

Elmham News

FEBRUARY 2023

OUR VILLAGE COMMUNITY MAGAZINE



**Elmham News wins
national competition**

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EDITORIAL

We are brimming with excitement and pride this month. As you will see from our front cover, we are toasting ourselves with a well deserved glass of fizz and exhibiting the Winners' Certificate for A5 magazines in a National Parish Magazines Award 2022. First out of 450 in the country! We won! Apparently, there was a strong short list of finalists, but WE WON!! Thank you to everyone who contributes in any way. We couldn't have done it without you.

May we draw your attention to the articles on "The Railway Village" We guess that the cynical among us always knew that the project might rear its ugly head again one day. Also included is the Broadland/Breckland Housing consultation which could also have far reaching affects for us. Keep an eye on the press and social media. Your help could be called for.

SPEEDWATCH

We now have nine volunteers and training should be completed in February. The team should therefore be starting their speed checks in March.

Ed's note: Well done Paul for your perseverance. We wish you every success.



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

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

Volume 46, No 1, February 2023

DONATIONS APPRECIATED

EDITORS

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Janet Woodhouse	Editor	robert.woodhouse2@gmail.com	01362 668525

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OTHER MEMBERS

Bob Fletcher	Chairman	Beverley, Nr Church, NR20 5JU	01362 668514
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Brian Wheeler	Committee Member	21 Cathedral Drive, NR20 5JH	01362 668621

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ELMHAM NEWS WINS NATIONAL COMPETITION

Elmham News has won the nation's best A5 magazine out of 450 entries. This is only the second time we have entered the National Parish Magazine Awards run by Parish Mag Printers. Last time we came 13th, but the 2022 panel of judges chose Elmham News as first in the A5 category and winner of the Best Magazine Overall. There are five categories for A4 and A5 magazines.

The recipe for a successful magazine is a good range of content and a keen sense of what is relevant to our readers. We could not do this without our contributors and of course our advertisers.

The News has come a long way since its conception in December 1977. It came out of an idea put forward by the church but it was to be of interest to the whole community. It was to be free of charge and delivered to every house in the village including Worthing and Billingford. Approximately 575 copies were printed and distributed.

A small group co-ordinated the collection of information, typing on an electric typewriter and then the printing on an ancient Gestetner machine which lived in the Church vestry! Very often, after a session printing, there was indelible ink everywhere, especially on our hands when Charlie had re-inked it! Then we took it home and painstakingly took the sheets and put them into page order before folding and stapling them. Then they were taken to the valiant band of deliverers.

Donations made it possible for us to thrive and find a local printer who would print 6 months of advert pages at a time (stored in Bob's garage!) and then came the counting out of the actual content pages plus the adverts and taking them to the deliverers, many of whom stapled the magazine together. I think we rarely made mistakes, though someone did manage to put pages in upside down on one occasion.

We produced two A4 booklets, the first was to mark The Millennium in 2000 which contains the history of the village plus articles about life and work here in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the school, the surgery, the railway, County School, different buildings and



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The Bell
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With the Autumn and Winter months upon us...

It's time to snuggle up and gather with friends and family....Our Christmas, New Year's Eve & plans for January 2023 are on our website & on posters in the pub. Any questions, feel free to give us a call.

Recently we put together a project called Local Voices, the aim of the project being to preserve our local heritage. A part of the project is to have portraits of people in our community painted by a talented local art group as well as anecdotal voice recordings. If anyone is interested in taking part, we'd be delighted to hear from you. Please email or call Laura at the pub to arrange this.

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places of interest among others. We had the pages typed up by Gill and printed by Shipdham Press and then spent one evening in the Memorial Hall collating it and tying each copy up with red ribbon!

The second followed soon after, to celebrate 25 years of the magazine published in 2002. This was printed and produced again by Shipdham Press. Both hefty booklets were delivered free to every house. I believe there may be one or two around if anyone is interested.

We have changed printers a few times before settling with Clan Press of King's Lynn who produce today's superior copy which is now all in colour! Today, 800 copies are printed and distributed, still free of charge, though donations are always welcome.

Great strides have been made from our early days of printing ourselves; it may be produced on a computer now and emailed to the printers but there's still a great deal of work involved and time dedicated.

During the time Mike Wyatt was involved his knowledge and excellent photographs took us to a new level. Now we have Sarah Felton and she has propelled us further yet and really is the reason that the content we receive is turned into the professional magazine that is delivered through your door each month.

We entered the competition back in July and to find out about our success in December really was a great Christmas present! The whole team are absolutely thrilled to have won this competition, it is such a huge achievement and makes all the hard work each month worth while.

We would like to thank everyone involved with making Elmham News the BEST!

Elmham News Team

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Christmas seems like a long time ago, but this is the first opportunity to report on the wonderful Christmas lights that so many people displayed over the festive period.

Historically, the News has run a competition for the best display with a runner up. We didn't advertise a competition for 2022 as it was felt that with the current economic situation it may seem inappropriate. However, so many people made such an effort that a last-minute decision was made to appoint judges and go ahead with the competition.

The judges were very impressed with the huge effort and decided there should be two categories, one for classical and one for child orientated. The winners of the classical category were Kevin and Sally Hines of Forge House, Pump Street and for the child orientated, Kelvin Baverstock and Kara Hockley, 37a Eastgate Street. Congratulations to you all.

NB: the lights were judged on one evening visit only. It is possible that some may not have had theirs switched on at the time the judges passed by.

Mention must also be made for the lovely display outside the Pavilion. Buttons and Carol Taylor from The Heath (previous winners) kindly donated lights to the Parish Council and they were erected by Councillor Colin Smith along with existing lights for all to enjoy. I'm sure everyone will agree that Colin has done an amazing job and the Switch On which took place on the 2nd December was a great and well attended event.

Thanks to everyone who erected lights and made the village truly spectacular.

Elmham News Team



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TENNIS CLUB

Whilst it's definitely not tennis weather, hardy souls are out playing socially and in the leagues. We're currently in third place in the top winter division.

North Elmham Tennis Club will resume Tuesday junior group coaching from 21st February, with all sessions running during school term dates.

Ages 4–7	3:45–4:30 pm
Ages 8–9	4:30–5:30 pm
Ages 10+	5:30–6:30 pm

There is also development coaching for ages 14+ on Mondays.

Book online at:
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Jim Biggie and Joanna Hammond won the Wooden Racquets Tournament on New Year's Day. Thank you to all who played and to Sandra Henderson, Linda Smith and Judy Biggie for providing mulled wine, mince pies and hot sausage rolls.

James Buddell

70TH ANNIVERSARY

It has been the 70th Anniversary of the 'Surge' which devastated parts of the coastline along the Eastern side of England.

We printed a piece in the December edition of the News from Norman Lowe about the surge at the end of January 1953. Large tracts of land were devastated along the coastline and property was lost or badly damaged and because of the ferocity of the sea surging over the marshes lives too were lost.

My husband, Bob Woodhouse, was nine at that time and he and his family were living at Salthouse which was badly affected. Bob's family were living in a house called Edenfield, facing the main

road through the village, but set a little way back from the road.

On a Saturday evening his father would catch the bus to Sheringham to collect the football papers which he would take to the Dun Cow Pub for distribution. On this particular Saturday evening January 31st 1953, as he went to the bus stop he realised what was happening. As the sea was over the road, there was the most tremendous noise from the sea and the wind. He rushed home and told the family that the sea was coming and they must get out! On previous occasions the sea had been across the road but had never gone further.

Unfortunately, their house had no back door, so they had to go out through the front door. Bob said the water was nearly up to his chest. They struggled up the slope and out of danger, then Bob suddenly thought of a neighbour who lived at the side of their house who everyone called Granny Wall. A neighbour had the same thought and he and Bob's father, and Bob, managed to reach her and pull her up to higher ground. The water was rising all the time this was going on.

Salthouse was devastated in half an hour.

Behind the house there was a footpath which went towards the church. They arrived at the church as did many other villagers and stayed for the night.

Every family whose house had been damaged were taken in by other households who were further away from the road and undamaged. Bob and his family did go back to their house for a short time until the North Norfolk Council had built Council Houses at Weybourne, which is where the family finally made their home.

The Council waived the rent money for the first year for these people who were caught up in the flood.

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At this time RAF Sculthorpe was home to a large number of American Service men. Bob has always been full of praise for these men... who arrived daily with a wagon of hot food and drink. And sweets and chewing gum!

Even now Bob is very wary of the sea. Our granddaughter is a strong swimmer and loves nothing better than donning a wet suit and heading out into deeper water for a long swim. We try not to tell him when she is doing this!

For the rest of his life Bob has always treated the sea with a very healthy respect. He was a PE teacher but as a student, being unable to swim he had to have extra swimming lessons to learn to be competent in the water. Funnily enough he has always said swimming was what he taught the best!

Janet Woodhouse

Eds notes: My Grandmother, Ellen Lowe who was a member of the Women's Royal Voluntary Service, WRVS, spent several weeks with other ladies from North Elmham scrubbing out the houses that had been flooded, as you can imagine they would have been filthy! *Caroline*

My husband's father, Tom used to tell me about being out all hours of the day and night with a digger shoring up the shingle during that time. *Meg*

GARDENING CLUB

As we were holding our AGM after the magazine had gone to print, there is no news yet of future events. However, the Annual Dinner has had to be changed to FRIDAY 17th FEBRUARY in the MEMORIAL HALL at 7.00 for 7.30pm. All members and their partners are welcome. Please make sure Ray knows you are coming on 01362 667226.

Ann Ferris

KNIT AND NATTER

Looking forward to our first meeting of the year with plenty of challenges ahead. We are involved with the scheme to provide comfortable, warm knitted items for the families and elderly persons who are having problems with energy bills. We received a most encouraging email from Linda Brown, the founder of Norfolk Knitters and Stitchers, thanking us for our items donated for the Warm Bags appeal. We were surprised ourselves how much work could be produced by our group and family members in such a short time before Christmas. Many thanks to all those taking part.

More wool is always acceptable, so look again in those cupboards and of course, more members would be always welcome. Just to knit up some squares for blankets would be helpful, so give it a try.

Stay safe and warm!

The next meeting 7th February, 2-0'clock in the Pavilion.

Eileen Cotterill 668380.

FAKENHAM & DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

Tuesday 7th February

7.30 pm

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More details : Jackie on 01328 851933

CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

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

Archive Group	Janet Woodhouse 01362 668525
Art4 All	Angie Redwood 07979 666197
Bowls - Institute	Tony Langford 01362 668854
Bowls - King's Head	Martin Phillips 01362 668409
Elmham Cricket Club	Mark Ballman 01362 668935
Elmham Football Club	Chris Reeve 07468 569699
Elmham Guides	Marion Morgan 01362 696221
Elmham News	Meg White 01362 668302
Elmham Surgery Patient Participation Group	Roger Thornley 01362 668804
Elmham Tennis Club	Geraldine Leeder
Friends of North Elmham School	Naomi Brien 07447 016620
Gardening Club	Ray Norman 01362 667226
Guides	Marian Morgan 01362 696221
Knit and Natter	Eileen Cotterill 01362 668380
North Elmham Trailblazers	Fliss von Christian 07787 161446
Reading Group	Eileen Church 01362 668330
Royal British Legion	Michael Aston 01362 668959
Sewing for Pleasure	Janet Woodhouse 01362 668525
SINE (Help)	David Fairbairn-Day 07398 758421(10-5)
Snooker Mon & Fri	Neil Page 01362 668296
Snooker Wed	Chris Werrell 01362 668564
Tea@Two	Jo Fitzalan Howard 01362 668232
The May Singers	Tony Langford 01362 668854
Walking Football	Paul Carr carrpaulus@aol.com
Walking Group	Jenny Cunningham 01362 668224
Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society	Sue Gale publicity@wvbs.gmail.com
Wives + All	Gill King 01362 668530
Young Farmers	Steven Britton 07810 897792

EILEEN SMITH

Eileen was born in Sharrington near Holt on the 1st April 1933 and was the third of 6 children and is survived by 3 younger siblings. She went to school in Brinton and Melton Constable and on leaving worked at Gresham School, Holt. In 1950 she moved to North Elmham to work at the Kings Head Hotel for her aunt and uncle - Ida and Bert Wordingham.

This is when she met her husband Geoffrey Smith who was born in North Elmham. They were married in Sharrington Church on the 6th June 1953 and spent their honeymoon in London, which was still decorated for the Queen's Coronation, it having taken place a few days before.

The next year they moved into a bungalow on Orchard Close and remained there for the rest of their lives. She worked at The Phoenix Hotel in Dereham when it first opened and then later at Shavers in Bawdeswell.

They had one daughter Suzanne who still lives in the village. Geoffrey passed away in 2010 and Eileen was 1 of only 2 original residents still living on the Close.

Eileen and Geoffrey had many happy holidays in this country and abroad and



travelled to Germany, Austria, Italy, Spain and Croatia among others.

Eileen was a happy, cheerful person and would love a chat with anyone. She sadly passed away on the 11th November in the N&N Hospital following a short illness. She will be sorely missed by all her family and friends.

Suzanne Groom

PS I would just like to thank the Rev Sally Kimmis for the lovely service and to Ian for the beautiful flowers.

WET WEATHER PLAY AT ST MARY'S

If you are lucky enough to be the parent (or grandparent/carer) of a pre-schooler, but frustrated that rain stops play, you would be very welcome to come into North Elmham St Mary's Church, where there is plenty of space to play. The Church is open all day in daylight hours – a bit chilly at this time of year, so wrap up for outdoor play. As with all ancient buildings, there are trip hazards and hard

floors, but lots of room for trucks, dolls' prams, toddler bikes and scooters!

There's a tea-station in the St John's Room (top left of the building), which also has some comfortable seating (outside water tap at the front of the Church if the kettle's empty).

*Revd Sally, 01362 668850;
heartofnorfolkrector@gmail.com*

Ed's note: What a good idea, hope Mums take advantage.

NORTH ELMHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2022

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 , www.elmham.org.uk , once approved.

Councillors Present Were:

Mrs. J. Borgnis (Chairman), Mr. M. Phillips, Miss A. Ferris, Mr. B. Gee, Mrs. A. Keeble, Mr. J. Labouchere, Mr. N. Markwell and Mr. C. Smith

Also in Attendance:

Mr. K. Webb (Clerk), Mr. G. Bambridge (District Councillor) and one parishioner

Apologies for absence:

Mr. T. Fitzalan Howard, Mr. P. Grainger and Mr. M. Rayner

Public Participation

None

Land Management Matters

Cathedral Ruins: Mrs. Keeble reported that English Heritage had carried out a survey and there were some safety concerns, hence the railings being placed around the tower. It is on their list to be included in the budget for next year.

Cathedral Meadows: The eight small signs regarding "dogs on leads" are in place and the fencing work has been carried out. Mr. Fitzalan Howard is to be asked to liaise with Mrs. Wade-Martins regarding water draining across Cathedral Mead.

Bridleway on Disused Railway Line and Other Railway Linked Matters: Although the railway company have previously agreed that the path is not a permissive one, notices are still displayed referring to "permissive". The Chairman or Mr. Rayner will make contact with the MNR.

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Prince William Wood: An email has been received from a parishioner expressing concern with a number of matters, not least the gate which allows pedestrians to pass between Orchard Close and Prince William Wood. The property and land in question belongs to and is the responsibility of Victory Housing. Mr. Markwell will make contact with the parishioner to explain that the Housing Association should be approached with a view to them exploring possible solutions to the issues raised.

Allotments

Mr. Phillips said that the final rental payment had been received.

Street Lights

Mr. Markwell reported that U.K. Power Networks are due to fix the light in Pump Street on 18/1/23 and a quotation is being obtained for the light in Eastgate Street.

Highway Matters

New batteries have been obtained for the SAM devices.

Pavilion and Playing Field

Thanks were expressed to Mr. Smith for all his work on the lights. A quotation of £1,932.91 has been received for the new lighting required. In addition, one extra socket is needed outside. Mr. Phillips proposed that this work be carried out. Seconded by Mrs. Keeble. All in favour.

Defibrillators

There has been no direct contact from anyone wishing to be involved in the training. The new defibrillator has not yet arrived.

Call for Sites – Breckland Council

Mr. Rayner had drafted a letter to George Freeman M.P. opposing the idea of a new town curiously referred to as the “Norfolk Railway Village”. Neighbouring Parish Councils are to be invited to sign this letter, a copy of which is to be sent to Mr.

Bambridge. The Chairman and Mr. Rayner are to attend the Consultation Meeting at Breckland Council on 20th December, 2022.

Police Community Resolution for Criminal Damage Incident

Mr. Gee is to make contact with the young person responsible for this crime regarding the next piece of work to be carried out.

Annual Budget

Mr. Phillips produced the final budget for 2023/2024 which had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. The tax base for 2023/2024 is higher (502.6) than the figure for the current year (494.1). Projected income is £58,212 with expenditure of £61,124. The Band D contribution will remain at £80.24 which gives a Precept of £40,530. These figures were proposed for acceptance by Mrs. Keeble and seconded by Mr. Markwell. All in favour. (All actual financial details are contained in the approved Parish Council Meeting minutes kept in the Post Office and on the Community website: www.elmham.org.uk)

Report from District Councillor

Mr. Bambridge reported that he is now dealing with housing in Breckland. There are currently some 1,500 people on the waiting list which is the highest it has been for some time. Over 100 of these are classified as “emergencies” requiring immediate attention with a further 350 who should be housed within a week. There are not enough three bedroom houses in the district.

To Consider Planning Applications and Determinations:-

Applications

(i) Mr. and Mrs. Gill – proposed gazebo structure – 3PL/2022/1234/HOU – 3 Beatie Gardens, Station Road – no objections.

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(ii) Discharge of condition 8 on 3PL/2022/0970/F – 3DC/2022/0318/DOC – 48 Station Road.

(iii) T1 – ash – fell due to large cavity and T2 – ash – reduce over extended limb by approx. 50%.

(iv) Amendment to permission 3PL/2019/0874/F – 3NM/2022/0123/NMA – remove first floor gable window to Plot 6 and reposition this on the side elevation as a dormer window – rear of Brookside Farm, 74 Holt Road – no objections.

(v) Mr. and Mrs. Robson – side/rear extension, alterations and widening of access – 3PL/2022/1324/HOU – 7 Eastgate Street – no objections.

Correspondence

1) Notification from Biffa of change in waste management rates.

2) CPRE Countryside Voices magazine for Autumn/Winter 2022.

Any Other Matters (for information only)

No announcement has yet been made regarding the annual best Christmas lights competition.

BRECKLAND LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION

Following on from the report on the Call for Sites and the proposed New Town, things have progressed with the Full Review of Breckland's Local Plan. The next step is for what's called the 'Issues & Options' consultation. This will take place over a period of 8 weeks and at the time of writing is expected to start at the end of January. This consultation is about the large-scale strategic objectives of the Plan, including housing, the economy, the natural environment, Climate Change, transport and infrastructure. For housing, this consultation will not be asking questions about where sites should

be – that will come towards the end of 2023. Details of the consultation will be circulated by Breckland DC via their website and other channels. Responses will be possible online but also in writing if preferred.

North Elmham Parish Council urges residents to take part in the consultations, to make their views known. In particular, if you are against the proposal for a New Town in Bintree/Billingford it will be helpful to respond to Question 13 of the Issues and Options consultation. This asks if you think there should be a new settlement Garden Town/Village developed within Breckland, with a box in which to explain your answer. Bearing in mind this is not asking about specific sites, the Parish Council will be answering "No" to this question, before explaining that it may be possible to have a new settlement somewhere in Breckland, but only if housing target numbers are so high that organic growth of existing settlements couldn't meet the need, which is unlikely.

In addition, all of the following criteria would need to be met for any New Town: any site would have to have existing transport and other necessary infrastructure, or 100% certainty that it would be delivered before the new settlement was occupied – this would good ("A" road and preferably dual-carriageway) road links and commercial rail with a station in the new settlement; sufficient jobs in the new settlement to ensure it did not become a commuter dormitory town or village; it must not harm the local environment, landscape or wildlife, including the risk of polluting run-off or groundwater; adequate water-resources and sewerage treatment; not be sited primarily on BMV (Best and Most Versatile) agricultural land; have the necessary schools and NHS facilities in place before occupation; not contribute to Climate Change e.g. by being car-dependent; not be sited on reserves of

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gravel or minerals which may need to be exploited in future.

Any respondent does not have to answer all the questions, just the ones which you wish to. The Parish Council will also be responding to a range of other questions, which will be discussed at its February meeting. There will be another consultation, probably in late 2023, which will ask for opinions on specific sites, including that for a New Town at Bintree/Billingford. I'll give further updates as more about the Full Review becomes known.

Michael Rayner, Councillor & Planning Lead, North Elmham Parish Council

NORTH ELMHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 4TH JANUARY, 2023

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

Councillors Present Were:

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

Also in Attendance:

Mr. K. Webb (Clerk) and Mr. B. Borrett (County and District Councillor)

Apologies for absence:

Mr. N. Markwell

Land Management Matters

Village Green: Mr. Gee reported that a small blockage had been cleared and the water is flowing satisfactorily. Another dog waste bin is required for the village green.

Cathedral Ruins: Some of the railings placed around the tower have been moved.

Cathedral Meadows: The Stewardship Agreement runs out in October. Natural England has indicated that an extension of five years should be offered. Brown and Co will be consulted.

Broom Green: Mr. Labouchere said that the pond may need to be scraped out again with a digger at some stage.

Bridleway on Disused Railway Line and Other Railway Linked Matters:

Although the railway company have previously agreed that the path is not a permissive one, notices are still displayed referring to "permissive". Mr. Rayner has written to the Chairman of MNR regarding this matter.

Prince William Wood: The gate which allows pedestrians to pass between Orchard Close and Prince William Wood will be discussed at the next meeting.

Street Lights

A connection box is to be inserted for the light in Eastgate Street.

Highway Matters

Mr. Carr has formed a Community Speedwatch Group with eight volunteers currently undergoing training. Mr. Labouchere was in favour of double yellow lines being extended near the Brookside development but it was agreed to take no action until it is possible to assess the impact of the new car park.

It was confirmed that salt bins are seasonally maintained.

Pavilion and Playing Field

New lighting is to be fitted and a defibrillator box is to be supplied.

Defibrillators

Training is to be arranged via the Ambulance Service. The new defibrillator, which is coming from U.S.A., has not arrived yet. The cabinet is being sent, in advance, separately.

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Call for Sites Update Breckland Council

The Consultation Meeting at Breckland Council took place on 20th December, 2022.

Apparently, the village booklet is being discontinued. Confusion had arisen with a site being noted in the Billingford booklet rather than the one for North Elmham. The consultation will probably open at the end of January for a period of eight weeks. Questions are to be drafted by Mr. Rayner for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting. Some queries are to be raised in respect of new settlements (garden towns/villages), in particular regarding question 13 from the document. Mr. Rayner is to produce a summary piece for Elmham News. A meeting of the CANT Group is to be arranged for the end of February/beginning of March.

Pavilion Funding

Information has been received, following an introduction via Active Norfolk, which may result in a source of possible funding being accessible.

Police Community Resolution for Criminal Damage Incident

Mr. Gee is to pay a visit to the young person responsible for this crime regarding the next piece of work to be carried out.

Annual Budget

Mr. Phillips circulated the latest Management Financial Report, as at December 2022, which was broadly in line with expectations.

Reinsertion of the Members' Code of Conduct on the Website

It had been noted that the Code of Conduct was not being displayed on the website. The version utilised by Breckland Council had previously been adopted and it was agreed by all to continue with this policy. (Proposed by Mr. Fitzalan Howard and seconded by Mr. Phillips).

The principles highlighted are selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

Report from County/District Councillor

Mr. Borrett provided updated information on a number of key areas including the ever increasing pressure on social care and the present position with the proposed Norwich Western Link road which is planned to connect the Broadland Northway with the A47, but has run into difficulty following the discovery of a colony of rare barbastelle bats.

Discussions also took place regarding the idea of a new town, curiously referred to as the "Norfolk Railway Village".

Planning Applications and Determinations

Applications

None

Determinations

Discharge of condition 8 on
3PL/2022/0970/F – 3DC/2022/0318/DOC
– 48 Station Road – complete.

Mr. and Mrs. Gill – proposed gazebo structure – 3PL/2022/1234/HOU – 3
Beatie Gardens, Station Road – permission granted.

Roadside trees -T1 – ash – fell due to large cavity and T2- ash – reduce over extended limb by approx. 50% - no objection.

Discharge of conditions on
3PL/2016/0533/H – Billingford Lakes,
North Elmham – complete

Date of next meeting

Wednesday 1st February at 7.30pm



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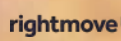


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BRISLEY AND NORTH ELMHAM CRICKET CLUB

At the beginning of December, a well-attended meeting at the Brisley Bell saw history created as North Elmham and Brisley Cricket Clubs formally merged into one club after sharing facilities and resources throughout the highly successful 2022 season. The new constitution was unanimously accepted, and a new committee structure introduced and members elected. The Brisley and North Elmham Cricket Club comprises three teams: a Saturday team due to play in Division 2 of the Norfolk Cricket League following two successive promotions and lead by new captain Phil Bend supported by vice-captain Callum Futter; a ladies team also competing in a League structure; and a social and touring team looking to play friendly midweek fixtures as well as both touring themselves and entertaining sides touring Norfolk.

The Club welcomes new players of any ability and age and in particular to the programme of Winter nets that starts at the end of January. Work has also started on constructing a new website and Facebook page, details to follow in a subsequent edition of this magazine. The AGM of the Norfolk Cricket League is due to take place in January and the Saturday team's opponents will be confirmed at this meeting as well as any other rule changes although the fixture list will not be published until shortly before the start of the season at the end of April.

Committee Members 2023

Chair: Mark Ballman 07980 027124

Secretary: Lindsey Wood

Treasurer: Billy Fordham

Players Rep: Ollie Hall

Grounds and facilities: Dave Pearson

Communications: Josh Hall

Social and Fund Raising: Sophie Hall

Winter nets commence at Greshams School, Holt on Sunday Jan 29 2 - 3.30pm
£5 per session

Further sessions: February 12th & 26th,
March 12th & 26th, April 2nd. For
further information contact Ollie Hall
07583 050684

SCHOOL NEWS

Whole School News

We are very proud of all the children for doing a fantastic job in the school nativity at the end of last term - what a show! We also really enjoyed singing some of the nativity for the Tea@2 event at the village hall - thank you for having us and for the treats afterwards!

At the beginning of this spring term, we came together in our house teams to learn more about the wonderful women



The poster is for North Elmham Football Club, featuring a purple and gold color scheme. At the top left is the club's crest. In the top right is a photo of a football team. The text is centered and reads: 'NORTH ELMHAM FOOTBALL CLUB', 'Are looking for players for their Under 6s team!', 'If your child is in year 2 or year 3 in school and would like to be part of a new side, come along and join this family friendly club!', and 'Contact Chris on 07463559699 for more details.' A soccer ball is at the bottom left, and three small circles are at the bottom right.

**NORTH ELMHAM
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in school and would like to be
part of a new side, come along
and join this family friendly club!

Contact Chris on
07463559699 for more details.

that our teams are named after - Florence Nightingale, Frida Kahlo, Harriet Tubman and Emmeline Pankhurst. The children created some wonderful displays about these women and we were really pleased to see how well the older children looked after and learnt with the younger children and vice versa. Our school is such a lovely community and this was really evident on this special day for us.

We have also been busy creating artwork for our school parable - the House on the Rock - and a lucky winner from our federation will have their artwork on the school poster.

Class News

Sheep: As always, it's been a busy start to the new term in Sheep Class! Our Reception children have been busy learning about hibernating animals through their chosen text 'Winter Sleep: A Hibernation Story'. We have all been learning more about how animals adapt to the colder weather, and children in Years 1 and 2 have been learning to sort and classify animals into groups. Following our village walk through North Elmham, we are now comparing and contrasting the town and the countryside. We will find out more about some geographical features of London and locate some famous London landmarks. In History we will soon find out more about where we fit into our family tree. We hope to interview grandparents, friends and neighbours to find out what their childhood was like and how life has changed.

Whales: Whales class has come back after Christmas full of enthusiasm! We have been learning about forces on science and have enjoyed investigating the effects of friction on toy cars. In history, we have been discovering the Stone Age and the techniques used by archaeologists to deduce facts from evidence left behind all those thousands of years ago.

This has linked to our geography lessons, where we have been learning about how early settlements originated. In art, we have been looking at the textile and paint work of Alice Kettle and Hannah Rae, and we are currently making some beautiful art on fabric, which we will then embroider. We have lots to look forward to, including a class trip next half term!

Lions: Lions class have bounded back in after Christmas, ready to learn. They are especially excited to be learning about The Solar System in Science which links in nicely to our new class reader as well as learning the names of the planets in French. They are also keen to start our new History topic on the Ancient Greeks where we will be looking at the country of Greece, Ancient Greek way of life and their achievements. In History we will be exploring mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes. We are also excited for lots of sport events this term and maybe a class trip!

How can you keep in touch?

Check out our website for the latest updates www.northelmhamschool.com

Do you have Facebook?

If you search and like the page 'North Elmham Primary School' the latest class posts from the website are uploaded directly to our school page!

Looking for a place for your child in September 2023?

If you have any questions or would like to see more of what our wonderful school has to offer, please contact the school office on 01362 668318 to arrange a visit!



Scouts Fundraising World Scouting Jamboree

Unit 25 Norfolk

Please support Abi & Tylor Phillips



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

We would like to say a massive thank you to our friends, family and local village supporters, who helped us in our fundraising efforts at our quiz and race Nights - back in October and December. These were very well supported with everyone having lots of fun. We would also like to thank the people that helped us in different ways throughout 2022, allowing us to achieve our fundraising target. Thank you to everyone for supporting us, it really is appreciated! We can't wait to go to the 25th World Scouting Jamboree in South Korea in August, with our UK unit 25 and meet lots of new people and try new things.

It would be our pleasure to share our experience with everyone on our return.

Many thanks again for all your support!

Abigail and Tylor Philips



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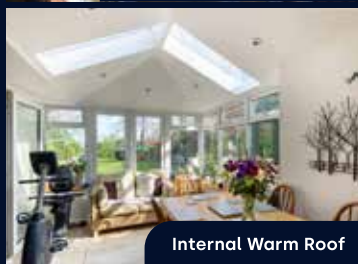
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VILLAGE NEWSLETTERS

Before the birth of the Elmham News there had been some kind of village newsletters here in the village. It was usually a church based newsletter.

The earliest ones we have found were written by the Rev Townsend (1898 – 1946) who put together the church news. It was a single sheet of paper folded in half. He was always very appreciative of the ladies who kept the floral arrangements going in church and the Christmas decorations. There were always Jumble Sales and other money saving ventures going on as well as articles written by the Rev Townsend about the history of the village.

After his death in 1946 the church had an American Vicar here for a couple of years, Rev Jack Roberts, then Rev Ward, (1950 1955)- 19 who had a monthly newsletter printed, I have a vague recollection of it being quite small. Rev Ward was only here for five years then he went on to become Chaplain to the Queen at Windsor. As far

as we are aware there were no more village newsletters until The Elmham News was born at the end of 1977.

WIVES PLUS PLUS ALL

Here's wishing all Wives Plus All members a Happy and Prosperous New Year, along with a gentle reminder that the first meeting this year of Wives Plus All is our AGM.

Wives Club AGM

In the Memorial Hall, North Elmham
on

THURSDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2023

At

7.30pm

There will be refreshments and a raffle

Please come along.

ALL WELCOME

DATES TO REMEMBER: FEBRUARY

Wed 1st	Sewing Group Parish Council Meeting Mobile Library	Tumbleweed, Eastgate St Pavilion The Heath—Orchard Close	2.00 pm 7.30 pm 2.30–5.20 pm
Tue 7th	Knit and Natter	Pavilion	2.00 pm
Wed 8th	Tea @Two	Memorial Hall	2.00 pm
Thu 9th	Wives Club AGM	Memorial Hall	7.30 pm
Wed 15th	Sewing Group	Tumbleweed, Eastgate St	2.00 pm
Fri 17th	Gardening Club Annual Dinner	Memorial Hall	7 for 7.30 pm
Tue 21st	Tennis coaching for Juniors	Tennis Courts	3.45–6.30 pm

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PORK CRANBERRY & PISTACHIO TERRINE, SPICED ONION MARMALADE & GRANARY TOAST (N)	£ 8.00	NACHOS, NACHO CHEESE SAUCE & TOMATO SALSA (Gr) (V) (VeO)	£ 7.00
CARAMELISED PARSNIP SOUP & BREAD (Ve) (GrO)	£ 7.00		

◆ CHIPS & FRIES ◆

FRIES TOPPED WITH BBQ PULLED PORK, SPRING ONION, CHEDDAR & MOZZARELLA	£ 7.50	FRIES TOPPED WITH, CRISPY HALLOUMI, SPRING ONION & SRIRACHA MAYONNAISE	£ 7.50
CHUNKY CHIPS	£ 4.00	SKINNY FRIES	£ 4.00

◆ MAINS ◆

8OZ RIBEYE STEAK, CHUNKY CHIPS, ROAST TOMATO, FLAT MUSHROOM & CAFÉ DE PARIS BUTTER (GrO)	£ 29.00
HOMEMADE BEEF BURGER, BRIOCHE BUN, STREAKY BACON, CHEESE, BABY GEM, TOMATO, FRIES (GrO)	£ 15.00
GRILLED HALLOUMI, ROASTED PEPPER & MUSHROOM BURGER, BRIOCHE BUN, SIRACHA MAYO & FRIES (V) (GrO) (VeO)	£ 15.00
BREADED CHICKEN BURGER, BRIOCHE BUN, KATSU MAYONNAISE, PICKLED VEGETABLES & FRIES	£ 16.00
BEER BATTERED HADDOCK, CHUNKY CHIPS, CRUSHED PEAS & TARTARE SAUCE	£ 16.00
WILD MUSHROOM LINGUINE, SPINACH, CREAM & PARMESAN (V) (N)	£ 15.00
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PAN FRIED SEABASS, PARMENTIER POTATOES, RED ONION, OLIVES & SALSA VERDE	£ 18.00
SLOW ROASTED PORK BELLY, SAGE & ONION ROSTI, BROCCOLI & GRAIN MUSTARD & CIDER SAUCE (Gr)	£ 18.00

◆ SWEETS & CHEESE ◆

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“RAILWAY VILLAGE” IN THE HEART OF THE NORFOLK COUNTRYSIDE

In 2018 a plan emerged to build a town of 10,000 homes on land sandwiched between North Elmham and its neighbouring villages. A Campaign Group “CANT” was set up. CANT (Campaign Against the New Town) fought really hard to oppose the application and with the help of North Elmham parishioners and local villages around the idea was eventually dropped by Breckland Council.

For readers that may not remember this, the town would have been built on land between North Elmham, Billingford and Bintree. The impact of it would have been enormous for many of the surrounding parishes, as well as Dereham itself. There were concerns in Dereham that the trains making their way up and down the line to Wymondham would cause havoc for the already gridlocked routes through the town. The plan presented to Breckland was a quick copy and paste tabletop exercise built on the grand idea that the new town would be linked by the old railway line running from County School Station to the main line railway at Dereham. (bearing in mind that the track does not exist in a functioning manner). It did not seem to matter to the developer that the town would be in the middle of a rural landscape or adjacent to the River Wensum. Ludicrous, though it was, the plan had to be taken seriously. It would have progressed without local opposition. The 2018 scheme was opposed by many residents who also went along to the Breckland Meeting. The developer did not even dare to turn up to the Breckland Meeting which threw the idea out as ridiculous.

William Nunn, Council Leader at the time, said it was the most people he had ever seen attend a meeting in his 24 years on the authority. Councillors voted to reject the scheme almost unanimously at that meeting.

However, a new proposal has been put forward as part of Breckland’s consultation on its new local plan.

The Conservative-run authority was asking last year for landowners to come forward with sites which could potentially be built on over the next two decades.

The 5,000-home submission, which is not a formal planning application, came forward as part of that process.

If a planning application is submitted, approved and the housing is built, the resulting settlement would likely have a larger population than existing towns like Watton (population 8,417), Fakenham (8,285) and Cromer (7,949).

The submission documents which put the 1,278-acre site forwards called it the “Norfolk Railway Village”, suggesting that the new development could take advantage of the Mid Norfolk Railway, a heritage line which stops at North Elmham. It could be connected to the national rail network at Wymondham, which could in theory mean the 5,000 new homes would be connected to the rest of the country, if services were extended up the line.

Jennie Borgnis, chair of North Elmham Parish Council, said her council would “definitely” be campaigning against the project - and had been in contact with neighbouring villages about combining forces. She added that they were opposed to the proposal for several reasons.

- It’s nowhere near a trunk road for a start, which any sort of big development realistically would have to be and it would create all sorts of traffic chaos in Dereham specifically, but generally too.
- The Wensum Valley is a highly-protected part of the county and the number of houses would be bound to have an effect on the water-course.

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- If the developers are genuinely thinking that the railway is the thing that's going to swing it for them, they have got to convince everybody that there is going to be a railway company that will be prepared to run it." The fear is that they will rely on the railway aspect of it, and then quietly drop it when they realise it's a non-starter.

CANT will be distributing leaflets, emails and social media posts to encourage people to participate in the consultation. And Mrs Borgnis said the possibility of a fresh protest like the kind seen in 2018 would "almost certainly" have to happen, if the new scheme became advanced enough to reach the council's planning committee.

She said however that she was not opposed to the principle of more housing being built elsewhere and that the existence of Britain's housing shortage was "unarguable" but we need more houses of the right type, and they need to

be in the right place," which was primarily in towns, near to existing services and employment areas.

The Norfolk branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England said they were opposed to a new settlement being built anywhere in Breckland. "Given the need to maintain agricultural land, and to keep the special and valued qualities of Norfolk's countryside and landscapes, there is no need for a new settlement in Breckland" said a spokesperson for CPRE.

CANT is now being resurrected, as residents across Breckland are soon to be asked whether a new "garden town" should be built somewhere within the district - with the trimmed-back 5,000-home proposal believed to be one of the main contenders for that project.

Ed's notes: Thank you to Diana Dann for this timely reminder. Don't forget to support your Parish Council.

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NORTH ELMHAM WILDLIFE

I thought I'd change how I do things with this column this year. Up to now I've told you about things that I've found over the past month, but I'm going to try something different. I may still bring in some highlights from recent observations, but I thought I'd try picking a different set of North Elmham wildlife to write about each month, so restricting myself to topic more than timescale. I'll try to illustrate it with photos that I've taken in North Elmham as I've always done, but I may slip the odd one in that I've taken elsewhere if they're better. So, this month I'm going to start with winter wildfowl. Not an obvious place to start perhaps, as for the most part wildfowl like expanses of water, and apart from the river there aren't many publicly-accessible lakes or marshes here, but I think we have enough variety here in North Elmham to make it work. Let's see...

The term "wildfowl" can mean different things to different people. In its narrowest sense it refers to ducks, geese and swans, but in its broader sense it can include other waterbirds such as grebes, coots and cormorants (the term "waterfowl" better describes this larger group), or sometimes other gamebirds. Wildfowl include some of our most familiar birds and nearly everyone, even those with no interest in wildlife, will recognise a duck or goose or swan, even if they don't know which species are involved. Ducks are among our most diverse and colourful birds with the males (drakes) exhibiting a fantastic array of plumages.

The easiest of all the wildfowl to see in North Elmham is the Mallard. They are here all year round and they're not very fussy about the habitat they occupy – you can find them in the smallest of ditches or ponds as well as larger bodies of water. The drakes are colourful with shiny green heads separated from their dark purply breast by a bright white collar, yellow bills,





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orange legs and iridescent purply-blue wing patches (photo 1). Have you noticed their curly tails, a character that is unique to Mallards? Technically the curly feathers are not tail feathers but elongated upper tail coverts that extend beyond their tails. The tail coverts look black at a glance but are iridescent green in sunlight. Mallards are the ancestors of nearly all of our domestic ducks, and these come in a huge variety of shapes, sizes and colours – though rarely look as smart as their wild ancestors in my opinion.

The next easiest duck to see locally is the Teal. This is our smallest duck, and many thousands visit Norfolk for the winter. In North Elmham you can see them on the river sometimes, or in larger puddles or flooded fields such as those along the railway. The other day I accidentally flushed a pair from puddles in roadside fields along Heath Road, so they can turn up anywhere. A handful stay to breed in Norfolk so it's possible to see them all year round, but the largest numbers are present in winter. They can be hard to approach closely – some of my best photos are taken from hides including this one (photo 2) which was up the road at Ryburgh.

Another duck you're likely to see around North Elmham is the Gadwall. Once a rarity this species has become one of our commoner ducks now and can be encountered around North Elmham at any time of the year with a mixture of locally-breeding birds and winter visitors. I often see them when walking along the railway but the one in the photo was on the river (photo 3). The drakes aren't as colourful as other ducks but smart in their own way. Both sexes can be recognised by a small white square patch towards the back of their wings, but as with the one in the photo, this can disappear depending on how they hold their wings.

Wigeons are unusual among ducks as their main feeding technique is to graze



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grass, so you're as likely to see them out of water as in it. But they rarely stray far from water and the best place to see them in North Elmham is at the seasonal pool at Bintree Mill where there is often a large wintering flock. They flush easily so approach quietly and carefully – and hopefully before anyone else has flushed them. I sometimes see them elsewhere around the parish, but not so often. Drakes have large white patches on their forewings which makes them easy to recognise in flight.

Other ducks you're likely to see at Bintree Mill in winter are Shoveler (photo 5 – another one from Ryburgh) and Tufted Duck (photo 6, also taken elsewhere). Shelduck are also possible and if you're lucky you could see Pintail, Pochard or, in early spring, Garganey. Despite their name, Egyptian Geese are more closely related to Shelducks than they are to geese. They're native to Africa but now breed prolifically in the UK, especially in East Anglia, and you can come across them anywhere in the valley or farmland around North Elmham. They nest in trees, so you may even see (and probably first hear) a pair high above your head in an old bare tree (photo 7).

The commonest goose in North Elmham is the Greylag Goose. Wild Greylag Geese visit the UK in winter but most of the ones we see round here are feral birds whose ancestors were released for shooting. You may find feeding flocks on the fields round the village, or resting in the valley, but I most often see them flying around (photo 8). Canada Goose is another species that was introduced for shooting, this time from North America. I don't see them quite so often in North Elmham, but they're not unusual here. Again I mostly see them flying over (photo 9), but a flock sometimes roosts by Bintree Mill. Another feral goose that lives in the Wensum Valley is the Barnacle Goose – less often seen in North Elmham but I come across



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them occasionally, like the pair that spent some time with Greylag Geese just this side of Guist Bridge last spring (photo 10).

Of the truly wild geese that winter in Norfolk the one you're most likely to see round here is the Pink-footed Goose. Flocks, sometimes numbering in their hundreds, often fly over North Elmham in the winter, readily separated from other geese by their "wink-wink" call and shorter necks. Despite regularly seeing them flying over, I'm yet to encounter any on the ground in North Elmham (so I'll use a photo from elsewhere – photo 11), but only last week a couple of friends saw a small flock feeding in fields along the Ryburgh Road near Heath Farm.

There is only one species of swan that you're likely to see in North Elmham: the Mute Swan, which most readers will be familiar with. If you're very lucky you might see either of the two species of wild swan that winter in Norfolk, Bewick's

Swan or Whooper Swan. Adults of both species have yellow on the bill, not red as on Mute Swan, and young birds are grey, in contrast to the more brown-toned plumage of young Mute Swans. They hold their necks straighter too which can make it easy to pick them out from Mute Swans at a distance. As I write there are four Bewick's Swans and a Whooper Swan in farmland between Great Ryburgh and Colkirk, as unusual there as they would be here (one of these Bewick's in photo 12).

There are always plenty of birds and other wildlife to see around the village. Do get in touch if you have anything interesting to share (email appleton.dave@googlemail.com, phone 668431 or message me via Twitter at @ElmhamMeadows).

Dave Appleton

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WVBS

By the end of 2022, WVBS was feeling back to normal, and we were able to mix and socialise with very little restraint. We celebrated with a very enjoyable Christmas party that included a photographic competition for the best bird photos taken in the Valley last year and a series of quizzes. Members brought plates of food for sharing and the standard was, as usual, very high. So now we have a full programme of events for 2023, and it is available on our website – www.wvbs.co.uk. Do have a look at the site if you are interested. It includes useful information about bird-watching sites in the valley as well as reports of previous meetings and a way to report your own sightings for inclusion in the County records.

The last field trip of 2022 took us all the way to the Wildlife and Wetland Trust reserve at Welney, with a stop at Denver Sluice on the way. Here we were lucky to get several views of a Kingfisher, which finally perched on the metalwork of the sluice just in front of us. Across the road a flock of Yellowhammers delighted us, with Redwings and Redshanks also seen. In spite of the rain we headed off for Welney, where the big bonus is the visitor centre with views over Lady Fen and then the main hide which is heated! We were there for feeding time, when the visiting wild swans and waterfowl are fed grain in front of the hide. It's always fun to see, although the very high water levels meant there were not as many swans as usual. Nonetheless the Whooper swans and Pochards made a great spectacle, and we saw a good selection of waders by carefully examining the banks and edges. These included a Spotted Redshank, a good flock of Black-tailed Godwits and some Ringed Plover. Back over the bridge at the visitor centre we mostly had some lunch and then looked out for the

Short-eared Owls that seem to be regulars over the Fen. We weren't disappointed, and some members then headed for Methwold where a Great Grey Shrike could be seen.

We kicked off 2023 with the annual bird count in the Valley, and at this point I know that over 90 species were recorded in total. One of those species was Bewick's Swan, seen near Colkirk and an unusual visitor to this area. More details next time! Meanwhile here are our next few meetings – more information on the website.

Outdoor meetings: Everyone is welcome on these guided walks. See the website for meeting times and places. Sunday 26th February – Breydon Water. Saturday 25th March – Sculthorpe Moor

Indoor meetings: These are all held at Great Witchingham Village Hall at 7.30 pm, and visitors are welcome for a small charge. 16th February – Nick Acheson on his biking birding. 16th March – Drew Lyness on the Mid-Yare Valley (Strumpshaw Fen and around).

FRIENDS OF NORTH ELMHAM SCHOOL

After our urgent appeal in the last article in the November issue of The Elmham News, I am delighted to say that FONES is still up and running with some new additions to the committee. We have welcomed a new treasurer and some brilliant new members, and appointed a new Chair, so we are able to continue to run the PTA.

I would like to start today by mentioning Sharon Phillips, former chairperson of FONES. A lot of you will know Sharon from her role within FONES and within the North Elmham community. Sharon dedicated so much of her time and energy into the committee for over 10 years and I want to say a huge thank you to her on

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behalf of the committee, school and all of the children from the past and present. I would also like to say a big thank you to Debbie Eusden who has stepped down as Treasurer after her hard work and dedication to FONES. Both of your work has not gone unnoticed, so thank you!

FONES have received some incredible donations from the community recently and I would like to say thank you. One being a donation of £500 from North Elmham United Charities. The children would love to use this money to put towards new play equipment for outside. I am meeting with the children in the school parliament to discuss what specific equipment they would like very soon.

We also received a donation in memory of Pam Neve. Pam was a keen supporter of FONES and the school for many years. It was mentioned by the teachers that the children would love to re-vamp the school garden. During our meeting this month a committee member thought that we could use the money from Pam's donation to bring the garden back to life and name it after her. Thank you so much for this generous donation and we will keep you updated with the progress of the garden.


With this being said, we would love for the community to be involved in bringing the garden back to life. If you have any unwanted gardening equipment, pots, compost, plants or anything you think may help, then please get in touch with FONES and any donations would be greatly appreciated. Please get in touch via email or phone.

FONES have lots of exciting plans for 2023 – starting with a school disco and a movie night for the children this term. We hope to bring more events back to the community such as Bingo and Quiz nights, Christmas Fayres and much more!

Our door is always open for new committee members and if you have any ideas or donations, you'd like to bring to us then please get in touch! Our email address is FONES-chairperson@hotmail.com

We would love for those of you on Facebook, to join us on our page to stay up to date with any information - Please search Friends of North Elmham School-FONES

Naomi Brien
Chair for and on behalf of F.O.N.E.S



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ST MARY'S CHURCH

Dear Friends,

I know it may a bit late but I would like on behalf of the Heart of Norfolk Ministry team to wish you a Happy New Year.

Christmas seems such a long time ago and life has swiftly moved on. In the Church Lent will soon be on us. Having it seems just celebrated the birth of Jesus

we now start to reflect on the end of his ministry on earth.

However, one of the great messages of Christmas comes from Isaiah "the people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light" Although we don't know if Jesus was born in December, it is probably no coincidence that the early leaders of the Church chose this time. It is just after the winter equinox when in the northern hemisphere (remember that in Jesus' time the Northern hemisphere was most of the known world) the days begin to lengthen, a sign of the light overcoming the darkness.

This is, of course, the practical darkness that we experience, but what about the other kinds of darkness we might experience?

There is perhaps the darkness within us. There is the darkness of war, of the refugee crisis, the cost of living problems, homelessness. The list could go on and on.

The message of Christmas, in fact, of Jesus' entire ministry is Hope. Hope is the light that shines in the darkness. If we lose hope for a better world then we will be dragged down into dark despair, something none of us want.

The New year brings us a new hope, a chance to repair damaged relationships, a chance to look forward and leave the cares of the old year behind.

I hope and pray that as the light returns we will all find ourselves in a better place

Norman Johnson

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MORE 2 LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

We are only in the second month of the year and it seems hate has been consuming a lot of people, mostly directed at Harry and Meghan. Ironically, the very thing those same people are accusing them of. I am sure we all have our opinions on Harry and Meghan, but if we are on the side of hate for them, or anyone else for that matter, the only ones who are destroyed are ourselves. Some in the media, and on social media, are absolutely consumed with their vitriol; unaware, it would seem, that they are destroying themselves in the process.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jnr. said "Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that."

Scripture too points to this in Proverbs 10:12 it says 'Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins.'

Hate only causes strife, pain, sickness, distress, and broken relationships. Hate does not heal relationships. Hate is not going to repair Harry's relationship with his family, hate is not going to repair our broken relationships. As David Guzik says, "Hatred brings trouble, but love brings healing". Only love can repair those relationships that have been broken.

It was hate that put Jesus to death on the cross, the epitome of broken relationships. It was love that raised Him from the dead three days later. The epitome of love's power to heal our broken relationship with God. Let's not be consumed with hate this year.

If you would like to know more about Jesus, please get in touch,

Every blessing,

Anne-Marie Fewell
Pastor, More2Life Christian Fellowship
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WORTHING NEWS

Happy New Year everyone... well with Christmas decorations now stored safely away what's next on the "agenda?" PANCAKE DAY!

Here mums, dads and our children will likely raid the kitchen cupboards to use up eggs, flour and milk on TUESDAY, 21st February, the day before the start of Lent.

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Heart of Norfolk Group Services for February

5th February – 3rd Sunday before Lent

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

12th February – 2nd Sunday before Lent

10.30am	Bawdeswell	The 10.30
10.30am	Worthing	Holy Communion
10.30am	Foulsham	Holy Communion
10.30am	Stibbard	Morning Praise
2.30pm	Foulsham	Baptism Service

19th February – Sunday next before Lent

10.30am	Bawdeswell	Holy Communion (ADN Catherine Dobson)
10.30am	North Elmham	Holy Communion
10.30am	Wood Norton	Holy Communion
4.00pm	Foulsham	Sung Evensong (Book of Common Prayer)

26th February – First Sunday of Lent

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

Ash Wednesday, 22nd February

Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes. Foulsham Holy Innocents, 11.00am. All welcome!

- Sift flour into a bowl and make a hole in the middle. In a separate bowl, whisk together the egg and milk and pour into the hole.
- Whisk the mix with some flour and gradually start adding the rest of the flour until you have a smooth batter. Cover the bowl and leave for 30 minutes.
- Heat a frying pan to a medium heat and spray some cooking oil. Using a ladle, pour some of the mixture into the pan and tilt the pan until it spreads out evenly.
- Cook one side of the pancake until it's golden or lightly brown and toss or flip it over, or if you are not brave enough, use a slice or palette knife will help. Cooking time will depend on the hob but it's usually about 45-60 seconds on each side.
- Make sure to spray cooking oil before each pancake and cook until the batter is finished.
- Stack all pancakes and add your favourite toppings which could be some scrummie and mouth watering layers with perhaps syrup, lemon, fruit, ice cream or even chocolate, but enjoy while you can before any fasting begins during Lent.

I wonder however, who will succeed in tossing their pancake and leaving it stuck on the ceiling?

Raising Funds For The New Priscilla Bacon Lodge Building

Lent Luncheon On Sunday 12th March From 12 Noon

The Christian tradition of Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday 22nd February for 40 days and ends Saturday 8th April. This is when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of

fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. Time is set aside for reflection on Jesus Christ – his suffering and his sacrifice, his life, death, burial and resurrection. With this in mind, Worthing Church will be holding a luncheon, we hope you are able to join us.

The Bishop's Lent Diocesan Appeal 2023 has been launched and is in memory of the former Archdeacon of Lynn, The Venerable Ian Bentley who was diagnosed with cancer and died in May last year. In his final days, Ian was cared for by staff at the current Priscilla Bacon Lodge in Norwich.

A simple luncheon of soup and rolls will be served in the church and any kind donation received will be passed on to support a new build at the hospice which is vital and necessary to increase the capacity for end of life specialised care in Norfolk & Waveney.

No booking necessary, please drop by and visit St Margaret's Church for lunch.

February Sunday Church Services

12th and 26th both starting at 10.30 am. Refreshments will be available after each service together with an opportunity to meet up and share in some friendly banter. We hope you can join us.

For all Worthing Church enquiries contact:

Celia Daniel

Tel: 01362 668928

Email: c.daniel784@btinternet.com



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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: Sarah Felton,
PAGE 13: Suzanne Groom,
PAGE 25: Sharon Phillips,
PAGES 35, 37 & 39: Dave Appleton

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Vice Chair: Martin Phillips
Clerk: Kevin J Webb
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Group Member ●

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Meetings are normally held on the first Wednesday of the month and take place in the Pavilion, commencing at 7.30pm. Parishioners are entitled to attend and are most welcome. Our County and District Councillor is also in attendance whenever possible. If, in between meetings, you wish to raise a specific matter for the attention of the Parish Council - please refer to the contact list above.

And finally... have you got something interesting you would like to say or think others might be interested in something you do - why not email the Editors (see front of magazine for contact details) and let us know, we are always on the lookout for new contributors.

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

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Doctors

Dr Simon Carroll	Dr Alice Griffiths-Jones	Dr Victoria Lawrence	
Dr Abigail Brun	Dr Robert Spooner	Dr Charlotte Carvell	Dr Tarandeep Dhanjal

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	Ms Victoria McConnell, Head Teacher	01362 668318
Chairman of School Governors	Robert Plant chairofgov@northelmham.norfolk.sch.uk	
Memorial Institute	Bookings: Ann Ferris p.ferris84@yahoo.com	01362 668580
Pavilion	Bookings: Ann Ferris p.ferris84@yahoo.com	01362 668580
Eastgate Centre	Heather Caley	01362 668245
Breckland Dog Warden	Confidential message or texts 07771 617417	01362 858500
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–Fri 09:30–19:00, Sat 9:30–16:00, Sun 10.00–16.00 (Open Library access only)
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 Diana Bennetts	dereham@salvationarmy.org.uk	696341
More2Life	Anne-Marie Fewell		01328 701830

Church Wardens

Elmham	Michael Newey	668424
Worthing	Celia Daniel	668928



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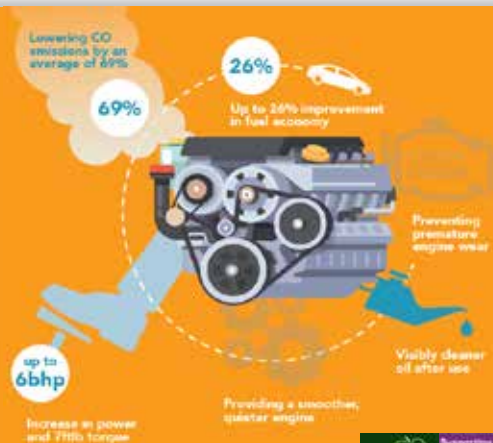
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