considerable number of burials were also found, with the density of these burial increasing significantly towards the ruins. So, this confirmed that the ruins are on the site of the tenth and eleventh-century cathedral.

Then in 1982 a new theory was published saying that the ruins were built as a bishop's chapel and not the cathedral, dating it all to c.1100 on the evidence mainly from the carved limestone forming the north and south doorways. This missed the point that these doorways were clearly inserted, a fact best seen around the north doorway.

Finally, in 2025 another academic paper was published showing that the north and south doorways were actually inserted into an older structure and that the ruins were indeed the pre- Norman cathedral.

A Summary

So, we have a very complicated story to tell of the Anglo-Saxon cathedral being converted into a bishop's chapel, then into a manor house, and then into a

castle before falling into ruins in the late sixteenth century. Converting that story into a timeline which the casual visitor can understandable during a brief visit to the monument will not be easy. We must wait to see what sort of job English Heritage makes of it. A while may pass before the brown tourist signs just saying 'Bishop's chapel' are changed.

Meanwhile, we can feel pleased that we have such a significant part of Anglo-Saxon history in our village.

Peter Wade-Martins

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

From 11–20th September, there will be many opportunities to visit places that are not usually accessible, listen to talks etc. For details check heritageopendays.org.uk and specify Norfolk.

DEREHAM WALKERS ARE WELCOME

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

A reminder that our Garden Party walk is on Monday August 31st.

For up-to-date information on all our walks, please check our website

<http://www.derehamwaw.org.uk/>, email Ken Hawkins: ken-hawkins@tiscali.co.uk or call him on 07505 426750.





GARDENING CLUB ANNUAL SHOW

Our 94th Annual Show took place on Saturday 8th August, and we were truly humbled by and proud of all the wonderful entries in what has been such a challenging growing year.

After our show in 2025, we reported on what had already been a difficult growing season, with temperatures in the high 20s followed by heavy rain in July. But this year has surpassed even those difficult conditions, with extreme heat and very little rain.

Yet despite all the challenges the standard of entries in the vegetables, fruit and flowers was fantastic. It was clear to see not only considerable skill and experience, but also a dogged determination to keep growing, nurturing and producing the very best.

Of course, our show is not just about the garden. We also celebrate our bakers and preservers, knitters and sewers, photographers and artists, and the high quality of the entries showed just what a wealth of talent we have in our village.

The Under-16s entries were a joy to behold, with plenty of talent and imagination on display. Congratulations to everyone who entered and especially to those who were placed in their classes. A special congratulations to Kayla Mitchell, who won the Countrysiders Cup for the 8–16 age group.

A huge thank you to everyone who entered – members and non-members, first-timers and old hands. It takes time and effort to prepare an entry, and without you there simply would be no show to put on.

Congratulations to everyone who gained a 1st, 2nd or 3rd place! And a special congratulations to those entering for the first time – we hope you enjoyed taking part and that we'll see you again next year. Well done to everyone who took a cup (or perhaps several) home this year

A very special congratulations goes to Joanne James, our Overall Show Winner, who took home the Memorial Challenge Cup for gaining the most points across the whole show.

And finally, a huge thank you to everyone who helped make the show happen. There is a tremendous amount of work that goes on behind the scenes and on the day, and it really is a huge effort involving a lot of people. A special thank you to those who helped set up and stayed behind to help clear up after the show.

If you would like to see more photos from the Show then check out our Facebook page. The Show is open to anyone not just club members, both young and not so young, we have classes for the whole family to enter. If you fancy giving it a go next year then keep an eye out for the Show Schedule in February/March 2027.

Sarah Felton





2026 CUP WINNERS

Gardeners Cup

Best Exhibit
Classes 1–13
(Round Courgettes)
Sarah Felton

Hastings Cup

Best Exhibit in
Classes 14–25
(Onions)
Joanne James

Memorial Hall Trophy

Best Exhibit in
Classes 27–30
(Floral Design
Using an Unusual
Container)
Caroline Payne

Railway Tavern Cup

Best Exhibit in
Classes 31–36
(Cosmos)
Sarah Felton

Wensum Cup

Best Exhibit in
Classes 37–39
(Cactus)
Karen Bloomfield

Eastgate Cup

Best Exhibit in
Classes 40–44
(Lemon Curd)
Julia Williamson

Delia Cup

Best Exhibit in
Classes 45–50
(No Bake
Cheesecake)
Mary MacEwan

Marsh Cup

Best Exhibit in
Classes 51–52
(Photography:
Shadows)
Ray Norman

Jessica Cup

Best Exhibit in
Classes 53–54
(Collage)
Karen Bloomfield

Gerald Cup

Best Exhibit in
Classes 55–58
(Crochet Animal)
Joanne James

Kerrison Cup

Classes 1–25,
Vegetables & Fruit
Joanne James

Janet Sinclair Cup

Classes 27–39,
Flowers & Plants
Caroline Payne

Seamans Challenge Cup

Classes 40–44
Jams, Preserves &
Pickles
Julia Williamson

J. Hitchcock Vase

Classes 45–50
Baking
Heather Caley

David Sinclair Trophy

Classes 51–54
Photography & Art
Karen Bloomfield

Cathedral Plate

Classes 55–58
Handicrafts
Joanne James

Countrysiders Cup

Classes 61–64
8–16 years
Kayla Mitchell

Special Class Cup

Heaviest Potato
Sarah Felton

Caley Cup

Members Annual
Competition
Tish Moore

Memorial Challenge Cup

Most Points in Show
Joanne James



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CHURCHYARD MEMORIAL INSCRIPTIONS

Idly flicking around the Memorial inscriptions of the churchyard at St Mary's church some of them seem very fulsome and deeply mourned by their loved ones.

The record of the memorials in our churchyard is based on a previous recording carried out by the Women's Institute in the early 1980's. Many of them only record the date of death here in the village but some of them are interesting. Here are just a few of them.

Peter Johnson... who departed this life Nov 3rd 1816 aged 80. An honest man lies here for truth and justice he preferred, he showed through life a generous mind and died in peace with all mankind.

Sutton Sparkes... who died July 1st aged 65 years. Many are the afflictionards of the righteous but the Lord delivered them.

In memory of Edm the son of Henry and Elizabeth Codling, who was accidentally killed aged 24 years.

Weep not for me my parents dear I am not lost but rested here. Taken away from you I could not speak a word at all.

Rose Mary, the wife of Richard Fisher who died March 30th 1787 aged 29 years. Also son Richard died an infant. Oh hasty death why doth thy dart extend, so soon to strike our faithful friend.

Robert Abel who departed this life May 10th 1900 aged 66 years. Great are the troubles of the righteous but the Lord delivereth him out of it all.

Within the Vestry... Sacred to the memory of Katherine Munnings, relict of John Munnings late of the City of Norwich, Merchant and daughter of William Vesy, formerly of this Parish. Her unaffected piety and benevolence gained her general esteem. She departed this life Jan 2nd in the 73rd year of her life.

In loving memory of William Howard, died June 7th 1924 and of his wife Celia Howard, died March 1st 1931.

There is a link death cannot sever, love and remembrance live for ever.

In loving memory of Hannah dearly loved daughter of William and Charlotte Frost died 18th 1896 aged 27 years.

She is gone from this valley of tears and sorrows

Her sufferings are o'er she has entered a land of blest and now dwells on a happier shore.

Nevertheless, despite being a country parish, I found quite a selection of jobs for the men of the village

I found a Bishop, several farmers, a merchant, a Station Master, Various Military men, a Surgeon (not as we know a surgeon today), Teacher, North Elmham Volunteers, Servants, Pastor, Vicar and finally a Hawker (much the same as a Pedlar). Somewhere I have read about this Hawker who regularly passed through the village, perhaps he had relatives here which is why he was buried here.

Janet Woodhouse

WIVES PLUS ALL

Our September meeting takes place on

THURSDAY 10th SEPTEMBER at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall, North Elmham

When Simon Harrup from Natural Surroundings, Norfolk Wild Flower Centre based at The Bayfield Estate, Holt will give an illustrated talk on "Norfolk's Wild Flowers".

There will be refreshments and a raffle

All welcome, please come along.

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FAKENHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

Fakenham Choral Society is delighted to welcome James Willshire as its new music director. James's musical training is as a pianist and he works as both a performer and teacher. He has performed at the BBC Proms, on BBC radio, and at concert halls around the country. His award-winning recordings have been reviewed internationally and feature works by under-represented composers. His future concerts include debut recitals at Wigmore Hall with the Hebrides Ensemble.

James has previously worked as a conductor in the Cirencester area with both the Cirencester and Cotswold Male Voice choirs, conducted concerts at Hereford and Truro Cathedrals, and is Director of Music at St Peter's in Winchcombe.

James comments: 'Fakenham Choral Society has a reputation as one of Norfolk's foremost choirs and I am delighted to have been selected. I look forward to starting work in September on the Christmas concert.'

Chair of the Society Rosemary Dear said: 'We carried out a thorough selection process involving the whole choir, who all had an anonymous vote indicating which candidate they preferred. James was the most popular choice both with the interviewing panel and choir members. We're all looking forward to starting rehearsals with him in September and working on our Christmas concert, which will be held on Saturday 12 December in Fakenham Parish Church at 5.30pm.'

Shirley Collyer
Publicity, Fakenham Choral Society

DATES TO REMEMBER: SEPTEMBER

Tue 1st	Knit and Natter RBL AGM	Pavilion King's Head	2.00 pm 8.00 pm
Wed 2nd	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30 pm
Thu 3rd	Back to school		
Wed 9th	Mobile Library visits Tea at Two	The Heath-Wensum Drive Memorial Hall	1.15–4.40 pm 2.00 pm
Thu 10th	Wives+All - Norfolk Wild Flowers	Memorial Hall	7.30 pm
Fri 11th	Gardening Club Visit Chaos Collective- see poster	Fuller's Mill St Mary's Church	Boar's Hill 12 noon 7.30 pm
Sat 19th	Haley Glennie-Smith Sings	St Mary's Church	2.30–4.00 pm
Thu 24th	Gardening Club-Companion Planting	Memorial Hall	7.30 pm
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ELMHAM WILDLIFE



I will start with an update on the Spotted Flycatchers: after writing last month's piece they started to become much very vocal and obvious. Sometimes one would call from my TV aerial and I could look up at it through the skylight window in my bathroom, and often it would be in the trees overhanging my garden, again most easily viewed from the loo! One day while I was chatting with a friend in the garden I saw a bird with food in its beak (photo 1). That's usually a sign that they're feeding young, so proof that there was a pair and they were breeding. But then a second bird appeared and one fed the other (photo 2). I initially assumed it to be a parent feeding a youngster, but as I looked more closely I realised that both birds were adults. I believe males will bring females food when the female is incubating eggs on the nest, but as these were both away from a nest I think it must have been a courtship ritual. At least this proves there was a pair present. They've gone quiet again now – I'm hoping it's because the female is sitting on eggs, but I fear it may be because they've moved on having failed to breed. Time will tell, perhaps.



Another exciting find in my garden over the last month involved a beetle. A Spangled Button-beetle to be precise (photo 3). Many beetles are fiendishly difficult to identify but this one is highly distinctive by beetle standards. They were first found in the UK on the Kent/Sussex border but recently they have begun to spread north having been found in west Suffolk and west Norfolk. It's still a rare beetle though, and not one I was expecting





to see in my garden moth trap as they're normally found at the edge of sandy lakes and gravel pits. They have quite long legs, especially the hind legs, and they run extremely fast.



In around 1868 a French scientist living in Massachusetts imported some Gypsy Moths from Europe as part of a study into the industrial production of moth silk. He kept them in his home and one windy day, some eggs or caterpillars blew out of an open window. At first he found a few moths in his garden but no-one else was finding them so it didn't seem to be a problem. But over a decade later that changed. The scientist had moved house by then, but the new occupant found swarms of caterpillars in his garden. A couple of years later neighbours found caterpillars everywhere, completely stripping their apple and pear trees. Soon after, the outbreak was so devastating that they stripped practically everything in the whole neighbourhood.



There were so many caterpillars that people reported being able to hear them eating in the trees (apparently it sounded like the clipping of scissors). They couldn't hang out washing to dry as there was so much excrement falling out of the trees. State funds were made available for their eradication but all attempts to do so failed and they continued to spread. They now cover more than a million square kilometres of North America and are still spreading. Most years they aren't too much of a problem but in some years up to 2.8 million hectares of forest have been defoliated by Gypsy Moth caterpillars.



Gypsy Moths were once common in the UK but the British ones were very fussy in their eating habits and by early in the 20th century they had become extinct. For nearly 100 years they were absent from the UK but in 1995 a new



population was discovered in Essex, colonists from Europe where they are much less picky about what their caterpillars eat. Females don't travel far, so they must have been imported accidentally, probably as eggs or larvae. Soon they became widespread across south-east England and now they are spreading north. They have been recorded a few times in Norfolk over the last decade, but numbers surged last year and especially this summer. In one sense they aren't pretty moths (brown), but they are impressive (large and with big feathery antennae). I caught my first (and second and third) in July (photo 4). Will they become a pest species here? That remains to be seen, but hopefully they are close enough to their native European population that unlike in North America, the natural ecosystem controls will prevent them from being a serious nuisance here, except perhaps in peak years of abundance.

I've mentioned Hummingbird Hawk-moths a couple of times recently – because you have mentioned them to me. I continued to receive reports of people seeing them in their gardens and at last this month I can report that I've seen one in my own garden too... it's only taken me 12 years! It didn't stop for long and I didn't managed to get a photo, so instead here is one I took in Bintree Wood earlier in the summer (photo 5). They dash between flowers hovering next to a flower and using their very long proboscis to suck nectar from the flower without actually landing on the flower, moving from flower to flower usually more quickly than I can focus my camera. Between flowers they don't fully draw in their proboscis but instead but if you're quick enough you can see it coiled up (photo 6).



Hummingbird Hawk-moths are migratory species coming here from abroad, although they do occasionally breed in this country with larvae (caterpillars) sometimes seen after good years like this one, typically feeding on Lady's Bedstraw. Another migratory moth that isn't normally resident in this country is the Small Marbled. Historically this has been considered a very rare migrant, mainly appearing on the south coast of England, but in the last few years it has been appearing further north including in Norfolk – especially in the last couple of years. It's still scarce here though, so I was delighted to catch one in my garden moth trap recently (photo 7).

When I wrote about earwigs in April I mentioned the different species of earwig, noting that the only one I'd seen in North Elmham was the Common Earwig but speculating that Lesser Earwig might also occur here. Well, I can now confirm that Lesser Earwig does occur in North Elmham, for I caught one in my garden moth trap recently (photo 8).

It's always good to hear about the wildlife you've seen around the village so please do continue letting me know about it. 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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COUNTY COUNCILLOR PAUL CARR – ELMHAM & MATTISHALL DIVISION

Parish Councils Monthly Update: July Summary

Norfolk County Council

Reform UK is now in overall minority control of Norfolk County Council, with a stated commitment to value for money and reducing wasteful expenditure.

A new Chief Executive is being recruited due to the resignation of the previous CEO.

Councillor Paul Carr has completed induction and other training and now serves on the Strategy and Corporate Select Committee, Adult Social Services and Public Health Select Committee, and Audit and Governance Committee.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

The Government's proposed reorganisation would replace Norfolk's current two-tier system with three unitary authorities: Greater Norwich, East Norfolk and West Norfolk, targeted for April 2028 subject to Parliamentary approval.

Norfolk County Council has submitted a judicial review application challenging the Government's decision-making process and has paused non-essential LGR implementation work pending the courts response.

Local and Community Updates

Norwich Millennium Library has reopened following a two-month £1.3 million refurbishment.

The final cost of the Norwich Castle revamp was £34 million against an £18 million budget. The Council is reviewing how the overspend occurred and intends to strengthen financial controls.

Parish councils are encouraged to make use of the Parish Council Partnership Scheme.

Children aged 5–15 can travel free on participating bus services throughout August under the Great British Summer Savings initiative.

Norfolk County Council's Targeted Youth Support Service is providing free summer activities for young people aged 11–17 at several locations.

National Update – Adult Social Care

The Big Conversation on Care, led by Baroness Casey of Blackstock, is seeking public views on the future of adult social care in England.

The consultation runs through April 2027, with the first phase covering values, principles and eligibility, and the second focusing on funding and delivery.

Local Representation

Councillor Carr continues to work on highways, planning, environmental issues and access to local services, while representing residents' concerns through council business and community engagement.

Residents and parish councils are invited to raise issues, concerns and suggestions with him.

Savings and Financial Review

The Council has identified significant overspends and areas where the previous administration is considered to have lacked scrutiny.

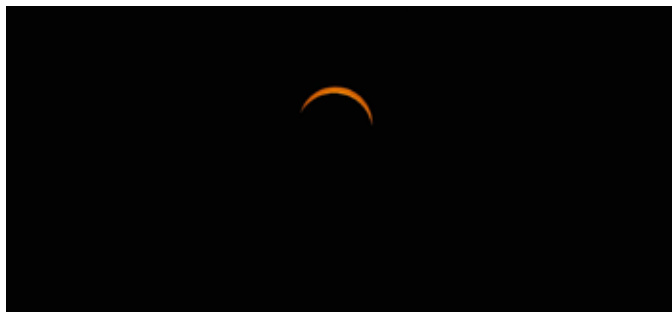
Savings will be pursued where possible, with a report expected in the following month.

Further savings are anticipated as the wider expenditure review continues.

Next Report

Because of the limited number of council meetings in August, the next monthly report will be issued in September 2026.

Foll report available on the community website, www.elmham.org.uk





THE PARTIAL ECLIPSE

Did you watch the Eclipse when it was being shown on the TV ? It was magical wasn't it? The reporters on the TV screen kept saying this happened or that happened but never said when all of this happened before.

Then one of these clever people mentioned a date, it was 1999. This was when the last full Eclipse took place in the UK. We were being urged to watch the present Eclipse to the bitter end as we would not be seeing it again in our lifetime.

Then I remembered. In another life I was a Primary School Teacher at Litcham County Primary School, teaching six- and seven-year-olds, and how all the children wore special masks so that they did not hurt their eyes when we were out on the school field waiting and watching.

We had been told about the Eclipse and told the children to keep their glasses on. I can remember we seemed to be ages waiting for some action and at last we saw the sun covered by the moon and there was quiet on our school field.

All the birds around our field were silent and for us sitting on the grass, it suddenly seemed cold and damp. All the children were amazed at seeing this wonderful sight and I think for the first time in their lives they were silent!!

A lot of poetry was written about this wonderful sight and sparked classroom learning across Geography and Science Lessons too.

Janet Woodhouse.

I know lots of people were out in their gardens and on the street to view the eclipse on 12th August. A few of us gathered at the church to take advantage of the uninterrupted view west across the Elmham House fields.

Matt, was already there when we arrived, well equipped and stationed with his camera, ready to capture the event. I had my trusty iPhone, camera filter and eclipse glasses, and we marvelled at the natural event occurring in front of us.

In some of the photos (left), you will see a crescent appearing as a second image. This is caused by lens flare, sunlight reflecting within the camera lens and creating a ghostly second image of the eclipse.

Thank you to Matt—it was nice to meet you—and everyone who responded to my Facebook plea and took the time to email their photographs to me – it's lovely to have a record of such a special event over North Elmham.

Sarah Felton

Photos

Row 1: Matt Littler, Lee Welch

Row 2: Sarah Felton, Rob Vince

Row 3: Ellie Pitcher, Louisa Andrews, Ellie Pitcher, Sarah Felton

Row 4: Lee Welch, Rob Vince, Sarah Felton

Row 5: Matt Littler

Photo above: Rob Vince



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BRYAN TIDMAN CHALLENGE SHIELD

The annual competition held in honour of Bryan took place on Sunday 14th June. The Institute Bowls Club hosted the Kings Head Bowls Club and a very pleasant afternoon ended with the Kings Head regaining the trophy. Our congratulations go to them for a good performance. Our thanks as always to our ladies for providing welcome refreshments.

Tony Langford

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

REMINDER The AGM is on Tuesday 1st September at 8pm in the King's Head. Please do try and come along.

Mike Aston, Branch Secretary

ELMHAM NEWS THE FUTURE ?

We are just going to mention this one more time...

Our May magazine included a feature reflecting on our 50th anniversary in 2027, together with an honest look at what the future of the Elmham News might be beyond that milestone.

As mentioned in the article, the current volunteer team remains committed to seeing Elmham News reach its golden anniversary before handing over to a new team — if people are willing to come forward and take it on in whatever form suits modern village life. Otherwise, the Elmham News will bow out at the end of 2027 with a special celebration edition.

We are, therefore, keen to hear from anyone who may be interested in forming a new team to keep the Elmham News

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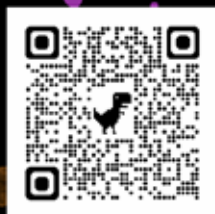
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going. We are also looking to collect stories, memories and photographs from across the decades as part of our 50th anniversary celebrations.

If you missed the article its it can be found on page five of the May edition, and past copies of the magazine are available on the community website. If you feel you would like to know more about taking on the magazine, please do get in touch, even an informal conversation would be welcome.

We will provide an update in spring 2027 to let everyone know whether we are preparing for a handover to a new team or celebrating 50 wonderful years of Elmham News as it reaches its conclusion.

WENSUM VALLEY BIRDWATCHING SOCIETY

Migration

Drew Lyness from the BTO is well known to the club and we were looking forward to his talk but this was a real tour de force on the subject of migration: entertaining, informative, interesting and of course, very difficult for me to summarise to give you an idea of how much we all enjoyed it.

Drew spoke about our winter visitors Pink-footed geese and the triggers for migration: day length, weather and available resources. Pink-footed Geese return to Iceland in the spring because of the urge to breed, the weather (they like to fly with a full moon) and the boom in food resources there.

Birds have a sixth sense that can detect the earth's magnetic field (they have some magnetic material in their bills!); they follow lines in the landscape: river valleys, railway lines, cities and some may use the stars to orientate.

Ringling has revealed some remarkable bird journeys with birds ringed in the UK

being recovered worldwide (although a Barn Owl recovered from Afghanistan may have hitched a ride on an RAF plane).

Migration patterns are changing as some birds adapt to altered climate. Sand martins, Swallows, House-martins and Blackcaps arrive up to 3 weeks earlier than 1960. But the Cuckoo has not changed: as the dates for the Reed Warbler creep forward this may affect chick survival in the UK for those which parasitise Reed Warbler. Cuckoo spend 15% of their life in the UK; 40% travelling; 45% in the Congo.

Another amazing bird is that Drew talked about was the Swift, young birds on fledging may fly for 4 years non-stop. Tagging has shown that these birds may take a month to fly from the UK to overwinter in the Democratic Republic of Congo where they may make occasional forays further east. Like Cuckoos in the spring, they will divert to the Ivory



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Coast where climatic conditions favour an abundance of insects. This is termed "riding the Green Wave" of new green vegetation and the insects that it brings. Apparently back in the UK there is an account of a nesting Swift flying regularly to Belgium to feed its young. These birds just fly!

On Thursday 17th September, David North will talk to us about Cley ; Salthouse Marshes. The September outdoor trip will be in the Hunstanton/Holme area.

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
David Laurie wvbs.memberships@gmail.com

BRISLEY AND NORTH ELMHAM CRICKET CLUB

In their 4th final in 5 years, a remarkable achievement for one of Norfolk's smaller clubs, B&NE contested the Tom Bartram Plate Final at Horsford on Sunday August 9. The team, pictured, which fought its way against expectations to the final consists of predominantly second team regulars who thoroughly enjoyed the experience of the big stage despite falling short against Division 1 East side Acle. Acle batted first and got off to a flying start through the power of leading Division batter John Allen (who also took 3 wickets) and at one stage looked like posting a score in excess of 200. However, 2 wickets from Euan Mayfield and Ollie Hall plus tight bowling from youngsters, Tyler Bidewell and Max Wiseman pegged the run rate back to a daunting but not impossible 177 run chase. Openers skipper Billy Fordham (25) and MoM Archie Thompson (45) made a spirited

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday

June 10th

July 8th

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September 9th

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reply scoring 69 off 8 overs and although there were good contributions from Tom Mathers and Ollie Hall the run rate slowly increased and B&NE finished on 150-6 to lose by 27 runs.

July saw the launch of the Clubs Saturday morning sessions for primary age children and the sessions have been increasingly well attended. A group of senior players rallied by second team captain Darren Wiseman, have been delivering hour long sessions focussing on basic cricket skills and more importantly fun. We are also grateful to Darren's family for their support in the administration of the pilot scheme and provision of refreshments during and after the sessions. Encouraged by the success the plan is to start these sessions again in May next season.

July 10th

Ladies v Snettisham (H) League Snettisham 99-8 B&NE 91-5. Lost by 8 runs

Another incredibly tight finish saw the hosts just fall short of what was a very gettable target after Brisley's youngsters had taken 5 of the wickets to fall.

Black Schuck PoM: Evie for her 2-21 and 15 runs

July 11th

1sts v Ketteringham Hall (A) League B&NE 118 Kett Hall 71 B&NE won by 47 runs

A tricky wicket and a low scoring game. The visitors 118 proved a very good score with the returning Josh Jex making an invaluable 32. In reply the hosts had no answer to Callum Futter who finally got the wickets he has deserved all season.

Black Schuck MoM: Callum Futter for his 5-26

2nds v Martham (H) League B&NE 147 Martham 150-6 B&NE lost by 4 wickets

After a poor start to their innings, the hosts were boosted by a 67 run partnership between skipper Darren Wiseman and Noah Poole to set a reasonable target. Although the visitors had a late on wobble losing 4 wickets for 20 runs their top order had done enough to see them home.

Black Schuck MoM: Luke and Ollie Bould for their wicket keeping and fielding respectively.

July 18th

1sts v Felthorpe (H) League Felthorpe 168 B&NE 169-6 B&NE won by 4 wickets

B&NE moved out of the relegation places with this topsy-turvy victory over last season's champions.

Quiz Saturday 3rd Oct at Memorial Hall North Elmham at 7-00pm

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The visitors looked set for a 250 score, but lost their last 6 wickets for 13 runs but their total seemed very strong when in reply the hosts collapsed to 32-5. Ollie Hall and George Bridges rebuilt with a 92 run partnership and when the skipper fell, Noah Poole came in to blast a quick 33 of the remaining 45 required.

Black Shuck MoM: George Bridges for his maiden half century and 3-36

2nds v Aylsham (A) League Aylsham 75 B&NE 76-0. Won by 10 wickets

Maximum points for the visitors as Max Wiseman took a career best 6-23 and in reply to Billy Fordham raced to 51 off 39 balls to win within 10 overs.

Black Shuck MoM: Max Wiseman for his wickets

July 25th

1sts v Castle Rising (A) League Castle Rising 206 B&NE 117. Lost by 89 runs

Restricting the League leaders to just over 200 seemed positive at the halfway stage but again after a solid start, wickets tumbled quickly at the top of the order to leave the visitors well adrift of the target.

Black Shuck MoM: George Bridges for his 5-61

2nds v Felthorpe (H) League B&NE 125 Felthorpe 130-6 Lost by 4 wickets

With only 2 batters making double figures the hosts were some 50 runs short of a decent total.

Nevertheless, the visitors were made to work hard by Phil Bend (3-29) and Darren Wiseman (2-26) but a winning lower order partnership of 40 guided Felthorpe home.

Black Shuck MoM: Billy Fordham for his 55 runs

July 30th

Hardingham (H) Tom Bartrum Plate Semi-final Hardingham 142-9 B&NE 143-1 B&NE won by 9 wickets

B&NE strolled into the final of the Tom Bartrum plate with a comprehensive victory. Tight bowling and fielding restricted the visitors and a century opening partnership between skipper Tuthill (55no) and Fordham saw the hosts home with plenty of overs to spare.

Black Shuck MoM: Billy Fordham for his 3-18 and 58 runs

July 31st

Ladies v Horsford (H) League B&NE 110-5 Horsford 111-1 B&NE lost by 9 wickets

Co captains Sophie (28) and Tor (26) put on an unbeaten half century to post a decent total but the visitors talented opening pair made light work of the chase and the target was chased down in 12 overs.

Black Shuck PoM: Evie for her dynamic fielding

August 1st

1sts v Fakenham (H) League B&NE 243-8 Fakenham 194 B&NE won by 49 runs

Maximum points in this bottom of the table clash keeps alive the home side's attempt to avoid relegation. A much improved batting performance lead by James Harvey (79) enabled B&NE to reach their highest score of the season. Against a strong batting line up the hosts continued to take wickets at important times with Ewan Mayfield taking 4-37 and the final wicket fell to the last ball of the match.

Black Shuck MoM: George Bridges for his 46 runs and 3-46

August 8th

1sts v Snettisham (A) League B&NE 172 Snettisham 173-2 Lost by 8 wickets

League leaders Snettisham proved too strong for the visitors, who once again were unable to post a decent score despite 7 batters getting into double figures.

Black Shuck MoM: Ewan Mayfield for his runs and wicket

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2nds v Ashmanagh (H) League
Ashmanagh 251-5 B&NE 105 Lost by
146 runs

An unbeaten century by the visiting
opener and some brilliant catches were the
undoing of the hosts in this mid-table clash
as only 2 batters made double figures.

Black Shuck MoM: Tyler Bidewell for his 2
wickets.

September Home Fixtures

Sat 5th Social XI v Old Contemptibles
Sat 12th Interclub friendly

Mark Ballman, Chairman

AUGUST PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

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

The next meeting of the Parish Council
will be on Wednesday 2nd September at
7.30pm in the Pavilion. Parishioners are
always encouraged to attend.

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Dear Friends

"All things bright and beautiful
All creatures great and small"

The opening two lines of what is arguably
one of, if not the most well known
hymns. It is also one that will no doubt
be played at Harvest festivals being held
in the churches around our benefices.
September is the month which has
traditionally been associated with Harvest
though with the changing weather
patterns a lot of harvesting seems to have
done by the beginning of August.

In the Church of England, the whole of
September into the first two weeks of
October have become the Season of

Creation in which we celebrate harvest as
a part of God's creation. In addition to my
role of licensed lay minister, I volunteer as
an Eco chaplain assisting parishes in their
Ecochurch journey. If you would like to
know more about this please visit the A
Rocha website.

The concept of harvest as given in the
New Testament often takes on a more
spiritual dimension. Jesus spoke of the
Kingdom of God as a field ready for
harvest (Matthew 9:37), connecting the
theme with the call to share the Gospel.
St Paul encourages us not to grow
weary in doing good, assuring us that
"in due season we will reap" (Galatians
6:9) and pointing to a future harvest of
righteousness.

So, while most of us no longer plant literal
seeds, the pattern of sowing, tending,
and reaping remains a deeply Christian
rhythm. It is one that still speaks into our
spiritual lives, our relationships, and even
our finances.

Harvest is that natural time to give thanks
for what has grown, but it can also invite
us to ask deeper questions: What am
I investing in? What kind of fruit am I
hoping to see?

For those of us working in offices,
caregiving, teaching, or tech, the
agricultural imagery might feel distant.
But the spiritual practice it reflects is
timeless. Harvest prompts us to pause and
to reflect on how we deal with others who
may not be as fortunate as us.

Harvest isn't just a tradition to be
remembered. It's a rhythm that can shape
our hearts, one of review, recommitment,
and rootedness.

So, what does Harvest mean to you
in 2026? Will you mark it in any way,
personally or within your community?
Does the image of sowing and reaping
still resonate in your life?

I urge you to reflect on how you use your time and energy and if you would share some time this harvest in thanksgiving join us at one of the services you will find advertised in the magazine.

Norman Johnson
Licensed Lay Minister
Heart of Norfolk Benefice

WORTHING NEWS

St Margaret's Church, Services – as many parishioners across the Benefice are aware, our Team Rector Sally Kimmis is seriously ill which sadly affects our Sunday services.

For the time being, our Holy Communion service at 9.00am which takes place on the first Sunday of each month, The Reverend Richard Turk will officiate. We are thankful for Richard and invite you all to welcome him to his first service at Worthing on 6th September. We are very grateful for his support, guidance and lead in our prayers thinking of Sally through this difficult time.

Please come out and support your local church. St Margaret's will be open on Saturday, 12th September from 9am to 5pm 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

On the September 20th starting at 10.30am Worthing Church will be celebrating the work of all Farmers and Growers who plough the fields and Harvest for our daily bread. Please join

Licensed Lay Minister Norman Johnson as he leads us and offers our thanks for this vital service.

We welcome any gifts of produce, packages or tins for the Harvest Table. 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.

Refreshments will be served after which also gives us all an opportunity to catch up with friends & banter! We hope you can join us at least for one of these services.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Launch of our Annual Shoebox Appeal – OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD – details in our October edition.

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HEART OF NORFOLK CHURCH SERVICES

Church services for June are listed overleaf. Services at Bawdeswell All Saints are available on Zoom: ID: 656 174 6525 Passcode: TwKH7n

Contact: Revd Sally Kimmis, 01362 668850, heartofnorfolkrector@gmail.com for Billingford, Bintree, Guestwick, Guist, North Elmham, Stibbard, Twyford, Wood Norton and Worthing.

Contact: Revd Richard Turk, 07721 035009, revdrichardrwv@gmail.com for Bawdeswell, Bylaugh, Elsing, Foulsham, Foxley, Lyng, Sparham, Themelthorpe.



Services
across the
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Churches

September
2026



**6th September : Fourteenth Sunday after
Trinity / Creation in Christ**

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

**13th September : Fifteenth Sunday after
Trinity / Harvest Festival**

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

**20th September : Sixteenth Sunday after
Trinity / Harvest Festival**

10.30am	Wood Norton	Holy Communion
10.30am	Worthing	Iona Harvest Praise
10.30am	Bawdeswell	The 10.30
11.00am	Billingford	Harvest Festival
6.00pm	Foulsham	Said Evensong

**27th September : Seventeenth Sunday after
Trinity / Harvest Festival**

10.30am	Guist	Holy Communion
10.30am	North Elmham	Morning Praise
10.30am	Bawdeswell	Holy Communion
10.30am	Foulsham	Morning Praise

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

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PAGE 6: Wendy Cottrell

Page 11: Liz Vince

PAGE 19–22: Sarah Felton, Colin Allen

PAGE 31–33: Dave Appleton

PAGE 36–37: See page 37

PAGE 39: Christine Allen



NORTH ELMHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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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

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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.

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Norfolk County Councillor	Paul Carr paul.carr.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk	07562 276765
Member of Parliament	george.freeman.mp@parliament.uk	01953 600617
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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 Sally Kimmis Reverend Richard Turk	heartofnorfolkrector@gmail.com revdrichardrww@gmail.com	01362 668850 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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