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JUNE 2020

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Editorial

We hope you enjoy this edition of Elmham News which has been printed as Clan Press are back at work and the exercise limit has been raised, so that we expect these can be delivered. It has been quite a juggling act as we were not sure if there would be enough content to warrant printing costs, but here it is. It is also available on the community website www.elmham.org.uk.

At the time of writing we are in our eighth week of lockdown, although since the Prime Minister's announcement on Sunday 10th May we are now able to exercise more than once a day and can even get in our cars and drive somewhere to walk etc. The garden centres are open so if you feel you can brave the visit, you can purchase plants to nurture whilst we have time. Gardens have never looked so neat and tidy!

Life is very different to what we have all taken for granted and I think we are all appreciating the slower pace of life, although I know we are all missing our families and friends. As Meg has said in her 'I wish I had done something earlier', article on page 17 make time to talk to family and friends and tell them you love them. Do the things you've not had time to do. Thursday nights when we all go out to clap for the NHS and key workers is very uplifting and a little time to have a chat with neighbours.

We will all look forward to getting back to normal, whatever the new normal might be! Time will tell.

You can't have failed to notice the magnificent mural that appeared over a

North Elmham community website www.elmham.org.uk

PLEASE NOTE: Submission deadline for articles to be included in the July edition is 14TH JUNE 2020. Please email your article to each of the editors listed below asap before the deadline.

Volume 43, No 5, June 2020

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weekend on the surgery wall. Designed and painted by Charlotte Chapman it is a great tribute to all those who have given so much. Well done Charlotte, we love it!

Have you noticed how quiet the roads have been (this is the 15th May) and how noisy the birds are? When everything is 'normal', we are so busy and intent on what we are doing that we don't hear the birds unless it's the cuckoo or swan's wings flapping as they sedately fly overhead, but at the moment we are sure the birds are in overdrive and are competing with each other to sound the loudest. The dawn chorus is wonderful at the moment.

The roads through the village are just like they were in the 50's and into the 60's. Not much traffic though it is much faster than it was then. Parents never worried about their children playing in the road there was time to get out of the way. Janet can remember once when she was eight and there was no one about, she thought she'd ride down the church hill on her bike... with her eyes closed!

Silly girl, she had forgotten to check properly, there was a car parked on the left-hand side of the road. By the time she had finished her blind cycling there was a dent in the back of the car! Luckily for her, she was unhurt, so she limped off as fast as she could go and never told anyone of her stupid cycle ride! UNTIL NOW, SO WE ALL KNOW!

GOOD NEWS.... You can play tennis again!

North Elmham Parish Council Meeting

1st April, 2020 (via Zoom)

The following information is taken from the official PC minutes which are issued by the Clerk once ratified by councillors at the subsequent meeting. The full official minutes can be viewed in the Post

Office and on the community website, once approved.

Councillors present by logging in were: Mrs. J. Borgnis (Chairman), Mr. M. Phillips, Miss A. Ferris, Mr. T. Fitzalan Howard, Mr. P. Grainger, Mr. J. Labouchere, Mr. M. Rayner, Mr. C. Smith and Dr. P. Wade-Martins

Also in Attendance: Mr. K. Webb (Clerk)

Land Management Matters

Village Green: The Play Area has been securely closed and, in the current coronavirus crisis, is not to be used. Mr. Smith is to take charge of looking after the bins.

Cathedral Ruins: Advice is awaited from English Heritage as to how the ruins are to be managed. They say that their own workforce is continuing grounds' maintenance, but it is not clear as to whether we should continue ourselves. Mr. Duffield will not be asked to work until precise guidance is received. In the meantime, the gates are being left open.

Prince William Wood: Mr. Darby is proceeding with the fence as there is little likelihood of him coming into contact with anyone else whilst doing this work.

Street Lights: The branches of the tree near light number 18, (opposite the hall in Eastgate Street), are to be lopped.

Highway Matters

The Eastgate Street parking scheme is due to start on 6th April but it is not certain, at this stage, whether it is going ahead. The residents of the street should be notified by the County Council if it is to be closed and it appears they have not been told anything, other than via Elmham News. Dr. Wade-Martins will advise them of the situation as soon as we hear. The main street has been well swept by Breckland but there remains a problem with some debris blocking a drain near the buildout.

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Pavilion and Playing Field – Play Area

There has been a problem with litter at the far end of the playing field near the skateboard park. No cleaning of the pavilion is likely to be required so Mr. Smith will liaise with Debbie Tyson.

Volunteers

It was acknowledged that, in the current situation, volunteers will be out of action.

Planning Applications and Determinations

Applications

- (i) Mr. and Mrs. Grainger – erection of dwelling and garage – The Post Office, 62 Holt Road (3PL/2020/0242/F) – no objections
- (ii) Mr. and Mrs. Jaggard – conversion of existing building to annex – 101 The Old Homestead, Eastgate Street (3PL/2020/0143/F) – no objections

Determinations

- i) Mrs. H. Gibbons – proposed front extension – 11 Brookside (3PL/2020/142/HOU) - approved

Correspondence

A letter had been received from a parishioner offering to buy some parish land near the church. It was unanimously agreed that no decision could be taken on this matter until members have had the chance to fully debate and discuss it at a properly constituted open meeting of the Parish Council. The Chairman will write to the person involved confirming the procedure to be followed.

Skateboard Area

Following the request for an improvement to the skateboard area made at the last meeting, a confirmatory letter had been received. Subsequently, members were disappointed to note that a considerable

amount of litter had been left in this area with some also thrown over the wall on to neighbouring farmland. Mr. Smith is to liaise with the young people who wrote the original letter to advise them that the users of the skateboard park need to be more conscientious before the Parish Council can consider supporting them actively.

Coronavirus Crisis

It is the intention to hold the May meetings using an enhanced Zoom facility. A team of volunteers has been formed to help parishioners and Elmham News continues to play an important part.

Dear Editors

Having just read the parish meeting report in the May issue, concerning the build out on Holt Road, our observations are quite different.

We live adjacent to the 'build out' or 'chicane' as we know it, and although some cars coming from the Dereham direction, are forced to stop, many others accelerate on the approach to the chicane in order to avoid having to yield to oncoming traffic, sometimes causing a near collision if the oncoming vehicle doesn't slow down. Then on other occasions we see vehicles driving out of the village towards Dereham at high speed as they have no reason to slow down.

Additionally, we had a policeman knocking on our door last week to ask if we were aware of a hit and run incident, whereby a motorist knocked a cyclist off his bike on the chicane and then sped away from the scene.

We intend this as constructive feedback based purely on our observations given that we live in such close proximity.

Your sincerely

Linda Webb



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Surgery Mural

You may have noticed the wonderful mural of a rainbow and sunflowers as you enter the surgery car park.

We wanted to create something to remind us all of the good & the not so good times we have come through so far and to say a big 'Thank You' to everyone.

With this in mind we commissioned the work of a local budding artist, Charlotte Chapman. Charlotte, who lives in Elmham, is currently finishing her first year at art college. When we approached Charlotte she was really proud to have been asked to create something so special for the staff and patients.

Charlotte created her design around the rainbow which has become a symbol of support for people wanting to show solidarity with NHS workers on the front line and sunflowers which are known for being 'happy' flowers bringing joy.



We would like to say 'Thank You' to Charlotte and we hope it brings a smile to all.

Stay safe and well

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If you have any spare plants to offer, you can leave them there too.

Many thanks.

Tish, Jean and Jo

Funnies

Did you hear that...

... bakers only trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis.

... a thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.

... the hungry clock that went back four seconds

... you can be stuck with your debt if you can't budget!

.....
A piece of string walks into a bar and asks for a drink. The barman replies, "Sorry but we don't serve drinks to pieces of string". So the piece of string walks out of the bar dishevelled and feeling sorry for himself.

Determined to have a drink, he comes up with an idea he knows can't fail. He ties himself into a knot and frays himself at both ends.

He walks back into the bar and goes to ask for a drink. The barman replies, "Aren't you that piece of string that came in earlier?"

The piece of string replies, "No I'm a frayed not!"

Clap for Carers

Every Thursday we share some few moments of unity and friendship in Cathedral Drive and Cedar Close applauding and singing for those at the front line. John kindly made the frame for our banner. Watch this space for further developments.

Jenny Cunningham

Here in part of Eastgate Street at 8.00 pm on Thursday evenings we come out to clap or bang saucepans to show our appreciation of the front line staff who are working so tirelessly in our communities. On the evening before VE Day we were joined by Stephen and Rachel Ballard, who live in George Bandy's old house playing a violin and viola. Their music certainly raised the tone and on a lovely spring evening it was beautiful.

Janet Woodhouse

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Spring on the Allotments

This is a strange time for all of us, being in a Covid-19 lockdown situation. Fortunately many of us have good size gardens so we can get out in the fresh air. I expect many gardens look wonderful this spring.

Much is the same on the allotments. Normally in the early spring people rush home from work and try to grab a few hours with a fork and spade before sowing their seeds in between the April showers.

But this year many allotment holders have more time on their hands and the weather has been sunny warm and dry. Plots are being tidied up and early sowing have pushed their way into the sunlight helped on by copious amounts of water applied by watering cans.

There is a really good camaraderie amongst the allotment holders, albeit shouted across the plots therefore maintaining a "social distance" of about 40 meters. There is always plenty of help and advice travelling across from other plots and a seed swap has been instigated as some members have not been able

to access supplies. Other holders have taken on the cutting of the grass on the paths and car parking areas while the few vacant plots have been cut back. One kindly person actually rotavated my plot for us, as I am still recovering from a fractured leg. That was a great help and many thanks go to all those that have volunteered to carry out those extra tasks.

Keeping the weeds down is a major job as the good growing condition is as good for weeds as it is for vegetables. And then there's the deer, rabbits, mice and moles to contend with. Trying to keep them of the plot is a real challenge. But after several weeks of work the fruits of our labours can start to be seen and tasted. After clearing the ground of the last overwintering crops such as leek, carrots and broccoli, the new season rhubarb and asparagus is available as well as various salad leaves. The potatoes are just about to flower, but then it's a panic cover-up job to protect them against the late May frosts. The crops are looking good. Let's hope the good start continues.

There are still a few plots available if anyone is keen as an individual gardener of a plot share could be arranged. If interested please contact Martin Phillips on 01362 668409.

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Delivering the Mail in Fancy Dress!

Have you seen two girls driving a red van, suddenly wearing strange clothes, always very colourful, rainbow colours we feel.

We are always pleased to see them come to our door, because they are two of our village posties. They are Sarah and Jess Adams, not related just sharing the same surname. They are wearing fancy dress, raising money for the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital Charity Covid-19 Appeal.

Spokeswoman Romana Bachmann said in the EDP "We took inspiration from other Posties across the country who have been brightening people's days whilst delivering in fancy dress. Our target is £1,300 and we would like to thank all the people who have donated so far.

Also a massive thank you to Arnie's Attic in Dereham, for lending us some costumes. And the community for the many donations of the same. The support has been incredible"

There have been photos and a piece in the EDP about them too. From all of us in Elmham you have certainly brightened our day and given us a smile. Thank you.

Sarah and Jess have written short pieces about themselves so we can get to know them better.

I'm **Sarah Adams** and have been delivering the post in Elmham on and off for four years now. This year marks the tenth year I have been with Royal Mail and I love being a Post Woman. I get to see the beautiful countryside and lots of different animals on my route. I have two amazing children who make me very

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proud. They are seven and five and keep me very busy... but I wouldn't change it.

We thought we would start dressing up to make people smile and raise some money for the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital Charity as we bounced about delivering your mail. Dressing up has helped me in these strange times, making people laugh has been my 'stress relief' for the past four weeks. Laughing has made the days easier and has brought us together as an office.

I would like to thank everyone for laughing, smiling at me and with me! You all make my day so much better. I feel I am so lucky to have such great customers!!

My name is **Jessica Adams** (no relation to Sarah) and I normally cover North Elmham on Sarah's day off.

I've been a Postie for seventeen years and I love it. I've lived in Norfolk nearly all my life and I'm married to Brent who has delivered around Cathedral Drive for nearly twelve years. We've lived in a quiet rural village for sixteen years and have a ten year old son who you can see in the middle of our dance video.

We originally wanted to wear fancy dress to help keep morale up as the world has turned into a scary place and we are expected to keep on doing our jobs, but with twice the volume of parcels! Because people can't go out to buy things they wanted or needed to amuse themselves or distract the kids, the flow of parcels has become heavier than some of the worst days at Christmas.

So I started looking around at other Posties who had been raising money and asked them how they did it. I started badgering Sarah and Romana if we could do this too. Romana set up a chat page and so our plans began which involved us dressing up every day. We have been in the newspaper, been on the radio and been on Look East.

I set up Royal Mail Facebook page so we've got something that the public can put their pictures onto when they see us. It will be something which will hold all the memories of this time for many years to come.

Brent only started dressing up to keep me quiet, he was only planning on doing it once but the emotional response from the public, not just for Brent but to all of us made it worth while.

To make someone laugh so hard who has never said a word to us before, brings us closer together as a community.

Eds note: We are so lucky to have such lovely Posties delivering mail to our village. They are always cheerful no matter what the weather is like and in the winter we don't think that early in the morning we could be so cheerful! If you want to donate to their cause then go online to www.justgiving.com/fundraising/royalmaildereham

Wish I Had Done Something Earlier

I recently read a touching article by a man about his mother who has dementia and was struck by his pain at not being able to talk to her and know that she understands that he loved her. In part, I know what he means. My mother had a brain tumour which deprived her of her vitality, humour and her very essence. By then it was too late to say how much I loved her and owed her for all she had done for me. We were not a demonstrative family; no hugs when meeting, no verbal reassurance of love but we all knew we loved and were loved. I still feel sad when I think about it especially when my three gorgeous grandchildren rush into my arms whenever we meet with a hug and an excited "Grandma" and invariably say "love you" as we part with hugs and kisses.

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What has that got to do with anything you may say? Well, I just wanted you to think about this and all the occasions you may have missed to do something or say something earlier. It's too late when the person has gone, to ask about their lives, their parents, and relations. Think of all the photos that you find that are totally bewildering with no names or dates on anything – finding little knickknacks and sending them to the charity shop or church fete because you feel you don't have any connection with them.

So ask questions, write dates and names on things, don't rely on your memory, however young you are (you will forget). Print off a few joyful photographs to help remember. It is frightening to see how many photos the young carry on their smart phones, 100's and 100's, but do they look at them regularly, do they pass them round for all to see. I know they post them on the social media but even that has its serious drawbacks.

Sorry, I'm rambling, the privilege of the more mature, but if you do one thing today, tell someone you love them.

Meg White

Gardening Club

This month's notes are being written during the 75th VE celebration, some of you may realise that our own club is celebrating its 90th Annual Garden Show this year, a major achievement for our village. It has had different names and titles over the years but has managed to keep those interested in gardening with talks and outing on various subjects.

There is still a question mark whether the show will take place this year due to the current situation, if not hopefully as a club we can celebrate this achievement much later in the year with something different. I have ideas please let me know yours.

With all the warmth and sunshine of late, the May flowering shrubs and hedgerows have been packed with blossom which look really beautiful and I hope that your seedlings are in the final stages of growth ready for transplanting out.

Reminders and suggestions of things to do in June:

- Pinch out tips of fuchsias to encourage a bushy habit and more flowers.
- Dead head and cut back Oriental Poppies after flowering, cutting them close to the ground level, this will stimulate new foliage.
- Harvest early potatoes these are ready about ten weeks after planting.
- Keep an eye on garlic and onions when the leaves start to yellow and die back, they are ready to harvest.

Can you identify this flower grown last year?



Please keep safe and looking forward to us all meeting up soon.

Ray

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Jimmy Brown

Everyone knew Jimmy Brown – usually to be seen around the village mending or fixing something, or digging and weeding in the garden alongside the Playing Field.

In another life Jimmy had spent most of his working days as a long distance lorry driver, working his way across the country and beyond, and was very proud to say he drove everywhere without the use of a Sat Nav!

For a number of years Jimmy had been an active member of Elmham Parish Council which he joined when he retired. He was responsible for the Playing Field, was part of the Allotment Team and also the Environment and Maintenance Group. This was where he emulated George Kerrison both coming from the same mould, usually with some sort of gardening equipment to hand. We thought of both of them as a New Age

'Mrs Mop' of the community. He was first and foremost an honest and practical man and tried to put himself in the shoes of parishioners.

During Parish Council meetings, if Jimmy didn't understand quite what point was being made, he was quick to point out that "he only went to a secondary modern school and had never swallowed a dictionary" to make a point. Everyone always laughed!

Jimmy was an wonderful friend for the village. He served his village conscientiously and well. If he saw something which needed doing, he didn't ask 'should I do that,' he got on and did it!

He was an ardent supporter of Norwich City FC, going on Peelings bus from Elmham to the home matches. He has been heard on the radio coming home from the match giving us all the benefit of his wisdom or otherwise of the game, and not afraid to give his opinion of any shortcomings of the team!

Not once during his illness did anyone hear him grumble or complain, he accepted what was with great stoicism and humour.

Jimmy, we salute you and hope you are as always, busy with your barrow and spade getting to grips with God's Garden, which must need an army of volunteers just like you, to make it perfect.

Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers are with Pat and their family.







VE Day

It was a glorious day here on the 8th May 2020 and a shame that the village couldn't celebrate in style. Though as you can see many houses were adorned with bunting and we got a Red Arrows flypast, so not too bad!

It has been suggested that we do finally celebrate on VJ Day on the 14th August. God willing this awful pandemic will be a thing of the past by then.

Let's hope that we can have a huge party on the Village Green with music, food, fun and lots of raucous laughter!





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Our Fighting Men

Before you make a comment
To judge or perhaps condemn,
Once they were the country's finest
Now they are very old men.
Once they were young and handsome
And donned their uniforms with pride,
Many went off to battle
Sadly, many fought and died.

Of those who are with us today
Many crippled and somewhat staid,
They make no claim on glory
It was a price courageously paid.
So when today you see them
Walking slowly down the street,
Remember, they fought for our freedom
So that we might peacefully sleep.

*Written by Sergeant Geoff Draycott
617 Squadron, RAF Scampton.*

Seventy five years ago on the 8th May, 1945, Victory in Europe was all the news with great celebrations in every community. Sadly, I'm not sure what the celebrations were here. This part of our world was home to so many aircraft, and airfields (then called aerodromes) it must have also been tinged with sadness as so many of those planes never returned but were shot down in a foreign land. Perhaps some of you can remember the sight of postmen taking telegrams to homes with the news of a family member being killed whilst fighting. How hard and frightening life must have felt.

Villages in the First World War where all the men and women returned safely were called 'Thankful Villages', Ovington here in Norfolk was one of those. These villages who again saw everyone safely returned at the end of World War II were called 'Doubly Thankful Villages'. Sadly, Elmham was not one of those.

We know from the brass plaque in church and also our village archives that, nine of our fighting men never returned from fighting. The first to die was a

submariner who was lost with all hands on his submarine, the second one had an accident going back from leave to his unit and was killed. He is in our churchyard as is another who was killed doing demolition work in London.

Four of our men were killed in the aftermath of the D-Day Landings when the fighting was very intense. A number of Elmham men were in the Norfolk Regiment and were prisoners of the Japanese, one of these men was being transported to Japan in a clapped out boat which, was torpedoed by the Americans and he was lost at sea. Finally, in 1945 the last of our Elmham lads was killed just a month before VE Day.

Janet Woodhouse

This Norfolk

Here is a poem written by Rosa Riley a resident of Cathedral Drive about ten years ago. Sadly now she is no longer with us. Rosa sent many poems to Elmham News, always topical, sometimes witty. She also entered her poetry in many competitions over the years.

This Norfolk is a wondrous place
With wide and open skies
It gives you such a sense of space
Your spirit soars and flies.
It takes you to another time
Away from fear and pain
No mountains though for you to climb
When you come back again.
If you should go, then don't forget
In spite of all your sins
A move is something you'll regret
For Norfolk always wins.
For Norfolk always pulls you so
Wherever you may roam
It draws you back, won't let you go
'Till you are safe back home.

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1890s to 1955 Rook & Ravencroft Time Line

Clarissa Vincent of Dereham, one of nine children, whose father owned a greengrocers store on Swaffham Hill married John Rook of North Elmham in April 1887, where they both ran a grocer and drapers shop in Eastgate Street, which eventually became the Post Office.

Prior to marriage and living in North Elmham, they were both servants in Sutton St Mary, Lincolnshire, in 1881 Clarrisa was a house servant and John, an assistant. The first time they were listed

as living in North Elmham was recorded in the 1891 Census. Clarissa and John had five children, Emmeline, George, Kathleen (Kit), Ernest Cecil and Mary Madeline.

Emmeline (Emmie) born in Lincolnshire 1888 and died 1967 in Warwickshire.

George Frederick Rook born at North Elmham January 1890 and died 1931.

Kathleen (Kit) born at North Elmham 1892 and died in 1974 at Billingford.

Ernest Cecil Rook born at North Elmham 1895. Died prisoner of war in 1918 and is

commemorated on the village memorial. He is buried at Braine le Comte Belgium where he died of wounds whilst in German captivity during the Great War. He served as a Private with 2nd/7th Bn Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment).

Mary Rook, born at North Elmham in 1899, married William Ravencroft and ran the Post Office in Eastgate Street with her husband and died after childbirth in 1936

William Ravencroft was born December 17th 1897 in Whalley, near Blackburn. He worked as a trainee accountant before joining up to serve in the First World War. Following his return from active service as an acting Adjutant with the Royal Garrison Artillery in Ypres, Belgium, he married Mary Rook.

Following John Rook's death in 1921, the grocery and draper business carried on under the care of Clarissa and Mary.

When brothers Richard and William Ravencroft returned from the Great War, they bought Broadlands Farm on Station Road from the Sondes family estate, which was sold off around 1924 shortly after Elmham House was demolished. Broadlands Farm stands to the rear of the current chip shop and here they started a poultry business hatching and growing on White Leghorns. They also installed the first electric lights inside the large sheds to increase egg laying, the close proximity of the railway was key to the distribution of chickens and eggs.

Their partnership eventually came to an end around the late 1930s, at which time they sold up with the exception of a small plot of land on Station Road which they named Oakleigh. This is where William Ravencroft built a small bungalow, for his mother and father to live.

Richard Ravencroft moved to Gressenhall to carry on with poultry farming, whilst

William took on the running of Elmham Post Office as sub post master. He was sub post master at North Elmham from 1931 to 1955.

This became one of the largest postal areas in the Dereham district, eventually employed four postmen to deliver mail and telegrams as far as Litcham and surrounding villages, all by foot and bicycle.

Mary and William had three children, Joan, the first to be born in 1925, later joined the Girl Guides at the age of eleven eventually staying on to become Captain until she left the village with her father and step mother for Southport in 1955.

Ronald Ravencroft was the next to be born in 1930. He became a carpenter working for Messrs Mickelover Transport Ltd whose yard and workshop were situated across the road from the Post Office, where only the mangers house now remains. He was called up for National Service where he served with the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, attached to the 8th army, serving his time in Austria as part of the Occupation Force following WWII. On returning to Norfolk, he joined Norfolk Constabulary where he served as a Police Constable for 30 years service at Fakenham, Holt, Gayton and Dereham.

Peter Ravencroft was born in 1936, and unfortunately just after his birth his mother died of complications leaving William to bring up the family. Peter was sent to stay with an aunt in Birmingham before returning at the age of three to join the family in the Post Office, after William had married his second wife May (nee Maine).

Before coming to Norfolk, May worked as secretary to chairman of Ruston-Bucyrus established 1930 who built large crane excavators in Lincoln.

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Post Office - Recollections

There were four post men, one of whom was Maurice Tombling's father. Peter Ravencroft remembers twenty-five sacks of parcels being stacked up in the post office at Christmas time.

County School was on Peter's rounds, he was post boy from 1951. Ron Ravencroft recalled cycling to Litcham in snow to deliver telegrams.

When Ron came home on leave from the army, his father William arranged for Ron Ravencroft to travel home in the early hours of the morning from Norwich station to North Elmham Post Office, sitting in the rear of the mail delivery van on all the sacks of post. The journey home was not a quick one as they had to unload mail at the various post offices on the way to Elmham.

During the Second World War, there was an air raid shelter dug into the garden near the old tree to the right hand side of the tin shed where Peter used to keep his prize chickens. Peter remembers his dad standing outside the shelter during an air raid alert and commenting on the various German planes flying over head. Ron remembered standing on the shed roof to watch aeroplanes taking off and landing at Swanton Morley airfield during the war.

William was asked to join the Worthing Home Guard during WWII but declined the offer; he'd had enough of army services having been wounded in Ypres Belgium during the Great War, and he would also have been busy with Post Office duties.

William, May and Joan all moved to Southport in 1955 in preparation for retirement, however William still needed to work and tried for a while to work in the local PO sorting office, although at his age it proved difficult to get on with a much younger work force. After a time, they became home sick, sold up and returned to live in the bungalow at Oakleigh Station Road in 1957.

Joan however remained in Southport finding work as a civilian clerk in the office of Southport Constabulary, where she stayed up until her death in 1986.

William Ravencroft died in 1965 at which time May moved into Lawes Court on Church Hill which was a sheltered home for the elderly, before passing away in a home for the elderly in Dereham.

Emily Ravencroft (Williams sister) became an expert Milliner, she also lived at Oakleigh in later years until old age and arthritis took their toll. Despite this she still managed to keep many geese and chickens within the garden, and she eventually moved to sheltered accommodation at Lamberts Court, Weasenham St Peter near Fakenham.

Research provided by Richard Ravencroft, Charlotte Walker, Peter and Mary Ravencroft 13/05/2020

A Good Home Needed

For a 10" (25cm) horse chestnut tree. Our not so friendly squirrel decided last autumn that a pot of bulbs would be an ideal place for a conker to grow.

If you would like it, please give us a ring on 668525 and we will even give you the pot!

Janet Woodhouse

In Our Thoughts

Please remember Kate and Mike Wyatt in your thoughts. Mike is in a nursing home in Watton and has tested positive for coronavirus but is not showing symptoms as yet. He seems to be taking it in his stride.

Also please remember Heather and John Caley in your thoughts. John is in a nursing home in Swaffham and has also tested positive.



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Wildlife at the Cathedral Meadows



I have known for a while that there are Water Voles in the dyke that runs alongside the railway at the bottom of the meadows, but apart from one or two poor views I've not managed to see them until this year. Recently they have been uncharacteristically showy, and I've enjoyed prolonged views of an adult and its youngster there on several occasions. It was fun to watch them nibbling on grass in the safety of their hole, then nipping out to pull off another blade and quickly taking it back in to the hole to eat it.

I know foxes come on to the meadows but although I often see them on the surrounding land it wasn't until recently that I encountered one on the meadows themselves. It was walking towards me, stopped when it noticed me, stared at me for a moment while it decided what to do and then shot off in the opposite direction.

Among the birds most of the summer visitors have arrived now including the Cuckoo. In fact, I've heard at least two male Cuckoos cuckooing as well as a female whose call is quite different, a much less frequently heard bubbling sound. I've also had a couple of views

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H2SJP33678 11/19

of Hobbies including one that was flying straight towards me. I didn't manage to focus the camera on this fast-moving falcon as it sped past me, but it was great to get a good look at its distinctive black and white underparts, orange 'trousers' and steely-blue back. Oystercatchers tend to be thought of as coastal birds but quite a few pairs breed inland in Norfolk before heading back to the seaside for the autumn and winter. You can sometimes see one or two flying over the meadows, presumably birds that breed locally, and their loud piping call alerts you that they are coming. They're very smart black and white birds with bright orange beaks.

Talking of black and white animals, the tiny Pied Shieldbug is an insect I've been hoping to find at the meadows. They like White Dead Nettles which grow plentifully here, so I thought they should be here, and this spring I finally found one. Another distinctive insect I found more by accident was the Red-headed Cardinal, a striking red beetle with black legs and elaborately branched black antennae.

There are lots more plants coming into flower now and the next month or so will be the peak period for seeing wildflowers, so keep your eyes out for all the different types when you visit. Let us know about any of the wildlife you see: email appleton.dave@gmail.com or phone 668431. You can also follow us on Twitter at @ElmhamMeadows or see our recent tweets on the Parish Council website (www.elmham.org.uk/cathedral-meadows/).

Dave Appleton

Photos:

Water Vole

Red Fox

Pied Shieldbug

Red-headed Cardinal Beetle

More Funnies

Taken from real Church Notices... allegedly!

The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals. The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again', giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving BENSON and Jessie CARTER were married on 24 OCTOBER in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

At the evening service, tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5 pm - prayer and medication to follow.

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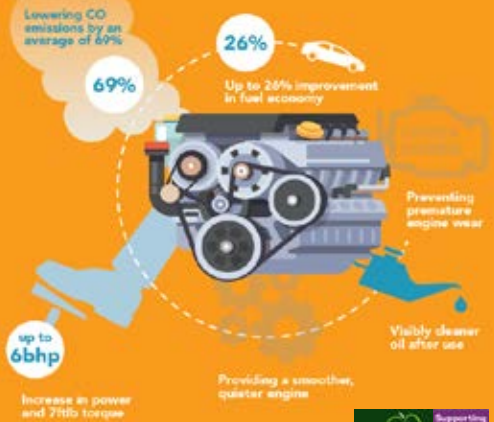


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St Mary's News

It seems a very long time since we were able to go into the church for a few quiet moments and it was with great sadness that following government instructions we had to lock the building. This is probably the first time for over a thousand years that there has not been a Christian service in the parish, either in the old cathedral or the church; quite a thought!

However, this does not mean that the church has not been active and there is a Zoom service, conducted by Sally, every Sunday at 10.30 am. If you would like to join us, just contact Sally, (heartofnorfolkrector@gmail.com) and she will add you to the list for an invitation. There have been up to 70 participants from all over the benefice most Sundays.

The closure of the church and the lockdown have meant that work repairing the south transept roof has had to stop, but as our builder is now starting back at work, we hope things will soon start moving again.

Looking through the government guidance published on 18th May, it is clear that the church cannot be opened again until at least the beginning of July. However the church yard is open and provides a pleasant route through to Church Meadow and the Jubilee Wood. There is a seat near the porch and a dog

bowl for thirsty dogs beside the tower, so enjoy the walk and the outside, if not the interior if this fine building.

More 2 Life Christian Fellowship

The current uncertainty due to the Covid-19 outbreak is prompting many to reflect on their lives, and maybe even pray. Have you ever wondered, 'Why am I here?' 'Where am I heading?' 'Is this all there is? Is there more to life than this???' Some of us have been able to enjoy a slower pace of life, albeit with some frustration at not being able to meet with friends and family. Some of us have been thrown headlong into a much more frantic world, such as those keyworkers in all sectors that have been doing such an amazing job.

Yet the questions still remain. Is there really a God? Do I really believe this God thing is just fantasy and bears no relevance to my life? But what if there is? What if I'm wrong?

On June 9th 2020, we will be starting an online Alpha course, which will be a safe place to ask and explore these questions. All you need is you, an internet connection, and access to Zoom. It doesn't matter if you have a faith, used to have a faith, or have no faith at all, you are welcome to join us on this journey together.

For more details, and if you would like to join us, please get in touch.

Pastor Anne-Marie Fewell

Revree7@gmail.com

www.more2lifenorhelmham.com

<https://www.facebook.com/more2lifeNE>

Tel. 01362 668707

Worthing News

I suspect many of us are tuning in to the Daily Briefing News about the Corona-virus and how it is still affecting our daily lives, but one thing that for some seems certain, we are thankful for our NHS taking care and looking after us but also our neighbours, close-by and from above, thank you. Without their support, how would we cope? The lyrics to the hymn below I hope will help us get through this difficult time.

When I needed a neighbour
Were you there, were you there?
When I needed a neighbour, were you there?
And the creed and the colour
And the name won't matter,
Were you there?

I was hungry and thirsty, were you there,
were you there?
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?

I was cold, I was naked, were you there,
were you there?
I was cold, I was naked, were you there?

When I needed a shelter, were you there,
where you there?
When I needed a shelter, were you there?

When I needed a healer, were you there,
where you there?
When I needed a healer were you there?

Wherever you travel, I'll be there, I'll be there,
Wherever you travel, I'll be there.

And the creed and the colour
And the name won't matter,
I'll be there.

Also, in recent weeks our Team Rector Sally Kimmis - Heart of Norfolk Churches Group has successfully encouraged many to join her in a weekly Sunday Service at 10.30am using ZOOM. If you are able to download this programme and wish to join in, please email Sally on heartofnorfolkrector@gmail.com to let her know.

In the meantime everyone, keep safe and well. Remember, if you need any help, please contact Celia on 01362 668928.

More2Life Christian Fellowship

Formerly Victory Villages Church
(Member of Eastern Baptist Association)

Pastor Anne-Marie Fewell

Worship Sunday 10.30 am, Bible study Monday 2.00 pm
Meeting via internet ring 01362 668707 if you wish to join us

**Mum's Place (a meeting place for mothers with
children of 0-4 years) in abeyance for the moment**

See website: www.more2lifeforthelmham.com

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IF SOMEONE COLLAPSES FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS

D



DANGER ENSURE THE SCENE IS SAFE

FOR YOURSELF AND OTHERS. IF IT IS NOT SAFE OR YOU ARE UNCERTAIN CALL 999 AND WAIT FOR HELP TO ARRIVE



R



RESPONSE CHECK THE CASUALTY NEEDS HELP

CHECK RESPONSE BY **TALK AND TOUCH**.
SPEAK TO THE CASUALTY IN BOTH EARS, TAP COLLAR BONES. DO NOT SHAKE THEM!



S



SHOUT SHOUT FOR HELP

IF THE CASUALTY DOES NOT RESPOND, SHOUT FOR HELP.
DO NOT LEAVE THEM AT THIS STAGE. **DIAL 999 NOW!**



A



AIRWAY ENSURE AIRWAY IS OPEN AND CLEAR

OPEN THE AIRWAY BY LIFTING THE CASUALTY'S CHIN AND TILTING THEIR HEAD BACK. DO NOT PUT YOUR FINGERS IN THE CASUALTY'S MOUTH, YOU MAY PUSH AN OBSTRUCTION FURTHER DOWN.



B



BREATHING LOOK, LISTEN & FEEL FOR NORMAL BREATHING

KEEP THE HEAD TILTED BACK AND LISTEN FOR BREATHING & LOOK TO SEE IF THE CHEST IS MOVING FOR AT LEAST 10 SECONDS. IF THE CASUALTY IS NOT BREATHING NORMALLY OR YOU HAVE ANY DOUBT, **CALL 999!**



C



COMPRESSIONS NOT BREATHING NORMALLY? START COMPRESSIONS!

PLACE YOUR HANDS IN CENTRE OF THE CASUALTY'S CHEST AND PRESS DOWN HARD. JUST DO COMPRESSIONS. YOU CAN DO BREATHS IF YOU FEEL CONFIDENT - 2 BREATHS FOR EVERY 30 COMPRESSIONS - PUSH TWICE PER SECOND



D



DEFIBRILLATION GET SOMEONE TO FETCH A DEFIBRILLATOR

IF YOU ARE ALONE DO NOT LEAVE THE PATIENT, DO CHEST COMPRESSIONS AND WAIT FOR HELP TO ARRIVE, IF SOMEONE IS AVAILABLE SEND THEM TO GET YOUR NEAREST COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR

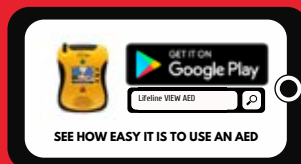


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*To advertise in the Elmham News please contact
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North Elmham Parish Council

Chair: Jennie Borgnis

Vice Chair: Martin Phillips

Clerk: Kevin J Webb

01328 855046

northelmhampc@hotmail.co.uk

Group Leader ✓

Group Member ●

Finance & Administration

Eastgate Centre Trustees			✓	●		●			
Elmham Charities Trustees	●			●		✓			
Allotments (AMS)						✓			

Village Facilities

Broom Green, Pound, Millennium Wood	✓				●				
Cathedral Meadows & Ruins			●						✓
Prince William Wood & Tree Warden			✓					●	

Recreation & Sporting Facilities

Playing Field / Pavilion		●						✓	
Village Green						●		✓	
Footpath Warden	✓	●							

Services & Other

Highways				●					✓
Planning					●	●	✓		
Street Lighting			✓					●	
Environment & Maintenance						✓			
Railway Liaison							✓		
Website	✓					●			

Meetings are normally held on the first Wednesday of the month in the Sports Pavilion, commencing at 7:30 pm. Parishioners are entitled to attend and are most welcome. Our County and District Councillor is also in attendance whenever possible. If, in between meetings, you wish to raise a specific matter for the attention of the Parish Council - please refer to the contact list above.

And finally...

Have you got something interesting you would like to say or think others might be interested in something you do - why not write to us (preferably by email) and let us know, we are always on the lookout for new contributors.

- just email the Editors, simple.

North Elmham Directory

Elmham Surgery - Holt Rd - 01362 668215

Opening Times Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri 08:30 - 18:30 (Wed 18:00)

Swanton Morley Surgery - 01362 638100

Opening Times Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri 08:30 - 18:00

Doctors

Dr Simon Carroll Dr Alice Griffiths-Jones Dr Robert Spooner
 Dr Abigail Brun Dr Samita Mukhopadhyay Dr Victoria Lawrence

North Elmham Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS) - 01362 788700

NHS Direct 111

POLICE Non Emergency - 101 - EMERGENCY - 999

Breckland District Councillor	Gordon Bambridge Bill Borrett	01603 880557 01362 860200
Norfolk County Councillor	Bill Borrett	01362 860200
Member of Parliament	george.freeman.mp@parliament.uk	01953 600617
North Elmham VC School	Paula Jones, Executive Headteacher	01362 668318
Chairman of School Governors	Robert Plant chairofgov@northelmham.norfolk.sch.uk	
Memorial Institute	Pam Neve	01362 668325
Pavilion	Booking - 07789 724 430 or	01362 668698
Eastgate Centre	Heather Caley	01362 668245
Breckland Dog Warden	Confidential message or texts 07771 617417	01362 858500
London Express Tickets	Travel Centre	01362 694211
Sanders	Wednesdays to Norwich	01263 712800
Konect Bus		03300 539358
Community Website	www.elmham.org.uk	

Dereham Library - 01362 693184

Opening times: Mon Wed Thur; 9:15 - 17:00 - Tue Fri; 9:15 - 19:00 - Sat 9:15 - 16:00
 Mobile Library calls in Elmham every 4 weeks

Anglian Water		0845 7145145
Dereham Leisure Centre		01362 693419
UK Power Networks	Electricity - Emergency	0800 7838838
Samaritans		116123
Citizens Advice Bureau		01362 697776

Clergy - All telephone numbers local code (01362)

Church of England	Reverend Sally Kimmis	heartofnorfolkrector@gmail.com	668850
Roman Catholic	Father Brendan Moffatt	35 London Rd, Dereham	694066
Methodist	Rev Betty Trinder	31 Trinity Close, Dereham	695582
Salvation Army	Major Palmer		696341
Baptist	Anne-Marie Fewell		668707

Church Wardens

Elmham	Susanna Wade-Martins	668435
Worthing	Celia Daniel	668928



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