



# "ALMARTUNE"

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## THE AYLMERTON NEWSLETTER

Sponsored by the Parish Council  
SPRING 2014



Welcome to the Spring Edition.

On reading that we were in for a hard winter with plenty of snow I bought a new pair of boots last autumn, so you can blame me for the fact that this winter a frost was almost an event worth talking about, whilst a snowflake was a rarity. By the way, the boots remain in the cupboard un-used! However, we did have a severe overnight gale on 15 February that kept many residents awake and by breakfast-time the wind had strengthened to a point where it brought down a number of mature trees. A garden in Sandy Lane lost a very large blue conifer that landed neatly either side of a fishpond without damaging either the pond or the fish and missing the property itself by no more than a foot or so. A lucky escape.



Even in woods, where the wind is normally not quite so strong, tree trunks were snapped off several feet above the ground, the sort of event that is more associated with damage resulting from hurricane force winds.



Thankfully Spring arrived early (I'll take the credit for that) and the blossom has been truly spectacular with so many

gardens a riot of colour.

Our weather is truly unpredictable and even with the heavy winter rainfall filling the aquifers brim full, who knows whether later in the year there might just be a hosepipe ban. In this edition, we welcome an article from our Parish Clerk, Janet Warner, which she has called "From the Pen of the Clerk" and we wish it every success. Connie Burchett from St John's Church has also provided her own update for this Edition. Enjoy your read.

### Editor

### ***COMMUNITY TRANSPORT IN NORTH NORFOLK – HELP FROM THE LOTTERY FUND***

North Norfolk Community Transport (NNCT) recently won funding from The Big Lottery Fund, to enable them to extend their current services to new areas of Norfolk and acquire a new Mercedes 14 seat mini bus to add to their existing fleet.

Dial-a-Bus services mainly cover shopping trips and outings for people of all ages who cannot use ordinary bus services, either because of health or mobility problems or because there isn't a bus service for them to use. The buses are wheelchair and buggy friendly and booster seats are available.

NNCT also have a Medi-Ride service, which offers transport to medical appointments, either at local surgeries or hospitals. This is a superb service and again is one that NNCT want to extend to our area.

NNCT would encourage you to become a member (the cost of membership is just 13.5p per week) and gives you access to Dial-a-Bus or Medi Ride Services.

Alternatively, NNCT would like your services as a Volunteer - they are always looking for volunteer bus or Medi Ride drivers and **full training is given to either type of applicant.**

For more information, phone NNCT on 01263 839009 or e-mail them at:- [project.nnct@btconnect.com](mailto:project.nnct@btconnect.com) or visit their website:- [www.northnorfolkcommunitytransport.co.uk](http://www.northnorfolkcommunitytransport.co.uk).

NNCT advise that they are already up and running in West Norfolk and importantly for us, they are operating a Medi Ride Service in parts of Cromer and Sheringham and are anxious to extend this into neighbouring villages and parishes.

They point out that the service can only grow by them responding to the needs of the community, so if you think either of the services could benefit you, your family or your neighbours then do please get in touch with NNCT and let them know.

## **NORFOLK TRAILS – IMPROVEMENTS TO WEAVERS WAY “FROM THE PEN OF THE CLERK”**

Norfolk Trails have asked us to publicise the improvements they are making along Paston Way and more importantly to us, Weavers Way, part of which falls within our village boundary along School Road.

Norfolk Trails (part of the Norfolk County Council Environment Section) is the new managing body for these paths and their trail corridors and have received funding from from European Transmarche in order to improve tourism in rural areas. During last year some 46,000 people visited Weavers Way and 2014 is already on track to beat that number. Weavers Way is not a route just for long distance walkers and Norfolk Trails have produced new website pages with lots of downloadable walks varying in type and length (both circular and linear) on and around Weavers Way and linking in with public transport wherever possible. Norfolk Trails believe that local businesses can benefit from publicising Weavers Way being in our area and they are encouraged to visit Norfolk Trails website:-

[www.norfolk.gov.uk/Leisure\\_and\\_culture/Norfolk\\_Trails/NC123555](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/Leisure_and_culture/Norfolk_Trails/NC123555). for details and information on how to join the free business directory. There is also the potential of access to free social media and other training sessions in the area (which are also funded as part of the Trails project). For more details contact [Helen.Timson@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:Helen.Timson@norfolk.gov.uk).

Over the next few months Norfolk Trails will be improving the signage of the route on the ground in order to make it easier to follow and more visible to visitors.

Following this, Norfolk Trails need to be able to look after the investment which is where they will need help from volunteers to be become Trail Rangers. The main role will be to walk an agreed short section of the route once in every season and fill in a simple report form advising if there are any issues. No previous experience or expertise is required, just enthusiasm; all volunteers will receive training and support.

There are lots of other ways in which to volunteer and Norfolk Trails would like to talk to anyone who is interested.

There is a volunteering contact form on the website ([www.norfolk.gov.uk/leisure\\_and\\_culture/norfolk\\_trails/NC130050](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/leisure_and_culture/norfolk_trails/NC130050)) or phone direct to Polly Bryant, Assistant Project Officer 01603 222765.

### **BOUNDARY CROSS – FOUR MONTHS ON!!**

Norfolk County Council's Historic Environment Service were contacted recently as no work has been carried out to the boundary cross since the accident on 16 December. Assurances have been given that steps will be taken very shortly to level out the ruts in the grass and re-seed the bare patches. Quite what is intended by way of repairs to the base of the cross has still not been made entirely clear. However, one thing is for sure, we do need to get the repairs completed with some speed and get the boundary cross and the grassed area looking well cared for once again. It's understood the Parish Council will be monitoring the situation to ensure it's satisfactorily resolved.

I hope that this column will be of interest to those of you who do not have access to the Internet to read the Parish Council minutes or the reports in the North Norfolk News.

Over the last few months, the Parish Council have been continuing to work with the Village Hall Committee towards the installation of the stunning Village Sign. The base is in place and Mr Ridgeway is finalising the railings which will surround and protect the sign. It is hoped that the sign will be in place very soon and an official unveiling will be arranged. Please keep an eye on the parish notice board and website for details.

On the subject of notice boards, the Parish Council has secured funding from the Budgens of Holt Love Local Scheme to pay for the two new display boards on the outside of the Village Hall. At the time of preparing this column Budgens of Holt had advised that they were more than halfway to the target required to pay for the boards.

The next Community Litter Pick has been arranged for 9.30 am on Saturday 10 May, meeting at the Village Hall.

Following what seems like months of rainfall, the Clerk received numerous complaints about mud on the roads in Aylmerton. A big thank you to NNDC for carrying out an extra sweep and clean of most of the roads in the parish and apologies to those of you who were woken early one morning by the road sweeper. Thanks also to Highways for cleaning out all the debris in the drains and pipes from the pond which was very close to flooding.

NCC Highways have installed posts on the verge near the post box on Sandy Lane and carried out repair works to the grass verge. It is hoped that this will deter drivers from parking on the verge. A meeting was held with the Highways Engineer to discuss the flooding on Tower Road. Highways will clean out the grips and gullies which will hopefully go some way to resolving the problem.

At the most recent meeting of the Parish Council, members considered the proposal to erect a crematorium on land at Cromer Cemetery and were in receipt of associated correspondence. Following discussion, it was agreed to support the responses from Felbrigg and Runton Parish Councils, the AONB Action Group and the National Trust. The owner of the adjoining land, Mr Oliver, confirmed that neither he or Westerleigh would be in agreement to site the crematorium on the woodland burial site. However, if both applications are granted planning permission, they may work in co-operation in respect of the gathering hall and car parking. It was noted that there will be no further progress in respect of the Woodland Burial application until the outcome of the crematorium application is known. The NNDC Development Control Committee considered the application for the crematorium on Thursday 17 April and, contrary to the recommendation by Planning Officers to approve the application, the Committee decided there were too many objections to the project (more than 480 people objected, including the National Trust, primarily due to its location in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty). Councillors voted to defer the decision to a later date, suggesting crematorium developers Westerleigh again met with the owner of the woodland burial site to discuss a shared site.

Residents from The Street have met with Victory Housing to discuss the affordable housing scheme and raised concern about the proposed number of properties and the volume of traffic. At the time of preparing this column there was no



further update to report.

If you are reading this copy of Almartune over breakfast you may wish to skip the rest of this paragraph. Numerous complaints have been received in respect of dog fouling. The British dog population is between 6.5 and 7.4 million, producing 1,000 tons of excrement a day. The annual cost of cleaning this mess is a staggering £22.0m. A supply of the NNDC Dog Fouling Postcards have been sourced together with details of the Community Dog Warden Scheme. NNDC Environmental Health has been consulted and an update will be provided at the next meeting of the Parish Council. Anyone interested in becoming a Community Dog Warden is asked to contact the Clerk for details. Please could all dog owners be reminded to clean up behind their dogs. Remember, there is no such thing as the Dog Poo Fairy!!

Any residents wishing to contact the Parish Council are asked to contact the Clerk on 01263 512001 or e-mail [aylmertonpc@virginmedia.com](mailto:aylmertonpc@virginmedia.com). Members of the public are welcome to attend all meetings of the Parish Council which are usually held at 7.30pm at the Village Hall on the second Tuesday of alternate months.

**Janet Warner**  
**Clerk to Aylmerton Parish Council**

### **CAN WE IMPROVE BROADBAND FOR AYL MERTON?**

Depending upon your service provider Broadband download speeds in our village are disappointing to say the very least. We hear a great deal about the improvements being made throughout the county and the significant funding made to service providers by Norfolk County Council, whilst the EDP run articles emphasising the importance to business and the local economy if Superfast Broadband could come to Norwich. Norfolk County Council and BT signed a deal whereby more than 80% of the county's homes and businesses are expected to be able to access Superfast Broadband (24Mbps) by the end of 2015. In addition, the Better Broadband for Norfolk (BBfN) programme intends to make minimum speeds of 2Mbps available to all Norfolk premises by the end of 2015.

That's all very well but there are still a lot of rural areas that are stuck in the "Dark Ages" of computers and there's not much prospect of that changing.

Download speeds (Mbps) are important, especially for businesses who often need to handle large quantities of data. Download speeds for Aylmerton, obtained from U-switch website, "Streetstats", reveals the nature of the problem and it's interesting to compare these with our neighbours in West Runton.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Provider</u>	<u>Distance from Exchange</u>	<u>Speed</u>
<b>Aylmerton</b>			
Sandy Lane	TalkTalk	1400m	0.58
Holt Road	TalkTalk	1242m	0.84
Beechwood Av.	BT	1325m	2.97
Beechwood Av.	BT	1300m	2.89
Church Road	Sky	1775m	0.70
Roman Camp			
Caravan site	BT	950m	5.96

### **West Runton**

Golf Close,			
A149	BT	331m	16.60
The Links	BT	281m	5.10
Water Lane	BT	56m	0.36

The time of all the tests varied from 1.21pm (Water Lane) through to 11.23pm Church Rd., Aylmerton

It's clear that service providers, other than BT, don't fair at all well. In theory the closer to the exchange, which is at Water Lane, West Runton, the faster the speed. The average download speed at the exchange is 3.6.

So what are the options and where do we go from here if much faster Broadband speeds are important to us? Arguably BT have faster download speeds in the village, but what is the reason behind the enormous disparity in the results?

To find out how Norfolk is progressing [www.betterbroadbandnorfolk.will](http://www.betterbroadbandnorfolk.will) bring you up to date but you will find that we are not on the list of towns and villages scheduled for improvements as from September 2014.

The worry is that as the average download speed at the West Runton exchange is already 3.6 then it is quite possible that no upgrade will be undertaken as the average speed is in excess of the declared minimum of 2Mbps.

We are seeking clarification from NCC BBfN and will let you know the outcome.

Of the possible alternatives, ThinkingWisp (on which we have reported previously), use wireless technology to transmit an Internet connection and customers require a small aerial to receive the signal. ThinkingWisp recently started using a communications mast at Bodham, but they point out that to receive an adequate signal in Aylmerton there needs to be line of sight with Bodham and the number of trees in and around the village could pose a potential problem, especially north of the A148. We have approached ThinkingWisp to enquire whether it is feasible for them to use the existing West Runton transmitter mast located at Valley Woods, Sandy Lane and operated by Arqiva, Winchester. Again we will report on any developments in our summer edition.

WiSpire (again on which we have reported previously) is a joint venture between Freeclix, Norfolk and the Diocese of Norwich. WiSpire transmits a wireless signal to a small antenna which then relays the signal to surrounding communities for a radius of up to 5km. Subscribers to the service need a small receiver which connects to a router giving them a secure wireless connection to their business, household or school.

The system is already operating in Aylsham, Erpingham, Salle, Ashmanhaugh and Happisburgh with sites waiting to go on live at Sharrington, Trunch, Worstead and Barton Turf.

WiSpire report that up to now just 13 people have expressed an interest in our local church being used to provide a Broadband Internet connection. However, WiSpire require at least 25 households in order to start an application process.

If you are just curious or would like more information then log on to their website [www.wispire.co.uk](http://www.wispire.co.uk) where you can see what sites are currently live by putting in your postcode. You can also register your interest as well as getting a free download speed check of your own computer.

If you don't own a computer we can only apologise for the length of this article. However, Broadband speed is becoming an increasingly important issue particularly for businesses

and, like it or not, a faster speed is becoming ever more essential to modern life and efficient and effective business. The Parish Council are equally anxious to find a way forward and would welcome your views.

### **NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE HALL**

A successful quiz evening was held in March. It was a quiz with a difference as it also tested the senses of smell, sight, sound, touch and taste.

The Easter Bank Holiday Monday “Hot Cross Bun” event was very well attended and there were no fewer than 72 entries for decorated Easter eggs with two categories for children and one for adults. Some of the designs showed great flair and imagination .



The event raised the princely sum of £475 for Hall funds and thanks go to the organisers and helpers and importantly everyone for their support.

### **NEWS FROM ST JOHN'S**

At the Annual General Meeting of the Parochial Church Council Margaret Mitchell and myself (Connie Burchett) were re-elected as Church Wardens for the coming year. We do have a vacancy for a new member to join the Council so if anyone would like to join us please contact Margaret or myself for further information. At the AGM, Clive Mitchell presented our yearly accounts and unfortunately our “out

goings” are larger than monies received, so we begin another year of fundraising events to try and re-balance the situation. In addition, the latest Quinquennial Report estimates we need to spend circa £24,000 in order to bring the Church up to a good state of repair.

On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June The Cliftonville Singers are performing a concert of songs and musical items in Church, tickets are £8 and include cheese and wine in the interval and on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July Mr & Mrs Herbing are holding a garden party with cheese and wine, raffle and a bring & buy stall; price to be announced. Both of these events are ticket only, for more information please ring Margaret 519229. Also, we have several coffee mornings planned during the summer months. To find out more about our events please visit the website [www.quintetbenefice.com](http://www.quintetbenefice.com) and click on “Diary Events” where all the Benefice events are on the calendar. At the moment this calendar is the only way we have to reach a large majority of people but we are having a meeting to try to bring the “Quintet” magazine back into circulation. Hopefully we will have good news in the near future.

I do however, finish this report on a good note. On the 9<sup>th</sup> March Rev. David Head was installed as our new Rector. He comes to us with a wealth of experience and we look forward to having a good working relationship with him. His telephone no. is 838773 if anyone has need to contact him.

**Connie Burchett**

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

#### **PARISH-WIDE LITTER PICK**

**Saturday 10 May -Village Hall**

**Assemble for bacon butties and coffee at 9.30 am**

#### **AYLMERTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Next Meetings**

**Tuesday 13 May and Tuesday 8 July**

**Village Hall 7.30 pm**

#### **FRIENDS OF ALDBOROUGH SURGERY**

**Sunday 18 May 2.30pm to 4.30pm**

**Tea Concert with“Vocality” ensemble**

**Refreshments, Cakes, Raffle etc.,**

**St Mary Barningham Winter Church, Barningham Park,  
Matlaske NR11 7HY**

#### **ST. JOHN'S FESTIVAL AYL MERTON**

**The Cliftonville Singers in Concert**

**7.30pm Saturday 21 June**

**Tickets £8 - includes cheese and wine**

#### **AYLMERTON VILLAGE HALL FETE**

**Saturday 2 August**

**4.00pm till 7.00pm**

#### **VILLAGE HALL HORTICULTURAL SHOW**

**Saturday 6 September 2pm till 4pm**

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