

THE NMB

COMMUNITY

PARISH MAGAZINE OF NEATISHEAD, IRSTEAD & BARTON TURF



We hope you enjoyed
The Big Breakfast!



The Benefice of St Benedict

The art of good listening

Really good listening is a skill that takes all of us a significant amount of time to practice and develop. Good listening is often described as a form or art; and just as an artist will take many years to hone and refine their skills, the same can also be said for a good listener.

Jesus was a good listener.

The bible records relatively few words spoken by Jesus. Christ would often instead listen to people, discern the situation, and then share his wisdom.

It is often a challenge for us to become good listeners as we have to push back on our own needs, and instead, be present and in the moment to support the person who is talking to us. However, good listening is a wonderful skill and one that if we can grow and develop, will allow our own lives, and also the lives of the people around us to improve and flourish.

At the core, good listening requires us to be selfless; to put someone else's needs before our own.

Good listening means giving someone else our full attention, and we can all instinctively and immediately tell if someone is giving us that. There can be very obvious clues they there are not, such as if the other person is looking at their phone whilst we are trying to talk to them. There are other more subtle, but still identifiable clues, such as how the other person responds to us; typically, with single word answers which indicate that they are not really engaging with the conversation.

Another challenge that we have to navigate to become a good listener is the temptation to take over the conversation. The more we talk, the less we hear.

Sometimes it can be really hard to give another person our full attention and to be a good listener. We might have other things that we need to do, jobs to complete, places to go; we can all feel the stresses of time commitments and deadlines. However, being a good listener for someone who really needs to talk will almost certainly be our number one priority; other tasks can normally wait.

I have a personal rule where I try at all costs never to use the word 'busy' to describe how my day or week is going. When someone thinks a person is 'busy' they then almost apologise for requesting a small piece of your time.

Listening to people, supporting people, being there for people when they are in need, is far more

important than our day-to-day chores which we often mistakenly feel are essential and vital, when in fact they can often easily be delayed.

Life is always about priorities. Being a good listener to those around us is surely one of our top priorities.

Praised be Christ.

Revd Ben

Revd Ben Bradshaw SSC Rector of the Benefice of St Benedict (Ashmanhaugh, Barton Turf, Beeston St Lawrence, Horning, Irstead, Neatishead)

Latest news from our Sunday Club

2025 concluded with our much-loved Christmas Eve Crib service at Irstead. It was wonderful to welcome so many families and it was fantastic to have over 100 people in church getting into the Christmas spirit.

We had lots of fun singing carols and listening to the Christmas story. If you have not previously been before, do consider coming next Christmas, it is the perfect way to start the festivities.

Our Sunday Club meetings this term will focus on the miracles that Jesus performed. Last month we started our theme by thinking about how Jesus was able to turn water into wine.

Upcoming Dates and Events

Sunday 1st February - 9.30am Sunday Club at Neatishead Church.

Sunday 15th February - 11am Sunday Club takeover at Neatishead Church.

Sunday 1st March - 9.30am Sunday Club at Neatishead Church.

Sunday 8th March – Sunday Club On The Road! Please save the date as we have exciting plans for a day out! More details to follow.

Sunday 15th March - 11am Sunday Club takeover at Neatishead Church.

Sunday 29th March - 10.30am Palm Sunday walk from the New Victory Hall to Barton Turf church with real donkeys!

All children are most welcome to the Sunday Club. Please do come along its great fun!

For more information please contact: 01692 630216, Revd Ben-brother_ben@btinternet.com

Lent Group 2026

Please do join us for our Lent Bible study group, starting on Wednesday 18th February at the New Victory Hall. Refreshments will be available from 1pm, with each session starting at 1.30pm, concluding at 2.30pm.

Over six weeks we will explore and investigate one of the most fascinating books of the Bible - The Acts of the Apostles. Please do come along! Lent groups are wonderful ways for all of us to come together for an informal chat and friendly discussions as we learn new and interesting things.

There is no cost or any need to sign up, simply come along! Each session will be different, therefore, please feel free to come to as many as you are able to.

Revd Ben



St Michael and All Angels' Barton Turf

A Very Happy New Year to you all. I hope that you had a good Christmas.

Over the holidays we had two joyful services. On Christmas Day the church was full, as normal, for the annual Nine Lessons and Carols. May I thank all the readers and the choir who contributed to make it such an enjoyable service.

The following Sunday we had our Benefice Thanksgiving Service when we lit the candles on the windowsills to give thanks for everything that had gone on in our churches over the last year.

May I finally thank all those who contributed so generously at the December coffee morning when we served our mince pies and coffee to everyone who supports our coffee mornings throughout the year.

The February coffee morning will be on Saturday 21st at our usual times of 10.00 until noon.

Barbara Pilcher Church Warden



Hello NIB readers, welcome to the 2026 NIB year! This is a big year for us as we will celebrate our 50th birthday - look out for lots of themed content!

Please all join me in a massive thank you to Joan Dickie who did a fantastic job last year. I am happy to say that Joan will still be part of the NIB team, albeit with a new role. And please welcome Christine Breden who will be our editor this year: I know she will do a fantastic job.

Finally, from me, please see that we have two new ads towards the back of the magazine, page 13. Without our advertisers, the NIB could not function so please do keep an eye on them.

Sue Clayton NIB Manager



New Victory Hall - AGM

The New Victory Hall AGM is on **Tuesday 25th March 7.30pm** at NVH. Please make a note in your diaries.

Doreen Dean Chair
NVH Management Committee

New Victory Hall

A very Happy New Year to everyone! And very many thanks to all who support us in so many different ways! The NVH Events Team has some exciting events planned for 2026 so do look out for all the details in the coming months, both inside the NIB and on the Diary Page.

The Next Quiz night is on Friday 24th April.

NVH Events Team



NVH Christmas Fair 2025

This enjoyable and busy event was well supported with lots of stalls provided by NVH user-groups. The stalls, cafe refreshments and Grand Draw raised a fantastic £1,824.53 for NVH funds. A big thank you to all for being there as these funds make an important contribution to the running costs of the hall. A special thank you to the Ukulele Band for their jolly festive entertainment.

Doreen Dean



Lantern Parade and Village Light Switch On

What a great turn out we had on Sunday 30th November. Over 50 children came with their families to the New Victory Hall to meet Santa, write their letters and decorate their lanterns, whilst being entertained by the Ukulele Band.

We did a count down with Santa to switch on the lights and then Santa led the procession to the White House Stores where the Ukulele Band carried on with festive songs. Lovely hot chocolate was provided by the shop, hot dogs were available at the pub, and the Regency Gift Shop was looking resplendent offering an opportunity for shopping. The Saddlery also kept us feeling warm with a fire pit and hot food, so we were very well looked after. Thank you to all The Street residents who put their lights up and joined in. The village centre looked very festive.

Thank you to all those who helped make the event happen. That's from publicity to marshals, helpers in the hall, Santa and music. **Save the date, 3.30pm Sunday 29th November 2026**, we look forward to seeing you all again.

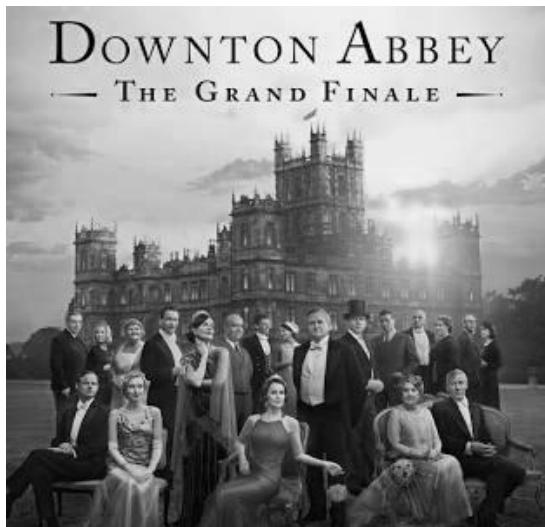
Happy 2026 from the Team who made it happen. Another year done and a busy 2026 coming up. Thank you.

Cheryl Pell



Village Screen

Monday 2nd February 7pm for 7.30pm



Downton Abbey - The Grand Finale

(Cert:PG, 124 Mins) This film is the third and final film in the Downton Abbey franchise. Many of the original cast of well-loved characters are featured: Lady Mary finds herself at the centre of a public scandal that threatens the family's social standing while the household grapples with financial troubles, forcing the Crawleys to make difficult decisions about the estate's future. The film includes a touching tribute to the late Dame Maggie Smith, honouring the Dowager Countess following the character's passing in the previous film.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Village Hall where tea/coffee will be available for a small charge. Visit www.victoryhall.info to book tickets. You can also make a reservation by calling Christine on 01692 631347. Subject to availability, tickets (£6) can be purchased on the door, card or cash.

Village Screen Team



Doghouse Band Returns!

The Doghouse Band will be back at the New Victory Hall on Saturday 7th March at 7.30pm.

Don't miss this great evening of rock, soul and classics. Tickets at £10.00 will be on sale online from 1st February www.victoryhall.info or at White House Stores, Neatishead, (cash only at shop please).

There will also be a pay bar, free nibbles and raffle. Proceeds will be donated to East Anglican Air Ambulance and New Victory Hall. Tickets are always in great demand, so please get yours early!

Doreen Dean



White House Stores AGM

Monday 2nd March 6.30pm

The shop is run by a community association (Three Villages Community Association Ltd) and is owned by members of the community who have signed up as shareholders.

The Association is holding an Annual Member's Meeting on Monday 2nd March at 6.30pm - 7pm at the New Victory Hall. If you are a member, it is important to attend. The members' resolutions are of obvious importance and unless we have a quorum nothing can be achieved at this important annual meeting. A quorum can only be achieved by sufficient members attending in person, not via a postal vote.

The agenda for the meeting will be on display at the White House Stores and will be emailed to members. Members have the option to lodge a postal vote in respect of agenda items requiring a vote rather than voting in person on Monday 2nd March. Your postal vote can be handed in at the shop to arrive by 5.30pm on Thursday 26th February.

Please note that only members of the Association can vote. You can join the Association by picking up a form at White House Stores and signing up as a shareholder. If you value your shop, please join in!

The Annual Member's Meeting has been scheduled just before the monthly Village Screen event, so please come along to enjoy the whole evening and support the Community Shop and Village Hall together in one night out!

info@whitehousestores.co.uk

Xmas Card Delivery

The 2024 Xmas Delivery cards enabled The Elves to buy the lanterns for our very well attended 2025 Lantern Parade and we have just had another very successful card delivery with donations of over £300, which hopefully will be put to great use for this year's children's Xmas Event.

Many thanks to all the Elves who not only deliver all your cards but also spent a lot of time sorting over 5 full boxes of cards into names, streets and villages.

Ruth Docherty





Our NIB is funded both by our advertisers and donations from you, our readers. We take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all who have already made a kind donation this year. We really do appreciate your support. We also understand that costs are still rising and belts being tightened; we are also looking to manage our costs whilst continuing to look for ways to further improve our local magazine.

If you would like to donate, please use the enclosed envelope for cash/cheque and pop it in the box at the White House Stores, or send a bank transfer to the NIB account:

Account name: The NIB Bank
Sort code: 20-99-21
Account: 70660744

Meanwhile, thank you to everyone for your articles and support. Our NIB magazine sets out to serve our community and we are always looking for ways in which we can better serve you and we welcome your feedback and ideas. Treasurer 07547 697010 nibfinancials@gmail.com.

Mandy Parks



Neatishead Parish Council

Neatishead Parish Council hope you all have had a good start to 2026!

Following a break in December, the Parish Council resumed its monthly meetings on the 15th January 2026 and we look forward to seeing as many of you throughout the year as possible.

Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month (except in August and December) and last an hour or two. Please do join us if you can.

There are still two vacant parish councillor seats that desperately need filling, so please contact the Parish Clerk on this email for more information clerk@neatisheadpc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk.

Laura Bateman



Neatishead, Barton Turf and District WI

By the time you read this our wonderful Christmas events will be well over but I'd still like to mention what a wonderful Christmas lunch we had at How Hill with Dale Bullimore entertaining us. We also supported the Priscilla Bacon Hospice by providing drinks for both residents and visitors and presents beautifully wrapped by our members.

We are looking forward to the year ahead with enthusiasm. Our Carousel theatre trip is coming up

in February, and the committee are formulating plans for more social events. Our meetings continue on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 2pm in the NVH. Whatever the weather outside, you will always get a warm welcome from our members. Contact us for more information via neatisheadwi@gmail.com

Sally Church President



Community Gym Gymnny's January Jaunt to John o'Groats

It's just over 1000km, using walking tracks and roads, from Neatishead to John o' Groats. That's a memorable distance and one that has provided Neatishead Community Gym with its first group challenge for 2026.

Readers will remember that the gym has a knitted mascot, Gymnny, who has previously undertaken virtual distance challenges to the Paris Olympics and the North Pole. The aim of such 'journeys' is two-fold. They have proved to be a fun group effort and conversation subject during gym sessions. Such challenges also encourage members to gently increase their use of distance gym equipment: the treadmills, bikes, rowing machines and cross trainer.

Gymnny's January Jaunt to John o'Groats is our new (alliterative) challenge. After members record their daily distances, the kilometres are totalled and Gymnny can advance along an A1 poster map from Neatishead to John o'Groats. With only ten January gym sessions available, can 1000km be achieved? There'll be more news in the next edition of the NIB but, as this edition goes to press in mid-January, Gymnny (helped by over 30 participating members) has so far totalled 650 km and is already in Scotland: see photo below!



For more information about joining our friendly local gym: www.neatisheadcommunitygym.com

Joan Dickie



The Nancy Oldfield Trust

With Christmas a distant but happy memory, staff and volunteers at The Nancy Oldfield Trust are busy getting the site and boats ready for the 2026 season. In 2025 we welcomed an amazing 5,678 disabled and disadvantaged visitors, who either visited us for a water-based activity or stayed with us in our onsite accommodation or at Berwick Cottage in East Harling. How incredible is that! Can we better that number in 2026?

One of the most significant pieces of work that needs to be carried out on site is to replace our quay heading and decking. Estimated to cost in the region of £50,000, fund raising efforts are well underway, but we've still got a long way to go. Can you help us reach our target or know someone who can?

If you'd like to find out more about the important work we do, please pop in and say 'Hello'. We are always happy to show people round and make new friends. We are busy taking bookings for 2026 so please do contact us if you or someone you know would benefit from an accessible trip on the beautiful Norfolk Broads.

Sarah Whellan



Garden Club

 Wishing everyone a belated 'Happy New Year!' Our February meeting is on Monday 16th February at 7.30pm in the NVH when our speaker will be George Cooper. He is going to give a talk about The Wherrymen. Our meetings are open to all and you don't have to be a gardening expert! Guests are always welcome at a cost of £4 which includes a cuppa and biscuit. Do give us a try and please contact me if you want to know more about the club. Thank you to all the members who have volunteered to help with the refreshments at our meetings. Tea, coffee, etc is provided by the club so just bring yourselves. Call 07423 820228 or email janeelizabethking@hotmail.com.

Jane King



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. We provide a scheme which takes people to the doctor, hospitals, dentist, optician etc: there is huge demand for our service 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



Knit & Stitch

New Year, New Crafts, New Projects, New Ideas!

I hope you all managed to see the wonderful alternative Knit and Stitch Christmas Tree at the NVH - now in its sixth year and still looking as good as new!

If you would like to join us at Knit and Stitch to help with different projects or just do your own thing, you will be made most welcome. We meet in the Dolly Newcombe Community Room at the NVH on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month 7-9pm (see Diary Dates page).

We can offer needles, wool, patterns, tuition, advice, friendly faces and a cup of tea, or coffee! Do please get in touch with me if you would like further details, or just come along to one of our meetings.

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



Volunteering opportunity with Scouts

I am Clive Gritten, a parishioner here and Chairman of North East Norfolk District Scouts. I'm writing to Parish Councils, newspapers and online volunteering 'websites' in our district inviting anyone to consider applying to join a Scout Association Board of Trustees locally please. We have thirteen Scout Groups here in NE Norfolk each with their own small Board of Trustees looking at safety and governance, helping alongside our uniformed leaders who are running activity programmes for children and young people to learn skills for life and citizenship.

Presently our waiting lists are extensive hereabouts because we don't have enough adult volunteers to maintain our duty of care ratios. Some groups are registered charities and others not as such, but all are run with charitable aims according to the Scout Association policy, organisation and rules alongside those of the Charity Commission and our Royal Charter.

Though we volunteer, as trustees we aren't mixing with the children regularly. As trustees, we endeavour to monitor and ensure their safety and wellbeing, and that of the leaders and the premises in which they all meet and undertake their many fun activities.

We are all registered with the government's Disclosure and Barring Service and are thoroughly supported with in-house learning opportunities. The Scout Association is now looking beyond its immediate membership to introduce people with worldly experiences to bring to local Scouting as chairpersons, treasurers and trustees. They may have been a Cub or Scout, Brownie or Guide themselves once and would like to return the enjoyment and adventure experienced back then, by joining a dedicated team of volunteers today perhaps?

I am contactable at scouterclive@gmail.com and truly look forward to hearing and talking with enquirers and explaining available support and training. I'd be most grateful if you'd pass this request amongst your own members and circulate within your own outlets too, please. I thank you on behalf of the children and young people enjoying Scouting in North East Norfolk.

Clive Gritten



Horning Flower Club

On the afternoon of Monday 12th January, we had a very entertaining quiz written by Jane King. Thank you, Jane!

Our next meeting is Monday 9th February at Horning Village Hall with Doreen Robinson whose

demonstration title is Fandscape. All are welcome so if you would like to join us, please contact Carole Swan on 01692 536270.

Janice Lupson



Neatishead White Horse Bowls Club

We would like to thank the New Victory Hall for allowing us to have a stall at the Christmas Fayre back on 6th December. Just for an update the combined weight of the three bowls in the 'Guess the Weight of the Bowls' was 9lbs 8oz. The closest guess was 9lbs 5oz from Claire Penstone-Smith who won the Christmas hamper. Thank you to everyone who had a go or just stopped by for a chat, it was lovely to meet you all.

We are in need of new members so if you fancy learning to play or indeed re-kindling that passion for bowls please come along to our roll-ups on Saturday mornings or Wednesday evenings. We would love to see you. Please keep an eye out for further information in future NIBs or call Andrew on 07715 801309. Everyone welcome.

Annette Wood

Food Bank Donations

If you would like to give a donation to the Trussell Trust Food Bank please drop it off at the Friends and Neighbours meeting on Thursday 12th February. Alternatively, any time at The Fudge Lady shack on Irstead Road by Wednesday 11th February where there will be a collection point. Thank you. Jane King



Friends and Neighbours

Sincere apologies for cancelling the meeting on January 8th but the weather was not too good for travelling!

Our meetings return to normal in February on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month from 10am to noon in the NVH. On Thursday 12th February Hannah Worsley from the Trussell Trust is speaking about the work of this organisation and we are asking members if they can bring along any donations for the food bank. On Thursday 26th February the Ukelele Band, led by Mike Gower, are going to entertain us. There will be the usual cuppa and biscuit, raffle, bring and buy, plus good company at both meetings. Please join us, member or not, as visitors are always welcome! To find out more about the club please contact the Chairperson, Jean Barber on 01263 721698.

Jane King



Wildlife Notes

The most exciting bird on Barton Broad during the past 2 months was a Slavonian Grebe which I was lucky enough to see on the 22nd December, albeit at a long distance. This species is one of the mid-sized grebes in that it is substantially smaller than a Great Crested Grebe but much larger than our familiar Little Grebe. In summer plumage it is a spectacular looking bird with red, black and yellow colouration but in its winter plumage it is much plainer being mainly black and white with a red coloured eye. Slavonian Grebes are known as Horned Grebes in North America as they raise their yellow head tufts in their display dance which involves a race across the surface of the water carrying beaks full of weed. There has been a small breeding population of these birds in the lochs of the Scottish Highlands since they first bred in the UK in 1910. Numbers peaked at around 80 pairs in 1980 but since the mid-1990s they have dropped to around 20 pairs in 2024. They spend the winter around the coast of the UK mostly along the south and east coasts but will move into inland waterways if the weather becomes too harsh for them on the estuaries or sea. Birds of Norfolk records them as scarce winter visitors with only a few recorded at inland sites each year. In March 1979 there were 4 to 5 on Hickling Broad and in March 1996 there were 3 on Horsey Mere but peak counts for Norfolk are generally around the area of the Wash.



Black Winged Kite: Jon Kelf

Around the same time as the Slavonian Grebe was discovered, a Black-winged Kite was found between St. Benet's and Ludham Bridge. I have written before about these rare visitors, which are only about the size of a Kestrel, when one turned up at Hickling and as I write this in mid-January, the Ludham bird has been re-sighted in the Hickling Horsey area. They seem to like the Broadland landscape and are rapidly spreading across Europe and are already nesting in France so this could easily be a new coloniser for Norfolk in the next 10 years.

Talking of kites, I have been seeing good numbers of their larger cousins, the Red Kite, this winter including some territorial behaviour at Irstead. It would not be a surprise if they nested locally this summer.



Siskin: Jon Kelf

Look out for Siskins on your feeders in February as this is the month when they are most commonly recorded in gardens.

*Jerry Simpson 01692 630674
simpsonj24@btinternet.com*



Weather Report for November/December

The total rainfall recorded for November 2025 was 131.6mms/5.18in or 188% of average and so a very wet month overall. This was the highest monthly total recorded since October 2023.

The highest daily total was a notable 51.6mms/2.03in on the 14th when Storm Claudia tracked across the UK.

The total rainfall recorded for December 2025 was 55.4mms/2.18in which is 92% of average. The highest daily total was 17.6mms/0.69in on the 9th.

The rainfall recorded to date in January 2026 is 52.5mms/2.07in which is already 95% of average with still half the month to go. The highest daily total so far is 23mms/0.9in on the 9th, courtesy of Storm Goretti.

Peter Mills



Dogs – and Cats - Lost and Found

If you'd like to join our Whatsapp group which aims to reunite lost dogs, or cats, with their owners, please let me know.

*Sue Clayton, Editor 07850 436211
nibeditor1@gmail.com*



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

Welcome to 2026. We are looking forward to organising another interesting programme of presentations and events for you.

Our first presentation is on Monday 23rd February at the New Victory Hall, 7.30pm, and is entitled "It's On Your Doorstep". This will take you on a whirlwind tour around the fascinating Neatishead RAF Air Defence Radar Museum. If you have not visited, you will be surprised what there is to see.

This will also be an ideal opportunity to renew your NIBCHG Friends Membership - still great value at £10 per year (cash or cheque please). We look forward to seeing you. NIBCHG Friends free entry, guests £3.

Claire Penstone-Smith
claireps@btinternet.com



Ashmanhaugh & Barton Wanderers Cricket Club

Encourage, Support and have FUN

Happy New Year from everyone at Ashmanhaugh; Barton Wanderers Cricket Club. We have a very exciting season ahead, why not join us as a player, supporter or sponsor - we have a place for everyone to feel welcome.

ABWCC:

- Winter Nets:** These are already in full swing for seniors and juniors, please get in touch or see social media for dates/times.
- Girls' Cricket:** The club launched its dedicated girls' section in 2025 and we hope to build on this in 2026. We have a competitive season lined up for them.
- All Ages & Abilities Welcome:** The club caters to all ages and abilities, with programs starting from age 5 (All Stars) to various senior teams, including Saturday, Sunday, T20, and midweek squads.
- Family-Friendly Atmosphere:** The club prides itself on being a welcoming, family-friendly environment for players and supporters.

Volunteer and Sponsorship Opportunities:

- The club is always looking for volunteers to help and new sponsors. There are great packages available for businesses to get involved and support grassroots sport.

Contact Information: For playing inquiries: joevertett33@gmail.com, For activities and events: ABWCC.events@gmail.com Stay Updated:

Follow the club on Facebook, Instagram, and X for all the latest news.

Jayne Everitt



NABS

Coming Soon: Top Girls by Caryl Churchill

NABS' excellent, recent productions (Pygmalion / Cabaret in 2024 and Cinderella and Blood Brothers in 2025) have set a high bar for our local, Neatishead-based theatre group.

For 2026, director Shelagh Smith has chosen a pioneering and challenging play for a female-only cast: Top Girls by Caryl Churchill. First performed in 1982 at the Royal Court, critics have named it 'the best British play from a woman writer.'

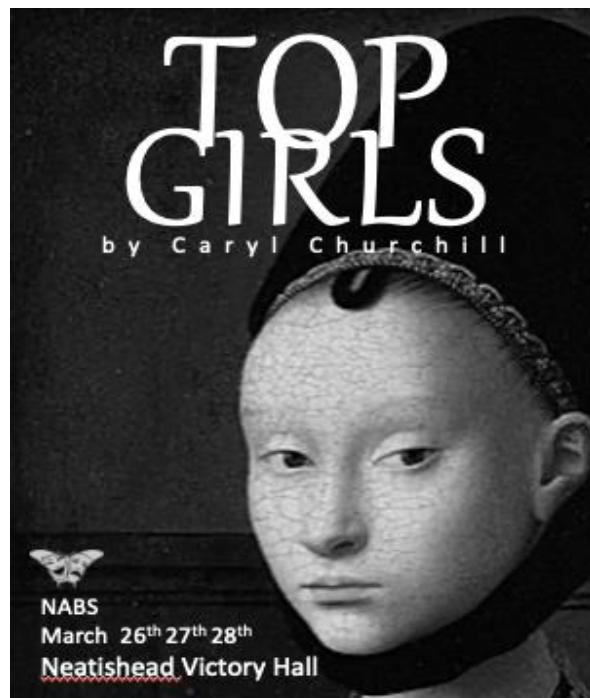
Now performed all over the world, 'Top Girls is one of the great plays of the 20th century, filled with big ideas, sharp wit and searing heart; it's very funny, and ultimately very moving.' (Kip Williams, artistic director, Sydney Theatre Company).

The title, Top Girls, refers to a women's employment agency and is set a few years into Margaret Thatcher's premiership. The play considers women entering a man's world, both historically and in the early 1980s and is full of fast and often overlapping dialogue.

Intrigued? Why not pencil in the performance dates in your diaries? There will be publicity photos and ticket sales information in the March edition.

Top Girls Performances: Neatishead New Victory Hall: Thursday 26th, Friday 27th and Saturday 28th March.

Shelagh Smith and Joan Dickie





WHB Twinning Association

Our post-Christmas dinner took place on 24th January at the Hotel Wroxham and was greatly enjoyed again by 33 members; a delicious menu, warm welcome and great catch up with our twinning friends.

Our committee met on 14th January and have started to organise the visit of our French visitors from La Pommeraye and Montjean-sur-Loire, 9th-15th August 2026. They have requested a visit to Cromer, which we are very happy to do and hopefully the weather will be fine for them to enjoy this lovely seaside town.

A trip on the Broads has also been asked for, so we will be booking this as well as venues for our reception, games and picnic and dinner dance. Lots to keep us busy! A date for diaries also is Friday 24th July for pre-visit briefing and social evening.

In December the Book Club discussed "The Night Gate" by Peter May and in January "Impossible Creatures" by Katherine Rundell, chosen by Mal and Hilary. Pat can supply information on pat.barkergreen@btinternet.com or 07879 454052. For more information generally, contact our chairperson, Peter, on 01603 782733 or peter_c_milsted@talk21.com

Peter Milsted

Hello instrumentalists and singers!



Do you, or did you, play an orchestral instrument?

Do you still have the instrument?

If so, are you interested in playing classical music occasionally just for pleasure?

Do you like madrigals? Would you be interested in singing madrigals occasionally?

How often we would meet will be up to those interested.

Let's explore what is possible!



Learn to read music

Would you like to learn to read music?

If you are interested in any of these suggestions I would love to hear from you.

Peter Boshier peterboshier@hotmail.com 01692 630695



Wroxham and Hoveton Lions Club

A message from this year's Club President, Past District Governor Lion Dennis Moxon. This year Wroxham Hoveton Lions Club reaches, not one, but two major milestones. The Club itself celebrates its 50th Anniversary, but 2025 is also the 25th Anniversary of the Lions Charity Shop, located in the Riverside Precinct in Hoveton.

Lions Clubs were started in Chicago in 1917, today it is the largest service organisation in the world with over 1.4 million members in 210 countries. In Britain there are some 600 clubs with 10,000 members, each club serving the individual need of its own community.

Wroxham and Hoveton Lions Club has covered the parishes of Wroxham, Hoveton, Horning, Salhouse, Rackheath, Horstead, Coltishall, Ashmanhaugh, Tunstead and Neatishead.

Although primarily supporting local causes, additionally, through donations to the Lions Clubs International Foundation, the charity arm of Lions Clubs International, it has been able to contribute to the various overseas projects. Disaster Relief, Childhood Cancer Support, Diabetes Prevention, avoidable Blindness, Humanitarian and Hunger, prevention and young people. The Club has donated in excess of £1.65 million during its 50 years existence.

All Lions are ordinary men and women who give up their time voluntarily to help others. There are no paid executives, so every penny goes towards helping others.

The Club has 15 members, the main fund-raising activities include the annual Hoveton Village Charity Fete, Santa Sleigh, Mobile Tombola, Craft Fairs and the Charity Shop. An annual firework display was held on Cain Meadow in Wroxham.

In 2008 we held our first Charity Motor Show and Family Fun Day at Norwich Rugby Club. This grew rapidly and this resulted in its move to the Norfolk Showground, where it ran until 2016. It raised many thousands of pounds which were donated to the Air Ambulance and other charities. The annual Hoveton Village Charity Fete has now taken its place and continues to provide a fun day out for all the family.

One of the Club's most popular activities is the Santa Sleigh which, during December, visits the main villages in our area as well as supermarkets in Wroxham, Stalham and North Walsham.

The Charity Shop opened in 2000 and has been the main source of income. Selling a wide variety of items: ladies and men's clothes, shoes, books, DVDs, records, bric-a-brac and children's toys, we are grateful for the generosity of the local community in donating their unwanted items to us.

Support has ranged from toys for a children's play group to the purchase in 2016, of the Sea Palling inshore lifeboat, which was named "Lion Ros Clipston", in memory of one of our late members.

The Club holds business meetings twice a month one face to face, the other via Zoom, but it is not all work or business. A social meeting is also held on the 3rd Tuesday, where members can relax, with games, quizzes etc. Lions work hard raising money, but have fun, doing it!

At our social meetings, activities include darts, indoor bowls, pétanque (depending in the weather) and quizzes. The Club is always on the look-out for new members, so if you have some spare time and would like to do something to help the local community, get in touch. visit our web site to make contact: www.wroxhamandhovetonlions.org.

*Derick Bowler PR Officer
Wroxham and Hoveton Lions Club CIO*



Wroxham Bure Valley Rotary Club

We had a very successful Santa Christmas collection – a huge thank you to all those who generously supported us in Sprowston, Spixworth, Wroxham and Horning, and especially to Tesco in Stalham and all their generous customers. It was great too for Father Christmas to meet and chat to so many youngsters all keen to make sure he knew what they wanted from him for Christmas.

We don't quite yet have a final sum but we do know that the total collected was in excess of £3,000, and we will shortly be making donations to our main recipient charities: the East Anglian Air Ambulance and our own international Rotary Foundation charity. Our regular Monday evening meetings continue with outside visits, business meetings and a varied and interesting programme of speaker meetings, all at Wroxham Barns.

You can also support us and the many local and international charities we donate to, through the Broadland Council Lottery Scheme – go online at www.communityatheartlottery.com and sign up, selecting Wroxham Bure Valley Rotary Club as your chosen cause – or directly by visiting our page on the www.totalgiving.co.uk web site. If you fancy joining us for a vibrant, sociable, active and fun club experience, please contact our president, Chris Billing, on 07555171574.

Peter Milsted

Food Bank Donations

If you would like to give a donation to the Trussell Trust Food Bank please drop it off at the Friends and Neighbours meeting on Thursday 12th February. Alternatively, any time at The Fudge Lady shack on Irstead Road by Wednesday 11th February where there will be a collection point. Thank you. Jane King

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

114 Norwich Road, Wroxham, NR12 8SA

Minister: Rev Tina Wilson. email address: revtinawilson@outlook.com. Tel :07763 354740. Secretary: Lynne Howard, 01603 738835. lmhoward100@btinternet.com Please see our website (wroxhamurc.org.uk). Do join us for any or all of the following services:

Sunday 1st February: 10.30am. Service conducted by Rev Paul Whittle, including Holy Communion.

Sunday 8th February: 10.30am. Service conducted by Rev Tina Wilson.

Sunday 15th February: 10.30am: Service conducted Mr Mike Gibbs.

Sunday 22nd February: 10.30am. Service conducted by Rev Carole Pearl.

There is no 4pm Service this month.

JAM (our Sunday School) welcomes all children aged 4 to 16. In our sessions we watch, read, listen, discuss, play, act, sing, chat, pray, cook, create and have a great time. We meet regularly in the church hall from 10.15 – 11.45am.

For information on February dates, future sessions and other events please go to: <https://wroxhamurc.org.uk/jam> or more details contact jam@wroxhamurc.org.uk or call Chris on 01603 783992

The Community Café meets for coffee and cakes from 10.30am to 12 noon on Thursdays. All are welcome, there is no charge. We look forward to seeing friends old and new.



Find the ten differences between the two pictures.



Valentine's Day Word Search

E S M

W B F

T R A E H

C A R D N

O R O S E S

V I V M N F

O F L O W E R S

G E C A N D Y X

H A N D H O L D I N G L L O R T S

H U G S T C D P D K F B E M I N E

Q S R O T I U S U N E C N A M O R

D I P U C H O C O L A T E V Z

S G N I L E E F C G I F T

F R P V N D I A M O N D Z

Y E W Y R A U R B E F

V V P Q R T I Y T

O U R Z E

L O V

W

Can you find
these words?:

Arrow	Hand holding
Be Mine	Heart
Candy	Hugs
Card	Kisses
Chocolate	Love
Couple	Lovers
Cupid	Romance
Date	Roses
Diamond	Stroll
February	Suitors
Feelings	Valentine
Flowers	
Friendship	
Gift	

February 2026 Adverts

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

RIVER OF BEAUTY at Womack Staithe, Ludham. For beauty, massage, skin care products and holistic treatment. Please contact Carrie on 07938 016363.

DEE'S PERSONAL SUPPORT— personal care, social support, shopping & cleaning. For more information contact Denise on 07969 636826 or dee4addy@gmail.com.

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.

BROADS BOAT GUARDIANAGE - a bespoke caretaking service for boats & their owners. Need help cleaning, maintaining or rigging your boat? Please contact Ez on 07772 039057 or broadsboatguardianage.com.

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

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.

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

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

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 on 07747 450776 or jamienickerson@live.co.uk.

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. £185 a full load, £95 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.

All contributions are welcome to The NIB: please note the Team reserves the right to amend or omit items. As the magazine runs from 1st of the month, 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 submits articles or adverts, 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.
- Please contact us at nibadverts@gmail.com or phone Sue Clayton on 07850 436211.



Defibrillator Locations

Neatishead -

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

Cangate - Cangate House, NR12 8YH

Barton Turf -

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

Irstead - Staite Car Park, NR12 8XS

Pennygate -

Berry Hall Lodge (left of gate) NR12 8BE

Magazine Team for February 2026 – December 2026

News & dates: Christine Breden (Editor) - 07510 224490 - nibeditor1@gmail.com

Dates: Deputy Editor - nibdeputyeditor1@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 MARCH EDITION – 14th February 2026

Diary dates for February 2026

Mon	2 nd	7pm for 7.30pm	Village Screen, NVH: "Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale"
Wed	4 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
Mon	9 th	2pm	Horning Flower Club, Horning Village Hall
Wed	11 th	7-9pm	Knit and Stitch, Dolly Newcombe Community Room, NVH
Weds	11 th	7.30pm	White Horse Pub – quiz in aid of RNLI Happisburgh Lifeboat Station
Thurs	12 th	10am-noon	Friends & Neighbours with talk from Trussell Trust, NVH
Sat	14th	NOTE	Deadline for the March NIB Edition: Saturday 14th February
Sat	14 th	9am-noon	Community Market and Café, NVH
Mon	16 th	7.30pm	Garden Club – talk on The Wherrymen, NVH
Wed	18 th	2pm	WI, NVH
Sat	21 st	10-noon	Coffee Morning, St Michael & All Angels Church, Barton Turf
Mon	23 rd	7.30pm	NIBCHG talk "It's On Your Doorstep" on the RAF Air Defence Museum
Wed	25 th	10.10am 11.15am	Mobile Library: Pitt Corner, Neatishead NR12 8BT Mobile Library: Council Houses, Ashmanhaugh NR12 8YL
Wed	25 th	7-9pm	Knit and Stitch: Dolly Newcombe Community Room: NVH
Thurs	26 th	10am-noon	Friends & Neighbours with music from the Ukelele Band, NVH
Sat	28 th	10-11.30am	Hope Café: Neatishead Baptist Church Chapel Road NR12 8YF

Future Dates and Events - see future NIBS for further details of events

Wednesday 18th Feb: Lent Group start, NVH

Monday 2nd March Whitehouse Stores AGM

Monday 2nd Mar: Village Cinema "The Roses"

Saturday 7th Mar: Doghouse Band, NVH, tickets available from 1st February

Sunday 8th Mar: Sunday Club on the Road – an exciting day out!

Tuesday 25th Mar: NVH AGM

Thursday-Saturday 26th-28th Mar: NABS "Top Girls"

Sunday 29th March: Palm Sunday walk from NVH to Barton Turf Church with real donkeys!

Friday 24th Apr: Quiz, NVH



Local Services and Contact Details

- New Victory Hall: Street Hill, Neatishead, Norfolk, NR12 8A. For enquiries/hall bookings www.victoryhall.info or email bookings@victoryhall.info tel:07551 008065. Online ticket sales for events and cinema, order these via Red Box 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, thewhitehorseinnneatishead.com
- Wroxham Library: 01603 782560; <https://www.facebook.com/WroxhamLibraryNorfolk/> Weekdays 10am-7pm, Saturday 10-4pm. Many exciting, interesting and interactive things to do. Groups for all ages- not just reading! See their Facebook pages for full details: many interesting things to do and join.

Parish Council Clerks:

Barton & Irstead: Nicola Ledain, bartonturfirsteadpc@yahoo.com Meet monthly 3rd Thurs 7.30pm NVH.
Neatishead: Laura Bateman clerk@neatisheadpc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk

