

Elmhurst News

APRIL 2021

OUR VILLAGE COMMUNITY MAGAZINE



Cathedral Meadows
see pages 34–35

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Editorial

Let's hope we are all feeling more optimistic about the future, now that so many of us have received our jabs, the children are back to school, and more lockdown measures will be eased this month. Obviously, we will all still need to be careful and not go over the top!

Hopefully, the weather will be good enough for us in mid April to hold our monthly editorial meeting in a garden (in accordance with the rule of six change from 29th March). We thought you might find our current meeting arrangements amusing (photo below)... Janet is on the phone!

Regarding the lost roses from the churchyard, it seems we may have four footed friends to blame. All we need is a volunteer to sleep there for a night or two to see if it really is a deer!

We are also hoping to get back to a What's On page to remind everyone of our activities. The Tennis Club and the King's Head Bowls are preparing to get back into the swing of things.

We do not apologise for our words on dog fouling round the open spaces of our village, it is getting to be a problem and we want people who do not clear up after their dogs to take responsibility.

On a final note, the daffodils along the main Billingford Road and other places where they have been planted, are beginning to "dance and sing" and cheer us up.

Thanks for donations go to Anon, Mr & Mrs Harrison, Chris Skipper and June Webb.



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North Elmham Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 3rd March, (via Zoom)

The following information is taken from the Draft PC minutes. The full official minutes can be viewed in the Post Office and on the community website, once approved.

Councillors present were Mrs. J. Borgnis (Chair), Mr. M. Phillips, Mr. B. Gee, Miss A. Ferris, Mr. T. Fitzalan Howard, Mr. P. Grainger, Mrs. A. Keeble, Mr. J. Labouchere, Mr. N. Markwell, Mr. M. Rayner and Mr. C. Smith

Also in attendance: Mr. K. Webb (Clerk), Mr. C. Hill (Elmham News) and Mr. I. and Mrs. S. Ball (Webmasters)

Apologies for absence: Mr. B. Borrett (County/District Councillor)

Public Participation

Mr. Hill raised the following matters:

a) A piece had appeared in the latest edition of Elmham News regarding the railway line. This matter would be discussed later in the meeting.

b) It was asked if a site had been located for the possible exception housing scheme. This matter would also be addressed later in the meeting.

c) A request has been made for a village litter pick. It would be difficult to organise at the moment during the present lockdown restrictions. However, a few volunteers are litter picking on a regular basis. The matter will be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

d) A parishioner has mentioned the deep mud on the bridleway. This issue is the responsibility of Norfolk County Council and is a long standing problem which has regularly occurred over many years. Improvement in the situation is reliant on the farmer's cooperation.

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

Volume 44, No 2, March 2021

DONATIONS APPRECIATED

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In addition, a parishioner has raised some questions with Mr. Phillips, but it will not be possible to deal with these until face to face meetings recommence. Two senior citizens wish to be driven to a suitable place for them to enjoy a walk. Due to the current Covid-19 restrictions, it is not possible to drive others in private cars.

Land Management Matters

Village Green: Mr. Smith advised that enquiries had been made with regard to the possible footpath from Oak Avenue to Spencers Close. A quotation is to be obtained. Rubbish bins have been emptied but it is extremely disappointing to note that increasing numbers of dog faeces are being deposited on the green, in the Cathedral Ruins and on paths in the village. All dog owners are asked to clear up waste after it has been deposited by their pets. A note is to be placed in Elmham News.

Cathedral Ruins: Mr. Duffield has placed additional gravel on paths and the car park.

Cathedral Meadows: Mr. Phillips has received the usual annual letter from Brown and Co. regarding the Single Farm Payment. A response has been returned to them. Mr. Fitzalan Howard will deal with the Higher-Level Stewardship arrangements and will liaise with Mr. Phillips with a view to taking over responsibility for the process next year. The hedges have been cut and, in future, will not be cut more frequently than every two years. The contractor, Mr. Scott, is to burn the brush, probably after at least a month has passed, at a cost of about £200.

Broom Green: Mr. Labouchere reported that the culvert had previously been badly repaired and he had discussed the matter with Mr. Cook who had offered to cover the cost of necessary work with the Parish Council on a 50/50 basis. It is thought that some of the residents, (not tenants of Mr. Cook), may be prepared to make contributions to the cost. The estimated

expenditure is £3,000, (i.e. a maximum of £1,500 from the Parish Council), and Mr. Labouchere will obtain quotations.

Millennium Wood (and Jubilee Wood): The contractor will fit the required tree supports in due course.

Bridleway on Disused Railway Line and Other Railway Linked Matters: The Mid Norfolk Railway has advised that the bridge needs to be demolished for safety reasons and this is likely to happen in late summer or early autumn. They are planning to construct a corrugated tunnel under the bridge so that people can walk safely in this area. The matter is to be discussed at a Board meeting in the very near future. The County School path is flooded and has become very muddy. The residents have been using the track bed. The MNR acknowledges that the provision of a more accessible path is needed. The solution is to move the path along the drainage ditch with the fence placed slightly further up the embankment. Mr. Rayner is to hold a meeting on 4th March with the Chairman of MNR and the "Thursday gang". The view is that a pathway along the top of the embankment is the preferred option. The MNR still describes the path as a permissive one. The Parish Council's strong opinion is this is not the case. Residents have a right to walk on it at all times and the route from County School to Broom Green is marked as a public right of way on the Ordnance Survey map. There is an entitlement to walk from Elmham Station to County School.

The matter is to be discussed further at the next Parish Council meeting. In the meantime, Mr. Rayner is to advise MNR that Breckland Council are being kept informed of the situation.

Highway Matters

Mr. Grainger is to contact the new Highway Engineer (Matt Lines) regarding the path

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across the Village Green and a number of road surfaces which have broken up.

The grit bin in Elm Close has not been adopted by Norfolk County Council and, as such, they will not refill it. Members agreed to cover the cost for grit for this bin, in future.

Mr. Fitzalan Howard mentioned that signs are currently being erected to mark the Walsingham Way route.

Allotments

Mr. Phillips reported that the final plot has been let.

Pavilion and Playing Field

Mr. Smith reported that the new bench and the broken bench at the bottom of Orchard Close are both due to be replaced in the near future. The charges for North Elmham Cricket Club in respect of the 2021 season will remain the same as those which were applied in 2019. i.e. a contribution of £270 towards grass cutting and a fee of £13.20 per match.

Youth Club Facilities

Mr. Fitzalan Howard reported that he has had a meeting with the Funding Officer of the Lottery Youth Council. Grants of up to £10K are potentially available under the Awards for All scheme. Other funding may be available. A survey is to be carried out and this will be placed in the May edition of Elmham News. An initial advice of the forthcoming survey will appear in the April issue.

Online Banking

Mr. Grainger confirmed the revised procedures for making payments which will be as follows:

- a) The Clerk/RFO will produce and circulate to all members a list of payments each month in advance of the meeting.
- b) Following approval of items at the meeting, an authorised signatory will enter the payments on to the payment system.

c) A second authorised signatory will check the payments for accuracy and, when satisfied, will release for payment.

d) The Clerk/RFO will carry out a final check, in addition to the existing procedures involving the bank account statements.

Affordable Housing Update

Mr. Rayner had circulated a draft article for Elmham News, prepared by Ed Mumford-Smith, Head of Development at Broadland Housing Association. Exception sites are expected to deliver 100% affordable homes but it has previously been mentioned that one or two market homes may be needed to ensure that the scheme is viable. Members expressed surprise that the draft article states that the proposal is for approximately one third of the overall development to be sold on the open market. Mr. Rayner will speak to Broadland Housing to request a needs assessment survey to be carried out. In the meantime, the article will be held until the results of the survey are received.

Risk Management Considerations & Updates

Confirmation in the change of the Parish Council's Bank mandate has been received from Barclays Bank. The authorised signatories are Mrs. Borgnis, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Grainger, Mr. Labouchere and the Clerk.

Proposals Relating to North Elmham Football Club

A letter had been received from Chris Reeve, Chairman of North Elmham Football Club who has outlined the progress already made since the reforming of the Club. A number of queries were raised and it was agreed to respond as follows:

- a) The proposal for extra storage is considered to be a good idea with a secure container sited in an area near to the main building. It would be necessary to give agreement to its precise location.

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b) The members felt unable to commit to expenditure for the purchase of a ride on mower at the present time.

c) The Parish Council changed its grounds maintenance contractor almost three years ago. The members are very pleased with the current arrangements which involve a not insignificant contract covering almost a dozen areas throughout the parish. As such, economies have been achieved resulting from the wide-ranging nature of the work involved. In addition, a contracted agreement has already been entered into for 2021.

d) There is no objection, in principle, to the painting of the changing room but we ask for detailed proposals to be submitted to the members, for approval, before any commitment is made. It is also suggested that the views of Cricket Club should be sought on this matter.

e) The members were interested in the request for a small stand but felt this item should be revisited at a time when the Club has become established. Consideration will also need to be given on receipt of the results of the survey, which will be undertaken in the reasonably near future, to desired youth facilities. It remains to be seen as to what space will be needed and where any possible facilities will be sited.

The members were pleased with the excellent progress made to date and all look forward to the exciting prospect of, once again, having a vibrant football club in the village.

Planning Applications & Determinations

Applications

(i) Mr. Chapman – proposed dormer to front of property and first floor extension to rear – 3PL/2021/0196/HOU – 64 Station Road. The members agreed to make no comment on this application but is to draw to the attention of the District Council views expressed by a parishioner.

(ii) Mr. and Mrs. Leeder – erection of single storey bungalow (3 bedrooms) and detached garage – 3PL/2021/0230/F – garden land to the rear of 38 Oak House Station Road – no objections.

(iii) Mr. S. Blackmore – full planning barn conversion to allow for the extension of the eaves – 3PL/2021/0285?F – Kings Head Farm Barns, Back Lane – no objections.

(iv) Land adjacent to Brookside Farm, 74 Holt Road – 3PL/2021/0281/F. Marked as “withdrawn invalid”. Mr. Rayner to investigate with Breckland Council.

Correspondence

- 1) Letter of introduction from Matt Lines, new Highway Engineer at NCC.
- 2) Letter from an anonymous parishioner drawing attention to the deep mud on the bridleway caused by the farmer’s cattle and foul water coming from their sheds.
- 3) Letter from parishioner seeking guidance on hedge cutting with regard to the nesting of birds.
- 4) E-mail from a local Group advising they have the chance to be given up to 400 trees by the Woodland Trust and wondering where they could put them. (They are to be put in touch with a local landowner who has a large gap) in a hedge.
- 5) Advice from Biffa of increase in charges – container rental of £0.70 per week increased by 2p per day.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- a) Specific member responsibilities for Messrs Gee and Markwell.
- b) Defibrillators.
- c) Litter pick

Next Meeting

Wednesday, 7th April at 7.30 pm (Zoom).



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Oh Deer!

Following the report in last month's magazine when it was thought that the floral tributes for Brue Webb had been stolen, I immediately thought it would not have been a person, but more likely deer! I am a fairly regular visitor to the churchyard and from experience know that deer eat flowers placed on graves. They seem to be particularly partial to roses and carnations! There are certain flowers they don't eat; chrysanthemums and daffodils don't seem to be to their liking!

It would be a horrible thought that people were responsible for stealing flowers but I am quite sure that the deer are regular visitors.

As you will see from the photos above, the blooms are their favourite, leaving the stems!

Caroline Payne

Do You Ever Need Transport?

Do you have a vehicle so you can go out whenever you like? If you are not very mobile and can no longer drive life can be tough. You might not be able to walk as far as the bus stop and carrying bags of shopping home could be a problem.

Years ago, there was a scheme here in the village or at least in the immediate area where, if you needed to go to the dentist or hairdressers, you could ring and book someone in a car to pick you up and bring you back for whatever was charged for each mile you travelled.

Is there anyone or an organisation here who would be prepared to look into such a scheme for the village? It would be a lot of hoops to go through, insurance, police checks and so on. You would need to be brave!

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Do let us know.

Letter to the Editors From an Irate Resident

Would the dirty person depositing dog poo in my dustbin PLEASE STOP. This is the SECOND TIME of asking. You know who you are.

Put it in your own dustbin or even better in either of the two bins provided on the Village Green, Eastgate Street entrance. It's not too far from where you live!!! If you feel responsible enough to own a dog, be responsible as to where you deposit it's poo.

A Resident of Eastgate Street

Knit and Natter

The Big Knit Campaign.

We are looking to collect, throughout Norfolk, 8,500 small hats for Innocent Smoothie bottles. When sold, Innocent will donate 25p per hat, which means, if Norfolk hits this target, we'll be raising over £2,000 for Age UK Norfolk. If you would like to get involved with the Big Knit, this campaign is to continue for some months. So later this year, I will be delighted to receive your knitted creations, the more imaginative the better, and I will get them to Age uk Norfolk.

We'd love you to knit lots of lovely little hats for this year's Big Knit, and whether you are a knitting novice or expert, it couldn't be easier. See the simple pattern

below. Make yourself a nice cup of tea, find a comfy chair, and knit away. If you want more details and ideas go to the Age UK web site and follow the link to "Big Knit".

Striped Hat for Beginners by Juliet Bernard

- Blue and white DK, 4mm needles
- Cast on 31 stitches in blue
- Knit 2 rows
- Change to white and beginning with a knit row, continue in stocking stitch as follows:
 - 2 rows white, 2 blue, 2 white, 2 blue, 2 white, 2 blue.
 - Continue in blue
 - Next row: K2tog to last stitch, K1 (16 stitches)
 - Next row: Purl
 - Last row: K2tog to end (8 stitches)
 - Cut yarn leaving approx. 5 inches 10 cm length. Thread this through sewing needle and bring through stitches and pull to tighten.
- Join side seams.
- Make a blue and white pompom and sew securely to top of the hat.

Sorry no meetings as yet, but I thought you might like to join in with something like this to keep you out of trouble.

Best wishes to everyone, keep safe and warm.

Eileen Cotterill 01362 668380

P.S. I put the word out yesterday, and before I was out of bed this morning, six little hats had appeared on my doorstep. Thanks June. Here we go!

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We still have a lot more capacity to assist people locally and would love them to get in contact so they can benefit. It is open to ALL. If you know anyone who has lost their job, requiring free school meals, unable to get out or just finding it difficult to cope tell them that we're here to help. Or even better, take them a bag full of goodies!

Drop in to Elmham Church (open daylight hours) and help yourself or call the numbers below if you would prefer a free delivery to your door.

Call 07796 493 495 or 07933 295388.

Flowerpots Needed

Please can we recycle any flowerpots that you don't need? Those ones you have been hoarding for years, now covered in cobwebs at the back of the shed?

We would be most grateful for any you can spare us . We particularly need bigger ones i.e. 6 inches diameter/1–1.5 litres or more, for potting up our extra plants.

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Tish



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Who Are Our Cartoonists

We asked our new cartoonists to tell us a little bit about themselves...

Doggy Tails

Terry Hylton

Terry moved back to Norfolk 4 years ago from Buckinghamshire where he had worked as a Creative Director for CGI commercials, TV programmes and LEGO to name but three.

His sister the Rev Jane Nursey from Scarning had told Terry that she had a very talented illustrator friend Pauline who lived near him. "In actual fact" said Terry "I was walking up from my old barn at the end of Eastgate Street to Pauline's house to introduce myself when I got the idea for our cartoon. Originally I had suggested 'Pauline's Pooches' as I knew she loved drawing dogs, but we settled on Doggy Tales!

I see lots of dogs (and their owners) walking to and fro and many make me smile and make me wonder what the dogs are thinking! I thought it might raise a smile to readers of the magazine especially in these strange times.

So I come up with an idea and send a very rough sketch through to Pauline, who then proceeds to produce one of her lovely little drawings. I then normally tweak my words a bit when I see what Pauline has come up with and put the final illustration together in my computer.

Some months, I don't know what we will do until the last minute, other times I have an idea I have been kicking around for a few weeks and think 'Oh that might be nice.' Like our seasonal cartoons at Christmas and New Year."

Pauline Adams

Pauline and her husband Stephen have lived in Eastgate Street since 1984, having moved from London where she taught art in high school.

While their two children were young, she turned her hand to illustration, combining that with part time teaching and working in various libraries, on occasions juggling all three in one week.

Pauline was born in Bristol and grew up on the south coast but her husband, like Terry is a Norfolk boy and couldn't wait to return home and who couldn't fall in love with Norfolk at first sight? She was more than happy to move here.

'I've always loved drawing and painting' she says 'And when Terry approached me with his great idea, I couldn't wait to have a go! He does all the hard work, comes up with the ideas & cleverly tweaks them digitally, I just draw what he suggests!'

Some of the dogs are based on actual local dogs, with their owner's permission of course (thanks Woody, Anne-Marie & Cliff, Jane & Sue) but others have to be imagined. I'd like to find a Dalmatian to draw.

Meanwhile, let Terry and I know if your dog would like to be featured in Doggy Tales!

Gardening Cartoons

"I come from an Arts and Music upbringing in Hampstead London. Worked in Art/Design and still Freelancing to offer Garden Design, Exhibition, Theatre and Fine Art. Day to day I help NHS surgeries with many jobs and assist Norfolk families with gardening/maintenance all over Norfolk.

I live in the village with partner Jane and our Welsh Terrier Thomas."

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Spong Hill Excavation

My first season at the Spong Hill excavation was 1977. I had just started a course in photography and O levels at Kings Lynn Tech. As I left school with no real qualifications, and after a brief visit to Cromer dole office, I realised I needed to do something about it! I had from my early teens been interested in archaeology and had done holiday work on sites around the East of England which gave me a head start. I contacted the Norfolk Archaeological Unit and after speaking to Dr Peter Wade Martins, was put in touch with Dr Catherine Hills, the Spong Hill director. She took me on initially just to excavate, but luckily for me I was working with a lot of talented and supportive people, which helped shape my life in archaeology, and I became site photographer.

Archaeology in the 1970's was in a renaissance, with the government and universities throwing lots of money at it.

This led to a huge amount of fantastic work by a lot of talented people all over the country. Sites like Spong were completely excavated unlike today where, for the most part, only very small samples of a site are looked at. This is a real pity. This availability of funds kept sites like Spong going for many seasons and made you feel as if you were part of the story. The other plus was that it brought students in from all over. Spong had a team of Polish people one year which was very unusual at that time. We also had Americans and other young European people which made for a fantastic atmosphere.

When I started, I was cycling every day from Holt as I lived between my parents' and grandparents' houses. This was tough, a 40-mile round trip with sometimes heavy work all day! But I had salvation in Spong Farm, which was rented to us by Simon Thompson, the landowner, as diggers' accommodation and after a month or so I got a space. It was a walk-in



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cupboard above the front door and stairs. This sounds bad but was just big enough for a bed and was my own space. The room it led off from had about 20 people sleeping in it! That summer there were probably up to 35 or 40 people living in or around the house some in tents and at one stage the barn at the back was cleared of mice and people slept happily in there. We had one lavatory and a bath for everyone. I wonder how that would go down today. I would not have missed the experience for the world!

The atmosphere in the house was like a party all the time and the sun always seemed to be shining. The lack of facilities provided us with opportunities, however. The Railway Tavern pub, run by the legendary Gordon, was a 20-minute walk from the back of the house over the fields and along the then very rotten railway line. We would go off after supper several nights a week and Gordon would charge us the sum of 50p for a bath. It was taken in turns so only the first couple would get hot water! We could then relax with a few pints of Norwich bitter. Another alternative if it had been a warm day was to go down to the river with some shampoo and have a swim and wash your hair, then back to the pub for a beer! Gordons's son Colin, who later took over the pub, ran, "probably, the best disco in the world". At the end of each season, we would have a party in the barn at the side of the pub with all the people from the other excavations running in Norfolk at the time and dance away to Colin's terrific disco. In 1979 we all lived in tents at the back of the pub due to no longer being able to have the house, handy for the pub!

The site provided us with some amusing incidents like running for cover to avoid being sprayed from the air by the crop spraying aircraft, and being smoked out by stubble burning. We had a site van and about one evening a week, to further our archaeological education, it would take

us along with a car or two, to a site like Warham Camp. Warham, like all the sites we visited had a very good pub! I must add, we always had a dedicated teetotal driver. One year we were asked to put on an exhibition of finds and information in the village hall. The villagers always seemed very keen on knowing what we had found. Because of the value of some of the finds, I volunteered to spend several nights sleeping in the hall with a selection of cremated and skeletal remains along with their life possessions, some of my friends thought I was very brave.

My last winter living in Elmham was spent travelling out to sites around Norfolk. I had an old caravan which belonged to Catherine Hills. The only heat was a tiny coal stove which went out about 2 o'clock in the morning and in the snow, it was truly freezing. Gordon came to my rescue with the caravan as when I moved in, all the gas system was blocked so the cooker and lights did not work. He gave me a nearly empty gas cylinder from the beer, and I blew it through, making a lot of spiders homeless. Beer to the rescue again!

I feel privileged to have worked at Sponge and been part of the Elmham story. It shaped a 30-year career in Archaeology and led to many friendships. Some are memories, but some people I am still in regular contact with and look forward to seeing again after lock-down. Some people went on to TV, and great academic careers, and the village should be proud of its Saxon cemetery as the work done by Catherine Hills and the team during and after the dig, was world class and is a highly regarded work on the period. I settled in Dereham and still think fondly as we go past the now hedged over entrance to the site and through Elmham, of those days in the 70's when the sun always seemed to be shining and I go up Church Hill in the car, easier than after a day's digging on my bike!

Dave Wicks

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Gardening News

April is the best month for planting outside as the soil is warming up, the risk of frost is also subsiding, allowing plants to put on growth quickly.

Vegetables like potatoes, broad beans, peas, turnips, beetroot, early carrots, and parsnip can be sown.

Salads like lettuce, spring onions and radish are a few ideas of seeds and plants to be grown outside now, but keep your fleece or cloches handy in case of late frosts,

A Few Tips for April

- Cut out any plain green shoots from variegated shrubs
- Pinch out sweet pea & new fuchsias tips
- Tidy up & deadhead camellias
- Prune winter flowering heathers
- Cut back old peony stems
- Tie climbing roses to supports
- Split & divide old herb clumps
- Sow lawn seed onto bare patches

A busy month for everyone who likes gardening and for those not so keen, just buy a pack of seeds and plant in a small area in the garden or in pots on the window sill and see the results which can be rewarding whether they are vegetables or flowers.

Take care

Ray

Madhouse

At Madhouse we know how important it is for children to be able to run around and play. In normal times you would have seen us outdoors in the play park and around the village, each day, keeping well and active. Instead, we have been visiting Prince William Wood, which has been

giving us some amazing opportunities to see the changes of the season, along with playing in the garden.

After being part of the Get Active Course in 2019 and attending a recent zoom update meeting, we were informed that only 44.9 % of children (nationally), were having 60+ minutes of active play per day. We set about thinking of ideas for how our children can continue this important ethos as they stay at home.

Physical activity is any movement at this age and is so important for a wide variety of reasons.

We came up with the idea of sending a box of open ended resources (small and large ball, chalk, balloons and sponges), along with some printed ideas, for all our families to try.

It is good for us all to move around and get exercise, which is why we are sending you all a keep well and active message.

When we can all mix again, we hope to put on another get active event together.

Debbie, Dawn and Katie

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLES' ACTIVITIES SURVEY

This is just to remind you that the Parish Council's survey for village activities will be delivered with the May edition of the Elmham News. Please start thinking now about what sports and play activities would be most popular in the village.

Look out for it as this will be your chance to have your say on these important matters.

Thank You

A big THANK YOU for the many cards, phone calls and offers of help from our neighbours and the rest of you kind people in North Elmham and surrounding villages.

The shock of losing Brue was terrible, and also the loss of his brother who sadly died whilst staying with us at the time. We all tested positive for Covid and became ill, but sadly with underlying problems, with heart and kidneys, both brothers died within three days of each other.

Brue and I had been married for 56 years and moved to Elmham 42 years ago with our family. It speaks for itself how happy we were to live here. Elmham is a special place and supports you in your hour of need.

We are a close family and with the caring people in the village you all helped us to get through this terrible time. A special thanks to Karl and Dawn who are always there for us especially over the last year.

How touched we were as we followed the hearse up Eastgate Street to see so many of you who turned out in the snow and slippery conditions to pay a final farewell to Brue and also those who waited at the church. As only 30 mourners were allowed inside the church sadly, we could not invite you all in to join us.

A big 'thank you' to Sally the Vicar for a comforting service and also the interment at the graveside in the snow. Paul Littleproud and his men also did a great job in the circumstances. Paul arranged a pathway to be made through the snow from the gate near the Institute to the graveside, making it as safe as possible for the mourners.

We are hopefully getting to the end of this terrible time with Covid and with everyone having injections by the summer making it a safer place to live in. Till then stay safe and follow the rules.

Once again, many thanks to you all.

June, Kevin, Shawn, Kim and Tia Webb.

Mid-Norfolk Railway Update

Having read the article in last month's Elmham News, I was sorry to find that it was felt that the Mid-Norfolk Railway did not communicate terribly well with the village about future plans and developments. I very much hope this was the view of an individual rather than a crowd but I'm very pleased to have the opportunity to let the village know what's going on as far as the heritage railway is concerned. I also intend to offer more frequent reports for the village to read in future editions of Elmham News.

Communication is, though, two sided so, if you ever have a specific question or concern, please don't hesitate to drop us an email at info@mnr.org.uk and we will do our best to respond as quickly as possible.

Firstly, I have good news about the area of the footpath just south of County School Station which flooded recently. While we are very keen that walkers should not actually walk on the railway line, by which I mean the rails and sleepers, it has been agreed to create a new footpath next to the line itself. We will, though, have to put up a new fence next to the line first and I'm pleased to report that our volunteers have already measured the distance the new fence needs to cover and are preparing the materials. We, like everyone else, have been badly affected by the pandemic and many of our volunteers have had to self-isolate but, as soon as restrictions are lifted sufficiently, the fence is a priority. Once this is in, we will make gaps in the old fence to allow access to the new path while still leaving the original path next to the stream available for use. This will then give walkers a choice of two paths in that area in drier conditions and the one, higher, path if the floods return later in the year.

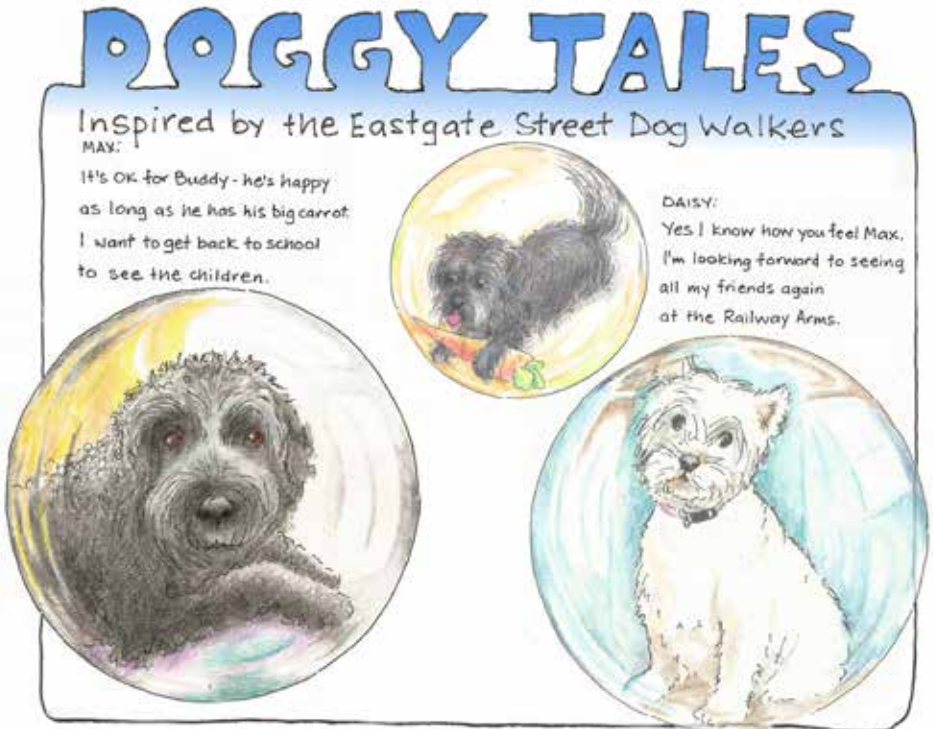
As far as the ongoing saga concerning signage and the permissive footpath is concerned, I would first just like to confirm that the MNR has absolutely no problem with walkers accessing the route in question, namely from north of County School Station to the farm crossing just north of the old buffer stop on the County School side of North Elmham Station. All we ask is that walkers keep out of the fenced off areas. We have no intention of preventing access except when works are being carried out and that is solely for health and safety reasons and will last for as short a time as possible. Whenever we can, we will give advance notice to avoid wasted journeys. The issue with whether it's a permissive footpath or just a path (it is not a public footpath) is simply a matter of interpretation – the Railway says it is and the Parish Council says it's not. To try to bring the matter to an amicable

solution, the matter will be passed to an independent arbiter and we will be happy to abide by their decision. If the decision is permissive, the signs will stay, if it's just a path, we'll remove the signs but please note, whichever way the decision goes, walkers will be unaffected.

Next update soon, with information about the miniature railway at County School Station which we hope many of you will visit when it's up and running.

I very much hope this clears up any immediate concerns but, as I said above, please get in touch with us if you have any questions and we'll be very happy to respond.

*Charles Robinson
Chairman, Mid-Norfolk Railway
Preservation Trust*



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This Time Last Year

April 2020



We will never forget Covid this year. We had two pages in the News about volunteers doing shopping for those self-isolating or unable to get out, and other simple tasks that people felt were too much at this time.

From all of us involved with the News our grateful thanks to those volunteers who have given up their time to help those in need in this strange time.

Paul Grainger reported at the Parish council meeting that the Build Out is having a positive impact in reducing the speed of traffic.

Three Housing Associations have been identified and it was agreed that all three should have separate discussions (See March edition of the News.)

Each month's News is written and put together at least a fortnight before

the deliverers have the News on their doorstep ready to put through your letterbox. By the time April's edition was printed we were already a couple of weeks into our first lockdown and unable to deliver the news around the village. If you didn't get a copy it's still available to read on the community website.

However, several clubs/societies had put together the final report of their doings over the last year – let's hope before long they will be up and running again.

We wrote about the Rev Townsend, our village Vicar for almost 50 fifty years, from 1898 until 1946. He said much of what he had written had been bound as books and were all in the Vestry. Now we know/hope they are in the Record Office. He also said, 'in coming years, these may be of some value for reference' – how right he was, wish we could thank him.

Very sadly the VE Day celebrations were cancelled here in the village. Did you know the Institute or village hall is our Memorial to the fallen from Elmham

Easter Rocks!

To celebrate the risen Christ this Easter, from 27th March, #Easter Rocks! Will be hidden around the village, will you find one? If you do, take a photo, post on the Easter Rocks facebook page #easterrocks! And re-hide it for someone else to find.

We hope you have fun finding them!

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WILD MUSHROOM & MOZZARELLA ARANCINI, ARIABATTA SAUCE (v) (VEO)	£7	LIGHTLY TEMPURA VEGETABLES, SOY & HONEY DIP (VEO) (v)	£6
SMOKED SALMON & CAVIAR BLINIS, HORSERADISH & DILL CRÈME FRAICHE	£7	BEER BATTERED ONION RINGS (v) (GFO)	£3.50

◆ LOADED FRIES ◆

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◆ ARTISANS SOURDOUGH BASE PIZZAS ◆

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◆ MAINS ◆

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PAN FRIED HAKE FILLET, PARMESAN MASH, TENDERSTEM BROCCOLI, CHORIZO & SCALLOP CREAM SAUCE	£17.50
BEER BATTERED HADDOCK, CHUNKY SEA SALT CHIPS, CRUSHED PEAS, TARTARE SAUCE (GFO)	£12.50
WHOLETAIL SCAMPI, CHUNKY CHIPS, GARDEN PEAS & TARTARE SAUCE	£12
HOMEMADE BEEF BURGER WITH BACON, CHEESE, BABY GEM, TOMATO & BURGER SAUCE IN A TOASTED BUN (GFO)	£8
CHICKEN BREAST STUFFED WITH SUN DRIED TOMATO PESTO, SPINACH & MOZZARELLA, SKINNY FRIES, DRESSED LEAVES (GFO)	£12
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◆ SWEETS & CHEESES ◆

WHITE CHOCOLATE CRÈME BRULÉE, PISTACHIO BISCOTTI	£6
APPLE & BLACKBERRY CRUMBLE, HOMEMADE CUSTARD	£6
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Tennis Club Has Reopened

Tennis Coaching To Restart

After-school junior tennis coaching begins on Tuesday, 30th March with LTA Level 3 Accredited+ Coach Chris Sanders, a Norfolk LTA Coach of the Year. Parents are welcome to sign up their children to any of the following Tuesday group sessions at any time via <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/NorthElmhamTC/Coaching>

Ages 4–7: 3:45–4:30 pm

Ages 8–9: 4:30–5:30 pm

Ages 10+: 5:30–6:30 pm

Disability Tennis Coaching Course

The Club wishes to establish disability tennis coaching this year, and on Tuesday, 30th March between 12 noon and 3.00pm, there will be a training course conducted by former British pro Danny Sapsford and Mark Bullock, who has more than 25 years' experience in international-level disability sport. The course is fully booked.

Membership

Join more than 100 tennis players and become a member. We have a full range of annual membership options* to suit your needs. You can join at any time of the year! If you have any questions, please email Ros Condon on northelmhamtennis@gmail.com.

Adult: £70 - Any player who is over 18 and not in full-time education;

Couple: £120 - Two adult players, who are over 18, and not in full-time education and live at the same address;

Junior (ages 4-11): FREE - A player who is aged 11 and under;

Junior (ages 12-17): £15 - A player in secondary school education;

Student: £25 - A player who is in full-time college or university education;

Parent: £15 - For parents wishing to hit with their child, who is under 12.

*New members will need to pay an additional £6 (refundable) for a key fob to access the main gate and pavilion.

LTA Award Winner

During the recent national lockdown, James Buddell was named Norfolk LTA Volunteer of the Year (2020) for his work as chairman of North Elmham Tennis Club. If you have any questions in relation to the club or coaching, please contact James on jabuddell@gmail.com.

RIP John Todd

It is with great sadness to announce that our father, John Todd passed away last October at the age of 74. He lived at 2 Mill Cottage in North Elmham on the Billingford Road with his late wife Susan, for 45 years, where he and Susan brought up their 4 children, Melody, Bethany, Anna and Holly.

He was well known for his lawn mower repair business in and around the local villages. When he became an agricultural engineer in the late 90s and retired from his business, he was always happy to repair and service lawn mowers for people, including the mower at Worthing Church. His grandson Jude was always happy to ride out with him and pick up the big key to the church to collect the mower.

His wife Susan would bake cakes and make quiches for the Elmham Flower Festivals, always volunteering her time to help make the Festival a success.

He was a keen gardener, and he loved nothing more than spending time by his river at the bottom of the garden.

He is survived by his 4 children and 4 grandchildren, Elsie, Iris, Jude and Wren.

He was always part of the village community and he will be sadly missed by everyone who knew him.



Wildlife at the Cathedral Meadows

I've known for a while that there are Otters (photo 1) in the Wensum Valley below the meadows. I've spoken with people who've seen them there and I've seen them myself a mile or two downstream (and signs of them upstream too), but until now I'd not managed to see them here. You have a good view over the valley from the meadows and I imagined my first sighting would be a brief and distant encounter as I scanned across the valley using my binoculars. But as I walked along the railway at the bottom of the meadows recently I could hear something I didn't recognise calling in the adjacent dyke. As I got closer I was delighted to see a pair of Otters swimming towards me. I stood and watched them for five minutes or so as they messed around in the dyke and ran around on the bank – a real joy to observe. I had no idea how noisy Otters could be – they were constantly calling to one another, a surprisingly bird-like shrill piping sound. The water levels were really high at the time, and I've not seen them again now that the water has dropped again.



I sometimes extend my walk round the meadows by continuing along the railway line to County School or beyond and after seeing the Otters I carried on that way. It was mild and calm which are good conditions for moths that fly early in the morning, but it was February and there aren't many day-flying moths active this early in the year. So it was a surprise to come across a group of 5-6 tiny moths flying low over the footpath. Always prepared, I had a net with me and quickly caught 3-4 of them for closer examination. I didn't recognise them at all, which is unusual. They were clearly all the same species so I released most of them,

retaining one for a closer look at home. It turned out to be a moth called a Scarce Bagworm (photo 2) –that’s the common name assigned to it quite recently, most books that include it will have it listed by its scientific name, *Bankesia conspurcatella*—and it’s a moth that hadn’t previously been recorded in Norfolk, or indeed anywhere in East Anglia! It’s been found in Kent, Hampshire, Glamorgan, Yorkshire and Lancashire so it appears to be quite widespread but very thinly distributed. The caterpillars feed on lichen and for reasons that we don’t yet understand most of the sites where they’ve been found are (like this one) alongside railways. Like other Bagworms, the caterpillars clothe themselves in cases made of bits of vegetation, lichen or even granules of sand and they stay inside these cases as they move around, feed and pupate until they eventually emerge as adult moths.

Although it’s early for moths there are enough night-flying species at this time of year that it’s worth looking for them. One of my favourites is the Oak Beauty (photo 3) which can be found under the Oak trees growing at the bottom of the meadows. And when you attract night-flying moths to light you get other interesting insects coming along too. Ichneumons (photo 4) are a family of insects related to wasps, though looking nothing like the familiar black and yellow social wasps – they’re longer, thinner and leggier, and the nocturnal ones are usually reddish-coloured. These fly at night and often come to light but there are thousands of different species and they’re really hard to identify, so not many people pay much attention to them. In turn that means there’s a lot to discover if you’re prepared to put the effort in, and a lot that has never been described by anyone. Most ichneumons fly later in the year but there’s one species that’s common in February. The experts used



to think it was a species called *Ichneumon obscuratus* (I don’t think it has a common name) but recently they’ve realised that the ones that fly in February are in fact a completely different species. This will be written up and formally published in due course, and only then will it be assigned a species name, but in the meantime this common ichneumon that anyone can find in February with a light at night is in fact something that has never been formally described and named.

As spring approaches the birds have started singing more, and this will increase over the next month or so. Green Woodpeckers (photo 5) have been very vocal recently (a loud laughing call that gives rise to their colloquial name of Yaffle) and Yellowhammers are singing from the newly-trimmed hedgerows.

Why not come along to the meadows yourself and see what you can find. Let us know what you see: email dave@googlemail.com or phone 668431. You can also follow us on Twitter at @ElmhamMeadows or see our recent tweets on the Parish Council website (www.elmham.org.uk/cathedral-meadows/).

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Vanishing Chapel

One hundred years ago, Broom Green always had some sort of social occasion happening. For a small hamlet they seemed to know how to party, between the pub, the King William (or King Billy) and the Methodist Chapel there was always something on the go!

Broom Green and the Methodist Chapel had a Temperance Brass Band as many towns and villages had bands in the past. Whenever Elmham had a 'do' of any kind, it was this band or the Watts Naval School band which was called upon to come and entertain.

The following article about the chapel beside the road in Broom Green going towards Guist, was written by Norma Virgoe, who with her family lived at Cornerways near the school. Norma is the Archivist for the East Anglian District of

the Methodist Church. We asked her if she would write about the Chapel for the News.

A Vanishing Chapel by Norma Virgoe

Just beyond the former railway bridge at Broom Green are the ivy-covered fragmentary remains of a Primitive Methodist chapel. Abandoned and alone, it was once the centre of a busy religious and social life.

The earliest years of the nineteenth century saw a vigorous religious revival. Stimulated by news of huge outdoor gatherings in America, open-air meetings were organised in this country by a few Methodists. The Wesleyan hierarchy frowned on these open-air gatherings at a time when memories of the revolution in France had led to an overthrow of the government. They feared the English authorities would step in and disband the whole Methodist Connexion and so it forbade these meetings.

Many left the Wesleyan movement and joined the new group which called itself Primitive Methodist. Although it was formed in 1807, it only reached Norfolk in 1820 when missionaries came from the Nottingham Circuit. Fakenham was one of the first four Primitive Methodist Circuits in Norfolk. Soon a huge number of congregations were gathered in the county, usually meeting in cottages, barns, workshops or anywhere available to them. Eventually the members would aspire to build a chapel. Even hamlets such as Broom Green would have their own chapel. A simple building was all that was required and all that the congregation could afford.

The congregation at Broom Green met first in a house for many years, but when they were told that this meeting place would no longer be available to them, they began vigorous fund raising in order to build a chapel. On Whit Monday 13 June 1886, a large crowd gathered to witness the memorial stones of the new building laid by Mrs Steppings of Fakenham and Mrs Martin, wife of the circuit superintendent minister, after a brief dedication service. It was the custom for those laying foundation stones to place donations on the blocks and these two women laid four guineas each on behalf of themselves and their families. Contributions were made by many other people, in all amounting to £21.18.6d for the building fund.

The crowd of about 130 people then moved to a large barn lent for the occasion by Mr Howell, a local farmer. The Independent [Congregational] minister from Fakenham, Rev. J. Way, preached, what was described by the Norfolk News, 'an excellent sermon' and then everyone sat down to tea provided by the Broom Green Methodists. Once tea was over, a large public meeting was held with addresses by several ministers and others and music provided by the Fakenham

Primitive Methodist choir. With the money collected on the day and the sum already raised by the congregation, a total of £64.15.0d was in hand to allow building to begin.

The chapel was quickly built. It faced the road and was a simple brick structure with a pantile roof. There was a small porch. The chapel doorway was round-headed and so too were the window on each side of the door and on each side of the building. Along the edges of the windows were narrow coloured bands of glass. Inside, wooden panelling ran round the lower part of the walls with the upper walls whitewashed. The motto 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved' was lined in black within a scroll above the small wooden pulpit. There were 70 seats. Of these, 20 were free to all whilst 50 could be rented. In this way, people would choose a particular seat for a quarter in return for a small sum and in this way, chapel funds were augmented. The cost of the building was £148.4.11½d and when it was finished, a deficit of £65 remained to be found. The sum, borrowed in return for a promissory note, and the interest incurred, would be paid back gradually over future years.

Fifty people regularly attended services in the chapel at this time. For them, the chapel was an important part of their lives. Apart from the two and sometimes three Sunday services, there was also a service on Thursday evenings.

The chapel boasted a choir. In November 1894, the choir gave a Service of Song at Bintree Chapel. Such services told a story with a devotional theme and consisted of songs and hymns with connective readings. On this occasion the title was 'The Musical Miller'. In December 1902 the choir gave a performance of 'Woodland Music' to a large congregation at Broom Green and the Norfolk Chronicle reporter added, 'This choir is visiting the

neighbouring chapels for the purpose of promoting music services'. Services of Song were also given at Broom Green by visiting chapel choirs.

The chapel also had its own Temperance Brass Band. On Boxing Day 1907 the band gave an entertainment at the chapel to a large gathering and in the summer, when the centenary of the Primitive Methodist Connexion was celebrated nationally, the band led a parade of the joint congregations of Beetley, Billingford, Swanton Morley and North Elmham Chapels. In 1910 at a Christian Endeavour meeting at Foulsham, the band played a number of pieces in the Market Place and then headed the procession to the Baptist Chapel.

Another booking for the band the following month had to be quickly re-arranged. The death of King Edward VII meant that the musical programme for the opening of a Liberal Club in Dereham was felt to be inappropriate and so, instead of leading a procession, band members were asked to gather the crowds and direct them to Theatre Street.

The Band of Hope temperance group was popular. In August 1906, the members from Broom Green had their annual outing. Fifty took the train for Yarmouth in beautiful weather. After tea and dinner in the town, they returned home by the last train. Another popular meeting was the Christian Endeavour Society.

The Sunday school was a strong and active one. At the beginning of January 1876, the Norwich Mercury newspaper reported a happy event. 'On Thursday last the children and teachers...were liberally entertained by Mrs Ainger who takes special interest in the welfare of the young, with a beautiful tea and a Christmas tree...Mr Ainger and others entered into the full spirit of the gathering'. The couple lived at Broom Green where Luke Ainger was a carpenter.

Two years later they provided another New Year's entertainment for the Sunday school children and their teachers. After 'a splendid tea...a Christmas tree measuring seven feet in height and four in width, which was decorated with a great variety of useful articles such as caps, aprons, stockings etc. – the children each receiving three prizes, after which they were delighted by a scramble for nuts and oranges'.

The Sunday school anniversaries were celebrated each July. After a morning sermon, the children recited and sang at the afternoon service to a packed chapel. In 1880 the newspaper reported this event and added, 'On Monday, the school, in procession, called on the principal inhabitants, by whom they were cordially received, the residents at Yarrow House



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kindly heading the list of subscriptions... The children's treat on Monday afternoon brought a successful anniversary to a close'. The treat consisted of a tea, followed by games in an adjoining meadow.

The money raised by the children was used to pay for an annual outing. This was usually to Lowestoft and about thirty children took part in a happy day. A particularly successful outing took place in the summer of 1873 when Thomas Walker, a local preacher from North Creake, arranged for the Broom Green children to go to Holkham beach. Donations were solicited and Luke Ainger gave twenty-five shillings towards the day's expenses. The children were transported to the seaside in two vans, where Thomas Walker, the Norfolk News reported, 'had made every arrangement for their comfort and pleasure and after a long day, never to be forgotten by the children, they returned home, which was reached by half-past eleven. Thus, ended one of the best anniversaries we have ever attended'.

Each year a scripture exam was held throughout the Primitive Methodist Connexion. In 1907 the subject set was 'The Life of Joseph' as recorded in the Bible. When the results were announced, it was found that Robert Claxton, a young Sunday school scholar at Broom Green had attained 84/100 marks and had been awarded a book as a prize.

Stalwarts at the chapel were the Scales family. Walter Scales was a farmer at Heath Farm. His daughter, Edith Lilian played the chapel organ for services and other events. Her marriage was reported in the Eastern Daily Press in April 1908 and amongst the presents listed was a 'massive marble clock from the members and friends of the Broom Green Primitive Methodist Chapel.'. One wonders whether such a gift was received with unalloyed pleasure.

Another family heavily involved with the chapel was the Leveringtons. In July 1903,

an inquest was held at the King William IV inn at Broom Green on the body of Sarah Ann Leverington, an elderly resident of Docking, who had been visiting her son and daughter-in-law at Broom Green. Whilst in the garden, she had slipped from a seat, fractured her hip and subsequently died. Later in the century her daughter-in-law, Ada Ellen was the steward at the chapel for many years.

Mr and Mrs Ainger were also much involved with the chapel particularly with the Sunday school children and their events. Luke Ainger had been employed in building the Primitive Methodist chapel at Great Ryburgh. His sudden death on 8 September 1894 aged 55 must have been a shock to the little community and a sad loss to the chapel congregation. He had been leaving the King William inn with several friends when he dropped to the ground and died instantly. At the inquest, a verdict of 'Death from natural causes' was returned.

Special services, teas, talks, missionary visits, harvest festivals, Christmas services, New Year watchnight services and concerts, made for lively interest for the congregation. In addition, there were events at other chapels in the vicinity as well as circuit events such as camp meetings to engage the interest of the chapel goers.

By the early 1950s, congregations at Broom Green had become very small. Nevertheless, two services continued to be held each Sunday. As the Record Office is currently closed, it is impossible to consult the relevant documents to confirm the date of the chapel's closure. Certainly, it was before 1970. The building remained empty and increasingly smothered by a blanket of ivy until it was completely hidden. Almost nothing of it now remains.

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However young or old you are, male or female, if you feel you would like to play bowls, either as part of the Team or just as a sociable way to while away an hour or two on a summer afternoon, just pop up to the King's Head Green at 3.00 pm on Sunday 2nd May. We will be holding open "roll-ups" for anyone wanting to have a go. We can show you how. All above is subject to Covid 19 restrictions at any given time.

Contact: Lilian 668007

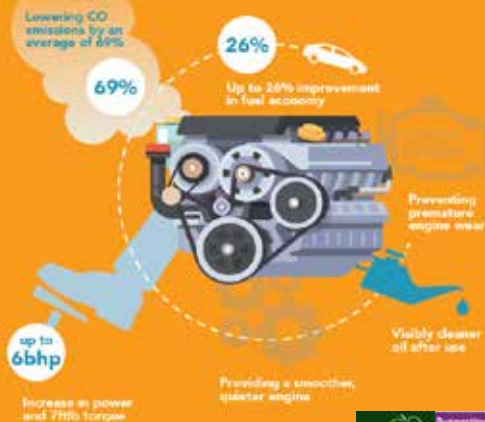
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The Future Of Our Railway Line

It is heartening to hear that the article I wrote for the last issue of Elmham News seems to have attracted considerable interest and support from readers. I have heard that the chairman of the Mid Norfolk Railway Company has circulated copies of the article to members of his management board. That sounds like a step in the right direction. This may help the MNR to understand that while they may technically own the line, it is our heritage too. The way Breckland sold the track and the station to the company has ensured that it must be seen as a community asset as well as a railway line.

The current problems will only be resolved if representatives of the company and the Parish Council are prepared to sit down together and start working out in detail a sensible way forward.

To do that:

- The railway company should pause its activities between the buffers and the Yarrow crossing. They should take down their misleading notices about permissive paths (which are still in place), stop further vegetation clearance on the line, halt work on the miniature railway project, open the picnic area again and start talking to us. (While I was in charge of Cathedral Meadows I twice wrote to the Chairman of the MNR asking if they could delay spraying vegetation on the line until later in the season to aid our wildlife survey but had no reply at all.)
- Members of the Parish Council, as our elected representatives, will need to work with the railway company's board to produce a satisfactory outcome. That outcome should be a draft and cover all the issues I have raised.

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- That draft plan should then be put to our community to consider and accept or maybe we will ask for further changes. Elmham News should have the opportunity to play a significant role in this important debate.

Out of all this needs to come an acceptable long-term arrangement for a footpath which can be designated as a Public Footpath between the Station Crossing and the Yarrow crossing.

While there is no legal requirement for the railway company to provide a path between the buffers and the station, I am sure a solution can be found with goodwill all round.

The natural beauty of our undamaged part of the Wensum Valley, with County School Station at its centre, needs to be fully respected. Our section of the valley is still intact and has not been damaged by gravel workings, and we need to take care for it. Arrangements for the miniature railway should surely be reviewed because of the likely pressure it will put on the

County School area. It will require a substantial car park. Is this the sort of high-profile attraction we really want just here in this conservation area? If this project is to continue then let's at least see a full planning application before it goes any further.

Also, do we not need to ensure that the option remains open to extend the railway line north along the track-bed towards Fakenham when railway enthusiasts elsewhere are busy buying up the line as it become available to create a Norfolk Orbital Railway? Does the location of the miniature railway not block that extension?

There is clearly much to discuss, and I hope that the Parish Council will step forward and play a leading role in these discussions. I did learn over the years as Parish Council chairman that the community needs to take charge of its own destiny and not let others dictate that for us. Everything is possible with goodwill all round.

Peter Wade-Martins.



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Numerous concerns have been raised about a marked increase in dog fouling in our village. We know that the majority are responsible dog owners who clean up after their dogs, and we thank them for that. However, there are others who do not, which is very disappointing, particularly if they are residents. We therefore ask them to act responsibly to help maintain a clean and safe environment for us all to enjoy.

Gemstones Wordsearch

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J	K	M	H	I	Y	O	G	B	T	S	T	A	X	R
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| AGATE | CARNELIAN | JASPER | OPAL | RUBY |
| AMAZONITE | DIAMOND | MALACHITE | PEARL | TITANITE |
| AMBER | EMERALD | OBSIDIAN | PERIDOT | TOPAZ |
| AMETHYST | GARNET | ONYX | PYRITE | ZIRCON |

Dear Editors

Re Conservation at County School Station.

1. Who did the Railway apply to for change of use – from picnic area and footpath to miniature railway?
2. Breckland Council built the picnic area and supplied the tables. These were bolted down onto concrete paths and were ideal for walkers and picnickers.
3. If you walk on the new path through the orchard, when it is not under water, you will see shipping containers. Is County School turning into Felixstowe Docks?

Let's hope that the Parish Council does something soon, in the name of conservation.

Dear Editors

I note that there are constant complaints regarding the walk along the railway line to County School Station which is a reasonable path in normal weather condition and is not marked on the map as a public right of way.

However, the reason I mention this, is, as no action is taken regarding the path from County School along the next stage of the old railway line which is part of a nice parish walk and is a public right of way. Most of the year the path is impassable and needs fencing off to stop the cattle churning up the ground. I can understand the farmer not wanting to pay for this, but could not a grant be given for this from the County Council rights of way fund mentioned?

Also, it seems the cattle are deliberately put there to stop walkers, but the conditions cannot be that good for the cattle!

From a Rambler



Conflicting Medical Advice

Medical experts in Ottawa today were asked if it is time to ease the COVID lockdowns...

Allergists were in favour of scratching it, but Dermatologists advised not to make any rash moves.

Gastroenterologists had a sort of a gut feeling about it, but Neurologists thought the government had a lot of nerve.

Obstetricians felt certain everyone was labouring under a misconception, while Ophthalmologists considered the idea short-sighted.

Many Pathologists yelled, "Over my dead body!" while Paediatricians said, "Oh, grow up!"

Psychiatrists thought the whole idea was madness, while Radiologists could see right through it.

Surgeons decided to wash their hands of the whole thing and pharmacists claimed it would be a bitter pill to swallow.

Plastic Surgeons opined that this proposal would "put a whole new face on the matter."

Podiatrists thought it was a step forward, but Urologists were peeved off by the whole idea.

Anaesthetists thought the whole idea was a gas, and Cardiologists didn't have the heart to say no.

In the end, the Proctologists won out, leaving the entire decision up to the ***** in politics.

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At More 2 Life Christian Fellowship we are excited about Easter because Easter is about hope, and who doesn't need hope right now?

We don't need reminding what a year it has been, but we look forward with hope to a better one.

For Christians, Easter is the high point of our year. This is the day that makes or breaks the Christian faith, for if there was no perfect human in the form of Jesus, then there would be no-one to pay the price for our rebellion (sin) against God. Without someone willing to stand in our place, and take upon himself our sin, we would never be able to come into the presence of a holy God.

But even if that happened, what good would it be unless that perfect human was able to overcome the price for that sin (death)? This is why Easter Day is so cataclysmic! If Jesus did not die for us, and if he did not rise from the dead, never to die again, there would be no hope. We would be left forever in a world where evil stuff happens. Where 'good' people get hurt. A world without hope of something better, without a light in the darkness.

If there was no death on a cross at Calvary, if there was no resurrection, then there could be no true Christianity.

If we would like to explore what the Christian hope is all about, and why it sets authentic Christianity apart from any other religion, then do consider joining our Life Explored or Christianity Explored course, get in touch for details.

In the meantime, see if you can find an #easterrocks hidden on your walks from 27th March 2021... if you do, be sure to comment on #easterrocks facebook page!

Every blessing,

Pastor Anne-Marie Fewell

More 2 Life Christian Fellowship

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Email: revree7@gmail.com

Tel. 01328 701830

www.more2lifenorthehelmham.com

Facebook @more2lifeNE

St Mary's Church

Lent is moving slowly towards Easter. Somebody said to me the other day 'Nothing much to give up in Lent, is there?' I understood what they meant – missing family and friends, being advised not to go shopping, not the usual number of Church services. 'But,' my friend went on 'other people are finding life tough too, I've just taken Mrs. X a homemade cake'. For someone well into their eighties, this was a real act of selflessness.

The pandemic has made us all think rather more deeply about what really matters. Little acts of kindness. Telephone conversations with people we think might be feeling lonely. Doing shopping for a neighbour. All these reflect a true Lenten spirit – giving rather than receiving. 'Taking on' rather than 'giving up'.

There is a real feeling of hope in the air. Most of us who are over seventy have had our first 'jab'. When we go outside we see signs of Spring – first the snowdrops, then the primroses in the hedgerows and then the daffodils – buds on the trees – birds building nests. All this new life revives our flagging spirits. After a year of great uncertainty and misadventure, we dare to be optimistic.

Soon we shall be travelling through Holy Week. The hosannas of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and the blackness of Good Friday, leading to the joyful Alleluias of Easter Day.

Our churches are open at Easter and you will be most welcome to share Easter joy with us. May this Easter be a fresh start for us all, as we go forward in the love of Christ and in the grace and power of His Spirit.

God bless you all.

Fr. Michael

Worthing News

As confirmed by the glorious visual display of daffodils in our gardens and parks, Spring has finally arrived hooray! And so our Easter Celebrations begin...

Traditionally, St Margaret's Church PCC organise their annual Easter Sunday Duck Race by inviting you all to watch and take part in racing your own sponsored duck on the River in Worthing.

However, in our March editorial, we mentioned this year's event would be reformatted to ensure we all comply with the covid restrictions and not encourage crowd gathering. With that in mind our Challenge this year will be to invite you all (not to visit the site) to guestimate how long it would take a duck to travel from (A) the Riverbank at Millstream Cottages to (B) the finishing line at Tannery House.

Many of you will recall, when our 100 ducks enter the water, the time it takes to go from A to B is very much dependent on the weather – is it a bright and sunny day and/or how windy and how fast is the river flowing. In the past the actual race could quickly be over in 15 minutes or as long as 30 minutes, then followed by awarding Easter Egg prizes to our first 3 winners across the finishing line.

What we propose to do this year, to ask you, based on your previous experiences, visits and knowledge, is invite you to guess how long it would take for an inflatable duck 42cm tall to travel from A to B.

Between now and Easter Sunday, you will receive a knock on your door enquiring firstly, if you wish to take part this year and also, then record the length of time you believe it would take THE WORTHING DUCK to cross the finishing line. Your details and times will all be logged and the first three members of our community closest to the actual travel time will receive a Worthing Easter Egg.

We hope that with your kind donation to enter this year's race – as a guide, £1 per entry, will help sustain our Church and support our Mission and Ministry Work.

Good luck everyone and thank you for your continued support!

Church Service dates for April

Providing there is no change in the Covid Roadmap!

Holy Communion on the 11th April at 9.30am and Morning Praise on the 25th April at 11.00am.

Church Services in April (Heart of Norfolk Group)

Please note: the Service Plan is dependent on the Government's Roadmap to Lockdown and the R-rate of coronavirus locally. There can be no 'socialising' inside the church buildings and therefore, regrettably we are unable to offer refreshments following services.

4th April Easter Day

8.45am	Stibbard All Saints	Holy Communion
9.30am	North Elmham St Mary	Holy Communion
9.45am	Wood Norton All Saints	Holy Communion
10.30am	Bawdeswell All Saints	Holy Communion
11.00am	Foulsham Holy Innocents	Holy Communion

11th April 2nd Sunday of Easter

9.30am	Worthing St Margaret	Holy Communion
9.30am	Foulsham Holy Innocents	Holy Communion
10.30am	Bawdeswell All Saints	The 10.30

18th April 3rd Sunday of Easter

9.30am	North Elmham St Mary	Holy Communion
10.30am	Bawdeswell All Saints	All-Age Communion
11.00am	Wood Norton All Saints	Holy Communion

25th April 4th Sunday of Easter

9.30am	North Elmham St Mary	Morning Praise
9.30am	Foulsham Holy Innocents	Holy Communion
10.30am	Bawdeswell All Saints	Word & Praise
11.00am	Worthing St Margaret	Morning Praise

Each Sunday, one of the services will be available on Zoom.
Please email heartofnorfolkchurches@gmail.com for details,
or visit our website heartofnorfolkchurches.org.uk

Guist St Andrew and Twyford St Nicholas are not yet ready to re-open.

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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 images for inclusion this month.

COVER: Sarah Felton, PAGE 3 Sarah Felton, PAGE 13: Caroline Payne, PAGE 17: St. Mary's Church, PAGE 20-21: Peter Wade-Martins, PAGE 27: Terry Hylton & Pauline Adams (cartoon), PAGE 34 & 35: Dave Appleton, PAGE 37 & 39: Norma Virgoe, PAGE 45: Peter Wade-Martins, PAGE 47: Jonathan Kennedy (cartoon)

North Elmham Parish Council

Chair: Jennie Borgnis
Vice Chair: Martin Phillips
Clerk: Kevin J Webb
 01328 855046
 northelmhampc@hotmail.co.uk

Group Leader ✓
Group Member ●

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

Finance & Administration

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

Village Facilities

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

Recreation & Sporting Facilities

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

Services & Other

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

Meetings are normally held on the first Wednesday of the month and due to covid-19 take place over Zoom, commencing at 7.30pm. Parishioners are entitled to attend and are most welcome, please contact the Chair or Clerk for access codes. 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

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

Doctors

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

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

NHS Direct 111

POLICE Non Emergency - 101 - EMERGENCY - 999

Breckland District Councillor	Gordon Bambridge Bill Borrett	01603 880557 01362 860200
Norfolk County Councillor	Bill Borrett	01362 860200
Member of Parliament	george.freeman.mp@parliament.uk	01953 600617
North Elmham VC School	Paula Jones, Executive Headteacher	01362 668318
Chairman of School Governors	Robert Plant chairofgov@northelmham.norfolk.sch.uk	
Memorial Institute	Pam Neve	01362 668325
Pavilion	Bookings	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 Wed Thur; 9:15 - 17:00 - Tue Fri; 9:15 - 19:00 - Sat 9:15 - 16:00
 Mobile Library calls in Elmham every 4 weeks

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

Clergy - All telephone numbers local code (01362)

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

Church Wardens

Elmham	Susanna Wade-Martins	668435
Worthing	Celia Daniel	668928



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*Please visit renault.co.uk/configure for WLTP figures for any selected options. Your Renault Car is covered for the first of 100,000 miles or 5 years and applies to new cars (excluding Traffic Passenger) when ordered from 18 December 2019. For exclusions visit Renault.co.uk/warranty

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