

Elmham News

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JUNE 2025

**NORTH ELMHAM
VIEWS & NEWS**

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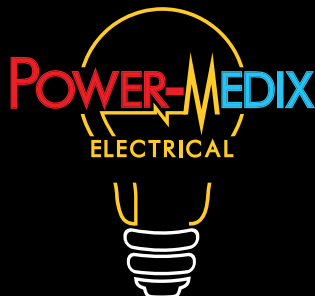
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EDITORIAL

Following our article last month on our potential financial plight, we are delighted to report that we have received a number of donations and future promises. We are extremely grateful. Numerous conversations have been had with people, following the article, making it clear how they value their village magazine. That is so uplifting for the Elmham News Team to hear.

The cover photograph shows part of the new path from the school to the end of Cathedral Drive and up to Boars Hill to the Millennium Wood. There are more photos in this issue (pages 38–39) showing what a charming and pleasant walk it is. Why not try it?

There will be a Fete report in next month's magazine, but we hope that those of you who went enjoyed the time you spent there.

Our sincere thanks go to C. Rush, "Talking Elephant", Patricia Moore, Brian Gallier, Tony Garrod, "Incognito", Gill King, S. Overy, Wives Plus All, Norman Lowe, and Anon.

We have just heard of the death of Sue Goodwin who moved to Swaffham with her husband Rod some years ago. He died some time ago but they will be remembered for their work in the village. Rod became a paramedic and did First Aid courses in the Memorial Hall. Our condolences to their girls.

NORTH ELMHAM SCHOOL HOUSE AND LAND CHARITY

Are you under 25 years of age? If so, were you a pupil at North Elmham School? Do you need financial assistance to help you gain further qualifications to enable you to undertake higher education or to develop non-academic skills?

If your answer is yes to these questions, the North Elmham School House and Land Charity may be able to help you. To apply write to:-

Clerk to the School House & Land Charity, Mrs C Payne, 84 Eastgate Street, North Elmham, Dereham, Norfolk, NR20 5HF by 31st July. Unfortunately, the Trustees are unable to consider applications after the closing date.

All applications will be carefully considered by the Trustees, and a reply will be sent.

DISCLAIMER: The views expressed in the Elmham News are often those of individual contributors and might not necessarily be shared by the editors. Whilst the editors and committee of the Elmham News accept advertisements in good faith, the credibility of the contents is the sole responsibility of the advertiser.

NEXT DEADLINE: 14TH JUNE

We welcome contributions from everyone in the village. Please share your stories, events, club activities and heartfelt tributes to loved ones with us. Your participation is crucial in making the Elmham News a true reflection of our village. Please email your article to each of the Editors.

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A BEHIND THE SCENES AT ELMHAM FETE

Many of you reading this will have enjoyed yet another fabulous Elmham Fete on the 18th of May. But what you might not realise is just how much planning, time, and dedication goes into delivering those four and a half hours of fun, food, and festivities.

The Fete Committee first met back in January—a team of volunteers, each responsible for a different part of the day. From organising refreshments and recruiting servers, to writing to companies for sponsorship of major costs like the beer tent, the band, the bouncy castle, and the plant stall, every detail is carefully planned. They also reach out for raffle prize donations.

There's a treasurer keeping track of expenses, someone handling publicity, others coordinating volunteers for stalls and games, and someone booking craft stalls, classic cars, and tractors. Some volunteers put up banners in the weeks leading up to the event, while others liaise with the primary school to arrange the children's prime afternoon slot.

The committee meets several times in the months before the fete, updating each other on progress, working through long to-do lists, and solving problems as they arise.

In the final days before the Fete, the pace picks up. Volunteers shop for refreshments, mow and prepare the grounds of Elmham House, and from Friday, begin setting up tents and the Dog Show ring. On Saturday, tables are arranged for refreshments, stalls, bric-a-brac, books, ice cream, and more.

Even the hours before the fete opens are a hive of activity—stallholders, classic cars, and tractors are guided into place, the PA system is set up, and cakes, tea, hot dogs, and strawberries are prepped.

12pm—are they ready?

Then, for four and a half hours, the community enjoys the fruits of all that labour. Meanwhile, committee members ensure volunteers are in place and well supported, and that the refreshment tent runs smoothly—especially the allimportant flow of clean cups, thanks to a dedicated washingup team.

And when it's all over... it's not really over

Volunteers stay behind to take everything down, pack up tents, return crockery and tables to the Memorial Hall, pick up litter, and restore the gardens and field for our generous hosts at Elmham House. Then, of course, there's the counting of the money raised to support local community projects.

So, thank you for coming to the Fete! Now that you know what goes into making it happen, if you see a call for help next year, please consider giving just an hour of your time—whether it's helping on a game, a stall, or with refreshments. Every little bit helps, and the more people who pitch in, the lighter the load for everyone.

Your committee members will be back again in January to do it all over again.

Anon

FAKENHAM & DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

Tuesday 3rd June 2025 at 7.30 pm
(and 1st Tuesday of the month hereafter)

"I just can't give it up"
with Jacquie Aldous

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More details : Jackie on 01328 851933
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FAKENHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

Soprano Rosamund Walton to perform at Fakenham Choral Society's summer concert in Will Todd's vibrant and upbeat "Mass in Blue"

East Anglia based soprano Rosamund Walton will take centre stage as the soloist in Will Todd's vibrant and jazz-infused Mass in Blue at Fakenham Choral Society's 2025 summer concert on Saturday 21st June.

Rosamund is a critically acclaimed professional soprano and choral conductor whose career has seen her perform in many of the major concert venues of Britain and Europe working with orchestras such as the English Chamber orchestra, the London Mozart Players and Norwich Baroque. Now based in East Anglia she maintains a busy performance schedule from intimate recitals to full scale oratorios and opera both with voice and baton.

Choir chairman Rosemary Dear commented: "Rosamund has sung with us a number of times, most recently in last summer's performance of 'Pirates of Penzance' and the soloist parts of Verdi's requiem at our 'Come and Sing' in March this year. We're delighted that she will be performing with us again".

Mass in Blue is a dynamic setting of the Latin mass which blends classical choral singing with the vibrant rhythms and harmonies of jazz. A jazz trio together with piano, a solo soprano voice and a strong choral line weave together to give an energetic and uplifting musical experience.

In contrast, the choir will also perform sacred music from earlier eras, including works by Bach, Fauré, and Brahms, showcasing Europe's rich choral heritage.

The concert will be in Fakenham Parish Church at 7pm on Saturday 21 June.

Tickets are available on the FCS website www.fakenhamchoralsociety.org/about_us

Shirley Collyer

Publicity, Fakenham Choral Society

GARDENING CLUB

Before the meeting began, Ray announced the sad death of Arthur Smith, who had been a long time member of the Gardening Club. A charming, knowledgeable man, with a deep understanding of moths and butterflies, he will be sadly missed. A service of Remembrance would be on Thursday 15 May in St Mary's Church at 2.30 pm.

He then introduced our speaker Martyn Davey who gave us a well illustrated and informative talk on Alpines and Rock plants laced with a dose of humour. Most of us grow them without realising where they originated which important in placing them in the garden.

The unenviable task of choosing the winner of the Flower of the Month is always the current speaker and Eileen Cotterill won with a charming four headed narcissus. She tells me that as a new member, this was the first time she had brought a flower. Well done to you.

Reminders were given regarding the trip to Green Island Gardens at Colchester on Sunday 29th June and also the trip to Black Shuck Distillery on Thursday 24 July.

Don't forget schedules for our Annual Show on Saturday 2nd August are available and whilst club members may enter for free, it is only 20p per item for non-members. We have a new 8-16's section and all children's entries are free to enter and most welcome. The schedule is on the Community website at www.elmham.org.uk or on the Gardening Club's Facebook page.



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APPROVED CLEARVIEW STOCKIST

WIVES PLUS ALL

On Thursday 8th May Wives Plus All were visited by representatives from Redwings Horse Sanctuary, namely Charlotte, who is Education & Youth Publications Officer and Debbie, who resides in North Elmham, and whose role at Redwings is Rehoming Officer. Redwings Horse Sanctuary headquarters are here in Norfolk, and it has centres in Norfolk, Essex, Warwickshire, Monmouthshire and Scotland, and it cares daily for more than 1500 horses and donkeys rescued from neglect. Also, under its Guardian Scheme, over 700 more rescued horses and donkeys reside in the community.

Redwings came into being through the rescue of a single pony called Sheba, and her recovery inspired the formation of a Sanctuary in 1984 dedicated to saving horses from a life of fear and neglect. From that one life saved, Redwings has grown to become the largest horse welfare charity in the UK. The Sanctuary has a hospital and rehabilitation services along with a specialist team of horse carers, equine vets and vet nurses, Rehoming expertise, and a specialist behaviour team to work with those horses and donkeys who may not have had the best training or start in life. Redwings has become known particularly for its expertise in carrying out large welfare roundup operations and rescues and it is a member of the National Equine Welfare Council.

In 2022 Redwings Horse Sanctuary Charity took on the Stewardship of the historic Anna Sewell House, the birthplace of the "Black Beauty" author in Great Yarmouth, which has proved a wonderful way to continue this incredible lady's legacy for horse welfare.

Redwings Horse Sanctuary near to us at Aylsham has a visitor centre and is always pleased to receive visitors to meet

the residents whose lives have been transformed thanks to donation support.

Wives Plus All thank Charlotte and Debbie for an enlightening talk to members about their valuable work at Redwings Horse Sanctuary.

Wives Plus All will meet again on Thursday 12th June 2025 when there will be a walk with Dave Appleton through the wildflower meadow behind the Chapel Ruins here in North Elmham. Please meet at the Chapel Ruins at 6.30pm.

Ann Ferris

KNIT AND NATTER

By the time you get to read this article, the Garden Fete day will be long gone. We hope all our toys and items brought some pleasure to the many children and adults who played our games and won excellent prizes in our raffle. Roll on the Christmas Fair, we say.

A story I would like to share with you is about Florence, a premature baby weighing only 3lbs. We were asked by her Mom, if we could possibly help by knitting a suitable item for a baby that was so tiny. Within a week, one of our group had produced two beautiful, tiny cardigans, absolutely right for this baby. The parents were delighted. Florence is now gaining in weight and strength and her mother has asked if they can donate the cardigans to their local special care baby unit. A good example of how our efforts are appreciated, by all the charities, care homes and families in need that we have supported over the years.

Next meeting Tuesday June 3rd in the Pavilion 2 til 4.

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BRISLEY AND NORTH ELMHAM CRICKET CLUB

A challenging start to the season for both Saturday teams as the 1sts look to defend their league title and the seconds to improve on their debut 2024 season but in Division 4 West. The T20 side however did progress to the next round of the Tom Bartram trophy which they are also seeking to defend after their scheduled First round opponents conceded.

Results

April 26th

Ists v Reepham (A) Friendly. Reepham 209-7 B&NE 85. B&NE lost by 124 runs

In this 40 over warm up game, 8 bowlers had the chance to turn their arms over with Chris Moon picking up a couple of wickets. In reply B&NE clearly lacked match practice with the bat as only Tom Donnelly (45) made a significant contribution and six batters registered ducks.

Payne Crop Nutrition MoM: Tom Donnelly

2nds v Beeston (H) Friendly. Beeston 172-5 B&NE 169-3 B&NE lost by 3 runs

A 30 over pre-season friendly saw B&NE fall just short of their target in the first game on the newly prepared wicket. There were 2 wickets for Steve Curley and both opener Damien Wheedon and skipper Phil Bend retired after reaching 50, the former scoring his debut half-century. Tom Thorpe also enjoyed his first outing with a wicket, a catch and an unbeaten 29.

Payne Crop Nutrition MoM:
Damien Wheedon

May 3rd

1sts v Snettisham B (A) League. B&NE 220. Snettisham 158. B&NE won by 82 runs.

B&NE made a good start to the defence of their title with a convincing away victory over newly promoted Snettisham.

A stand of 102 between opener Tuthill and Tom Donnelly was the basis of a maximum batting points performance as Ali chipped in with a trademark swift 34. Veteran Sinclair took the first 4 wickets and although the opposition tail wagged Donnelly added 3 wickets and Ali 2 to their earlier success with the bat.

Payne Crop Nutrition MoM: James Tuthill

2nds v Narborough B (H) League
Narborough 233-9. B&NE 162. B&NE lost by 71 runs.

Max Wiseman took 3-34 as Narborough set a healthy target of 233 while in reply only opener Damien Wheedon looked comfortable but unfortunately ran out of partners while poised for a debut century despite a cameo 16 from last man Taylor Bidewell.

Payne Crop Nutrition MoM: Damien Wheedon for his unbeaten 92

May 10th

1sts v Ketteringham Hall (H) League
B&NE 296-5 Ketteringham Hall 301-6.
B&NE lost by 4 wickets

For the neutral, a wonderful game with almost 600 runs scored saw the home side lose out with just one over remaining. A magnificent debut first team century for Tom Donnelly (121 no) and a 133 run partnership with Olly Hall (65) set the newly promoted visitors a tough target but they timed their run chase to perfection on a tough afternoon in the field for B&NE. Sinclair was his usual accurate self conceding just 33 off his 10 overs and skipper Fordham grabbed 3-55 off his 8 overs.

Payne Crop Nutrition MoM: Tom Donnelly

2nds v Mundford (A) League. B&NE 94. Mundford 95-4. B&NE lost by 6 wickets

Only 2 visiting batters made double figures, skipper Bend with 33 and Adie Greef 18. The home side took just 16

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overs to reach their target but there were 2 wickets for debutant Kyle Dzemwa.

Payne Crop Nutrition MoM: Kyle Dzemwa for his brace of wickets and energy in the field.

Upcoming Home Games

Sat June 7th 1sts v Fakenham

Sunday June 8th Ladies v North Runcion

Sat June 14th 1sts v Hardingham

Sat June 21st 2nds v Great Witchingham

Sat June 28th 1sts v Old Buckenham

Mark Ballman
Chair

VE DAY 80

What a shame no-one no one thought to motivate the village into doing something significant to remind us of VE Day 80 years ago.

We need to be reminded sometimes of the great debt we owe to those brave young men from here so that they are not forgotten. Perhaps we all felt the War was over in 1945, 80 years ago, so what difference would anything make now...we won the War along with other countries in Europe and beyond, now a long time ago.

What we must never forget is the help we had from other parts of the globe, help to rid the World of that despicable tyrant Hitler, who killed himself rather than face those his troops were fighting.

Thankfully, unlike the First World War when 36 men and 1 woman died from the village, there were only 9 young men who suffered the same fate in the Second World War. Here they are:

Alfred Horstead, Leading Seaman, the first casualty, was a Gunner and was working on a submarine. Together with the rest of the crew he perished on the 1st August 1940, aged 32 years.

Herbert Clarke was in the Royal Artillery and was on leave here, but had an accident on the way back to his Unit, on and was killed, 23rd February 1941, aged 21 years.

Charles Card, of the Pioneer Corps, died 26th February 1941 in London when a wall fell on him doing demolition work.

Walter Bartley Anderson of the North Staffordshire Regiment died on 19th July 1944, aged 18 years was buried in France.

Kenneth Snowling, Highland light Infantry, died 6 August 1944, aged 18 years. He lied about his age to join up. He is buried in France.

Edward Millatt of the Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) died 8th August 1944, aged 31 years, and was buried in France.

Frank Longley of the Coldstream Guards died 9th August 1944 aged 21. He is buried in Germany.

Cecil Bartram of the Manchester Regiment, died on the 14th April 1945, aged 20 years. He was buried in Lower Saxony, Germany.

Percy Frost of the Norfolk Regiment died 21 September 1944, aged 24 years. His final resting place is unknown. However his name is on the Krangi Memorial, in Singapore.

Janet Woodhouse

TENNIS FRIENDS GO ON A 'MIGHTY HIKE'

North Elmham Tennis Club members Liz, Kay, Clare, Cathy, Christine & Jennie joined forces to raise over £3,000 for the Norfolk Coastal Macmillan Mighty Hike between Cromer & Blakeney on Sunday 11th May.

Eds Note: Very many congratulations and well done!

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**Register your interest by
Monday 2nd June!**



NORTH ELMHAM CEVA PRIMARY ACADEMY

Our Class News

Acorn Class (Reception, Year 1 & 2)

Acorn class are enjoying the sun while exploring living things and their habitats. They have been discovering different animals around our school and identified what their habitats provide them. The children have been designing habitats for animals around the world. In Geography the children have learnt about our different continents and oceans, Acorns love spotting the United Kingdom on a map! Acorns continue to enjoy our in class space shuttle and are looking forward to creating their own moon buggies later in the year.

Oak Class (Year 3 to Year 6)

As we enjoy the luxury of more sun, Oak class moves into a busy Summer term. Over the course of this term the children will be exploring earth and space in their science, natural resources and disasters in their geography and complete field work in correlation to this. Children in year 4 and 5 will also be taking a trip to the Houses of Parliament. An exciting opportunity to enter our capital and spend time exploring



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the rich history and culture. Year 6 will also complete their SATs, something they have been working towards for some time. I'm sure you will all join us in wishing them the best in their exams.

Whole School News

Building Work Completed!

We are over the moon with the completion of the toilet project! The children have brand new toilets in the newer part of the building and two classrooms have direct access to toilets.

Easter Service

We held our Easter Service at St Mary's Church. Oak class led the service with Rev Sally. The whole school attended, they listened carefully, sat attentively and sang beautifully! Thank you to everyone who was able to provide their child with a posy, the Easter Garden looked wonderful!

Bikeability

Year 5 have been enjoying the Bikeability sessions! Bikeability helps the children learn practical skills and understand how to cycle on today's roads.

Outdoor Learning

We continue to develop this area; we now have a designated waterplay area and an outdoor kitchen area. We have made our own deadwood hedge and created a new pond space. We are looking to add cable drums of various sizes, wooden offcuts to develop the seating area and plants/flowers to continue to develop our wildflower garden. If you have anything you feel may be useful to help us continue to develop the space, please contact the school office.

Friends of North Elmham School (FONES)

The bake sale at the end of term was a huge success, the children loved preparing Easter treats for our families to enjoy!

FONES have raised some money towards the school's outdoor learning project

and look forward to supporting them in purchasing new resources for this space.

SAVE THE DATE for our first community yard sale on June 22nd, please use this link to sign up to a place on the map.

<https://forms.office.com/r/wBBsxY7XEM>

Do You Have a Child Who Will Start School 2025-2026?

If you are interested in a place for your child next academic year, we would welcome you and your child to come and look round our wonderful school and see what we have to offer!

We also have places in other year groups so please contact the school office if you are interested in a place!

North Elmham Primary Academy Nursery

We are thrilled to announce that North Elmham Primary Academy is looking to open a Nursery Class from September 2025! This new provision will offer places for children from the age of 2, providing a nurturing and stimulating environment to support their early learning journey. The funded hours can be used flexibly based on your needs as a family. For children already attending our school, we would like to continue to offer Breakfast Club and also offer after-school childcare from September 2025.

Please do this if you use the current Breakfast Club and wish to continue next term.

If you, or anyone you know, might be interested in a Nursery space for their child, we ask you to scan the QR code on the poster (page 14) and complete the form registering your interest by Monday 2nd of June and to share this information widely with friends, family and neighbours who may be interested in enrolling their children!

Thank you for your support, we hope to welcome the youngest members of our community to North Elmham School in September! If you have any questions or would like more information, please don't

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NORTH ELMHAM YOUNG FARMERS CLUB

What an exciting April and May at North Elmham Young Farmers, we have had many exciting meetings including a tour of a milking unit, a joint crabbing meeting with the Countrysiders and a rounders meeting with another Young Farmers Club.

April also saw four of our members take on a charity challenge to drive a £500 car to the most north, south, east and west point of the UK in under 48 hours. They completed the challenge raising just over £1000!

The club also competed at the 3rd competition day of the year, Farm Event. Placing in multiply competitions, the club came away with overall 2nd place and our Men's Tug of War team qualifying for the next round of competitions.

If you think Young Farmers might be for you; we meet Wednesdays at 7.30pm at The Kings Head (or see our socials for more information on where to find us!) open to ages 15-28, you don't have to be a farmer to be a young farmer! @northelmhamyfc.

BRYAN WICKS

I was saddened to hear about the recent passing of Bryan Wicks, he delivered our paper for many years, come rain or shine and always stopped for a friendly chat. He was also the milkman in the village long before that... I think that's why some gave him the nickname Ernie!

Sarah Felton



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ARTHUR WILLIAM SMITH

8 JANUARY 1938 – 7 APRIL 2025

A Life Well Lived

How do you condense 87 remarkable years into a few lines? Luckily, Arthur – or Dad, Granddad, and Great-Granddad to us – left behind notes, memories, and moments that make telling his story just a little easier.

Born at Willow Hall, Little Snoring (one of a pair of modest cottages despite its grand name), Dad was the third child of Eleanor and William. His childhood was shaped by wartime Britain and the nearby Snoring airbase – a source of excitement and fascination, especially from the attic window of Jex Farm, where he spent hours watching aircraft take off on missions, sadly, many never to return.

Dad's schooling began at Little Snoring Primary, followed by Fakenham Grammar School where his first day was memorable as all the new pupils were gathered in the hall. Names were called out and children went off with their respective form teacher. All apart from one child from Snoring left at the end. "Should I be here?" he thought, but all was well as he had been listed as Anthony and not Arthur!

At that same school assembly was a girl named Jane Gilham, who would become his wife 13 years later. Sport featured heavily in dad's school years – cricket, football, and a place on the West Norfolk Under-15s team. He was also one of only eight Norfolk boys chosen to be ball boys for the 1955 FA Cup Final – an event he proudly recalled every year.

Dad left Norfolk for Manchester University to study Biology, while Jane trained as a nurse at Westminster Hospital in London. Whilst in Manchester he was offered a football apprenticeship – with Manchester

United no less – but perhaps wisely chose teaching as that same team would soon be devastated by the Munich air disaster. Dad did however attend a one-week trial for the England Under 19s football team, but it was not meant to be.

In 1959, he began his teaching career in London before returning home to Norfolk, eventually becoming Head of Biology in 1973 at Fakenham Grammar – his old school – where he taught for over two decades. In 1962, he married Jane at Fakenham. Andy was born in 1964 and Kathy in 1969. In 1973, they moved to Eastgate Street, North Elmham – the family home for over 50 years.

Dad was much more than a teacher. He served the community in countless ways: Secretary of the Old Fakenhamian Society, Chair of the Mid Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Secretary of North Elmham Cricket Club, School Governor for North Elmham School, Trustee of two North Elmham charities, and a Church Warden for 25 years. He was also a stalwart of the Gardening Club and "Tea at Two", and a regular in badminton, tennis, and bowls. He gave many hours of his time to assist with the organisation of the village Flower Festival and Garden Fete, preparing backdrops and props for Jane's flower arrangements, and for many years both would compose a brain-teasing quiz which was sold at Flower Festival time to add to the fundraising.

Nature was a constant passion. Holidays to Scotland's remote islands and a fascination with moths (complete with a back-garden moth trap) brought him joy and connected him with his grandchildren – from inspecting catches to drawing insects and pond-dipping. Dad never lost his curiosity or care. Whether advising on homework, tracking rugby reports, progress in degree work, commenting on artwork, or watching birds with porridge in hand, he remained deeply engaged in

the lives of his grandchildren Laura, Lewis, and Tom – and later, great-grandchildren, Ryan, Freddie, and Felix. He would often be down on the floor helping to build or make something, and even as he got older he wanted to be involved as much as possible with Ryan, Freddie and Felix. There would always be some sort of toy, book or puzzle brought out of the cupboard for the boys to play with.

In the earlier years at Eastgate Street dad kept a section of the garden as a vegetable plot which, for us old enough to remember, would resemble scenes from the programme *The Good Life* with many homegrown veg and fruit bushes. Young Lewis and Laura developed a taste for homegrown fruit and would often clear the area of anything edible! Eventually this became too much for dad to look after so it was turned into a lawned area, and a greenhouse was introduced where, right up until last year, he potted up many small flowering plants and grown tomatoes, green beans and various unusual veg. You would often find him “pottering” outside.

Music was always such a great part of Jane’s life and it frustrated her that he struggled to tap out a rhythm or sing in tune – but dad always supported mum by attending concerts and music events over the years. Laura and Lewis remember that when they had a go at learning to play the keyboard with Grandma and Granddad, they would be baffled by his superior skills only to eventually realise that he would have the keyboard on demo mode and was pretending to play!

His love for Jane endured beyond her final days, during which he cared for her with gentle devotion. After her passing, he showed resilience and independence – gardening, driving, cooking, and living life on his own terms.

Dad became a great friend to his close neighbour Bob, with whom he shared



many afternoons chatting and watching sport of some sort over a cuppa. There is no doubt they had a loyal friendship over the last few years, with Bob sadly passing away just two and a half weeks before Dad. Having lived in Eastgate Street for over 50 years, they both had a great neighbour network around them which has been very comforting for family members.

Dad had a quiet humour and a store of one-liners – “you’d better eat your ice cream before it gets cold” being a family favourite. “Pimply Richard,” “where did I put...?” and “drive carefully” became phrases we’ll always hear in our hearts.

Above all, dad was a kind, generous, mild-mannered man who gave much and asked for little. His life touched so many – as a teacher, neighbour, friend, and family man. Now reunited with his beloved Jane, he leaves behind a legacy of love, quiet strength, and cherished memories.

We’ll all miss you, Dad. Keep up the good work.

Andy, Kathy and family



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WENSUM VALLEY BIRDWATCHING SOCIETY

More than once in the early months of this year we found that our proposed outings had to be cancelled because of bad weather – something that really doesn't happen very often. However we are back in the swing of things now, and in late March we decided to visit Snettisham to see the wader spectacular. The RSPB advertises the best days to see the waders at Snettisham and this Saturday was the first in 2025. Needless to say, there were a lot of people attending! We had arranged to meet in the car park at 2.00pm to beat the rush but actually were lucky to find a space before 2.00. The car park was closed shortly after that, and the beach car park alternative was also closed by 3.30! Several of our members had arranged to arrive later or to park elsewhere and in some cases we never did catch up with them.

Abandoning the idea of exploring the bushes round the car park and on the path to the beach we arrived at the shoreline to find the sea looking a very long way away and the wind to be blowing strongly and coldly. By the time we reached the shore we had seen Tufted Ducks, Coots and Mallards on the lagoons and the likes of Buzzard, Red Kite, Greylag and Egyptian Goose and common passerines from the path. Some of us managed to put up telescopes and hold them steady enough to look for waders on the mud flats, reporting Redshanks, Grey Plover and Dunlin among others. We made the decision to cross the main lagoon by the causeway at the halfway point and walk along the more sheltered side to the far hide. From the causeway we were able to view the lagoon in relatively sheltered conditions. The islands tended to each contain a single species, so one had Avocets and another Cormorants, although among the Blackheaded Gulls were a few Mediterranean Gulls. Across the lagoon were groups of Teal and Redshank. The far hide was surprisingly empty and we were

able to take a rest from the wind in seated comfort. Here we were able to see small numbers of Turnstones, Oystercatchers, Shelduck, Ringed Plover and quite a lot more Med Gulls.

At around 4.30 we made our way to the shoreline and found a gap among the crowds. It was amazing how quickly the tide came in, and quite soon small groups of Knot and Oystercatchers were lifting and swirling to move along to the available mud, and the numbers increased to include groups of Bartailed Godwits and Dunlin. Eventually groups of Knot began peeling off and flying over to the lagoon. Shortly before high tide many of us moved into the nearest hide where to our right was the expected 'beach' of Knot and Oystercatchers, the Knot looking just like a grey pebble beach. Amazingly more and more groups of hundreds of Knot kept flying in, circling around and somehow managing to settle in on the same patch of shore. We were told that the latest count of Knot was over 24,000 and I'm sure most of those were packed into this small area! We all agreed that spectacular was the right word. We made it back to the car park in time to admire the lovely sunset sky.

April saw us visit the Norfolk Wildlife trust reserve at Cley, led by Alan who is a volunteer there as well as one of our members. We spent the morning in a leisurely walk around the main part of the reserve, starting with Bishop's Hide. Progress is always slow when there is so much to see, as there always is at Cley, and it was a fairly late lunch stop, after which some members walked the alternative circuit taking in Walsey Hills and the newer Attenborough walk. There will be a full report in our May newsletter, and more in my next update.

April/May is a time when unusual birds often arrive in the area, often on migration. Many members have made the trip over the border into Suffolk this



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last week (early May) to see a group of up to six Redfooted Falcons that have settled in Carlton Marshes SWT reserve. These raptors rarely arrive here at all and certainly not in such numbers. They are beautiful birds too, and have been roosting in convenient trees as well as hunting insects over the reedbeds, often mixed with Hobbies doing the same. A lovely treat!

We are about to embark on the May programme starting with a 5.00am visit to Pensthorpe for the dawn chorus. Those intrepid enough to turn out are rewarded with a big breakfast at 8.30! More on that and other May outings next time. Details of our activities and full reports of indoor and outdoor meetings are on the website – WVBS.co.uk

Forthcoming Events

Indoor Meetings: Held at Great Witchingham Village Hall on the third Thursday of each month. Visitors are welcome for a small charge (£3.00).
Thursday 19th June: Conor Jameson 'Saving Norfolk's Birds. The W H Hudson story'.
Thursday 17th July: Summer social with George Baldock, warden of Cley NWT

Outdoor Meetings: Late June – there will be a Nightjar evening at Broadland Country Park. This is weather dependent so date will be announced later – see the website.
Also weather dependent is Saturday 5th July – Foxley Wood for butterflies.
Saturday 30th August – Carlton Marshes (Suffolk Wildlife Trust)
Full details of outdoor meetings can be found on the website WVBS.co.uk

DATES TO REMEMBER: JUNE

Mon 2nd	Countrysiders	Visit: Goat Shed, Honingham	
Tue 3rd	Knit and Natter	Pavilion	2.00 pm
Wed 4th	Sewing Parish Council	73 Eastgate Street Pavilion	2.00 pm 7.30 pm
Thu 5th	Wives + All	Wildflower walk with Dave, meet at the Chapel Ruins	6.30 pm
Sat 7th	The Riffits (live music) Musica Mira	Memorial Hall St Mary's Church	7.30 pm 7.30 pm
Wed 11th	Tea at Two	Memorial Hall	2.00 pm
Mon 16th	Countrysiders	Orienteering, Holt Country Park	6.30 pm start
Wed 18th	Mobile Library visits Sewing	The Heath to Wensum Drive 73 Eastgate Street	1.15 - 4.40 pm 2.00 pm
Sat 21st	Eco Fair	St Mary's Church	10.30 am–4.00 pm
Sat 28th	Armed Forces Day	St Margaret's Worthing	1.00 pm
Sun 29th	Gardening Club	Visit : Green Island Gardens	Leaving 8.30 am
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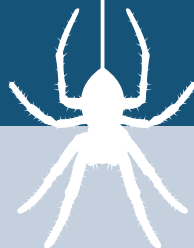
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ELMHAM WILDLIFE



It was great to hear from some of you after my piece last month, with Michael showing me a photo of a Cockchafer that had come into his house, Cornelia telling me about another local name for Cockchafer, Billy Witch (a name which, I read, may have its origins in Suffolk) and Anna from Worthing telling me how she and her husband have been catching Cockchafers in their moth trap this month. Richard from Billingham also got in touch about the Summer Chafer which I also mentioned. He recalled seeing tens of thousands of them in Norwich in the 70s, coming up out of the ground and flying around bumping into everything. He tells me that they used to call them "blind bees". A fascinating account and a stark reminder of how the numbers of insects have crashed over the last few decades.

Julia also brought something round for me to see, an insect that she did not recognise. I didn't recognise it immediately either, but after a closer look I was able to identify it as one of the bee-mimicking species of hoverfly, often known as Narcissus Bulb Fly (photo 1). Their larvae feed in bulbs but although they can sometimes be found on Narcissus (daffodils) they prefer bluebells. Several hoverfly species mimic bees, some more convincingly than others, but one of the best is the Bumblebee Plumehorn (photo 2) which is common around North Elmham.

I live near the village green and for the last few days I've been able to hear a





Whitethroat singing near the entrance. There's a small patch that's been kept unmown and it seems to have set up territory there. What a great illustration of how easily we can make things better for nature simply by doing less, not cutting everything back and "tidying" it all up too much. This little patch must be full of insect life for the Whitethroat to have deemed it a worthy place to set up home.



I haven't photographed this Whitethroat – in fact I haven't even seen it – behind neighbours' back gardens and close to a children's play area isn't a good place to hang around with binoculars and a long-lens camera! But I can hear it singing while I'm in my study and when I walk through the green. I wonder if anyone else has noticed it?

Many of our warblers tend to sing from deep within bushes making it really hard to see them. But male Whitethroats often deliver their song from an exposed perch (photo 3). When they really want to show off they fly around in song (photos 4 and 5). Such song-flights are relatively unusual among our warblers, although Sedge Warbler is another species that can often be seen singing in flight.



As well as its white throat, Whitethroats have longer tails than many of the other warblers and they have distinctive rufous-brown edges to the wing feathers and the head is usually greyer in spring (photo 6). Young birds have browner heads (photo 7) but still have the obvious rufous in the wings.

Many of our warblers have pale throats but few have such a white throat clearly set off against an off-white breast and belly. The more elusive and very different-sounding Lesser



Whitethroat shares the white throat but lacks the warm rufous-toned wings. The wings are brown, often contrasting with the grey head, but a less reddish brown than on Whitethroat. Because they're usually so skulking I don't have many good photos of Lesser Whitethroat taken in North Elmham, and the ones I do have I've used before in this column, so instead here's a photo of a unusually showy individual I saw at the coast a while back (photo 8). You can see the colder-brown wings, and also the smaller, purely grey bill. Although the legs are partly hidden you can just see that they are grey, not yellowy as on Whitethroat.

Whitethroats are vulnerable to falls in insect populations, both here on their breeding grounds and also in their sub-Saharan wintering grounds. Their numbers have fluctuated over the years – do you remember seeing more of them or fewer of them in years gone by? Or perhaps you haven't noticed them at all, in which case now is a good time to look and listen out for them. I don't know if the one on the green will still be there when you read this or not, but a good place to see them most years is at the bottom of the Cathedral Meadows, next to the railway at the bottom of the largest (northernmost) field.

I love hearing about what you've been finding so please keep on letting me know. You can email me at appleton.dave@googlemail.com or phone me on 668431. If you want to join me in celebrating the amazing nature on our doorstep then come along to the **Eco Fair at St Mary's church on Saturday 21st June** – we'd love to see you there!

Dave Appleton





COUNTRYSIDERS

Farm Event Fun at Morley Farms Sunday 27th April

Sunday 27th April marked the beginning of another exciting block of competitions for our Countrysiders. Held at Morley Farms near Wymondham, the annual Farm Event brought together teams for a full day of friendly rivalry, skilful displays, and community spirit.

The event featured a wide range of activities, including exhibits and various on-the-day competitions that showcased both individual talent and team effort. The day concluded with the always popular Tug of War—a crowd favourite and a great way to end the festivities on a high note.

It was a fantastic day for everyone involved, with plenty of smiles, teamwork, and accomplishments. We're especially proud of our Countrysiders, some of whom took home certificates in recognition of their efforts and achievements.

Here's to more events like this one, full of fun, learning, and a great sense of community.

Crab Off

What a fantastic time we had on Monday, 28th, at our 2nd Crab Off against the Senior Club, North Elmham Young Farmers held at the beautiful Wells Quay!

The sun was shining, the atmosphere was buzzing, and we were thrilled to see such a great turnout—from loyal Countrysiders to enthusiastic Seniors and curious newcomers giving it a go.

The Results? Countrysiders: 243 crabs caught. Seniors: 80 crabs caught. Victory to the Countrysiders this year!

The tide caught us a little off guard, but that didn't stop the fun—socks and shoes were off, and the laughter echoed down the

quay. It was an evening full of fun, friendly rivalry, and unforgettable moments.

Here's to many more Crab Offs to come! So much to come in the Summer programme.

We currently have 27 young people who are members and 7 young people who are currently trying us out. If you know someone who may enjoy lots of fun, the countrysider, competitions or just making new friend. Age 10-16. If they are older try our senior club North Elmham Young Farmers. You don't have to be a farmer to join young farmers.

Find us both on Facebook or Instagram you can leave us a message. Email north_elmham_cs@norfolkycf.co.uk Or call

Wendy 07557388228

WHIST BY BIKE

Looking through an old scrapbook of my mother's the other day, I was surprised how often there were Whist Drives in all the villages years ago. Quite a few of my mother's friends and herself used to bike to these whist drives. They would go to Dereham, Beetley, Gressenhall, Billingford, Brisley and Mileham. Half the time they only had one light between them on their bikes! They always had to get over a certain crossroads by a particular time because it was the meeting point for the Bobbies on the beat, and of course they were on bikes too.

The women always knew the time, because they had a policeman's wife with them, and she knew what crossroads they had to be over and the important thing – the time! They dare not be seen because most of them had only one light... or none at all. It didn't matter what the weather was like, they still went, wet or fine.

Mother can remember when Grace Moulton won a thirty pound turkey at a Christmas Drive. No one but my mother

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had a basket on their bike, so of course, she had to bike home with it, as well as a Christmas Cake that she had won.

In those days near the festive season, they would go three or four times a week to a Christmas Drive. She didn't think any of them had to buy biscuits, chocolates or crackers as well as drink of some sort, plus vouchers from butchers. As for Christmas cakes, they were eating them well into the new year.

In the summer time there were Solo Drives as well as Whist Drives.

She went on to say wouldn't it be nice to see a return to both Whist and Solo Drives in the village.

This all happened in the late 40's and 50's and was told to me by mum, Doris.

Janet Woodhouse

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Dear Friends,

June is a month of Thanksgiving! Towards the end of the month, we celebrate nature and all of its beauty and bounty at the Eco-Fair at St Mary's Church, Saturday 21st June 10.30am-4pm. We are so blessed to be surrounded by nature and increasingly conscious of the need to protect precious habitats. Do come along to be inspired by wildlife organisations, conservations groups and our local schools, as we give thanks for the rich ecology which we enjoy here in Norfolk.

The following day, 22nd June, Bishop Graham will join us for a celebratory service at St Mary's (10.30am). He is the lead spokesman for the Church of England on environmental issues, so we look forward to what he has to say!

Meanwhile, we celebrate Pentecost on 8th June (Acts chapter 2). Known in my childhood as 'Whit Sunday', we recall how

the Holy Spirit filled Jesus' disciples with confidence and joy, so that they could go out and witness to Jesus as God's chosen Saviour. It was quite an event – over 3,000 people became Christians, and so the Church was 'born'.

Those first disciples became 'apostles' – literally sent out to teach and care for people following Jesus' example. In June, we remember Barnabas, the encourager; the birth of John the Baptist – Jesus' cousin who baptised Jesus and introduced him to others; and finally Peter and Paul. Paul we remember from his dramatic conversion to Christianity on the road to Emmaus and how he went on extraordinary missionary journeys, setting up church groups and teaching them about the Christian faith. Peter became known as the first "bishop" of Rome, even though he was executed under the brutal regime of the time.

St Peter, and his witness, has always inspired the Church. This year, on his feast day, 29th June, Michael Newey from North Elmham will be ordained Deacon, following in that long line of priestly ministers who have served the Church faithfully for 2,000 years. We give thanks for Michael and pray God's blessing on him as he prepares to serve the Church in the Dereham Team.

Yours, in Christ,

Revd Sally

WORTHING NEWS

On behalf of St Margaret's Church, our Team Rector Sally Kimmis and PCC members wish to say a BIG thank you to everyone that helped and join in the fun packed Easter week and also at the start of May.

Starting with our Iona evening service on the 15th April, Pilgrim Cross visit on Maundy Thursday, Easter Day Duck Race, Easter Bonnet Parade including a

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Children's Easter Story and our Annual May Day Cream Tea afternoon on the 5th May, we welcomed many visitors, close to 250 people, toddlers and some in pushchairs, from across the Region. Worthing village was on Top Form and clearly everyone dedicated to sustaining your little church. Easter Egg prizes were plentiful. Our 16 winners this year were: Steve, Sally, Ford Family, Clare, Ivy, Cuthbert family, Ottie, Eddie, Sue, Bryan, Harry, Freya, Leo, Gatherine, Graham and the Mullins family.

And for the first time, an Easter Bonnet parade which drew out the creative side of many. We saw some interesting bonnets and also top hats but not necessarily in traditional style. Top hats sporting a Helter Skelter, Easter cake with candles and even in the elegant style of Kay Kendall (Genevieve!) with her bonnet secured safely in chiffon. A wonderful turnout! See you all next year!

Finally, our Cream Tea Afternoon serving some scrummy cakes and pots of tea etc., with a raffle bonanza distributing a fabulous range of goodies from bottles of wine, chocolates, playball, toiletries, kitchenware and plants. All winners went home happy and armed with their prizes.

With a combined total of donations, £851.13 was raised however, like many households, and your church is no different, to maintain YOUR Community Hub, St Margaret's will now be able to address some repairs and support the Church Building Appeal. Once again, Thank you.

For June our services fall on the 1st Holy Communion Service at 9.00 am and 15th Iona Service starting at 10.30 am, both followed by refreshments and a chat with the locals. We hope you are able to join us.

Celebrating Armed Forces Day

Saturday 28th June, from 1pm

In the grounds of St Margaret's Church

Bring n Share Luncheon, Bring n Share Stories, Singalong, Uniforms/themed dress and any memorabilia.

Celebrating all sections of our armed forces in service today and commemorating Victory in Europe 80th, Victory Day and all combat since.

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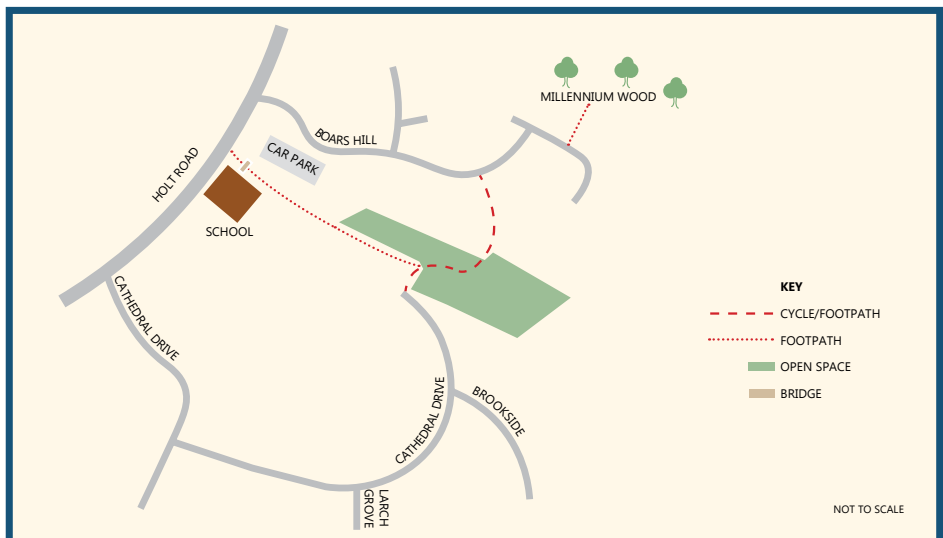




BOARS HILL NEW FOOTPATHS

Photo 1: Looking up the cycle path from Cathedral Drive entrance. **Photo 2:** Entrance to the cycle path from Cathedral Drive. **Photo 3:** Footpath toward the school, car park and Holt Road. **Photo 4:** Entrance to Millennium Wood. **Photo 5:** Exit from Millennium Wood into Boars Hill. **Photo 6:** Looking down the cycle path towards the Cathedral Drive exit. **Photo 7:** Footbridge to the school from the car park - please note this is closed until a fence is in place to prevent accidental access to the stream. **Photo 8:** exit out to Cathedral Drive.

To all dog walkers: Please note there is currently no dog waste bin installed on Boars Hill, your nearest bins are at the junction of Holt Road/Cathedral Drive or Chapel Ruins Car Park. Hopefully, one will be installed soon near the car park or cycle path, until then please clear up and take it with you.





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The weather over the last few weeks has been glorious and it's been one of the driest and sunniest springs in about 60 years. Gardens need watering, paddling pools come out and hot tubs powered up.

But the lack of rain also means there is less water in the environment. The River Wensum runs beside the village and is one of the globally rare chalk streams which supports an unusual diversity of wildlife. Although it's unlikely that there will be hose pipe bans this year, the less water we use the more is available for the fish, insects, frogs and water voles that live in our rivers. Opposite are a few ways you can try and use less water and benefit the environment.

Many of us in the village will have smart water meters which measure how much water your household uses on a day-to-day basis. You can access the data through the Anglian Water App and maybe set yourself a challenge to see how low you can go.

Any other water saving tips? Share them on the NELS Facebook group.

*Vitty Danino
North Elmham
Living Sustainably (NELS) Group*

Take showers rather than baths. Showers use much less water than baths – if you want an idea of how much just leave the plug in next time you use a shower that's above a bath. You can also collect the shower water and use it to water the garden.

Have a competition to see who in the house can take the shortest shower and still get clean (and you get the added benefit of a few more minutes in bed).

Make sure all your plumbing is working OK. A lot of people have 'leaky loos' where water keeps draining from the loo cistern into the pan which wastes a lot of water, as do dripping taps.

Use watering cans instead of hose pipes to water your garden (or don't water at all – everything that's alive in our garden is drought tolerant & it's one less chore so you can enjoy the sun!).

Put lids on pans when boiling water for cooking. The water boils more quickly and you use less of it.

Think about whether your clothes are dirty or if you can wear them again before washing. Washing clothes too frequently can be bad for them and put micro-plastics into the water courses.

Turn off the tap while you're brushing your teeth.

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CHURCH SERVICES JUNE



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1ST JUNE – 7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

9:00 am	Worthing	Holy Communion
9:30 am	Wood Norton	Morning Praise
10:30 am	North Elmham	Holy Communion
10:30 am	Stibbard	Holy Communion
10:30 am	Bawdeswell	Word & Praise

8TH JUNE – PENTECOST

10:30 am	North Elmham	Iona Holy Communion
10:30 am	Billingford	Family Service; speaker Revd Emmy Wilson
10:30 am	Bawdeswell	Holy Communion
10:30 am	Foulsham	Holy Communion

15TH JUNE – TRINITY SUNDAY

10:30 am	Wood Norton	Holy Communion
10:30 am	Worthing	Iona Morning Praise
10:30 am	Bawdeswell	The 10:30

22ND JUNE – 1ST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

9:00 am	Guist	Holy Communion
10:30 am	North Elmham	Group Holy Communion – Eco-Fair weekend
10:30 am	Stibbard	Morning Praise
10:30 am	Bawdeswell	Holy Communion

29TH JUNE – 2ND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

10:30 am	Norwich Cathedral Ordination of Deacons – Michael Newey (N Elmham)	
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Services at Bawdeswell All Saints are available on Zoom – please contact Robin Taylor for joining details: robin.bawdeswell@gmail.com

CONTACT DETAILS

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

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

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

COVER: Sarah Felton
PAGE 29–31: Dave Appleton
PAGE 32: Wendy Cottrell
PAGE 38–39: Sarah Felton



NORTH ELMHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Vice Chair: Martin Phillips, 01362 668 409

Ann Ferris, 01362 668 580

Tom Fitzalan Howard, 01362 668 232

Brian Gee, 01362 422 799

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Joe Sowinski, 07960 287528

PARISH CLERK

Kevin J Webb, 01328 855046

northelmhampc@hotmail.co.uk

MEETINGS

Held on 1st Wednesday of the month in the Pavilion at 7.30pm. All parishioners welcome. Public participation takes place at the beginning of each meeting. County and district councillors attend meetings whenever possible.

Between meetings specific matters for the Parish Council can be notified according to the list below.

VILLAGE FACILITIES

Allotments.....	Martin Phillips
Broom Green & Pound	To be confirmed, contact Parish Clerk
Cathedral Meadows	Tom Fitzalan Howard, Ann Keeble
Cathedral Ruins.....	Ann Keeble, Tom Fitzalan Howard
Eastgate Centre.....	Martin Phillips, Paul Grainger, Tom Fitzalan Howard
Millennium & Jubilee Wood.....	Joe Sowinski
Playing Field & Pavilion.....	Colin Smith, Ann Ferris
Prince William Wood.....	Nick Markwell, Brian Gee
Village Green	Colin Smith, Brian Gee
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Clergy - All telephone numbers local code (01362)

Church of England	Reverend Sally Kimmis Reverend Richard Turk	heartofnorfolkrector@gmail.com revdrichardrww@gmail.com	668850 07721 035009
Roman Catholic	Father Jay T Magpuyo	35 London Rd, Dereham	694066
Methodist	Rev Betty Trinder	31 Trinity Close, Dereham	695582
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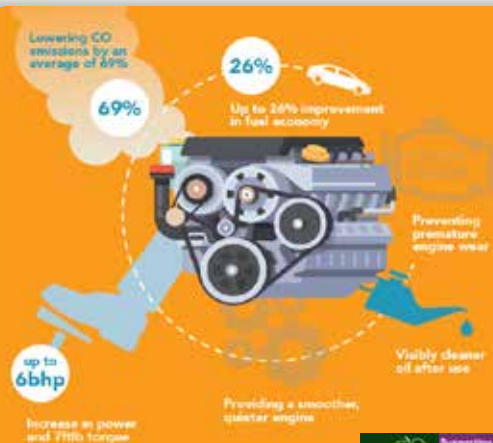
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