



ELEVEN SAYS

APRIL /
MAY 2024
ISSUE 306

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE BRAMERTON GROUP OF CHURCHES COVERING 11 PARISHES

One simple pleasure

Earlier this year Helen and I went on a long-awaited trip that took us to the northern edge of England, before crossing the Pennines for a few days' rest in Anglesey.

The first stop was Seaham in County Durham, where we spent two absorbing days hunting for sea glass on the beach. Sea glass is one of Helen's passions, and looking at the crowds on Seaham Hall beach, one that is widely shared. It was almost the end of February, but hundreds of people were walking slowly along the tide line or sitting on the shingle, digging and raking for small glass nuggets to add to their collection.

It looked like a scene from the California Gold Rush, but this treasure is very different. Sea glass is made by a unique combination of human and natural processes. Humans make glass that falls into the sea, which tumbles it for decades or centuries until it becomes small smooth fragments. These have a slightly grey patina due to sea salt, but when in water or polished with a drop of oil they gain depth and colour. No two pieces are identical. It's legally classified as rubbish, so there's no problem with removing it from a beach. You may be wondering by now, why Seaham? Isn't there enough coastline in Norfolk to search?

Seaham is one of the world's hotspots for sea glass due to its unique history. By the 1890s it was home to Europe's largest bottle works, producing 20 million bottles per year. It had a series of benevolent factory owners who added a library, savings bank, town clock and promenade to the village. However, their most valuable legacy would be the waste glass that was dumped in the sea every day, returning to the shore a century later as sea glass to bless the local economy.

I have to say that sea glass hunting is curiously addictive. Finding small pieces on a vast field of shingle takes patience, concentration, and a bit of luck. It becomes very mindful, disturbed only by shouts of discovery, inquisitive dogs coming to say 'Hello' or a wave coming over the top of one's boots. Apart from getting a stiff neck, it's relaxing and can be experienced by all ages.

So far, so sea glass ... is there a spiritual message here, you may begin to wonder. There are more spiritual connections here than I can include in a brief letter. It's a bit like our lives. Sea glass starts out as shiny, smooth sheets or bottles, but is re-sized and shaped by the sea.

Our sharp edges are smoothed out by experience. Our whole lives are in a continual state of becoming, of being remade.

Sea glass may not be valuable like gold or pearls but is sufficiently scarce to make the search an enjoyable challenge. The simple pleasure it brings made us think about what gives things value and worth, just as Jesus calls us to re-evaluate what is precious in the light of his kingdom.

As we hunted around to find sea glass, we found ourselves part of a community of people on the same quest, sharing tips and sometimes our finds. We were like a kind of church on the beach. The hours we gave to searching reminded me of God's search for us, like the good shepherd in Jesus's parable of the lost sheep (Matthew 18.12-14). Our delight in finding sea glass may teach us something about God's joy in finding his children. Psalm 139 expresses this in beautiful language:

O Lord, you have searched me out and you have known me.

You know my sitting down and my rising up
you discern my thoughts from afar.

You mark out my journeys and my resting place and
are acquainted with all my ways.

How deep are your thoughts to me God and how
great is the sum of them!

If I count them they are more in number than the
sand: and at the end I would still be with you.

Psalm 139. 1-2, 17-18 © 2000 The Archbishops' Council (adapted).

Revd Nick Garrard

Revd Dr John Ledward RIP

Helen and I were greatly saddened to learn of the death of the Revd John Ledward, who was Rector of these parishes between 1988 and 1995. John was a faithful, wise and humble minister, and, with his wife Barbara, served here with great dedication. They are fondly remembered here by those who knew them.

During their long retirement in Brundall, he was a great help and encouragement to clergy in the Deanery, me included. May John and Barbara rest in peace and know the joys of heaven.



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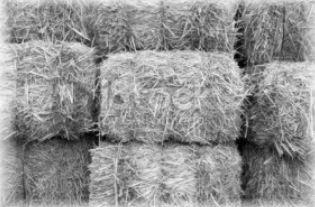
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Wednesday Fellowship

A Meeting for all people in the Bramerton Group and beyond! Meetings held on the second Wednesday of the month 2 - 4 pm at Alington and Yelverton Village Hall with Christian and secular speakers followed by tea/coffee, cake and fellowship. All welcome.

April 10th - Memorials and Florals in St Mary's Church, Yelverton - speakers Mary Fewster and Liz Bloomfield

May 8th - American Cultural Influences In Post War Britain - speaker Jim Stebbings

June 12th - Vidiyal Trust - Revd Canon Pat Atkinson

For more information please contact Pat Barter 493570.

Gentlemen, you are cordially invited to a Mid-Day Mardle

An opportunity for men to quench their thirst for good company and conversation, share good food and, perhaps, to enjoy a glass of something.



New members are always given a warm welcome.

Ferry House, Surlingham

Wednesday: April 10th, May 1st, June 5th
(every month, normally 1st Wednesday)
Any time between 12 noon and 2 pm

Any questions, please contact David Fairbourn on 01508 538437 or email surlingham.midday.mardle@gmail.com

WHEATFEN, Surlingham - Udate

The Wheatfen Nature Reserve at Surlingham is the largest independent reserve in Norfolk. Once the home of the renowned naturalist Ted Ellis, it is now managed by a Trust set up in his name following his death in 1986.

Set alongside the River Yare, Wheatfen is a magical landscape of fen, dykes, broads, flooded trees and woodland, criss-crossed by paths and boardwalks. Its 140 acres is one of the most important wetland sites in the UK and it is a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

The Trust has an ethos unlike comparable reserves. Under the watchful eye of a Warden and his Assistant, it welcomes visitors without any charge whatsoever and is open throughout the year from sunrise to sunset. As well as a dedicated band of volunteers, there are also almost 500 Friends (members) of Wheatfen.

Now the Ted Ellis Trust is looking to enhance the number of Trustees charged with protecting and improving its fragile environment. The Trust meets at least six times a year and, governed by the Charity Commission, has full responsibility for running the Reserve.

Anyone with skills of all kinds that might enhance the wide-ranging role of the Trust in managing Wheatfen is welcome to apply. In the first instance they should contact the Chair, Sally-Ann Meadows at Sallyannmeadows@gmail.com The Wheatfen website is www.wheatfen.org.

Worship in Stillness

This is held at 9:30 am on Monday Mornings at Bloomfields, Nichols Corner, Alington.

Half an hour of praise, silence, meditation and prayer followed by tea and coffee for those wishing to stay.



Conductor: Tadzik Kaznowski

Jenny Lind Children's Hospital 170th Anniversary Gala

Prokofiev: *Peter and the Wolf* with a selection of Jenny Lind's Opera Arias and Oratorio.

Narrator: **Emma Laird Craig** (as seen in *The Crown* and direct descendent of Jenny Lind)

Sopranos: **Ella de Jongh** and **Rebecca Kaznowski**

6th April 2024 - 7:30pm
St Peter Mancroft, Norwich

Saturday 6th April 2024 - 7:30pm - St Peter Mancroft, Norwich
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Prices: £15 Adult, £10 Concession, £32 Family

Norfolk and Norwich Hospitals registered charity no: 1048170



Rockland St Mary Benefice Update

What's on in April and May

Joint Annual Parochial Church Meeting (Benefice AGM)

This year's Rockland Benefice Annual Meeting takes place on **Wednesday April 24th** at The Barn at Rockland Rectory, beginning at 7.30pm. Please come along as we review the past year, elect members to our church councils and look forward to the future and meet one another over cheese and wine!

News from the Barn

May I thank our cheerful and hardworking team who made **Warm Welcome Mondays** such happy occasions for all who came every week over the Winter. We are very grateful to Rockland St. Mary's Poores' Trust and South Norfolk District Councils for generous grant aid that underwrote our costs. We've moved to opening on the fourth Mondays of the month until the end of October, so the next dates are **April 22nd and May 27th** (opening times 11 am-2.30 pm).

We're planning to re-open on a weekly basis next autumn and winter. Please look out for more details in future editions of *Eleven Says*.

Still at the Barn on Sunday afternoons provides a quiet, informal space for reflection, discussion and response. Each gathering begins at 4pm.

Next sessions are:

April 21st: Still at Easter

May 21st: Still with the Spirit

Art Cafe in the Barn is meeting on **April 17th** and **May 15th**. Please drop in between 10.30 am and 12.15 pm for good company, coffee and cake and opportunities to share some art!

Online Art Cafe meets on Zoom at 10.30 am on **April 9th** and **May 22nd**. Please contact Nick for your Zoom invitation and details of our lively and varied programme.

The Barn is being used increasingly for **Quiet Days and Team Awaydays**. Please contact Helen and Nick for more information.

Christian Aid Week May 12th - 18th

Please give generously to this year's appeal if you are able. With your help, we can work towards a world where families can escape the trap of poverty and fulfil their ambitions.

Look out for collections and fundraising events in your area. There will be Christian Aid envelopes available in church porches, which you are welcome to put in the Rectory letterbox, or you can donate online by following this link <https://donate.christianaid.org.uk/Donate/>

Thank you.

Revd Nick Garrard



Thurton Benefice Update

Thank you: As many of you will be aware, I have been away from my parish duties since July last year with a debilitating condition with my hearing. Melanie and I have been greatly touched by the many cards, gifts and messages of support that we have received. I am very grateful to the churchwardens and others in the benefice who have managed matters in my absence as well as Nick and Helen Garrard for providing priestly support. The pattern of services was necessarily reduced, but the service cover provided by Nick and Helen along with the Rural Dean, David Owen, a number of retired clergy and the Parish Teams is very much appreciated.

I am still undergoing investigations into the cause of my condition and therapy to help with the symptoms but, following an Occupational Health Assessment, I am now permitted to undertake some of my duties with a focus on pastoral visiting and Sunday services which do not include music or singing. Sadly, I am not able to conduct funerals or weddings at present and these will continue to be covered by local clergy. I am hopeful that I will be sufficiently recovered to be able to officiate at the weddings planned in the benefice this summer.

Service Times: With my phased return to limited duties, the rota of services in the Thurton Benefice will continue to look different in the coming months. Please ensure that you check the rota on the back cover of each edition of *Eleven Says* to be certain where and when services will be taking place each week. The services listed as 'Said' will be Communion Services without hymns and will, therefore, be shorter than normal services. This may appeal to some people!!

Annual Parochial Church Meeting: This will take place on **Tuesday 30th April** at 7 pm at Alpington & Bergh Apton Church of England Primary School. It is an opportunity to hear reports on the life of the Church in this benefice, elect members of the Parochial Church Councils and encourage one another in our shared life. Light refreshments will be served afterwards.

Electoral Roll: In preparation for the Annual Meeting, a revision of the Electoral Roll for each parish will be undertaken between the 31st March and the 14th April. If your name is already on the Electoral Roll for your parish you *do not* need to complete a form as this year is a revision, not the preparation of a new Roll (this will happen next year). If you are not on the Roll and would like to be, application forms are available at the back of each church.

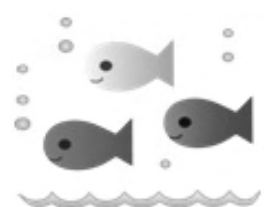
Home visits and Home Communion: As I slowly return to my duties, I am very keen to visit anyone who is unwell or feeling isolated or lonely, either simply for a conversation or to share Holy Communion in their homes. Please do contact me if you, or anyone you know, would like a visit.

Revd Chris Ellis: 01508 484174

Little Fish Toddler Group

Parents, Grandparents and Carers are invited to our Little Fish Toddler Group at Ashby St. Mary & Thurton Village Hall from 10:30 am - 12 noon on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. Each session has activities for your little ones including: Singing and Movement Time, Bible Story Time, Craft and Snack Time. £1.50 covers the cost of materials and snacks. Summer Term: **April 24th; May 8th and 22nd; June 12th and 26th; July 10th.**

Please phone Judy on 07812734275 with any questions. We would love to have you join us! We are kindly sponsored by the Bramerton Group of Churches.





From the Registers

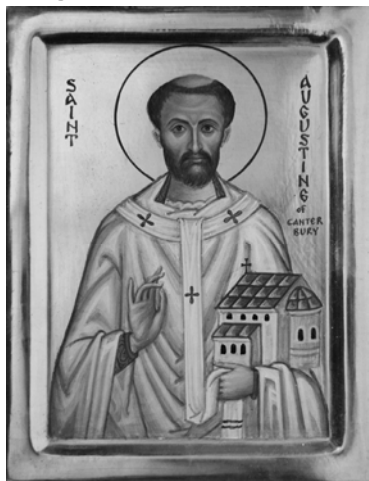
BAPTISMS

03/03/24 Rory Joseph HALL Framingham Pigot

FUNERALS, BURIALS, CREMATIONS, INTERMENT OF ASHES

12/01/24	Sheila HENSON	Thurton
29/01/24	Janet WRIGHT	Surlingham
31/01/24	(Interment of Ashes)	
31/01/24	Mary Gwenllian SMITH	Bramerton
05/02/24	June PERKINS	Surlingham
06/02/24	Lorna CLARE (79)	Yelverton
	(Interment of Ashes)	
08/02/24	Josephine WAKEFIELD	Surlingham
09/02/24	Gerlinde 'Marci' KING	Surlingham
12/02/24	Irene TAYLOR (82)	Ashby St Mary
19/02/24	Anthony FLORANCE (86)	Framingham Pigot
19/02/24	John Geoffrey PINDER	Surlingham
23/02/24	Sidney STONE (84)	Framingham Pigot

Augustine, first Archbishop of Canterbury



Augustine, a 6th century Italian prior, holds a unique place in British history. He became the 'apostle to the English', although it was with great reluctance. He was the first Archbishop of Canterbury.

In 596 Augustine was chosen by Pope Gregory to head a mission of monks whom he wanted to send to evangelise the Anglo-Saxons.

Augustine was not a bold man, and by the time he and his band of priests reached Gaul, they wished to turn back. But Pope Gregory would not hear of it. He bolstered their confidence by sending some more priests out to them, and by consecrating Augustine bishop. Finally, the party, now 40 in number, landed at Ebbsfleet, Kent in 597.

It would be fascinating to have a detailed description of that first meeting between Bishop Augustine and Ethelbert, the powerful King of Kent. Whatever Augustine said, it must have been effective, for Ethelbert granted the 40 priests permission to stay in a house in Canterbury. He even allowed them to preach to his people, while he himself considered their message of Christianity. His wife, Bertha, was a Christian princess from Paris, but she does not seem to have played any role in the conversion of Kent.

By 601 Ethelbert and many of his people had been baptised Christians. The mission to the English was well underway. More clergy, some books, a few relics and several altar vessels arrived from Rome. At Pope Gregory's wise urging, Augustine decided to consolidate the mission in one small area, rather than try and reach all of Kent. So Augustine stayed in Canterbury, where he built the cathedral and founded a school. He left temporarily to establish a *see in London.

Also, at Gregory's wise urging, Augustine did not destroy the pagan temples of the people of Kent, but only the idols in them. In this way, innocent rites were taken over and used for the celebration of the Christian feasts. Meanwhile, before his death in 604, Augustine helped Ethelbert to draft the earliest Anglo-Saxon written laws to survive and so influenced British law for centuries to come.

* A see is the place in which a cathedral church stands, identified as the seat of authority of a bishop or archbishop.

Celtic Daily Prayer

This is the lovely view that we see from inside Surlingham Church porch as we sit together to pray and meditate on a Bible reading and a reflection for the day.



We meet at 10 am for approximately half an hour on the **2nd and 4th Tuesday mornings** of the month. Our Next Dates are: **April 9th, 23rd. May 14th, 28th.**

Everyone from the Group is very welcome to join us. If you are unable to come but would like to receive the chosen material for the day, please email me and I will send you a copy for your own reflection time.

Revd. Mandy Ansell, 01508 538654

Email: mandy.ansell44@gmail.com

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SUNDAY 14th April

Theme: "He is Risen!"

Drop in any time between 10.30 am-12 noon

Future date: 23rd June "Sing to the Lord"

For details, or possible help with transport, please contact Nick Garrard 01508 538014 or Mandy Ansell 01508 538654

***** Café Church - All Welcome *****

On The Common, Bramerton

Down along the riverbank
 Spring has made a stir,
 Celandines are shining,
 Where silver snowflakes were.
 Catkins blowing in the wind,
 Ducks quietly glide by,
 Nests are being built again
 And water rats are nigh.
 Mists swirling across the marsh,
 Chaffinches are singing,
 Forget-me-knots by the river edge,
 Bluebells silently ringing.

Brenda A Hawes



South Yare Wildlife Group

Wednesday 27th April - Talk by Dr Charlie Gardner, 'Walking in Water'. What you can do to stop this land disappearing under water for ever. 7.30 pm in the Margaret Mack Hall, Rockland St. Mary

Sunday 12th May - 5.30 am 'Breakfast with the Birds'. Dawn Chorus walk followed by a Full English Breakfast (vegetarian option available). Meet at Surlingham Ferry House at 5.30 am for walk around Church Marsh with breakfast at the pub at 7.30 am. Contact P. Armitage 07834 810181.

Quick tips to help your garden wildlife

From the freezing depths of winter to scorching hot summer days, helping our local wildlife is certainly an important job all year round. Conditions that are hard on us are also difficult for our garden wildlife to deal with, so it's vital that we do what we can to make things easier for the birds, mammals, insects and other creatures that we share our neighbourhoods with.

Here are some of our quick tips to lend a hand all year round.



Spring

Plant nectar-rich flowers

Although many gardens look impressive, they can actually be deserts when it comes to biodiversity. To attract pollinating insects like butterflies, bees and hoverflies, plant flowers such as lavender, foxglove and cornflower that are rich in nectar. To support birds, you can choose plants that produce berries, like hawthorns, rowan and holly, or offer seed-producing plants such as sunflowers and teasels.

Get composting

As the weather warms up and we start gardening again it's a great time to begin your own compost pile. It is relatively cheap to buy a specialist bin (or make your own) into which you can feed food leftovers, garden waste and paper to provide a valuable habitat for invertebrates and amphibians. Eventually it will turn into an enriching compost that can be used to add nutrients and help promote growth in your garden.



Have you got a Wild Patch? Register it on our website and join the Wild Patch community: southyarewildpatch.org

Is your garden wildlife friendly? Visit southyarewildlifegroup.org southyarewildpatch.org for more information, hints and tips



Charity ref. no. XT31995. © SYWG 2019



Poringland Community Centre

All Buena Vista Social Club events for April and May have been cancelled due to illness. We hope to begin again in September.

Details of our autumn events will feature in a future edition of the Eleven Says.

Poringland Community Cinema

Due to illness all film nights are cancelled for April and May. We hope to begin again in September.

Details of our autumn film nights will feature in a future edition of the Eleven Says.

Tool Shed Word Search

Now the growing season is here again (YAY!) this might be a fun way to keep up your enthusiasm during a damp day.



Find these items from the tool shed hidden in the grid.

They can be forwards, backwards, up, down or diagonal.

H	I	I	I	S	P	E	R	H	E	E	A	P	L	C	F
S	L	H	E	S	E	S	R	O	F	O	R	K	E	R	G
E	E	O	E	E	E	E	H	S	L	P	L	D	E	S	N
S	O	C	P	S	K	O	A	E	D	M	E	K	I	S	I
E	L	S	A	P	E	A	A	P	L	E	I	I	D	E	R
E	L	R	V	T	E	I	R	I	E	E	I	I	E	W	T
M	P	O	E	F	E	R	M	P	T	A	V	R	S	E	S
E	P	S	S	M	M	U	S	E	G	R	S	O	I	R	P
P	L	D	R	I	M	E	R	O	E	P	S	S	H	L	R
I	S	R	O	S	S	I	C	S	L	S	H	S	E	S	U
S	P	R	F	W	I	E	R	S	R	E	E	U	V	R	R
I	D	S	P	A	S	A	S	T	A	A	E	H	E	E	E
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S	I	R	E	A	R	H	A	R	E	D	D	E	R	H	S
E	D	A	P	S	O	M	R	A	S	S	R	T	R	U	T

- FORK
- HOE
- HOSEPIPE
- LOPPERS
- RAKE
- SAW
- SCISSORS
- SECATEURS
- SHEARS
- SHOVEL
- SHREDDER
- SIEVE
- SPADE
- STRIMMER
- STRING

Loddon Flower Club

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 2nd April** when we are holding a workshop on 'Leaf Manipulation', Brenda Tubbs will show us how and guide us through the process. If you would like to join us and would like to have a go it should be a fun evening. All you need is a small container with some oasis, a few flowers, some bits of greenery and a few Phormium leaves. Come and give it go, we'll all be learning something new, or you can just come and watch. (There will be a few Phormium leaves available on the night) Tea, coffee and biscuits provided, there will also be a raffle.



On **Tuesday 7th May**, Barbara Collins will be demonstrating for us, with arrangements entitled 'Spring into Summer'. There will also be a competition with the same name for club members.

We meet in St John's Lecture Hall, on George Lane in Loddon, doors open at 6.30pm for a 7pm start.

If you would like to see what we do, have a look at our website, www.loddonflowerclub.co.uk. Contacts are Tricia on 01508 480522, tricia646@aol.com or Jenny on 01508 520254, jf53rf50@gmail.com

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Village News

Alpington & Yelverton

Alpington & Yelverton Village Hall
Annual General Meeting.
7 pm Monday 29th April in the The Village Hall.

D-Day 80 Commemoration Thursday 6th June

Please join us at the Wheel of Fortune on the evening of Thursday, 6th June 2024 to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D Day Normandy landings. The Hippy Chippy will be there from 5 pm serving Fish and Chips. Fish and chips play an important part of the national commemoration of D-Day as they were never rationed during the Second World War and were even used as a password by paratroopers dropped behind enemy lines.

At 9.15 pm the lighting of beacons and the Lamp Lights of Peace will take place across the country, together with a reading of The International Tribute, and we hope to be able to do this also.

Look out for further details nearer the date on Village notice boards, the Wheel of Fortune Facebook page and community website alpingtonwithyelverton.com.

Alpington & Yelverton History Society
alpingtonandyelvertonhistorysociety.wordpress.com
Wednesday 5th June - Guided walk around Beccles upper town, lasting approximately one and a half hours, beginning from Blyburgate car park at 10 am. £5 pp. Limited places. Please book on 494443.

Ashby St Mary Cricket Club

Calling all cricketers, ex-cricketers, quite fancy a game cricketers!

Ashby St Mary Cricket Club are actively seeking new players for the 2024 season. We play friendlies only (no league) with home games in the lovely surroundings of Ashby Hall (NR14 7BL). Fixtures take place on Sundays (40 overs) and midweek (T20) with the season running from 28th April to 15th September.



We are a friendly, welcoming bunch and pride ourselves on playing for enjoyment and camaraderie - maintaining the traditional values and philosophies associated with friendly village cricket, including various social gatherings. Annual Membership is a mere £20. We want to encourage participation without feeling that weekly commitment is necessary to get good value (although encouraged!)

We have 4 pre-season net sessions booked at Hobart High School, Loddon. Please do come along - it really is the best way to get back into it and meet everyone. Any questions? Please contact us! <https://ashbystmary.play-cricket.com/home>; FB Messenger; ashbystmarycc@gmail.com; Call / message / WhatsApp Dan on 07900925151. We look forward to hearing from you!

Ashby St Mary & Thurton

It has been a while since we have held any village/ community events in Ashby St Mary and so we are planning to start these up again. Not only will this be an opportunity to meet up but hopefully we can rekindle some focus on village life. As a village there used to be 2 or 3 events a year, however over the last few years and particularly during COVID the opportunities to hold these has been lost. Whilst these events were ostensibly to raise funds for the upkeep of the Church it was also a good way to meet new neighbours and catch up with old friends.

To kick things off we are planning on holding a 'Tea & Cake' afternoon (details below) which will be held at the Church, and hopefully the weather will be kind to allow us to be outside. Whilst there will be a small charge for a cuppa and a piece of cake, the idea is to have the opportunity to meet up and chat. So put the date in your diary and even if you are just passing by on a walk, please drop in and say hello.

We are planning to hold a few more events this year including the Strawberries & Bubbles evening which is always popular; an open gardens event; and maybe even a motor show . . .

TEA & CAKE. Saturday 4th May, 2 pm - 5 pm St Mary's Church, Ashby St Mary

Come and enjoy a cup of tea and a piece of cake.

It's a great opportunity to meet up with old friends and new neighbours.

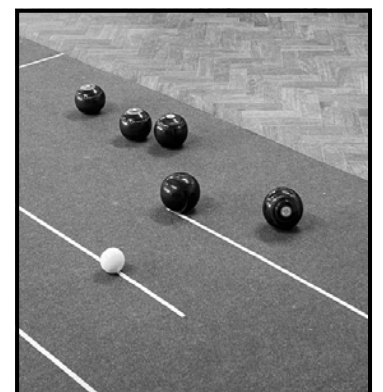


Ashby & Thurton Short Mat Bowls

Our friendly Short Mat Bowls group runs every Wednesday from 2 - 4pm.

We charge £4 a session which includes tea, biscuits and some great company!!! All levels welcome.

Please contact Carol Powell for more information on 01508 480089.



Village News

Ashby St Mary & Thurton

Village Hall News

Our new bench to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III is now in place.

Thank you to Ian Capps and Thurton Parish Council for donating it and to local resident, Andrew Rudd, for giving up his time to install it.



Join us for our
Community Cafe

Ashby & Thurton Village Hall
Ashby Road
Thurton
NR14 6AX

~~Monday 11th March~~
Monday 15th April
Monday 13th May
Monday 10th June
Monday 8th July

2pm - 4 pm

Hot and cold drinks available, as well as cakes, savoury snacks and activities.
Everyone is Welcome
We look forward to seeing you!!!!

Charity Number 303890

Bergh Apton

Bergh Apton & District Society
Bergh Apton Village Hall, Cooke's Road,
Bergh Apton, Norwich, NR15 1AA

Wednesday April 10th - Gary Powell - Telling us about the cases which advanced British criminal detection.

Wednesday May 8th - Lizzie Scott returns. This time her talk will be about the pictures which hang in Blickling Hall.

7.30 pm start. Tea/Coffee & Biscuits served. Raffle Meeting open to all. £4.00 pp unless otherwise stated

All meetings held in Bergh Apton Village Hall, Cooke's Road, Bergh Apton, Norwich, NR15 1AA

"How are you?" Three little words that can sometimes feel too huge a question. My friend with cancer said she has been withdrawing from company lately, because she finds that simple greeting too overwhelming. It can be challenging to choose how to respond, which requires extra energy in itself. Especially when she has put all thoughts of her illness to the back of her mind.

A suggestion is to say instead "It's good to see you" or "hear you" if on the 'phone and let her take the lead on whether to give an update or not. I think this is a simple act of thoughtfulness we could all adopt with friends we know who are going through a tough time.

Paris Back

Bergh Apton continued . . .

Bergh Apton Horse & Fun Dog Show 2024

To raise funds for Bergh Apton Church

Late Spring Bank Holiday **Monday 27th May**
Bergh Apton Manor, Bergh Apton, NR15 1BL
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Equestrian events start at 9.30 am
Fund Dog Show registrations starts at 11.30 am
First class starting at 12.30
Food, drinks and loos on site
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Full details can be found at <https://berghapton.org.uk/events/>

Songs of Praise
4pm
Sunday 2nd June

A relaxed service of favourite hymns, poems and readings



Bergh Apton Church

Followed by tea and cakes



Bergh Apton Festival 2024

The first two offerings are as follows:

Saturday 27th April, 7pm at Bergh Apton Church - A concert by Fine City Chorus, Norwich's premier male Barbershop Chorus.

They sing a cappella in close four-part-harmony and will be bringing a wide range of popular British and American music. Some old; some new; some from the shows; from the Beach Boys and Neil Diamond through to Billy Joel and Neil Sedaka, to Queen, Adele and McFly . . . and a whole lot in between! Tickets £12 via <https://berghapton.org.uk/events/> or telephone 01508 480576



Saturday 25th May, 7pm at Bergh Apton Church - A concert by Chanters Jigge.

A talented duo presenting a feast of traditional song and dance music from around the British Isles and beyond. Folk songs, sea shanties, Morris and country dance music all played on an array of traditional and modern instruments. Sing along, or just sit back and enjoy the music (although you won't be able to stop your toes from tapping!). Tickets £12, via <https://berghapton.org.uk/events/> or telephone 01508 480576



Village News

Bergh Apton continued . . .

Bergh Apton Arts

In the beginning was the idea. The seed of UNLOCK UNEARTH was sowed in a garden and germinated and grew and flourished into another Bergh Apton Arts event which, 'once again managed to lift people out of the ordinary and into some magic'. Six stories chosen from those written in a workshop taken by Hugh Lupton were spun into a cycle where centuries slipped by in the wink of an eye. We unlocked our word hoards and riffled through, juggled with words and like magpies we unearthed sorrows and sighs, rejoicings and rituals to bring UNLOCK UNEARTH into full leaf. With songs and stories, darkness and light, shadows and silence, chant and procession we wove a world that was, that is, that might be. The comments we received showed that UNLOCK UNEARTH came to full fruit as over and over we heard, 'When's the next one?'

For more information and photos look at our website: <https://www.berghaptonarts.org/>

As everyone left the church that night we were giving out the flexigons and so many left smiling, thanking us all for a wonderful evening of mystery, magic and creative mayhem. They loved every minute of it. Thank you to everyone who came and supported us. Awaieoh my people, the sun and moon on your path. **Pat Mlejnesky**

Bramerton



St Peter's Church News

Former churchwarden of St. Peter's, Chris Hawes, who died on November 24th 2022, regularly expressed a wish to his three daughters that the clock faces on the church be restored to their former glory. With the help of St. Peter's PCC, his daughters Pippa, Jessica

and Jo have organised and funded for this restoration to take place this summer, in accordance with Chris' wish. The work will be carried out by Smith of Derby who made and installed the clock in 1928, at the same time as the Ellacombe and five static bells were installed by John Taylor of Loughborough.

The team from Smiths intend to visit in May to remove the three clock faces by abseiling from the tower. The faces, along with the associated drive mechanism, will be taken to Derby for complete restoration including repainting and re-gilding. All being well they should be refitted in time for St. Peter's annual Gift Day which this year includes the launch of the Roof Appeal. This will be an open day on Saturday 29th June to coincide with St. Peter's Day and hopefully we will be blessed with some sunshine to display the restored clock faces in all their splendour.

So don't forget to keep an eye skyward in May to see figures dangling from the church tower!

Tony Evans - PCC Fabric Officer.

Carleton St Peter

St Peter's Church News

Despite the wet weather we continue to soldier on at Carleton St Peter. We have successfully mended the guttering, roof tiles and the gate.

The church yard itself is coming alive, with the lovely daffodils planted last year starting to appear.

For those who are away at Easter we are having our service a week later on **Sunday 7th April** at 11 am. We will be serving refreshments afterwards and everyone is welcome.

Claxton

Claxton Village Hall

We have taken measures to reduce the draughts and ensure the hall continues to be a warm and welcoming venue.

A number of hirers have commented on how well resourced the hall is making it suitable for all types of functions and it certainly continues to be a popular venue for village events and family parties.

We have two vacancies for trustees so if you would like to find out more about supporting this valuable community facility please contact Adrian Gidlow 01508 480173.

Claxton Village Playground Fundraising Events

Sunday 28th April, 2 - 4pm - Claxton Spring Fling

An afternoon of craft, activities and games as well as our very first 'Claxton Bake off' competition. See poster on Page 15 for full details.



Friday 7th June - Quiz Night, 7.45pm for 8pm start

Teams of no more than 6, nibbles provided, bar open

Saturday 6th July - Family BBQ and games afternoon from 12 pm onwards - Following on from the success of last years event, this will be back with even more fun thrown in!

Claxton Community Café

Our extended, mid-January, **Community Café** was very well attended, with the offer of home-made soup again proving a popular attraction. Next Winter we will consider how many months we can run a longer lunch time café.

The café is held on the **first Wednesday of each month between 10 am and 12 noon** and attracts a wide range of ages. There are always craft activities for children as well as toys to keep them amused. Meanwhile adults can enjoy a chat in a warm and friendly environment.

Please join us for fresh tea and coffee. Bacon rolls and so much more.

Village News

Claxton continued . . .

St Andrew's Church News

We are planning an **Open Garden Event for Saturday 22nd June**. Claxton residents are invited to open their gardens and we would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to help with this event. Visitors will have the opportunity to see and explore local gardens while enjoying a range of refreshments. Look out for details closer to the event.

As much as we love our ancient church building it was nice to hold an all age service in the comfort of a warm Village Hall on one of the coldest Sundays in January.

We aim to repeat this on **Sunday 12th May** when there will be craft activities and coffee and tea available. Everyone is welcome.

Rockland St Mary

Rockland St Mary Primary School and Nursery

We were delighted to invite children and parents from the local preschool group 'Snug in a Bug' into our beautiful Sunbeams Nursery to celebrate World Nursery Rhyme Week!

The children enjoyed a variety of wonderful activities on offer; making play dough mice for Hickory Dickory Dock, drawing around their bodies for 'Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes' and small world play for 'Jack and Jill.'

We loved singing and chanting the rhymes, and we particularly enjoyed the big parachute game at the end. What a wonderful session we had, the first of many more to come, we hope!

If you are looking for a Nursery place for your child, come and visit our wonderful Nursery, set in the beautiful grounds of Rockland St Mary Primary School and Nursery.

Please feel welcome to contact Mrs Brown in the office on 01508 538345, or send an email to office@rsm.set.education to arrange a visit or an informal chat.

Mrs H Boag,
Headmistress of Rockland St Mary Primary School



Rockland St Mary continued . . .

Rockland St Mary & District Garden Club

The Garden Club normally meets in the Rockland Parish Room on the fourth Thursday of the month.



In the winter we have speakers whilst in the summer we have garden visits which begin in May. New members are always welcome.

Thursday April 25th - Allotment and Vegetable Growing, speaker Martin Davey

Thursday 23rd May our garden visits begin! We have a guided tour of *Ashwellthorpe Wood* with Dr Anne Edwards. This follows the excellent talk she gave us during 2023.

If you wish for further details or would like to join the Garden Club please contact Ruth Everett, 01508 538231 or email everettapplebee@hotmail.co.uk

Rockland St. Mary & District W.I.

We enjoyed an Open meeting for W.I. friends in March, learning about varieties of cheese, bringing along our favourite cheese recipes, with samples to taste after the talk. We look forward now to the Spring and some special events coming up.

In April we will be starting our monthly walks. Some of the more adventurous members will be experiencing the joys of a Gliding Day at Tibenham Airfield. For our talk in April, we host Maria Pennington, who will be telling us all about the history of pearls, which have been used as jewellery since ancient Greece. The photo below shows 10 members enjoying a Workshop on needle felting, producing some lovely bird figures for their efforts.

New members are always welcome. We meet in the Margaret Mack Hall on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm.

If you would like more details, please contact Sandra 538100 or Ruth 538231



FORMS - Friends of Rockland St Mary School Events

Friends of Rockland St Mary School Events has bought each child at Rockland St Mary Primary School in Years 1 - 6 their very own Recorder for their Music lessons. They get to keep these and take them home to practice.

We apologise in advance to all the families and neighbours during these challenging times!



Village News

Surlingham

St Mary's Church News

Spring has sprung! The scillas by the church porch are faithfully flowering and primroses, daffodils and violets abound in the churchyard.

The Diocese plans to be carbon neutral by 2030 and there is an ECO award scheme which churches can work toward. St. Mary's is well placed environmentally to participate. The Parish Council is also focusing on the ECO aspects of the village and at the orchard and the allotments a hedgerow of native species is to be planted.

The Church and the ruins of St. Saviour's have both just been put on the 'Heritage at risk register' because of the buildings condition, principally the church tower. This should help toward our application for a National Lottery Fund grant. Plans are being worked on; all participation is welcomed!

In the Church you will find stars and butterflies, an abundance in Butterfly Corner, and quite soon there will be BUGS!

Events coming up: **13th July**, BAT NIGHT with expert Jane Harris and **19th October** a Table Top ART and CRAFT sale, so keep busy making.

1st March was the World Day of Prayer. This year the service was put together by Christian women living in Palestine, before the present warfare. The title was 'I beg you, bear with one another in love'. A reflective hymn, among others sung at the service, had the words 'Put peace into each other's hands, and like a treasure, hold it.' The information book and service pamphlet are in the church,

Pippa

Thurton

Thurton Football Event

Thank you, thank you, thank you to the CBRE team who participated in the 'Business Fives' charity football tournament last week against other local businesses.



They raised an amazing £381.25 including gift aid for our hall which we'll use towards hall improvements including works on our car park.

A special mention should be made to Michelle Lawson, a Thurton resident, who arranged the team and chose us as their charity of choice this year.



Thurton continued . . .

St Ethelbert's Church

This photo shows a basket of beautiful posies specially made for Mothering Sunday in St Ethelbert's Church, Thurton.



Village Hall News

We feel really lucky to be the home to Thurton & Ashby St Mary Pre-school. This wonderful Pre-school is run by a dedicated and professional team of practitioners.

They are predominantly based outside in our generous garden where children can access all areas in a fun, creative and stimulating way. Opening hours are: Monday 9 am - 1 pm, Tuesday 9 am - 3 pm, Thursday 9 am - 1 pm and Friday 9 am - 3pm.

The Pre-school is a charity led setting based out of Thurton Village Hall and welcome children from the age of 2 years up until they start school. They currently have spaces from September 2024. Look on Facebook or on the website www.thurtonpreschool.com to find out more and read reviews.



Fundraising

As the Preschool is a charity led organisation fundraising events are held throughout the year to keep it running. There is an elected committee who, together with the staff, organise and run many different events. Please consider supporting them by volunteering or attending events.

The biggest fundraiser of the year is the **Autojumble and Classic Car Show** which this year will be held on **May 26th!** It's a great day out for car fanatics - big and small - there's something for everyone. If you wish to book in a car to show or book an autojumble stall then please get in touch.

Several fundraising events are planned for the rest of this year so please keep an eye out for information. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

To book a visit to the pre-school or for more information please contact Thurton & Ashby St Mary Preschool, Ashby Road, Thurton, Norwich. NR14 6AX. Tel 07594 649184, or email: info@thurtonpreschool.co.uk

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Would like to advertise your business in Eleven Says? It's delivered to approximately 2,500 properties in the Bramerton Group of villages and also posted on all the village websites so it can be viewed online which helps to increase circulation even more.

If interested, please email elevensays22@gmail.com or call Liz on **01508 493958** for more information. Prices vary according to size.

HOLIDAY LET.

The Barn at the Well House, Rockland St Mary. 1 bedroom barn available for holiday lets, weekend stays, etc. All amenities. Call Lisa Reynolds, **07939 037743** or **01508 538551** or email: lichreynolds@gmail.com.

VILLAGE HALLS

Alpington and Yelverton - Main hall, large committee / club room, kitchen and dining area. Excellent heating. Car park. Children's play area. £10.50 an hour for regular user groups and private functions. Business and trade £21 an hour. Website address www.alpingtonvillagehall@gmail.com. For bookings, email alpingtonvillagehall.wordpress.com or call mobile **07747 443567**.

Ashby and Thurton - Main hall with kitchen facilities and/or committee room available for private hire per hour, day or half day. Discounted rates for regular contract bookings. Ideal for meeting groups and social activities. Please contact Laura Vaissiere, telephone: **01508 480773** or email: ashbythurtonvillagehall@gmail.com.

Bergh Apton - Large main hall with stage plus smaller room, fully-fitted kitchen, heating throughout. Disabled toilet with baby-changing area. Large car park, gardens and play park. Contact Hilary Ling on **01508 480439** or email hilary.ling@btinternet.com.

Bramerton - Spacious, refurbished hall with separate fully equipped kitchen. Beautiful enclosed garden and large car park. Disabled facilities. £9 per hour, minimum hire 2 hours. Daily rate available and discounted rates for regular bookings. Please contact Alison, **07976264469** or Duncan, **01508 538444**.

Claxton & Carleton St Peter - Spacious refurbished well-equipped hall. Fitted kitchen. Ideal for one-off functions and regular users. Disabled facilities. Large car park. Free high speed broadband. £10 per hour or by session. Bar available. Contact Judy Jackson, **01508 480128** or Sarah Carter, **01508 480555**, or email: contact@claxtonvillagehall.co.uk. Website: www.claxtonvillagehall.co.uk

Rockland St Mary - Margaret Mack Hall available evenings and weekends for private parties, meetings and social activities. Rates per hour or per day. Contact after 4 pm please, Deb Sayles, **01508 537077**, email: deborah.sayles8@gmail.com.

Rockland St Mary - The Parish Room is available for hire. With excellent kitchen facilities it is ideal for social functions, parties, clubs and meetings. Hire rates are extremely reasonable. Please contact Jayne Regan, **01508 538087**.

Creating Claxton Village Playground

Claxton Spring Fling and Bake Off

Sunday 28th April

2-4pm

Claxton Village Hall



A fun afternoon full of Spring crafts, activities and games for the whole family!

BAKE OFF - love to bake? Then why not enter our competition ...

Classes Available for entry:

Children's Decorated Cupcake - £1 per entry

Children's Biscuit - £1 per entry

Adult's Showstopper (sweet) - £2 per entry

Adult's Showstopper (savoury) - £2 per entry

Winners announced and prizes awarded during the afternoon event.

*Please bring your bakes to Claxton Village Hall between 10am and 10:30am for judging.

*Your bakes will then be sold during the afternoon event so please label ingredients used

Don't Bake? Don't Worry

Why not enter the children's art competition instead? Create a piece of Spring Inspired artwork to be in with your chance of winning a prize! £1 per entry

Follow us, like and share on face book for updates and details of fundraising events.



Creating Claxton Village Playground

claxtonplayground@outlook.com

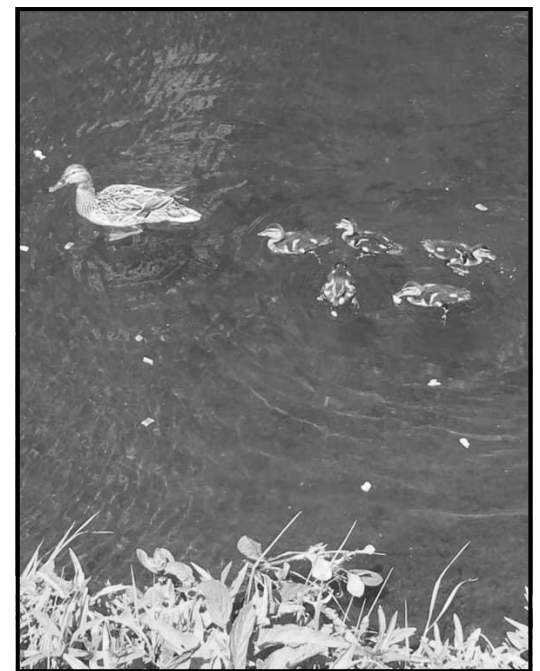
	7th April Easter 2 White	14th April Easter 3 White	21st April Easter 4 White	28th April Easter 5 White	5th May Easter 6 White	9th May Ascension Day	12th May Easter 7 White	19th May Pentecost Red	26th May Trinity Sunday Gold or White	2nd June Trinity 1 Green
Bramerton		16.00 Evensong						09.30 HC		
Carleton St Peter	11.00 MP				11.00 MP					11.00 HC
Claxton	09.30 MW		09.30 HC		09.30 HC		10.00 All-Age in village hall			09.30 HC
Kirby Bedon			11.00 HC					11.00 HC		
Rockland St Mary		10.30 - 12 noon Café Church Parish Room		09.30 HC			16.00 Evensong		09.30 HC	
Surlingham		11.00 HC		11.00 HC		10.00 HC (BCP)			11.00 HC	
<hr/> <hr/>										
Ashby St Mary	11.00 HC		11.00 PT		11.00 MP			11.00 HC SAID		11.00 PT
Bergh Apton	09.30 PT	10.00 BENEFICE HC	09.30 PT	09.30 HC (BCP)	09.30 PT			09.30 PT	09.30 HC (BCP) SAID	16.00 Songs of Praise
Framingham Pigot			09.30 HC		09.30 HC SAID				09.30 HC	
Thurton			11.00 PT	11.00 HC SAID			10.30 BENEFICE HC	16.00 PT Celtic EP		11.00 PT
Yelverton	09.30 PT		09.30 HC SAID	16.00 All 4	09.30 PT			09.30 HC	16.00 All 4	09.30 PT

CODE: HC = Holy Communion; E Praise = Evening Praise; FC = Family Communion; FW = Family Worship; MP = Morning Prayer; EP = Evening Prayer; PT = Parish Team; VM = Vestry Meeting.

Bible Readings Sunday by Sunday: April & May 2024

Date	Old Testament	Epistle	Gospel	
07/04/24	Acts 4.32-35	1 John 1.1 - 2.2	John 20.19-31	2nd Sunday of Easter
14/04/24	Acts 3.12-19	1 John 3.1-7	Luke 24.36b-48	3rd Sunday of Easter
21/04/24	Acts 4.5-12	1 John 3.16-24	John 10.11-18	4th Sunday of Easter
28/04/24	Acts 8.26-40	1 John 4.7-21	John 15.1-8	5th Sunday of Easter
05/05/24	Acts 10.44-48	1 John 5.1-6	John 15.9-17	6th Sunday of Easter
12/05/24	Acts 1.15-17,21-26	1 John 5.9-13	John 17.6-19	7th Sunday of Easter
19/05/24	Acts 2.1-21	Romans 8.22-27	John 15.26-27; 16.4b-15	Pentecost
26/05/24	Isaiah 6.1-8	Romans 8.12-17	John 3.1-17	Trinity Sunday
02/06/24	Deuteronomy 5.12-15	2 Corinthians 4.5-12	Mark 2.23 - 3.6	1st Sunday after Trinity

Please note: At Holy Communion, where only two readings are used, the first reading will usually be the Epistle, and the second will always be the Gospel reading. At other services where two readings are used, the first will usually be the Old Testament reading, and the second can be either the Epistle or the Gospel readings.



Thank you! Thank you very much for all the kind donations towards the cost of producing Eleven Says. So far we have received over £1200. It is not too late if you wish to help, details are below. Any amount, large or small, will be very much appreciated.



CLERGY OF THE BRAMERTON GROUP		ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF PORINGLAND AND LODDON	ELEVEN SAYS EDITORIAL BOARD
Thurton Benefice Revd Chris Ellis The Rectory 29 Ashby Road THURTON NR14 6AX Tel: 01508 484174 (Answerphone) Email: rector.thurtonbenefice@btinternet.com Explorers and HALOS is held at Thurton Village Hall every other Friday evening. For more information please contact Gary WATSON Youth Worker Norwich Youth for Christ City Gates Centre, 30 Cowgate NORWICH. NR3 1SZ Tel: 01603 620678. 07747 471218 Email: gwatson@norwichyfc.co.uk www.norwichyfc.co.uk	Rockland Benefice Revd Canon Nick Garrard The Rectory Rockland St Mary NORWICH NR14 7EY Tel: 01508 538014 Email: nickgarr39@aol.com Revd. Helen Garrard The Rectory Rockland St Mary NORWICH NR14 7EY Tel: 01508 538014 Email: broadsidecurate@aol.com Revd Mandy Ansell 44 The Street,, Rockland St Mary NR14 7AH. Tel: 01508 538654 Email: mandy.ansell44@gmail.com	Parish Priest Fr Andrew Eburne, The Presbytery, 17 Upgate, Poringland. NR14 7SH. Tel: 01508 494770. Email: frandreweburne@gmail.com Times of Masses Saturday 6 pm Sunday 9 am Tues 6 pm Wed -Saturday 10 am Staff days off. Monday Chris Ellis Thursday Mandy Ansell Friday Nick and Helen Garrard	Liz Bloomfield: Editor, Treasurer, Adverts The Bloomfields, Nichols Corner, Church Meadow Lane, Alington, NR14 7NF Tel: 01508 493958 Angie Yeomans: Adverts, Contributions, Page Layout and Design 15 Bramerton Lodge, Bramerton, Norwich. NR14 7EQ. Tel: 01508 538131 (Answerphone) Kind donations may be sent to one of the above addresses by cheque payable to Eleven Says, or by BACS payment to Eleven Says 20-92-08 a/c 90137065. Contributions are very welcome subject to the Board's discretion and available space. Deadline for all material ("copy") for the next issue is 5th MAY 2024. Email: elevensays22@gmail.com Produced by: Angie Yeomans Printed by: Roberts & Son Printers. 2-6 Bridge Street, Loddon, NORWICH. NR14 6EZ Tel: 01508 520221

We hope you enjoy reading Eleven Says. Your feedback, any comments, or ideas for improvement will be greatly appreciated. Please remember to send us your village news, and future events, etc., as not all our readers look on social media, therefore, fundraising events could be missed.