



24 Fabulous Fairy Tale Scarecrows

New...
NIB Nuggets

HARVEST
SERVICES &
CELEBRATIONS

Village Show

The Benefice of St Benedict

That's the Gospel Truth!

We will often say, 'That's the Gospel truth', to emphasise that the point we are making is unquestionably true; without even a hint of doubt. It is an old English phrase that was created because there is nothing more truthful than the spoken words of Jesus Christ as recorded in the Gospels. Christians believe that the entire Bible is significant. The authors of the Holy Scriptures were inspired by God to write their words. Of course, some chapters are challenging and context needs to be taken along with careful interpretation; the message is not always clear! However, there is something uniquely special about the Gospels; these chapters of the Bible contain the actual words and teachings of Jesus Christ, the Son of God; these words are unquestionably true and provide us with the wisdom required to live life to the full.

The importance of the Gospels is highlighted in Church on a Sunday as our Gospel reading is read from a large, decorated 'Gospel book'; its size and design being a helpful sign to highlight the importance of the words. The Gospel reading is also delivered from the centre of the church, with the congregation physically turning to face and listen to the words. This is another important action. The words of Jesus are at the heart and centre of Christianity and they spread out across the entire world. On a Sunday, we also let those Gospel words spread out from the very centre of the church. Finally, after I have finished reading from the Gospel, I will kiss the page, and if a bishop is present, they will also use the Gospel book to give the congregation a blessing. Both of these actions help to emphasise the importance and respect that we offer to the words of Christ; words that change lives, the words of God.

Some years ago, the late Pope Francis suggested that all Christians should carry a small Gospel book with them at all times, either in their pocket or in their bag. Pope Francis suggested that when Christians had a spare moment, that instead of reaching for their phone, they should reach for the Gospels. I followed the Pope's advice and I now carry a very small Gospel book with me at all times. I must admit, it is not always easy to resist the temptation to look at the phone and instead to read the Gospels, however, just having it in my pocket provides a constant source of hope and reassurance.

During the World Wars, every soldier was issued with a small Gospel book to keep in their pockets. The Church teaches that the Word of God will always bring us comfort and strength; therefore, it is important that we always keep it near us.

Praised be Christ
Revd Ben

Latest news from our Sunday Club

After a summer break we are really excited for the return of our Sunday Club this month: please see below for the details. Also, please make a note in your diaries: **Sunday 19th October** at 3pm. This will be when we have our annual pet service at Horning Church. All pets and animals welcome! If you do not have a pet, please do still come along, perhaps bring your favourite teddy instead.

Upcoming Sunday Club Dates and Events

Sunday 7th September: 9.30am at Neatishead Church.

Sunday 21st September: 11am. Takeover at Neatishead Church. All children are most welcome so please do come along, it is great fun!

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



St Michael and All Angels', Barton Turf

Thank you to all those who worked so hard in the middle of August to make the Barton Church Book Fair such a success. Over £800 was raised for church funds and hopefully a number of people went away with books to enjoy. A special thanks to Michael Brandon-Jones for all the hard work that he put in getting the books ready.

The September coffee morning will be on **Saturday 20th September** and there will still be books to buy as well as scones and tea or coffee and the produce table. Finally, just to tell you that the last raffle prize from the last month's fete has been claimed.

Barbara Pilcher Churchwarden



St Michael's Irstead

We look forward to welcoming you to St Michael's on **Sunday 28th September** at 6pm for our Harvest Thanksgiving Songs of Praise which will, as previously, be followed by a Bring and Share Harvest Supper. Do join us then for Irstead's community harvest celebrations.

David Murrells 01603 631427

✍ The NIB team are looking for a 2026 Deputy Editor. If you are interested in joining our friendly group, please contact Sue Clayton: 07850 436211; nib.adverts@gmail.com

✍ The August NIB edition received compliments and thanks from several readers. The NIB's Stalham printers, Century Printing, commented: "I just wanted to say that I think your dedication of the front cover to commemorate VJ day is most appropriate and is a most fitting tribute. My grandfather served in India and Burma during WW2, so we know how important it is to remember the conflict in the Far East, especially on the 80th anniversary".

✍ New villager, Tina, wants to thank her Pennygate neighbours for being so welcoming. Tina also received our Villages' Welcome Pack. Contact Sue (below) if you know of anyone who would also like a pack.

✍ Have you heard about the **NIB NEWSFLASH**? It's a new WhatsApp group to share important, local, last minute news items. Contact: Sue: 07850 436211 to join the group.



Norfolk Churches Bike Ride, Walk or Drive



Announcement on behalf of all our village churches: St Michael's, St Peter's and St Michael and All Angels'.

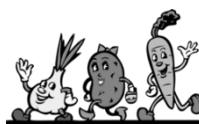
On **Saturday 13th September**, the choice is yours to bike ride, walk or drive on your chosen route and visit as many churches as you wish. Over 600 in Norfolk will be open.

Simply get sponsored for each church you visit or just make a donation. Monies raised will be divided between the church of your choice and The Norfolk Churches Trust.

Each church may not be manned on the day but all will have refreshments available. Sponsor forms are available at each of our churches: visit www.norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/bike-ride-walk/

The Norfolk Churches Trust, founded in 1976 makes grants to churches and chapels of all denominations, towards repair and restoration costs. Each of our churches has benefitted from their support over the past years. So pump up your tyres, dust off your walking boots, pack a picnic, plan a route and have a wonderful day out in the Norfolk countryside.

Claire Penstone-Smith
claireps@btinternet.com 07760 643739



The Village Show

There is still time to prepare for, and enter, the Village Show on **Saturday 6th September**.

Details are in the schedule which you can get from christine.breden@btinternet.com. There are lots of classes to enter including arts and crafts, baking and garden produce.

Even if you don't enter everyone is welcome to the NVH from 2pm on the day of the show to view the exhibits, buy a raffle ticket and enjoy a cuppa. There will be a sale of goods just after 3pm. This event is open to all so do come along!

Jane King



Garden Club

Following the summer break, our next meeting is at the NVH on Monday 15th September at 7.30pm. The speaker will be Ian Bedford talking about Garden Bugs with Knobs On! As ever, visitors are most welcome at our meetings for the cost of £4 which includes a cuppa and biscuits. Member or not, please support the Village Show on **Saturday 6th September** either by entering exhibits or just coming along to see the skills and talents of our local community. Please contact me for any more information.

Jane King 07423 820228
janeelizabethking@hotmail.com



New Victory Hall

The NVH Events Team has deliberately had a quiet summer as there have been so many lovely outdoor events in NIB villages. The new season starts with:

**A Ceilidh Night with
The Occasional Ceilidh Band
Saturday 27th September at 7.30pm.**
£12.50 (including light supper)
Pay bar and raffle



Ceilidh Tickets

Card only: from 1st Sept: www.victoryhall.info
Cash or card: from 13th Sept at NVH Community Mkt
Cash only: from 13th Sept: White House Stores

Ticket numbers are limited so get yours fast.

The next NVH Quiz Night takes place on **Friday 24th October**. Also watch out for another great Bands Together evening in early 2026.

The NVH Events Team



Community Market and Cafe



Next Market:
Saturday 13th September
NVH: 9am to 12 noon
Not to be missed this month! WHY?

- ☐ As well as our delicious bacon rolls, we will be serving toasted tea cakes!
- ☐ You can be among the first to obtain your tickets for our Ceilidh night on **Saturday 27th September**
- ☐ We are providing the collection point for you to off-load your Bric-a-Brac for the Macmillan Coffee Morning on **Friday 26th September**.

Please see the article below from one of our stallholders. Don't forget that we always welcome stallholders from our community organisations. Need more info? Tel Pauline 07818 599303

A stallholder's message

My name is Carol and I run the greetings card stall at the Neatishead Community Market and Cafe. I have been making cards for nearly 20 years as a hobby and have regularly supported the market

I make unique greetings cards for all occasions and purses. All cards can be personalised with ages, sentiments and relatives. I am happy to make bespoke cards on request for those special events and people in your lives. I would love to see you at the next market on **Saturday 13th September** and will offer you 10% discount off your first purchase.



MacMillan Coffee Morning

Please come and join us for the MacMillan Coffee Morning on **Friday 26th September** from 9:30am to 12noon at the NVH Neatishead: entry £2.50 includes coffee and biscuits. There will also be delicious cakes, plants, bric-a-brac and fabulous raffle. Donations and/or items for any of the above stalls will be greatly appreciated. Please drop off with Cheryl Pell at Tweenways, Barton Turf : 07387 267729. We look forward to seeing you there!



Exam Successes

Congratulations to all students in the NIB villages for their hard work and great results in SATs, GCSEs, A Levels, College and University diplomas and degrees.

Wishing you all the best for your future years in education or work, and keep on reading the NIB!

VJ80 Commemoration Service



Hundreds of people gathered at Norwich Cathedral on 15th August for the service commemorating the 80th anniversary of VJ Day, organised by Neatishead's Pauline Simpson.

It was a wonderful service, attended by many NIB villagers as well as Norfolk dignitaries and the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester.



Scarecrow Trail

Thank you to all the participants in the Scarecrow Trail; from the talented residents who created them, to those who came and supported the trail by purchasing a map. We all hope you enjoyed it and are so glad we were blessed with such great sunshine.

Also a huge thankyou to the White House Stores for helping to sell the maps and being the hub of the trail. We are proud to announce that, alongside the sponsorship from Minors and Brady, we have raised over £500. A few the scarecrows will be making a reappearance at the Village Show **Saturday 6th September**

NBPS Committee

PS: See the NIB cover page for photos of the 24 fabulous fairy tale scarecrows. Also see an anagram challenge linked to the NBPS committee's scarecrows on NIB Kids page 12.



Barton Turf Bowls Club

With a successful season coming to an end, we just have to congratulate the club in reaching the league cup knockout final and wish them all the best.

Barbara Pilcher Secretary



Knit and Stitch

Our meetings are very informal and this month are on **7th and 24th September** at 7pm. All welcome. Do get in touch if you would like any information about the group. You may also be interested in the talk about the famous Norwich Shawls and Textile Industry on **22nd September** - see NIBCHG item below.

Claire Penstone-Smith, 07760643739
claireps@btinternet.com



Neatishead, Irstead and Barton Turf Community Heritage Group (NIBCHG)

With the re-opening of the Norwich Castle Keep last month after significant restoration, our meeting this month will be a talk by Jo Evitt of the Costume and Textile Association (C&TA) about the Norwich Textile Industry and the much-revered Norwich Shawls. The talk will take place on **Monday 22nd September, 7.30pm** at the NVH. The C&TA was established in 1989 by Pamela Claburn to raise the profile of the textile heritage of Norwich and Norfolk. The C&TA works closely with the Norfolk Museums Service on textile displays. Norwich, with its many skilled weavers, became famous for producing dress shawls in the 19th century. These were finely woven with wool and silk, large enough to wear over a crinoline skirt and to keep a lady warm in chilly months. All welcome. Entry £3, NIBCHG Friends free. Doors open at 7pm with tea and coffee available.

Claire Penstone-Smith,
claireps@btinternet.com



Neatishead, Barton and District WI

Although we had no official meeting in August, our charity afternoon took place on Wednesday the 13th. St Benet's Hall was filled with our lovely WI members. It was wonderful to see such support on one of the hottest days this summer. We were joined by other local people who had made a special effort to come along and some lovely holiday makers. In all about £235 was raised for our charity Hear for Norfolk. Our grateful thanks to all who came and for any contributions of home bakes, items for the trading stall or raffle prizes. Our usual meetings continue on **Wednesday 17th September** at 2pm. We offer a warm welcome to any ladies who would like to join us. For further information, please contact us on neatisheadwi@gmail.com.

Sally Church President



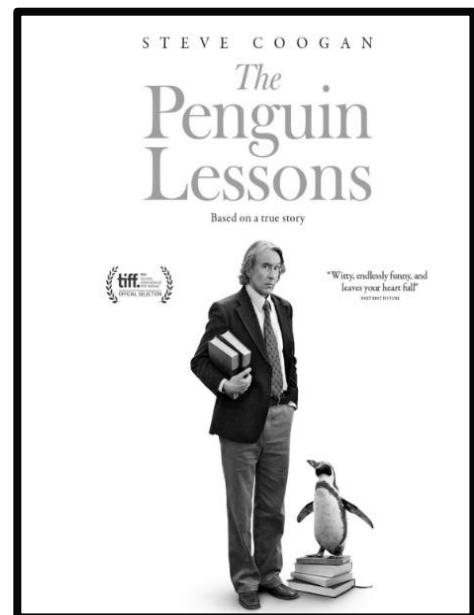
Village Screen

We are disappointed that we had to cancel the August film, Wicked, due to a cable fault and send our apologies to those who were looking forward to the film.

Monday 1st September 7.00 for 7.30pm

Our film for September will be **The Penguin Lessons - Cert 12A: 111 mins** which is a 2024 comedy/drama based on a true story. It stars Steve Coogan as an English teacher in a boarding school in Argentina during the 1976 coup who rescues a penguin from an oil slick. The penguin becomes a mascot for the school and transforms the lives of those around him.

The story is warm and funny, perfect for these uncertain times and a persuasive reminder that sometimes we all just need someone to talk to.



Visit www.victoryhall.info to book tickets via the box office. You can also make a reservation by calling Shelagh on 01692 630702. Subject to availability, tickets (£6) can be purchased on the door: card or cash. Refreshments tea/ coffee/ biscuits will be available for a small charge.

Village Screen Team



Horning Flower Club

We reconvene after the summer break on **Monday 8th September** with Chrystal Dyball's theme Behind the Shed Door.

The competition will be I Love Gardening. If you would like to find out more about our club please contact the secretary, Carole Swan, on 01692 536270.

Rachel Clayton

Neatishead Parish Council



Neatishead Parish Council are delighted to have installed a new picnic bench in the children's play area at the recreation ground. We hope you agree this is a worthwhile investment. The new bench provides a pleasant place to sit for visitors and enhances the overall area. A new visibility mirror has been installed opposite the entrance to the NVH to assist drivers exiting the car park. The Council will continue to explore further ways to improve the safety of this area.

Please remember to use the glass recycling banks at the Staithe and at the car park next to the NVH. The Parish Council receives recycling credits from these collections and the funds are reinvested back into the community, so your continued support is really appreciated. Unfortunately, the paper recycling banks have been removed. This was a free service which is now withdrawn; it was not financially viable to pay for this service. Residents are encouraged to correctly recycle their paper waste at home.

Laura Bateman 07917 841665
neatishead.parish@gmail.com



Neatishead Bowls Club

The extended heat wave(s) have been challenging but nothing we couldn't resolve. It has been the same for all the clubs. All matches continued with no cancellations. The final matches were played last month. The final league scores plus the results of NNABL tournament will be available later. The green will still be open until **Saturday 20th September**.

D Gurney 07746 540224 or *J Neal* 07884 493384



Weather

Significant July rainfall but general drought continues

The total rainfall recorded for July was 80.8mms/3.18in which is 147% of average and the highest monthly total for a year. We experienced the rarity of six consecutive wet days from the 19th to the 24th as low pressure predominated. The highest temperature was 30°C on the 18th but fell to 21°C - 23°C towards the end of the month. In contrast, the first half of August has been mainly dry and very warm with only 4.8mms/0.19in recorded which is just 7% of average so far.

The warmest day to date was 30°C on the 13th
Peter Mills



Community Gym

Have your summer holidays given you a moment to reflect on your fitness and health goals? If joining a gym has crossed your mind, don't forget there's an amazing village-based facility on your doorstep.

Have a look at our new leaflet and get in touch if you'd like a trial session. You won't regret it!

GET FIT FOR LIFE



Open Monday, Wednesday & Sunday
8.30am - 12.30pm

Professional equipment including treadmills, exercise bikes, rowing machines, cross trainer, weight stations, free-weights and gym balls



Train in a friendly, welcoming environment with a qualified instructor, supervision of new members and personalised exercise programmes

www.neatisheadcommunitygym.com
Book a free introductory session: 07387 876216

Joan Dickie



Friends and Neighbours

Both September meetings are at the NVH from 10am to noon. The first, on **Thursday 11th September** is Mardle and Quiz followed two weeks later by the Harvest Festival on **Thursday 25th September**. Please bring produce to this meeting and plenty of change for the auction of produce! Visitors welcome!

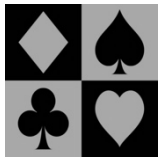
Contact Chair: *Jean Barber* on 01263 721698



White Horse Inn

Join us on **Wednesday 8th October** for our lively quiz night, raising funds for the RAF Air Defence Radar Museum. Our much-anticipated Seafood Nights will be starting soon, with full details to follow. Keep an eye on our socials and website for updates on these and other exciting events coming your way.

The White Horse Inn 01692 630828



Bridge Club

Artificial Intelligence and the Trickiest Game in Town

Between 30 and 40 people regularly shuffle up to the NVH on Friday mornings to play Duplicate Bridge, have a coffee and chat and vie for the honour of winning some chocolate. But why?

If you've ever had someone try explaining the rules of Bridge to you, you know it's a task fraught with peril. Eyes start to glaze over by the time they reach "declarer" and "dummy," and they're lucky if you stick around for the part where partners communicate through an elaborate ballet of bids that may or may not mean what they seem to mean.

Now, imagine teaching AI to play Bridge. It's like asking a robot to master not only the violin, but also the subtle facial expressions that go with performing in a string quartet. But artificial intelligence is everywhere now, from composing music to diagnosing diseases, so surely it can handle a card game played by retirees. Or can it?

Bridge isn't just about the cards in your hand. It's about reading the mind of your partner (without looking too suspicious), memorising which hearts have already graced the table, and, above all, bluffing just enough to make your opponents doubt their every move. It's a game of inference, deduction, and, at times, outright guesswork.

Consider this: your partner opens with 1NT. Is it a rock-solid 15 points, or is your partner feeling frisky after a second mint imperial? Bridge players know the true art is in storytelling, using bids and card play to convey a narrative, sometimes reliable, sometimes intentionally misleading.

AI, for all its miraculous powers, has no mints, no nerves, and certainly no new partner who insists on playing "their system". AI brings to the table a mind that is superhuman in memory and calculation, but about as subtle as a marching band in a library when it comes to reading between the lines.

AI can evaluate billions of card combinations in a flash. It knows the odds that your queen of spades will hold. It never forgets if two clubs have already been played, and it certainly doesn't get distracted by the joke being shared at the next table. But while it can process more information than any

human, does it really "get" Bridge? Bridge is a dance of incomplete information. You know your own cards, you see what's played, and you hope you can deduce the hidden distributions through a combination of Sherlockian deduction and hopeful guessing.

Humans excel at making leaps of logic based on minimal information. Did your left-hand opponent hesitate just a little before tossing a low diamond? Did your partner's eyebrows arch when you doubled their bid? These cues are beyond the AI's reach. Try as it might, a neural network cannot yet detect the subtle psychological tells that make bridge both infuriating and endlessly fascinating. Bridge is as much about psychology as it is about strategy. Good players read the room, sense tension, and, when in dire straits, might even resort to the ancient art of the "accidental" cough.

Humans can take years to reach even moderate competence at bridge—memorising conventions, learning to count cards, and, most importantly, figuring out how not to accidentally insult their partners. (Deliberate insults are far more effective). Meanwhile, AI can be trained on millions of hands in the time it takes you to shuffle for the next deal.

But here's the thing: all that data still doesn't prepare AI for the beautiful unpredictability of human play. There's always that one person who makes a bid so outlandish, so devoid of logic, that even AI short-circuits in confusion. But Bridge isn't just about logic. It's about creativity, intuition, and the joy of shared experience. The best AI in the world can win tournaments, but it can't appreciate the glint in your partner's eye when you pull off an impossible slam. It doesn't wince at a misplayed hand or celebrate the rare, glorious moment when your wild gamble pays off.

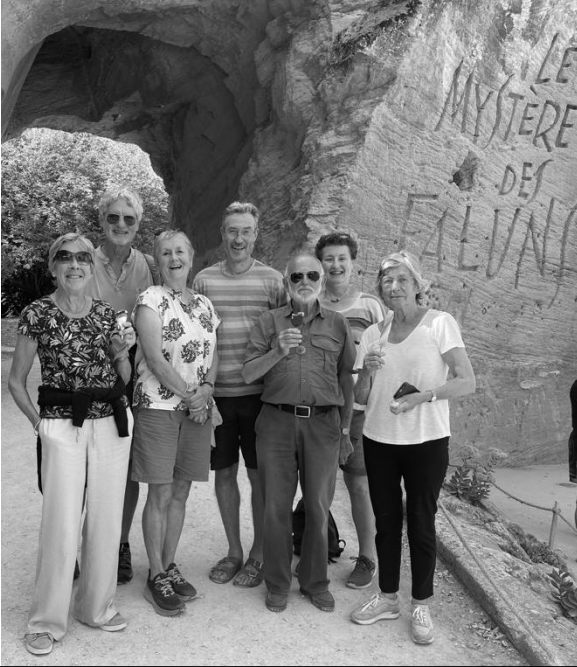
In the end, the intelligence required to play Bridge is delightfully, maddeningly human, messy, emotional and unpredictable. AI can mimic the mechanics and even best us at the tables, but it will never quite capture the spirit of the game. So next time you sit down to play, remember: you might be outnumbered by the robots, but you'll always have the upper hand in table talk, partner drama, and the sacred tradition of blaming the bidding for every lost contract.

After all, isn't that what Bridge, and life, are all about? Contact me if you want more information about local Bridge or learning to play Bridge.

Jim Fletcher 07565 507060 or WhatsApp



NIB Villagers and French Twinning



NIB Villagers: Caro How, David Prichard, Joan Dickie, Denis Costello, Jim Powell, Clare Costello, Liz Powell

In mid-August, seven 'NIB area' villagers took part, in the 2025 twinning exchange to the Loire Valley, as part of the Wroxham and Hoveton Twinning Association. Liz Powell from Tunstead is currently club president. Explaining how she and husband Jim first joined the twinning, Liz said, 'In 2015, we answered an ad in a local parish magazine which said simply: would you like to host a French family? Little did we realise that we were joining the local Twinning Association. Nor did we think that 10 years later we would still be hosting, and being hosted, one year in Norfolk and one year in the Loire. What a lot of fun we've had in these years!'

This year's visit included an overnight stay in Rouen, Normandy, with a guided tour around the city's wonderful Gothic cathedral. The cathedral's façade was the subject of Monet's famous series of thirty light-filled impressionist paintings.

Five nights were then spent with hosts in the Loire Valley. Daytime excursions included chateaux, gardens, caves and, of course, a vineyard. The emphasis is on friendship, hospitality, group visits and also some free time to follow one's own interests. This year, several of the NIB villagers set off on an intrepid bike ride along the Loire riverside path and only just got back in time for the coach home!

Next year, the French will travel to Norfolk for their biennial visit.

Clare and Denis Costello, from Neatishead, are new members on their first twinning. Denis said, "This has been an unforgettable visit to a beautiful region of France where we've made friends for life". Caro How has been a member for several years. She agreed, 'It's always fun to take part, enjoying French hospitality and trying to improve our language skills'.

The Twinning Association organises several local events throughout the year (eg **Saturday 11th October** quiz: more in next NIB). We are delighted to welcome new members; good French language skills are not necessary, but there is a conversation group to join if you wish, linked to U3A. To learn more, contact any of the local members pictured. Also see <https://wroxham-hb-twinning.org.uk> for more info and contact numbers.

Postscript. Your NIB editor was also on the trip and was impressed by the detailed report in the local French paper: see picture below!



Mauges-sur-Loire. Le jumelage crée des relations amicales durables

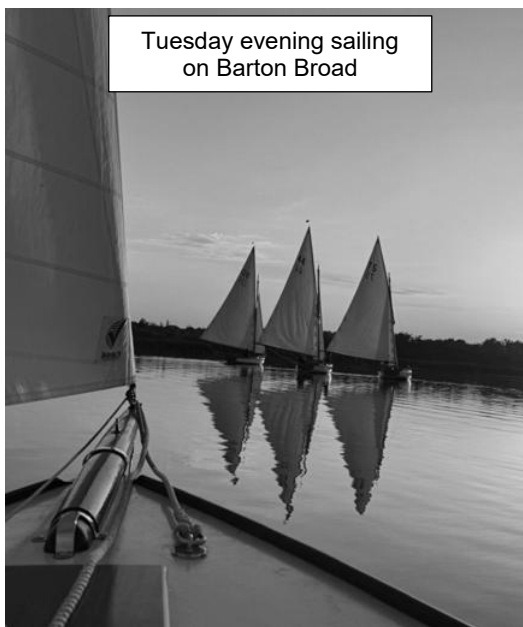
Dimanche dernier, une trentaine de membres du comité de jumelage ont accueilli leurs amis anglais de Hoveton-Wroxham, deux co...
ouest-france.fr



Joan Dickie



The Norfolk Punt Club



Tuesday evening sailing
on Barton Broad

August is always the busiest month for the Punt Club with two major racing events: the Regatta over the Bank Holiday weekend and the Punt Championships the weekend before, as well as the highlights of Junior Week and Barton Bugs for younger members. All well worth coming out to watch as well as participate.

But it's the wonderful warm evenings on the pontoons which have been outstanding. Informal Saturday evening BBQs and, most recently, an impromptu celebration to mark the end of Tuesday evening sailing for another year. Members and friends sat enjoying the warm weather until darkness fell and the moon started to rise. And for those who had moored on the broad in mid-August there was the added bonus of the Perseid meteor shower!



A warm August evening on the Punt Club pontoons

Liz Ollier



Wildlife Working Party

The Common looks beautiful at the moment. The contrast between the cut grass, the meadow and the natural areas surrounding the paths look stunning. Thank you everyone for your help – it really has paid off. We are so lucky to have received grants from NWT and English Nature to restore the ponds. The most recent BioBlitz revealed some interesting new species. The wasp spider is a big brightly coloured spider which is spreading north across the UK, so this is a good sighting. I had only seen them in France and Madeira before. Next to Forge Pond a wasp nest had been dug out and this is good evidence of



Camouflaged Bush Cricket!

badger activity. Also seen were a number of Roesel's bush cricket. Our BioBlitz experts are full of information. Please join them: it's great fun – no need to have any expertise and anything you find is pretty much guaranteed to be identified! If you want to join the BioBlitz team then let me know using the email below and I will pass on your details to Sophia Hale Sutton.

Grass snakes are very frequent on the common. Ray Plummer and his grandson, Reggie, take regular trips to the common to see them and Reggie is keen to report back how many sees on each of his visits. I'm seeing a lot of silver washed fritillary and swallowtail butterflies in my garden just across from the common. Jerry Simpson says we don't yet have records of these species on the common. Over the summer I've made daily trips over to the buddleia, but have yet to see one there. If you do, please send Jerry or me a photo. The restoration of the ponds which cost several thousand pounds, funded by NWT and Natural England, has resulted in a significant increase in biodiversity as well as an improvement in how the common looks at present. Thanks to everyone who helps and supports us.

The big issue we have at the moment is the high density of ducks. There are more ducks on the common now than there ever have been. This has resulted in a very large bloom of duckweed which stops light from reaching other pond plants and animals. The duckweed thrives on a surplus of nutrients from duck excrement. Ducks at high densities, as they are on the common, decimate invertebrate, amphibian and reptile populations. The reason there are so many ducks on the

common is because they are being fed large quantities of food and this is stopping them from going to other areas to feed on more natural food. Over the years it has been quite common for mallard ducks and even Egyptian geese to breed on the common, but they soon take their chicks down to the broad where there is a plentiful supply of natural food if they are not encouraged to stay by over feeding. There has been some concern that the young won't survive unless they are being fed by humans. Ducks do not need human support to survive. They are very well adapted and are able to feed without our help! In fact, they will be much healthier and be more likely to survive disease, cold weather, etc if they feed on natural foods like insects and pond vegetation. So please don't regularly feed the ducks as this harms just about all the species mentioned above, as well as the ducks, and it undermines all the hard work that everyone in the village, the Parish Council, Natural England and NWT has put in. If you've seen anything of interest on the common then let Jerry Simpson or me know. If you want to help as part of the working party then please contact me.

Neil Sanderson

Barton Turf and Irstead Parish Council



Wildlife Notes

September is a month of huge change in the bird world with many of our summer visitors moving on and the first of the winter visitors arriving at the end of the month.



Osprey: Jon Kelf

Many of you will have read in the local press that the Ospreys at Ranworth Broad successfully raised at least two chicks this summer in a new nest which the pair constructed. Hopes had been raised when the female turned up to join the male much earlier this year (she didn't arrive until May last year) and nest building started almost straight away. Both the adult birds are not ringed but it is assumed that they are the same birds as last year.



Osprey: Jon Kelf


Finally, we have breeding Ospreys back in the broads after a gap of about 250 years. September is a good month to see Ospreys in Norfolk as it is estimated that between 20 and 40 birds pass through on migration every year as they move south. The young birds will often hang around for a few days especially at some of the quieter, tree lined broads like Cockshoot and Alderfen, although I have seen them at Barton Broad as well. Adult birds from Scandinavia will pass down the east coast if the wind conditions are right but are less likely to hang around for long as adult birds need to arrive at their wintering destinations before they moult, whereas the young birds have a new set of feathers and can take their time. As I write these notes in mid-August we have already said goodbye to our Swifts and the Common Terns have moved away from Barton Broad, where they successfully fledged some young, to feed up at the coast.

The Blackcaps have been busy stripping the elderberries off our elder bush for the last three weeks and are feeding up before they migrate during September along with most of our other warbler species. I have had some reports from Barton Turf residents of sightings of Silver-washed Fritillaries in their gardens and am aware that they have now been recorded feeding on the buddleia bush on Barton Common, adding another species to the common's list. Many people have reported seeing Swallowtail butterflies in their gardens and it seems that they have had a good summer this year. Although I only found 2 swallowtail caterpillars at the boardwalk this summer the Milk Parsley seems to have remained healthy and not been attacked by the fungal wilt disease which affected lots of the plants at Wheatfen last year and has previously affected the plants at Barton.


Listen out for the first returning Pink-footed Geese at the end of the month.

Jerry Simpson

01692 630674 simpsonj24@btinternet.com



**GUIDED TOURS OF
ST BENET'S ABBEY**



**Meeting Point
on site
2:00p.m**

EVERY WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY
JUNE – SEPTEMBER 2025

VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.NORFARCHTRUST.ORG.UK FOR MORE DETAIL



Help us to share the Story of St Benet's Abbey, an iconic landmark of The Norfolk Broads

Play your part in bringing this atmospheric site to life for the many people who visit St Benet's Abbey.

We, The Norfolk Archaeological Trust, are looking for **volunteers** to join our friendly team of tour guides. You will be required to greet our visitors on their arrival and take them around the site, telling them the story of its history, wildlife and people associated with the Abbey.

If you enjoy chatting with others and have good communication skills, then you are ideal. No previous knowledge of the site is needed, just a willingness to learn. If this is something you think you would be interested in, you would need to be able to commit to about 10 tours. These are currently on Wednesday & Saturday at 2pm from the beginning of June to the end of September. Good mobility is required for anyone undertaking this role due to the rural nature of the site.

By joining the guiding team, you would be giving yourself the opportunity to connect with people in the beautiful broadland landscape, the opportunity to meet new people, gain new skills and the chance to learn more about your local history. You would get full training together with shadowing the current guides on their tours.

Your next step. Find out more about the role and how to get involved by contacting Fran Young by email – visitorexperience@norfarchtrust.org.uk

Marion Jackson
St Benet's Abbey Guide Coordinator



Wroxham, Hoveton & Belaugh Voluntary Community Care

Charity No. 1044332 Transport to Medical Appointments

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

PLEASE HELP



We take anyone registered at Hoveton and Wroxham Medical Centre, whatever village they live in: Rackheath, Salhouse, Horning, Tunstead, Smallburgh, Wroxham etc.

We've been established since 1985 and provide a scheme which takes people to the doctor, hospitals, dentist, optician etc. The demand for our service has increased dramatically and we are having to tell more and more people that we are unable to help them due to a severe shortage of volunteer drivers. If you can drive, own a car, have a mobile phone and can spare a few hours a week that fit around your existing lifestyle, please come and join our team of volunteers. You will be reimbursed for fuel costs and will know that you are making a great contribution to the health and well-being of our community.

REMEMBER you may be able to drive today but not tomorrow – then YOU might be in need of the service we provide!

Contact : 01603 784455

wroxhamhovetonvmt@gmail.com

Roman Catholic Churches

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

For more information, call 01692 403258.

Father Peter Raj, parishpriestfrpeter@gmail.com

Wroxham & Hoveton United Reform Church

Important note: From 6th Sept we will be welcoming a new Minister, Rev Tina Wilson. Her details will be available in the next issue. This month, for pastoral concerns, please contact the church secretary: Lynne Howard (see below).

Up-to-date information www.wroxhamurc.org.uk.

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

Sun 7th Sept 10.30am Rev Tina Wilson, including Holy Communion

Sun 14th Sept 10.30am: Rev Carole Pearl followed by church meeting

Sun 21st Sept 10.30am Rev Rosemary Tusting

Sun 28th Sept 10.30am led by Rev Carole Pearl

Sun 28th Sept 6.30 pm led by Rev Tina Wilson.

JAM (our Sunday School). From September we meet regularly in the church hall from 10.15 – 11.45am.

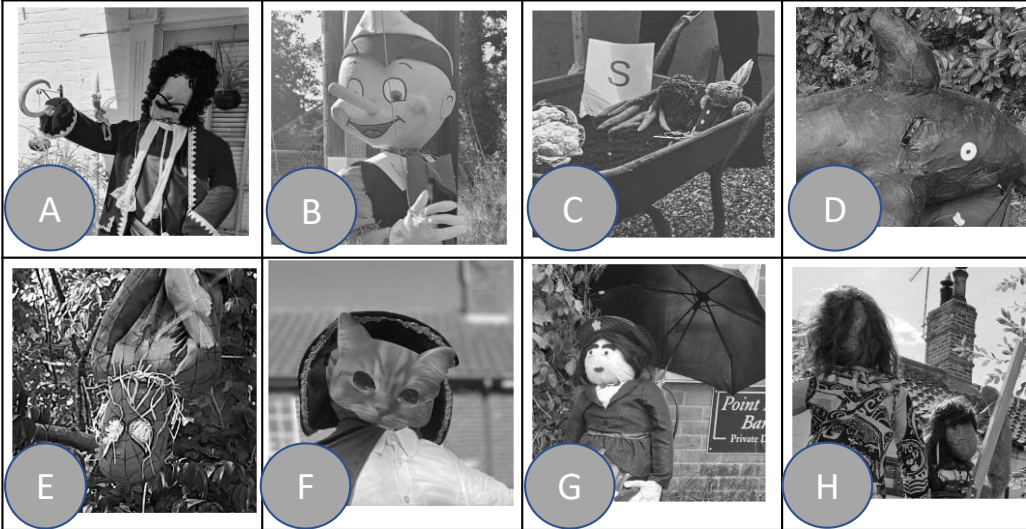
For more information: <https://wroxhamurc.org.uk/jam>
Community Café: Thurs: 10.30am to 12 noon.

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

FAIRY TALE SCARECROW ANAGRAMS

Which fairy tale characters do these scarecrows represent?
Match the picture letter to the anagram number.

Answers at the bottom of this page. These 8 scarecrows were made by the pre-school committee.



1. oh picnic o
2. art ebb tripe
3. island heathen wealth
4. no am a

5. snappy imp or
6. remind spa
7. spouts bison
8. to hack piano



ANAGRAM ANSWERS:
1=B (Pinocchio)
2=C (Peter Rabbit)
3=D (The Snail and the Whale)
4=H (Moana)
5=G (Mary Poppins)
6=E (Spiderman)
7=F (Puss in Boots)
8=A (Captain Hook)

September 2025 Adverts

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

ML RENOVATIONS LTD specialising in Oak Framed Buildings, Small Extensions, Patios, Groundworks, Garden Maintenance and Fencing. Call Andrew to discuss your project on 07880 700636 or email info@mlrenovations.co.uk.

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

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

GARDENER lawn cutting service and general garden maintenance. Please contact Lenny on 07771 363702. Locally based.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

INEXPENSIVE MOORINGS available at Barton Turf Staithe, please ring Martin 07501 622068.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OLD MILL GARAGE 01692 536926

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

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

LOCAL SEASONED FIREWOOD free delivery various load sizes available, starting at £90. Will stack on request. To book a delivery or for more information, please call Brent 07551 753127.

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

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

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

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

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

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

PROFESSIONAL PAINTER & DECORATOR Call Steven Luxford on 07786 510558 and see also: <https://www.facebook.com/SLneatpaint/>.

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

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

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

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

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

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

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Defibrillator Locations

Neatishead

New Victory Hall, NR12 8AD

The Granary Business Park, School Rd NR12 8BU

Cangate

Cangate House, NR12 8YH

Barton Turf

Point Farm (barn wall) NR12 8BB

Cox's Boatyard toilet block NR12 8AZ

Irstead

Staithe Car Park, NR12 8XS

Pennygate

Berry Hall Lodge (left of gate) NR12 8BE

Magazine Team for February 2025 – December 2025

News & dates: Joan Dickie (Editor) - 07796 617704 - nibeditor1@gmail.com

Dates: Christine Breden (Deputy Editor) - 07510 224490 - nibdeputyeditor1@gmail.com

Adverts: Sue Clayton (Manager) - 07850 436211 - nibadverts@gmail.com

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NIB Treasurer: Mandy Parks - 07547 697010 - nibfinancials@gmail.com

Social Media: Margaret Maxwell - 07460 740700 - margaretemmamaxwell@yahoo.com

DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER EDITION – 14th September 2025

Diary dates for September 2025

Mon	1 st	7-7.30	Village Screen: The Penguin Lessons Cert 12A 112 mins: NVH
Sat	6 th	2-4pm	Annual Village Show: NVH
Sun	7 th	9.30am	Sunday Club at St Peter's Neatishead
Sun	7 th		ABWCC Cricket Club President's Day Interclub matches Barton Turf
Mon	8 th	2pm	Horning Flower Club Chrystal Dyball's theme is 'Behind the Shed Door'. See article for more information: Horning Village hall
Tues	9 th	10am & 2pm	Wherry Yacht Charitable Trust Sailings to Nature Reserve, visit www.wherryyachtcharter.org for more trips/information and booking
Tues	9 th		The Wherry Yacht Charter Charitable Trust special sailings: 10am, 11.15, 12.30pm, 1.45pm, and 3pm at The Museum of the Broads
Wed	10 th	10.10am 11.15am	Mobile Library: Pitt Corner, Neatishead, NR12 8BT Mobile Library: Council Houses, Ashmanhaugh, NR12 8YL
Wed	10 th	7-9pm	Knit and Stitch: Dolly Newcombe Community Room NVH
Thurs	11 th	10am-Noon	Friends & Neighbours: Mardle Quiz NVH
Sat	13 th	9am-Noon	Community Market and Café: NVH
Sat	13 th		Bike Ride to support The Norfolk Churches Trust (see article)
Sun	14th	NOTE	Deadline for the October NIB Edition: Sunday 14th September
Mon	15 th	7.30-9.30pm	Garden Club: Talk with Ian Bedford - Garden Bugs with Knobs On: NVH
Wed	17 th	2pm	WI: NVH
Wed	17 th	10.15am 10.35am 10.55am	Mobile Library: Pennygate, Barton Turf NR12 8BE Mobile Library: Ex-Post Office, Barton Turf NR12 8BB Mobile Library: Staithe Road, Barton Turf NR12 8AZ
Sat	20 th	10am-noon	Coffee Morning at St Michael and All Angels' Barton Turf. Please note there will still be books to purchase this morning
Sun	21 st	11am	Sunday Club takeover at Neatishead Church
Sun	21 st		Heritage Open Days Celebration at St Benet's Abbey (see last month's article and also contact details in this month's)
Mon	22 nd	7.30pm	NIBCHG A talk on The Norfolk Textile Trade & Norwich Shawl: NVH
Wed	24 th	7-9pm	Knit and Stitch: Dolly Newcombe Community Room: NVH
Thurs	25 th	10am-noon	Friends and Neighbours Harvest Festival - Bring your own, Auctioning and selling off of produce so bring your loose change: NVH
Fri	26 th	9.30 -12	MacMillian Coffee Morning: NVH
Sat	27 th	10-11.30am	Hope Café: Neatishead Baptist Church Chapel Rd NR12 8YF
Sat	27 th	7 - 7.30pm	Occasional Ceilidh Band: NVH
Sun	28 th	6pm	Harvest Songs of Praise - Bring & Share Supper: St Michaels Irstead
Sun	28 th	3-5pm	Sirens of the Helm Norfolk's female shanty group 3-5pm: How Hill

Future Dates and Events

Monday 6th October: Village Screen: Please check the NVH website see below

Wednesday 8th October White Horse Inn Quiz night proceeds to Neatishead Radar Museum

Saturday 11th October WHB French Twinning Quiz

Sunday 19th October Annual Pet Service 3pm St. Benedict's Horning

Friday 24th October: Quiz Night: 7 for 7.30pm at NVH



Local Services and Contact Details

- New Victory Hall: Street Hill, Neatishead, Norfolk, NR12 8A. For enquiries/hall bookings www.victoryhallll.info or email bookings@victoryhall.info tel:07551008065. Online ticket sales for events and cinema order these via red Box Office link
- White House Stores Community Shop: Irstead Road, Neatishead NR12 8BJ, 01692 631549. To join the Community Shop Membership: info@whitehousestores.co.uk.
- White Horse Inn: The Street, Neatishead, NR12 8AD, 01692 630828: thewhitehorseinnneatishead.com
- Wroxham Library events: 01603 782560; www.facebook.com/wroxhamlibraryofficial, Every Tuesday 10.00–12pm. Many exciting and interesting interactive, reading activities for all age groups.

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

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

Benefice of St Benedict - Church Services – September 2025

Sunday 7th September - 12th Sunday after Trinity

9.30am - Benefice and Holy Communion at St Peter's Church, Neatishead with Sunday Club

Sunday 14th - 13th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 am - Benefice and Holy Communion at St Swithin's, Ashmanhaugh

Sunday 21st - 14th Sunday after Trinity

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

9.30am - Holy Communion at St Benedict's Horning

11.am - Sunday Club at St Peter's Neatishead

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

Sunday 28th - 15th Sunday after Trinity

11am - Morning Prayer at St Benedict's, Horning

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

6pm - Harvest Songs of Praise at St Michael's, Irstead



Weekday Morning Prayer Services in our Benefice churches at 9.15am*

Holy Communion 3rd Monday **

Monday: Neatishead**

Tuesday: Irstead

Wednesday: Horning

Thursday: Barton Turf

Friday at 9.45am: Ashmanhaugh*

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

Future Dates and Events

Sunday 19th October Annual Pet Service 3pm at
St. Benedict's Horning

Parish Church Wardens

Neatishead: Pauline Simpson on 01692 630674

St Michael and All Angels' Barton Turf: Barbara Pilcher on 1692 536132



Neatishead Baptist Church Chapel Road NR12 8YF

7 th Sept Sunday	10.30am	Val Khambatta - Communion	26 th Sept Friday	10am	Prayer Meeting
8 th Sept Monday	2pm	Fellowship - St Mark Study	27 th Sept Saturday	10 - 11.30am	Hope Cafe
14 th Sept Sunday	10.30am	David Adams	28 th Sept Sunday	10.30am	Marc Grimston
21 st Sept Sunday	10.30am	Val Khambatta	29 th Sept Monday	10am	Church Meeting

Hope Café meets for fellowship, coffee.10 to 11.30am on last Saturday of the month.

Everyone is welcome for games, fun and fellowship. Contact for more details:

Sue Gibbons Secretary secretary@neatisheadbaptistchurch.org.uk