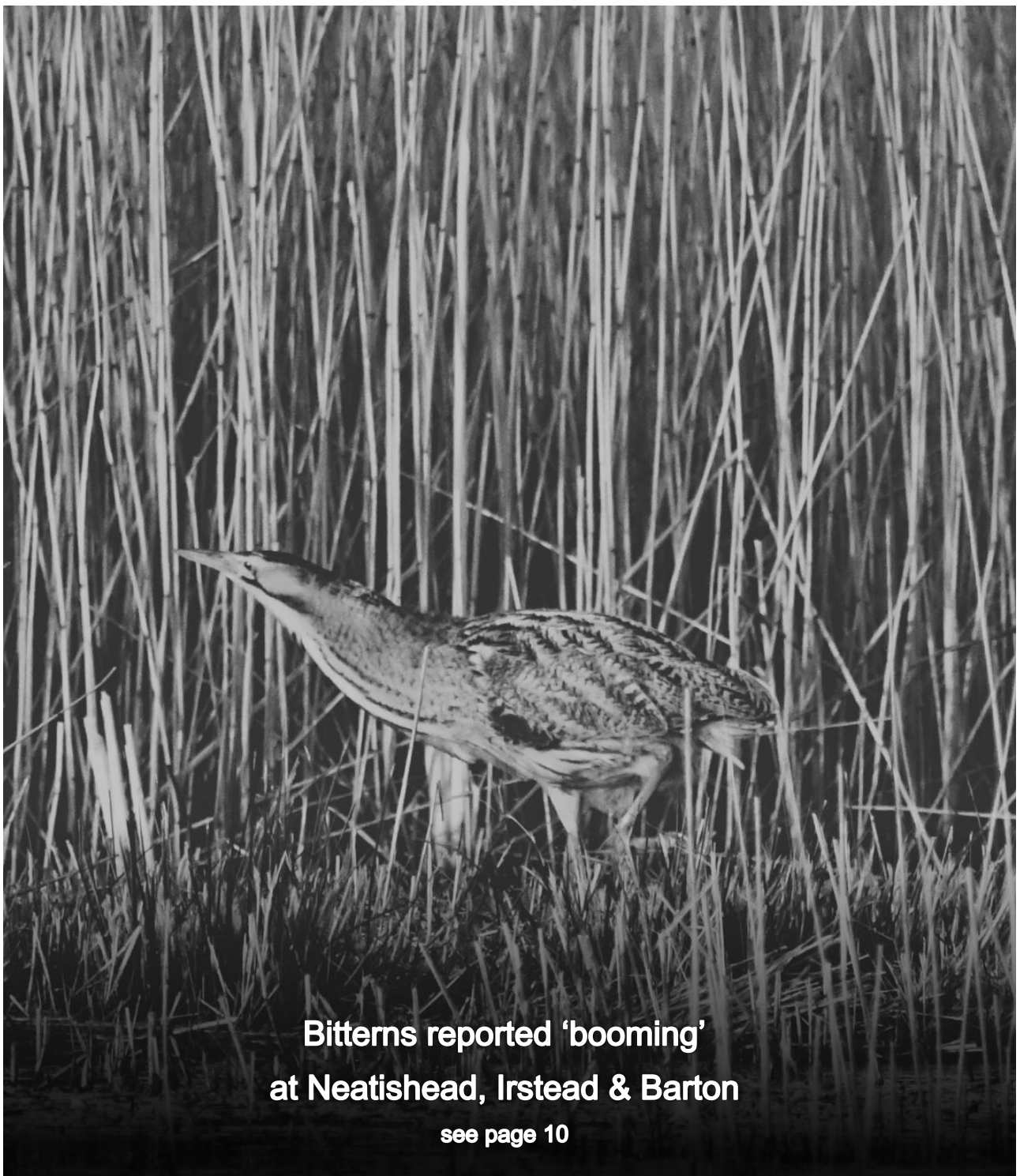


THE NAB

COMMUNITY



PARISH MAGAZINE OF NEATISHEAD, IRSTEAD & BARTON TURF



**Bitterns reported 'booming'
at Neatishead, Irstead & Barton**

see page 10

Front page photo: Bittern by Jon Kelf

The Benefice of St Benedict

Rev Rob's Ramblings

Hi everyone,

While using WhatsApp the other day to communicate with a friend, I decided that the person who invented predictive text should be taken out and shot! I don't mean this literally of course and it's not good for a priest to say such things, but nonetheless I do find this infuriating! I know it's meant to help us in our communication skills but how does the texting know and then decide what I want to say? It usually ends up distorting my message and unfortunately I press 'send' and then the recipient thinks I am bonkers! It's a good job our editors of the NIB and Horning Reach magazines are careful in the way they present their magazines to us! However it put me in mind of other magazines or bulletins where perhaps the editors or writers weren't so careful at proof reading or that the message could be read in another way therefore giving a completely different meaning. As we all need some humour in our lives I thought I would include a few bloomers that have appeared in other parish magazines:

The church wardens are pleased to announce the birth of David John Smith, the son of our Rector and Mrs Smith.

We remember in prayer those of us who are sick of our church and community."

The Church will be hosting an evening of fine dining, superb entertainment and gracious hostility.

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Jones the warden, to lay an egg on the altar.

The Low Self Esteem Group will meet every Tuesday in the church. Please use the back door.

The church choir will be disbanded for the summer months with the thanks of the entire congregation.

These examples show us how we can easily get the message wrong. So as I have found to my cost and often embarrassment, it is best to check what we are trying to communicate to others in our writing before pressing the 'send' button or submitting to print. We are indeed fortunate that our magazine editors and those who print our weekly Pews News are careful with what they present to us. To our editors then, I'm sure we would all like to thank them for their hard work in giving us top quality issues every month.

With my blessings,

Rob

Latest news from our Sunday Club

We had a fantastic time in April with lots of activities taking place throughout the month. We started with Mothering Sunday where we gave thanks for our mums and all of the special people in our lives. We had our annual Palm Sunday walk with real donkeys which is always great fun; this is an established and fun local tradition. On Good Friday we held a special service for children which included arts and crafts; the young people had lots of fun and learnt more about the true meaning of Easter.

Upcoming Dates and Events for Sunday Club:

Sunday 4th May, 9.30am at Neatishead Church.

Sunday 18th May, 11am take-over of Neatishead Church!

Sunday 1st June, 9.30am at Neatishead Church.

All children are most welcome so please do come along, it is great fun.

For more Sunday Club information: Revd Ben
brother_ben@btinternet.com 01692 630216.



St Michael and All Angels', Barton Turf

I hope you all enjoyed the Palm Sunday event. The weather was kind and a good number took part in the procession with even more waiting at the church. The donkeys were much appreciated and a good time was had by all. Many thanks to all who helped in any way to make the morning such a success.

Our May coffee morning will be on **Saturday 17th May** from 10am until noon as usual. If you have never been, do come and drop in for a cup of coffee and a chat.

Thursday 8th May will be the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe. There will be a special service in the church on that day at 11am to commemorate that event. Do come, if you are able, to spend some time giving thanks to all who gave their lives during that war and to give thanks for all those who survived.

Barbara Pilcher Churchwarden



St Michael's Irstead

Unfortunately, due to materials supply issues, St Michael's re-ridging works due to commence on 5th May have now been deferred to a date yet to be determined later in the summer. St Michael's will therefore now continue to be open daily to visitors and for advertised acts of worship until advised otherwise.

As publicised elsewhere in this edition of the NIB St Michael's looks forward to joining with St Michael and All Saints', Barton Turf for the Annual Fete at Barton Hall on **Saturday 14th June** at 2pm.

By kind invitation of Eric and Rosemarie Hutchinson the garden of Grove House, Irstead, will be open in support of St Michael's on **Saturday 28th June** at 2pm. We look forward to you joining us then.

David Murrells Churchwarden

Barton and Irstead Church Fete

The Barton and Irstead Church Fete will be on **Saturday 14th June** this year, please note the date. We always need a good deal of help.

Book Stall

Books required. If you have any books you would like to donate, please contact Michael Brandon-Jones on 01692 535065.

Toys

If you have any toys that you no longer require, we would be pleased to receive them for the Fete. We can collect if necessary. Please phone Barbara on 01692 536132.

Small Treasures Stall

Wanted: jewellery, trinkets, watches, clocks, ornaments, pictures, photo frames, china, glass, silver, brass, hats, scarves, bags or small unusual items. Sorry not: clothes, shoes, furniture, household or kitchen items or any large items. Telephone Lynne: 01692 536479 / 07551 554707 or Cheryl: 07387 267729. Leave a message and we will either collect or tell you where to leave items.

Bottle Stall

As always, it's your very generous contributions of bottles of all kinds, beverages, (alcoholic or otherwise), cookery, toiletries, etc, that make the stall such a success. If you would like to donate, please contact one of the following people who have kindly agreed to act as bottle collection points / collectors for 2025:

Pennygate – Lynne Wall 01692 536479
Barton Turf - Barbara Pilcher 01692 536132

Hall Road- Cheryl Pell 01692 536325

Irstead-Clare Penstone -Smith 01692 630580

Many thanks Anthony Habgood

Cake Stall

With the sunny weather finally here, the idea of tea in the garden is immediately appealing and so I am asking you for any cakes, biscuits, sweet or savoury, scones, jams and preserves for the cake stall. Items can be handed to any of those listed below or brought to the stall on the day.

Barbara Pilcher: 01692 536132

Lynne Wall: 01692 536479

Mandy Parks: 07547697010

Claire Penstone-Smith: 01692 630580

Gail Murrells: 01692 631427

Maria Jordan: 01692 631455

Thank you very much for baking for us.

Plants

The Garden Stall welcomes all donations related to the garden prior to the fete, plants, produce, cut flowers or any unwanted tools or equipment. If you think you can help with any of these please let Deena Sullivan know on 07785 770663.

Tea Tent

As always, I'll be running the ever-popular Tea Tent, and I'd love your support to help make it as splendid as ever. We are looking for donations of cakes, traybakes and sweet treats to keep the tent brimming with deliciousness throughout the day. Whether you are a star baker or just fancy whipping up a batch of brownies, every contribution is hugely appreciated. We are also in need of a few extra pairs of hands on the day. If you can spare an hour or two to help serve tea etc we would be delighted to have you join us. Please contact me on 07935 743326. Jan Cuss.

We are also looking for good items for the Raffle. If you have anything, please get in touch with Barbara Pilcher on 01692 536132.

Neatishead Baptist Church

Christian Aid Ecumenical Service

This will be held on **Sunday, 11th May** at 10.30 am at Neatishead Baptist Church. Christian Aid is celebrating its 80th anniversary since its inception in 1945 at the end of the Second World War. This year's Christian Aid stories take us to Guatemala, a country dealing with immense challenges, including being one of the 10 countries in the world rated most vulnerable to climate emergencies. Do join us and support this important work.

Sue Gibbons, Co-ordinator



St Peter's Church Neatishead

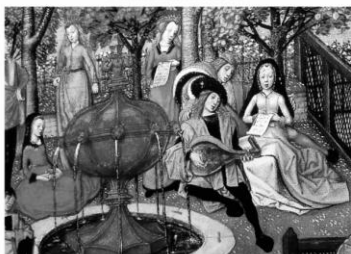
We welcome the return of 'Hexachordia' (www.hexachordia.com) to St Peter's Church, Neatishead on **Saturday 10th**

May at 7pm. Hexachordia will be presenting a celebration of the English garden in music and words called "All in a Garden Green". Playing on authentic copies of original instruments from the Medieval and Tudor eras such as the harp, recorders, gittern, lutes and viols; the group performs music inspired by formal gardens and the English countryside. This music is interspersed with readings contemporary with the pieces, reflecting on the evolution of the English garden through to the seventeenth century. We hope that proceeds from this concert, which is being generously sponsored by a parishioner will bring us to the final conclusion of our bell and tower refurbishment fundraising total. Please come along and help us to do this and enjoy a fun evening too! Thank you – Pauline.

Tickets £10 (under 16s £5) to include refreshments available from: Pauline Simpson on 07818 599303 or pauline761@btinternet.com.

All in a Garden Green

a celebration of the garden through the ages
in music and words
performed by
Hexachordia
www.hexachordia.com



St Peter's Church, Neatishead NR12 8BT

Saturday 10th May at 7pm

Tickets £10 (under 16s - £5)
to include refreshments

available from:
Pauline Simpson on 07818 599303
or
pauline761@btinternet.com



Barton Turf Bowls Club

A good number of people enjoyed the bagatelle at the Bowls Club stand at the Easter Fair at the New Victory Hall on 10th April. The winners were: Under 13 years: Etty Malt and over 13: Shirley Kemp. Congratulations to both, hope they enjoy their easter eggs. The season is now well under way, with many matches and internal competitions to enjoy...

Barbara Pilcher Secretary



Friends and Neighbours

Member or not, you are welcome to come along to the NVH on **Thursday 8th May** from 10am until noon for a cuppa and biscuit, bring and buy, raffle and bingo. The meeting on **Thursday 22nd May** is at the same time. There will be a quiz and plenty of time for a good mardle! To find out more about this friendly club please contact Jean Barber, on 01263 721698.

The club has been very saddened to hear of the recent passing of Sheila Yaxley and Bertie Starr, both long-time members who will be greatly missed. We will pay a more fulsome tribute to both in the June NIB.

Jane King



Garden Club

We have two dates for May: the first is on **Monday 12th May** when we are visiting Jane Steward's medlar orchard in Eastgate to see the trees in blossom. We will car share where possible so please meet at the NVH at 10am. Jane can cater for 20 people so please can you let me know if you would like to come along (contacts below). We would aim to arrive between 10.45 and 11am, with the orchard tour to last for about an hour. The cost will be £5 per person to include a tour of the trees and coffee and biscuits. The second date in May is our regular meeting on **Monday 19th May** at 7.30pm in the NVH when Andrew Sankey will be giving a talk on The Life of Joseph Banks, an English naturalist, botanist and patron of the natural sciences. Visitors are always welcome at a cost of £4 which includes a cuppa and biscuits! Please contact me by email if you have questions about the club. Also if you have any problems regarding getting to our meetings, please contact me or one of the other committee members. Thank you!

Sadly, Sheila Yaxley, who with her husband John, was one of the first Garden Club members and great supporter of the club, has very recently died. Our thoughts are with her family at this sad time.

*Jane King 07423 820228
janeelizabethking@hotmail.co*



Neatishead Bowls Club

What wonderful weather we had for our opening day. Our members were there to have our first roll-up. Green running well. Some of our mature senior members attended as well. Lovely to see them, as well as all the other members. We shall be playing in the North Norfolk Afternoon Mixed League for 2025 season. Contacts: Chair D Gurney 07746 540224 Captain: J Neal 07884 493384

Cathy Smith



**Neatishead, Irstead & Barton Turf
Community Heritage Group (NIBCHG)**



VE Day Afternoon Tea Celebration

With




**The Ukulele
Band**

And

Historical displays



Saturday 10th May, 2pm
New Victory Hall, Neatishead



Tickets £5, in advance, refundable on the day.
Available from White House Stores or
Claire Penstone-Smith
07760643739 / 01692 630580

**Neatishead, Irstead
and Barton Turf**
Community Heritage Group

Come dressed in your 1940s best!



Village Screen

Monday 5th May - 7 for 7.30pm

We are sure that you will enjoy **Conclave** (2024: Cert.12A:120 mins) - a political thriller based on the 2016 novel by Robert Harris which won an Oscar for the best adapted screenplay by Peter Straughan.

Cardinal Lawrence (Ralph Fiennes) coordinates one of the world's most secretive and ancient events, participating in the selection of a new Pope. Surrounded by powerful religious leaders in the halls of the Vatican, he uncovers a trail of deep secrets that could shake the very foundations of the Roman Catholic Church.

We look forward to welcoming you to the New Victory Hall where tea/coffee/biscuits will be available for a small charge.

To book tickets (£6), simply visit the New Victory Hall website and click on Box Office - Buy Tickets. You can also make a reservation by calling Shelagh on 01692 630702. Subject to availability, tickets will also be available on the door - Cash or Card.

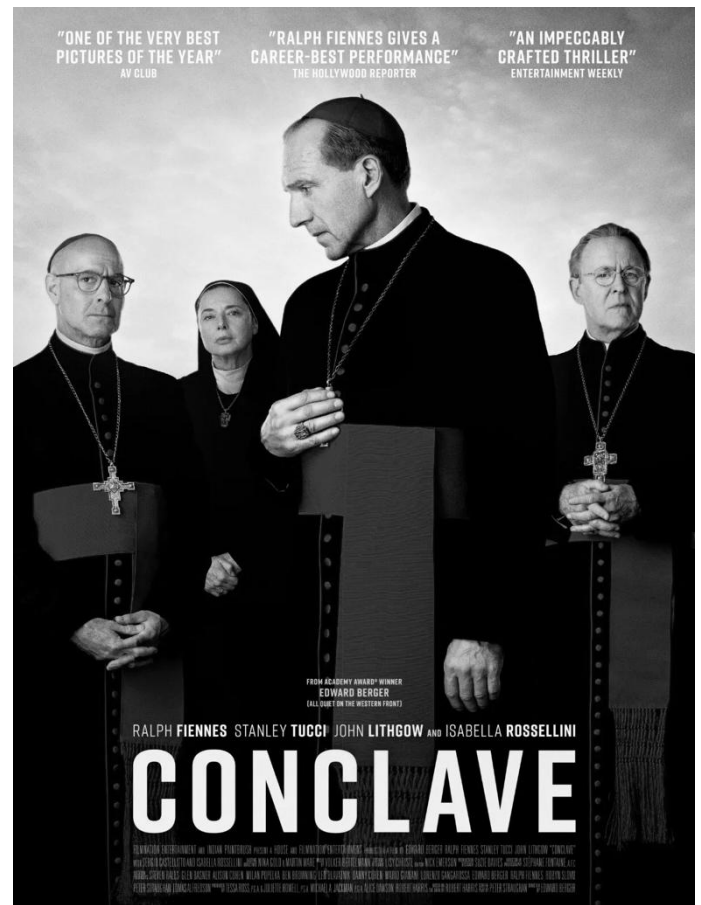
Village Screen Team



Following the VE Day Service on **Thursday 8th May**, we look forward to seeing you at our villages VE Day Afternoon Tea Celebration on **Saturday 10th May** in the New Victory Hall at 2pm.

Join us for an afternoon of 1940s music from our local Ukulele Band, historical displays relating to VE Day on 8th May 1945 in our villages and across the country and a simple afternoon tea. Please bring the family or just yourself to join in the celebration, everyone welcome. Tickets £5 each (refundable on the door) can be purchased from myself or at the White House Stores (cash only please) and are needed so we have an idea of numbers for the catering. Both the VE Day Service and the Afternoon Tea are opportunities for our communities to come together to celebrate 80 years of peace since the end of WW2 in Europe and remember over 250 men and women from our villages who served their country during both WW1 and WW2. They are remembered on plaques in the New Victory Hall. They fought for the freedom we all enjoy today.

Claire Penstone-Smith, 07760 643739
claireps@btinternet.com





Horning Flower Club

April's meeting saw the return of the club's demonstrating friend David Wright.

David explained that he was changing his programmed demonstration 'Those Summer Nights' as he wasn't a fan of all of the songs in Grease, despite adoring Olivia Newton-John. So, reflecting the recent weather, 'Here Comes Summer' included taking us on a camper journey in Scotland, fishing boat trips and enjoying juicy strawberries. David is always a popular demonstrator at Horning, spinning entertaining yarns whilst deftly creating his stunning arrangements. The competition 'What a Lovely Sunset' was won by Rachel Clayton. On **12th May** Vicki Hease will demonstrate 'Here Comes Summer' with the competition being 'A Day at the Beach'. Anyone interested in finding out more about the club should contact the secretary, Carole Swan, on 01692 536270.

Rachel Clayton

Litter around the villages

The NIB has received the following amusing article, on a serious subject, from Paul Lamb. This has spurred us on to find out more about our kind litter collection volunteers...

That Someone ...

A wise old guy I used to work with on the farm once told me that certain people in this world should only be buried standing up! I thought it was going to be some sort of macabre joke, so I asked him why, and waited for what I thought was going to be a funny reply. In a way his response was amusing, but also quite serious - "Because they don't deserve the amount of ground it takes to bury them lengthways!" That was a long while ago, and I forget to whom he might have been referring, but sadly today, there appears to be someone who might be the sort of candidate my old colleague had in mind! I am referring to that someone who in modern parlance is called a 'Dashboard Diner'. That someone who is a fast-food buyer. That someone who wolfs it down while driving, and is quite happy to jettison the detritus out of the car window. That someone who is perfectly happy for someone else to clear up their wrappers, coffee cups and high energy drink cans - from the Neatishead turn off the A1151, as far as Hall Road, Barton Turf. The culprit has absolutely zero respect for the environment. Contrast this behaviour with that of the 'other someone' - a gentleman we see in the high-viz jacket who regularly collects the rubbish along our roads. I don't know who he is, or whether he is paid or a volunteer, but he goes about his work with a very

purposeful stride, a smile on his face, and sometimes a wave to passing motorists. I for one am very grateful to him.

Paul Lamb

Litter collection volunteers tracked down!



Eddie with NIB team:
Margaret Maxwell and Jane King

Eddie (pictured) and his brother Gary are the Countryside Litter Pickers who each volunteer 46 hours a month of their own time to pick up litter from Ashmanhaugh, Horning, Hoveton, Hoveton St John and Neatishead. Their work has been recognised by Wroxham and Hoveton Lions who have provided them with high-viz jackets and some extra equipment. They were mentioned in the NIB a couple of years ago, but sadly, litter continues to be dropped and the brothers pick up 12 bags or more of rubbish, mainly food and drink packaging, every week. A very big thankyou to Eddie and Gary.

Jane King



Weather

Very dry weather continues throughout March into April. With high pressure centred to the north and east of the UK for much of the time, it has been a very dry six-week period. The Met Office have confirmed it was the sunniest March on record in Norfolk and the driest for over 60 years. It is no surprise then that the total rainfall recorded in March here was just 5.0mms/0.2in which is a meagre 10% of average, courtesy of one or two light showers mid-month. The first half of April had been completely dry until a narrow band of rain passed through on the evening of the 13th with 3.0mms/0.12in falling. This is a meagre 7% of average to date, but further showers are forecast this week as high pressure recedes. Temperatures have been above average to date, peaking at 20°C on the 11th.

Peter Mills



Norfolk Punt Club

Chasing the Barton Bunny at Easter

At Easter, the Punt Club sail for the Barton Bunny Trophy. This is a pursuit race based on handicaps and, in principle, all boats should finish at the same time. The slow boats start first and are hotly pursued by the faster ones including Norfolk punts.



The delightful 'bunny' trophy is a great example of how the Punt Club is integrated in the village. It was originally presented by the White Horse pub and it was made by Jacky Wilton of Dutchables in Barton. It is by no means the only trophy with local connections with some going back a long way. Others include the Barton Challenge Trophy presented by Gerald Sambrooke Sturgess in 1946, the Harmer Paddle presented by Tom Harmer in 1960 and the Shrimp Cup donated by the Tubbs family in 1976. The earliest trophies have been awarded since the 1920s and demonstrate the long history of the club (which celebrates its centenary next year) as well as its links to local families. This tradition has been continued with many more recent trophies bearing familiar names from the three villages. For more info see our website:

<https://www.puntclub.co.uk/he>

Liz Ollier



Community Gym

Is Weight Training good for us?

Weight-bearing exercise is crucial in older (and younger) age because it helps maintain bone density, reduces the risk of osteoporosis and fractures, and improves overall strength, balance, and coordination, contributing to better mobility and independence.

Here is a broader explanation:

- **Bone Health:** As we age, our bones naturally lose density, making them weaker and more susceptible to fractures. Weight-bearing activities, like walking, running, and weight-training, stimulate bone growth and help maintain or even increase bone density, reducing the risk of osteoporosis and fractures.
- **Muscle Strength and Balance:** Weight-bearing exercises, especially those that involve resistance, help build and maintain muscle mass, which is essential for maintaining strength, balance, and

coordination. Improved strength and balance can reduce the risk of falls, a major concern for older adults.

- **Improved Mobility and Independence:** Stronger muscles and bones, along with better balance and coordination, contribute to improved mobility and the ability to perform daily activities independently.
- **Reduced Risk of Falls:** Falls are a leading cause of injury and death in older adults, and weight-bearing exercises can help reduce the risk of falls by improving strength, balance, and coordination.
- **Improved Sleep:** An analysis of recent studies involving over 2000 people over 60 – a group prone to disturbed sleep – has found whilst all forms of exercise help, resistance and strength training comes out on top with a 5.75 point improvement in sleep, superior to that from cycling, aerobics and a combination of exercise types.
- **Other Health Benefits:** Weight-bearing exercises also offer numerous other health benefits, including improved cardiovascular health, reduced risk of chronic diseases and better overall well-being.



Trainer Gary with Eddie on the bench press

Let us introduce Eddie: Eddie is one of our regular octogenarian members. He is a keen advocate of weight-training in particular bench and shoulder pressing as can be seen from the picture. He attends Neatishead Community Gym to get back to fitness and increase his strength after an exercise break. Eddie loves a challenge and sets himself tough targets to hit in his gym programme and is steadfast in his determination to succeed. He's also a bit of a rockstar on the rowing machines embarrassing some of us younger members. Keep it up Eddie, inspiring stuff!

Gary Forde/Simon Thompson

**Editor's note**

As the NABS theatre group goes from strength to strength, following on from 2024's highly entertaining musical and pantomime, the NIB has received two wonderful reviews of this April's outstanding production of 'Blood Brothers'. We hope NIB readers enjoy both reviews ...



Chris Walls, Lisa Seager
and Andy Campbell as 7-year-old Eddie

Blood Brothers

Some of you might remember a play that ran at the Globe Theatre in London for over a thousand productions. It was called 'Daisy Pulls It Off'.

Willy Russell's 'Blood Brothers' is nothing like the above, but shares a few themes. With NABS not having produced a serious play for a few years, it was a very brave decision by the director Shelagh Smith to attempt something so ambitious. How was she ever going to portray a story of Liverpool families, that follows the birth of twins right through to their tragic end in middle age? Impossible you would think!

Well, for a start it helped having a real Scouser as the twins' mother! Carol Preston was totally convincing as an impoverished mother pressured by her wealthy employer to give over one baby. As for the twins themselves – their performances were impeccable. Nick Clarke, as Mickey, was such a surprise package. But to witness his acting ability, and to hear his convincing Liverpool accent all the way through, was impressive. Andy Campbell as the posh privately-educated sibling was equally effective. They both acted

the role of small boys so well that at no time did it look uncomfortable or odd to see their childish movements and mannerisms. Rather it was excellent acting.

Lisa Seager, as Mrs Lyons, advanced effortlessly from a fairly kindly, childless employer to a greedy, selfish control freak and Chris Walls coped admirably with the three minor roles he had to play.

As one might expect with Jo Culling's previous stage experience, she looked totally at home with the roles of a very young girlfriend, and later wife and mother. This was capped by her moving finale with the rest of the cast, ensuring a powerful and emotional ending.

No wonder it produced probably the first standing ovation the New Victory Hall has ever seen. Well done all! Shelagh and her cast, like Daisy, really had 'pulled it off'!

Paul Lamb

A New Era for NABS?

NABS' lovely, lively shows are always popular, and rightly so. But sitting in the audience of their latest production, I had a growing feeling that this was a departure from the safe and familiar – for us as well as those on and behind the stage. And it is a brave and welcome departure.



Nick Clarke and Jo Culling as teenagers

Willy Russell originally wrote 'Blood Brothers' in 1981 for a touring schools' theatre company. Like all his plays, despite having moments of touching, caustic humour, it is set against a backdrop of hardship: social, emotional, and even aesthetic deprivation. But it was this bare and – in the widest sense of the word – political quality that director Shelagh Smith chose to pursue. She clearly feels that 'Blood Brothers' is a story that is still well-worth telling, and when we were watching poor, desperate Mickey pointing a gun at his rich, educated

brother Eddie, shouting 'I've got the gun, but you've still got the power', I think that we felt it too.

This production used the best techniques of simple theatre to emphasize the bareness of its message to focus on creating intense atmosphere. Carefully chosen projected slides formed the backdrop, and these not only helped to create context immediately by using poignant period photographs of Liverpool, but also provided a simple way of locating action which moved between settings at considerable speed. And this is a pacy play in every sense – as time rushes past – we see the parts that fate and human frailty may or may not play in this story. An effective use made of the projected background was in a cleverly nostalgic photo montage of black and white pictures of the three main characters that telescoped the passing of happy, carefree teenage years into just a minute or two.

There were the necessary bare bones here, and that was all. The audience had to work hard, focus, concentrate. The whirlwind description of Mrs Johnston's early life was accompanied by a shadow play behind a simple muslin curtain, which conveyed the transition from innocence to drunkenness and finally, abandonment very effectively. And as well as demanding hard work from the audience, this play demands it from the actors too. The pace at which the scenes pass is incredible, and despite a little first night hesitancy, the whole cast managed well. Entrances and exits were impressively tight. There are a lot of quick interchanges and a lot of words to remember – often almost, but not quite, repetitions. The speech of the main characters is superficially quite straightforward, but fragmented and fiendishly difficult to make sound natural, and all the actors made a good job of it. Carol Preston as Mrs Johnston, Nick Clarke as Mickey, Jo Culling as Linda and Chris Walls as the milkman (and the doctor, and the policeman!) had also mastered demanding Liverpool accents which were really well maintained throughout. I was impressed by the Greek Chorus-style black-clad narrators, Kerrie Campbell and Helen Clarke, who handled the lyrical rhymed commentary on the action with real confidence, and were well synchronised from the start, achieving an increasingly chilling presence as the play progressed.

All the characters have to transform as time passes, and the company had worked assiduously at this: the two main roles of the twins cover their lives from 7 into middle age, and Nick Clarke and Andy Campbell had clearly thought very hard about how to convey the characteristics of boys at certain ages, and did so to good effect. It is a skill that would tax the most seasoned professionals. They were also cleverly portrayed as different in character and physicality, as well as just accent, and this added to the complexity of the 'nature versus nurture' theme of the play. Jo Culling as Linda had to show a similar change from childhood to adulthood, and I was impressed by the way that even from a very young age she was able to start betraying an authority and confidence so typical of Willy Russell's central female characters, that really blossomed in the

later scenes. Although very different, Carol Preston as Mrs Johnston, the mother of the twins, also had real pathos: she is in some ways a weak character, but we felt her love and desperation. Whilst Mrs Lyons, played by Lisa Seager, so confident at the start, becomes a paranoid wreck as the years go by.



Nick Clarke and Andy Campbell as adults
'I've got the gun, but you've still got the power'

A mention must be made here of the excellent backstage and technical crew for this production. It was intense for them too, and the very fact that the practicalities went without a single apparent hitch is testament to their preparation and concentration – it was a very professionally managed show. And ironically, in a play that was not THE musical, the music we did have, stole the show. Chris Walls' haunting saxophone and Holly Hancock's piano at the start set the tragic tone very effectively, and some of Russell's simple song lyrics from the original play echoed through the text: Mrs Johnston's comparison to 'Marilyn Monroe' in her innocent teenage dancing years took on a much more sinister tone when we remembered what had happened to Marilyn in the end. And at the very end of the show, there was a moment that took everyone's breath away: I know I was not the only person who shed a tear at that point. It was a very classy end to a class act.

This was a difficult play, that asked a lot of its participants and its audience. I am absolutely sure that the cast and crew have all learnt an enormous amount about drama and stagecraft in preparing this production, and that is pushing NABS forward in a really exciting way. And I do hope that they are going to continue pushing their audience forward with them too. It was a joy to go to a local amateur show and to be asked to think hard, to empathise, to be challenged. It may draw in a slightly different audience from the pantomime, or the murder mystery, but there IS that audience here. Well done NABS; we hear you.

Jenny Fletcher



Wildlife Notes



Blue Tit: Jon Kelf

As I write these notes halfway through April, bird migration in Norfolk has been slow, to say the least. There have been 3 weeks of very dry, mostly sunny weather, but the predominant air-flow direction for us has been north-easterly which has been holding back the flow of birds arriving from the south. Whilst Cornwall and Ireland have had unprecedented numbers of Hoopoes arriving on their shores none have appeared on the east coast. (Editor's note: Hoopoes seen here around Easter time)

The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) Oreported that Blue Tits were busy nest building in the south west but my resident pair didn't start taking nest material, comprising mostly of moss and dried grass, into my camera nestbox mounted on the garage wall until the 11th April, a good week behind elsewhere. In two days, they have already covered the bottom of the box and have made a depression at the back where the eggs will (hopefully) be laid.



Swallow, Jon Kelf

I recorded my first Sand Martins at the boardwalk on 10th April and my first Swallow on the 13th and I look forward to seeing my first Swift at the end of the month.

The Bitterns have been reported "booming" at Neatishead, Irstead and Barton Turf as the male birds announce their territories by making their unique fog horn sound. The RSPB has recently issued the figures for last year's UK survey of calling male Bitterns and it is good news, with a total of 283 male birds recorded, a 20% increase on the previous year. Let's hope that they do well again this summer.



Bittern: Jon Kelf

On the 7th April I was pleased to see a Little Gull on Barton Broad flying around with the Black Headed Gulls. Little Gulls are dainty birds and are passage migrants in the UK moving across the country in both spring and autumn usually being recorded in Norfolk in higher numbers in the autumn when they gather in favourite spots. Having missed seeing them locally in the last two years, I was pleased to add it to my annual walking from home list for this year. Little Gulls, as the name suggests, are our smallest gull species and are a delightful bird to watch as they gracefully fly around picking up insects from the surface of the water, much like a Marsh Tern. They are easily recognised at this time of year as they have dark underwings which stand out when they twist and turn in flight and the adults have black heads and a small red bill and red legs. Juveniles and first winter birds have a black W shape across their upper wings which is quite distinctive. May is a great month to see unusual birds. Let me know what you see.

My usual reminder to dog walkers is to please keep their dogs on leads during bird breeding season to avoid nest disturbance.

Jerry Simpson 01692 630674
simpsonj24@btinternet.com



Neatishead Parish Council

We are thrilled to announce that Neatishead Parish Council has successfully secured another defibrillator for the village. Thanks to the generous support of a kind local resident who offered their wall for installation, the new defibrillator is now up and running at Cangate. In an emergency, you can quickly locate your nearest defibrillator on www.defibfinder.uk. Also see the NIB list on page 14. As the boating season gets into full swing, the Parish Council is working hard to keep the staithe well-maintained and welcoming for both residents and visitors. Our children's play area has recently undergone important safety checks, including a full inspection of the zip-wire.

The Annual Parish Council Meeting will take place on **15th May** at 7:30pm in the New Victory Hall. During the meeting, the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for the coming year will be elected. We warmly invite all residents to attend and perhaps find out more about what being a parish councillor entails, as we are still looking for two new councillors to join the team. If you have a little time to spare and would like to make a positive difference in our community, we would love to hear from you!

Laura Bateman: Parish Clerk

Neatishead Parish Council 07917 841 665



Neatishead, Barton Turf & District WI

Apologies for the lapse in getting our information in on time recently. We are back and have been busier than ever and recently celebrated our 92nd birthday: a super afternoon with a beautiful afternoon tea, made by our committee and an excellent talk on chocolate by Simon Partridge. We were lucky to have won a bursary which we decided to spend on a Well Being afternoon for all our members. Gary from Neatishead gym started the session with some gentle exercises and an inspiring talk. Then Ian Sadler a podiatrist from BX Clinic, Brundall, amazed us with highly technical information about the wonders of walking. We finished the session with some hands-on pampering from Nicci Grimmer from The Barns at White House Farm, Sprowston. Another lovely afternoon. It is the start of our new year: membership fees are £50 for 11 meetings always on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Taster sessions are available so why not give us a try? A very warm welcome awaits. For further information please contact us on neatisheadwi@gmail.com.

Sally Church, President

Horning Art Group

Horning Art Group Exhibition is to be held in St Benet's Hall Horning from **Friday 23rd to Tuesday 27th, May**. Opening 10am - 4pm daily. Paintings (like the kingfisher to the right) are all by local artists ... Please consider them for that special touch to brighten your home and as ideal presents.

All Welcome. Free Entry



Roman Catholic Churches

- St Helen, Hoveton, NR12 8QJ. Saturday Mass at 5.30pm, Wednesday Mass at 9.30am.
- Sacred Heart, Norwich Road, North Walsham, NR28 9JP, Sunday Mass at 11am

For more information, call 01692 403258.

Father Peter Raj, parishpriestfrpeter@gmail.com

Wroxham & Hoveton United Reform Church

Interim Minister: Rev Carole Pearl. For any pastoral concerns, please contact the church secretary in the first instance: Lynne Howard, 01603 738835. lmhoward100@btinternet.com. Please see website for up-to-date information www.wroxhamurc.org.uk.

Do join us for any or all of the following services:

Sunday 4th May 10.30am Service led by Mr Mike Gibbs.

Sunday 11th May 10.30am Service led by Rev Carole Pearl, including Holy Communion.

Sunday 18th May 10.30am Service led by Rev Paul Whittle.

Sunday 25th May 10.30am Service led by Rev Carole Pearl.

JAM (our Sunday School) welcomes all children aged 4 to 16. In our sessions we watch, read, listen, discuss, play, act, sing, chat, pray, cook and create.

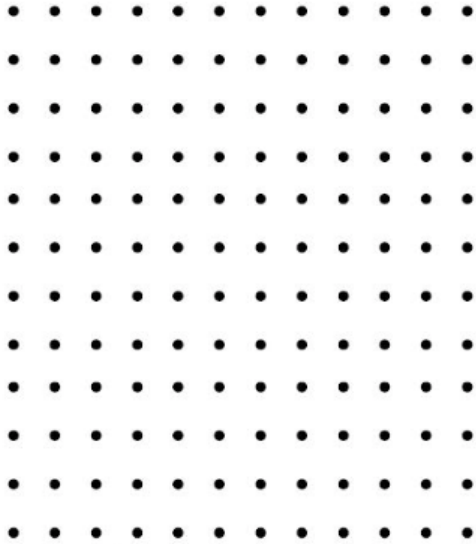
In May we will meet on the **4th and 18th** in the church hall from 10.15 – 11.45am. For more information: wroxhamurc.org.uk/jam or contact jam@wroxhamurc.org.uk or Chris on 01603 783992.

The Community Café meets for coffee and cakes from 10.30am to 12 noon on Thursdays. All are welcome, there is no charge. We look forward to seeing friends old and new. Please note we are unable to answer queries about Barclays Bank.

Lynne Howard (Secretary) 01603 738835.
lmhoward100@btinternet.com.



Dots & Boxes



Player 1



Player 2



Sudoku

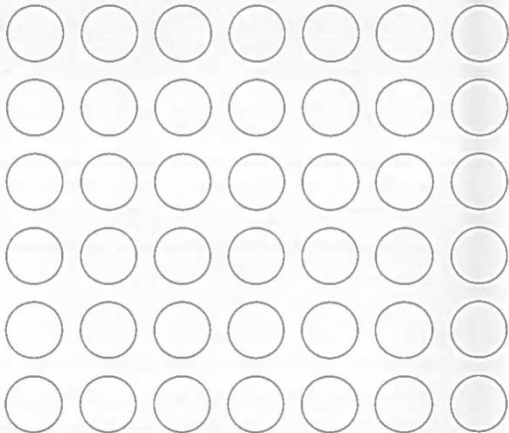
Fill each box with a number between 1 and 9 in a manner that the same number does not appear twice in any specific row or column.

	8		1		7			
			9	3				4
			8	2				
4		2	6	8		3		
		9						
	1	7	3			5	9	6
	4		5	7		1		9
5			4					3
9			2	6			7	

COOL2BKIDS

4-IN-A-ROW

Start at the bottom, pick a circle, put your initial in it; try to make a row of 4 to win and stop your opponent making 4 in a row!



May 2025 Adverts

YOUR FRIENDLY LOCAL ELECTRICIAN Glen Rogers Electrical. From an electric shower to a garden light. Give us a ring on 07774 103426.

SIMON'S HOME IMPROVEMENTS We design, supply & fit kitchens, bathrooms, tiling, carpentry, flooring, plumbing and much more. Please contact Simon on 07368 982830 or at simons.kitchens1990@gmail.com.

INTERIOR ACCENTS SOFT FURNISHINGS - Made to measure curtains, blinds, loose covers, cushions etc. Selection of fabrics, poles & tracks. Please contact Debbie 07799 031933 or email enquiries@interioraccents.co.uk.

GRASS CUTTING also pruning, shed and fence painting and garage/shed sorting. Light garden tasks. Please call Carol on 01692 630478 or mobile 07879 442860.

INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVICE Wills & Power of Attorneys, Probate and Executor Service, very competitive rates to local residents. Home Visits available or at Hoveton office. Call Martin Smith on 01603 273590 or 07584 030071.

SIMPSON'S MOTOR GROUP for MOTs or servicing on all makes of cars, motorhomes or vans. Free collection/return for the NIB villages. Please call 01493 601696 and ask for Howard.

INEXPENSIVE MOORINGS available at Barton Turf Staithe, please ring Martin 07501622068.

DAVID WRIGHT Painting & decorating. Established since 1997. Horning based. Please call 01692 648535 or 07748 257176.

MARINE ELECTRICIAN 35 years' experience. Installation, fault finding, repairs & spares. Fully insured. Please phone Steve on 07958 679118.

NORFOLK FOOT MOBILE HEALTH CARE Routine care, diabetic foot care, corns and callus Dverrucae and fungal nails. Please call Richard Parnell Dip FH BSc Econ Hons 07766 167562.

C&B GARDEN SERVICES for Garden Maintenance and Pest Control, specialising in wasps and moles, rabbits & squirrels etc. For FREE quote please call Clive 01692 538356 or 07867 632572.

JON THE BOOKKEEPER offering local book keeping and general accounting services: Year end, Self Assessment, CIS subcontractors, VAT etc. Contact Jon on 07545 545358 to discuss any requirements. Jonathan.g.dawson@gmail.com.

LANCE BUCKINGHAM CARPENTRY all building work undertaken, incl kitchen fitting, extensions, refurbishment, roofing, fencing, decking & maintenance. Phone: 07795 210522 or 01603 720229, lance@lb-carpentry.co.uk.

ROOF REPAIRS scaffolding, flat roofs, pitched roofs & chimney repairs. Also fascias & gutters. All high-level maintenance work undertaken. Ring Leighton for a quote or advice 07766 563513.

COMPUTERS: friendly IT Tuition and Support. Please contact Jamie Nickerson at jamenickerson@live.co.uk or 07747 450776.

GARDEN MAINTENANCE SERVICES: Mowing, hedges trimmed, raised beds, fences, patios, outdoor covered spaces & more: all projects considered. Please call Craig on 07535 044198.

KC WASTEWATER Service and repairs to all make of domestic sewage treatment plants. Over 30 years' experience, Felmingham based. Please call 01692 402747 or 07975 620630. Website www.kcwastewater.co.uk.

LOGS FOR SALE barn stored, seasoned firewood, delivered locally. £170 a full load, £88 a half load. Please contact Jamie on 07747 450776 or jamenickerson@live.co.uk.

NB NORFOLK BUILDS – local experienced builder. Call Steve for repairs & small works, home improvements, specialist brickwork, extensions and roofing. Please contact Steve on 07568 384934 or at norfolkbuilds@hotmail.com.

MICHELLE STEPHENS DECORATING - Quality efficient interior and exterior decorating 07866 726178 www.mdec.me.

PAINTING & DECORATING by Chris Ryan. Prompt and professional. Free quotation. 01692 631194 or 07758 127983.

OLD MILL GARAGE Car MOTs 20% off. Other vehicle repairs at competitive prices. K Roll Motors, Barton Turf 01692 536926.

CHIMNEY SWEEP Member of guild of master sweeps. Fully insured. Clean and efficient. All work certificated. All solid fuel appliances. Call Harry on 07799 484012 or 01263 833362.

BARTON REED PANEL FENCING - handmade reed panels and screens. All types of fencing work undertaken. Please contact Jon on 07881 717692, email at jon.moore61@btinternet.com or see bartonreedpanelfencing.co.uk.

LOCAL SEASONED FIREWOOD free delivery various load sizes available, starting at £80. Will stack on request. To book a delivery or for more information, please call Brent 07551 753127.

PLATTEN PEST CONTROL specialising in the management of wasps, rats, mice, moles, and rabbits. Free survey. Please contact us on 01692 631173 or 07711 391839.

REGENCY GUEST HOUSE, GIFT SHOP & PICTURE FRAMING - The Street, Neatishead, NR12 8AD. Contact us at 07790 011098, 01692 630233 or regencyhouse1786@gmail.com.

EAST ANGLIAN TANKERING SERVICES a local cesspool and septic tank disposal service, also blocked drains cleared. Smallburgh based. Tel 07988 020984 / 07988 406305 www.eatankering.co.uk.

M STUDIO HAIRDRESSING at Iken, Smallburgh Road, Barton NR12 8AP. Please call Maz 01692 630744.

YOGA CLASSES with Clare Badham at New Victory Hall, Wednesdays 18.15-19.45, more details at www.yogabreeze.co.uk or call/text 07557 353723.

ANTHONY HOWARD & SON – wet rooms, kitchens and bathrooms. All plumbing, plastering, tiling, carpentry etc. Please call 07954 224216.

STEVEN LUXFORD Experienced local decorator. Please call 01603 891662 or 07786 510558 for a free quote.

THE MOWER DOCTOR for garden machinery, service and repairs. On site repairs and servicing meaning reduced machinery downtime. Stalham based. Please call Rob 07799 530015 or 01603 291927.

A R PAYNE - for all your local painting and decorating needs. Over 35 years' experience within the building trade. Please contact Andy on 07706 991443 or andyrpayne.ap@gmail.com.

GARDEN BIRD FEED Free delivery of seed mixes, peanuts, sunflower, fat balls, mealworms and more! Please contact us on 01493 740288 or visit our website at gardenbirddirect.co.uk.

CHIMNEY SWEEP Mike Wicks & Son. Fully insured. Certificate issued. Please call either 01692 536592 or 01603 387400.

GLEAMING GUTTERS Gutter cleaning and washing, plus washing of fascias, soffits, barge boards etc. Conservatory cleaning & pressure washing to patios, paths etc. Free friend quote. Lance 07771 363702 or 01603 782112.

COLIN the PLUMBER oil, gas, and electric boilers and oil tanks. All types of plumbing services. Please call Colin on 01692 670657 or 07990 650331.

SAM THE LADY SWEEP Wood burners, open fires, agas etc. Guild of Master Sweeps trained. HETAS registered, NVQ qualified. Please call 07835 476106, www.samtheladysweep.co.uk.

All contributions welcome to The NIB: please note the Team reserves the right to amend or omit items. We start the magazine from the first of the month, therefore events in the previous month will not be advertised. Views expressed are those of the named author. No responsibility can be accepted for any content or errors. Everybody who sends in articles, including advertisers, automatically consent to having their details published on the Internet, unless specifically requested otherwise, in which case we will endeavour to omit details before uploading onto the churches' websites.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

- £1.50 a line, maximum five lines.
- Payable by bank transfer please.
- Please contact us at nibadverts@gmail.com or phone Sue Clayton on 07850 436211.



Defibrillator Locations

Neatishead

New Victory Hall, NR12 8AD
The Granary Business Park, School Rd NR12 8BU

Cangate

Cangate House, NR12 8YH

Barton Turf

Point Farm (barn wall) NR12 8BB
Cox's Boatyard toilet block NR12 8AZ

Irstead

Staithe Car Park, NR12 8XS

Pennygate

Berry Hall Lodge (left of gate) NR12 8BE

Magazine Team for February 2025 – December 2025

News & dates: Joan Dickie (Editor) - 07796 617704 - nibeditor1@gmail.com
Dates: Christine Breden (Deputy Editor) - 07510 224490 - nibdeputyeditor1@gmail.com
Adverts: Sue Clayton (Manager) - 07850 436211 - nibadverts@gmail.com
NIB Postals: Jane King (Deputy Manager) - 01692 630002 - janeelizabethking@hotmail.com
NIB Kids: Georgina Grocott - 07900 411103 - nibskids12@gmail.com
NIB Treasurer: Mandy Parks - 07547 697010 - nibfinancials@gmail.com
Social Media: Margaret Maxwell - 07460 740700 - margaretemmamaxwell@yahoo.com

DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE EDITION – 14th May 2025

Diary dates for May 2025

Mon	5 th	7-7.30	Village Screen: Conclave (2024 Cert 12A 120 mins) NVH
Thurs	8 th	10am-noon	Friends & Neighbours Coffee Morning, Bring & Buy, Raffle, Bingo: NVH
Thurs	8 th		The White Horse Inn - Seafood Night
Sat	10 th	9am-Noon	Community Market and Café: NVH
Sat	10 th	11am	Celebrate the Wonder of Wherries: Norfolk Boat Club Wroxham
Sat	10 th	2pm	VE 80 th Celebration - Afternoon Tea; NVH
Sat	10 th	7pm	Hexachordia "All in a Garden Green" St Peter's Church, Neatishead
Mon	12 th	2pm	Horning Flower Club Vicki Hease demonstrating Here Comes Summer A Day at the Beach: NVH
Wed	14 th	7-9pm	Knit and Stitch: Dolly Newcombe Community Room NVH
Wed	14th	NOTE	Deadline for the June NIB Edition: Wednesday 14th May
Thurs	15 th -18 th	10am-4pm	Stalham Art Group local artists exhibition: St Marys Church Stalham
Sun	18 th	10am-3pm	Wroxham & Hoveton Lions Club Craft Fair: Hoveton Village Hall
Sat	17 th	10am-noon	Coffee Morning at St Michael's and All Angels Barton Turf
Mon	19 th	7.30-9.30pm	Gardening Club: A talk by Andrew Sankey on The Life of Joseph Banks English Naturalist: NVH
Wed	21 st	10.10am 11.15am	Mobile Library: Pitt Corner, Neatishead, NR12 8BT Mobile Library: Council Houses, Ashmanhaugh, NR12 8YL
Wed	21 st	10am-1pm	Textilia Mixed Media: NVH
Wed	21 st	2-4pm	WI: NVH
Wed	21 st		White Horse Inn Quiz: proceeds to RAF Air Defence Museum
Thurs	22 nd	10am-noon	Friends and Neighbours Coffee Morning: Quiz and Mardle NVH
Fri	23 rd -27 th	10am-4pm	Horning Art Group local artists exhibition: St Benet's Hall Horning
Fri/Sun	23 rd	To 1 st June	White Horse Pub Beer Festival: live music, hot dog menu and beer
Sat	24 th		Wherry Yacht Charitable Trust Sailings to Nature Reserve, day trips start
Wed	28 th	10.15am 10.35am 10.55am	Mobile Library: Pennygate, Barton Turf NR12 8BE Mobile Library: Ex-Post Office, Barton Turf NR12 8BB Mobile Library: Staithe Road, Barton Turf NR12 8AZ
Wed	28 th	10.30-Noon	Coffee Morning at Broadacres Care Home All Welcome
Wed	28 th	7-9pm	Knit and Stitch: Dolly Newcombe Community Room NVH

Future Dates

Sunday 1st June: 9.30am Sunday Club at Neatishead Church.

Monday 2nd June: Village Screen: NVH: Maria

Saturday 14th June: Barton Fete at Barton Hall Barton Turf to support St Michael and All Saints' churches

Saturday 28th June: Grove House Irstead: Open Garden to support St Michael's Irstead

Monday 7th July: Village Screen: NVH : Bridget Jones: Mad about the Boy

Monday 4th August: Village Screen: NVH: Wicked

Saturday 22nd September: NVH Ceilidh

Local Services and Contact Details

- New Victory Hall: Street Hill, Neatishead, Norfolk, NR12 8AD bookings@victoryhall.info 07500 046158 www.victoryhall.info.
- White House Stores Community Shop: Irstead Road, Neatishead NR12 8BJ, 01692 631549. To join the Community Shop Membership: info@whitehousetores.co.uk.
- White Horse Inn: The Street, Neatishead, NR12 8AD, 01692 630828: thewhitehorseinnneatishead.com
- Wroxham Library events: 01603 782560; www.facebook.com/wroxhamlibraryofficial, Just a Cuppa, every Tuesday 10.00–12pm. Come for a friendly chat, there are many diverse and interesting events, activities, clubs for all ages throughout the month.

Please Note Defibrillator Information is now on page 14

Parish Council Clerks Barton & Irstead: Nicola Ledain, bartonturfirsteadpc@yahoo.com

Neatishead: Laura Bateman, neatishead.parish@gmail.com. Meets every 3rd Thursday 7.30pm NVH



Benefice of St Benedict - Church Services – May 2025

Sunday 4th May: 3rd Sunday of Easter

9.30am St Peter's Neatishead Benefice and Holy Communion and Sunday Club

Thursday 8th May 11am : 80th Anniversary Service to Commemorate the End of the Second World War in Europe St Michael and All Angels' Barton Turf

Saturday 10th May 7pm: Hexachordia Concert. Proceeds to St Peter's Bell Tower

Sunday 11th May: 4th Sunday of Easter

9.30am Benefice and Holy Communion St Swithin's Ashmanhaugh

Saturday 17th May: 10am : Coffee Morning at St Michael and All Angels' Barton Turf

Sunday 18th May : 5th Sunday of Easter

8am Holy Communion (BCP) St Michael's Irstead

9.30am Holy Communion St Benedict's Horning

11am Sunday Club St Peter's Neatishead

6pm Evening Prayer St Michael and All Angels' Barton Turf

Sunday 25th May 6th Sunday of Easter

9.30 Holy Communion St Michael's Irstead

11am Morning Prayer St Benedict's Horning

11am Holy Communion St Michael and All Angels' Barton Turf



Weekday Morning Prayer Services in our Benefice churches at 9.15am*,
Holy Communion 3rd Monday **

Monday: Irstead**, Tuesday: Neatishead. Wednesday: Horning

Thursday: Barton Turf Friday at 9.45am: Ashmanhaugh*

Contact details Rev Ben-brother_ben@btinternet.com or 01692 630216

Upcoming Dates and Events

Saturday 14th June 2pm Barton Fete Barton Hall –

on behalf of St Michael and All Angels' Barton Turf & St Michael's Irstead

Saturday 28th June 2pm Garden open at Grove House Irstead, supporting St Michael's Irstead

Parish Church Wardens *Neatishead*: Pauline Simpson on 01692 630674, *Irstead*: David Murrells on 01692 631427, *Barton Turf*: Barbara Pilcher on 01692 536132.

Neatishead Baptist Church Chapel Road NR12 8YF

4 th May Sunday	10.30am	Lesley Nelson & Norah Chown Communion	23 rd May Friday	10am	Prayer Meeting
11 th May Sunday	10.30am	Christian Aid Service & 80 th Anniversary Celebration Ecumenical	25 th May Sunday	10.30am	Mrs Pearl Brooke
12 th May Monday	2pm	Fellowship - St Mark study	26 th May Monday	2pm	Fellowship - St Mark study
18 th May Sunday	10.30am	Mrs Moira Ketteringham	31 st May Saturday	10 -11.30am	Hope Cafe

Hope Café meets for fellowship, coffee, games etc.10am to 11.30am on the last Saturday of The month. Everyone is welcome for fun and fellowship. Contact for more details: *Sue Gibbons*

Secretary secretary@neatisheadbaptistchurch.org.uk