

THE BENEFICE OF ST BENEDICT

Why do we need church buildings?

One of the most common questions that a priest gets asked is 'why do we need church buildings?' The question is more likely to be raised when funds are required to undertake expensive repairs. It is true that church buildings are often very old, indeed centuries old, and it is equally true that they are expensive to maintain.

The well-used argument against having church buildings or spending money on them is that the people make up the 'Church' rather than the bricks, and that Jesus never spoke about building churches. However, I would suggest that there is a much stronger argument for maintaining and keeping our wonderful and historic church buildings. Christianity is a historical religion and since its very beginning, Christians have been gathering communally in places of significance and creating memories from one generation to the next. Churches are visible signs of the holiness of God manifested in our towns and villages.

There are many good reasons why our church buildings should be loved and preserved. After all, it is these buildings that bear witness to those who have lived and died in our community, and indeed they also signal continuity to those who have not yet even been born. This is why so many couples want to marry and have their children baptised in our churches, as these are the churches in which they grew up. Couples and their families will often have a special connection to a church building that has spanned several generations.

A church building is the visible sign of the Gospel of Christ in the form of wood, glass, and stone. Our church buildings also witness to the reality of the incarnation: that God chose to dwell on earth with humanity in a real time and in a real place.

People and place matter. Christianity is not just a religion of the Spirit. To abandon a church is to close down the memory of Christian presence. This does not mean that there are times when there is no alternative; however, church buildings far from being seen as an obstacle or a financial burden should instead be celebrated for what they are: visible and physical reminders of God; reminders of the glory, splendour, and beauty of God.

"O how awesome is this place. This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." Genesis 28.17

Praised be Christ,

Revd Ben.

Dates for the Annual Parochial Church Meetings: Ashmanhaugh- Sunday 12th May after the 11am Eucharist

Barton Turf- Sunday 21st April at 5pm

Horning- Sunday 21st April after the 11am Eucharist

Irstead- Sunday 12th May at 9am

Neatishead- Tuesday 23rd April after 9.15am Morning Prayer

St Michael and All Angels', Barton Turf

Thanks to all those who attended the March coffee morning on Saturday 16th March. We raised £110, a good result. Thanks also to all those who came to the Teddy Bears' Picnic. A super afternoon, enjoyed by all. Thanks go to all the helpers who made the afternoon such a success. By the time you read this we will also have had our Palm Sunday procession with our donkeys and our Easter Day egg hunt.

The next coffee morning will be on **Saturday 20**th **April** from 10am until noon. We have recently taken delivery of some new books for those who like to browse.

On the 4th April the Norfolk Wildlife Trust are coming at 10am to carry out a plant survey in the churchyard if anyone is interested in becoming involved.

On Wednesday 11th April we welcome the Venturers Sailing Group to the church for their annual service at 6pm.

Our APCM is to be held in the church on **Sunday** 21st April at 5pm, just before Evening Prayer. At that meeting the Churchwardens are elected and anyone who lives in Barton Turf is eligible to take part. That is followed by the Annual Meeting when reports are presented, and PCC members are elected. Members on the Electoral Role can attend that meeting and ask questions. The Roll is being revised at the moment; if you are not on it and wish to be so, please get in touch with me on 01692 536132. Please come along to the meeting if you are able.

Barbara Pilcher, Churchwarden

Barton & Irstead Church Fete

The fete will be held on **Saturday 1st June** at Barton Hall. As always, a great deal of help is needed. Phone numbers below are prefixed by 01692.

Toy Stall – If you have any toys that you no longer need, we would be pleased to receive them for the Fete. We can collect if necessary. Please phone either Barbara Pilcher on 536132 or Tina Clinch on 536890

Book Stall – If you have any books you would like to donate, please contact Michael Brandon-Jones on 535065 to arrange collection/delivery.

Garden Stall - anything related to gardens needed, plants, produce, eg fruit, vegetables, cut flowers, unwanted tools. Contact Deena Sullivan on 07785 770663.

Teas – The success of the tea tent relies on a good supply of cakes and bakes. If you could supply such items, it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Jan Cuss at jan.cuss@gmail.com.

Small Treasures – Wanted: jewellery, trinkets, ornaments, pictures, photo frames, glass, china figurines, silver, brass or small items. Contact Lynne on 536479 or Cheryl on 07387 267729.

Cake Stall – We would be most grateful for your kind donations of cakes, scones, and other goodies such as jams, chutneys or other preserves. Items can be handed to any of those listed or brought to the stall on the day. Tina Clinch 536890, Mandy Parks 630325, Susan Lamb 536240 and Jude McGill 535580. Many thanks for kindly baking for us. Gail Murrells 631427.

Bottle Stall – The success of the Bottle Stall is very much dependent on your generosity with the donation of bottles of any content such as beverages, whether alcoholic or otherwise, cookery items and toiletries. As previously the following have agreed to act as collection points/collectors for the Bottle Stall: - Pennygate – Lynne Wall, 536479, Barton Turf – Barbara Pilcher, 536132, Hall Road – John Seeley, 07531 442075, and Irstead – Claire Penstone-Smith, 630580. With my most grateful thanks – David Murrells 631427.

Help is always needed with putting up and taking down. Putting up is from 6pm on the Friday, weather permitting, or 10am Saturday. If there is anyone who is willing to help on a stall, please get in touch with me on 536132.

Barbara Pilcher

St Peter's, Neatishead Church Tulip Day

The Tulip Day is being held on Saturday 27th April from 11am-3pm at Neatishead Hall and The Paddock, Hall Road, Neatishead, NR12 8XX, We hope the tulips will be fully out by then but apologise if they are nearly over because we have had such a mild winter. The main display of tulips will be at the Hall, and there will be cakes, light plants. lunches. and raffle а Paddock. Donations of plants and cakes would be very welcome. There is ample parking, and disabled parking too. So now we look forward to welcoming you and hope for a fine day and good tulip display.

Nick & Jane Fowle 01692 630249

St Michael's, Irstead

We will be undertaking our spring clean at St Michael's on **Thursday 11**th **April** from 9.30am. If you can spare an hour or so to help clean our beautiful little church it would be much appreciated. Refreshments will be provided. If you are able help, could you kindly let Gail know on 01692 631427.

David Murrells, Churchwarden



New Victory Hall Quiz Night

Friday 10th May 7 for 7.30pm

It's quiz time again!!! Make a date

to join us for a fun and sociable evening in the NVH on **Friday 10th May.** Tickets are £5 and there is a prize for the winning team. Please bring your own drinks and nibbles. There will be a raffle.

Teams of up to 6 people or come along and make a team up on the evening. Please contact Pauline Simpson on 07818 599303 to book your place.

Jane King NVH Events Committee



Knit & Stitch

Our meetings for this month will be on Wednesdays, April 10th and 24th, as usual in the Dolly Newcombe Community Room at the New Victory

Hall from 7-9pm. We are a very informal group, and anyone is welcome to attend with their latest stitching project. If you need ideas, or would like to learn a new craft, don't miss the Makers Festival at The Forum in Norwich from 13th – 21st April. Amongst the many demonstrations, exhibitions, taster sessions and talks there will be a chance to see 'Norfolk's Queen of Knitting', Margaret Seaman. To mark her 95th birthday in April, on display together for the first and last time

will be: the Knitted Sandringham, the Knitted Great Yarmouth, the NHS Knittingale Hospital and the Knitted Buckingham Palace. Anyone cannot help being blown away by these incredibly detailed and huge hand-knitted installations that Margaret has made which have raised huge amounts of money for many local charities over the past few years.

Claire Penstone-Smith, claireps@btinternet.com 07760 643739, 01692 630580



Gardening Club

Now that April's here...it's time to get on with some serious work in the garden.

In the vegetable plot, potatoes may be your top priority this month. When farmworkers had very few days off, a century or more ago, Good Friday was the day for planting. With luck it was sunny and dry, but frosts were more frequent then and emergent potatoes could be at risk. A good crop of spuds was important to feed the family on frugal wages of those days.

Nowadays the post brings us colourful seed catalogues to tempt the flower grower. One of the favourite choices for many gardeners is the sweet pea. Some grow them for competition, some for the house, or some for a colourful scented bunch to give to friends or visitors. These flowers are at their peak in June and July, but if picked regularly can go on into October.

This month we can learn more about Sweet Peas and how to make the most of them with popular speaker, Geoff Freeman.

Do you have a medlar tree in your garden? Maybe not. This interesting fruit has been around since the Romans and next month we can learn all about it and its history.

Wendy Price



Bridge Club

Bridge is a social game. One of its strengths is that it can be played at many different levels, from a casual

rubber or two with a bottle of wine, up to international tournament level.

At Neatishead we play a variation called Duplicate Bridge. Each pair plays 3 hands against another pair. This is called a "round". In the next round they play a different set of 3 hands against a different pair. Both players and hands move around the room following a predetermined movement. The aim is to get a better result than other pairs on any given board. We usually play 7 rounds and at the end the scores are compared, and a ranking is produced.

There is a lot of technology behind all of this. We have a dealing machine which produces randomised deals into special "boards". We have a wireless scoring system which allows the result of each hand to be recorded on a handset at each table and sent to a computer. The handset will also give details of the movement and the names of the opponents on each round. At the end of the session the results are uploaded to our website. The QR code links to our website; please do have a look.

If you find the above daunting, please look back at the first sentence. Bridge players are generally very sociable people and mostly house trained. You don't need to be a genius to play bridge. Like most mind sports, it involves problem solving and use of short-term memory.

If you are curious about the game, but don't want to commit, then you are more than welcome to come to NVH one Friday morning and spend half an hour or so with us to see what we do. If you would like to do this, please contact me to arrange a visit.

Our next special event is our annual Easter Bonnet competition on Good Friday. This is well supported and usually has some interesting entries. I'm going to make a special effort this year! Photos of the event will go on our website and in



the next issue of The NIB. For more information about either Neatishead or Horning Bridge Clubs contact Jim Fletcher on 07565 507060 — I'm on WhatsApp too.

If you want to learn Bridge from

scratch or need to brush up, contact Matt Jackson on 07845 658131.

Jim Fletcher



Village Screen Monday 4th March

Due to delays in receiving the summer film menu, the film for **6**th **May** will be published on

local notice boards as well as being announced at the screening of WONKA in the hall on **Monday** 25th March (which replaces the film which would have been scheduled for Easter Monday).

Tickets at £6 for the May film can be purchased from the White House Stores (cash only, correct change please). Advance booking is preferred by calling Christine on 01692 631347. Contactless payment is an option for unreserved tickets on the door.

Wishing all our supporters a very Happy Easter.

Village Screen Team

New Bus Service 3A - Operated by Sunbeam Coaches

Every Wednesday excluding bank holidays from 1st April 2024

Pennygate, grass triangle	1000
Barton Turf, shelter	1002
Hoveton, Roys department store	1015
Hoveton, Roys department store	1200
Barton Turf, opp shelter	1213
Pennygate, grass triangle	1215

(Information from Norfolk County Council)



Community Gym

As a non-profit community organisation, the gym wants to keep fees as low as possible.

This means that the committee are always looking for ways to

raise additional funds to contribute to running costs including equipment repair and replacement.

Committee members research funding applications, welcome generous local sponsorship and organise fund-raising events.

Two such fund-raising events are happening in April (also see the posters on this page) .

Tuesday 16th April: a quiz at the White Horse Inn **Saturday 20th April**: a wonderful plant and bake sale together with tea, coffee, raffle, cakes and chat. Both events are open to the whole community; please save the dates and come along and support us.

For a free gym trial, email: gym@victoryhall.info or call Gary, our instructor, on 07387 876216. For photos, video, and more information: www.neatisheadcommunitygym.com.

Joan Dickie







Dogs and Cats - Lost and Found

If you'd like to be included in this Whatsapp group which aims to reunite lost dogs, or cats, with

their owners, please let me know.

Sue Clayton, 07850 436211



This month's NIB cover

Our thanks go to Isla from Neatishead School for the beautiful Easter front cover design.

Margaret Maxwell, Editor



Craft Club

Unbelievably, we are now into our third year, and Craft Club is still going strong! We meet every month at the New Victory Hall and try our hands at different crafts.

The sessions are mostly led by our own members, by someone else in the community.

The list of crafts is too long to list here, but include felting, macramé, mosaic, watercolour painting and clay modelling to name but a few. We have an exciting schedule booked for this year which

includes branching out into day trips and whole day workshops.

Unfortunately, due to the nature of the club, we are limited on numbers and currently have no spaces available. It has been such a rewarding experience to meet as a group of local neighbours, both in terms of friendships and experiencing different arts and crafts.



Craft Club activities - Jan Cuss

The facilities of the New Victory Hall (we use the Dolly Newcombe room) are exceptional and very affordable, which makes the whole experience a pleasure. I would encourage anyone with a hobby or passion that could be shared to consider having their own 'club' in the village - it has been so rewarding, and there is real appetite among people to have a go.

There is also a lot of hidden talent in our community- people hide their lights under bushels!!!

Jan Cuss



Neatishead, Irstead and Barton Turf Community Heritage Group

We are very much looking forward to this month's meeting which will

be a presentation by Maria Jordan, retired National Trust Textile Conservator, entitled "The Long and Winding Road: Wool, Tapestries and the Medieval Global Economy" on **Wednesday 17**th **April**, 7.30pm at Neatishead School. All welcome, NIBCHG Friends free, visitors £3, refreshments served from 7.15pm.

Before this meeting, on Tuesday 9th April between 10am and 12pm, there will be an opportunity to meet members of the committee for a chat over coffee and view some of our archives at an Open Morning in The Stable, the small building adiacent to Neatishead **Baptist** Chapel. The census and parish registers for the three villages will be available to view as will our NIB Parish Magazine Archive which Michael has been working on recently. He has produced an index to all the magazines beginning with the first issue in April 1976 to December 2023 (no. 1 through to no. 544). A full set of the magazines is kept in the archive room at Barton Turf Church but in addition to this official archive set, there is an almost complete set belonging to NIBCHG which is kept at The Stable. NIBCHG were very lucky to be given some early magazines from a collection started by Anne Wilson in 1976 but are still looking for a few copies of NIB from the 1980s and 1990s. If you think you can help, please contact Michael or myself as we have a list of the magazines we need to complete the set. Alternatively, please bring the magazines along to our Open Morning or the next Community Market. For more information about the group or either of the above events please contact me.

Claire Penstone-Smith, claireps@btinternet.com 07760 643739, 01692 630580



NIB in the past

Then NIB was first created in 1976 by Lady Delia Peel and Alice Dennes after 'North Norfolk

Country Churchman' was discontinued. Producing it each month was very different in those days. There was a typing team, a printing team, a stapling team as well as the two editors and the managers that we have now. As now the editor had the job for one year when the deputy editor stepped up and became editor for a year. There were just 200 copies printed for the first three months, and then later that year it was delivered to every house in each of the three parishes, and was

funded by donations, and for a few years an annual coffee morning.

Firstly, those contributing to the NIB (It was called the Barton Turf. Irstead and Neatishead Parish News in those days) would give mostly handwritten pieces to the editor or deputy editor to be included. These were put into what became a very battered folder with pockets for each page. As now there was a monthly meeting but back then we sat and counted words to fit the space. Then it was off to the typist who had the job of fitting it all in, often a problem. To start off with it was printed in Norwich, and then the team invested in a Gestetner copier which meant that instead of just plain typing of the magazine, stencils had to be cut and any mistakes corrected with Tippex. This machine was kept in the Black Shed at Barton in the summer and the back of Barton shop in the winter. There were very often problems with it so the team operating it had to know what they were up to. After that all the pages went to the stapling team and then on to be delivered. After the dreaded Gestetner the magazine was printed by Margaret in Norwich who was wonderful. By that time, it was typed either on a word processor or computer.



There have been cover designs from 1982, the first being designed by Roger Challoner. In 1994 Bob Wilson produced drawings of the churches, and then from 2010 the front cover drawings have been by John Horner. For several years now NIB has had a special cover for Christmas.

mostly produced by the school. There has often been a competition for it it. We sent a special Golden Jubilee copy to the Queen for which we received a letter of thanks.

My thanks to Michael Brandon-Jones for his help with this 'potted history'.

Jane Fowle

FONS Friends of Neatishead School

This term has seen some great fundraising for FONS. We have held two craft clubs and an Easter Party which brought the great Moore Madness Childrens Entertainer to our school. He certainly kept the party going and we all had a great time. We have also raised some funds at The New Victory Hall's Easter Fair with a Teddy Tombola which was a great success.

Coming up next term we'll see an after-school Games Club and will be holding the all new and improved Summer Festival, which will be full of fun, games, food and so much more. Keep your eyes peeled for more information as it will be open to the whole community.

Lisa Seager & Kerry Smith

NABS

Come one, Come all!!!!!!

I am so happy to see the rehearsals for the upcoming 50th Anniversary Show are underway. The show will be held on **Saturday 4th May** at The New Victory Hall and is looking back at the 50 years that NABS have been entertaining our community, bringing some of these acts back to the stage.

We are also always open to new members who would like to join the NABS family. So please get in touch for further information.

Also we would like to invite you all to our Annual General Meeting which is being held on **Tuesday 16th April** at Neatishead Primary School at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend. If you are interested, please email thenabs74@gmail.com to let us know.

Lisa Seager, NABS Secretary



Neatishead & Barton Pre-School

We are so pleased to announce that Alice Notley has joined our Preschool family as

the new manager. She has a great deal of experience, is going to bring some great qualities and is already a massive hit with the children. The committee would also like to show our appreciation for Nicky and Teresa for stepping into the role while we were recruiting.

The children are enjoying the lead up to Easter and will be taking part in some interesting projects.

We also have held a fantastic fundraiser on the Mississippi Boat and want to thank every single person who attended, supported us, and donated prizes. And a big thank you to Will Overton who entertained us all. Look out for future events where you can support us further.

Lastly, we would like to give an even bigger thank you to the Neatishead Bowls Club for an extremely generous donation. We are very grateful and touched that you chose us. This will be put towards outdoor resources that will help develop the children's skills such as balance, working together and managing risks.

NBPS Committee



Neatishead, Barton Turf & District WI

Following on from our AGM last month our new committee were set to work

organising and providing food for our 91st birthday tea party. Our strong team catered for 50 people with tables full of lovely savouries and cakes set on white tablecloths with beautiful spring flower arrangements. Our speaker was the very knowledgeable Maria Pennington, who wowed us with her knowledge of Faberge and exquisite jewellery. The competition for a decorated egg was deservedly won by Ann Russell.

The yearly membership fees of £48 were due this month and our membership continues to grow with over 40 paid up members to date. There is still room for more so please feel free to join our next meeting on Wednesday 17th April at 2pm in the NVH for a taster session.

Sally Church



Neatishead White Horse Bowls Club

Opening of Green Sat 13th April 1.30pm

Our display in the White House Stores' window led to interesting feedback. Thanks to the staff for your help. Hopefully we can persuade readers to come down on Wednesday evenings at 6pm as well as Saturday afternoons. Everyone is welcome. Being a proactive club, this year we were given a donation from the North Norfolk Afternoon Mixed League. This was for a charity of our choice. Having contacts with Neatishead Primary School over the past years, we decided to give the monies to Neatishead and Barton Preschool. Our chairperson presented a cheque to Daniella, and we then received a lovely thank you card from the children.

Chair, Cathy Smith 07810 586551



Barton Turf Bowls Club

The club held its Annual General Meeting on 22nd February when the year ending December 2023 was reviewed and the officers for year

2024 were elected. Thanks were given to Ruth Gibbons for organising the excellent Christmas Dinner. It was decided that the club would again have a stall at the Easter Fair and the competition this year would be the number of Maltesers in a jar. The first Roll-up is fixed for **Monday 29**th **April** at 6.45pm for members and all new players interested in taking part. It was also agreed there would be no subscription for the first year for any new players. Everyone is looking forward to the new season. Any people interested in joining the

club please get in touch with Glenn Neave on 01692 536690.

Barbara Pilcher



Ashmanhaugh & Barton Wanderers Cricket Club

A belated Happy New Year from all at ABWCC!

Lots of work has been done behind the scenes to prepare for the new and very

exciting season ahead, which will begin in April. In December we held the club AGM at The White Horse, Neatishead where we welcomed a new chairman, longtime player Ami Mishra, who takes over the reins from Harry Buxton. Harry remains involved and will lead a fundraising team (amongst other things!) as well as continuing to run junior age groups as well as playing himself.

Over the winter months we have competed in the North Walsham Indoor League and indoor training has been very well attended by all age groups throughout the winter. Outdoor nets will commence shortly, fingers crossed for drier weather! Some of our players have played cricket overseas during the winter and we look forward to getting them home for what we hope will be a stellar season.

We are in the process of preparing the pavilion at Barton Turf as our 1st XI steps up into the East Anglian Premier League, lots of improvements and refurbishments are necessary to meet the strict requirements. We're very grateful for the help of our neighbours at Cox's Boatyard for supplying the new changing room at Barton Turf.

2024 will see the club fielding four Saturday teams, Sunday teams, T20 teams, Cup teams as well as junior teams in every age group.

We are always welcoming new players, please get in touch if you would like to join the club Any age and any ability can be accommodated, you would be made very welcome.

As ever we are grateful for the volunteers we have, but are always looking for more! If you feel you could help at all, please get in touch.

Our 1st XI needs an occasional scorer to fill in a few dates where the usual scorer is away (remuneration & lunch included).

Junior training is due to commence at Barton Turf on **Friday 19**th**April**, please keep an eye on social media or contact the club for confirmation nearer the time. As this is outdoor it remains weather dependant.

All new juniors are welcome to drop in and see what we do. All age groups are covered, look out for an exciting new announcement regarding our lead coach very soon.

Jayne Everett

A message from Anne

I would like to thank friends and neighbours for their help and patience through my recovery from a stroke.

I am getting on ok. Thank you again.

Anne Connell

WISE Ladies

WISE Ladies had a Javabean Coffee experience in March with owners Lester and Angie, who took us through a demystifying coffee presentation. All you need to know about coffee from bean to cup! Where it grows around the world, how it's picked and processed, along with coffee brewing

Scottow Enterprise Park, Badersfield, NR10 5FB. Enjoy your visit!

paraphernalia. Followed by roasting and tasting session. If you love your coffee and want to visit, they are on the old RAF site at Coltishall. They are located Javabean, at: Speciality Coffee Wholesalers and Cafe. 382 Lammas Road,

Cheryl Pell

White House Stores Community Shop

A big thank you to all the members who attended our meeting last month. It was great to see such a good turnout and support for your shop.

We had a great trip to Norton's Dairy recently and a write-up will be in May's NIB.

Vacancy on our Committee

We have a vacancy for a Committee Secretary. If you are interested, please email info@whitehousestores.co.uk for more information.

Margaret, shop & committee 01692 631549 margaret@whitehousestores.co.uk

Neatishead Parish Council

The Annual Parish Meeting of Neatishead will take place at 7.30pm on **18**th **April 2024** at the New Victory Hall. Local groups are invited to talk for up to 10 minutes offering an opportunity to promote the work that their organisation undertakes.

If you are interested in attending, then please let me know and I will add your group to the agenda.

If you are unable to attend but would like to submit a report for reading, then please let me know.

Laura Bateman, Parish Clerk



Barton Turf and Irstead Parish Council

Good news - we have just taken receipt of the second of our three planned defibrillators which is to be installed in Pennygate. We have

achieved this through the relentless work that Doreen Dean has put in for us chasing grants on our behalf and the generosity of our wonderful community. Our first one as you may remember was at Irstead Staithe and is now fully operational. I was very sad to be contacted by the EDP for my thoughts on the unpleasant altercation between anglers and boaters at Irstead Staithe, that I believe went viral on social media. It's not that the council wish to deter anglers in any way but to clarify the situation on moorings, the parish council adopts the same policy as the Broads Authority on this, "Anglers must give way to boats", and there will now sadly have to be some additional signage to that effect.

We have a limited number of open boat moorings available to rent at Barton Turf Staithe from 1st April this year. Anyone interested please contact me on 07885 706493.

You may have heard of a sheep attack near Smallburgh Road recently, the police are continuing enquiries into this as one sheep was killed, and another was very badly mauled. The only observations at the time were two lurcher-like dogs running off in a Barton Turf direction. Anyone with any information please contact the police.

Our website (www.bartonturfandirsteadpc.info) has now gone live and it would be great to hear from anyone with additional content that they feel should be considered for inclusion. It's early days but it gradually should develop into a very useful tool for both villagers and visitors.

Glenn Neave, Chairman, Barton Turf and Irstead Parish Council



Horning Flower Club

Swapping at short notice with our scheduled demonstrator, Rachel Barnard presented Spring Birthday, colourful celebratory designs of beautiful spring blooms. As she

worked, she gave us interesting insight into taking the qualification to be a NAFAS demonstrator. The competition Spring Flowers in a Piece of Junk was won by Rachel Clayton. On **Monday 8th April** Brenda Tubb will demonstrate on her subject of Magic Moments and the competition will be Box of Colour.

Anyone interested in joining the club should contact the secretary, Carole Swan, on 01692 536270.

Rachel Clayton



The Farming Year: A Seasonal Snapshot Fields of (Yellow) Gold

As I write this short article in mid-March, random yellow flowers are

appearing in some fields around the NIB parishes. By publication date, in April, these fields will be becoming vast seas of vivid yellow.

This crop is oilseed rape (originally from the Latin rapum, meaning turnip). A member of the brassica family, different varieties are grown for their oil (culinary and industrial) which is extracted from the small brown-black seeds after harvest. The balance of the crop is used for animal feed.

If you walk close to the flowering fields, you will notice a strong distinctive smell; bees love its nectar and the resulting honey is pale with large crystals.

As a student at agricultural college in the 1960s, I remember there was very little oilseed rape grown in East Anglia. These yellow fields only became an unmissable feature of our spring landscape from the 1970s onwards. Once the flowers have bloomed, the crop sits in the field to dry out before summer harvest.

Elsewhere, the over-wintering sheep (and stubble turnips) have now disappeared and most of those fields are freshly ploughed, ready for spring crops. Watch out for more tractor traffic on our roads as planting and crop maintenance begins in earnest!

Peter Dickie

Norfolk Punt Club



The mystery of the disappearing pontoons...

If you are familiar with Barton Broad, either seen from the deck of a boat or from the decking of the NWT boardwalk viewing platform, you will know that the floating pontoons and huts of the Norfolk Punt Club disappear over the winter months and suddenly reappear each year around Easter time.

The mystery is not hard to solve! The Punt Club is unusual in being a 100% floating sailing club, with no land-based clubhouse. Four separate wooden huts house the tea-hut, the loos, the tall officers' box and a multi-functional storage shed. The other four flat pontoons are where members gather to meet and to access their boats which moor alongside. Sailing events take place between spring and early autumn but not during the less clement winter months. In autumn each year the eight pontoons (and their huts) are uncoupled from their fixed poles and towed to a corner of Cox's Boatyard, in Barton Turf, for overwintering, maintenance and cleaning.

This year's spring tow-out was on March 16th, a glorious windless day. The club safety boats, acting as mini tugboats, carefully navigated the narrower passages in Cox's marina and slowly and gracefully towed each section back out to its summer position in the centre of the broad. As you



see from the photo, a working party of members then manoeuvred and secured each pontoon back into position, ready for the first races of the 2024 season.

The Norfolk Punt Club (NPC) is open to new members

who would like to learn to sail, who already sail, or who would like to help in organising events or man the 'famous' tea-hut. Drop by to meet members on the pontoons on Sundays, Social Saturdays, or summer Tuesday evenings.

Joan Dickie

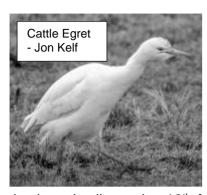


Wildlife Notes

Just after I had written my notes for last month, I was alerted to an interesting winter duck visitor to

Barton Broad, a female Smew. Smews are fairly scarce visitors to lakes here and I have probably only seen four or five on Barton in the last 30 years. The males are superb white and black birds and

were known as "white nuns", but this bird was a female so lacked the striking white plumage and had a grey body with a red head. Early ornithologists had great problems recognising that they were the same species, and the famous naturalist Sir Thomas Browne called it the "Weasel



coot" as the female's red head was a similar colour to the mammal's coat. Nowadays the females are known as "Redheads" and there are generally a handful recorded in the UK each winter. On visiting

the boardwalk on the 18th March to observe the Smew I was surprised to see a group of white birds on the tern platform which I initially assumed to be sea gulls and almost disregarded. They turned out to be a small flock of ten Cattle Egrets which are usually found on grazing marshes feeding around cattle and are now getting more common in Norfolk as they spread throughout the UK. They were obviously just having a rest and a preen but soon flew off in the How Hill direction. They have paler beaks than the more common Little Egrets and lack the bright yellow feet of their cousins. March turned out to be a good month for Siskins, visiting gardens in higher numbers than usual and as I write these notes on the 17th I have just counted ten of these attractive little finches on my feeders. I have also had visits from Lesser Redpolls, Bramblings, and a Reed Bunting. Several residents of Irstead have reported hearing the Bitterns booming during March so hopefully they will have a good breeding season this year.

April is the month when migration really starts in full earnest and we can expect to see and hear Blackcaps, Willow Warblers, Whitethroats, Cuckoos, Common Terns as well as our first Swallows and both Sand and House Martins. Brimstone butterflies will be joined by Orange Tips and Large Red Damselflies will be on the wing

along with Hairy
Dragonflies and possibly Five-Spotted Chasers. The dawn chorus will be in full swing, and birds will be



nesting so I will give my usual request that dog walkers keep their dogs on leads to protect the

ground nesting birds. Your dog may not harm them, but it will leave a trail which can be easily followed by others that may do so, as well as any predators such as foxes and stoats. Get out and enjoy the wildlife and let me know what you see.

Jerry Simpson 01692 630674 simpsonj24@btinternet.com

Horning Boat Show 2024

The Seventh Horning Boat Show is to take place on **Saturday 4th May 2024** starting at 10am until 4pm. A celebrity will open the show at 10am.

There will be exhibitors showing Luxury Motor Cruisers, sailing boats, plus many other marina items and services. Also Broads holiday companies together with charity stalls and some classic cars on show.

Horning Sailing Club will be putting on their Discover Sailing which has proved so successful in the past shows. Free entry to the show, free parking at BeWilderwood and a shuttle bus to take you to the show for just £2. We have a food court offering speciality food and drinks, plus the local eateries in Horning village. A great day out for all the family.

Find us at www.horningboatshow.com or phone 01692 630892.

Sarah Tomkins



Weather

February breaks records!

The total rainfall recorded in February was an amazing 120mms/4.72in or three times the monthly average in what is usually the driest month of the year. It was confirmed as not only the wettest but also the warmest February on record across the region with temperatures regularly in double figures and reaching a balmy 17-18'C on the 15th. It has also been the wettest October to February period on record across many areas including our own where 507mms/19.96in has fallen. This equates to almost 75% of our average annual total, so little wonder that so much flooding has occurred on constantly saturated ground.

March has offered some respite with just 18mms/0.7in recorded to date which is 36% of average. The wettest day so far was on the 1st with 6.8mms/0.27in recorded from bands of heavy showers passing through. Temperatures started off as average but have risen to well above average in the third week, with a pleasantly warm 18.4'C on the 18th.

Peter Mills



Spring jokes...

What did the tree say to Spring? What a re-leaf!

What did the bee say to the flower to make it blush? Hello Honey!

Why did the farmer bury all his money? To make his soil rich!

Can February March? No, but April May!

SPRING







E P A V V G K Y L Q W Z K F P S T E R N

W A R M J J U C K E E Z L E W O A Y F L

R Z C Y B Q M U D B L R Q N G Y F E I C

N K B N O Y O L Y X C C F R D F P S R F G Q K X C H I C K A E R V L I G H P D S

FROTLTHFX LVNS JBPYBAF

G T Y W Z N L L T R X L B J A U N U J W

J R W D K M B I J M S R Z X K G O P W F

X J R N Q X N R N V B O X O G J D X G V



2. FLOWERS

3. MARCH

4. VEGETABLES

5. PLAY

6. SPRING



8. WARM

9. SUN

10. FUN

11. LAMB

12. HAPPY

13. BEE

14. CHICK

15. BUGS

16. EASTER

17. GROW

18. BUTTERFLY





April 2024 ADVERTS

LOGS FOR SALE barn stored, seasoned firewood, delivered locally. £145 a full load, £75 a half load. Contact <u>jamienickerson@live.co.uk</u> or 07747 450776.

FANCY AN ALLOTMENT? I can offer something close: 6 big raised beds - share the produce. Please call 07780 953309 for more info.

HARDWOOD WOOD CHIPS ideal for preventing muddy paths, mulching and weed suppressant, play areas and chicken run etc. £8 per bag c100 litres, £70 per 1 cubic metre, delivery possible. Please phone Kevin 07910 526093.

HORSE PADDOCKS available at Irstead with double stable, water and electrics, terms arranged. Would suit 1 or two elderly or quiet horses. Please phone 07594 168139.

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.

MEGS GEL NAILS, professionally qualified, gel nail polish and removal. Neatishead based. Please contact Megs on 07577 195732 or at msmith876@icloud.com.

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

HOME VISITING CHIROPODIST/PODIATRIST Fully qualified, 28 years' experience, friendly service. Telephone Ellen 07470 875647.

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.

AJP HEDGES Trees and Stock Fencing, City & Guilds Qualified. Call Andy on 07827 668038.

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. To book a delivery or for more information, please call 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, regencyhouse1786@gmail.com, 07790 011098 or 01692 630233.

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 Ikens, Smallburgh Road, Barton NR12 8AP. Please call Maz 01692 630744.

YOGA CLASSES with Clare Badham at New Victory Hall, Wednesdays 18.15-19.45, £8.50 booked in advance, or £9 drop in. 07557 353723. www.YogaBreeze.co.uk.

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.

LOCAL SMALL BUILDER Andy Payne, based locally, over 20 years of experience, including brickwork, plastering, tiling and decorating. Tel 01603 737807 or 07706 991443.

BROADLANDS HOME MAINTENANCE SERVICES for all your DIY needs: painting, decorating, tiling, kitchen & bathroom fitting, fencing, patios, decking & roof repairs etc. Please call Shane on 07834 915732.

GARDEN BIRD DIRECT sunflower hearts, peanuts, seed mixes and more! Free delivery by Rose & Peter. Please call 01493 740288 or email gardenbirddirect@aol.com.

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

GLEAMING GUTTERS Gutter clearing and washing, plus washing of fascias soffits barge boards etc. Conservatory cleaning & pressure washing to patios paths etc. Free friendly 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.

YOUR FRIENDLY LOCAL ELECTRICIAN Glen Rogers Electrical. From an electric shower to a garden light. Give us a ring on 01692 538515.

SIMONS KITCHENS & BATHROOMS design, fit & supply and other home improvements. Please contact Simon for more info on 07368 982830 or at simons.kitchens1990@gmail.com.

1st CLASS AERIALS new TV aerial, free view/sky/freesat or extra TV points. HD over Ethernet. Please call 01692 670901 or mobile on 07725 182952.

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.

WINDOW CLEANER locally established window cleaner. Call or text Zak 07585 919093.

DAVID WRIGHT Painting & decorating. Established since 1997. Horning based. Call 01692 631366.

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 verrucae 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 & MOLES, rabbits & squirrels etc. For FREE QUOTE please call Clive 01692 538356 or 07867 632572.

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 jamienickerson@live.co.uk or 07747 450776.

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.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

- £1.25 a line, maximum five lines.
- Payable by bank transfer please.
- Please email the team at nibadverts@gmail.com or contact Sue Clayton on 07850 436211.

All contributions welcome to The NIB, but please note the Team reserves the right to amend or omit items. We also start the magazine from the first of the month, and 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.

Welcome Pack

The NIB team have created a package to welcome newcomers to the villages. This package contains a range of useful information and leaflets, including a NIB (obviously!) and details of the shop, village hall, pub etc. If you are aware of a property which is due new residents, please let us know.

If you know, manage or run a local group or business and would like your flyer included, please do get in touch.

Margaret Maxwell nibeditor1@gmail.com

Magazine Team for February 2024 - December 2024

News & dates: Margaret Maxwell (Editor) – 07460 740700 - nibeditor1@gmail.com
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NIB Kids: Georgina Grocott - 07900 411103 - nibskids12@gmail.com
NIB Treasurer: Mandy Parks 07547 697010 – nibfinancials@gmail.com

DEADLINE FOR THE MAY EDITION - 19th April 2024

Diary Dates for April 2024

Wed	3 rd	10.15am	Mobile Library: Pennygate, Barton Turf NR12 8BE	
vveu	3	10.15am	Mobile Library: Ex-Post Office, Barton Turf NR12 8BB	
		10.55am	Mobile Library: Staithe Road, Barton Turf NR12 8AZ	
Thurs	4 th	10.00am		
Mon	8 th		Norfolk Wildlife Plant Survey: Barton Turf Church	
	~	2pm	Horning Flower Club: Magic Moments: Brenda Tubb	
Tues	9 th	10-12pm	NIBCHG Open Morning, The Stable, Neatishead Baptist	
14/	4.046		Church	
Wed	10 th	7-9pm	Knit and Stitch: Community Room NVH	
Thurs	11 th	12.30pm	Friends and Neighbours: Birthday lunch NVH	
Sat	13 th	9am-noon	NVH: Community Market and Café	
Sun	14 th	7.30pm	White Horse Inn: Acoustic Folk Night: musicians welcome	
Mon	15 th	7.30pm	Gardening Club, NVH	
Tues	16 th	7.30 – 8pm	White Horse Inn: Quiz: Proceeds to Neatishead Community	
			Gym.	
Wed	17 th	2pm	WI: NVH	
		7.30pm	NIBCHG: Neatishead School: "The Long and Winding Road:	
		·	Wool, Tapestries & the Medieval Global Economy", Maria	
			Jordan	
Fri	19 th		Deadline for May edition of the NIB	
Sat	20 th	10am-noon	Plant and Bakes Sale: NVH (proceeds for Community Gym)	
		10am-noon	St Michael and all Angels Barton Turf, Coffee Morning	
Sun	21 st	5.00pm	APCM: St Michael and all Angels Barton Turf	
Wed	24 th	10.10am	Mobile Library: Pitt Corner, Neatishead, NR12 8BT	
		11.15am	Mobile Library: Council Houses, Ashmanhaugh, NR12	
		7-9pm	Knit and Stitch: Community Room NVH	
Thurs	25 th	10am-noon	Friends and Neighbours: Mardle and quiz	
Sat	27 th	11am-3pm	Tulip Day: Neatishead Church & The Paddock	
		10-11.30	Hope Café, Neatishead Baptist Church	
Mon	29 th	6.45pm	Barton Turf Bowls Club: First roll-up	
	1 -		1	

Future Dates

4th May: NABS 50th Anniversary Show

6th May: Village Screen: title to be announced. (NB: no screenings in April as two screenings in March)

10th May: NVH: Quiz: 7-7.30pm

1st June: Barton and Irstead Church Fete: Barton Hall 23rd June: 2pm: Open Day Barton Turf Adventure Centre

Local Services and Contact Details

- New Victory Hall: Street Hill, Neatishead, Norfolk, NR12 8AD
 - Bookings by email <u>bookings@victoryhall.info</u> or phone 07551 008065
 - o Weekly programme: www.victoryhall.info
- White House Stores Community Shop: Irstead Road, Neatishead, NR12 8BJ, 01692 631549
 - o To join the Community Shop Membership please email info@whitehousestores.co.uk
- White Horse Inn: The Street, Neatishead, NR12 8AD, 01692 630828
- Wroxham Library events and dates: 01603 782560; www.facebook.com/wroxhamlibraryofficial

Parish Council Clerks

- Barton & Irstead: Nicola Ledain, bartonturfirsteadpc@yahoo.com
- Neatishead: Laura Bateman, neatishead.parish@gmail.com

Defibrillator Locations

- New Victory Hall, Street Hill, Neatishead, NR12 8AD
- Cox's Boatyard, Toilet Block, Staithe Road, Barton Turf, NR12 8AZ
- Irstead Staithe, Car Park, Shoals Road, Irstead, NR12 8XS



Benefice of St Benedict



Date	Time	Service	Church
7 th	9.30am	BHC	Neatishead
April			
14 th	8am	HC (BCP)	Irstead
April	9.30am	MP	Horning
April	9.30am	HC	Barton Turf
	11am	HC	Ashmanhaugh
21 st	9.30am	HC	Irstead
April	11.00am	HC	Horning
	11.00am	MW &	Neatishead
		Sunday Club	
	6pm	EP	Barton Turf
28 th	11am	BHC	Horning
April	4pm	Pet Service	Horning

HC: Holy Communion MW: Morning Worship BCP: Book of Common Prayer MP: Morning Prayer BHC: Benefice Holy Communion EP: Evening Prayer

Sunday Club

Please do join us at Neatishead Church for our new and exciting Sunday Club for all children aged 3-11. On the first Sunday we meet at 9.30am, on the third Sunday we meet at 11am. Parents are encouraged to stay for the church service whilst the children will go into the next room to participate in fun teaching, engaging activities, and exciting games. Sunday Club is led by an experienced team of youth workers who have completed safeguarding training and DBS checks. For more information, please contact Revd Ben-brother ben@btinternet.com

Parish Church Wardens

Neatishead Pauline Simpson...01692 630674 Nick Fowle01692 630249 Irstead David Murrells01692 631427 Barton Turf Barbara Pilcher01692 536132

Neatishead Baptist Church



7 th April	10.30am	Rev Neville Khambatta
8 th April	2pm	Fellowship Meeting
14 th April	10.30am	Val Khambatta
19 th April	10am	Prayer Meeting
21 st April	10.30am	Marc Grimston
27 th April	10am	Hope Cafe
28 th April	10.30am	Rev David Mayne
		Eastern Region BU
29 th April	2pm	Fellowship Meeting

Hope Café meets for fellowship, coffee, games etc.10am to 11.30am on the last Saturday of the month. Everyone is welcome for a bit of fun and fellowship.

Fellowship Meeting: bible study, worship and prayer.

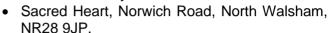
Prayer Meeting: second Friday of the month at 10am, in church usually.

Please contact the secretary for more details.

Secretary: Sue Gibbons
secretary@neatisheadbaptistchurch.org.uk

Roman Catholic Churches

St Helen, Hoveton, NR12 8QJ.
 Saturday Mass at 5.30pm.
 Wednesday Mass at 9.30am.



Sunday Mass at 11am. 01692 403258, parishpriestfrpeter@qmail.com

Wroxham & Hoveton United Reformed Church

Interim Minister: Rev Carole Pearl. For any pastoral concerns, please contact the church secretary in the first instance.

Secretary: Lynne Howard, 01603 738835. Imhoward100@btinternet.com

Please see our website for the most up to date information (wroxhamurc.org.uk)

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

7 th April	10.30am	Rev Canon Peter	
		Howard	
14 th April	10.30am	Alex Instone-Brewer	
28 th April	10.30am	Rev Carole Pearl	

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. Secretary: Lynne Howard, 01603 738835

Extra dates: 4th April: Sponsored Walk

6th April: Beetle Drive and Pot-Luck: more details:

Chris Billing: 01603 783992



NIB Deadline for May edition is 19th April