

Community & Church News

Itteringham ● Little Barningham ● Wickmere

● Aldborough & Thurgarton ● Sustead

September 2022



Children's Cover Page Competition

Offering a £10 cash prize for the best photo/poster/painting/drawing celebrating Autumn.

The winning entry will be on the cover of the October CCN.

Entries to the editor by September 15th.

Printed by Aylsham & District Team Ministry

Available to all households in the parishes of
Little Barningham, Itteringham, Sustead, Wickmere & Aldborough & Thurgarton

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Is there a local group or facilities that you think we should list here?

Let us know and we'll include them

For more information check out the Team Website

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	£15	£75

Little Barningham

Welcome to Little Barningham's September village page.

Oh my word the weather - it seems to be one of the hot topics of the moment. All around the grass is now looking like straw and shrubs and trees are looking very sad. One positive is that we are getting some wonderful sunsets.

On the glorious evening of 19 August Little Barningham held their annual Pop-Up Pub. What an excellent time was had by all, here are some pictures of the evening.



There was a re match of the Nail Game and this year we have a new champion - congratulations to Hannah (beating last year's champion - her husband!) A huge thank you to everyone who helped make the evening go so successfully and thank you to everyone who came along. We raised a total of around £533.



St Andrew's Church, Little Barningham

Services at St Andrew's Church will be Sunday 11 & 25 September.

Next Community Sunday will be 4 September, do come and join - good tea & coffee and homemade cake.

Sadly, there have been two funerals at St Andrew's over the past couple of months.

On 28 July the funeral took place of Pam Landew nee Abbs, daughter of James and Violet Abbs, sister to Brenda and Tony, the family lived in Pava Close.

On 19 August the funeral took place of Bernard Harris, husband of Janet Harris. They and their three children, Louisa, Joe and Carly, used to live at Richmond Cottage, Barningham Green.

Art Group



The Art Group is going really well, a very enthusiastic group and

Fiona is certainly inspiring us to get out of our comfort zone.
Not too sure when we will ever be ready for an Art Exhibition!!!

Parish Council

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday 22 September 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

To see the latest agenda and minutes do take a look at the website: <https://littlebarninghampc.wixsite.com/littlebpc>

Mobile Library

The Mobile Library will be in the village on Thursday 29 September 12.05pm, located by the entrance of Ferndale Farm in The Street. There is a great possibility that we will lose this great resource, please do support it.

Facebook page

Just search Facebook for Little Barningham Community, do check it out. Do post anything that you think the residents of the village would be interested in.

Book Exchange

The Book Exchange continues, do take a look. "Take a book and leave a book."

I'm always looking for something to include in the magazine so if you have anything you would like to share please contact me, details at the front of the magazine.

Do share the magazine with others and if you would prefer to receive it via email please contact me and I will put you onto the mailing list.

Caroline

Have you noticed the Village Hall had a little face lift recently with new doors. Very smart!! Look out for the new sign too!!



Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the Lashchuk family's trip to London. They had a wonderful time at the Sky Garden, on a river cruise and sightseeing bus.



The Lashchuks in London

The way landline phones work is changing.

Our landlines are being moved over to work through your broadband internet box.

Some households in Little Barningham have already moved across and this apparently will be completed by 2025 throughout the country.

If you don't have a broadband internet box then you need to prepare for this change. Your phone company will be able to provide you with instructions and a device that will mean you can still use your landline phone. But if you do nothing then you might find that your phone stops working in a few years time.

The only issue is emergency calls. When this change happens you will no longer have power through the phone lines (in the past when power has gone off you could still make a phone call).

So, if you do not have a mobile signal in your home, you will need to contact your phone company to get a backup system in case of power loss. This is important if you need to make emergency calls or have devices like panic buttons or emergency help alarms that rely on phone lines.

If you have a monitored alarm that's connected to your landline (like a health pendant or monitored burglar alarm) you'll need to speak to your alarm provider before moving to Digital Voice.

Alarm providers are aware of the switch to Digital Voice and have a variety of solutions in place to make sure your services can continue. These might involve broadband or mobile technology; your alarm provider will discuss the best option with you.

I have looked around the internet and these devices should be made available free of charge if you are a vulnerable household.

Please pass this information onto anyone you think may benefit.

Caroline

Wickmere & Wolterton

Hoping you are all having a good summer?? Can't believe the two months off has gone....

Let me start by reminding you of the date for the **CHURCHES BIKE RIDE - SATURDAY 10th SEPTEMBER**. Dust off those lycra leggings, polish up the pedals and have a go. If you don't want to cycle, you could walk or drive? A great way of exploring some of our beautiful churches and raising money for them at the same time. With this in mind, Good Luck to Alison 'The Flash' Harmer, who has taken up the mantle for Wickmere. Hopefully it will be a lovely day, not too hot, and she does well. Will let you know next time????

When I was originally starting writing notes for this months' edition, it was at the beginning of July. At that time, we were all just beginning to enjoy? the daily return of the sun and its warmth. Who could've known just how long and how hot it was going to be?!



This year's harvest has been collected. Once again, the surrounding farms have been incredibly busy. The weather has been a bonus for them. Up at silly o'clock and going and going till the job is done or the moisture interrupts cutting. In Wickmere it was a double handed job, 2 combines in the back field, taking no time at all to clear. This is one of my favourite times of the year. The smell and the sounds. When we had school age children it was a little sad, as when the combines arrived it would also mean the end of the long summer holidays. Nowadays, it's much earlier. It doesn't change my thoughts on it though.

At the beginning of July, on a beautiful Friday evening we were treated to the bonus of being able to hear the return of the Blickling Concerts. The brilliant Bryan Adams was first up. Just sitting in the garden and listening to all the hits and the crowd too was lovely. On the Monday evening it was the turn of Michael Buble, what a treat to sit and listen to him belt out his 'cool' songs, just right for a summers evening. Lastly, there was the Ibiza evening. Sadly, this year no Proms, and given the climate there were no finale fireworks. Maybe next year?

Well done and many congratulations to Cameron, who officially graduated two years ago, but due to good old Covid, he wasn't able to have the service. SO, on the hottest day of the year!! He and many others (two years' worth of students! according to Mum Leanne), finally celebrated their graduation. He looks very smart in the photo, alongside his sister Ellie, who herself will be graduating next year! Hopefully it won't be as warm then?

Well Done, Cam.



With the weather being SO hot!! the livestock both cattle and sheep locally are nibbling on meagre rations.. Phillida has said she was hoping for some rain as the cattle were running short of grass, and the meadows for the winter feed were a bit sparse. It seems crazy to think we are so desperate for rain?? Still August Bank Holiday is looming.... who knows?? She also mentioned that she hosted the Pony Club Junior Camp in the first week of August - she had 21 ponies and children staying at Beck Farm!! I'm sure great fun was had by all - I would say time for a rest after that? BUT knowing Phillida that would be a waste of time .

Good Luck to all those who are about to either start school, make the move from Primary to High School and onto College/Uni - Hoping that those anxiously waiting for results were pleased with what they achieved?

Finally, many thanks again to Vic for keeping the grounds around the Village Hall looking great - Some nifty baton twirling with the rake!! Thanks also to Redmond for the great work on the hedge and keeping Grandad in order .

Enjoy the rest of the summer, stay cool, keep well.

SUSTEAD

St Peter And St Paul Sustead.

It's been hot and dry lately, and the fields and pathways around Sustead more like the prairie, but here wildlife, plants and people carry on as before despite our struggles with the heat. Last month was a successful one at St Peter & St Paul, our Jubilee service was very well attended and enjoyed by all, and a total of 24 people were brave enough to climb the church tower for that wonderful view. The following Village Celebration at the village hall was also a great meeting time for us, we all caught up with one another after so much time spent indoors.

The Felbeck Bioblitz proved to be a great event with a total of 371 species recorded of mammals, birds, amphibians invertebrates, plants and fungi of which 112 were new, over the four sites of Sustead Common, the Surveyors Allotment, the roadside nature reserves and Spurrell's Wood. If you would like to know more detail about the discoveries of the day please contact Peter Maingay (petmai6@hotmail.com) and he will send you the special Bioblitz issue of the Felbeck Trust Newsletter. Spurrell's Wood itself is a delight to visit, and walking through the pathways within there are peaceful and bird filled areas, dappled shades and the opportunity to sit and reflect. There are many other areas around Sustead to walk too, particularly the Crossfield Paths, and across the Old Cowmeadow, and over the bridge to the Church.

The Bike Ride approaches us next month, and Sustead Church will be ready to welcome visitors. Our table will be ready to check your Sponsor Forms , and we thank all our volunteers who will be on duty that day, and there will once again be drinks and biscuits for thirsty riders. Please look in and view our beautiful Stained Glass panels and unusual roof paintings or walk around our carefully conserved churchyard with its wildlife areas and ancient headstones. Thank you also to Tony for supplying the Dog's bowl and water for our four footed companions on their visit to our Church.

Glenn Davenport
Churchwarden

Nature Notes

Nature notes from the Mill and around Sept 22

Two months without rain, or was there an occasional evening of it? So dry and parched is the land, so few insects around and accordingly so few birds around. We have found on the ground a number of tiny nestlings as yet not ready to fledge that have died on our watch. Perhaps they were removed from the nest by parent birds unable to feed their full contingent of chicks. Wood pigeons however seem to be constantly building nests and ignoring the heat. Occasionally Lis sees one swaying precariously on a drainage pipe by the river from which it endeavours to drink water without falling in.

This mid-August week of writing it has been a little cooler and we have seen and heard three kingfishers about the mill pond. However, there is little fish-life visible, only the occasional small one that has survived the ravages of the two pike which we have seen lurking in the shallows.

The heron is often busy focusing its eyes on the river edges so perhaps there is more to eat than we think.

Our success story is that of the swan family who have reared five cygnets. We regularly see them on the mill pond and trudging across the grass from the bi-pass stream into the main river. and sailing back towards the village bridge.



Owls, buzzards and kite circle daily in search of prey. Rob, our temp. ed. spotted a tawny owl out in daylight on The Cut, and we sometimes sees the barn owl flying over the mill pond as well as in its usual hunting grounds of the fields.

Lis found a beautiful black and gold striped caterpillar of a cinnabar moth in the raised bed of garlic and tomatoes and was puzzled because these moths commonly feed on ragwort of which there was none in the bed. However they will also feed on groundsel which was probably growing there with other weeds. Various moths, butterflies, hover flies and others have been in the vegetable garden and the humming bird moth was seen on valerian and lavender and wasps and other nectar eating flies and bees on the lobelia. All of these insects seem less affected by the heat than those that fly around the house and river.

Wasps have been a pest of recent weeks and seem to have come earlier than usual as most fruit is not quite ripe yet. Discussions amongst friends showed that a number of us had been stung. Various suggestions have come up for how to deal with them ranging from toxic sprays, to old fashioned sticky fly papers, to the pot of raspberry jam deliberately left on the table to lure wasps so one can then eat cakes unprovoked and, best of all, the advice to buy a pitcher plant! The *Sarracenia purpurea* or purple pitcher plants love indoor warmth and a diet of insects. My informant tells me that the pitchers on her plant are filled with wasps and flies that will be digested.....

Lis Downs

Mannington

Weather - by the time this is published there may be more records (and it may have rained !) but our 19th July reading for the Met. Office was 38.2.

Butterflies include Fritillary, Painted Lady, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, Peacocks, Commas, Red Admiral, and Common Blue.

As at the Mill Swans with their 7 cygnets doing well. The Green Woodpecker family are still finding plenty of ants to eat to eat. Although we thought numbers of small birds at the feeders reduced, they now seem to be back with Goldfinches much in evidence. We and our visitors have been pleased to see the kingfisher again.

Laurel

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EVENTS – see website for details

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From Tony

- ***“My act is very educational. I heard a man leaving the other night, saying: ‘Well, that taught me a lesson.’***
- ***“Five out of every three people have trouble understanding fractions.***
- ***“I told the Inland Revenue I don’t owe them a penny. I live by the seaside.”***

At this time, we all need something to make us smile. There is just so much around to make us feel very depressed and wretched. You don’t need me to tell what is wrong. So let me offer you some humour this month.

The jokes above come from that zaniest of comedians, Ken Dodd. I find them very funny. Of course, it may be that these, more or less, one-liners may make you feel even worse. Humour is a very individual thing. What makes me laugh (see above) may just make you feel worse. Sorry! For me, some so-called comedy programmes on television contain nothing that amuses me. Indeed, there is often material and language that I find offensive. Bring back Victoria Wood, or Morecambe and Wise, or Ken Dodd. Let’s hear them again, and again, and again! Indeed, the more I hear them, the more I smile.

Often, though, the more you hear a joke, the less amusing it gets. That’s probably true of the jokes in the Bible. Yes, there are at least two. I fear that, rather than seeing them on the page, Jesus’ telling would have pointed up the ridiculousness of the situation. In Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus tells his listeners: “Why do you see the speck in your neighbour’s eye, but not notice the plank in your own?” A rather crueller joke is made about Jesus. One chap, being told how wonderful “Jesus of Nazareth” is, asks, “Can anything good come from Nazareth?” (John 1:46)

You probably had to be there to laugh with the others.....!

My prayer is that, as we continue through 2022, you find something to smile at, giggle at, laugh uproariously at, either alone, or with others. Make each one of us, dear Lord, people of kind laughter, hopeful smiles and joyful companionship one with another. Amen.

The Reverend Tony Lynn, 01263-735524

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Rosie!

Well, since I last put paw to paper we have had quite some eventful times...

- I have been to Scotland and got soaking wet, yes with RAIN! Mum bought me a green “ruff & tumble” coat but the dye came out and I turned a nice shade of green (as mum hadn't washed it before I wore it)



- In the heat I have found that a paddle in the river is quite refreshing, and when in the river mum has taught me to play Poo Sticks!! (Dad thinks we are both mad but hey-ho)
- And I have heard mum and dad talking secretly about spaniel puppies (YEAHH - a permanent friend?) However, I might have to wait a bit....

If you enjoy reading this *Community and Church News* please pass it on or you can request additional copies via your village contact.

If you have any articles or photos you would like including then please do get in contact with your village contact shown inside the front cover.

Please also be aware that there are costs associated with printing hardcopies so if you are able to receive a copy via email then that will reduce costs. Thank you.

Children's pages

Garden lantern made from a recycled water bottle



You will need:

- Plastic bottle and lid
- Sharpies or permanent marker
- Craft knife
- Scissors
- Wire
- Battery operated tea lights or fairy lights.



- Begin by colouring the bottle using the sharpies or other permanent marker.



- Draw lines equally around the bottle.
- Using a knife very carefully start cutting down the lines.
- Continue using scissors.



- Once you have cut the strips then you need to crease them.
- You do this by pushing the top of the bottle toward the bottom. This will cause the slits to collapse. Hold it in place and fold each slit in the center, creating a crease.

- Then using a bradawl or a small screwdriver make two holes in the bottle lid, before taking your wire and threading through to create a loop.



Add the tea lights or fairy lights and put the cap onto the bottle. It looks wonderful in the garden during the day and spins as the wind catches it.



Back To School Word Search



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

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MATH

CRAYONS

STUDY



Why do math books always look so sad?

They are full of problems.

Why did the kid eat his homework?

Because his teacher said it was a piece of cake.

Itteringham

Church News

Church Services in September:

- Sunday 11 September, Morning Service at 11.00 am.
- Sunday 25 September, Holy Communion, at 11.00 am.

Repairs

The Church porch has now been repaired.....

....and the final recommended electrical works carried out, that is a new metal clad distribution board installed, the chandelier rewired with new flex cable and the high-level heater junction boxes inspected and replaced as necessary.



Platinum Jubilee Crab Apple Tree celebration

Following the Church service on Sunday 10 July we held a small celebration in the churchyard which was well attended. It was a lovely sunny day, lots of chat, lots of cake, washed down by some delicious homemade elderflower cordial (made by Henry) and tea and coffee. Hazel Barnes and Seb Skinner jointly put up the commemorative plaque.....



Norfolk Churches Trust Bike Ride

This is on the 10 September and money raised goes towards preserving Norfolk's iconic and beautiful churches (& some sponsorship money goes to the church). There will be squash and biscuits available at St Mary's (sorry, only self-service unless anyone wishes to volunteer to sit in the Church). Steven Burbidge has decided to attempt to cycle to 100 Norfolk Churches (last year the top cyclist visited 61, so 100 would be amazing). If you would like to sponsor Steven, please contact him on stevenjburidge@gmail.com or via the sponsor form in the village Shop. The Trust is offering £1000 to the Church which shows the most improvement in its bike ride fund raising compared to last year. We wish you the very best of luck Steven and thank you.

Village Hall News

Just a quick update. The toilets in the village hall have now been repainted and the two 3 seater benches and picnic tables delivered. These have been placed just outside the hall on the grass.

The next meeting of the Village Hall Committee is on the 19 September. Please get in touch with Helen or me if you would like any matters to be raised.

And a reminder that the Village Hall AGM will take place on Wednesday 12 October.

Village Shop and Café

Shop opening hours - from 9.00 am until 5.00 pm Monday to Saturday, and 9.00 am to 4.00 pm on Sundays. **The Post Office** is open Monday and Thursday from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm. Penny has reminded me that the old style £20 notes will no longer be legal tender from the end of September.

Orders - do please call in or ring the Shop if you wish to place an order for bread, fresh vegetables, milk, fish, meat or other items (01263 587325). Orders for fresh fish need to be with the Shop by 12 noon on Wednesdays (but please note C&A Seafoods will only deliver if the Shop places a minimum order). Artisan bread from Bread Source is available on Friday and at the weekend. A list of the breads and pastries we can order is available in the Shop.

Please see the poster about food the shop is not able to sell →

A reminder for ICA members – the ICA annual membership subscription of £20 was due at the end of May. If you have not yet paid can you please see Penny in the Post Office or make a bank transfer (details in members update letter).

100 Club

July winners:

1st: Alison Davidson

2nd: Rebecca Lawrence

3rd: Margaret Smith

August winners:

1st: Terry Palmer

2nd: Rebecca Lawrence

3rd: Carol Lake

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AT 4_{pm} EVERY DAY**



And finally film night is on Friday 14 October, see next page: **PLEASE DO COME**

Itteringham Book Club – everyone really enjoyed “Exposure” by Helen Dunmore. This month’s book is “The Binding” by Bridget Collins.

Parish Notice Board - please do look out for the latest Parish News including the date of the next Parish Council meeting. Parish Council meetings are open meetings, and villagers are welcome to attend.

The next dates for the visit by the **Mobile Library** (parked opposite the Rectory) are the 1st & 29th September 2022 at 11.20.

Please let me have any Itteringham news you would like to include in the Itteringham update.

Sandra

**A weasel walks into a bar.
The bartender says,
“Wow, I’ve never served
a weasel before.
What can I get you?”
“Pop!” goes the Weasel.**

How about sending in some more jokes to include???????

Wanted: plot of land locally to buy or lease suitable for planting a small orchard. Please call Tom on 587386 or email thomas.goodliffe@gmail.com



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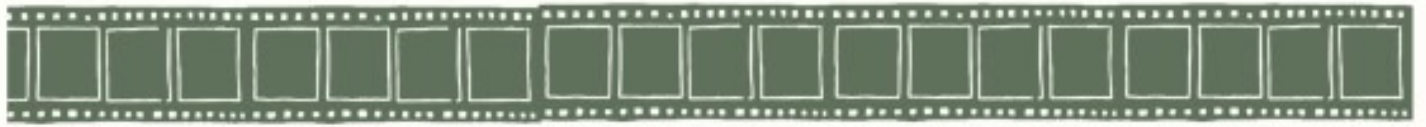
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Cert 15

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Elspeth Barker - 16th November 1940 to 21st April 2022

My mother departed this life in April 2022, at the moment when spring creates cathedrals in the woods. Near her home, Bintry House on the River Bure, the woods were waking after winter, beech trees beginning to spread their canopy, a green glimmer vaulting above a celestial haze of bluebells, soaring towards the heavens. I can see her in my mind now, in those woods, and I can picture her there across all the years of my life.

I was born when she was newly in love with her poet, my father George Barker. We lived in London, then a year later, my brother was born, another was on the way and we moved to the tumbling National Trust farmhouse, where she lived for the next 54 years. She was a glamorous figure in rural Norfolk in the Seventies, with a her big felt hat and a fur coat held together by safety pins. Carrying a picnic to the bluebell woods, she led us small children on a donkey, pausing to daydream beneath the wild rhododendrons that reminded her of the driveway up to her childhood home in the remote wilds of Scotland. Another decade and dogs, and her teenager youngest children were her outriders; big dogs and some small grandchildren on the shoulders of their uncles. Elspeth was always at the centre, making stories real, pointing out wild flowers, teaching the names, latin and vernacular, finding badger tracks to marvel over, eager to share her love of the countryside and the wild. Another decade, and bigger grandchildren, Elspeth's beloved labradors around her, and then, lo! A unicorn, conceived by Elspeth for her 5 year old granddaughter and created with much laughter and planning, by wrapping a carrot in silver foil and tying it on the head of our ancient white pony Banner. It sounds easy, but it was not.

'Good. Now hide him.' she instructed, 'He has to walk across the glade in front of us when we are sitting on the rug and having our picnic, so that Esme will see a unicorn vanish into the bluebells'. Astonishingly, it happened. A magical and funny day that became the stuff of memory, mixed as it always was with Elspeth, with myth.

'Unicorns don't exist,' she wrote, some years later, while reviewing a book for *The Literary Review*, 'but we want them to exist. Why not? Thus have gods come into being.'

Above all else, Elspeth lived with the magical relationship between the imagination and reality central to her existence. Her early life became the inspiration for her own fiction, when she wrote a novel. '*O Caledonia*' was published when she was 51, and portrayed a version of her childhood, through the eyes of a young, painfully sensitive and misunderstood heroine living, and yearning for intense drama and romance, in a gothic Scottish castle.

Elspeth Barker nee Langlands was born in 1940, the eldest of Robert and Elizabeth Langlands' five children. Her family lived between Drumtochty Castle in Aberdeenshire and a house at Ely in Fife, and Elspeth's upbringing was traditional and strict: children were seen and not heard, there was nursery tea, there was Nanny, a brood of younger siblings, and there were parents who seemed mysterious and distant. She loved the Highlands passionately, and in '*O Caledonia*' and her subsequent writing, reveals a relationship with nature that is truly metaphysical. This quality, a love of animals and her passion for reading, remained constant in a life that became filled with so much more and, as *The Times* obituary writer said of her, 'Was never, ever dull.'

After St Leonard's Girls School in St Andrews, Elspeth went up to Oxford to read Modern Languages. She was 17, and having read a lot of poetry, she quickly adopted a style: pale skin, black eyeliner, wild black hair and dramatic clothing, often purple silk or black, that would remain with her throughout her life. The stilettos she wore for the 1959 Aldermaston March may have been exchanged for Wellington boots by the time she was living in Norfolk, but her glamorous style, her predilection for expensive scent and piles of poetry books were part of her existence to the last. She was beautiful, erudite, funny, yet also hopelessly impractical, had no clue about money and very little interest in domestic issues. She was shy but had hundreds of friends, she was, in her youth terribly extravagant (she spent her whole university term's money given by her father, on a bottle of Chanel Number 5), and in later years was extremely short of money, but she was uninterested in comfort, always choosing a wooden dining chair over the sofa as her seat to watch television from.

From Oxford, where she fell asleep and did not complete her finals, Elspeth moved to London and worked part time in Foyles bookshop and also as a waitress in a Lyons Corner House coffee shop. She was

remembered by her friend Kate Leavis as 'extraordinarily attractive to men,' and her own stories of this time, as told to her children, included numerous fiances and a man who said he had married her by proxy and would be taking her back to his home in Nigeria. We grew up with all the stories of our parents' lives before we were born because so much of their pasts had come with them. Elspeth was just 24 when I was born. She had met George Barker through his former partner Elizabeth Smart and she and Elizabeth became good friends. The parties at our house were legendary for the explosive behaviours, the intense conversations and the range of people present. Poets, painters, farmers, American students (from my father's time teaching in The States), village neighbours, my father's other children and their families were welcome. As children in the midst of this sprawling Bohemian world, we lived enthralling lives, free to run wild outside with animals and bicycles, then scooped into school, free again for summer picnics in the water meadows beyond the garden, winter nights when you could see your breath in a cloud in our icy Norfolk farmhouse bedrooms, where the Aga downstairs was a character in our families life, anthropomorphised by our mother into a sullen, smokey and deeply unhelpful kitchen assistant. We were largely oblivious to the literary life of our father, and the pioneering spirit of our mother, that made her drive the car to her job teaching latin at a girls school with a wig on to disguise herself from the police (she took 24 attempts to pass her driving test, and achieved legality on the roads a month after I did). Elspeth's life in Norfolk was full and demanding, she and my father had a tempestuous relationship, and despite the well documented set back that he had never been divorced from Jessica, the first of the women with whom he had children, they were together until the last, finally marrying when Jessica had died in July 1989. My mother said of their marriage, 'It just got better and better.'

My father died two and a half years later, in October 1991, living to see her publish '*O Caledonia*' to rave reviews and numerous literary prizes. He was very proud of her. My mother was unable to accept the finality of his death. She was 51, and the timing of '*O Caledonia*'s success took her to Australia and New York on tour. When she came back, she bought a horse and another Labrador and carried on writing and gardening, loving her children and telling great stories to friends who came to sit and laugh and drink at the kitchen table. She took up learning Russian, and Ancient Greek and went to London for summer schools. She taught creative writing with the poet George Szirtes at Norwich University of the Arts, and on numerous Arvon Foundation courses. She was shy yet profoundly friendly, and her address book is crammed with names from the world of literature but also a huge array of people whom she adored from her local everyday life in rural Norfolk. In Itteringham she was part of a campaign that saved the village shop from closure when its owners Mr and Mrs Fairhead died in the 1990s, and she worked there at the till sometimes, valiantly attempting to add up peoples shopping bill, then collapsing in snorting laughter when she got the sums extremely wrong, and the customer had to swallow astonishment, and ire, and check it for her. She reviewed brilliantly for various papers, she drank her friends under the table and was adored by many. Her humour was legendary, and her welcoming disposition meant our family home was always packed with friends old and new.

'*O Caledonia*', 'The best least known novel of the last century' as Ali Smith put it, had dwindled into obscurity, when the publisher Lettice Franklin at Weidenfeld & Nicholson found it and fell in love. It was reissued in 2021 to new acclaim, with an introduction celebrating Elspeth for the wonderful writer and rare human being she was.

By now, Elspeth had become unwell and was living in a residential care home. She was thrilled though by the return of '*O Caledonia*', and as this book, rich with incidents of her childhood became widely read, in her mind she also inhabited more often the sandy beaches of Ely in Fife and her childhood highland haunts with her beloved siblings and dogs. As a child she had had a pet jackdaw, and in the last days of her life, a young *doppelganger* for Claws, that first corvid, hopped on the grass outside her french windows. She was not at all surprised to see him.

She died with customary elan, wearing pyjamas bright with pink flamingos, and remembering in her last days, the canopies of beech trees and the picnics in the woods she loved so much. She is buried with my father in the village churchyard at Itteringham, just a short stroll down a tiny lane to the bluebell woods and the beech trees. She is hugely missed, and will not be forgotten.

THE FALL OF SINGAPORE AND THE THAI/BURMA RAILWAY

The continuing story of the time Fred Hoskins spent as a prisoner of war of the Japanese, written in 1992 and told in his own words.

The column wound on and eventually disappeared out of sight, although by this time, some were actually crawling along, helped by their friends. It was cool in the coconut grove after the heat of the dusty road. We rested for a time and then looked for fallen coconuts. The day passed slowly and late in the afternoon we saw an amazing sight — a lorry crammed with Australian soldiers, some clinging on the outside, came along. We flagged it down and they said they were on the way to Changi and agreed to give us a lift. We clung perilously to the sides and eventually turned into the camp.

Others of our unit were already there to greet us and while we lay exhausted on the floor of a hut, Sergeant S brought us each a biscuit with jam on it - luxury indeed.

Changi Camp consisted of a large number of huts on the east coast near what was known as Roberts Hospital. Life settled down to a routine of putting up barbed wire fences with gates. A lorry was dismantled so that it could be pushed or pulled like a trolley for collecting rice supplies. This latter task took us through the gates which were now manned by Free Indians. These Indians were men who had transferred their allegiance to the Japanese. They wore a small Japanese symbol (we called it a poached egg) — a red blob on a white background and we had to salute them on passing. They delighted in face smacking for the slightest excuse.

EARLY DAYS IN CAPTIVITY

The food supplies were poor and were basically rice to which was added such scanty supplies of tinned food as still existed. On one occasion the rice was full of lime and when cooked looked either yellow or purple. The eating of it was disastrous resulting in acute stomach pains, the only remedy for which seemed to be to lie flat on the back to alleviate it. Still, it was food. Some of us were taken to a camp near the docks to clear up some of the chaos. We were lined up and divided roughly into three groups — cooks, drivers and 'other work' regardless of ability. My first job was to make some brooms but as the only materials I had were bamboos and rushes, they were a hopeless failure.

Each day we were marched under armed guard to a field full of parked cars which had been left behind by evacuees from the rubber plantations and tin mines. Many of them were in beautiful condition but we were told to take out the engines by cutting through bolts and wires. A Bren gun carrier was then hitched to the cars and they were dragged roughly to one side of the field amid a shattering of glass and bodywork. I understood the engines were to be shipped to Japan and we did as much damage to them as we could.

The work was hot, dirty and tiring and I remember on one occasion when no guard was around, a Malay brought out a white plate covered in slices of juicy pineapple which we gratefully ate. It was shortly after this that I began to feel ill.

My temperature went up to 105°F and it was quickly diagnosed that I had dysentery which had already hit several in the camp. I was put on a stretcher in the back of a lorry with others including Private C who sat on a chair and taken back to Roberts hospital. This was a large concrete building of several floors and was full of dysentery and other patients. During the fighting it had been ransacked and medical supplies scattered around on the ground. These were now collected, being invaluable as they were unlikely to be replaced and were needed for treatment.

More again from Fred in the next issue....

Aldborough and Thurgarton

www.aldboroughparishchurch.org.uk

Facebook: Aldborough Parish Church. Norfolk

ALDBOROUGH COMMUNITY CENTRE (ACC)

(Registered charity 268101)

Aldborough Community Centre hosts regular events and can be hired for private events. It has;

- Large main hall and stage
- Fully equipped kitchen
- Licensed bar (with volunteer bar staff)
- Internet access
- Licence for live and recorded music
- Licence for film showing (newly acquired)
- Snooker room

Please use the **new website booking system** www.aldboroughcommunitycentre.com and click on **'BOOK NOW'** Or email: julie@floribunda-workshop.co.uk

- £13/hour for use of full facilities (Well-being classes £10/hour)
- £5/hour for Bar area only or upstairs snooker room only .

Your 'go to' venue for classes, parties, birthday celebrations, wakes, fund-raising events.

Regular activities at ACC

Tuesday lunch:	Village Lunch
Tuesday evenings:	Bridge Club
Wednesday mornings:	Art Club
Wednesday evenings:	Film Club
Thursday mornings:	Yoga (new)
Thursday evenings:	Zumba
Friday mornings:	Extend Fitness
Friday evenings:	Yoga

Please look on the website for timings, cost and contact details;
www.aldboroughcommunitycentre.com

Development of Aldborough Community Centre

The bar is about to have a major make-over – a much needed update! Hopefully this will make this a more welcoming venue for parties, small groups and meetings.

We now have round tables which seat 8-10 as alternative to the rectangular tables in the main hall.

Second-hand book stall now located in the bar.

Are you interested in a Village Snooker League?

Aldborough Community Centre is lucky enough to have a full-size snooker table. The ACC Management Team is keen to start a Village Snooker League open to all abilities, if there is enough interest. The plan is to have 4-6 divisions roughly set up according to self-assessed ability. Everyone in each division would play with every other member of that division over a cycle period of about 6 weeks. Match outcomes would be reported to the League Administrator. At the completion of a cycle, the top player of each division would swap places with the bottom player in the league above. Details would be agreed with interested players.

Please register your interest and any comments and suggestions with Clive (email clive.rounce@outlook.com). If you have never played snooker before but would like to learn, please also let Clive know.



Aldborough Film Club

Every 3rd Wednesday at Aldborough Community Centre

Join us on the following dates (full **revised** programme posted **inside** the Community Centre or email David at dpg.jazz@icloud.com).

BAR OPENS AT 7pm; Film showing at 7.30.

Wednesday, September 21st

Wednesday, October 19th

Wednesday, November 23rd

Have your say about the kinds of films you would like to see included in the next schedule. Email David dpg.jazz@icloud.com

Aldborough Players



Panto' 23 is written and cast! Oh yes it is! Rehearsals start mid-October. In the meantime, you might spot some filming activity over the summer months (a pantomime cow maybe?).. keeping you guessing what this year's panto might be.....

Dates for your diary: Panto: Wed-Sat, February 1st- 4th, 2023 7.30pm.

EXERCISE IN DISGUISE – ZUMBA

Every Thursday evening at The Green, Aldborough, NR11 7AA - 6.15pm to 7.15pm

Come along to Zumba and party your way to a new shape.

Transform your body the fun way. All levels of fitness welcome.

£6.00 per class

Telephone or email Sally for more information on 07786 697563

or millersally784@gmail.com

BACK TO THE 70s

**Join us in celebrating 50 years since
the handover of Aldborough
Community Centre**

Saturday 24th September

3pm - 11pm

Stay all day or pop in and out!

3pm Broadland Ukes & Afternoon Tea (First sitting)
4.15pm Broadland Ukes & Afternoon Tea (Second sitting)
5.30pm Children's drama performance
6.30pm Auction of promises
7pm Aldborough Players '60s/70s radio'
7.30pm 'The Spice Gits'
Cocktails & Currylicious curries from 6pm
Prizes for the best 70s costume!

Afternoon Tea: £8 each, £25 (family ticket / group of 4)
'The Spice Gits': Free entry, but donations very welcome.
Tickets are limited so please reserve in advance.

Tickets & reservations can be made online at
aldboroughcommunitycentre.com or by contacting Dee Jupp
(01263 768470 / dee.jupp@btinternet.com)





WHAT IS ALDBOROUGH AND THURGARTON VILLAGE CARE?

Founded in 1987 by local resident Gaby Kleissner, who remained Chair until 2001. Originally established in close cooperation with Dr Wood and the surgery, with Pamela Leeder organising the transport scheme from the surgery. We remain a charity based in Aldborough, self-funding and run entirely by volunteers. Our objects as stated in our Constitution are:

“To promote and support the welfare and wellbeing of persons in need whose place of residence is within the Parish of Aldborough and Thurgarton or the surrounding area in any way which is deemed charitable.

For the purpose of this document the surrounding area shall mean within 5 miles of Aldborough Village sign on the village Green.”

Our present committee

Jane Maguire (Chair); Keith Good (Treasurer); David Hooker (PPG & Surgery); Elaine Hayton; Eve O'Connor; Tracy Wright; Rev Tony Lynn (church); Helen Bearman (school).

Transport Coordinator: Shirley Candler (768608, sscandler@outlook.com)

Village Lunch Coordinators: Tina Hooker and Nita Good

- Village Lunch
Three Tuesdays in the month (1st, 2nd, 4th Tuesdays) in the Community Centre. Open to all. Two course, home cooked meal with tea or coffee for £6-£8. 1st Tuesday: cooked on premises; 2nd Fish & Chips (delivered from Roughton); 4th meal cooked at local school. Afternoon Tea when there is a 5th Tuesday. Run by 17 volunteers on a rota system.
- Transport
Volunteer drivers take people with no other means of transport to medical appointments (mostly Aldborough surgery, Norfolk and Norwich Hospital and Cromer Hospital). A voluntary financial contribution is suggested to cover costs. Currently 13 volunteer drivers.
- Active Aldborough
We work with the surgery's Patient Participation Group to provide and support initiatives to promote good health (e.g. weekly Village Walk and Extend Exercise Class).
We have provided an outdoor table tennis table situated on the Green.

Other

- We compiled a questionnaire to establish what help individuals might be able to offer any Ukrainian families offered accommodation locally and hold these details to pass on to any host families.
- During the pandemic we delivered groceries and medication to people unable to get out. This can still be arranged.
- We are always open to suggestions about ways in which we can support the health and wellbeing of local people.
- We always welcome new volunteers.
- For any further information or queries about Village Care, to volunteer as a helper or to make a donation, please contact Jane Maguire (sjmaguire0401@aol.com or 761578)