

Elmham News

MAY 2021

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HRH Prince Philip Memories

see page 5

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Editorial

It's heartening to receive updates from some of our clubs that they have or will be resuming their activities. It's been a long and difficult year and this time last year we didn't manage to deliver your magazine and the online version was the only option.

I'm sure, like us, you are feeling more optimistic with the vaccination programme on target and the gradual easing of lockdown.

The Gardening Club will be running their annual show in August and it is hoped to have the Fete and a scaled down Flower Festival later in the year. The wheels are in motion to organise these events. We all need a "good old community event" to bring us all together again. Local businesses are also reopening, please do support our local traders.

The Parish Council will also be meeting face to face from June according to government guidelines.

You will have received the children's and young people's survey with your magazine. Please do take the time to complete and return. This is a great opportunity to give your input into the needs of our younger generation. They are our future.

We wondered if there were any participants in the D of E Award in the village. Do let us know. Did you get to the palace and meet him?

Thanks for donations from Mrs. M.S.M and Mr. and Mrs. McEwan.

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

Volume 44, No 4, May 2021

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HRH Prince Phillip Duke of Edinburgh

Much has been written about the Duke of Edinburgh this week who died on the 9th April, a few months short of his hundredth birthday.

He and the Queen were married in 1947. There were no manuals or papers to tell him what he was supposed to do, but he carved out his own path, beside Queen Elizabeth II, always supportive and caring.

The Queen says he was her rock, someone who shared the ups and downs of their lives, both in the public domain, and in their family life when it has been said he was the head of their family and the Queen was the Head of Great Britain and the Commonwealth.

As well as being the Queen's consort and involved with hundreds of organisations, he read voraciously, painted, wrote, invented, rode, sailed – the list of things he could do and do well is endless.

He was involved with nearly one thousand organisations, as President, Honorary Member, or in another capacity with special interests. He particularly enjoyed those organisations for young people and will be remembered for instituting "The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme" for young people.

He loved Norfolk and spent many hours on the Sandringham Estate, coming here to live during the pandemic last year before going to Windsor to be with the Queen.

Broadland MP Mr P. Jerome Mayhew said of the Duke, which sums him up, perfectly "I loved his magnificent disregard for the opinions of others, secure in the knowledge of his own service and dedication".

Sir, your work is now done.

R I P

My Son and Prince Philip

In his role as Colonel of several Regiments Prince Philip would occasionally, and only with the briefest of notice to the Commanding Officer, make informal visits to the men and women in the operational field. In this case the CO was our son David (shown on the cover standing next to Prince Philip), brought up at Mill House Farm, North Elmham. When not abroad on operations with his Tank Regiment, the Queen's Royal Hussars. Lieutenant-Colonel David was Commanding Officer for three years, and his third tour of Iraq in 2006, when Prince Philip made one of his two-day flying visits to the troops. David shared a similar dry sense of humour with His Royal Highness, and apparently, they spent much time comparing their bits of Norfolk, - in both cases their favourite parts of the world! It seems they had certainly shared a pretty good story here.

David has since retired from the Army and after some years running the Emirates Protectorate Force (Army, in a word) now has his home in sunny Dubai. He is hoping to return to the UK soon.

As an aside, my father (David's grandfather) commanded a constituent regiment of the amalgamated QRH., the 3rd King's Own Hussars in 1945/7.

John Labouchere

Parish Council Tribute

It was with great sadness that the Parish Council heard of the death on 9th April of the Duke of Edinburgh, a loyal, brave and influential husband and consort. The members send their sincere condolences to Her Majesty the Queen and to all members of the Royal Family. A link to the book of condolence can be found at www.royal.uk

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North Elmham Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 7 April (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

Mrs. J. Borgnis (Chairman), 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), Mr. I. and Mrs. S. Ball (webmasters) and one parishioner.

Public Participation

Mr. Markwell had received some items which are to be passed to Mrs. Ball for placing on the website. He is to send a photograph of himself and some personal details to the webmasters.

Thanks had been expressed to those who had donated items to Foodbanks. It was also stated that it would be good to contact any people who need help and, in general terms, to look out for neighbours.

Land Management Matters

Village Green: Mr. Smith advised that the quotation in respect of the footpath is still awaited. He will chase. Thanks were expressed to Mr. and Mrs. Ball for producing posters in respect of dog fouling. It was also agreed to place some posters in Millennium Wood.

Cathedral Ruins: Mr. Duffield is to put some grass seed down.

Cathedral Meadows: Mr. Fitzalan Howard said that the management of land is to become more complicated. Following Brexit, a new scheme is to be introduced

and it will be necessary for professional advice to be utilised. As such, it was agreed by all to continue with our current relationship with Brown and Co. In addition, they are to apply for derogation so that the brash can be burnt.

Broom Green: Mr. Labouchere reported that Mr. Cook is to cover the cost of digger hire and pipes, the Parish Council is to pay for materials (maximum spend £1,000) and the residents will be responsible for the road surface.

Millennium Wood (and Jubilee Wood): Twenty one post supports have been fitted at a cost of £20 each. Mr. Duffield is to put some shavings down at the entry to Millennium Wood.

Bridleway on Disused Railway Line and Other Railway Linked Matters: Mr. Rayner recently had a meeting with Mr. Robinson, Chairman of the Mid Norfolk Railway, and the assurance was given that there would be a new path on the top of the embankment which would be wide enough to facilitate safe passage for those using it. The new fence has subsequently been placed some ten feet from the railway track which will result in the footpath being both narrow and not level. Mr. Robinson had given a promise that the path would be safe but the view is that it is not safely usable outside a distance of ten feet. Mr. Phillips felt that we must insist on safe access and it was suggested to place a piece in Elmham News asking for the views of parishioners.

The Mid Norfolk Railway had submitted a request to Breckland Council for a change in the original covenant which would result in the creation of a permissive footpath to the level crossing at County School. The Parish Council is united in its strong opposition to this proposal and Mr. Rayner was thanked for drafting a detailed response which will now be submitted to Breckland. It is hoped that Messrs Bambridge and Borrett will support the Parish Council's position on this matter.

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The MNR is proposing to get a surveyor to inspect the bridge at the bottom of Church Lane in the hope of having it repaired. The bridleway remains unpassable with long standing problems created by a seemingly uncooperative farmer and his cattle. It was suggested that the issue should again be raised with Norfolk County Council and Mr. Grainger will attempt to make contact with the new Highway Engineer.

It was agreed by all to commence the process to make the area between County School and the buffers a Public Right of Way.

Highway Matters

Mr. Grainger has not yet had a response from the new Highway Engineer (Matt Lines) but will continue to chase him. He has also asked about the empty grit bin at the junction of Eastgate Street and Orchard Close but it seems that it does not meet the required criteria. The cycleway across the green matter is still being considered.

Pavilion and Playing Field

Mr. Smith reported that the new Football Club will have a total of seven teams playing next season with the juniors playing at North Elmham and the senior teams using the Billingford Lakes field.

Miss Ferris said that the Slimming World Consultant had provided an updated Risk Assessment and it was agreed that she could commence activities on a restricted basis after 12th April in accordance with the current Covid requirements.

The Cricket Club will have eleven home matches during the coming season, commencing with a friendly with Fakenham Cricket Club.

Youth Club Facilities

Mr. Fitzalan Howard wished to thank Elmham News for reminding parishioners of the forthcoming survey.

Affordable Housing Update

Nothing had been heard from Broadland Housing Association but it was confirmed that the Parish Council would have a say on the selection of any site.

Risk Management

The Clerk reported that AGAR details and documentation had been received from the external auditors. The return has to be forwarded by 30th June, 2021.

Specific member responsibilities for Councillors Gee and Markwell

The following actions were agreed:-

- (i) Mr. Gee to be involved with the Village Green (replacing Mr. Phillips) and Highways
- (ii) Mr. Markwell to be involved with Street Lighting and Prince William Wood. In addition, he is to assist Mr. Rayner with Mid Norfolk Railway matters.
- (iii) Also, Mr. Fitzalan Howard is to concentrate on Stewardship and Youth activities.

Defibrillators

Mr. Gee said that a number of old, red telephone boxes had been used to site defibrillators.

Miss Ferris felt that it could be useful to have one at the Station Road end of the village and agreed to look at the present system, including how it works.

Village Litter Pick

Mr. Grainger had reservations about proceeding with a litter pick and felt that people should be encouraged to take personal responsibility for their own litter. Mr. Fitzalan Howard suggested that, through Elmham News, parishioners should be asked to pick up litter within 100 yards of their homes. Also, it was considered advisable to involve the school in any activities which, due to the current regulations, would need to take place after 21st June. A piece is to be placed in Elmham News after the next meeting.

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Village Green Tree Planting Scheme

Mr. Grainger had submitted a proposal to members, for consideration, prior to the meeting.

In response to the flooding of the path towards the bottom of the village green, it is the intention to contemplate a tree planting scheme to create a small wood between the ditch and the existing line of mature trees on the green. The objective is to get the trees to soak up excess water and in time provide a canopy against rainfall. The alternative appears to be to install more land drains, but if there is a more environmentally friendly solution then it should be considered.

A small woodland would leave the majority of the village green as open space and create an accessible area of woodland and wildlife habitat in the centre of the village. It would also make a contribution, as a community, to help meet county and national tree planting targets. We have been in touch with our county councillor, Bill Borrett, who has offered his support in principle in applying for the provision of the trees through the newly announced "1 million trees for Norfolk" initiative. All members were happy to proceed and Mr. Grainger is to obtain Mr. Borrett's confirmation of support. Grants are also available for projects of this nature. Mr. Labouchere stated that we should also recommend to Highways that the path is rebuilt.

Mr. Phillips had circulated the Management Financial Report for the year ended 31st March, 2021. At the next meeting, the PWLB loan in respect of the Village Green is to be discussed. Messrs Phillips and Grainger will obtain appropriate details.

Planning Applications & Determinations

Applications

(i) Mr. C. and Mrs. A.M. Healy – single storey rear extension – 3PL/2021/0338/F

– The Railway Arms, Station Road – no objections.

(ii) Mr. G. Redwood – variation of conditions – 3PL/2021/0050/VAR – on 3PL/2017/0361/F – Granary Buildings, Eastgate Street – no objections.

(iii) Orchard Homes Ltd – 3OB/2021/0010/OB - discharge of planning obligations comprising of: open space scheme, footpath links scheme, footbridge scheme and community car park scheme, attached to planning permission 3PL/2019/0874/F – land east of Brookside Farm – no objections.

(iv) Orchard Homes Ltd – proposed sub-station to approved development (3PL/2029/0874/F) – 3PL/2021/0400/F – land east of Brookside Farm, Holt Road – no objections.

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

It was also mentioned that the owners of Jannimesa Farm, Eastgate Street have advised that they are not selling their property and have no intention of moving. They are unaware of any planning application.

Determinations

(i) Mr. Gray – side and rear extension – 3PL/2021/0130/HOU – 7 Oak Avenue - approved

Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Overview of Parish Council financial situation

Next Meeting

Wednesday, 5th May 2021 at 7.30 p.m. (Zoom) – Annual Meeting.



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Daffodils

The daffodils along Back Lane and around the village have been spectacular this Spring. However, I recently learned of an elderly gentleman who witnessed people stealing them! He was driving down Back Lane when he saw a white van parked in the lay-by and a man and woman helping themselves, he turned his car round and parked behind them and asked if they had permission to pick the daffodils, to which the answer was no! The gentleman said they had been planted for the pleasure of all and suggested they didn't pick anymore! They got back in their van. The gentleman then drove away being given an unfriendly gesture by the couple, all caught on dash cam!

Caroline Payne

Gardening Club

This month instead of plants, shrubs etc, the topic is attracting wildlife. The essentials to wildlife being in your garden are based on four things trees, deadwood, water and a variety of planting whether it is leaving areas of lawn unmown, letting fallen wood lie, a nettle patch or creating a log pile. These are a few simple things that can make your garden a refuge for wildlife, but a pond can attract a greater variety of wildlife than perhaps any other feature in the garden. It provides a breeding space for frogs, toads, newts and dragonfly and a pond that has a shallow end will also provide pond skaters, water snails plus a watering hole for hedgehogs and birds to drink and bathe.

A sunken sink or large bowl can bring a surprising amount of wildlife but remember to have an exit point for any animal to escape.

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Just thinking ahead, the government is suggesting that from the 21st June all legal limits on social contact will be lifted and if that happens, I would like to suggest the following:

A meeting in the hall on the 24th June at 7.30 pm for you all.

A visit to a local garden on the 22nd July.

Our annual show on 7th August in the Memorial Institute. All dates are provisionally booked.

The above and other matters can be discussed at the June meeting.

It would be great for us to start socialising and having our monthly gatherings and if anyone would like to join us, please come along on the 24th June. We are a friendly crowd.

Of course, the dates depend on the government ruling at the time.

Take Care

Ray

Knit and Natter

The good news is, that although Mr Covid has stopped many things in our lives, he hasn't managed to stop our knitters producing knitted items for charity. Reading the Knitters and Stitches Newsletter (available in paper form or online), I see over the past year many of our members have been busy filling their lofts, spare rooms or under the bed drawers, with beautiful baby clothes, blankets of all shapes and sizes, and sensory bands etc., just waiting for the day when hospitals, care homes, and charity shops, are ready and willing to accept knitted goods again. So, there we are, there is some good news. A mere pandemic cannot stop dedicated knitters. We even dare to think about a stall in an open air

North Elmham Fete, should it take place in the summer, or am I just dreaming.

Meanwhile, many thanks for the generous space given to us by the editors of last month's newsletter. We appreciate the publicity. I would like to add a rider to last month's item. The pattern for the mini hat was correct, but it does not necessarily need to be in blue and white, or even striped. There is no stipulation for colours, so feel free to go your own way and enjoy making 25p per hat for charity. An excellent way of using those bits of wool left over from other projects. Little things make us so happy these days.

Keep safe and look forward to better days.

Eileen Cotterill 668380

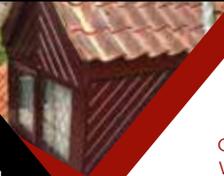
Dear Editors

As I am about to purchase a mobility scooter that is designed to travel on the highway with the maximum speed of 8 MPH, I have concern with electric cars becoming more popular as the noise of engines petrol and diesel disappear with the expected silence of electric vehicles. Slow moving vehicles who mainly rely on noise at very blind junctions will be in perilous situations as their lack of acceleration especially on mobility vehicles to get them out of sticky situations, when cars are breaking the speed limits.

Yours truly,

N A Lowe

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Dear Neighbours

One of the reasons it is so fantastic to live around here is the brilliant night skies we see. The beauty of many a night sky is a sight to behold living in rural Norfolk.

This however is being ruined by a few. It has become increasingly 'light' at night around North Elmham and the surrounding countryside. Many households obviously feel the need to burn the midnight oil and there are increasing numbers of security lights left on all night. Apart from the obvious environmental issues of using more electricity, there are fundamental problems for wildlife associated with the 'undark' nights.

Artificial light;

- In the environment it can change the behaviour of nocturnal animals - those that are most active at night.
- Nocturnally migrating birds can be particularly badly affected.
- Another study found that artificial light is also a threat to crop pollination - an important part of crops and plants growing.
- Artificial night-time light reduced the activity of nocturnal insects, who help pollinate plants.
- It affects the life cycles of nocturnal insects and therefore the mammals and birds that feed on them
- It could even shift some of our planet's seasonal patterns.
- Scientists saw trees in more brightly lit areas opening their buds up to a week earlier than in areas without this kind of lighting.

It's estimated that over 55% of the population cannot now see the Milky Way.

Emma Marrington of Campaign For Rural England – '...without intervention, our

night sky will continue to be lost under a veil of artificial light, to the detriment of our own health and the health of the natural world.'

So I ask you please to think about the need for lighting up the night sky for hours. To also re think your security lighting, could you point it downwards so it's only lighting the path ways on your property instead of the surrounding area?

I for one have noticed an increase in the lights on all night in this area and implore people to research and think about their lighting. Let's keep stargazing!

Thank you.

A Resident

Life in Elmham in 1971

There has been a lot of news in the media lately about girls and young women being molested and often if the perpetrator is found, there were no witnesses, and it is her word against his. So, he is not convicted.

So, I started thinking. I'm in my mid 70's now and when I was a child our village was dark in the evenings and night time. If we went out in the evening, we always carried a torch, and most of us rode a bicycle with a dynamo to produce the light at front and back. When you stopped the dynamo stopped too, so you still needed a torch.

So, I turned to some old scrapbooks with newspaper cuttings in them to see just when we had street lights (can't think of the correct word I need here, were they erected, put in place, or what?) here in the village. Nowadays street lights are part of every planning application, for our safety and we take them for granted.

I can vaguely remember the talk about the lights in 1970 and 71, some people were all for them, some were dead

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against them. How were they to be paid for? Would our rates go up, why live in a country village and have street lights?

The earliest scrapbook I have in my possession was for 1971 and this topic about lighting had reared its head before that particular year. However, in March 1971 this is what was printed in the Dereham and Fakenham Times (now the Dereham Times).

North Elmham's £4,479 street lighting system will be switched on within the next few weeks. At a public meeting in the village school on Wednesday night, the new 4p parish rate for 1971–72, which will cover the annual £907 needed for the repayment of the capital loan for the 89 street lights, plus the cost of energy and maintenance, was unanimously approved. The Clerk Mrs E. Bartlett, explained that the rate was considerably lower than originally anticipated. At one time, it was estimated that the lighting system would have meant an increase of 11 old pence on the existing 2d parish rate, but because of the rise in the population of Elmham – now standing at an estimated 1,170 – the rate was able to be considerably less than this.

The Council has made every effort to keep the rate as low as possible said Mrs Bartlett. We applied for a precept of £900 for the coming year – as at present the Council has some money in hand to cover our normal things – and the extra £7 for the rating bill.

Earlier at a Parish Council meeting Mrs Bartlett reported that an application for a loan of £4,479 for the lights had been made to Norfolk County Council.

Janet Woodhouse

Scribbles Pre-school

We have had an unexpected start to our 18 months at North Elmham however, hopefully we are heading back to some sort of normality!

We would like to thank all of our supportive parents, carers and friends in the village and surrounding areas.

We are a small independently owned pre-school catering for children from two years, we are open 7.30am—5.00pm Monday to Friday, 51 weeks of the year and are looking forward to resuming our brilliant holiday club and before/after school club!

We have a lovely bright free flow setting full of plants and are hygge accredited centre, this means we follow a Scandinavian approach to child led learning, focusing on nature and following a Wanderlust Nature Study to our development in an all natural setting.

Outside we have a fantastic dome which really gives us a wow factor, a beautiful wooden pirate ship which our children chose when we opened - we allowed them to pick their own resources !! There is also a painting wall, allotment area and a brilliant woodland kitchen!

We have our resident squirrels, robins and cat that we like to watch daily !

We are proud supporters of North Elmham U8s Football Team and are looking forward to being part of the community more once the pandemic has settled.

For more information, please ring us on 01362 668638 or visit our facebook page - Scribbles Preschool Group - North Elmham or our website www.scribblespre-schoolgroup.co.uk where you will find information about both our wonderful settings.



School News

Hello from us all at North Elmham CEVA Primary school. We welcomed back all our pupils from 8th March and we and they were so glad to see one another, to regroup and reconnect. So important for our good mental health. The staff are receiving training in this field and we are adopting the 5 ways to mental health. Members of staff are training as mental health champions too.

During the last week of lockdown for us in school settings, we received an Ofsted inspection. Suffice to say it was remarkable in that it was virtual but no less intense and thorough in its inspection. I was especially proud of my school staff, LA, governors and children who contributed to the inspection. I can share the outcome with you all in the next newsletter when the publishing date is officially announced.

Below, we are sharing some of our recent school events for you to see what's going on in our fantastic school.

Day of Calm

Both schools have enjoyed a 'day of calm' since we returned to school. Suzi, who works in partnership with the WNDSSP, visited and spoke to us about mindfulness and showed us some breathing activities to help keep us calm. We all then learnt some Tai Chi movements before taking part in our own Tai Chi routine. The superhero pose caused much hilarity but taught us to stand firm and be grounded in our thoughts.

Enrichment Surprises

Since returning to face to face teaching, we have retimetabled our much enjoyed weekly enrichment sessions across the federation, via zoom. Mrs Budgett commenced with the life story of Sir



Captain Tom written for children. It's a story about adventure and family with the strong message to never give up and think about what can be achieved when we can all work together, "because one step" has the power to inspire one hundred more."

His book; One Hundred Steps, ends with a photograph of Sir Tom proudly bearing his medals and afterwards the task for the children was to create a medal themselves to wear that passes a message onto others that can be read throughout the day. For example; Be Kind.

The following week, Mrs Niven shared the story of ' Those Magnificent Sheep Flying Machine' by Peter Bentley and David Roberts. Afterwards, Mrs Niven discussed the restrictive experience of lockdown whilst modelling her drawing. The children followed drawing a plane in their sketchbooks and imagined where

they could go or would like to go when we are able to travel!

This week with the run up to the Easter holidays, Ms Jones shared the story of Peely Wally by Kali Stileman about a small bird who lived high up in a tree... One day she laid an egg.... Ms Jones discussed the Scots expression of feeling a bit 'Peely Wally' - a bit off colour! Afterwards the children got messy and painted on greaseproof paper with their fingers to create their own peely wally that could be peeled off when dry to hang in windows during the holidays in order to cheer up passers by. This is a promotion of the Grayson Perry's Art Club lockdown challenge of hanging art in windows. Last year, nearly ten thousand people submitted their artwork to Grayson and Philippa's lockdown exhibition at Manchester Art Gallery. Hopefully they,



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like me, will be inspired to have some more fun 'creating' during the holidays.

Class News

Sheep class had a busy last few weeks of term and really made the most of their time back together after lockdown! They have enjoyed being outside as much as possible, playing in our mud kitchen and making fantastic large constructions. In geography, we drew large chalk maps of the UK on our playground, learning the names of the countries, seas and capital cities. In science, we went on a flower walk and drew the parts of a flower, and in history we learnt about the achievements of Florence Nightingale. The children also enjoyed several Easter activities as well. We acted out the Easter story, and also made papier mache eggs. The class loved watching Open the Book's Easter collective worship, starring one of our very own Sheep! On Welly Day, they were lucky enough to have an egg hunt around the school grounds!

Whales have been busy learning all about the Stone, Bronze and Iron Age. We went on a knowledge hunt around our outdoor area where we discovered lots about the Iron Age period. In Art, Georgia O'Keeffe inspired our close-up, large scale flower paintings. We explored the use of oil pastels and complimentary colours. We continue to enjoy our Welly Day sessions. Our focus has been on teamwork, building independence and resilience. We have also been working on creating our large structures and dens; learning different ways to ensure they are secure enough to last various weather conditions!

Lions Class have worked very well since being back together at school. We have been involved in group work, teamwork activities, debates and discussions to help get us working collaboratively together again. Some highlights of the past few weeks have been hunting for fossils and

learning how to excavate; designing and making a sweet and savoury puff pastry pinwheel; and learning a very enjoyable new game in PE called Kabaddi.

Please know we have some spaces for pupils for September 21 should you be interested. Please contact the school for any enquiries. We also have space on our governing body should you be interested in this voluntary role.

We look forward to a different - hopefully a bit more normal, last term. Thank you for your attention.

Ms Paula Jones
Executive Headteacher

Railway Round-up

As you'll have read in Elmham News over recent months, there have been various issues related to the railway and its associated footpath running through the parish: as Parish Councillor leading on railway liaison, I thought a few words may help to clarify some of these.

Over the last year the footpath along the trackbed has understandably been more widely used than normal, and its value as an amenity for residents and visitors (when Covid rules have allowed) has been highlighted. This has coincided with various works by the Mid Norfolk Railway (MNR) and the seasonal flooding of part of the footpath. These issues have been detailed in articles by the MNR Chairman and resident Peter Wade-Martins, along with additional letters. Parish Councillors are aware of these views, and in addition most councillors have had many conversations with residents, often while out walking along the trackbed.

Details of the Parish Council's views, discussions, actions and proposals relating to the railway are published

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in the Elmham News in the minutes or draft minutes of its meetings – please read these to keep updated. If you have anything you'd like to raise, report or question please do so at one of our meetings, or by contacting me (details at the back of Elmham News).

The railway, footpath and County School station are assets which we all enjoy, while the MNR hopefully appreciates the value of support of residents and visitors for its projects and plans. For decades, these facilities have been used without major difficulties and this should be possible to continue into the future, despite the problems which have arisen over the past eighteen months or so. The Parish Council will continue to act on behalf of residents to secure the best outcomes regarding the footpath and other railway-related issues.

Michael Rayner

Who Is “Someone”?

This is the greatest mystery of our time and we are no nearer finding them than we were 1,000 years ago.

Obviously quite a lot of chat has gone on via the telephone, email and social media over recent months and during the course of it, it has become clear that “someone” is responsible for a vast number of things.

“Someone” will pick up litter thrown casually onto our streets and highways; they will also pick up not only raw dog faeces but those little black bags that lie littered around, often hanging on branches. They will report minor problems to the Parish Council for “someone” to do something about. “Someone” will keep an eye on neighbours who might need help and assistance or just a few words.

That same “someone” will volunteer to do ‘X’ or ‘Y’ and support the authorities

and those who need to know. “Someone” will start a group to help keep the community ticking.

“Someone” will do something about it – whatever it is. So, who is “Someone”?

Do I really have to spell it out; that “SOMEONE” is YOU.

Without our wonderful volunteers, and you know who you are who deliver magazines, shopping, cheery words, run clubs and organisations, volunteer to litter pick, garden, clean brasses and keep churches open, join Parish and Church Councils, organise activities and in general, do so much to keep the heart of this community beating, we are nothing!

So next time you hear yourself thinking or saying “Someone should do something”, have a good look in the mirror and work out how to play your part.



A woman walked into the kitchen to find her husband stalking around with a fly swatter.

“What are you doing?” she asked.

“Hunting flies” he responded.

“Oh. Killed any?” she asked.

“Yep. Three males and two females”

Intrigued, she asked, “How can you tell?”

He responded, “Three were on a beer can and two were on the phone”

King's Head Hotel

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Kings Head Hotel Update

Dear Elmham News Readers,

We at the Kings Head are incredibly pleased that it is looking more optimistic than it did this time a year ago. I will not lie to you that the last year has been extremely hard for us, like many of yourselves, however our silver lining is that the time where we have had to be closed has been put to good use and we have been able to renovate much of the building which was crying out for much TLC!

We will be reopening on the 16th of April and will operate each weekend and keep closed during the week to continue finishing off our renovations. If all goes to plan, we will reopen your newly renovated bar on the 17th of May. We have installed flagstone flooring in the pub and restored some of the original clay tiles where we could. The bar has been replaced with a French oak top and it is looking gorgeous. I have spent many hours buying up some lovely bits of furniture from auctions to furnish the pub with. The toilets have had a much-needed spruce up. On the outside of the building the windows and gutters have all painted. The entire building has been painted on the inside (with a few bits to finish to go before the 17th of May).

Much work has been done in what I am calling phase one of getting this lovely old building back into something we can all be proud of; however, we still have

some way to go. Phase two will involve continuing to improve the hotels garden and grounds. Replacing windows old windows for new. Continuing adding new artwork. Although the restaurant has been painted, we will need to upgrade the floor when it is possible. Our aim is to do as much of this work as quickly as possible. I am sure you will be happy with what we have done so far, and I know Cisco and his team can not wait to show off what has been completed, it really is a whole new exciting space for you to enjoy.

I would like to thank Cisco who has tirelessly worked, alongside a small team, open during lockdown. We have continued welcoming key workers when they needed a bed for the night. I know that you are in good hands with him and his team here to look after you.

Thank you all for your continued support and we all hope to see you soon for drinks and food in the large beer garden at the back of the hotel from 16th April each weekend (full details on our centre page advert).

Keep well and stay safe.

Steven Sands
Owner

Cricket Club Welcome New Sponsor

By the time you are reading this, we hope that the Cricket season is underway with a full programme of League and friendly fixtures. After a severely curtailed 2020 in which only a handful of matches were possible, players across the county and indeed country have been busy preparing for the new season which for NECC began with friendlies against Brisley and Fakenham and from the start of May with league fixtures against Mundford and Thornham. The usual indoor nets sessions were not possible while leisure centres were unavailable but as soon as the clocks changed outdoor nets commenced in sometime chilly conditions as players resumed acquaintances with bat and ball.

There is much optimism for the season with a strong squad assembled including all who played last year as well as new and former players signed up. We really believe that we can be contenders for promotion having narrowly missed out in 2019.

We are delighted to announce that the Club has secured a sponsorship deal with Elmham based company J&L STOVES and new shirts with their logo are proudly being worn. Company owner Jason Miller says, "I feel very proud to be NECC's sponsor for the 2021 season and we have high hopes for the team this year. Supporting the local community is very important to me so by sponsoring the Cricket Club I hope this will help them to progress up the leagues, bring new members into the club and younger generations into the sport. I hope to see many of you at our home games and we thank you for your support."

The format for games is of course subject to conditions set out in the government's plan to ease lockdown restrictions and initially include on field precautions such

as regular sanitisation of hands and equipment while off the field players arrive changed, socially distance while not in the field and bring their own refreshments. Any spectators will also have to follow the guidelines. From June 21 however we hope that we can return to the pre-pandemic arrangements.

The Club welcomes any new players regardless of experience, age and ability. Please pop down to nets on a Thursday evening or come along to a Home game as listed below. Or call Kevin (07813 739496) or Mark (07980 027124).

Home fixtures 2021 (League unless otherwise stated)

Sat 1st May Mundford

Sat 15th May Denver

Sat 22nd May Gooderstone

Sat 5th June Narborough

Sat 19th June Beeston

Fri 9th July Brisley (Evening T20)

Sat 10th July Thornham

Sat 31st July Dersingham

Sat 14th August Saham Toney

Sat 28th August Rocklands



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Tale From An Elmham Boy

We received this from an old Elmham boy, it made us chuckle.

I lived at Yarrow Farm as a boy and we all used a path beside the railway line from the Yarrow crossing to join up with the path the signalmen used from their homes beside the line, to the signal box. Then on to the platform. On a bike you had to stop for the distance signal wires across the path.

A story from my past. I was riding my bike with no lights on (didn't have any lights) in the village after dark when Mr Rowe the local policeman saw me. He shouted for me to stop but I went off like the wind. Mr Rowe was 6 feet or more tall and could cram a bike along, so it was cops and robbers old school!

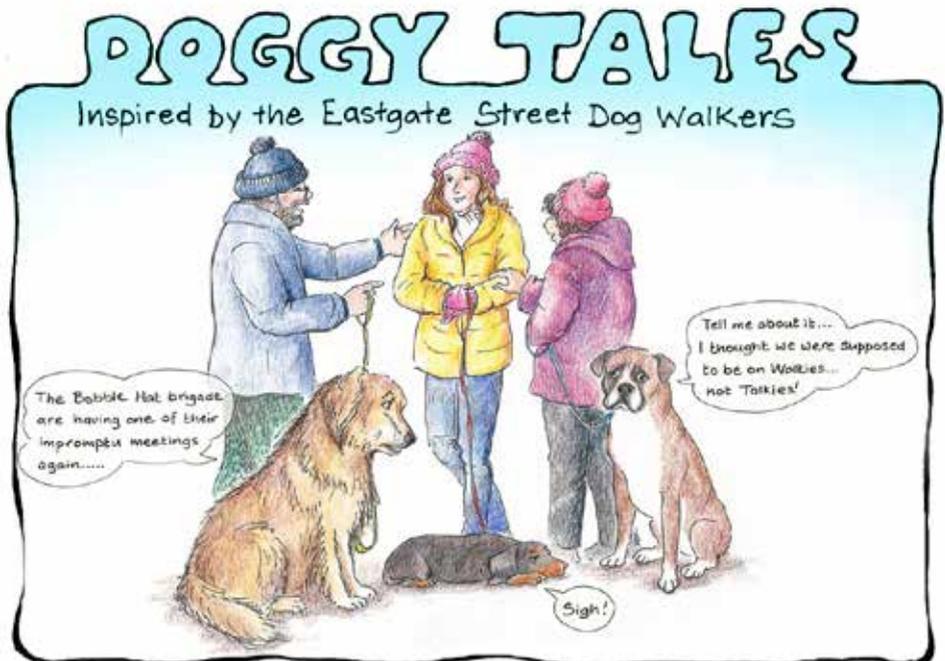
I headed out of the village to the station and along the path to the distance wires, with Mr Rowe in close attendance. On getting to the wires I made it so I could peddle across without coming off and carried on. A few seconds later there was a big commotion and I heard Mr Rowe come off his bike!!

Next night in the village Mr Rowe saw me – and I got due recompense!

In those days you were wary of the police

Ronnie Clarke

Can someone tell us what were the distance signal wires were and what did they do?



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Sunday: 12.00–4.00 pm

We will be serving a reduced menu until 17th May when we will revert to our normal 7-day-a-week lunch and dinner service, where we will be offering our full menu again. We will be open bank holiday weekend with Saturday service on Sunday and Sunday service on Monday 3rd May.

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Spong Hill Revealing The Past – Part 1

England's largest Early Saxon Cemetery revealed here in Elmham.

The excavations on Spong Hill, 1972 – 1981 and 1984, discovered evidence from the Mesolithic, Neolithic, Early Bronze Age, Late Iron Age, Roman and Early Saxon Periods. The land was owned and farmed by the Thompson Family. The excavations were funded by the Department of the Environment (now English Heritage). In 1974, Dr. Catherine Hills, of Cambridge University, became the Director of the Spong Project.

From 1977 I spent five seasons on the excavation, and when we weren't digging, we were processing the finds, records, and photographs to produce a site archive, which is stored by the Norfolk Museums



Service. It is published in nine volumes, for all the periods previously mentioned (The Anglo- Saxon Cemetery at Spong Hill, North Elmham, Parts 1 to V111 in East Anglian Archaeology 1977 -1995; Spong Hill. Part IX : Chronology and Synthesis. McDonald Institute Monograph 2013) The Museums Service stores the finds, some are on display in the Castle Museum, and selected finds are included in the ' First Farmers ' room of the Rural Life Museum, Gressenhall.

The study of the Early Saxon cemetery and settlement has made an immense



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contribution to our knowledge of the period, as the cemetery is the largest one known in this country. The excavations were timely, as the shallow depth of topsoil on parts of the hill meant that farming had been destroying our past. Only part of the settlement was excavated, more remains, waiting to be revealed !

The cemetery was started around 400/420 A.D. and for the first 70 years cremation was the rite, when the Hill probably served many settlements around, in a rough circle of about 10km radius. From about 470/490 A.D. smaller numbers of cremations were deposited alongside inhumation as a new rite. These people were probably from more local settlements, including the one found on Spong Hill ,close to the cemetery .Burials ceased around 530/550 A.D.

Although 2284 individuals were identified from the cremations, we know that originally there were many more. The site was first recorded in 1711 by a local antiquary, Peter le Neve, when at least 120 urns were found by labourers repairing a fence in the Broom Close (which is on Spong Hill). Since then many further reports of the removal of urns have been recorded, suggesting that at least 2700 individuals were in the cemetery!

There were 57 inhumations, at least six of these were within ring ditches, suggesting that they had been covered by earth mounds. Unfortunately, one of these, Inhumation 31, had been robbed in the past, but not everything had been taken.

The condition of the bones from the inhumations was poor and mostly non-existent, due to the acidity of the soil. However, the cremated bone was preserved due to changes in its composition as a result of intense heat from the pyre. The weight of bone from the average adult after cremation is somewhere between 2500 -3000gm. The

average weight of bone in the Spong urns was 812.4 gm, less than one-third of that weight. This shows that either not all of the bone was collected after the pyre had cooled, or that not all of the bone collected was deposited in the urn. Many of the fragmented bones were recognisable, allowing a specialist to lay out the remains of the skeleton.

The bone was examined by Jacqueline McKinley, who treated each individual like a patient in a surgery, often talking to them! Depending upon the bones represented in each cremation, it was possible to determine the person's rough age, sex and detect pathological problems. The average age at death was 34 years.

Animal bone was also found in the cremation urns. The species represented at Spong Hill included horse, cattle, sheep/goat, pig, dog, fox, roe deer, red deer, bear, beaver, hare, domestic fowl, domestic goose, fish and unidentified birds. Horses and dogs appear to have been placed on the pyres whole and represented status symbols or personal possessions. Sheep, cattle and pig were dismembered and were probably food offerings to the dead. Bones of some species, sometimes pierced, seem to have been amulets.

Some personal objects were cremated with the individual and collected for inclusion in the urn. These may have included brooches, jewellery, personal artefacts, weapons, tools and craft implements, and vessels as well as dress accessories. Some small personal objects did not go on the pyre but were placed in the urn. Certain collections were indicative of male or female burials. The urns were probably all sealed, pottery lids survived but skin, textile or wood did not.

At a time, convenient to relatives and friends, the urn or urns would have been

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taken to the cemetery and placed in a burial pit. There is evidence suggesting family plots, as there are examples of two or more urns together. They were probably marked in some way, for example, large flints have been found on top of urns which unfortunately eventually crushed them.

We have no idea what sort of ceremony accompanied a cremation or a burial. It was a pre-Christian society that revered nature and was pleased when their gods gave them a good harvest. Woden was the King of their gods, but only one god was represented on Spong Hill. This was Tiw (god of war and death, the law and agreements), whose name was in Runes on a stamp used on three cremation urns. This may have been to ensure the safe passage of the deceased to the after life, or to protect his relatives by preventing the spirit from walking.

Here are two examples of cremations:-

1. Cremation 2531. Complete pot with a lid, both decorated. There was no soil inside, the lid had protected the contents. There was 853.1gm of bone, a mature adult female (26-40yrs) and sheep. She had irregular growths of bone on her kneecap (osteophytes) which meant stiffness and decreased mobility. Her grave -goods were a piece of bronze sheet, purpose unknown; six to eight glass beads,(blue, red and white); and part of a bone comb. Date: mid to late 5th cent.
2. Cremation 2144. Incomplete. The pot was decorated , which included a small foot stamp. There was 142.5gm of bone, a young juvenile (5-8yrs). The child's grave-goods were several glass beads (pale blue with white stripes, green-blue, blue, white and red). Date: mid 5th to mid 6th cent.

Many of us can sympathise with the adult, who probably had pain in her other joints too. I cannot imagine the grief felt by the

parents of the child, and their choice of an urn with the foot stamp is memorable. Infant mortality in Early Saxon communities was high, we must be thankful for modern medical developments.

*Robert Rickett
Research Officer (former),
Spong Hill Project*

This Time Last Year



There was no printed version of the May edition of the Elmham News because of Covid restrictions. However we did manage to produce an online version which was placed on the community website and is still there if you would like to read it www.elmham.org.uk/elmham-news/elmham-news-magazine/



Wildlife at the Cathedral Meadows



Despite some cold northerly winds and even a bit of snow, spring is now appearing. After Chiffchaffs, the next of the warblers to arrive here for the summer are the Blackcaps (photo 1). Males usually arrive first and often it's their song that draws my attention, but this year my first was a brown-capped female that popped up just in front of me. This morning I heard my first Willow Warbler too – a beautiful sound. A more unexpected spring surprise was a brief visit by a pair of Cranes (photo 2). In the UK, Cranes were restricted to a tiny population in the Broads until recently, but they're doing well and spreading to new locations including the Fens. Each spring a few birds go on a 'fly-about' and are often seen flying along the coast before returning to their breeding spot. They're much more rarely seen here in the Wensum Valley and when they are seen here, they're normally just flying over (except sometimes at Pensthorpe where the captive birds can call them down). So it was a lovely surprise to hear from Ann Keeble that she and her son had seen a pair of Cranes in the valley from the bottom of the meadows. I went along next day and was pleased that they were still there – a long way off but great to see. We didn't tell many people about them because if they had stayed to breed, they might have attracted the wrong sort of attention (sadly rare breeding birds often suffer from disturbance from well-meaning birdwatchers or photographers and even from criminal egg-collectors), but as it



turned out they didn't stay for long before returning to the site they'd come from.

Another thing that heralds the arrival of spring is the emergence of more insects. Among them several species of bee have been spotted around the meadows including such delights as Gwynne's Mining Bee nectaring on Lesser Celandines (photo 3), Hairy-footed Flower Bee on Red Dead Nettle (photo 4), Garden Bumblebee on White Dead Nettles and Buff-tailed Bumblebees on Plum Cherry blossom. These and other insects are really important pollinators without which most of our flowers and crops wouldn't exist. Our insect populations are declining shockingly fast and we ignore this at our peril! But sometimes people do the wrong things with the right intentions of helping, and as I write this I've just read the announcement from Marks and Spencer that they are going to introduce 30 million bees to their farms. That might sound like a great idea, but these will be the non-native domesticated Honey Bees and it's been shown that these can actually have a negative impact on our wild native bee populations (the ones that need protecting) through competition, changes in plant communities or transmission of disease. Hopefully they will rethink this.

Some flies resemble bees and one that's often seen at the meadows (and in gardens) in early spring is the Dark-edged Bee-fly photo 5). With its brown furry body it looks quite bee-like but they have long straight mouthparts pointing forward that make them look much fiercer than they really are (they don't use this to sting or attack people). Some other flies are leaf-miners, their larvae burrowing through the middle of the leaf just below the surface. I found one such leaf-mine on some Alexanders growing near the chapel (photo 6) and took the leaf home to identify the fly. It was quite an ugly leaf-mine to be honest, more a dirty blotch than the fine linear patterns that some leaf-mining insects make, but the larva soon pupated and after three weeks the most beautiful fly with lovely orange



and green eyes, shiny body and boldly patterned wings emerged, a Celery Fly.

Why not come along to the meadows yourself and see what you can find. Let us know what you see: email appleton.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/).

Dave Appleton

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North Elmham's Got Talent!

It is all looking very positive with the current update of restrictions being lessened, but even if we are relinquished of all restrictions on June 21st, it is still not enough time to get everything up and running for the Panto 2022. It is therefore, with deep regret that the Panto will not be going ahead for next year. I am very concerned about the rehearsals more than anything else and getting everything together before the end of 2021.

However... it is not all bad news as I have another idea to keep the momentum going in the village and we will all need a HUGE amount of fun and laughter when we come out of the other side of this! I would like to put on a production of NORTH ELMHAM'S GOT TALENT. We have some extremely talented singers, musicians, comedians, dancers, maybe there is a magician out there who can bring something else to the show? If you feel you have something to offer, as an act, I would be very pleased to hear from you. I don't really want this show to be a competition, it will be more of an evening's social entertainment for everyone. Hopefully we can put on a few performances (as at the moment we are not sure how socially distanced we might have to sit?). All proceeds will be for the Memorial Institute.

I would hope come January 2022 we can look forward to getting the PANTO back in full swing, but in the meantime, please contact me as soon as possible – it would be great to have some of you talented performers take part in our show. Children are most welcome too.

I will look forward to hearing from you.

Theresa Gower 668589

Growing Up in Elmham in the 40's & 50's

This was printed in the News ages ago and Norman and Caroline wrote their memories the following months we thought our readers might enjoy reading this!

Life was taken at a different pace then, a much gentler pace and the seasons dictated the pattern of our lives.

As a small child I had to walk to school, too young for a bike at four years old and of course we didn't have a car for my mother to drive me there. My father was cowman at Foxburrow Farm where we lived, and it did seem a long, long walk!

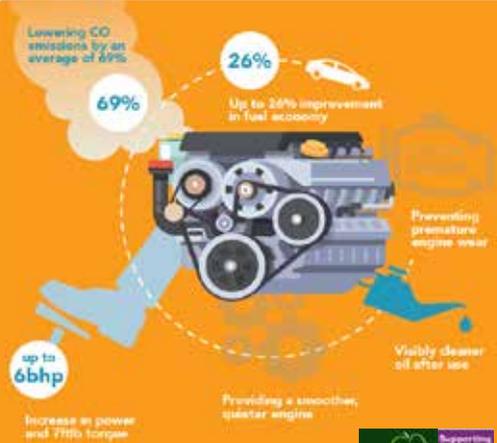
My brother, four years older, was supposed to keep an eye on me but I was a whinger and a tell tale, so as soon as we were out of sight of the house he would take off and leave me. Nowadays no parent would allow a four year old to walk alone along that road but all those years ago there was little traffic to worry about.

In the winter time we just piled on more layers of clothing to keep warm, but girls didn't wear trousers or tights then and walking to school in the wind, rain or snow wearing wellingtons or rubber boots as we called them, meant our legs were always chapped and sore just above the tops of the boots. Another abiding memory of sore legs was of playing in the harvest fields when the corn was cut and the stubble cutting one's ankles. I can still feel it now!

Once at school we still had to keep our boots on. Gloves and scarves on occasion would be dried on the tall guard around the coal fire which our teachers had to keep topped up.

We all had a 1/3 of a pint of milk at playtime and in the winter the milk always froze in the bottles and pushed the cardboard top off. So we would bring the milk crate into the classroom and leave near the fire to thaw out – the milk always

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tasted disgusting and in the Summer if it was hot it would be well on its way to being "off".

Elmham school when I started was the building that we see today alongside the road. These were the Victorian classrooms. The infants class was in what is now the staffroom, the hall today was home to three classes – there was a partition across the middle with one class one side and two the other side! Having a career in teaching I don't think I would have relished teaching in a room with another class in it as well.

The playground then was bare ground, with a wall separating the younger children from the older ones, and the toilets across the playground near the boundary wall. In the summer we didn't play near the toilet block! There was no running water so the loos were bucket and wooden seat jobs!

The buckets were emptied once a week and you didn't want to be around when the honey cart arrived. This was the same for most of the village cottages. Most of my friends had newspaper squares hung up in their toilets for toilet paper but we always had to have hard Bronco paper and I did so want to be like everyone else!!

I always had to go to Sunday School at church – most of my friends at school went to the Methodist Sunday School where they had concerts, with recitations. I didn't know what recitations were but thought they must be good and fun. My

Grandmother always said that I couldn't go to the Chapel and sounded so disapproving of it that I never got to go and find out what a recitation really was.

I did enjoy the Festivals at church though. I loved picking primroses for Easter decorations in church, and covering the steps of the Children's Corner with moss. Watering it and watching fascinated as the water rushed along the floor and we flicked it into the gratings over the hot pipes and listened to it hissing (if Easter was early then the heating might have been on).

At Harvest Festival time we used to get in the way trying to help putting out vegetables and fruit – we really only wanted to eat the apples if we could.

At Christmas time we cut holly for decorations and we would fight to see who could arrange the figures for the Nativity, and of course they were chipped even then.

When we were children we always seemed to be outside. If you wanted someone to play with, you just wandered around the village until someone else joined you, then off you would go.

In the summer time a popular place was the old Billingford road bridge (a humpbacked bridge blown up for safety reasons in 1952) where everyone would paddle and learn to swim. Daring boys would dive off the top of the bridge into the river below, remember this was a main road. I cannot recall anyone ever being

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLES' ACTIVITIES SURVEY

The Parish Council's survey for village activities is included with this edition of The Elmham News. This is your chance to have your say on these important matters.

Please complete it and hand it in at The Tea Post or The Elmham Stores.

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hurt doing that but what a hue and cry there would be today if children were caught diving off a bridge into a muddy river where cattle had come for water and who knows what else.

When I was small the treat of the week would be to go to the Institute on a Saturday night for the pictures. If you were posh, you called it the cinema! Lots of villages now think they are the first to do this but Elmham was way ahead of its time already having the cinema come to the village hall. A short film then a longer film, were brought out from Dereham, often I seem to remember cowboy films or war films .All the bikes would be lined up outside as very few people had cars and anyway cars weren't meant for short journeys in the village.

Father would be waiting for me in the large hall having been playing cards or billiards with other fathers whilst waiting for my brother and I. He was waiting to bike home with us – we probably didn't

have lights on our bikes anyway and he didn't want us to be caught by PC Cushion who would also be on a bike!

Fetes and Jumble Sales were all good for entertainment and eagerly looked forward to, as well as weddings. I can't remember how we knew when there was going to be a wedding but we'd all go up to the church to watch the event. In those days the door facing the road was the main door so we children could quite legitimately dodge around on the path, getting in everyone's way to have a good look.

The village had a variety of shops then, hard to imagine now but as I said earlier not many people had cars so the village was almost self-sufficient.

Starting at the top of the village beyond the church, Nelson House was a general store run by Mr and Mrs Boutelle, Elm House at the bottom of the hill was at various times a fish and chip shop, a café, and lastly a small general store run by Mrs Shailles.

King's Head Bowls Club

The 2021 outdoor season is looming. We play from the beginning of May to September, and the team are doing a great job getting the green ready.

During the season the Team play in 3 leagues and various cup matches throughout the Mid-Norfolk area. Members can also compete for a variety of Club trophies. The Green is also open for practice sessions and social "roll-ups".

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

Martin 668409

Or Bryan 668712

Or any other member

*As a club we enjoy our bowls and enjoy several Bar-B-Q's and other social events during the year. **We would love to see you.***

COVID-19 Off out? Check in.



Everyone needs to check in to help stop the spread.
Use the NHS COVID-19 app to protect your friends and family.

Let's take this next step safely.



Mr Kerrison's shop, now the Post Office, was an emporium, everything you might need was there; vinegar by the pint, sugar, lard, dried fruit weighed out by the pound, bacon sliced, ham boiled. You name it and it was there. Further along the road was the butchers' shop run by Mr and Mrs Myhill, now a private house called Scragend.

The Post Office was run by Mr and Mrs Ravencroft at the top of Eastgate Street and was also a shop. The Post office bit was behind a metal grille and Mrs Ravencroft always called me love and I wondered why (I had a cloistered early childhood as did all the village children and hearing other accents and expressions threw us a bit as we couldn't understand why some people talked differently).

Mr Parker had his shop opposite Eastgate Street, on the main road. He repaired shoes, bicycles and anything electrical, and at the shop opposite the Green Field was the Love family. They ran a cycle and wireless business and newspapers were delivered by them. George Love would also run a taxi service if you needed a lift somewhere and couldn't get there by train.

Going down Eastgate Street was Hunt's Bakery, bread delivered to your house if you wanted, then Miss Frost's shop opposite The Haven. Miss Frost was a staunch Methodist and her family kept the Methodist Chapel running for years with great devotion. Just past her shop was another bakery run by Mr Howlett, bread also delivered by him.

Just over the station, at the entrance to Seamans grain and animal feed business was a tiny café. This was run mainly for the drivers and workers who came to Seamans and the railway line, as corn, and sugar beet was loaded at Elmham to go as freight on the railway.

There was also the garage along the Station Road and in the late 50's, a garage was built at the top of the Pound Hill, now long gone.

There were four pubs in the village then, the Railway on Station Road, the George and Dragon near the church, The Kings Head on the crossroads and the King William at Broom Green.

In the summertime the village was deserted as most mums would go to Air Vice Don's estate to pick the blackcurrants he grew. After school we children would all go there to find our mums; mine always said 'get a basket and pick'. Even today the smell of currants takes me back to that time.

I think the money earned came at the right time of the year as new clothes and shoes were needed for the autumn term at school.

Transport out of the village was by train. We were lucky to have a station at either end of the village and there were trains going to Norwich one way and Wells the other. Sundays were the days to go to Wells, not to enjoy ourselves, but to go cockling. Mother would leave the cockles overnight in the bucket covered with fresh water and a handful of oatmeal for the cockles to eat, this cleaned them. Then we'd have cockle fritters for breakfast and cockles for tea. I can't bear them now!

We all biked everywhere and thought nothing of it, regularly cycling miles for entertainment or getting to work. And after all if the pedalling got tough, you just got off your bike and pushed it.

A happy carefree childhood. This was just after the War and money was tight, but we children could roam where we liked and if we misbehaved a mum or dad would clip our ears and say 'Wait till I see your Mum'. If we were hurt someone would be bound to see and take us indoors and patch us up.

Life was safe and there were always mums around to keep an eye out for you.

Happy times.

Janet Woodhouse

Artists Wordsearch

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

CHAGALL

CONSTABLE

DA VINCI

HOLBEIN

KANDINSKY

MILLET

MONET

MOREAU

PICASSO

POLLOCK

REMBRANDT

REMINGTON

ROCKWELL

SISLEY

TANGUY

VAN DYCK

VAN GOGH

VERMEER

WHISTLER

If you are an ex Elmhamite and have left the village now but want to keep up with our news, perhaps you log on to our village website,(www.elmham.org.uk) to read the Elmham News. If you have any stories about life in the village, perhaps you went to school here, or you had an accident and had to go to the Surgery, or just played like some of us did and were probably called hooligans, please write and tell us.

Rocky Road Recipe

Ingredients

200g digestive or Rich Tea biscuits

135g butter

200g dark chocolate (70% cocoa works best)

2–3 tbsp golden syrup

100g mini marshmallows or chopped regular marshmallows

Icing sugar, to dust

Method

Grease and line an 18cm square brownie tin with baking paper.

Place biscuits in a freezer bag and bash with a rolling pin to a size of your choice.

In a saucepan melt the butter, dark chocolate and golden syrup over a gentle heat stirring constantly until smooth, remove from the heat and leave to cool.

Stir the biscuits and marshmallows into the chocolate mixture until everything is completely covered.

Tip the mixture into the lined baking tin, and spread it out to the corners.

Chill for at least 2 hours then dust with icing sugar and cut into squares.

Paraprosdokians

A figure of speech in which the latter part of a sentence is unexpected. Winston Churchill loved them!

1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
 2. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
 3. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
 4. War does not determine who is right – only who is left.
 5. Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
 6. They begin the evening news with 'Good Evening', then proceed to tell you why it isn't.
 7. To steal ideas from someone is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
 8. In filling an application form, where it says 'In case of emergency' notify, I put 'Doctor'.
 9. I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
 10. Behind every successful man is his woman. Behind the fall of a successful man is usually another woman.
 11. A clear conscience is the sign of a bad memory.
 12. I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not so sure.
- Lastly ... I am not arguing with you. I am explaining why you are wrong!



Two cannibals were eating a clown, and one said to the other, does this taste funny to you?

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St Mary's Church

The arrival of spring coincided with the easing of the lockdown restrictions and these two events have brought all of us some much needed encouragement. During the winter months of lockdown, the sense of isolation was exacerbated by the early onset of evening and darkness but now things are beginning to look so much more promising.

We are now able, as the days lengthen and the restrictions lifted, to rekindle our joy in the simple pleasures of life which we had taken for granted. To be able to move around more freely, to meet up with family and friends face to face rather than electronically has been such a blessing. I am sure the whole Covid experience has reminded all of us of what is important in our lives and in our communities.

Added to this, the glorious Norfolk countryside seems to be beckoning us to a better place. I am reminded of the words of the writer of the Song of Solomon (chapter 2. V10-12a) "Arise my love, my fair one and come away; for now the winter is past; the flowers appear on the earth and the time of singing has come".

Our periods of forced incarceration over the last twelve months have been dispiriting for all of us. For some they taken a real toll on their wellbeing and mental

health. As we begin to pick up the threads of a more normal life let us be aware of those in our community who may find this more difficult. Kindness is such a tonic; the 'phone call, the visit, the bunch of wild flowers left on the doorstep. There are so many little but thoughtful ways in which we can show others that we care.

May we all enjoy the summer as we see it through fresh eyes and may we also enjoy being together once more.

With every Blessing

Fr Christopher

More2Life

'Freedom' is being banded about a lot at the moment. Are we freer if we have the vaccine or if we don't? After being in lockdown for so long, a lot of us are chomping at the bit for freedom. Anyone joining Mel Gibson in Braveheart shouting 'Freedommmmm' as we charge with hope at the summer?!!

According to the dictionary, 'freedom' means 'the state of being free or at liberty rather than in confinement or under physical restraint'. Well many of us are certainly looking forward to being free of confinement and being able to meet people again.

Freedom can also mean to be free from external control, interference, or regulation. Many of us want to be free to do as we please without being obligated to any outside influence.

Freedom can also refer to personal liberty, to be free from bondage, or slavery. We can be enslaved to another person, physically or emotionally; or to an addiction, such as alcohol, gambling, or even watching a soap

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religiously! We can also want freedom from emotions such as fear.

The freedom Christ gives is different to the freedom the world offers. The scriptures say in 2 Corinthians 3:17 'Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.' When we come to Jesus, we are set free. Free from sin. Free from the guilt and shame of the actions or inactions of our past. Everyone has sinned against God because none of us have been able to keep the first commandment 'You shall have no other gods but me.' Never mind the other 9.

If we are honest with ourselves, we all have things we feel guilt or shame about, but when we come to Christ we are set free from those things that hold us in bondage, and we can truly know what it is to be free.

If you would like to know more about Jesus and how He can set you free, we are running Life Explored and Christianity Explored courses in the near future via zoom. To find out more, get in touch.

Every blessing,

Pastor Anne-Marie Fewell

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St Mary's Church Larder

The brightly coloured stall in church with foodstuffs and toiletries is going to carry on for a while longer.

If you are struggling to manage during these challenging times please continue to go to the church and help yourself.

Perhaps you know of a family who are struggling or older folk living alone who might need a helping hand...and we all know the church hill can be a steep hill to climb, then please help them by taking some of the foodstuff and leave on their doorsteps

If you can donate anything, please go to St Mary's church and follow the signs inside for where to leave your donation.

Thank you.

St Mary's Annual Parochial Parish Meeting

After a gap of a year, we can now hold our Annual Parish Meeting which will be held on Saturday May 8th at 11.00a.m in the church. This is the occasion when churchwardens are elected, and all residents of the parish are entitled to vote.

This will be followed by the election of the Parochial Church Council which is responsible for running the affairs of the church and only those on the church electoral role are entitled to vote. The annual accounts will be adopted, and the annual report presented.

So, whether you are new to the parish or not, but would be interested to see find out about the work of the church in the parish, please free to come along, meet us face to face and express your opinions. We look forward to seeing you.

*Susanna Wade-Martins,
Churchwarden (Retiring)*

Worthing News

Easter Catch-up News

Still working and being compliant with Covid restrictions, events and activities around this festive period took on a slightly different format but everyone involved responded to the “challenge.”

Maundy Thursday Afternoon Storytime “The Tale of Three Trees” retold by our Rector Sally. The children and some adults from our local community came to listen and sing along to a traditional folktale about a Woodcutter who wondered what he might become. He felt disappointment but saw hope and then imagined there is purpose in all that we do. And not surprisingly, before the end of the afternoon, the children were able to return home and delve into their Easter Eggs.

Easter Sunday – SOLO Duck Swim

The weather was kind that day and thankfully our Worthing Duck arrived safely to the finishing line at Tannery House in 15 minutes 22 seconds.

Winning times closest were:

John 15:30 FIRST

Sue 14:10 SECOND

Dorothy 16:42 THIRD

Thank you to everyone who took part and the final funds raised to support our Mission & Ministry work was £151.50

Well done everyone!

Future Church Services

The Covid pandemic has taught us, dare I say it, to sometimes rethink and try other alternative ways of doing things. With that in mind, our Holy Communion service will remain as the 2nd Sunday in the month, so in May this will fall on Sunday the 9th at 9.30 am

However, the 4th Sunday in the month would normally be Morning Praise at 11.00 am. This has now changed. As a trial going forward for this summer, Licensed Lay Minister – Norman Johnson and your Church Warden – Celia Daniel invite everyone to:

Join in the Conversation Open Air Afternoon Tea

This will not be following a traditional Sunday Service format but will provide our local community and visitors to come together and open up a topic/ conversation with each other. For example, this could be on climate change or wildlife in the church yard. So for 30 or 45 minutes or so, whilst enjoying your afternoon tea - table service, the conversation of interest will develop followed by, for those who wish, a “mini” moment of Worship & Pray will take place in Church. This will begin on Sunday 30th May starting at 3.00 pm. We hope you can come along to either the tea only or both!

Finally – St Margaret’s PCC will be arranging their annual meetings including electing for the forthcoming year, their Church Warden(s) Treasurer and other positions. If anyone is interested, wishing to be put forward and involved in the working of our Church, please forward your nomination to Celia Daniel by Friday 7th May.



Church Services in May (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, regretfully we are unable to offer refreshments following services.

2nd May – 5th Sunday of Easter

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

9th May – 6th 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'

16th May – 7th Sunday of Easter

9.30am	Wood Norton All Saints	Holy Communion
10.30am	Bawdeswell All Saints	All-Age Communion
10.30am	North Elmham St Mary	Holy Communion
4.00pm	Foulsham Holy Innocents	Sung Evensong

23rd May – Day of Pentecost (Whit Sunday)

10.30am	Foulsham Holy Innocents	Group Holy Communion
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Preacher: Canon Keith James

30th May – Trinity Sunday

10.30am	North Elmham St Mary	Group Holy Communion
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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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Martin Phillips: martin.s.phillips@btopenworld.com*

This Month's Photo Contributors

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

COVER: Daily Telegraph, PAGE 13: Caroline Payne, PAGE 17: St. Mary's Church, PAGE 20–21: North Elmham School, PAGE 29: Terry Hylton & Pauline Adams (cartoon), PAGE 33: Robert Rickett, PAGE 38 & 39: Dave Appleton

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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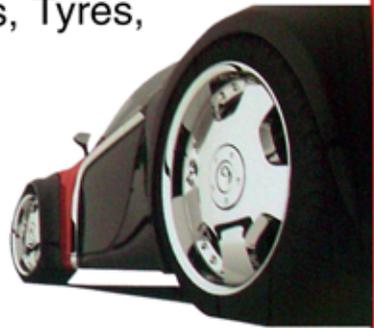
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