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APRIL 2024

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VIEWS & NEWS**

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EDITORIAL

The cover on this month's news is a photograph taken of the back of the church from Church Meadows. Why not take a walk up there and have a look at the lovely views, dog walkers be warned there is a pond!

You have no idea how long it takes us Editors to come up with an Editorial. Ideas are tossed around (usually rejected) and we try to produce something that we hope you will read. But do you read it? We know we have a few loyal readers who tell us they read it from cover to cover and to them we say a "Hearty THANKYOU". Out of 800 copies, who does read it? We have been producing a magazine for over 46 years and rely heavily on all our clubs and societies to keep us up to date. Is that important, do you rely on the factual content we put in, like the Parish Council meeting notes, who is doing what and when?

Leaving that uncertain note behind, it is lovely that occasionally during the past few days we have seen signs of spring and new life in the gardens and hedgerows. Hopefully the weather will improve, and we can enjoy one or more of the activities on offer in the village. Check out the posters, make a note on your calendar and go along and support something or dare we say it – volunteer to help! Village life is dependent upon people joining in community events, for example our Annual Garden Fete attracts visitors from all around who come to enjoy a proper Garden Fete in the lovely setting of Elmham House and there is so much more for you to sample.

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

NEXT DEADLINE: 14TH APRIL

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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NORTH ELMHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 7TH FEBRUARY

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

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.

Updated Information and Matters Arising

Land Management Matters

Village Green: The Breckland Tree Officer had attended a meeting on site and said that he had the power to make a Tree Preservation Order. Guidance was duly given, however, and the contractor has confirmation of approval with an intention to commence work on 19th February, subject to the weather.

Cathedral Ruins: Mrs. Keeble reported that trees are in the process of being trimmed back.

Cathedral Meadows: Mr. Fitzalan Howard is to issue the annual grazing licence to Mr. Fish. One of the display maps has been wrenched off its base and Ruth Murray, who originally produced the item, is to be contacted.

Millennium Wood (and Jubilee Wood): The fence around the pit has collapsed in the corner. Ben Darby is to be contacted with a view to repairing it. The gate to Boar's Hill has a gap at the bottom but the

eventual height of the path will remedy the situation. The parishioner who requested to take the logs can do so (he will need to obtain the key from Mr. Fletcher for access). Proposed by Mr. Markwell and seconded by Mr. Phillips. All in favour.

Bridleway on Disused Railway Line and Other Railway Linked Matters: The level crossing gate has been damaged following a recent storm and is swinging freely. The MNR has been advised and a temporary repair has been carried out.

Church Meadow: Work on digging a soakaway is to start in the near future.

Allotments

Mr. Phillips is concerned with speeding traffic along the road next to the allotments and feels that a mirror is possibly needed. The Clerk mentioned that Fulmodeston and Barney Parish Council has a mirror which is not being used and will investigate the possibility of it being sold.

Street Lights

Mr. Markwell reported that T.T. Jones are to fit an interim light at the Eastgate Centre (cost £48 + VAT) and this will remain until the repaired unit is returned by the manufacturer. There hasn't been any progress with the light at 29 Eastgate Street. Mr. Markwell will chase. Light number 103 is currently not working.

Highway Matters

Mr. Grainger said that a suggestion had been made to Highways for the existing bus stop to be moved to a position near the Surgery. Also, there were two possible locations for stops up the hill near the church. A request had been received from a parishioner for more yellow lines on Church Hill. It was agreed to wait until the new car park is in place so that an assessment of its impact can be made at that time. Mr. Labouchere mentioned a



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blind spot, resulting from a traffic sign, that a parishioner had mentioned to him when turning from the Worthing Road onto the B1145 to Billingford. A number of members had used this junction and did not feel that there was an issue.

Pavilion and Playing Field

Miss Ferris mentioned the cracked windows and asked if new ones could be fitted. Mr. Smith is to obtain a quotation.

Brookside Development Update

The Chairman, together with Messrs Phillips and Rayner, are to meet the developers to discuss some items. A report will be made in due course.

Defibrillators

Pads become out of date on 24th February and are to be replaced.

Call for Sites Update: Breckland Council

Mr. Rayner had drafted a consultation response with the period due to end on 19th February. The Parish Council response is to be submitted via email. Mr. Rayner was thanked by all for his excellent work in producing this document. The drop-in session is now taking place in Dereham on 16th February.

Archive Group Records

Two quotations will be available for the next meeting. Mrs Woodhouse who stores all archive meeting in her home had asked for secure storage space to be made available, possibly in The Memorial Hall. A large cupboard was being considered.

CGM Group and Grounds Maintenance

The contract with CGM (Nurture) for 2024 has been agreed and is to be signed.

North Elmham Living Sustainably (NELS) Group

An advert has been placed in Elmham News.

S106 monies (£15.1K) received from Breckland Council

A concrete table tennis for the village green was considered (cost of up to £3K). The Chairman is to discuss with suppliers. A quotation for improved flooring is to be requested by Mr. Phillips. Further thought will be given to this matter at the next meeting.

CCTV Policy

Mr. Grainger had circulated a draft policy to members in advance of the meeting. He will also prepare a similar policy for the Eastgate Centre Trustees. The policy was approved by all. Proposed by Mr. Labouchere and seconded by Miss Ferris.

Request for a Grit Bin Near the North Elmham School

The Chairman has spoken to Mr. Nick Brown, Site Manager of Flourish Federation Norfolk. He will discuss the matter with Highways (Norfolk County Council).

Accounts

1. Concern has been expressed with the dramatic rise in the monthly direct debit to Npower in respect of the non-metered electricity supply for the streetlights from £235 in September, 2023 to £626 in February, 2024 (notification received). The Clerk will produce a detailed analysis showing how these amounts are calculated to enable possible action to be discussed with a view to taking steps to address this issue.

2. A representative from Biffa had visited and met with Mr. Smith. A significant improvement in the current terms had been offered. Full details of this and the terms of the current contract will be considered with a decision on the course of action to be decided at the next meeting.



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Planing Applications and Determination

Applications

i) 3PL/2023/0282/O – 55 Eastgate Street – appeal to the Secretary of State against the decision of Breckland District Council – outline planning application with all matters reserved for proposed dwelling and redevelopment of existing dwelling.

Determinations

i) TRE/2023/0352/TCA – pruning works at Anglo Saxon Cathedral, Church Lane – no objection.

ii) TRE/2023/0353/TCA – pruning work at White House, 57 Holt Road – no objection.

iii) 2 Keepers Cottage, Great Heath Road – Mr. Cooper – rear single storey extension with 1st floor ensuite extension. Replace existing septic tank with a treatment plant – 3PL/2023/1182/HOU – approved.

Mr. Rayner reported that he had received a telephone call from a parishioner who advised him that he wished to enquire about the possibility of building ten houses on land next to Pump Street. Mr. Rayner informed the parishioner that a request of this type would need to be directed to Breckland Council.

Correspondence

1) E-mail from parishioner regarding water drainage problems in Cathedral Drive.

2) Request for donation from Dereham Cancer Care.

3) Update from John Hoskins (CANT) on Breckland Council's "Call for Sites" analysis.

4) E-mail from parishioner regarding tree pruning in Eastgate Street.

Any Other Matters

Some people who were regarded as rather suspicious had been seen driving a white

van and visiting premises on the pretext of collecting cooking oil or other substances.

MARCH PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

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

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 3rd April at 7.30 pm in the Pavilion. Parishioners are always encouraged to attend.

GARDENING CLUB

We held our annual dinner in the Memorial Hall, beautifully catered for by Ben and his team.

We all thoroughly enjoyed the food and the chat. A splendid raffle produced by Heather brought a good sum of money for funds and we were delighted to learn from Ray that we had two volunteers ready to be co-opted onto the Committee. We welcomed Sarah and Jo, and Ray commented that they seriously brought down the average age of the committee!!

We all left full of food and good will and looking forward to the future meetings of the club.

Our March meeting was a talk by Richard Ravencroft, our very own local tree specialist.

The meeting in April includes a talk on the work and purpose of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust by Allen Archer.

Visitors are always welcome, so if you are interested in the work of the Trust, why not come along. The £3.50 fee includes excellent refreshments!

Meg White

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NORTH ELMHAM COUNTRYSIDERS

Another Busy Month for the Countryside Group

On Thursday 22nd February 2024 some of our Countrysiders took part in 'Bidwells Quest'. This is a quiz and task night between all the Countrysider clubs. A great night was had by all. Over all we came 2nd on the night. The leaders attended a County Meeting and have been asked to help get some Knitted/Crochet Poppies for our Royal Norfolk Show stand, the theme being D Day. We are also looking for a couple of wheelbarrows to make into aeroplanes for a demo in the main ring both days of the show. If anyone would like to knit or crochet some red or purple poppies for us or has a wheelbarrow they would like to donate we would be grateful (contact me, Wendy on 07557388228 to arrange collection).

February 26th the Countrysiders enjoyed a craft evening making Mother's Day

Cards and Hot chocolate cones to give on Mother's Day. Everyone also took a primrose to give that special Mother figure in their life.

This week 11th March the Countrysiders enjoyed a visit to Blackwater Highland Farm to learn about lambing. They listened and asked many questions about the ewes and lambs, and we hope they learnt from this experience. We weren't lucky enough to see any lambs being born but lots of handling and lamb cuddles were had. We must thank Gary and Harriett Palmer for their informative talk and Tracey and Louise for their support and yummy treats. It's brilliant to have the support of local businesses in holding these visits.

Our final meeting of the spring term is March 25th 7.00pm at the Memorial Hall, Holt Road, North Elmham. We are having an Easter Fun Session. This will include Easter themed games and we are running a decorate an egg competition, with the theme 'The Farm'.

CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS



GROUP

Archive Group
Art 4 All Norfolk
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
North Elmham 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
Wives + All
Yoga
Young Farmers

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Will Swan, 07818 786424



Our dates for the summer term are:

April 15th: Visit to Dereham Vets
Toftwood 7pm start

April 29th: TBC

May 13th: Talk By Chris Bell BBC
Weather Forecaster

June 3rd: Visit to Wade Game Birds
Foulsham 7pm start

June 17th: Visit to Livery Yard and Farm
East Rudham 7pm Start

July 1st: Visit to Cat Protection at
Longham Start time TBC

July 15th:TBC (Reepham Fisheries)

If any dates or times change, these are usually out of our control, but we will post any changes on our social media page.

Also, We have reuseable shopping bags £7 each and keyrings £4 each for sale. Please contact the club if you wish to support us and purchase any of these. All profit raised will support the club.

If you have a Child aged 10-16 years old, and you think they will be interested in coming along and seeing what we are all about please Email north_elmham_cs_norfolkyc.co.uk or find us on Facebook.

Finally, all the leaders and Countrysiders would like to wish you a very Happy Easter.

Wendy, Rob, Kirsty and Ella



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The Wensum Valley Miniature Railway have also published their running days when you will be able to take a trip on this delightful train.

12th May: Vintage Bus Day

26th May: Bank Holiday weekend

2nd June: Half Term

21st and 28th July

Every weekend in August

1st September: Heritage Open Day

27th October: Halloween Half Term

KNIT AND NATTER

Having gained a few new members to our group, we are all fired up to knit for England (?), well, Norfolk. With two fetes this year already on the horizon, we found we needed more tables out on Tuesday afternoon in order to gather up all the items which have already been produced. It's amazing to see just how many penguins, mice, frogs, and giraffes etc., can be knitted in such a short time for our intended games. It was also good to have so many new, enthusiastic ideas being put forward to support our local charities, hospitals and care homes. We know that blankets, scarves and hand warmers are always needed in many places, so we are grateful for all our donations of wool. Just as I write today, we have received two large white plastic bags full of brand new wool, and patterns from Marian who lives at Broom Green. Our many thanks to all of the donors, you can be sure that everything will be put to good use.

Next meeting Tuesday 2nd April at 2-0'clock at the Pavilion.

Happy Easter from Eileen and the group.
Tel: 01362 665380.

RECYCLE, REUSE, REDUCE

It has been suggested that we reserve space for anyone who would like to pass on unwanted or unused items . Please let us have a short description and a contact number. There is no charge but a small donation to the magazine would be welcome should you sell the item rather than just donate it.

FAKENHAM & DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

Tuesday 2nd April 202

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A FEW DAYS FROM HOME

Like Eileen and John Cotterill, I too spent a few days one year with the 'Top Class' staying at Wells-next-the-Sea in what had been the primary school in the past.

As far as I can remember the girls and boys stayed in dormitories at night.

On the first night, it eventually quietened down and I got into bed and thought I will read for a while. About 15 minutes later there was a knock on my door and I heard a sniffling noise so I got out to be confronted with one of the girls who had been brought by others saying ' Miss, she wont stop crying and we can't get to sleep. She will have to sleep with you!'

They stomped off!

I took the girl's hand and brought her into my room. She stopped crying and said 'I

have never slept with anyone except my sister... and I want to go home.'

I told her it would be a shame if she did leave as we had several days of fun on the beach and in the pine woods, as well as some work for school for when we went back. She then asked if she could sleep wrapped up in her duvet on the floor, beside me in bed.

So that was what she did for a couple of nights, then she said she would go back to her school friends to sleep the last night. A victory I thought.

I hoped she would remember that trip with affection, not fear. Sometimes we forget children can easily become overwhelmed and a few kind words is all that is needed to calm their fears.

Janet Woodhouse



Mad Hatters Tea Party

ORGANISED BY THE CHILDREN AT MADHOUSE

Saturday 11th May

11.00–13.00

At the Eastgate Centre

Raffle ❖ Tombola ❖ Games ❖ Refreshments

In aid of North Elmham School, the Church Larder and Afternoon Tea,
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SPRING QUIZ

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Raffle

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COUNTY SCHOOL WATTS NAVAL TRAINING SCHOOL

About a year ago, my son in law saw a book for sale on E Bay, and knowing about my interest in County School, he managed to acquire it for me.

It was a personal book written, when grown up, by John Lucken, about his life as a youngster at the Barnardo's Home at County School and what happened after leaving. I hope he would not mind me dipping into his book and copying some of his personal pieces.

Watts Naval Training School, North Elmham, Norfolk 1934 – 1940

I was nine years old when I arrived from the Barnardo's home in London, with a label on a string around my neck saying that I was on my way to County School near North Elmham in Norfolk. It was a sign of the times that as a young boy, I could be sent from the Barnardo's home at Stepney Causeway to Liverpool Street Station in London and by myself be put on a train for Norwich, without anyone thinking that was anything other than normal. At Norwich Station I was met by an officer from the school, and we boarded a local train which took us to 'County School Station' which was the school's own railway station.

At the school I commenced my six year Naval Training before being drafted into the Royal Navy in 1940, shortly after my fifteenth birthday to serve as a Boy or Junior Seaman until I was eighteen and then went on to serve for a further twelve years until I was thirty years old.

The normal 'Rig of the Day' or clothing to be worn, in winter was blue serge suits and boots, in spring and summer the dress was shorts and shirt and bare feet. The latter was in order to toughen up the

feet in preparation for ship – board or so we were told !

All boys at Watts were given numbers 1 to 300. For the whole time they were at the school they were known only by their numbers and not by their names.

The school provided the Royal Navy with about 50 trained boys each year as well as a few boys to the Army and the Royal Marines most of whom had been trained as musicians. My number was 182.

The boys were sub-divided into seven companies of about forty to forty five in each. They were named after famous Admirals, Jellicoe, Beatty, Sturdee, De Roebeck, Keys, Tywhitt, and Wilson

The school provided about 50 to 60 boys each year for the Navy and a few who were not accepted for the Navy would go to the Royal Marine School of Music to be drafted into the Royal Marines or the Army as Bandsmen. From Watts, most of them would go to the boys Royal Naval Establishment, HMS Ganges at Shotley near Harwich.

In 1939 the Captain, Commander and most of the reservists left for service in the Navy or Marines. This left the school with a skeleton staff which was partly made up by pensioners returning from civilian life and outside volunteers.

The school was blacked out, which meant that in addition to curtains, every night screens were placed over the large sky lights in the centre of the school, over the area designated as the quarter deck.

As the school passed into the middle days of 1939, preparation for war was well in hand.

More next month.

Janet Woodhouse



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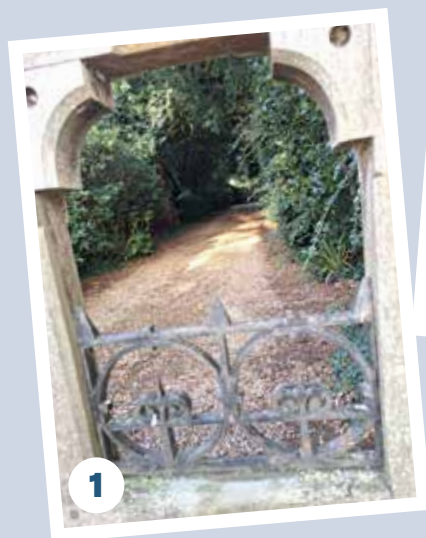
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WHERE IN ELMHAM?

At the Gardening Club AGM in January Ray provided the members with a fun photo quiz of places around the village. Some are obvious and some not quite so. Can you spot where they are? Answers next month and we will print some more.



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OUR 25 YEAR CAREER WITH THE YHA

People

Our main business in the Hostel were groups of one sort or another, mainly school parties.

We catered for these groups, breakfast, lunch packs and evening meals. On one occasion I noticed that one girl, aged about 10, was not eating at all on the first night, ate a little on the second night, and almost everything on the third. I said to her that it seemed that her appetite was improving. She replied that she had never eaten with other people before. She obviously ate in front of the TV with no contact with others. Something I had never thought of, but, at least, having a residential experience with the school party, in our hostel, introduced her to social life, and that perhaps we had done a bit of good in one case, at least.

One night, about 3 am our daughter was awakened by knocking on the back door. She went to see what was occurring. She saw through the glass windows in the door, a figure dressed in white, with blood on her hands. To her credit, our daughter overcame her natural fear and opened the door, to find that it was a 10 year old member of the school party that was staying with us. It transpired, after everyone had calmed down, that this child, in her sleep, had got up, moved a suitcase off the window sill, opened the sash window, and had climbed out. An oddity of the building is that, being on a hill, what is the first floor on hill side, is second floor on the other, or river, side. The little girl, as luck would have it, was in a room on the hill side, in other words, on the first floor. Also, as luck would have it, below the window in question, was a neatly stacked pile of wooden planks, with a sheet of corrugated tin covering it. The girl, therefore, only fell about 4 feet,

bounced off the pile, and rolled another 4 feet or so to land on the ground. The only injury being a grazed hand, hence the blood. Had she been in a room on the other side, she would have fallen two floors. In addition to that she would have hit the wrought iron balustrade of a balcony that runs across the front of the building. She would almost certainly have been killed, or at least severely injured. When the teacher in charge of the party, full of trepidation, informed the child's parents, she was told that the child frequently walked in her sleep. All parents are given a form to complete before a school outing, so why this wasn't highlighted, we have no idea. The upshot was that all sash windows in the YHA have to be blocked so that they can only be opened 6 inches or so.

To end on a lighter note. One of the first bookings I dealt with was for a Mr. P. Podd. It's amazing what names some parents give their children. Mind you, I once came across a Mr and Mrs Bull who named their child Terry.

John and Eileen Cotterill

WIVES PLUS ALL

At the March meeting on Thursday 14th in the Memorial Hall, here in North Elmham, Cameron Reid came along to our meeting and gave an illustrated talk to members regarding his career as an Osteopath. Having graduated from the British School of Osteopathy in 1986 and worked as an associate Osteopath in London for two years he came to Norfolk in 1988 and established his Clinic in Dereham where he continues to practice today. He provides effective treatment for back and neck pain and sports injuries. An Osteopath focuses on all parts of the body such as soft tissue i.e muscles, ligaments and tendons. Also, the spine and nervous system using hands on methods including

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spinal manipulation, massage and gentle rhythmic movements of joints.

After studying and achieving his Professional Teaching Diploma Cameron has taught at various establishments such as the University of East Anglia, the Royal Ballet at Covent Garden, the University of Coventry, the Institute of Sport, and various sports institutions including Norwich City FC and Tottenham Hotspur FC to name but a few.

The practice of osteopathy was founded in the USA in 1874 by Andrew Taylor Still a 19th century American Physician MD and American Civil War Surgeon. Scottish Doctor Martin Littlejohn heard about Still's ideas on osteopathy, and this resulted in the technique becoming established here in England just prior to the First World War.

Thanks go to Cameron for an enlightening and interesting talk.

The next meeting of Wives Plus All will be on

THURSDAY 11th APRIL 2024

at 7.30pm

in the Memorial Hall, North Elmham

Kathy Dennten will give a talk entitled "What you Can Do With a Nun's Dress"

There will be refreshments and a raffle

Please come along you will be very welcome.

Ann Ferris

DATES TO REMEMBER

Mon 1st	Easter Monday Bank Holiday		
Tue 2nd	Knit and Natter	Pavilion	2.00 pm
Wed 3rd	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30 pm
Wed 10th	Tea at Two	Memorial Hall	2.00 pm
Thu 11th	Wives+ All	Memorial Hall	7.30 pm
Mon 15th	Countrysiders	Dereham Vets, Toftwood	7.00pm
Sat 20th	Spring Fair	Eastgate Centre	10.00am–1.00pm
Wed 24th	Mobile Library visit	The Heath to Orchard Close	2.30 - 5.20 pm
Thu 25th	Gardening Club	Memorial Hall	7.30 pm
Mon 29th	Countrysiders	Details TBC	

ADVANCE WARNING

May 11th	Mad Hatters Teaparty	Eastgate Centre	11.00 am–1.00 pm
May 11th	Quiz	Memorial Hall	See poster

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ELMHAM WILDLIFE



As I was thinking about what to write about this month I received a couple of messages from friends saying that they were seeing or hearing migrant Chiffchaffs arriving, so I decided to write about North Elmham's migrant warblers. Chiffchaffs are the earliest of our warblers to arrive each spring and can be heard almost anywhere where there are trees, belting out their "chiff-chiff-chaff-chiff-chaff" song (or some variation of that). They start appearing during March and most of the birds that breed round here should have arrived by the time you read this.

Chiffchaffs are sprightly birds that tend to sing fairly high up in the trees so they aren't easy to observe, though the benefit (to us) of them arriving so early in the spring is that there aren't too many leaves on the trees for them to hide behind. They do come lower down and when you do get a good view you will see they are a dull greeny-brown colour with an indistinct pale stripe over the eye, a pale eye-ring, dark legs and short wings (photo 1).



Chiffchaffs can be really hard to tell from Willow Warblers if they're not singing. Willow Warblers can be brighter (but aren't always), have slightly longer wings, paler legs, and they tend to have a less distinct pale eye-ring and cleaner cheeks (photo 2). By far the easiest way to tell them apart is their song, a beautiful descending warble, quite different from the harsh staccato sounds of the Chiffchaff (although just to make matters difficult, they do occasionally sing more like Chiffchaffs). Their other calls are similar to those of Chiffchaff, a soft "hueet", but more clearly disyllabic than Chiffchaff. The first Willow Warbler can arrive at the end of March, but early April is more typical. Sadly they are much less common now than they were a decade or two ago.



Blackcap is also among the first of the summer visiting warblers to arrive, with the





majority arriving in early April. They have a more thrush-like warble. The males (the only sex that sings) have a black cap (photo 3), hence the name, but females have a chestnut cap. Either way this makes them visually one of our easiest warblers to identify.

Arriving at around the same time is Sedge Warbler (photo 4). Like the Willow Warblers and all the species that arrive later, these will have most likely overwintered in Africa. Sedge Warbler is found in damper areas, along the river valley in North Elmham. They have a long scratchy song and are visually distinctive with buff colours, streaked on the back and with a very clear pale stripe over the eye. I don't seem to have taken any good photos in the parish yet, so I've used one from elsewhere – and that is also the case with the next warbler to arrive, Reed Warbler (photo 5).

Reed Warblers arrive in April and usually frequent reedbeds. They look like much plainer versions of Sedge Warbler, and they sound like that too – their song



being long and scratchy but more constant, lacking the high notes that Sedge Warbler throws in now and then.

Grasshopper Warbler (photo 6) is rarer (and declining) but I occasionally see or hear them in the parish. They're likely to sing from bramble thickets or willow scrub in damp areas, and unless you're lucky or patient you won't see them. Their song is very distinctive though: a long reeling sound that is a bit like certain grasshoppers or perhaps more like an angler's fishing reel. They can sing overnight or early morning but you're less likely to hear them by the time most of us are up and about. Sometimes they start singing again in the evening, so it isn't always necessary to be up at the crack of dawn to hear them (but I recommend it - dawn is the best time to hear warblers as well as most of our other songbirds).

A much easier warbler to see is Whitethroat. They're common around the parish, usually in scrub or hedgerows. They have a rambling scratchy song, often delivered from a relatively prominent perch and sometimes in flight. They arrive here in the second half of April usually but are getting earlier. I'm not quite old enough to remember this, but in 1969 Whitethroats failed to return from Africa, or at least most of them did. At first I'm told it was a disturbing mystery – where had they gone? It turned out that there had been a drought in the Sahel, where they overwinter, and perhaps 80% of the population had died. It was one of the first indications of how our wildlife can be affected by climatic conditions somewhere else in the world. Since then of course things have got a lot worse, perhaps not for Whitethroats so much, whose population has now largely recovered, but for many of our other long distance migrants that are



undergoing long-term and catastrophic decline as a result of our changing climate.

On a Whitethroat (photo 7), as well as its white throat, notice the rusty-brown wings and pale legs. The slightly more diminutive Lesser Whitethroat (photo 8) has plainer greyer-brown upperparts, grey legs and a shorter grey bill. They're also more elusive than Whitethroats – sometimes the only way you know they've arrived back from Africa safely is when you hear their distinctive rattling song clattering out of a thick dense Hawthorn hedge.

Usually the last of the warblers to visit us in the summer is the Garden Warbler. These used to arrive in the first half of May, but early arrivals can be in April nowadays. Garden Warblers are shy birds that tend to hide deep in scrub. If you do see one it's a plain brown bird with a slightly greyer shawl and a beady black eye (photo 9). But if their appearance might be considered drab (I prefer subtle) there is nothing dull about its song: a sweet melodious warble, quite similar to that of a Blackcap but not so harsh and lasting longer. Some people describe it as sounding like running water.

Like many of our birds, it's often easier to find warblers by listening out for them than it is by looking for them with just your eyes. So when you're outside, keep an ear out for what you can hear. If you're interested to know what's singing and can't work it out for yourself, then I recommend downloading the Merlin Bird ID app on your smartphone – so long as the sound is reasonably clear this does a pretty good job of identifying birds. You can't totally rely on it as it does make mistakes, but I've been pretty impressed with its accuracy when I've tried it.

If you have anything interesting to share please do drop me an email me at appleton.dave@googlemail.com, or phone me on 668431 or message me via X at @ElmhamMeadows.

Dave Appleton



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Barbie

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

DEREHAM MEMORIAL HALL

On Friday 5th April, not simply for wrestling fans, the professional grapplers from Falling Starr return, their first visit for years. Expect a fantastic, family-orientated evening of thrills, spills, heroics and villainy, which simply has to be experienced (at least once !). The kids love it.

After the U3A meeting on 11th April comes the Whitney Houston tribute – 'I Wanna Dance With Somebody' on 20th April, and Dereham and District Flower Club's wonderful Open Evening With demonstrations by Gill McGregor the NAFAS Area Demonstrator follows on 25rd April.

There are two great films at the 4th Tuesday Classic Film Club at the Orion – (26th March) 'Poor Things', and (23rd April) 'The Holdovers', only £5.90 or £5 for members of FODMH.



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It's best to go to www.derehammemorialhall.info for more details, and for other events.

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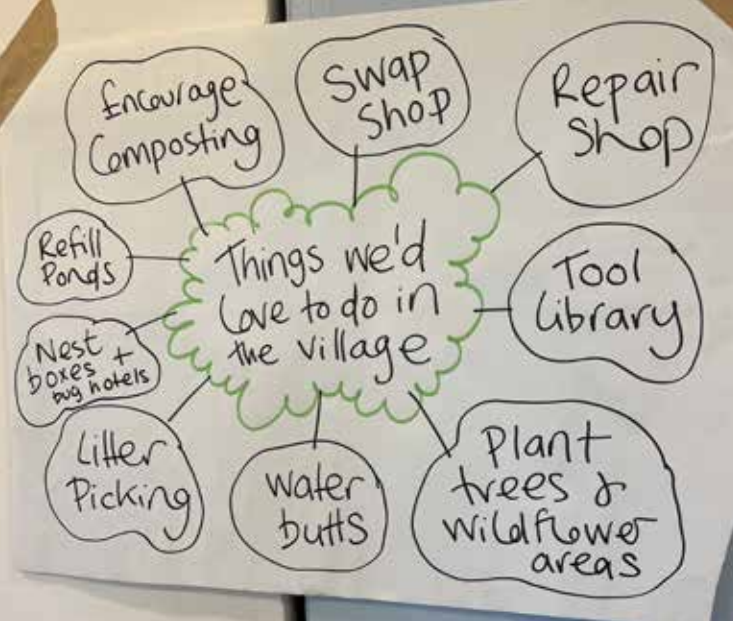


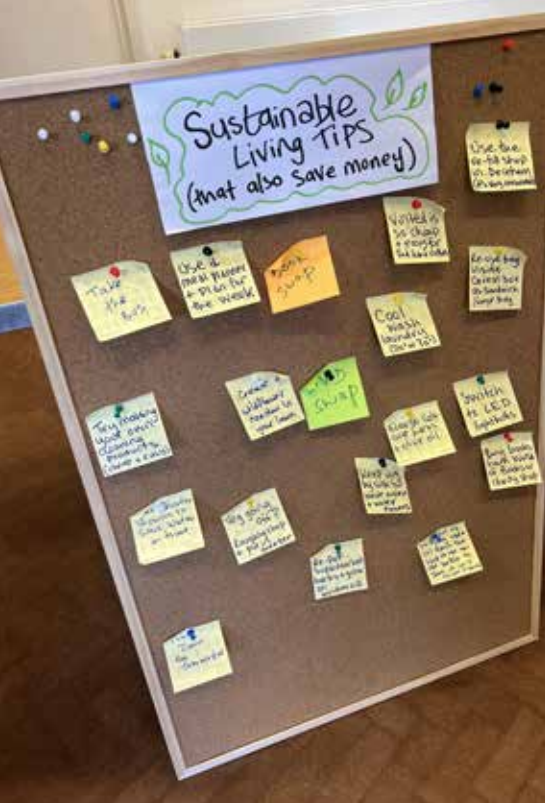
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NELS' SUSTAINABLE LIVING DEBUT EVENT

The North Elmham Living Sustainably group, or NELS for short, held its first event in the Eastgate Centre at the end of February. The event was all about sustainable living.

Beth ran a junk modelling craft table where kids (and adults) made fish and sea creatures using recycled items. Vitty shared water saving tips and demonstrated how paper and wipes break down in water (the lesson was please don't put wipes down your loo!). Dave displayed a few sleepy moths, his moth trap and a selection of his wildlife photographs.

Ben helped people to create seed bombs with clay to attract butterflies and biodiversity in their gardens. Nicola

collected ideas on what sustainable projects people would like to see in the village. And last, but definitely not least, very yummy cakes made by Siobhan, Caroline and Mary were enjoyed by all.

It was a wonderful event enjoyed by villagers of all ages. You'll be able to catch us at the Elmham Garden Fete where we'll be doing something similar. We also have lots of fun plans afoot which we'll keep you posted on.

NELS now has a facebook page you can follow to stay up to date with what we're up to. Search 'North Elmham Living Sustainably - NELS' and you'll find us.

If you'd like to join us you are very welcome. Message us on facebook or email nicolaruthearle@gmail.com.

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ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The meeting was held at the Kings Head on Thursday 29th February . After the exhortation, the minutes of the last meeting were signed off. It has been confirmed that the branch will have two stalls at this year's Garden Fete on Sunday 19th May 12.00–4.30 pm.

Mike Aston pointed out that he was very disappointed with the failure of the EDP and D&F Times reporter not getting back to him regarding the memorials to Gerald and Bryan.

As the first Thursday in the month is now the Kings Head theme night, we will be changing our meetings to the last Thursday in the month, therefore our April meeting will be on the 25th April March same time 8pm.

Mike Aston Branch Sec.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Welcome to Eastertide

Eastertide officially started on the last day of March, Easter Sunday, and lasts for 50 days and is a time for celebrating Jesus' resurrection. So in the church we have a month of celebrating, starting with Easter Monday, a bank holiday! Also being April Fool's Day, there is surely time for a lot of fun.

With the longer days of British Summer Time and with such a mild spring so far, and with Easter being early, the year really does seem to be racing along. People often remark on the seemingly strange timing of Easter being anywhere within a 5 week window. Well, the timing is organised using the spring equinox, the full moon and of course a Sunday. Easter Day is the Sunday next after the Paschal full moon (the full moon on or after the equinox on March 21st); thus, it could be as early as March 22nd or as late as April 25th.

April comes from the Latin aperire meaning "to open". This refers to the spring blossoming of flowers and opening of leaves. The birth-flowers for the month are the common daisy and the sweet pea, while the wildflowers to expect include anemone, iris, cowslip and bluebell. Of course, nowadays it seems difficult to predict what will flower when, especially as we have had such an early spring this year. However, I can predict with reasonable certainty that there will be April showers and some strong sunshine, and the lawns will definitely need mowing

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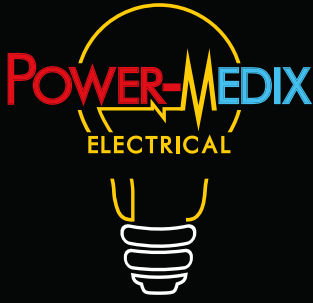
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and I will be battling with the weeds! I will also be eating my rhubarb.

Towards the end of the month, we will be celebrating Saint George's Day. He was an officer of the Praetorian Guard for the Roman emperor Diocletian. He opposed the persecution of Christians and was beheaded on the 23rd of April in the year 303. This date was once very highly celebrated, on a par with Christmas, but its popularity waned in the 18th century after the union of England and Scotland. It is becoming more popular again (perhaps another bank holiday to look forward to in the future) and is to be celebrated with typical English food and drink. So, cheers to that!

Wishing you all a great Eastertide.

Yours in Faith

Colin Ferris
Authorised Worship Assistant,
Heart of Norfolk Benefice

WORTHING NEWS

Sunday Church Services this month fall on:

The 14th Holy Communion & on the 28th Iona Service. Both starting at 10.30am followed by refreshments and local banter.

ADANCE NOTICE

May we also remind you to put this date in your diary...

Monday Bank Holiday 6th May from 2.00–4.00 pm at Worthing Church

Come and partake in A DELICIOUS CREAM TEA and a flutter in our fabulous raffle!

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In Aid of Church Fabric Fund.

For further information, please contact:

Celia on 01362 668928



Saturday 20th April

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Elmham Garden Fete

Sunday 19th May

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Please contact Jo on 07796 493 495.

All proceeds go to St. Mary's Church & community projects

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To start the 2024 season of concerts and music workshops at St Mary's, North Elmham

'Come and Sing' Evensong

Sunday 14th April, 5pm



Fakenham Parish Church choir and the Heart of Norfolk choir combine voices to sing Evensong, directed by Jonathan Dodd, with Mark Jones (organ).

Would you like to be part of the choir?
All abilities welcome, enthusiasm a must!
Rehearsal begins at 2.45pm
Holy, Holy; Schubert
Canticles; Shera in C.
Tebe poem; Botriansky

Choir places are limited, so please book early; contact
Jenny Cunningham 01362 668224
jennycunningham@mac.com

Or come along at 5pm simply to enjoy the Evensong service.

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CHURCH SERVICES



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APRIL 2024

7TH APRIL – SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

14TH APRIL – THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

10.30 am	Bawdeswell + Zoom	The '10.30'
10.30 am	Foulsham	Holy Communion
10.30 am	Worthing	Holy Communion
10.30 am	Stibbard	Morning Praise

21ST APRIL – FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

10.30 am	Bawdeswell + Zoom	Holy Communion
10.30 am	North Elmham	Iona Holy Communion
10.30 am	Wood Norton	Holy Communion
4.00 pm	Foulsham	Sung Evensong

28TH APRIL – FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

*Services at Bawdeswell Church are also available on Zoom.

www.heartofnorfolkchurches.org.uk

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Martin Phillips: martin.s.phillips@btopenworld.com*

This Month's Photo Contributors

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

COVER: Sarah Felton

PAGE 11 & 13: Countrysiders

PAGE 21: Ray Norman

PAGES 29–31: Dave Appleton

PAGE 36–37: Nicola Ruth Earle



NORTH ELMHAM PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chair: Jennie Borgnis, 01362 668 952
Vice Chair: Martin Phillips, 01362 668 409
 Ann Ferris, 01362 668 580
 Tom Fitzalan Howard, 01362 668 232
 Brian Gee, 01362 422 799
 Paul Grainger, 01362 667 135
 Ann Keeble, 01362 668 216
 John Labouchere, 01362 668 306
 Nick Markwell, 01362 668 557
 Michael Rayner, 01362 667 859
 Colin Smith, 01362 668 585

PARISH CLERK

Kevin J Webb, 01328 855046
 northelmhampc@hotmail.co.uk

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 & Pound Jennie Borgnis, John Labouchere
 Cathedral Meadows..... Tom Fitzalan Howard, Ann Keeble
 Cathedral Ruins..... Ann Keeble, Tom Fitzalan Howard
 Eastgate Centre..... Martin Phillips Paul Grainger Jennie Borgnis
 Millennium & Jubilee Wood..... Jennie Borgnis, John Labouchere
 Playing Field & Pavilion..... Colin Smith, Ann Ferris
 Prince William Wood..... Tom Fitzalan Howard, Nick Markwell
 Village Green Colin Smith, Brian Gee
 Footpath Warden..... Jennie Borgnis, Ann Ferris

SERVICES

Environment & Maintenance Martin Phillips
 Highways Paul Grainger, Brian Gee
 Mid-Norfolk Railway Liaison..... Michael Rayner, Nick Markwell
 Planning..... Michael Rayner, Martin Phillips, John Labouchere
 Street Lighting..... Tom Fitzalan Howard, Nick Markwell, Colin Smith
 Tree Warden Tom Fitzalan Howard, Nick Markwell, Colin Smith
 Website Jennie Borgnis, 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	Bill Borrett	01362 860200
Member of Parliament	george.freeman.mp@parliament.uk	01953 600617
North Elmham VC School	Ms Victoria McConnell, Head Teacher	01362 668318
Chairman of School Governors	Robert Plant chairofgov@northelmham.norfolk.sch.uk	
Memorial Institute	Bookings: Ann Ferris p.ferris84@yahoo.com	01362 668580
Pavilion	Bookings: Ann Ferris p.ferris84@yahoo.com	01362 668580
Eastgate Centre	Heather Caley	01362 668245
Breckland Dog Warden	Confidential message or texts 07771 617417	01362 858500
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Clergy - All telephone numbers local code (01362)

Church of England	Reverend Sally Kimmis	heartofnorfolkrector@gmail.com	668850
Roman Catholic	Father Jay T Magpuyo	35 London Rd, Dereham	694066
Methodist	Rev Betty Trinder	31 Trinity Close, Dereham	695582
Salvation Army	Major Diana Bennetts	dereham@salvationarmy.org.uk	696341
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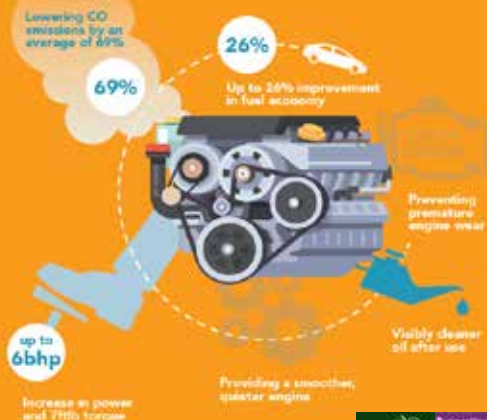
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