Elmham News





DECEMBER 2021/ JANUARY 2022

OUR VILLAGE COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

Wishing all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



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EDITORIAL

Here we are at the beginning of December, hopefully looking forward to Christmas, without Covid complications,

Beside our usual contributions, whose authors we heartily thank for sticking with us month after month, no mean feat, we have articles on two loved local residents which shows how their lives were integrated into village life. Those of us who have been here a long time, or even for ever, are conscious of changes.

The magazine used to be typed on a typewriter, taken up to the vestry in church, printed on a Gestetner and then painstakingly put together, interleaving the advert pages before stapling and delivering. Now once typed, it is put into the correct format by the formidable Sarah Felton and sent via email to the printers in King's Lynn, who print and deliver to Bob Fletcher. The one thing in common are the deliverers, who take their allotted magazines and deliver to your door, come rain or shine, with only one exception for Covid. Bryan Tidnam was one of those faithful, who could be relied upon to do his thing for Elmham News. We will miss you.

We try to reflect village life in our articles, trying to keep everyone up to date not only with our past but with what is to happen. As the village grows, we ask everyone to feel part of the community and to join in, meeting new people and getting to know our neighbours.

Elmham's Got Talent will be a welcome bright spot in December and later in January – OK so you don't know who's in it, but you can come along and be prepared to enjoy. Book your tickets in advance from Sarah Felton and support those who are putting themselves out there for your entertainment.

The Christmas tree near the Pavilion will be lit up for December and everyone can join in the Christmas Lights competition which will be judged during the week

PLEASE NOTE: Submission deadline for articles to be included in the FEBRUARY edition is <u>14TH JANUARY</u>. Please email your article to each of the editors listed below asap before the deadline.

Volume 44, No 11, December 2021		DONATIONS APPRECIATED		
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DISCLAIMER				

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DECEMBER & JANUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

Wed 1st Dec	Parish Council Meeting Folk Club: Ken & Friends"	Pavilion King's Head"	7.30 pm 3.00-5.00pm"		
Thu 2nd	Wives + All Yuletide social	Memorial Hall	7.00 pm		
Mon 6th	BINGO for Institute Bowls	Memorial Hall	7.00 pm-		
Tue 7th	Knit and Natter	Pavilion	2.00 pm		
Wed 8th	Sewing Group Mobile Library	Tumbleweed, Eastgate Street The Heath to Orchard Close	2.00 pm 2.30–5.20 pm		
Fri 10th	Elmham Talent Show See page 14 for details	Memorial Hall	7.30 pm		
Wed 15th	Tea @ Two	Memorial Hall	2.00 pm		
Fri 17th	End of Term				
No Gardening Club in December					
Sat 1st Jan	New Year's Day				
Tue 4th	Knit and Natter	Pavilion	2.00 pm		
Wed 5th	Start of term Sewing Group Mobile Library Parish Council Meeting	Tumbleweed, Eastgate Street The Heath to Orchard Close Pavilion	2.00 pm 2.30–5.20 pm 7.30 pm		
Wed 12th	Tea @ Two	Memorial Hall	2.00 pm		
Fri 14th	Elmham Talent Show See page 14 for details	Memorial Hall	7.30 pm		
Sat 15th	Elmham Talent Show See page 14 for details	Memorial Hall	7.30 pm		
Wed 19th	Sewing Group	Tumbleweed,Eastgate Street	2.00 pm		
Thu 27th	Gardening Club AGM + slides	Memorial Hall	7.30 pm		
No Wives + A	No Wives + All in January				

Please remember, we can only print dates that YOU give us.

If you contact us via email please send it to all of the Editors. If you only send it to one of us we might miss it. Thanks.

Janet: robert.woodhouse2@gmail.com, Meg: megandnigel@gmail.com Caroline: carolinejpayne@hotmail.co.uk, Chris: laine.hill@icloud.com starting on 13th December. Even one string of lights will brighten a dark evening and help someone feel better.

Thank you to all our contributors and deliverers and advertisers for your support throughout the past year.

Thank you for donations from Friends and Neighbours and Anon on Station Road.

Here's wishing us all a Merry Christmas and a bright and promising New Year.

Your Elmham News Team

NORTH ELMHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 3RD NOVEMBER

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, Mr. T. Fitzalan Howard, Mr. B. Gee, Miss A. Ferris, Mr. P. Grainger, Mrs. A. Keeble, Mr. N. Markwell, Mr. M. Rayner and Mr. C. Smith.

Also in Attendance: Mr. K. Webb (Clerk), Mr. G. Bambridge (District Councillor), Mr. J. Heaton (Breckland Council), Mr. E. Mumford-Smith and Mr. A Ballard (Broadland Housing)

Apologies for absence: Mr. J. Labouchere

Public Participation

It was stressed that if parishioners had any concerns with matters handled by the Parish Council, they should write to the Parish Council or, alternatively, attend the monthly meetings at which issues can be addressed. In addition, assistance can frequently be obtained by referring to the minutes as many of the questions raised have already been answered.

Results of Housing Needs Survey

Information was provided by James Heaton, Breckland Council's Housing Enabling Officer, Ed Mumford-Smith, Head of Development (Broadland Housing Association) and Adam Ballard (Broadland Housing Association).

Broadland Housing Association is based in Norwich with an office in Dereham. They have provided over 5,000 properties and aim to produce schemes of a high quality.

With regard to North Elmham, over 600 forms were sent out with 194 being returned. 26 people have a need and this would normally result in 15 houses, (including market housing), being built. They would include two bedroom houses, two bedroom bungalows and three bedroom houses. A shared ownership scheme would be available. A site of approximately one acre would be needed and it must not be in the settlement boundary although it should be well related to the existing village. Affordable housing must be outside the settlement boundary, but market housing can be either inside or outside.

The cost of land is approximately £12K per plot for affordable/shared housing and about £20K per plot for market housing. Therefore, the total cost of the land would be in the region of £200K. The Parish Council does not make a financial commitment but is asked to support advertising activities.

The matter will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Land Management Matters

Village Green; A new tree (horse chestnut) has been planted but it is in an area which is currently flooded. No further information has been forthcoming from the Woodland Trust. Mr. Gee suggested the creation of a French drain to ease the flooding problems. It was agreed to take no action at present and to wait to see

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Cathedral Meadows: The brash is to be burnt in November or early December. A letter has been received from DEFRA regarding Nitrate Vulnerable Zones and the Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations, 2015. The farmer needs to keep records of the number of sheep in each section. Mr. Fitzalan Howard is to talk to him to ensure that this is being done.

Bridleway On Disused Railway Line & Other Railway Linked Matters: It was stressed that the Parish Council objections were not against the miniature railway but the fact that the Railway would be breaking the terms of their contract with Breckland Council if permission were to be granted.

Allotments: One annual rent remains outstanding. There is still a waiting list for an allotment. The skip was filled and has now been removed. Mr. Phillips said it would be useful to have a mirror at the entrance/exit to the site for safety reasons.

Highway Matters

The request for safety rails outside the Tea Post has been turned down. A reason has not been given at this stage, but it is thought that it will be at some time in the future. It was agreed by all that no action would be taken regarding the sign in the car park near the church. (re Access sign)

Pavilion and Playing Field

The Junior Football Club has expressed thanks that no charge will be made for the facilities this season and they will use the money saved to buy equipment. The car park has been sprayed. Some moles have returned. A Christmas tree is to be purchased at an approximate cost of $\pounds 60$.

Brookside Development Update

The Norfolk Association of Local Councils has been campaigning to get an electric charging point near every village hall in Norfolk. Mr. Rayner is to investigate.

Youth Club facilities

Mr. Fitzalan Howard is to obtain further information and figures on skate parks.

Risk Management

It was previously agreed that funds collected in respect of pavilion activities should be checked by the Clerk immediately on being handed over and an appropriate receipt issued for the amount of money involved. A book has been purchased for this purpose.

Defibrillators

The Chairman had issued a summary detailing the history and current position regarding the defibrillator which was originally purchased with money raised by North Elmham Young Farmers. The Circuit system has recently been mentioned and Mr. Neill (NARS) has been asked for a comment on this. A response is awaited. A request for volunteers to be Community First Responders (CFRs) is to be made.

Village Green Play Area Board

Mr. Gee has prepared some notices in relation to contributors to the fundraising which members are going to look at and offer possible suggestions for any adjustments. A quotation is to be obtained from an engraver with the ultimate intention being to position the signs at the two entrances to the village green.

2011 Community Plan

Mr. Grainger had reviewed the document and produced the updated list of eleven items. All agreed that the revised comments accurately reflected the current situation regarding the matters identified. Acceptance of the document was proposed by Mr. Fitzalan Howard and seconded by Miss Ferris. All in favour.

Proposal for New Electricity Connection in Holt Road

A request had been received from Simon Codd, a Wayleave Surveyor. U. K. Power Networks have been asked to provide







Pre-school Group

We are a registered OFSTED independent preschool offering flexible childcare for children aged 2-5yrs in a light airy free flow setting. Before/after school and holiday club for children 5-12 years. 10% Discount for North Elmham Primary School children.

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a new electricity connection to the new development at Holt Road (Brookside). This will require the installation of two new stay wires to an existing pole on Parish Council land, as well as a new route of underground cable. Following the works, the land will be properly reinstated to our reasonable satisfaction. The Chairman has signed the Wayleave Agreement (all in favour) which will be returned to Mr. Codd with a copy retained by the Parish Council.

Annual Budget for 2022/2023

Members were requested to consider the financial requirements for those areas in which they have responsibility in order that the budget can be finalised at the next meeting. This will enable the Precept request to be made to Breckland Council.

The PCC has indicated a desire to plant a tree on Church Meadow, near the pond, to mark the forthcoming Jubilee. The Parish Council has been requested to make a financial contribution to the cost of the tree which is likely to be in the region of $\pm 800/\pm 900$, including a plaque and a guard. Mr. Phillips proposed a sum of up to ± 800 which was seconded by Mr.Markwell. All members were in favour except Mr. Rayner and Mrs. Keeble who opposed and Mr. Grainger who abstained.

Other

Mr. Grainger proposed that a fund be put in place to assist eco-friendly projects which individuals or groups could apply to. This was seconded by Mr. Fitzalan Howard. All in favour.

District Councillors' Reports

Mr. Bambridge advised the following:-

a) Breckland Council has a new CEO – Maxine O'Mahony.

b) Breckland Council has a new initiative which will involve members of the Senior Management Team getting out into the district to meet Parish Councils and other organisations. c) The District Council budget is currently being formulated.

d) Lord Dannatt continues to chair the Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance (NSFA). A new phone line has been set up to enable people to report any flooding problems.

e) Grants from Breckland Council are available to assist with the cost relating to the Queen's Jubilee.

Planning Applications & Determinations

Applications

(i) James Hird – stationing of a caravan for permanent residential occupation – certificate of lawfulness for existing use - 3PL/2020/1173/EU – Janninesa Farm, Eastgate Street. (To the best of our knowledge, it has been occupied for at least six years. If permission is granted, it is suggested that it is done so on the condition that it is limited to the current occupiers.

(ii) Richard Mumford – single storey side and rear extension to the main house with remodel of existing outbuilding to form holiday let accommodation – 3PL/2021/1419/F – Rackham House, 39 Holt Road – no comments.

Determinations

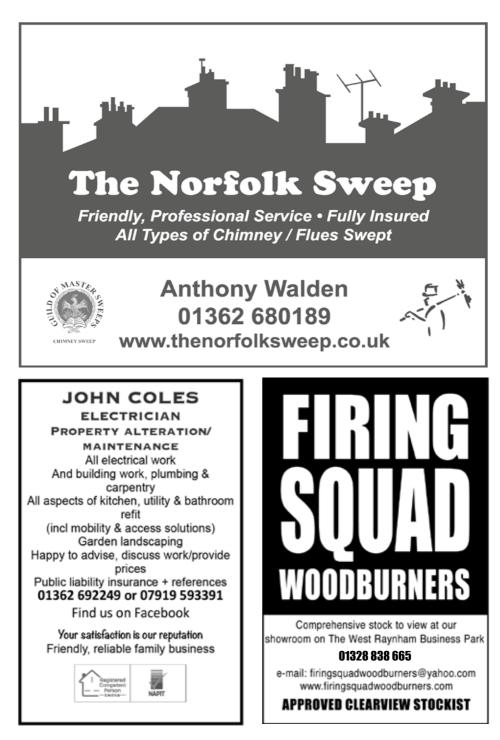
(i) Mr. and Mrs. M. Hammond – rear dormer roof extension – 3PL/2021/1234/ HOU – 48 Station Road (approved).

Correspondence

1) Offer from parishioner to donate money to cover the cost of paint if the bus shelter is to be "smartened up" – agreed, with thanks, to this kind offer.

2) Advice from Mr. Bambridge (District Councillor) of the intention of the Senior Management Team to get out and meet Parish Councils.

3) Request from a parishioner to place a memorial bench in Millennium Wood



- agreed in principle; type of bench and preferred position to be requested.

4) Notification from e-on of a "change" in the unmetered supply w.e.f. 1/12/21 – from 25.40p per kWh to 33.80p per kWh (an increase of 33.1%)

5) Notice from DEFRA under the Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2015

6) Request from a parishioner to post a small number of flyers advertising tutoring services – agreed.

Agenda Items For Next Meeting

a) Affordable Housing

b) Petition for changes in the Wind Farm policy in laying pipes

Next Meeting

Wednesday, 1st December at 7.30 p.m.

GARDENING CLUB

The October meeting started on a sad note. Our member Jane Smith and former chairman Ed Middleditch both died last month and our thoughts and prayers go to both families for their loss.

We welcomed our speaker Dr Ian Bedford, an entomologist for over 42years, he studied plant science research at the John Innnes Centre at Norwich where he became head of the entomology department. He has travelled the world with his expertise and knowledge being featured on Gardeners World , Horizon , Local Radio and even on the Harry Hill Show to name a few.

On his retirement, he decided to pass on his vast knowledge and present online talks as well as visiting clubs and it was a pleasure for us to have him and speak to our club on the subject, "To control or conserve garden bugs"! He explained which are good for your garden and those that are not and how to encourage and control them, and we were all surprised that what we thought were not welcome, in fact, did good.

After his talk Ian produced several products that are environmentally friendly as certain pesticides are killing wildlife and plants. One of the products he has endorsed and recommends to use is SB Plant Invigorator and bug killer, a unique 3 in1 pesticide ,mildewcide and foliar nutrient, which several members purchased .

Our annual Christmas Social will have taken place at the end of November.

Our next meeting is the A G M on the 27th January 2022 at 7.30 pm and afterwards, a photo slide of our church Flower Festival- please bring your diaries and thoughts for next year.

I would like to take the opportunity to wish you all the very best for Christmas and New Year

Ray

DID YOU KNOW??

1. The mobile Library van carries supplies of Covid-19 self-testing kits. Just ask the librarian for some.

2. Sat 18th December is the last date for 2nd class mail and Tue 21st is the last date for 1st class mail.



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JANE SMITH REMEMBERED

Having lived in Elmham for 48 years, Jane had been involved in a number of spheres of community life.

These include 19 years working at Elmham Surgery, at first as a receptionist, especially when it was based at The White House, and then in the latter years, as a member of the clerical team. She became a familiar face to many people.

Jane was an active member of the Church community, being Secretary of the PCC for many years. As one of her interests was flowers and their arrangement, she was for many years one of the main organisers of the displays at the annual Flower Festival.

One of her many displays was the theme of 2002 "Royal Connections". The display received many congratulatory remarks pertaining to the colours and props used, very much in tune with the choices made by the Queen Mother. The subject was particularly relevant to Jane, as her mother had died just one day before the Queen Mother at Easter that year. She always said that her mum had left in good company!

Music was perhaps her main interest, outside the family! Throughout her life singing figured prominently on her rota of activities. Being a member of groups of 10 to 15 singers suited her fine, especially if they sang 16th or 17th Century madrigals. The Thornhill Singers, based in North Elmham fitted these requirements very well and for over 30 years, she looked forward to Friday evening practices as well as the special events! For several years on a Sunday afternoon in July, The Thornhills sang from the balcony in Houghton Hall, a joy to experience and remember.

Jane will be missed in many ways, particularly by her family. It is through me that the family wish to extend their sincere gratitude to all who have sent cards and words of sympathy and condolence. These numerous contacts, with kind thoughts and memories have helped us to get through this sad and difficult time.

A very special thankyou to the Rev.Sally Kimmis, Emma Duggan, the Funeral Director, Jonathan Dodd, organist and Heather Caley and her helpers for refreshments. All of whom contributed in various ways, making the service for Jane a memorable occasion.

Arthur Smith

North Elmham's TALENT SHOW

Celebrating the amazing talent in our village through music, songs, comedy sketches and more! With special performances from North Elmham Village School and invited friends.

Friday 10th December 2021, at 7.30pm

Friday 14th January & Saturday 15th January 2022, at 7.30pm

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FAKENHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

'A Festive Fantasia' Christmas Concert

A festive feast of music awaits as Fakenham Choral Society presents its annual Christmas concert in Fakenham Parish Church on Saturday 11th December at 5.30 pm. Musical Director, Mark Jones, will lead the performance in his usual exuberant style! So do join the choir to celebrate their first performance since March 2020, come and sing along to some popular carols and enjoy a selection of wonderfully celebratory festive music to mark the season. The performance will last for approx. 1 hour 20 minutes with a short interval. Entry is free and there will be a retiring collection.

KING'S HEAD BOWLS CLUB ANNUAL DINNER

On Saturday 20th November the King's Head Bowls Club held its 121st Annual Dinner and prize giving. Around 30 people attended the event held at the King's Head, and all enjoyed a superb meal.

The Club Captain commented that this event represented a bit of a double celebration as Covid-19 had prevented much of the 2020 season and also prevented annual dinner being held. 2020 as it was, was restricted to a rapidly reorganised Mid Norfolk League being played in August which seemed to be the only formal league played in this part of the county. Sadly, we did not do too well but did manage to enjoy a few spirited games in an otherwise non-eventful year. The Club did also manage to hold its Club Knock-Out singles and doubles, but the Ladies Cup was the only cup game played.

In 2021 things were almost back to normal and after a late start we played in both the Elmham League (Div 2) and the Mid Norfolk League finishing in second place in both. The Club Cups were also played, and the King's Head provided us with excellent food after the games.

Apologies were given from the President, Dr Simon Hibberd and Christine, who were unable to attend owing to a previously arranged appointment, so the presentations were made by the Chairman Roger Duffield and Captain Martin Phillips

The Club trophies were awarded to:

2020

Ladies Cup

Winner Sally Lloyd Runner-up June Howes

Club Singles

Winner Roger Duffield Runner-up Nigel Ferry

Club Pairs

Winner June Howes & Keith Vertigan Runner-up Stuart Cleverley & David Green

2021

Ladies Cup

Winner June Howes Runner-up Sally Lloyd

Presidents Cup

Winner David Phillips Runner-up David Green

Club Cup

Winner Peter Bell Runner-up Roger Duffield

Woodhouse Shield

Winner Peter Bell Runner-up David Phillips

MSP



The guy who invented the door knocker got a no-bell prize

VILLAGE MEMORIES OF BRYAN TIDNAM

From his Niece, Michelle...

Bryan was born on 24 December 1938, sorry I am not able to find out much about his childhood. I know he enlisted in the Army on 6 February 1958 and served two years and twenty-three days, completing his Part-time National Service. He then served in the Army Reserve but do not know how long for. I know he has worked at a couple of places but not sure of his full work history but know his last job was caretaker and North Elmham School.

He married Brenda Jean Parnell on 21st April 1962 at Hindolveston Church. At the time Bryan was living at Elmham House Cottage in North Elmham. I believe they moved to Wayside in 1972 but not sure if they lived anywhere else before this date. He was married to Brenda until her passing.

All my life Wayside has been the place they lived and have many fond memories of visiting and staying as a child. Bryan had a bike licence but never passed his driving test but was able to drive a threewheeler car. Which he had for many years until they made a four-wheeler version.

Bryan had a love of sport, and his television would always be on a sport channel. He was a Norwich City season ticket holder for many years in the same seat, 117. He collected merekats and you may have seen them outside the house. He loved his garden, and the property would be full of flowers. I have many pictures of the displays at the side of the house, and they were even mentioned in a gardening magazine. The Christmas decorations was also popular in the village and mum said there was a Father Christmas that would make a noise as you passed. Wayside will not be the same!



It was mentioned that he liked cricket after his passing and whilst sorting his house we found several old cricket books stored away. He loved to play bowls. I also know people would knock on the window as they passed, and he would put his hand up to wave to them. He will be missed by so many.

Bryan will be missed by all the family but most importantly he will be missed by so many in North Elmham, dear friends and people who he just said hello to.

From Janet Woodhouse...

My father knew Bryan's dad because he too was brought up in Tasburgh and they reconnected when the Tidnam family moved to Elmham, as my father also worked for Air Vice Marshall Don.

Bryan's mother had died, and Reg married Kathleen Raynor ,a friend of my mother who lived in Coffin Row. So, she became Bryan's stepmother.

Kathleen had worked in the NAAFI during the War, and towards the end she worked

in Germany which she enjoyed. She was also a brilliant cook and seamstress. She was always so proud of Bryan; he became the son she never had.

My abiding memory of Bryan will be of him and Brenda riding through the village in his three-wheeler car – a bit like Del Boy. If you drove behind him on the way to Dereham it seemed to rock a bit when he got up to speed!

He was a faithful deliverer of Elmham News for many years and could be relied upon to do anything he could to help.

Rest well Bryan, you have always been a loyal friend of Elmham, always ready to help, whatever was asked of you. You will be fondly missed.

From Bob Dewing...

Bryan's father's change of job brought the family to North Elmham. His father took the job of gardener at the Park and accommodation went with it, so that was where Bryan lived. This was where I first met Bryan. He used to have to carry two pails of water every day to use indoors. He attended the Primary School in the village. We played cricket together on the Park. We attended Dereham Boys Secondary Modern School together (now the Sixth Form) although in different classes as I am a little older in age.

After school we went our separate ways. He did his National Service I think in the Engineers Regiment. He married Brenda and they continued to live in the village.

His first job was with R.G. Carter Builders. Then Shavers chicken firm in Bawdeswell (now called Cobb). He littered the huts and fed the chickens.

We then met up again at RMC Concrete in Dereham. We would see each other every day. Bryan was on the machine that made the concrete blocks and I used to deliver the blocks out to people. This was the job Bryan retired from. He then went on to become the caretaker at North Elmham Primary School for many years finally retiring a couple of years ago.

With me moving back to North Elmham seven years ago I joined the King's Head Bowls Club where Bryan and I regularly played bowls for the club as well as the Age Concern Club. I used to give him a lift to away matches. We would also see each other on the bus going from the village to watch Norwich City FC play.

He would be a regular visitor to our home for a meal or a cuppa. My daughter Tracy called him "Mr North Elmham." He was one of the many people who are the backbone of the village. He was still delivering the Elmham News at 82! He will be (and is) greatly missed by everybody. A cheery character who would always help anyone out.

Rest in peace Bryan.

From David Green...

Bryan was born in Tasburgh on 24th December 1938, but very sadly his mother died in 1951 when he was young.

He and his father Reggie moved to Elmham where Reg worked for Air Vice Marshall Don. David is not sure when the family came to Elmham.

Bryan went to the Primary School in Elmham briefly then on to Crown Road Secondary Modern School in Dereham.

He left school and became a butcher's boy, and then a station porter at Elmham station. He did two years National Service in the Royal Engineers, serving in the UK.

In his working life he moved around a bit – he worked for several years at Mid Norfolk Concrete, and as a labourer for Carters builders. Then he went on to Shavers Cobbs (chickens) at Bawdeswell and Bernard Matthews Farms.

He retired, then started working again – as Caretaker at Elmham School.

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He was a loyal and supportive friend of the village being a Parish Councillor and a member of the Institute Committee – and for years he delivered the Elmham News along Holt Road.

As a young lad he was the scorer for the village cricket team and told David he would love to be a good player but knew he would never make the grade!

He played Bowls at the Kings Head and was Captain in the 1990's. He was also Captain for Age Concern in 2010 and was Chairman for the Elmham League for around 40 years. As a young man he also played Table Tennis, it might have been for the Institute.

He had been a member of the Royal British Legion since 1960 right up to his death.

At different times he was Chairman/Secretary and President here and he attended most events organised by the Legion.

For 40 years he was a poppy collector and especially he will be missed here.

Something he was avid about, was being a supporter of Norwich City Football Club. He had a Season ticket and never missed a home match.

I shall miss him.

Eds Note: The church was full for Bryan's funeral on the 19th November, we feel that he would have been delighted and amazed at the number of people who came to pay their respects.

Last Post echoed across the church hill and over the Park whilst most of us were walking down to the Institute to enjoy a mardle and some of the the lovely refreshments provided by the Tea Post.

The annual Bowls Dinner for the Kings Head was held on Saturday the 20th November. Everyone raised a glass to Bryan who never missed the annual dinner and at the end of the evening the Kings Head provided us all with a tot of whisky in memory of Bryan.

FLOWER FESTIVAL PHOTOS

Ian Macintosh very kindly took many photographs of the flower arrangements and things that happened over the weekend. We are unfortunately unable to reproduce them all in the magazine.

However, Sue and Ivan Ball have painstakingly put them on the community website for your delight, and we are most grateful to them. Anyone who is interested or who lives away, can now access them on https://elmham.org.uk/photos/



EASY-PEASY FUDGE

Ingredients

150g milk chocolate50g golden syrup50g unsalted butter400g crunchy peanut butter75g chocolate chips

Method

Melt milk chocolate, syrup and butter in a saucepan at low heat, stirring occasionally.

Cool for 10 mins.

Line a 15x20.5cm tin with greaseproof paper.

Add peanut butter and chocolate chips into cooled mixture. Stir well.

Freeze till solid, cut into squares.

Michael Cummings, HCPC Registered, D.Pod.M., M.Ch.S., Chiropodist/Podiatrist,

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COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS

Most parishioners will be aware that the Parish Council (PC) is trying to find ways to make sure that our Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is used to its best advantage. Cardiac arrest survival rates in Norfolk are 7-10%, but there is strong evidence to suggest that early defibrillation can increase our survival chances by as much as 50%.

Elmham Young Farmers raised the money to purchase the AED seven years ago through Community Heartbeat Trust (CHT), a national charity that promotes and supports the use of AEDs. Currently the device is situated in the North Elmham surgery car park.

At about the same time the AED was introduced, the PC set up a Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS) which is promoted by CHT. This system is designed to work alongside an Ambulance Service, so when a 999 call is made, the ambulance call-taker will telephone the dedicated VETS number in the relevant area and one of the local volunteers will collect the AED and take it to the patient.

The VETS scheme is not currently embedded within the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EEAST) dispatch system. This means that EEAST does not automatically call the VETS as part of their dispatch process. Instead, in the event of a cardiac arrest FFAST call-takers will try and stay on the line to the caller, and give CPR instructions prior to the arrival of a trained EEAST **Clinician for Community First Responders** (CFR). Clearly, if a person calling for an ambulance is advised to stay on the telephone to follow CPR instructions, they will not be able to call the VETS number themselves.

The PC is trying to find alternative ways to support EEAST and the North Elmham community, to provide emergency support to patients who have had a suspected cardiac arrest. The government's target for NHS Ambulance Trusts for Category 1 calls (cardiac arrests) is 7 minutes on average, and respond to 90% of category 1 calls in 15 minutes. This can be hard to achieve in Norfolk at times of high demand. Consequently, the PC has taken the advice of the Chairman of Norfolk Accident and Rescue Service (NARS), who is a fully trained Advanced Paramedic and very fortunately lives in the village. He has recommended that the PC could instead promote the recruitment of new CFRs who could join a CFR team based in Dereham. Information about this and how CER work can be found on the EEAST website (eastamb.nhs.uk). The PC will cover the training costs of any parishioner who volunteers to be a CFR.

We believe that an increase in the number of local CFRs has the potential to improve cardiac survival rates. So, if you feel that you can help your local community in this very important way, please let a member of the PC know.

Jennie Borgnis Chairman, NEPC

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

My husband recently had a fall in Eastgate Street and I would like to thank everyone who came to our assistance that day. They all went far beyond any kindness and help I could have wished for. Thank you to my neighbours for their well wishes and concern.

Thank you all.

Marlene Ross



NORTH ELMHAM CRICKET CLUB

A large contingent of NECC players and partners made their way in October to the Annual Dinner and Awards evening of the Norfolk Cricket League held at the Mercure Hotel in Norwich.

They were there to pick up the Division 4 West trophy and to celebrate two individual members of the team, Josh Hall who to his great surprise won the Division top batter trophy and Phil Bend who the top bowler trophy. Phil's haul of 31 wickets put him eighth in the list of all players across the nine divisions and Josh's average of 132 was the best of all players who had had a significant number of innings.

Photos show: Individual winners (right), Josh Hall (left) and Phil Bend (right)

Team photo with trophy held by skipper Iain Sinclair and framed photo of the Division table held by vice-captain Phil Bend.



POPPIES GALORE....

If you came to church recently you will have seen the poppy decorations on the window sills, courtesy of Knit and Natter, ends of the pews and a large camouflage net with poppies pinned on it hanging from the belfry.

The sewing group made hundreds of felt poppies before lockdown which we are hoping will be here for years to come. The camouflage net was bought on Norwich market, ex military and no longer needed. It is drying out quickly so don't think that will last too much longer!

As well as the poppies we hung little tags on each pew with the names of the fallen with the dates of when they all died. If you look at them carefully you will see which years had the highest number of deaths, 1917 during WW1 and 1944 during WW.

What a waste of young lives, how the Parish must have mourned them.

KNIT AND NATTER

Our ninth "happy birthday" meeting went well, with lots of cake and candles. I announced, that this will be my last year as organiser as it's time for the young uns to have a go.

I took our bag of 182 Innocent Drink little hats into the Dereham branch of Age UK, and they were only too pleased to accept them - giving me a "thank you" card and badge to show the group. Also this week, 36 small cot blankets have been given to the prem baby ward at the NNUH. I shall certainly miss that side of the job.

Unfortunately, we have no North Elmham Christmas Fair to knit for this year, but fingerless gloves and wrap around scarves for the elderly are on our list of future projects.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 7th December at 2.00 pm in the Pavilion. I would just like to say to everyone out there who has given us so much support, helping us with our charity work, we say a big thank you, and wish you a warm and happy Christmas.

Eileen 668380

ROYAL MAIL RESPONSE

Following last months edition of the News I thought you might like to know what the response was to my grumble to the Royal Mail about losing Sarah. John Labouchere.

Dear John, thanks so much for taking the time to provide such positive feedback about one of our delivery colleagues. We're proud of our people and we're always glad to hear reports of the good work they do.

I've passed your kind comments onto the manager of your local delivery office for them to share with their colleague.

Thanks again for contacting us. Regards.

Nicola Clark, Royal Mail

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

It is with deep regret the North Elmham Branch have to advise of the death of our past Chairman Mr Bryan Tidnam, who served our branch with dedication since the early 1960s. His funeral will be held at St Mary's Church on the 19th November at 2pm.

The Royal British Legion Remembrance Day service was held on the 14th November and was well attended. The service was conducted by Mr Michael Newey, and a reading given by Mr Ian Taylor. The Roll of Honour was called by Mr Tom Fitzalan Howard.

The committee would like to thank all those who attended and took part in the service, and to all who prepared and helped with refreshments.

Mike Aston, Branch Sec

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Did you know that orchids can be found on every continent except Antarctica? There are 25,000 species – making them the largest plant family on earth – with a huge variety of different flower types, colours, sizes, shapes and scents.

We are all familiar with the "Moth Orchid" -Phalaenopsis. This species originates from tropical Asia and is one of the easiest to grow at home, best on an east or west facing windowsill in the kitchen or the bathroom. In the wild, these plants come from low-level areas that are warm and humid. Give them a spray with tepid rainwater every couple of days. The idea is to replicate the conditions they enjoy in the wild.

These plants should be watered once a week, preferably with rainwater. Care needs to be taken not to allow water to remain in the crown of the plant as this can lead to rotting. Leaving water on the leaves in bright sunlight may also cause burning. Best to allow the water to drain through the plant, never let the roots sit in water for too long. These orchids are "epiphytes", growing on trees using their roots to anchor them and the rain just runs through.

Here in the UK, as well as in much of Europe, particularly around the Mediterranean, our orchids are "terrestrial", which means they grow in the ground and are hardy. This type of orchid can be found anywhere from shady forests to alpine meadows. You might well have seen in June our native "Bee Orchid" or the "Common Spotted Orchid".

Our own interest in orchids began we were given a Phalaenopsis, which we promptly killed. We wanted to find out how to keep these intriguing plants not only flowering, but happy and healthy too. That's how we came to join our local Cambridge Orchid Society, and then also the Orchid Society of Great Britain. We have learnt so much from talking to fellow orchid fanatics, listening to experts' lectures at meetings, attending shows and helping with displays.

There is no doubt that growing orchids can be addictive. You can learn how to grow all types of orchids and see orchids from around the world by joining a local society or visiting a show.

As Membership Secretary of the Orchid Society of Great Britain, it is my role to look after our 900 members world-wide, sending out quarterly Journals produced by the Society, dealing with membership queries, new members, and annual renewals. We have been privileged to help manning our annual displays at Chelsea Flower Show, as well as Hampton Court Palace, Blenheim Palace and Shrewsbury Shows, to name just a few!

Your local Orchid Society, the Orchid Society of East Anglia, meets in Hellesdon, Norwich: www.osea.org.uk

To find out more about the Orchid Society of Great Britain: www.osgb.org.uk

Susan Johnson (nee Kerrison) Susanjohnson09@hotmail.co.uk

THANK YOU

I would just like to say a very big thank you to all the wonderful people of Elmham who have sent cards and small gifts, offered help and have just been there for me since Ed. died recently. It has been a difficult time but made so much easier thanks to all of you.

Joyce Middleditch.



I went to buy some camouflage trousers yesterday but couldn't find any

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WIVES PLUS ALL

At our last meeting on Thursday 11th November, we were given a talk by Lyn Milns who gave us a brief history of challenges she had endured growing up and in her personal life. Her life experiences led in later life to encourage her to enter into her present personal voluntary work entitled "Love them where they are", which she carries out in Dereham with the young people who appear to be on the streets. Lyn explained that she began interacting with young people, some of whom, have been labelled as troublemakers a while ago when she first took herself out and about, in the evenings

just to talk with them and to show interest in them and their activities, when they themselves, are out and about around Dereham in the late evenings and early hours. Lyn continues with her personal voluntary work regularly today. Thanks to Lyn for a very interesting and informative talk on her own voluntary work on the streets of Dereham.

Wives Plus All next meeting will be in the Memorial Hall, North Elmham on THURSDAY 2ND DECEMBER, commencing at the EARLIER TIME of 7.00 pm and as Christmas will be on the doorstep members will be enjoying a Yuletide evening meal and social time together.

Please note we don't meet in January.

Wishing all our members and Elmham News readers a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Ann Ferris

KINGS HEAD FOLK CLUB

The King's Head Folk Club invite you to join Ken and Friends, at the King's Head on Wednesday 1st December from 3.00–5.00 pm





SCHOOL NEWS

Remembrance Day

This year, we marked Remembrance Day in school and at Church. It was wonderful to be back at St Mary's church! Our children led the service alongside Revd Sally. We shared readings, poems, songs and prayers.

Sheep class

Sheep class has had a fun-filled and learning-packed time since half term! We have been learning all about the origins of Bonfire Night and unravelling the story of the Gunpowder Plot. In history, children put their history detective hats on once more and used evidence from the past to find out what a certain Guido Fawkes did to cause such uproar. They loved his enormous hat! In English, we have been writing firework poetry, using lots of beautiful descriptive language. In science, the class has been discovering different habitats, and we are looking forward to completing a minibeast survey and presenting our findings

using ICT. In RE, we have been learning all about the Nativity story and how Christians celebrate the time leading up to Christmas. I'm sure we'll have lots more to report about this next month as the festive season draws closer!

Whales Class

Wow! What a busy month Whales class has had ! In Science, we asked 'What happens to the food we eat?' We started to find out about the process of digestion. We learnt about functions of the parts of the digestive system, created a model to demonstrate the journey of food through the body and then used our new knowledge to label a diagram and describe what happens during each part of the process. In PE, we have been learning to develop combinations of different movements; we have been focusing on competitive jumping. In History, we now consider ourselves 'embalmers' as our mummifying a tomato investigation was a huge success! We also learnt lots about the discovery of Tutankhamun. We are now beginning to learn about Frontalism and cannot wait to explore this skill and apply it whilst drawing God and Goddesses from Ancient Egypt.

Lions class

Lions have had a chilly start to the term in English learning and writing about Captain Scott's Antarctic expedition, and in our art lesson they created some fantastic paintings to show this cold environment that the men had to deal with and the beauty of the Aurora Borealis. Maths is full of fractions so now the children can cut a cake into equal parts to share with you. In music we have learnt you do not need to be able to play an instrument to create a tune, body percussion was discovered from clicking their fingers, stomping of feet and even mastering the special butterfly action sound using their arms and hands.

School Parliament

The children have been busy raising money for the British Royal Legion; each break time they have taken donations for various items. We raised over £70! We also have organised a 'Strictly' Children in Need, children will be wearing their 'fancy frocks' as well as a Bake Off and a Dance off!

Other News

We are receiving applications for new Reception intake. We also have spaces in other year groups. If you are interested or would like to arrange a school tour please contact the school office Tel: 01362 668318 or email: office@northelmham. norfolk.sch.uk

We finish this term on Friday 17th December. School will reopen on Wednesday 5th January.

For the latest news and updates check out our wonderful school website www. northelmhamschool.com

Mrs Kelly Hunter

Ed's note: Just for anyone interested, Frontalism is the stylised form of Egyptian art where the head is drawn in profile and the body is seen from the front and the eye is drawn in full.

STOP PRESS: New Headteacher

The Governors have appointed Miss Kirsten Sutherland as the new executive Headteacher for Flourish Federation, North Elmham Primary School and Stibbard All Saints Primary School. Kirsten is currently working out of county and is looking forward to moving back to her 'home' county of Norfolk. We are working together on a weekly basis, in order to ensure a smooth handover for January. She is really excited about her new role and is looking forward to starting in January and getting to know pupils, staff, parents and other members of the local community.

Carolyn Taylor



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December/January

We reported two Parish Council meetings in the Dec/Jan edition of the news. Normally the meetings are not ratified until the next month's meeting.

Three more allotments had been let since the previous meeting.

The flooding in Eastgate Street had been reported to Highways (not very nice – nor safe to drive through).

It was agreed that 'Risk Management' should be a standing item on the Agenda for all future PC meetings. Any matters requiring attention would be promptly dealt with and minuted.

Mr Gordon Bambridge (District Councillor) talked about Breckland and how it is coping throughout the pandemic. Breckland did keep working the whole time. Zoom has been used for meetings. He went on to say that Breckland has paid out £30 million in grants to businesses in Breckland, it was government money and has gone to businesses under a specific formula.

£10,000 has been donated to food banks and additional hardship grants to individuals. Breckland was the only Council in the area to empty bins on the due day (well done).

All homeless and rough sleepers in the district were offered accommodation under special arrangements with money laid aside for homeless people.

Breckland has embarked on building specific homeless accommodation for three families and about seventeen singles or couples in addition to Breckland stock.

This year for the first time the Remembrance Service was held outside the church.

Who dared to leave rubbish on the lay-by for someone else to clear up?

We wrote about the Fire Mark on the Post Office wall. This was a Norwich Union Fire Mark which showed which buildings were insured with them. Sadly, the original has vanished.

We recorded the death of David Sinclair, for many years our last village butcher.

We were reminded by the Police to beware Scam calls – PUT THE PHONE DOWN.

Finally, we were reminded by St Mary's church, More 2 Life Christian Fellowship and St Margaret's church, that Christmas will still be here, despite lockdowns and Covid!



Why was the snowman looking through the carrots? He was picking his nose









NORTH ELMHAM WILDLIFE

It was a year ago that I wrote about the first record of a Great White Egret at the Cathedral Meadows. That bird was only seen flying over and my text was accompanied by a rather ropey photo of it flying away from me. So when Tom kindly telephoned me to tell me that there was one on his lake recently I was grateful to be invited in to have a look - and to improve on my previous photograph (photo 1). The lake is private of course, but as such it remains undisturbed and is a marvellous haven for wildlife. A Cetti's Warbler burst into song beside me as I was watching the egret – a loud and powerful song from a bird that is always very skulking and difficult to see, unusual among British warblers in that it does not migrate south for the winter. Like the egret, it's a relatively new arrival in this country, colonising from warmer climes a few decades ago and still increasing its range from in Norfolk from its Broadland stronghold.

When I wrote about last year's egret I also wrote, "I think it will only be a matter of time before we get our first record of Cattle Egret here too." Well, they are getting closer! Despite the snow in the early part of the year killing off most of the Cattle Egrets that had settled in north Norfolk, their population has continued to increase this summer. A flock of six took up residence in a pig field at Gateley for a couple of days recently. As far as I know they didn't come to North Elmham but while I was watching them at Gateley they flew around (photo 2) and at that point they would have been viewable from within our parish (e.g. from Heath Road), albeit distantly. They went missing for a while before being seen again at Ryburgh – I wonder if they did visit North Elmham during that time? Did anyone see them? They would most likely have been among

livestock – pigs, cattle or sheep. Like Great White Egrets, Cattle Egrets differ from Little Egrets in having a yellow bill for most of the year (always black on Little Egret) but whereas Great White Egrets are much larger and have a distinctly longer neck, Cattle Egrets are small like Little Egrets, and stocky with relatively short necks.

Last month I included a photograph of a Comma butterfly. I don't expect to see any more on the wing now as its getting too cold but unlike most species of butterfly that only survive the winter as egg, caterpillar or chrysalis, Comma is one of just five species whose adults butterflies hibernate for the winter. One Comma has chosen my shed as a place to hibernate. The bright orange uppersides of its wings would make it conspicuous to predators so it closes its wings while hibernating so only the dark and relatively plain undersides of the wings are visible (photo 3). I say plain, but as well as the white comma-mark that gives the butterfly its name, there's actually an intricate pattern of dark lines and different shades of brown, and even a few clusters of green scales which I don't remember noticing on a Comma before.

Other insects that are looking for somewhere to hibernate at this time of year include some of the ladybirds. As I've been writing this I've noticed a 2-spot Ladybird in my study, presumably having come in to hibernate. This is guite a small ladybird and much less common than the more familiar 7-spot Ladybird. Harlequin Ladybirds are non-native species from Asia that arrived here in 2004 amidst great concern that they would wipe out our native ladybirds. They out-compete the smaller British species and prey on their larvae but they're now very common and, so far, the impact on our native species doesn't seem to be quite as bad as was feared. Harlequins are very variable, one of the commonest forms being orange with lots of black spots (photo 4) and another being black with two red spots.













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Moth diversity continues to tail off at this end of the year but one species that peaks in November is the Sprawler, a favourite of mine (photo 5). It's not colourful but it has character. When settled they're very docile and will happily let you pick them up, sprawling their furry legs out as if they just can't be bothered to fly anywhere. In some areas they're guite scarce but here at this time of year it can be my commonest moth and I can catch up to 15 on a good night. It's been a poor year for moths but even in bad years there are always a few species that buck the trend and have good years. This year has been a good one for a moth called a Streak (photo 6). In the past I've gone up to three years on a trot without catching a single Streak and until this year I'd never caught more than two in a year. This autumn I've caught two in a night a couple of times and eight altogether, an exceptional tally for this normally scarce species.

Late autumn is usually the best time of year to look for fungi. One familiar species is the Shaqqy Inkcap, a pair of which I spotted in the orchard at County School station (photo 7). Mushrooms reproduce by releasing spores, tiny particles that are typically carried in the air or by a passing animal. As soon as inkcaps release their spores they start to turn into black liquid (or to deliquesce, to use the technical term). You can see this dripping from around the cap on the left hand inkcap in the photo. This black liquid gives the mushrooms their name, inkcaps (and indeed you can actually use the liquid as ink) but it also attracts flies which probably help to disperse the spores. All this happens within a few hours of the mushroom appearing, which is why you won't find Shaggy Inkcaps in shops or restaurants even though they are, for a few hours, good to eat. Although Shaggy Inkcaps are relatively easy to identify, one species that looks fairly similar is poisonous, so be careful! I would strongly advise against eating any

mushroom that hasn't been identified by an expert – some edible species can be very easily confused with highly toxic ones, and you really don't want to eat one of those by mistake.

Another fungus I found recently is the Bleeding Oak Crust (photo 8), an attractive species that grows on the bark of fallen oak branches. There are other similarlooking fungi and one of the best ways of identifying it is to cut it with a penknife – if it's a Bleeding Oak Crust a little reddish liquid will seep out from the cut.

There's always plenty of interesting wildlife to see around the village so do get in touch if you have anything interesting to share, and especially if you see the Cattle Egrets here in the parish (email appleton.dave@googlemail.com or phone 668431). Although I haven't been very good at it recently I will try to keep the Cathedral Meadows Twitter account running at @ElmhamMeadows and you can see our latest tweets on the Parish Council website at www.elmham.org.uk/ cathedral-meadows/.

Dave Appleton



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WENSUM VALLEY BIRDWATCHING SOCIETY

Hello again! I am delighted to report that WVBS is back to very nearly normal, with a full program of indoor and outdoor events. To get us started Chris Stone, a member and RSPB volunteer, led a group of 12 around Titchwell, on a late September day when the weather was kind. A flyover of Pink-footed Geese while still in the car park reminded members that the autumn/winter season had truly begun. Other winter visitors seen were Teal, Brent Geese, Pintails, Ruff and a flock of Golden Plover. The group saw their best ever views of Bearded Tits on their way to search for the visiting Pectoral Sandpiper, which was on the Freshmarsh with Little Stint, Grey Plover, Curlews and Godwits. They even managed to see both Bittern and Water Rail during the visit. They ended with an excellent species count for the day and a promise from Chris to lead another walk next year.



very merry Christmas and best wishes for 2022.

From Sarah Adams (postie) missing you all The October meeting was also led by a club member, Emily Leonard, who works for the Broads Authority and led a walk at How Hill and Buttle Marsh. A report in my next missive.

The indoor meetings had been taking place throughout this year by Zoom, but our first 'live' meeting was a social in August. In September there was an excellent presentation from Rich and Elis Simpson of Waderquest entitled Waders in Peril. This charity aims to raise awareness of waders and to raise funds for conservation projects, much needed as 48% of known wader species are in decline. Waderquest can be supported by becoming a Friend or buying from their shop and they can be found at www. waderquest.net. For October the club was hosted by the Pensthorpe Trust, at their reserve outside Fakenham, for a very enjoyable and informative film about the Curlew conservation project they are involved in and for excellent tea and cakes! Full reports on these meetings can be found on our website - WVBS.co.uk

Forthcoming Events:

Indoor events: are held at Great Witchingham village hall in Lenwade starting at 7.30pm. There is a small charge for non-members. Thursday 9th December – Christmas Social Thursday 20th January 2022 – Better Birding (including Low Carbon Birding) by Nick Moran.

Outdoor Events: Sunday 2nd January 2022 - Annual Bird Count. (Teams of 2-4 try to record as many species as possible within the WVBS recording area between 8.00am ad 4.30pm. We report back at the village hall as for indoor meetings but at 4.30.) Anyone wishing to join us should contact the Chair on wvbs.chair@gmail. com. Saturday 29th January – Hickling NWT and Stubb Mill for raptor roost.

For further information on any events please refer to the website or email wvbs. publicity@gmail.com BUTCHER ANDREWS

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ELMHAM GROUP OF PRACTICES UPDATE

Our last update to you all was in mid-August, from Judith Wood. As she informed you then, Judith was planning to retire at the end of September, and we hope we gave her a good send off! I know she very much appreciated the visit on her last day from Roger Thorneley and Liz Waddy, on behalf of the PPGs, to present her with a gift. The Senior Management Team have been running the practice since then, but we have our new Practice Manager, Lian Tan, joining us from 8th November. Lian has a background in management as well as experience in the health sector. She has moved with her whole family to Norfolk, and we are very excited about her joining us.

We have been having discussions about when to restart our Patient Participation Group meetings. It seems sensible for all the reasons that Roger and Liz have shared with us that we delay meeting till the middle of January. Bawdeswell village hall seems to be the most convenient and best placed venue and I would imagine that this will be a significant meeting that Lian and all the partners will want to attend. We are aware that various Parish Councils are also wanting regular updates from us during the pandemic and hope that this briefing provides that for now.

Operational issues

Telephone system: We continue to hear from patients about the difficulties in getting through on the telephone. We are sorry that this remains the case and are genuinely grateful for the feedback that we receive from patients alerting us to specific issues. The background to this was covered in Judith's last update. At its simplest we have a 'pre-pandemic' phone system in a 'post-pandemic' world: it is just not up to the job that we are now needing it to do. The good news is that our new phone system goes live on 3rd December. This will not be the single solution to the problem, but the increased functionality will remove some of the annoying failings and shortcomings that the current system has: please bear with us as we learn how to make best use of the system in the first few weeks. Our advice to patients is still to avoid phoning in at 8.30am unless there is an urgent or pressing need to contact the surgery at that time. The partners regularly change the outgoing message on the phone to reflect the operational circumstances of the day. Same day telephone triage appointments are offered for both urgent and routine problems all day from Monday to Thursday and until midday on Friday. On Friday afternoons the clinicians can't accept non-urgent cases and expect to complete them before the start of the weekend.

Appointments: Patients are asked to phone up and tell the Receptionists what their problem is so they can be directed to the most appropriate clinician or team. After a consultation, if the doctor or Nurse Practitioner thinks that a face-toface appointment is needed, or if the patient feels that their problem can not be dealt with over the telephone or on a video consultation, then an appointment is given for later that same day or on another agreed day.

The demands on Primary Care throughout the pandemic, due to both increased workload as well as reduced numbers of clinicians, means this is the most efficient way of meeting the health needs of our communities. It is not how General



Two windmills are standing in a wind farm. One asks, "What's your favourite kind of music?" The other says, "I'm a big metal fan."

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Practice used to be organised, but a lot of patients find this new way of working more convenient and for those who really do need to 'see the doctor' then this can be discussed over the phone. Patients are often surprised however at how much can be achieved remotely and it means that many more patients can be dealt with, without the long waiting times for appointments that would be the inevitable consequence of an open-access system. We regularly discuss the timetable for a return to 'business as normal' which may include a combination of both prebookable appointments (as in the past) and remote consultations. We are limited by the uncertainties of the pandemic and need to ensure the surgery buildings remain a place of safety, adhering to Health and Safety and Infection Prevention and Control guidance, to minimise the risk to all our patients, but especially our most vulnerable. We will naturally keep you all informed about these plans as they evolve.

Dispensary: We have made some changes over recent months to improve the service in the dispensary. Staff numbers have been increased to deal with the almost 20% increase in items which the staff are processing every month; the current monthly average is now at a level previously only seen at times of peak demand, typically at Easter and Christmas. There is now also a second delivery driver to work alongside the one we have always had, in order to cope with the number of home deliveries to our elderly housebound patients. The outside second hatch at Elmham surgery also allows more patients to be served. We still aim to maintain the turnaround time of three working days for routine prescriptions, as well as dealing with the urgent same day prescriptions generated by clinicians and pharmacists.

Staffing: We are fully recruited in our Reception and Dispensary departments. Staff still need their holidays and of course need time off when they or their children get Covid or have to self-isolate. We are very proud of how the staff have worked in these patient-facing roles throughout the pandemic whilst they too have been dealing with the stresses of what we are going through. Our secretarial team is also responding to new ways of working and are taking on much more responsibility in communicating with patients and dealing with problems that previously might have been managed by clinicians.

Toftwood Medical Centre: Elmham Group of Practices continues to hold the APMS contract to deliver care to patients in Toftwood. This is an important part of the ethos and business model of the organisation and it supports the Dereham practices and whole patient population. We are looking to move the surgery in to temporary accommodation in the Spring due to the inadequacies of the current building, and this will also be a hub for some of the clinical and support staff employed by the Primary Care Network. The work done in Toftwood complements the work at Elmham and Swanton Morley surgeries and does not detract from the delivery of care at these other sites.

Army: The role that Elmham Group of Practices has had in managing the Medical Centre at Robertson Army Barracks comes to an end on 30th November. We have provided clinical cover for the Light Dragoons and more recently the Queens Dragoon Guards for over 15 years; it has been a privilege to have been involved with them, particularly so during the times of conflict when they were deployed abroad.



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6.00 pm and 7.30 pm on Wednesdays and 6.15 pm (beginners) and 7.30 pm on Fridays.

For further information regarding these classes or classes in Norwich, please contact Krystyna Doherty on 01362 695581. Email: info@pilatesnorfolk.com or visit www.pilatesnorfolk.com

Vaccination Programmes at Swanton Morley Surgery

Judith reported last time that we had delivered first and second covid vaccinations to the patients in mid Norfolk on behalf of the Primary Care Network of local GP surgeries. Over the summer the team has continued to deliver this to younger adults and are now engaged in rolling out the booster programme. In total 39,283 jabs have been given, and from October over 1,600 further booster jabs to the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable and frontline health care workers have been given, both at Swanton Morley surgery and in care homes.

From the outset, back in late 2020, the partners felt there was a clinical imperative to set this up as we were probably the only organisation locally that could roll it out so rapidly and deliver it so efficiently. The project team and volunteers have worked incredibly hard - often at weekends and anti-social hours - to do this within the very strict guidelines that the Department of Health has imposed.

The mass vaccination site at Dereham Hospital is now up-and-running and we will be considering whether there is still a need to offer Covid booster jabs to the community in the coming months.

The roll out of flu vaccination has now started for our own patients, also out of Swanton Morley surgery, but as in previous years is reliant on supplies coming in from NHS England.

We have restarted offering appointment for blood tests and ECGs at Swanton Morley surgery on non-vaccination days and are pleased that the NNUH ultrasound team have returned to the building to start doing scans again.

Long Term Conditions

We are aware that many patients with Long Term Conditions who need regular blood tests and follow up have been



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concerned over the last 18 months about their care. At the peak of the pandemic we were advised to put all of this on hold but were then able to provide a limited service with nurses contacting patients and doing virtual reviews. Over the last few months nurses have been operating as normal a service as possible and are now making significant progress in catching up with all patients needing a review.

Pandemic issues

We continue to remain concerned about this coming winter and how the NHS will cope with the ongoing threat of Covid and the very real risk of an Influenza outbreak. We have regular updates from the Norfolk and Norwich and Queen Elizabeth, Kings Lynn, Hospitals and are aware of the tremendous pressures they are under and how hard their staff are working. There is an obvious impact on our patients whose planned and unscheduled care is affected. We are doing our best to expedite the follow up of those patients whose clinical condition needs prioritising. The Department of Health regularly provides GP surgeries with advice on maintaining a safe environment. For the time being we still ask patients to attend with a facecovering unless exempt. Staff will still be wearing PPE during the consultations.

We are very grateful for the support and words of encouragement that we continue to receive from our patients. These are very much appreciated and mean a lot in these difficult times

Dr Simon Carroll



I tried to sue the airline for losing my luggage. I lost my case

THANK YOU

On behalf of the Harriers of Dereham, I would like to say a big thank you to Tom and Jo Fitzalan Howard for letting our running club start and finish our 6k race at Elmham House, on 24th October.

The Harriers of Dereham are a small running club which caters for all abilities

from complete beginners to more experienced runners which is organised by me, Chris Mitchell, a resident of North Elmham. Anyone is welcome to join us, for details find us on Facebook or phone 07518 747686

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ST MARY'S CHURCH

Dear Friends,

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Every year somebody will say to me "it seems that Christmas is too commercial", I remember, just a few weeks ago, reading in the paper "Prime Minister saves Christmas". Let us be clear; real Christmas, the birth of Jesus, is God's gift to us all. Some restrictions may make it a little different - but the joy of Christmas remains.

I can look back over seventy Christmases - so, let's go back to 1947 - when I was three and a half. Sights and smells of Christmas Eve - my Granny took me to Church for the Blessing of the Crib. There was the sweet smell of incense mingled with polish. There were candles and greenery everywhere. The Crib was large, and I looked at it with a sense of wonder - I couldn't put it into words but the long ago memory of Christ Church on Christmas Eve is with me still.

Christmas Day was a family occasion -Grandparents, Parents, Aunts and Uncles all crowded round the dining table. Fuel was in short supply, but Granny had somehow obtained some extra coal and there was a much bigger fire than usual. Yes, we had a Christmas tree - but I didn't receive loads and loads of presents. My pride and joy was a highly coloured 'humming top' - does anybody remember them? I'm told that the grown - ups got a bit fed up with the humming and erratic movements on the floor. Apparently, my father hid it away for the rest of the day !

Now in 2021 we are once more preparing for Christmas. Carols, crackers, a decorated tree - and in many homes a real feast and a host of presents. I hope that each one off us will have a happy and peaceful day, remembering that our celebrations are centred on a stable in Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus. May we echo the angel's song "Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth."

Every Blessing and Happy Christmas,

Fr. Michael.

P.S. See you in Church.

MORE2LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

We at More2Life are excited as Christmas approaches and we celebrate once again the birth of our Lord and Saviour. Keep an eye out on our Facebook page and YouTube channel for our advent shorts series going out in December, 'No Ordinary Babe' to find out why this Jesus is so important to us with a Christian faith, and those who don't have that faith.

We are also having carols around the fire pit on 20th December so do keep an eye out on our Facebook page for more details. It will be at my address as above, and we will have carols, sparklers for the children, and candles. There may even be some mince pies! Pre-booking will be necessary, and will be advertised on our Facebook page, or you can contact me as above and I will let you know when that opens.

'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was



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God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.'

John 1:1-5, 14

Merry Christmas, and much love to you all.

Anne-Marie Fewell Pastor & NCC Domestic Abuse Champion

Tel 01328 701830 Email: revree7@gmail.com

WORTHING NEWS

Samaritans Purse

Since the beginning of November, a steady flow of filled boxes had been received in church and are now on board to fly and spread some Christmas Cheer to so many children in need. Thank you for your support.

Lest we forget!

St Margaret's Church "Remembers." A simpler but reflective service took place on the 14th November attended by a handful of Worthing parishioners. We came together to quietly remember the bravery of our lost heroes and also the courage of families left behind. May we pray and give thanks to our Armed Forces who everyday work in keeping us safe. We will remember them.

We fully understand some parishioners & visitors are still rather jittery about coming out to join in such occasions, this still clearly showed in smaller numbers making visits. We must try to help each other to live and cope with Covid, so please don't hold back, let's see you all back in Church soon and SING YOUR FAVOURITE HYMNS AND CAROLS.

OUR SUNDAY SERVICES for January 2022 are 9th Holy Communion 10.30am & 23rd Morning Prayer, also starting at 10.30am. These will also be published should there be any changes on the HONC website and on the church noticeboard.

Volunteers Needed!

A plea if we may, if you are able to help us for approximately one hour five times during the year helping with events, some general cleaning (duster & broom at the ready!) and/or some flower arranging, hedge and or grass cutting, minor repairs etc, we would like to hear from you. Please contact Celia on 01362 668928. Thank you.

And finally...

Worthing PCC members would like to thank everyone who has supported our Church, events and most importantly, charities during 2021. May we wish you all a wonderful time over the Christmas holiday and a Happy & Healthy 2022.

Our Prayers and best wishes to you and your family.





Why did Santa's little helper see the doctor? Because he had low "elf" esteem.

Heart of Norfolk Group Services in December and January

5th December: 2nd Sunday of Advent

9.30 am	Wood Norton	Morning Praise
10.30 am	Bawdeswell	Holy Communion
10.30 am	N Elmham	Holy Communion
10.30 am	Stibbard	Holy Communion
5.00 pm	Foxley	Evening Prayer (informal) – bell-ringing from 4pm.

12th December. 3rd Sunday of Advent

10.30 am	Bawdeswell	'The 10.30'
10.30 am	Worthing	Holy Communion
10.30 am	Foulsham	Holy Communion
10.30 am	Stibbard	Morning Praise
4.00 pm	Foxley	Christmas Carol Service
6.00 pm	Guist	Christmas Carol Service

19th December. 4th Sunday of Advent

10.30 am	Wood Norton	Holy Communion
2.30 pm	Guestwick	Christmas Carol Service
3.00 pm	Worthing	Christmas Carol Service
3.30 pm	Foulsham	Christingle Service
4.00 pm	Bawdeswell	Christmas Carol Service
5.00 pm	North Elmham	Christingle Service

26th December. 1st Sunday of Christmas

10.30 am N Elmham Group Family Communion

Sunday 2nd January. Epiphany

9.30 am	Wood Norton	Morning Praise
10.30 am	Bawdeswell	Holy Communion
10.30 am	North Elmham	Holy Communion
10.30 am	Stibbard	Holy Communion
5.00 pm	Foxley	Evening Prayer (informal) – bell-ringing from 4pm.

Sunday 9th January. Baptism of Christ

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

Sunday 16th January. 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

10.30 am	Bawdeswell	All-Age Communion
10.30 am	North Elmham	Holy Communion
10.30 am	Wood Norton	Holy Communion
4.00 pm	Foulsham	Sung Evensong

Sunday 23rd January. 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

10.30 am	Bawdeswell	Word & Praise
10.30 am	Guist	Holy Communion
10.30 am	North Elmham	Morning Praise
10.30 am	Foulsham	Holy Communion
10.30 am	Worthing	Morning Praise

Sunday 30th January. Candlemas (Presentation of Christ in the Temple)

10.30 am Bawdeswell

Group Holy Communion

Heart of Norfolk Group Christmas Services 12th December 4.00 pm Foxlev Christmas Carol Service Guist Christmas Carol Service 6.00 pm 17th December 6.30 pm Foulsham Carols around the Christmas Tree 18th December Wood Norton Christmas Carol Service 4.00 pm 19th December 2.30 pm Guestwick Christmas Carol Service 3.00 pm Worthing Christmas Carol Service 3.30 pm Foulsham **Christingle Service** 4.00 pm Bawdeswell Christmas Carol Service 5.00 pm North Elmham Christingle Service 20th December Twyford Christmas Carol Service 6.00 pm 21st December 6.00 pm Thelmelthorpe Christmas Carol Service **Christmas Eve** 4.00 pm Stibbard Crib Service & Nativity 5.00 pm North Elmham Crib Service 11.30pm Wood Norton Midnight Mass Christmas Dav 10.30 am Bawdeswell Family Communion 10.30 am Foulsham **Family Communion** 10.30 am North Elmham Family Communion



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To advertise in the Elmham News please contact 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: Stock Library, PAGE 13: Arthur Smith, PAGE 16: Michelle Dickinson, PAGE 22: Mark Ballman, PAGE 28–29: North Elmham School, PAGE 34–35: Dave Appleton, PAGE 39: Sarah Adams, PAGE 45: Peter Jonathan Kennedy (Cartoon), PAGE 48: Chris Mitchell

North Elmham Parish Council											
Chair: Jennie Borgnis Vice Chair: Martin Phillips	952		668 232		5		306	57	60	859	
Clerk: Kevin J Webb 01328 855046 northelmhampc@hotmail.co.uk	a 668	668 580	(1	422 799	r 🛥 667 135	a 668 216	nere 🖬 668	ll ┲ 668 557	is ┲ 668 409	a 667	a 668 585
Group Leader 🖌 Group Member 🔹	Jennie Borgnis	Ann Ferris 🗃	Tom Fitzalan Howard	Brian Gee 🕿	Paul Grainger 🕿	Ann Keeble	John Labouchere	Nick Markwell	Martin Phillips	Michael Rayner	Colin Smith
Finance & Administration	Ť	◄		8		◄	ř	Z		2	0
Eastgate Centre Trustees			~								
Elmham Charities Trustees	•				•				/		
Allotments (Annie Mary Smith Charity)									V		
Village Facilities											
Broom Green, Pound, Millennium Wood	~						•				
Cathedral Meadows			~								
Cathedral Ruins						~					
Prince William Wood & Tree Warden			~					•			•
Recreation & Sporting Facilities			_			1	-				
Playing Field / Pavilion		•									~
Village Green				•							~
Footpath Warden	~	•									
Services & Other				1		1					
Highways				•	~						
Planning							٠			~	
Street Lighting			~					٠			•
									•		
Environment & Maintenance											
Railway Liaison								٠		•	

Meetings are normally held on the first Wednesday of the month and take place in the 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 email the Editors (see front of magazine for contact details) and let us know, we are always on the lookout for new contributors.

NORTH ELMHAM DIRECTORY

Elmham Surgery - Holt R	d - 01362	668215		
Opening Times	Mon Tue	e Wed Thur Fri	08:30 - 18:30 (Wed 18:00)	
Swanton Morley Surgery	- 01362 6	538100		
Opening Times	Mon Tue	e Wed Thur Fri	08:30 - 18:00	
Doctors				
Dr Simon Carroll	Dr Alice	Griffiths-Jones	Dr Robert Spooner	
Dr Abigail Brun	Dr Samit	a Mukhopadhyay	Dr Victoria Lawrence	
North Elmham Village Er	nergency	Telephone System	n (VETS) - 01362 788700	
NHS Direct	111			
POLICE Non Emergency	- 101 -	EMERGENCY - 99	99	
Breckland District Councill	or	Gordon Bambrid Bill Borrett	ge	01603 880557 01362 860200
Norfolk County Councillor		Bill Borrett		01362 860200
Member of Parliament		george.freeman.r	np@parliament.uk	01953 600617
North Elmham VC School				01362 668318
Chairman of School Gover	nors	Robert Plant cha	irofgov@northelmham.norfolk.sch.uk	
Memorial Institute		Pam Neve		01362 668325
Pavilion		Bookings		01362 668580
Eastgate Centre		Heather Caley		01362 668245
Breckland Dog Warden		Confidential mes	sage or texts 07771 617417	01362 858500
London Express Tickets		Travel Centre		01362 694211
Sanders		Wednesdays to N	Jorwich	01263 712800
Konect Bus				03300 539358
Community Website		www.elmham.org	g.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 nu	mbers 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
More2Life	Anne-Marie Fewell		01328 701830
Church Wardens			
Elmham	Michael Newey		668424
Worthing	Celia Daniel		668928



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