

Elmham News

DECEMBER 2022
JANUARY 2023

OUR VILLAGE COMMUNITY MAGAZINE



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and a Happy
New Year

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EDITORIAL

We cannot believe that this year is on its last legs, and about time too. What a time it has been with massive celebrations for Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee which no one alive will ever see again and then the sad news of her death. The new accession of a King bringing with it huge speculation on social media as to what sort of a king will he be. Whether you approve or disapprove of the monarchy, let's just give him time and space to sort it all out.

One Prime Minister goes, another steps up, bungles it and steps down and a third is left to sort out the mess. The rest of us are left facing rises in bills but not income. There will be handouts to those in need but we will have to pay for it in the future.

Hopefully the Church Larder will be able to help some of us who are in need but we will need donations to help buy the food.

Christmas is always a time of giving, to our family and friends but this year let us give to those in more need than ourselves.

Something we at Elmham News can give is sincere thanks to all our contributors and deliverers without whom there would not be a magazine and a very good one at that, if we may say so.

Thank you for donations this month go to Anon Station Road and Anon Orchard Close. We are always pleased to receive any donation.

The whole team here wish you a peaceful and Happy Christmas and let's hope, a Happier New Year.

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

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

Volume 45, No 11, December 2022/January 2023

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APOLOGIES, APOLOGIES

My apologies for omitting the name of the pub at Broom Green. It was the King William IV or as the locals called it the King Billy!

I should have said half way down the paragraph beginning 'The George & Dragon pub' with the words 'I have seen a photograph of the inside of the King Billy with a lady' (sometimes the fingers on my keyboard have a mind of their own and like small children wont do what I want them to do!)

Janet Woodhouse

BROOM GREEN & THE CHAPEL

We always like to hear from people who have been interested in what we have written about the village or its neighbours, last month it was Broom Green.

First to make contact was June Clarke via e-mail who used to live opposite Nelsons at the top of the village. Now she lives in Dereham. She said how sad it was to see the Chapel in such a sorry state as she knew it long before it began to deteriorate.

Then Irene Colby (nee Frost) from Taverham wrote a letter to say when she was a young child her family lived in Monument House which faces the railway line. She said when the trains passed the whole house began shaking!

She went on to say she and her brother Michael regularly went to Sunday School at the Chapel on Sundays. As a little girl it was Sunday mornings, as she got older, it was Chapel in the afternoons and later when she was much older, she went to the Chapel on Sunday evenings because she was taking Scripture exams with Barbara Porter who also lived in Broom Green. She said they both passed!

Mrs Buxton, who lived in Broom Green took the classes and as we said last month so did Caroline's mother.

We mentioned the pub, the King William (King Billy to the locals). Irene went on to say as a family they went to the pub, you know children had to be seen and not heard. She said her father liked darts and playing whatever game was played with dice, sometimes she said she would be crying because she wanted to go home but had to stay! Poor child fancy having to stay in the pub!!

Then a phone call came from Bruce Howell who said he and his brothers also went to Sunday School at Broom Green. They lived at Blackhall Farm, as near as one can get to the railway line not far from the Council Houses alongside the Broom Green Road. He said to get there they walked along the railway line, not sure where they hopped off though. Bruce went on to say there were two sets of railway lines from County School to a short way past the bridge at Broom Green. We have said before that there was a branch line which turned right just past the bridge and continued on to Foulsham and Reepham and on to Wroxham. He said if two trains were going to leave County School station at the same time, as above, they raced each other.....what fun for youngsters to watch!

Times and lives were different then.

Janet Woodhouse



Why couldn't the skeleton go to the Christmas party?

He had nobody to go with



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

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

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

www.thebrisleybell.co.uk 01362 705 024



CHRISTMAS DECORATION DEMONSTRATION

Another resounding success for an 'Evening with Ian Nickerson' who never fails to delight and enthral us with his wizardry. Two hours flew by without effort and the resulting masterful creations were raffled off. His nimble fingers and gentle chat about the different flowers and where they are grown in countries as far flung as Columbia, Kenya, Spain and The Netherlands kept us all interested. He answered questions and gave handy hints as he wove his magic.

Ian created eight arrangements, all for Christmas including a simple block of oasis with two candles which was transformed into a table centre of delight complete with cones, orange slices, glorious cymbidiums and greenery. A hand-tied bouquet of white roses, lisianthus and lilies became the epitome of elegance. A heart shaped

wreath made a welcome for your door, a small hatbox was stuffed with colourful flowers and greenery. A flat circle of foam was transformed into a wondrous mixture of conifers, green pine and flowers that drew gasps of appreciation from the audience, especially as it had a bottle of wine enclosed in the gerberas and foliage. Most of the greenery was from his own garden.

He very generously donated his arrangements which were raffled – what whoops of joy from those who won one of these. Sadly I didn't!

Ian, who lives in Elmham has his shop in Dereham (Ian's Floral Studio), was thanked for his generosity, both for his time as well as the arrangements and the gift of flowers which was immense.

All profits will go to St Mary's Restoration Fund. How sad for you if you missed this lovely evening!

Janet Woodhouse



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THE TRUSSELL TRUST CHARITY LUNCH

On Wednesday, 26th October, over 50 people met in the Eastgate Centre to enjoy a simple lunch of homemade soup, bread rolls and cake. It was a delightful occasion where we shared music, songs and poems.

One of the Trustees from the Trussell Trust, Mr. Trevor Theobald, gave a short talk, which provided an overview supported by statistical evidence, illustrating clearly why the need for foodbanks remains an urgent and growing need in our community and across the UK.

Grateful thanks to all those who came and gave their generous support to this event.

Thanks as well to the helpers who made and served the soup, baked the cakes and did the washing up and thank you to Morrisons for the bread rolls.

Thank you to Natasha Hood for leading the singing.

Together we made an amazing £605.

Jenny Cunningham

THE BUILD CHARITY VOLUNTEER CAMPAIGN

The BUILD Charity are looking for people to support our social events with a small group of adults with disabilities, with all expenses covered. If it is a relaxing weekend that you are after, this could be a Sunday Roast, a Sunday afternoon Walkabout, a Grow and Go gardening session or even a Sunday afternoon cinema trip. If you enjoy even more excitement, why not head into the city for our Ten Pin Tuesdays or even a Wednesday Club Social!

Alternatively, if you have expertise in marketing, fundraising, event management or photography and are willing to share your skills with us, we would also love to hear from you!

We believe that volunteers should get as much out of the BUILD Charity as they put in, so there are many benefits to these roles. As a BUILD Charity volunteer, you attend events whenever it suits your schedule, all volunteer expenses are covered by the charity and by becoming a BUILD volunteer, you receive your disability awareness training and safeguarding training.

If any of these volunteering opportunities are of interest to you then either call the office on 01603 618029, email us at volunteer@buildcharity.co.uk, or check out the website for our sign up form and donation pages.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Follow us on Facebook - <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Build-Norfolk/218067204873394>

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING?

Can't face facing the traffic and parking?

Did you know there is a weekly Wednesday Sanders No.23 bus to Norwich.

Leaves North Elmham Main Bus Stop at 9.35am (outside Pavilion) and continues down Eastgate Street & Station.

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FAKENHAM UKULELES

On Wednesday 12th October, the Fakenham Ukles entertained the Tea at 2 afternoon event. The afternoon kicked off with a sumptuous selection of delicious sandwiches followed by a grand display of home-made cakes, provided by our Village ladies. Pretty flowers decked the tables, where everyone was presented with a small bouquet of flowers before they left. The 'Fabulous Fakenham Ukles' were on top form with their array of sing-a-long type music and the crowd were joining in throughout, clapping and singing. A great afternoon was had by all - with a couple of the folks asking if they could join the group as it looked so much fun! The Fakenham Ukles provide entertainment and ALL funds are given to needy local causes.

FAKENHAM & DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

Tue 6th December 2022
7.30pm
THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS
With Susan Horne

Hempton Memorial Hall
Hempton, Fakenham NR21 7LG

Members £40 pa Visitors £8
More details: Jackie on 01328 851933

KING'S HEAD BOWLS CLUB ANNUAL DINNER

On Saturday 12th November the King's Head Bowls Club held its 122nd Annual Dinner and prize giving. Around 30 people attended the event held at the King's Head, and all enjoyed a superb meal.

The Club Captain, Martin Phillips, welcomed President Simon Hibberd and

Christine and was pleased to see so many of the new members at the dinner.

In 2022 things were just about back to normal and we played in the Elmham League (Div 1) after gaining promotion in 2021 and the Mid Norfolk League. With a good influx of new members, we also re-joined the Dereham League in order to give everybody enough games. The afternoon Age Concern League was also played Lilian captained them again during the year. Some of the Club Cups were also played and the King's Head provided us with excellent food after the games.

Presentations were made by the President Simon Hibberd and Captain Martin Phillips. The Club trophies for 2022 were awarded to:

Ladies Cup

Winner: Christine Harvey
Runner-up: Lilian Baines

Presidents Cup

Winner: Christine Harvey
Runner-up: David Phillips

Woodhouse Shield

Winner: Steven Gilbert
Runner-up: David Phillips

Brian Baker Shield

Winner: Mike Reeves
Runner-up: Peter Bell

Singles KO Cup

Winner: David Phillips
Runner-up: Roger Duffield

Thanks were given to the manager and staff of the King's Head who served up an excellent meal and the captain thanked Lilian Baines for all her work in organising the event.

Martin Phillips

CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

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

Archive Group	Janet Woodhouse 01362 668525
Art4 All	Angie Redwood 07979 666197
Bowls - Institute	Tony Langford 01362 668854
Bowls - King's Head	Martin Phillips 01362 668409
Elmham Cricket Club	Mark Ballman 01362 668935
Elmham Football Club	Chris Reeve try Facebook
Elmham Guides	Marion Morgan 01362 696221
Elmham News	Meg White 01362 668302
Elmham Surgery Patient Participation Group	Roger Thornley 01362 668804
Elmham Tennis Club	Geraldine Leeder
Friends of North Elmham School	Sharon Phillips 01362 01362 668866
Gardening Club	Ray Norman 01362 667226
Guides	Marian Morgan 01362 696221
Knit and Natter	Eileen Cotterill 01362 668380
North Elmham Trailblazers	Fliss von Christian 07787 161446
Reading Group	Eileen Church 01362 668330
Royal British Legion	Michael Aston 01362 668959
Sewing for Pleasure	Janet Woodhouse 01362 668525
SINE (Help)	David Fairbairn-Day 07398 758421(10-5)
Snooker Mon & Fri	Neil Page 01362 668296
Snooker Wed	Chris Werrell 01362 668564
Tea@Two	Jo Fitzalan Howard 01362 668232
The May Singers	Tony Langford 01362 668854
Walking Football	Paul Carr carrpaulus@aol.com
Walking Group	Jenny Cunningham 01362 668224
Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society	Sue Gale publicity@wvbs.gmail.com
Wives + All	Gill King 01362 668530
Young Farmers	Steven Britton 07810 897792

NORTH ELMHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 5TH OCTOBER

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

Public Participation

a) A parishioner said that there had been a number of traffic near misses on the crossroads next to the King's Head. Proposed housing with an entrance near to the crossroads and allotments was considered to be potentially very dangerous. It was stressed that the Parish Council had already flagged this up as an issue.

b) A parishioner again expressed disappointment with the traffic calming measures in Dereham Road. Apparently, problems are experienced with following cars when turning into the driveway. Mr. Borrett (County Councillor) was contacted about a year ago. Both the resident and Mr. Grainger will chase Mr. Borrett for an update. The view was put forward that dropping the curb would help. Another parishioner advised that a personal survey of traffic measures had been carried out which revealed that most of the traffic ignores the speed cameras. There was concern with two recent fatalities. The possibility of recommencing a Community Speed Watch scheme was mentioned. Mr. Bambridge advised that members of the public can attend SNAP meetings. This could possibly encourage the deployment of limited recording by speed cameras with traps in the village.

c) A member of the walking football team asked if there is a possibility of a defibrillator being sited at the pavilion. Defibrillators would be discussed later in the meeting. It was also asked if the damage caused by the moles could be

repaired and if the grounds maintenance contract includes maintenance. The Parish Council utilises the services of a registered mole catcher and there is no provision for maintenance in the grounds contract which primarily involves the regular cutting of the grass. It was acknowledged that action will need to be taken to improve the playing surface. It was also asked if there were any plans to request funding in order to provide a MUGA (multi use games area) with floodlights. Mr. Fitzalan Howard stated that a recent survey of desired facilities had produced a dreadfully disappointing response rate of just 4%. Even when the exercise had been repeated in the school, with every student being given a form to take home, the response rate only increased to 10%.

Councillors Present Were

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

Also in Attendance

Mr. K. Webb (Clerk), Mr. G. Bambridge (District Councillor) and four parishioners.

Land Management Matters

Village Green: The memorial tree has been planted. A work party, led by Messrs Gee and Smith, cleared the ditch. Some vandalism has occurred with rails kicked out and planks broken. The possibility of CCTV cameras on the Eastgate Centre is to be discussed at the next meeting. NGF Ltd is to visit to carry out identified repairs needed to some of the play equipment.

Cathedral Ruins: Mrs. Keeble reported that English Heritage had agreed to increase management fee by 5% which produces a new annual figure of £5,355. Depending on circumstances, there is a possibility that a further increase can be negotiated during the forthcoming term of five years.

Cathedral Meadows: Mr. Fitzalan Howard reported that, following discussions with Brown and Co, the stewardship scheme is to be renewed. A decision will need to be made in the Spring as to what type of scheme is to be used. It is felt that rewinding would not be the preferred option.

Millennium Wood (and Jubilee Wood): The new bench is in place.

Bridleway on Disused Railway Line and Other Railway Linked Matters:

Mr. Rayner said that a padlock had been cut off a chain on one of the gates. The matter had been reported and the padlock was duly replaced.

Prince William Wood: A tree trunk had fallen on the fence. Mr. Markwell dealt with this. There are currently five dead ash trees with another appearing in a poor condition. They do not appear to be likely to fall over and it was agreed to leave them for now.

Allotments

Mr. Phillips said that rents would be collected on 11th October. There are currently two inactive plots. Two taps are to be examined for possible leaks. The hedges have been cut.

Street Lights

Please refer to later item

Highway Matters

Mr. Grainger reported that the blocked drain near the Post Office, which had been clogged up with weeds, and the drain on Church Hill, had both been cleared. Mr. Smith said that the Orchard Close drains need to be examined and he will provide images and precise locations.

In response to the enquiry about utilising the Parish Partnership Scheme to part finance a pedestrian crossing near the bus stop and pavilion, Norfolk County Council advised that such schemes are not within the scope of the Parish Partnership Scheme, (although the documentation previously issued to Parish Councils

seemed to indicate that they were), and management of these is carried out on a risk assessment basis. The typical cost of design and installation is in the region of £90,000 plus annual maintenance fees. Currently, there are no funds available and a waiting list of five other schemes is in place. It was agreed by all to defer the matter to a later date (proposed by Mr. Grainger and seconded by Mr. Fitzalan Howard). Mr. Gee has cleared the overgrown 30mph sign. The Pump Street pavement has been covered by vegetation and is practically impossible to use. Mr. Grainger will report to the County Council with a view to them clearing it.

Pavilion and Playing Field

The new larger bin is in place. The Football Club, on occasions, requires the grass to be cut in order that a suitable surface is provided for matches. Chris Reeve (Chairman of the Football Club) will liaise with CGM. It is disappointing that, despite promises and regular chasing by the Clerk, CGM have still not produced a credit note in respect of work that was not carried out earlier in the year. The basketball hoop is in place. Trees at the top of the field are causing damage to the wall. Mr. Fitzalan Howard is to obtain quotations in respect of the work that needs to be done.

Youth Club Facilities

Mr. Grainger has spoken to Gabriel Mansbridge who has been appointed as Active Norfolk Youth Co-ordinator for the area. Assistance has been received from Mr. Bambridge who was thanked for his help in this matter.

Eastgate Centre

A broken window has been repaired and the insurance policy has been updated.

Brookside Development Update

Mr. Rayner is to check the S106 agreement with regard to the provision of car parking, in particular the link with the number of houses built and/or occupied as to when it is to be made available.

Defibrillators

EAAA is offering free training courses. Seven people wish to attend (including four P.C. members). The Chairman will contact all to establish a suitable date which will be given to EAAA. A note is to be placed in Elmham News to give others the opportunity to be trained.

Groups (Walking Football and Tennis Club) have requested that a defibrillator be sited at the pavilion. The Chairman has contacted The Community Heartbeat Trust and the cost will be in the region of £2K (initial quotation of £1,855 received). The Tennis Club is prepared to contribute to this cost. All agreed to proceed with this purchase. Proposed by Miss Ferris and seconded by Mr. Smith. Mr. Bambridge mentioned that a new First Responders group has just been established covering Foxley and Longham.

Local Green Space Designations by Breckland District Council

This document has been published by Breckland Council with a public consultation to follow.

Call for Sites – Breckland Council

The document has been published with the sites put forward as potential locations for development. They have to be assessed and then are put out for consultation. It is a lengthy process. Six sites have been nominated in North Elmham involving, in total, 110 houses. The Local Plan states a current need of 14 houses but this will be reassessed. A new garden village of 5,000 houses (Norfolk Railway Village) has been put forward for Billingford. It is the same area which was nominated in 2018 and has been submitted by a company called Black Box Planning.

Norfolk Social Infrastructure Fund

Please refer to item on Pavilion Funding.

Report from District and/or County Councillors

Mr. Bambridge reported that a number of District Councils are getting together

to discuss what can be done regarding the nutrient neutrality rules, which will seriously hinder the building of houses, imposed by Natural England. Any comments/views regarding the possible exception site should be made by parishioners.

Replacement Street Lights

Mr. Markwell said that the costs of two new lights would be Pump Street - £1,400 and Eastgate Street - £1,000. All agreed that these should be reinstated and Westcotec has been asked to proceed.

Pavilion Funding

Mr. Grainger had submitted a notice of interest in obtaining grant funding for the pavilion which would also benefit the Football Club. The Social Infrastructure Fund, run by Norfolk County Council, has £775K available. A desire for a 40% increase in the size of the building, together with a number of other items, has been expressed. A grant of £60K has been requested with a total spend of £75K. The Parish Council and Football Club would, between them, contribute the sum of £15K.

Road Safety Measures

It was stressed that, over a period of a considerable number of years, road safety has always been of the highest priority for the Parish Council. A considerable sum of money has been spent on a range of measures which has undoubtedly resulted in significant improvement. However, it is acknowledged that new initiatives must be explored and, in this respect, ramps and speed reduction pillows have been mentioned. These can be seen in places such as Old Costessey and near Downham Market. It appears that they are quite successful in reducing traffic speeds. Mr. Grainger is to research after the result of the enquiry into the recent fatal accident is known.

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External Auditor Appointing Arrangements

The current national contract with the existing external auditors, PKF Littlejohn, expires this year and the next 5-year appointing period runs from 2022-23 to 2026-27. During the previous 5-year period, all smaller authorities were "opted-in" to the central procurement regime managed by Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments (SAAA). No authority elected to "opt-out". The various procedures required under statute to appoint your own external auditor are complex, onerous and potentially expensive. Mr. Phillips proposed that the current "opting-in" position be retained and this was seconded by Mr. Grainger. All members were in favour.

The Hedgehog Highway Project

The Parish Council has been invited to participate in the Hedgehogs R Us Highway Project. This involves hedgehog conservation with gaps being made in fences to allow for foraging and mating. A highway surround raises awareness to their plight and encourages others to take part. A box of 50 highway surrounds and 50 information leaflets costs £150. It was agreed by all not to participate in the scheme at this stage.

Police Community Resolution for Criminal Damage Incident

No response has been received to the communication to the parent of the young person responsible for this crime which asked for possible dates so that the restorative justice procedure could be commenced. The Chairman will attempt to make contact.

Planning Applications and Determinations

Applications

(i) Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Claydon – proposed front extension to create porch- 3PL/2022/0892/HOU – 73 Orchard Close.

(ii) Mr. and Mrs. Braybrook – proposed single storey extension to side - 3PL/2022/0799/HOU – Gorse House, Heath Road (amendment – extension slightly larger to align with front elevation)

(iii) Mrs. Jody Hammond – part change of use of outbuilding – professional services (beauty salon) – 3PL/2022/0970/F – 48 Station Road.

(iv) Roadside trees A1067 – various trees requiring works due to Highway concerns – TRE/2022/0255/TPO.

(v) Mr. Chapman – proposed conversion of cart lodge to ancillary accommodation with dormer windows – 3PL/2022/1056/HOU – 64 Station Road. (It was agreed to oppose this application. It will decrease the number of car parking spaces and is in breach of the 2012 conditions of 3PL/2012/0855/F (condition 4). Proposed by Mr. Rayner and seconded by Mr. Smith. All in favour).

Determinations

(i) Glaven Cottage, 65 Eastgate Street – proposed workshop – 3PL/2022/0714/HOU – approved.

(ii) 45 Holt Road – various repairs and creation of enclosed storage space – 3PL/2022/0733/LB – approved.

(iii) Mr. and Mrs. Braybrook – proposed single storey extension to side - 3PL/2022/0799/HOU – Gorse House, Heath Road – approved.

(iv) Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Claydon – proposed front extension to create porch- 3PL/2022/0892/HOU – 73 Orchard Close – approved.

Any Other Matters (For Information Only)

The Clerk reminded members that local elections would take place on Thursday, 4th May 2023. Full details will follow in due course.

Michael Cummings, *HCPC Registered, D.Pod.M., M.Ch.S.,*

Chiropodist/Podiatrist,

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TENNIS CLUB

Thank you to everyone who took part on 4th November in the quiz night, which raised £740. This money will go towards inclusive tennis coaching at the Club with children from Fred Nicholson School in Dereham. Starting in May, up to three of our coaches have helped teach 15 children on Tuesday afternoons.

Wooden Racquet's Tournament

There will be a wooden racquet's tournament on 1st January 2023 from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon. You don't need to dust your Dunlop Maxply frame in the loft, we have spares. Come along!

Group Coaching

Junior coaching on Mondays (5.00–6.00 pm) and Tuesdays (3.45–6.30 pm), and adult sessions (9.00–10.00 am) on Sundays, will continue through to mid-

December. Group coaching will restart in late February 2023, and you can book here: <https://www.northelmhamtennisclub.co.uk/Coaching>.

Become A Member

You can join North Elmham Tennis Club at any time in the year. Traditionally, annual membership does run from early May through to the end of April the following year.

Adult – £70 Student –£25,
Parent – £15 Juniors Ages 12-17 – £15
Juniors Ages 11 & under – Free



Who hides in the
bakery at Christmas?

A mince spy



CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS SWITCH ON

Friday 2nd December, 6.00 pm
outside The Pavilion

Sing-a-long, plus mulled wine and hot chocolate provided.

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WELCOME TO

Posy, sister to Lily, daughter to Alice and Ben (Tea Post).

KNIT AND NATTER

After sorting out all our knitted items for the Norfolk Warm Bag appeal, our meeting this month was taken up with our 10th anniversary celebrations. The food brought back lots of memories of the 1960's and 70's pick up food, tiny sausages, cheese and pineapple on sticks, savoury biscuits with cream cheese etc etc, and of course, 10 candles burning brightly on the sponge cake beautifully decorated, including knitting and needles made with icing. Many thanks to the local lady who donated it to the party. We then all contributed our memories of the items that we had produced over the years for our "pull out the pin" game, at the various local fairs and fêtes. The dozens of owls, ladybirds and mice, were always popular, not forgetting the penguins and ever colourful teddy bears. We hope these fêtes and fairs will continue to be around over the years to come, as they always brought in cash for local projects.

There will be a meeting on the 6th of December in the Pavilion as usual, but the January one will not be held, although a few of the ladies expressed a wish to have an informal lunch meeting in the Teapost in the New Year - nattering only. Therefore, the next official K & N meeting will be on 7th February at 2-0'clock in the pavilion.

Finally, again we say thank you for all the wool that has continually donated to us. Keep it coming as we have lots of warm clothing to knit.

Merry Christmas to all the friends of Knit and Natter.

Eileen Cotterill 668380

THE GATHERING STORM

The cost-of-living crisis

There is no doubt that we are all in for a hard winter. No-one will be untouched by food prices going up more than 11% while fuel and electricity prices go up as well. It may surprise some to know that in our relatively prosperous village nearly a quarter of children in the school are eligible for free school meals.

Some may feel able to ride out the storm because they have relatively secure jobs or pensions, but anyone at any time through such things as illness or redundancy can find themselves in need of a helping hand.

This is where the Church Larder can help. The Church Larder, like all Food Banks, is finding that more and more people are needing help and so it is more expensive to keep stocked. If you are lucky enough (and often it is just 'luck') to be in a position to support the Larder, then do please leave a few tins, or dried groceries at the church.

If on the other hand you are one of the sadly increasing number who are finding it difficult to put a meal on the table for one person or a hungry family, then you are welcome to come and help yourself to what you need. The larder is here for you.

The Dereham Food Bank is available to all (and thank you to everyone who gave so generously towards its work at the lunch at the Eastgate Centre last month) but getting there does involve a bus ride into Dereham and here the Church Larder can step in.

As the need increases, donations of food are not enough and the funds to keep the Larder well stocked come out of the Church Community Fund which consists of a portion of the money raised at various church events and we are very pleased to be able to help the community in this way.

*Susanna Wade-Martins
On behalf of the church family*



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GARDENING CLUB

Our October meeting started with a review of our August Annual Garden Show, with the vegetable, flower and home baking sections very well presented but some of the homecraft and children's section lacking support.

Several ideas came forward and were noted and hopefully will be in the schedule for next year and also different media ways for promoting the show.

Recently the club was given the North Elmham Horticultural Society minute books dated from 1923 to 1954 from which small, interesting excerpts were read to members including this :

18th March 1923: *A sports committee be formed alongside the general committee to arrange Galloway, Trotting and Hurdle Race's and that 80 posts 4'6" with band at the top also a hole for rope be purchased at the rate of 1/9p each. Also Brisley Band be engaged for the night dances at the flower show (11 performers £3.00) and a marquee be hired from a Mr Yull of Dereham for £7-10-0.*

3rd March 1933: *The Flower Show shall be open to all residents living within a radius of 5 miles of the show ground and the horticultural section be divided into two classes:*

1. *Subscribers Class A open to those who employ gardeners (!)*

Class B open to those who do not employ gardeners.

2. *Cottage Class open to agricultural labourers and those in a similar station*

18th August 1936: *That permission to hold a gymkhana and fair on the park. It was decided the Watts Naval School be asked to give their display and the RAC or AA to take charge of the car park and the following prices of admission should*

be charged entrance 6d, children 2d, car park 6d, bicycles 2d.dance 1/-

Just a few of the notes from the minute book which about 19 committee members organized the flower show, sports day and gymkhana and in the first instance was the Horticultural society.

All I can say is well done to those members. It would have taken a great deal of work to organise such a show.

There was some amusement at the division of classes but of course it was a very rural area; how times have changed.

The evening finished with a very popular item; members planting up a pot of different spring bulbs and viola plants.

A big thank you to Heather for organizing the pots, buying compost, bulbs and plants and everyone will be looking forward to the spring to see the results.

The Flower of the Month was won by Jo with a beautiful vibrant magenta Persicaria.

Our thanks for delicious sausage rolls and cakes from Sarah, Alison and Paul

There is no meeting in December we meet on Thursday 25th January for our AGM at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall.

New members are always welcome.

I would like to wish all our members and you readers of Elmham News, "A Happy, Healthy Christmas and New Year."

Ray Norman 667226

A SAD FAREWELL TO

Ian's North Elmham Fish and Chip Shop

**Tylor and Abigail Phillips' World Scout
Jamboree Fundraising Event**

RACE NIGHT

Come and join us for a race night!
Refreshments and nibbles available
to purchase. We will be holding a
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Saturday 3rd December 2022

At the Memorial Institute, North Elmham
(near the church)

Starts at 7:00pm

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THE CRUEL SEA

The mighty winds and roaring sea
Came rushing towards the shore
Flooding the land uprooting the trees
We'll remember that night evermore,

Many poor folk were unprepared
For the winds and tides so great
The cruel sea came rushing in
And for many it was too late,

They drowned that night in fifty three
Man, women and child
If only poor souls they been prepared
For the sea so angry and wild,

Those that escaped that bitter night
Were left without homes of their own
Grief and sadness and bitter despair
At the drowning of those we had known

They're building defences along our coast
To try and keep back the mighty sea
We earnestly hope they will succeed
Or we shall never feel free,

Free from the fear we hold in our hearts
Fear from the cruel sea
That never again will there be a repeat
Of the floods of fifty three

A Lowe

CLIMATE CHANGE

January 31st 2023 will be the 70th anniversary of the dreadful floods of 1953 that mainly effected the East coast .There was no mention then of climate change, it was considered a freak of nature. Now we are told that it is possible that with climate change with sea levels rising on account of glaciers melting, that it is possible we could have disasters more frequently on that scale if no action is taken to at least slow down the progress.

By publishing this poem (opposite) by my late wife, may I remind everyone of the need to play their part in at least trying to avert these disasters.

Yours truly,

N A Lowe
60 Orchard Close
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Do you ever consider how the Elmham News magically appears on your doormat at the end of every month?

Distribution is co-ordinated as soon as possible after delivery from Clan Press, the printer in Kings Lynn. Boxes containing eight hundred copies are counted, bundled and delivered to the homes of 20 volunteer distributors in Elmham, Worthing, Broom Green and Billingford. These wonderful people combined then make over 770 deliveries to individual houses on their patch - one in particular handles 114 copies!

So, on behalf of the editorial team and all magazine recipients, we would like to



say a big THANK YOU for all your efforts throughout the difficult covid periods and 2022 - we couldn't have done it without you.

Merry Christmas and Happy New (delivery) year.



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ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The November meeting was held at the King's Head Hotel at 8pm with six members and one new member attending. After the exhortation was read aloud, copies of the last meeting were handed out and duly signed off. Apologies were received from Ian Taylor and Harry and Sue Pointer for not attending.

The meeting was very pleased to welcome a new member, Jenny Dagless to the Legion.

Various points were raised regarding Remembrance Sunday, a small gathering will start at the Remembrance Seat opposite the doctors at about 10-30 am and walk to the Church.

This year the donations given in Church will be collected on the day by Ian Taylor and added directly to The Poppy Appeal.

Also mentioned was a few members will attend the Whitwell Service on Saturday the 12th November at 10-30 am.

Mike Aston said that new forms had been issued which required addresses to be added to committee members, however several committee members pointed out that it could breach data protection laws which he said he would look into.

It was also mentioned that the Branch could do with a new standard and Mike Aston said he would look into this to see if funding from the RBL was available.

Next meeting will be held on Thursday February 2nd 2023 at The Kings Head .

Whitwell Remembrance Day Service 12th November

This was well attended with several of our members present, the Roll of Honour read by Ian Taylor, and the Last Post played by Paul Frostwick-Wilson and our Standard carried by Andrew Marsh.

St Marys Remembrance Service 13th November

This was well attended this year, and it was very nice to see the attendance of the Guides together with their Standard. Well done girls.

Two wreaths were laid, one on behalf of the parish council by Jennie Borgnis, the other for the RBL by Jenny Dagless.

This year I am very pleased that the church collection for The Poppy Appeal raised £233-70.

As mentioned in the last Elmham News the Knit and Natter group raised £40 for knitting poppies for a church in Northern Ireland, they have received a further £20 as an added thank you which is added to The Poppy Appeal. Well done Ladies.

And finally a thank you to our Rector, Sally for conducting such an inspiring service and to Michael Newy and Tom Fitzalan Howard for their part in the service.

Mike Aston Branch Secretary

GOT A QUESTION ABOUT POLICING IN NORFOLK?

If so, Police and Crime Commissioner Giles Orpen-Smellie will be at Dereham Library on Wednesday, 14th December, from 1pm to 3pm to discuss the challenges and pressures facing policing in the county.

More info: www.norfolk-pcc.gov.uk

All are welcome



**What happened to the man that
stole an advent calendar?**

He got 25 days



NORFOLK CRICKET LEAGUE DINNER AND AWARDS EVENING

24 players and partners attended the Norfolk Cricket League's annual Dinner and Awards evening held at the Mercure Hotel in Norwich on October 14 2022. The team were out in force to receive the trophy for winning Division 3 West, thereby attaining a second successive promotion, and the runners up award for the T20 Bowl.

Photographs show the Team on stage, Chairman Mark Ballman with the trophies, and one of the tables of players and partners.

Mark Ballman



Who is Santa's favourite singer?

Elf-is Presley

WIVES PLUS ALL

November's evening meeting was in the Memorial Hall, North Elmham on Thursday 10th and we were given a very interesting talk by Jerry Woodley from West Runton who has been a Coastguard for nearly 40 years, in fact he has finally bowed out after 14,000 days on call. Jerry retired at the beginning of this year.

During his career Jerry was the most experienced cliff rescue technician in North Norfolk and the Station Officer at Sheringham for about 10 years. He received a Chief Coastguard's Commendation for a cliff rescue he carried out in a snowstorm at Mundesley about 20 years ago. He said that he didn't think there was a breed of dog he hadn't recovered from a cliff, and he has attended every kind of coastal incident you can think of. There have been plane and helicopter crashes, emergencies on crab boats, yachts and inflatables, people stuck on cliffs, out at sea, under rocks and in the marshes. Jerry remarked to us that when you're out on the marsh in the middle of the night in winter you might ask yourself "why am I doing this" but he said you have to think that the person you are looking for is someone's loved one.

Jerry also said that there had been tragedies but there have been good times. He holds the record for the oldest rescue of an 84 year old man and the youngest of a two year old and he said the biggest incidents stuck in your mind and among the most tragic was finding the bodies of a 6 year old boy along with his 4 year old sister who were washed up on the shore in the Sheringham area after they had gone missing from Holme Beach in 1996. He said his own sons were then aged three and five and the tragedy had really hit home. He told of another memorable incident when in 2019 at Sheringham a man was trapped by his leg by two boulders as the waves crashed around his neck. Sheringham Coastguards were

the first on the scene and they had to think quickly on their feet as the man was drowning in front of them and his fellow Coastguards had to hold his head above water and Jerry called in everyone who was needed, including a surgical team from Cambridge as there were fears because of the time he had been trapped his leg may have to have been removed. However, thankfully to everyone's relief, he was suddenly released from his ordeal



NEW COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH GROUP VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The North Elmham Parish Council have agreed to support the establishment of a new group to monitor the speed of traffic within the village.

The establishment of such a group will act as a deterrent and hopefully make our village safer. It is also more likely that we will benefit from ad hoc mobile speed camera visits.

If you are interested in this important community initiative, please call Paul on 07517 033248



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and eventually safely winched up by helicopter and taken to hospital and his life saved.

When he wasn't in his Coastguard role Jerry worked also as a self employed builder and often after spending the night on the cliffs then went to work as usual and he continues this today. He has recently also retired from 25 years as a rugby union referee. He also enjoys mountain biking and he said he'll always be keeping one eye seaward as with any Coastguard, you never really retire. Jerry's talk was so interesting I'm sure we could have listened to him all evening, but we had to reluctantly say goodnight and we thank him for his talk.

Our last meeting this year will be on THURSDAY 8th DECEMBER 2022 in the Memorial Hall, North Elmham at 7.30 pm when we will be having our Christmas

evening meal so bring along the beverage of your choice or a bottle of wine and as it is the Festive Season we will also have Christmas Carols with Jenny and Kerri. There will also be a raffle.

Wives Plus All does not meet in January 2023. However our:

WIVES CLUB AGM

will be held on

THURSDAY 9th February 2023

In the Memorial Hall, North Elmham

at 7.30 pm

**There will be refreshments and a Raffle
Please come along.**

ALL WELCOME

Ann Ferris

DATES TO REMEMBER: DECEMBER & JANUARY

Fri 2nd	Christmas Tree Lights Switch On	Pavilion	6.00 pm
Sat 3rd	Race Night - see poster	Memorial Hall	7.00 pm
Tue 6th	Knit and Natter	Pavilion	2.00 pm
Wed 7th	Parish Council Mobile Library	Memorial Hall The Heath to Orchard Close	7.30 pm 2.30–5.20 pm
Thu 8th	Wives +All Christmas Social	Memorial Hall	7.30 pm
Wed 14th	Tea @ Two	Memorial Hall	2.00 pm
Fri 16th	Last day of Term		
Sun 18th	Carol Workshop- see poster	St Mary's Church	5.00–7.00 pm
Sat 24th	Christmas Eve Christingle	St Mary's Church	4.00 pm
Wed 4th January	New school term begins Parish Council Mobile Library	Memorial Hall The Heath to Orchard Close	7.30 pm 2.30–5.20 pm
Wed 11th	Tea @ Two	Memorial Hall	2.00 pm
Thu 25th	Gardening Club AGM	Memorial Hall	7.30 pm

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Christmas Day '22

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Apple & Walnut Salad

Potted Salmon (Gfo)

Lemon & Thyme Butter, Watercress & Toasted Sour Dough

Celeriac, Kohlrabi & Apple Remoulade (Ve) (Gf)

Walnut Crumble

Pork, Pistachio & Apricot Terrine (Gfo)

Apple Jelly & Toasted Sour Dough

Lemon Sorbet

MAINS

Roast Sirlain of Beef (Gfo)

Yorkshire Pudding, Horseradish & Red Wine Gravy

Butter Roasted Norfolk Turkey

Pigs In Blankets, Apricot, Cranberry & Sausage Meat Stuffing with Turkey Gravy

Baked Honey Glazed Salmon (Gfo)

Cranberry & Almond Crumb Served with Dill Cream

Roast Winter Vegetable Wellington (Ve) (Gfo)

Accompanied with a Mushroom & Thyme Gravy

All Served with Duck Fat & Thyme Roast Potatoes, Honey Roast Parsnips, Purple Sprouting Broccoli Sprouts & Chantenay Carrots (Vgo)(Veo)

DESSERTS

Homemade Christmas Pudding (V) (Gfo)

Served with Brandy Custard

Chocolate Marquis

Accompanied by Mint Chocolate Ice cream

Coconut Panna Cotta (Ve) (Gfo)

And a Roast Spiced Pineapple Salsa

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NORTH ELMHAM WILDLIFE



Autumn is the time of year when usually my focus starts to move away from insects (there are fewer flying at this time of year) and more to bigger things like birds. It's migration season, when wintering birds arrive in the country and if you're lucky you have a chance of seeing unusual passage migrants moving through on their way south. But this year has been different. I've recently signed a new contract to survey insects – the first time I've done this in a professional capacity – and that alongside my other commitments has left me with less time to look around the parish for birds.

One migrant bird I have seen a few times during the last month is the Redpoll. Redpolls look different in different places – the Lesser Redpoll that breeds in the UK is smaller and darker than the Mealy Redpoll that breeds in Scandinavia and sometimes winters in the UK, and that is smaller and darker than the Arctic Redpoll, usually a rare visitor to the UK though some winters they arrive in numbers. But there is a lot of overlap and identifying them is often difficult and controversial. Taxonomists (those concerned with classifying life and deciding what is, and what isn't, a different species) can't agree on them, with some thinking there are as many six or seven different species and others arguing that they should all be lumped together as one. The ones I've seen well enough to identify this month have all been Lesser Redpolls (photo 1), likely to have migrated here from further north in the UK or the near Continent, but a few pairs breed in Norfolk so they may not have travelled very far at all.

Even birds that you can see all year are often partial migrants – that is, part of their population migrates. So for example you can see Blackbirds and Robins here all year round, but lots more arrive in the

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winter that have bred on the Continent, and while some of our breeding birds may remain all year others move south for the winter. Relatively few species undergo no migration at all – some of our gamebirds, some of our owls, Green Woodpecker and Mute Swan being just about the only ones you're likely to see around North Elmham. As I walk round the parish and meet people they often see that I'm interested in wildlife and tell me about the wildlife they've encountered (thanks, by the way!). The bird they mention most often is the Mute Swan – I suppose that's not surprising given that they're big and white so easy to see and recognise. I must admit I get a bit blasé about them – they don't have interesting migratory habits and they're no challenge to identify (I like a challenge). But I should learn to appreciate them more – they're remarkable creatures in many ways. I was struck the other day as I watched a pair fly over my head, the sunlight shining through their flight feathers so that they lit up against the blue sky (photo 2).

Another bird we can see all year is the Kestrel (photo 3), but some of these migrate so we aren't necessarily seeing the same ones all the time. It's very possible that some of the birds we see here in winter have hatched in another country. Wherever they come from, there aren't as many Kestrels around as there used to be. As usual a range of factors are playing a part – among them a decline in prey, use of pesticides, feeding habitat being 'tidied up' (they often hunt along road verges) and nesting habitat being destroyed (old buildings like disused barns, now often converted for other uses).

It's not just birds that migrate – lots of flying insects do too. I've mentioned some migratory moths the last couple of months and it has continued to be one of the best autumns ever from moth migration. The unseasonal mild weather





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has resulted from a southerly airflow from Iberia bringing not just warm air but also migratory moths. This month I've caught two Scarce Bordered Straws, a Gem (the first time I've ever caught one, but it was a very worn tatty specimen), a handful of Rush Veneers, Silver Ys, Rusty-dot Pearls (photo 4) and quite a lot of Diamond-backs. Diamond-backs are tiny moths (not much more than a centimetre long) with antennae pointing forwards and a variable uneven pale line down their back, the widest bits supposedly being diamond-shaped (photo 5). These undertake huge migrations – not just from the south but some coming from a long way east too. Given the recent winds the chances are the ones we're seeing at the moment have come from Africa, but at other times they are thought to arrive here from Asia – extraordinary journeys for such a tiny insect.

One non-migratory moth that's having a good year is the Streak. Most years I'm lucky to catch one or two; last year I caught eight which I thought was exceptional but so far this year I've caught 41 and they're still going strong. Most insect populations fluctuate with peaks and troughs every four or five years so I expect this will prove to be a higher-than-usual peak rather than an upward trend, but time will tell. The long white streak through their forewings gives them their name but the wings are covered in a complex pattern of white, warm reddish brown and blackish lines and patches on a dark brown background (photo 6).

I don't often write about caddisflies, mostly because they're not among the most attractive insects to look at and most of them don't have English common names. But although the adults might not be much to look at, the larvae are fascinating. Living under water they create for themselves a case that they spin using silk secreted from their mouthparts

and incorporate leaves, twigs, and even sand granules or tiny stones, making them blend in perfectly with the background so that they are less vulnerable to predators. As I tend to stay on land, I never see this, but I do catch the adult insects in my moth trap regularly. One I caught recently was a new species for me and is rarely found in the Wensum Valley – a faintly-speckled but otherwise plain brown species with only a scientific name, *Limnephilus politus* (photo 7).

Some moth enthusiasts only look at the moths in their moth trap, but I find the "by-catch" – all the other insects that are attracted to light – just as interesting. Among the beetles this month was this lovely Orange Ladybird (photo 8), not a rare species but one I usually see more often in the summer months.

There's always plenty of interesting wildlife to see around the village. Do get in touch if you have anything interesting to share (email [appleton.dave@googlemail.com](mailto:dave@googlemail.com), phone 668431 or message me via Twitter at @ElmhamMeadows).

Dave Appleton

HELP

We are looking for a postcard of the licensees of the George & Dragon Pub, that was near the church. There is a card of Robert & Grace Williams standing in the bar which the family would love to obtain.

If you have this photograph and don't mind selling it or giving it, please let one of the Editors know about it.

Thank you.



A seasonal Singing Workshop

led by Natasha Hood & Marian Fox

If you are able to make a donation at the end of the workshop it would be most welcome

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**Sunday 18 December,
5pm - 7pm**

(following the village carol service)

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After the workshop participants are invited to join the local community from 7pm at The King's Head Hotel, North Elmham to sing the folk carols and Christmas songs as part of the village festive celebrations.



NORTH ELMHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 2ND NOVEMBER

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

Councillors Present Were

Mrs. J. Borgnis (Chairman), Mr. M. Phillips, Mr. B. Gee, 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)

Apologies for absence

Miss A. Ferris, Mr. T. Fitzalan Howard and Mr. G. Bambridge (District Councillor)

Updated Information and Matters Arising

Update on Affordable Housing Scheme

It has been reported that Broadland Housing is experiencing some difficulties of a financial nature and may possibly not be delivering as many houses as previously planned. Mr. Rayner is to make contact with them with a view to establishing the current situation.

Police Visit and Update

Please refer to later item

Land Management Matters

Village Green: Two grass areas, including the triangular one near the gate, have not been cut. The possibility of CCTV cameras on the Eastgate Centre is to be discussed at the next meeting.

Cathedral Ruins: Mrs. Keeble reported that the slopes have been cut again by the remotely controlled mower. The tower has

railings around it with a warning of falling masonry. The present situation has been queried but no response, as yet, has been forthcoming.

Cathedral Meadows: Mr. Fitzalan Howard had forwarded a report as follows:

(i) small signs have been ordered and will be fixed on the seven external gates requesting dogs to be kept on leads when sheep are in the field.

(ii) An estimate for fencing had been received (£1,820). It was generally felt that another should be obtained.

(iii) A quotation is awaited in respect of the removal of one overhanging ash branch near the lane behind Jubilee Wood.

Allotments

Mr. Phillips said that all rents, except one, had been collected. Work on the water supply is to be done.

Highway Matters

Highways have advised that the current condition of the Pump Street pavement does not meet their intervention criteria but they will monitor.

The query from a parishioner regarding the pinch point in Holt Road and the private property access had been referred to the Highways Engineer, Matt Lines, who advised that his predecessor, Matt Wording, had spoken to the parishioner on a site visit before he retired. The parishioner was informed that an extension to the dropped kerb could be applied for but the expense involved would need to be covered by the parishioner. He felt that there was not an issue when he entered the driveway in his larger car.

New batteries which are four and seven years old have been ordered for the SAM devices.

The cost of these will be just over £500. The drains in Orchard Close are now in a satisfactory state.

Pavilion and Playing Field

Mr. Smith stated that the lighting in the pavilion needs to be replaced. Extra floodlighting is also required outside as well as a new light on the end of the building. Quotations are to be obtained with the intention being to purchase LED lights.

Youth Club Facilities

Please refer to later comments.

Brookside Development Update

Mr. Rayner had checked the S106 agreement with regard to the provision of car parking. The car park has to be laid out before 50% of the properties are occupied and then transferred to the Parish Council before 80% are occupied.

Defibrillators

A piece has been placed in Elmham News regarding EAAA free training courses. Contact by anyone wishing to be involved in the training has to be made by 20th November.

Call for Sites – Breckland Council

Mr. Rayner felt that any pre-assessment of sites would probably take place after the period of consultation for which there is no firm date. Breckland Council is unclear regarding the present situation and it is felt that the consultation will be commenced in the New Year. It has been noted that there are apparent discrepancies in respect of a piece of land, near the Worthing Road, which is on the boundary of Billingford and North Elmham. It seems that Breckland have not checked in which village the land is actually situated.

Pavilion Funding

The bid to obtain grant funding for the pavilion through the Social Infrastructure

Fund, run by Norfolk County Council, was unsuccessful. Suggestions were made to approach the Norfolk Community Foundation and various offshore windfarm companies. It was agreed by all that if the question was posed, the Parish Council would be prepared to commit £20K for the right project.

Police Community Resolution for Criminal Damage Incident

The meeting with the young person responsible for this crime and his parent had taken place. One job had been carried out so far which involved removing weeds from the pavement in front of the Institute. This lasted for one and a half hours. As the next phase, Mr. Gee is to receive assistance in cleaning out ditches.

Annual Budget

Mr. Phillips produced a draft budget for 2023/2024 which had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. It is anticipated that the tax base may well be slightly higher than the figure for the current year. Projected income is £57,526 with expenditure of £60,924. It is the intention for the Band D contribution to remain at £80.24 with this being formally approved at the next meeting by which time the relevant information should have been received from Breckland Council. Another heading in the accounts will be required for the Brookside development.

Planning Applications and Determinations

Applications

None

Determinations

(i) Mrs. Jody Hammond – part change of use of outbuilding – professional services (beauty salon) – 3PL/2022/0970/F – 48 Station Road – approved.

- (ii) Roadside trees A1067 – various trees requiring works due to Highway concerns – TRE/2022/0255/TPO – TPO work consent.
- (iii) Mr. Chapman – proposed conversion of cart lodge to ancillary accommodation with dormer windows – 3PL/2022/1056/HOU – 64 Station Road – withdrawn.

Correspondence

- 1) Parishioner request for speed restriction measure on the B1110 between Broom Green and the existing 30 mph limit. (Mr. Grainger is to ask Highways to consider, for the safety of walkers, an extension of the 30 mph limit. A similar request is to be made for Back Lane.
- 2) Notification from E-on next of The Energy Bill Relief Scheme.
- 3) Advice from Natural England of a recommendation to extend the current HLS agreement (to be discussed at the next meeting).

**Any Other Matters
(For Information Only)**

The switching on of the Christmas lights on the tree at the Pavilion will take place on 2nd December at 6.00pm

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, 7th December at 7.30p.m.

The Clerk had drafted proposed dates for 2023 meetings and these will be circulated to members with a view to confirmation being given at the next meeting.



 A festive poster for an afternoon tea event. The background is a soft-focus image of a nativity scene with a bright star in the sky and palm trees. The text is written in a casual, handwritten style.

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THE RAILWAY FOOTPATH

I first wrote about the railway line footpath in the March 2021 issue of Elmham News in which I explained the recent history of the line and the path. This path runs alongside the railway track from the buffers near the station northwards to the Yarrow Crossing. With that article I included a photograph of a sign erected by the railway company claiming the path to be a "Permissive Path". This description is a very precise legal term which tells you that the public only have the right to walk along the route with the permission of the owner, which in this case is the railway company. Under that description, the owner can close the path permanently or temporarily at any time and without due notice.

The railway company, to its great credit, has significantly improved the path in

the intervening period by making it safer and by installing two seats in attractive locations which provide good views across the river marches. Nevertheless, since the article appeared the railway company has erected more colourful and explicit signs which repeat the claim that the path is only a permissive one.

The background to all of this is as set out in the March 2021 article. The negotiations of the sale of the railway line from Breckland to the railway company

included the following crucial requirement which was incorporated into the sale documents in 2003. Under this the company was required to:

“at all times permit the public to pass and repass ... over and along the property by such route ... as shall be approved in writing by the Transferor” (ie the Breckland Council).

There was nothing to say where the footpath had to run, and that was left to be settled in further discussions and to be covered by a written agreement with Breckland. The key requirement was that the line was to remain a footpath for public use, although it was never formally designated a Public Footpath pending these joint decisions about the exact route. It is important to understand that the purchase price for the whole line was reduced by the amount the District Valuer calculated it would cost the railway company to install the path. Since then, I don't believe that there has ever been a formal agreement to settle the route.

So, the route of the path remains to be defined, especially in the station area where there is now a planning permission for a miniature railway, but that planning consent is covered by planning legislation, and it does not impact on the need for a route for the whole path to be formally agreed.

The footpath is an important community resource, and I would urge the Parish Council, Breckland Council and the railway company to settle this issue, and to submit the route to the County Council to have it formally designated as a Public Footpath and for the route to be entered into the Definitive Map of county public footpaths.

Peter Wade-Martins

THE RAILWAY VILLAGE AND THE RIVER WENSUM

If you have been keeping an eye on the Wensum in recent years, and in particular during this long dry summer, when water levels were particularly low, you will have seen the effects of the pollution from nutrients, high levels of phosphates and nitrates in the watercourse. Algae growth smothering the river plant life, and many fish dying as a result. This has mainly been caused by agricultural practices, and poor sewage treatments leaching into the ground and surface waters.

In March 2022 Natural England was so concerned about the deterioration of the water quality in the Wensum, that they wrote to Breckland Council, about their concerns, and advised that Breckland should take steps to achieve Nutrient Neutrality in the Wensum, and the adjoining catchment area.

The Conservation of Habitats Regulations 2017 “requires local planning authorities to ensure new development does not cause adverse impacts”. Breckland’s response has been to end giving planning permission for new houses, “or any other developments comprising overnight accommodation” in the Wensum catchment “while the Council assesses the implications of these matters” For further information search Breckland Council Planning and Building Control Nutrient Neutrality.

Making significant improvement to the water quality, and habitats in the Wensum Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Area of Conservation(SAC) is going to take quite some time, and there is much work to be done to prevent further deterioration, let alone improvements.

It is not all bad news, there is quite a lot of commitment and energy going into

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improving biodiversity of the river, and the adjacent riverside regions.

The Upper Wensum Cluster Farm Group, www.wensumfarmers.co.uk (together with partners such as UEA, Norfolk Rivers Trust etc.), is doing some serious work in improving habitat, and preventing run off of pollutants. They are 29 farmers, covering 10,000 Hectares in the upper Wensum valley catchment. They are, "committed to improving water quality in the River Wensum catchment, and enhancing the surrounding habitat mosaic, for us, and future generations" Check out their website, the map of which farms are in the "cluster" their video, and projects, are all worth a look.

I would like to thank the Elmham News for the article last month about the return of "Railway Village" which would, if approved, link up the villages of North Elmham Billingford, and Bintree, turning it into a small town.

Although Breckland Council is simply putting out a "call for sites" at this stage in the planning process, it is clear that it would be irresponsible, and quite possibly not legal, for Breckland Council to seriously consider this particular proposal for a large scale housing development. This is because of the location, right next to the river Wensum SSSI and SAC.

The present sewage works, for Bintree, (and the proposed "Railway Village") is situated at the end of the Green Lane from Billingford, just past High House Farm and Bintree Wood, and down to the edge of the valley, only about 250 metres from the River Wensum. If permission was given for a large development of 500 new houses, they would be discharging effluent very close to the river.

If this was allowed to happen, the work of the Wensum Farmers Cluster Group to reduce nitrate and phosphate pollution

upstream of the sewage works, might seem rather pointless, if the river became even more polluted downstream.

There are many reasons why the "Railway Village" proposal should not even be considered, the effect on the Wensum is only one, but one that is very important.

We are fortunate to have such a beautiful place to live, and such a rare and important natural resource on our doorstep. It is bad news that the river has already lost some of its life, due to pollution, it needs our protection to prevent it from losing more.

Matthew Synge.

SCHOOL NEWS

We all came together on November 11th at St Mary's Church, to pay our respects and remember. We look forward to meeting there again soon, to perform our whole school Christmas play, 'A Fireside Nativity'! We have also been busy making our school look beautiful and thank staff and governors for their ongoing efforts in redecorating some of our communal spaces and planting flowers at the front of the school.

School Parliament have been busy this half term, talking to the classes and making changes to reflect children's wishes. For example, we now eat our lunch with our House groups and have fun activities and music in the playground after eating our lunch. Everyone has loved this!

Class News

Sheep: Sheep class are enjoying all the excitement and activity of the festive season! We are learning about our local surroundings this half term, and following a walk around the village, look forward to making a simple map of North Elmham. In History lessons we enjoyed learning

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about the meaning behind the poppy as a symbol of remembrance. We are now finding out about some very famous queens from the past and thinking about what it takes to be a good monarch. Outdoors we are noticing seasonal changes as we move toward Winter. We built our own weather station with a rain gauge and weathervane so that we can collect and record some simple data. As the term draws to a close we look forward to performing our nativity play and taking part in lots of fun Christmas activities!

Whales: Whales class have had a busy run up to Christmas and have packed in lots of amazing learning alongside our practice for the school Remembrance service and Nativity!

In science, we have been learning all about sound - it has definitely been a noisy subject this half-term! In history, children have been discovering what life was like in Britain during the years of WW2 and learning what it was like to be an evacuee. We have also been reading Michael Morpurgo's 'Friend or Foe' as our class reader, which is all about a young evacuee and has really brought the topic to life for the children. We have also been busy in DT this half term, sewing and decorating Christmas stockings!

Lions: Lions class have been full of enthusiasm in the run up to the Christmas period. We have been working really hard learning all about the Circulation System as well as continuing our local studies by looking at historical people, such as Boudicca and Nelson, and comparing Norwich to London. In PE we have really enjoyed the focus on teamwork and this has really helped when preparing for the Remembrance Day service and for the school's Nativity.

How can you keep in touch?

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

Do you have Facebook?

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

Looking for a place for your child in September 2023?

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

WENSUM VALLEY BIRDWATCHING SOCIETY

The club's autumn activities included two excellent group outings, to Frampton Marsh RSPB and to the North Norfolk coast. Frampton is a bit further than we usually travel but it is such a good reserve that we do visit it every year or so. This time was no exception, getting off to an excellent start with several Yellow Wagtails in the field of cattle next to the car park. On the walk towards the sea wall, besides the usual collection of finches and waders, including Snipe, Black-tailed Godwits and Dunlin, we were thrilled to see a group of seven Red-breasted Geese. We were not certain if these were truly wild birds or if they were feral, but it was great to get a good view of them. And the same could be said of the Water Rail preening in the sun (the view that is).

The walk around the hides produced other stars such as a Little Stint and two Curlew Sandpipers, but the undoubted standout bird of the day was a Nightjar, spotted on the Grassland Trail after lunch by Emily. It was sitting by the side of the path in full view just a few yards in front of us. We could hardly believe our eyes, as such a sighting in daylight is very unusual. It was the first such report for the reserve.

The North Norfolk visit focussed on the Wells area, starting at the beach car park. They explored the woods, finding Redwings, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Linnets and the usual tit flocks, and then the sea from the lifeboat slipway. Here Red-breasted Merganser, Razorbill and Gannet were the main attractions, but all enjoyed the diving Cormorants as well. After a lunch stop that made use of the café in the car park, they moved on to North Point Pools, which gave a great opportunity to see three types of Pipit together – Water, Rock and Meadow. A really useful chance to compare three hard to identify species. Also seen were Black-tailed Godwits, Lapwing, Ruff, Spotted Redshank and a flock of 30 Curlews. Ending the day on the saltmarsh the group were treated to views of a male Hen Harrier hunting over the marsh. A total of 73 species were seen on an enjoyable day.

Indoors we have enjoyed a talk on Wheatfen by the warden, Will Smith, some great tips on birding from Su Gough, and the AGM in November with a talk by member Alan Hale. More details of all of these, as well as information on future events, can be found on the website – WVBS.co.uk. Brief details of future meetings are given below.

Outdoor Meetings

Sunday 1st January – Annual bird count in the Wensum Valley.

Saturday 28th January – NWT Cley

Sunday 26th February – Breydon Water

Indoor Meetings

These are all held at Great Witchingham Village Hall at 7.30 pm, and visitors are welcome for a small charge.

19th January – Waders on the move by Graham Appleton.

16th February – Nick Acheson on his biking birding.

WHAT'S ON LOCALLY

Brisley Cinema

Our sincere thanks to everyone who has supported cinema in Brisley during 2022. We will return next year with some super films and some special offers.

Into December we will continue to screen all England games, the exact dates and times are yet to be confirmed.

For the "round of 16" game on either Sat 3rd or Sunday 4th we plan to have a Football and Pie night. Food orders to: Billy Fordham 07788 455075 or bandsfordham@btinternet.com by 30th November. You can still come and watch the game and be part of the atmosphere, free of charge.

For more information about Brisley Cinema contact:

Dave Pearson 07816 139926 – dpearson1954@yahoo.co.uk

Fakenham Choral Society

Fabulously Festive

Christmas Concert 17th December

Step away from the Christmas rush and join us as we celebrate the season with a delightful mix of feel-good festive music. Traditional carols to join in with along with choral favourites, guest singers and orchestra to get you in the mood for the celebrations ahead. Musical Director, Mark Jones, will lead the performance in his usual exuberant style!

Fakenham Parish Church on Saturday 17th December at 5.30 pm. Tickets are £12 (under 16's free). Call 01485 544335, via the website fakenhamchoralsociety.org or on the door.

Do come along for a wonderful evening.

Dereham Walkers Are Welcome

We enjoyed a perfect autumn walk at the beginning of November. There was a slight

breeze as we crunched our way over acorns and marvelled at the autumn colours.

Our short walk of around four miles is always on the first Friday of the month.

There is also a programme of longer walks planned for 2023, including one on January 1st.

Please come and join us for a walk in the local area.

For up to date information, please check our website derehamwaw.org.uk or email Ken Hawkins: ken-hawkins@tiscali.co.uk or call him on 07505 426750.

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Dear Friends,

At a time when we're all aware that many families and individuals have had to flee their homes and their country because of war or persecution, I'm reminded of this story:

A little over 2,000 years ago, a couple had a baby boy. The mother was young and they weren't married when she fell pregnant. They also had to walk around 70 miles to register in a census, just as the baby was due, so all-in-all it had been a difficult time leading up to the birth.

A lot of claims were made about the baby and some really weird things happened around the time he was born – a new star appeared in the sky and angels were seen flying around. People were saying that this child was destined to become a king and that really upset the actual King! So much so that he ordered his soldiers to kill every male child under the age of two.

The family got wind of this (angels again) and took flight. They got out just in time and travelled hundreds of miles. They couldn't speak the language of their new country, so it would have been difficult

to get work. After a couple of years, the old King died and the family were able to return home.

After their ordeal, things settled down and the boy grew strong. They say he was a quick learner with a charming personality.

So many families in the world today simply don't know if they'll ever be able to return home. They've left home and livelihood behind and probably suffered the loss of loved-ones as well. They, too, arrive in countries where they can't speak the language; where customs and even food are unfamiliar.

As we're drawn towards Christmas and the great celebration of Christ's birth, let's spare a thought for our brothers and sisters who are suffering; for all those who are struggling to put food on the table or find somewhere safe to sleep.

However you're spending Christmas this year, may it be a time of great blessing to you and those you love.

Yours, in Christ,

Revd Sally

MORE 2 LIFE

As we hurtle towards the end of the year, looking forward to the promise of a fresh new one and the hope that brings, we pause to reflect on the birth of our Saviour. Whether you recognise Jesus as your Saviour or not, He is a proven historical figure, and His birth, life, and death, fulfilled over 300 prophecies including when, where, and to whom, He would be born. In addition, how much He would be betrayed for, that He would be mocked, crucified, and raised from the dead, are also prophecies that He fulfilled. The chances of one person fulfilling just 8 of these prophecies would be 1 in 100 trillion, yet this one baby fulfilled all those and more.

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Therefore, let us be mindful this Christmas time as we see nativity scenes and plays peeking out from under Santa's, reindeer, fake snow, and the inevitable materialism... that at the heart of Christmas, there is a God who loves you enough to come to rescue you, and give you the opportunity of eternal life. He has proven He can be trusted because what He said would happen has come to pass. And if He can be trusted, then what does that mean for you?

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

Every blessing,

Anne-Marie Fewell
Pastor, More2Life Christian Fellowship
Email; revree7@gmail.com

WORTHING NEWS

Samaritan's Purse UK

Since the beginning of October, a steady flow of filled boxes has been received in church. This year, we have all excelled, boxes from neighbouring villages, Swanton Morley, North Elmham and our home village Worthing.

THANK YOU EVERYONE

Over 40 boxes are now making their way by all means of transport across "our waters!"

Lest We Forget!

St Margaret's Church service on the 13th November, welcomed young families, parents and grandparents to this very special day of Remembrance. Our donation will be received by BLESMA – British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association.

May we pray and thank our Armed Forces who everyday work in keeping us safe

We will remember them

Christmas Raffle

Tickets are available up till 17th December 2022 and drawn in church after our Carol Service on SUNDAY 18th December

1st Winning Ticket Drawn
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Christmas Cake

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Your generous donations are in Aid of our Church Building Appeal

Raffle tickets may be obtained from:

Celia – tel: 01362 668928 / Sharon – tel: 01362 668622

St Margaret's Church - Traditional Christmas Carol Service

On Sunday, 18th December at 3.00pm

All family and friends are welcome to celebrate the Christmas nativity story! We hope you are able to join us

Sunday Service Dates

Our Sunday service dates for January 2023 are 8th Holy Communion & 22nd Morning Prayer, both starting at 10.30am.

And finally, Worthing PCC members would like to thank everyone who has supported our Church, events and most importantly, charities during 2022. May we wish you all a wonderful time over the Christmas holiday and a Happy & Healthy 2023. Our Prayers and best wishes to you and your family.



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and goes ribbet ribbet?

A mistle-toad.

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Heart of Norfolk Group Services in December

4th December – 2nd Sunday of Advent

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

11th December – 3rd Sunday of Advent

10.30 am	Bawdeswell + Zoom	The '10.30'
10.30 am	Worthing	Holy Communion
10.30 am	Foulsham	Holy Communion with Christmas Carols
3.30 pm	Foxley	Christmas Carol Service

18th December – 4th Sunday of Advent

10.30 am	Stibbard	Holy Communion
3.00 pm	Worthing	Christmas Carol Service
3.30 pm	Foulsham	Christingle
3.30 pm	Wood Norton	Christmas Carol Service
4.00 pm	North Elmham	Christmas Carol Service
4.00 pm	Bawdeswell + Zoom	Christmas Carol Service

Christmas Eve

4.00 pm	North Elmham	Christingle
4.00 pm	Stibbard	Crib Service

25th December – Christmas Day

10.30 am	Bawdeswell + Zoom	Christmas Family Communion
10.30 am	Foulsham	Christmas Family Communion
10.30 am	North Elmham	Christmas Family Communion



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Heart of Norfolk Group Services in January 2023

1st January – Naming & Circumcision of Jesus

9.30 am	Wood Norton	Morning Praise
10.30 am	Bawdeswell + Zoom	Holy Communion
10.30 am	North Elmham	Holy Communion
10.30 am	Stibbard	Holy Communion – TBC*

8th January – Epiphany

10.30 am	Bawdeswell + Zoom	The '10.30'
10.30 am	Worthing	Holy Communion
10.30 am	Foulsham	Holy Communion – TBC*
10.30 am	Stibbard	Morning Praise

15th January – 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

10.30 am	Bawdeswell + Zoom	Holy Communion
10.30 am	North Elmham	Holy Communion (Iona)
10.30 am	Wood Norton	Holy Communion – TBC*
4.00 pm	Foulsham	Sung Evensong

22nd January – 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

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

29th January – 4th Sunday of Epiphany

10.30 am	Foulsham	Group Holy Communion
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*Please check our website: heartofnorfolkchurches.org.uk for updates about Sunday services and other news from our villages.

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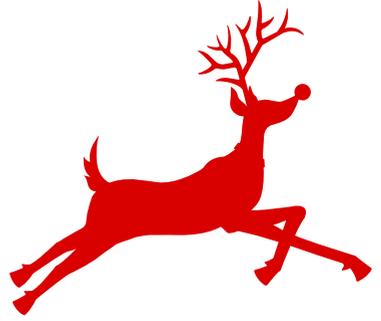


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D	S	V	B	M	D	V	X	O	G	T	M	H	L	T	W	B
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L	S	C	W	S	J	N	O	E	R	U	E	L	I	S	A	R
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C	I	B	B	C	E	L	R	E	I	N	D	E	E	R	C	Q
G	K	G	S	I	K	G	T	M	A	E	A	I	H	S	H	Q
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P	I	O	H	N	L	C	N	R	K	N	H	H	V	T	M	N
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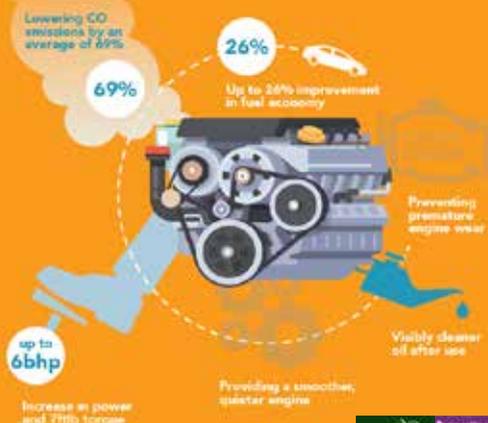
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