

KEEPING IN TOUCH

SEPTEMBER 2006

News from Alby, Aldborough, Calthorpe, Erpingham, Ingworth, Thwaite & Thurgarton

CHURCH SERVICES

Holy Communion unless marked M=Matins E=Evensong FS= Family service

SEPTEMBER	Trinity 12 3rd	Trinity 13 10th	Trinity 14 17th	Trinity 15 24th
ALBY	--	6.30 E	Group Service 10.00	--
ALDBOROUGH	8.00	10.45 Joint Service at Pr. Andrew's Chapel	☝☝	Harvest Festival 11.00 Family Service
CALTHORPE	--	9.30	☝☝	Harvest Festival 9.30
ERPINGHAM	9.30	8.00	☝☝	8.00
INGWORTH	11.15 M	9.30	☝☝	Harvest Festival 6.30 E
THWAITE	11.15	--	☝☝	9.30 M

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Wednesdays 9.15 at Ingworth
Thursdays 7.30pm at Calthorpe (7th HC)
7.30pm at Erpingham (21st HC [St Matthew]
28th Benediction)
Fridays 8th 9.15 at Aldborough
22nd 9.30 at Alby

First Thursday each month, 10.15 Prayer Group at Aldborough in Prince Andrew's Chapel

Parish Priest: Fr Brian Faulkner, The Rectory, School Road, Erpingham. 01263 768073
e-mail: brian-faulkner@lineone.net
Curate: Fr John Smith, 01263 734761 (evenings and weekends only)
e-mail: ajksmith@btinternet.com



FROM THE RECTOR

Sometimes it's good to get a different perspective.

For three days this month, concluding with a Group Service at Alby, we shall be welcoming to this benefice Martin Gray, Archdeacon of Lynn. He will inspect our six churches, individually meeting churchwardens and clergy, and will question us as to the effectiveness of each church's role and mission. This is an exercise where it is natural to want to be seen at our best, but where much might still be better.

Please feel free to encourage us to be the sort of church which this community both wants and needs.

Fr Brian

FROM THE REGISTERS

Wedding

At St Mary's Aldborough 29th July Alistair Kenny & Lindsay Pegg

Funerals

At St Mary's Aldborough 4th August John Eyles
At St Faith's Crematorium 8th August Lilian Creasey
At St Mary's Erpingham 11th August Bob Nichols

NB. 1) On **Sunday 10th September** Aldborough Church will join **Prince Andrew's Chapel** for the service at **10.45** at the chapel.

2) The **Friday Communion Service** in Aldborough Church this month will be on **8th September**, 9.15am.

GROUP SERVICE

Sunday 17th September, 10.00, at Alby Church

Preacher: The Venerable Martin Gray, Archdeacon of Lynn

There will be no other act of worship in our six parish churches on this day.

HARVEST SERVICES

Sundays 24th September	9.30	Calthorpe (with Erpingham)
	11.00	Aldborough (family service)
	6.30	Ingworth
1st October	11.15	Thwaite
	3.00	Thurgarton
8th October	3.30	Alby



Also at **Alby Horseshoes** on **8th October** at **7.30** when there will be an auction of produce, proceeds to 'The Big C' and Alby Church



DO YOU CYCLE?

DO YOU WALK?

Can you ask your friends and relations to sponsor you?

**The Norfolk Churches Trust Sponsored Cycle Ride
will be on Saturday 9th September.**

Enjoy a day or an hour or two in the open, visit beautiful buildings and raise money to help maintain churches and chapels – any denomination.

(Money raised is shared equally between the trust and the church or chapel of the participant's choice)

Church 'sitters' will also be needed and they can be sponsored too.

See posters. Local organisers have more information.

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Tuesday 26 September, 2.30 pm in the Church Room

Speaker: Revd Philip Butcher, Vicar of Matlaske

Topic - Women in the Bible [with special reference to Mary Magdalen]

Now that you've had a chance to see 'The Da Vinci Code' – or at least read of the controversy, do come and find out what the real Mary Magdalen was like!

(Well done to everyone who helped to make the July meeting such a success.
We made £170 for children's charities.)



JUST JAZZ !
Concert & supper in
THWAITE CHURCH
Sunday 16th September, 7.00pm
Tickets £10 from Rochelle, Stonecroft, The Green,
Aldborough, 01263 761398
in aid of this lovely round tower church

Alby-with-Thwaite Parish Plan Open Meeting
Erpingham Village Hall
Wednesday 20th September 7.30

All residents of Alby and Thwaite parishes are invited to an open meeting where Carolyn Heydon of Norfolk Rural Community Council will introduce the idea of a Parish Plan. There will be opportunities for questions and discussion, and to get involved if it is decided that the parishes should go ahead with a Parish Plan.

Although usually proposed by a Parish Council, Parish Plans are organised by a Steering Committee independent of the council. Their purpose is to give a local community the opportunity to:

- reflect the views of all sections of the community
- identify which features and local characteristics people value
- define issues and opportunities
- describe how the community wants to develop in the future
- prepare a plan of action to achieve this

A number of parishes and villages in Norfolk (although few in North Norfolk) have already drawn up Parish Plans and have found that they can influence decision-making at Parish, District and County Council level. From the councils' point of view, such a plan can be a source of information about truly local concerns and aspirations.

If you live in Alby or Thwaite, please come. Refreshments will be available.

[Editor's interjection – please see item on page 5 and come to Aldborough Community Centre to see what your neighbours have done with their hot-off-the press Parish Plan.]

On-line examples of Parish Plans can be found at:
www.swantonmorley.info
www.bunwell.org.uk - long download time
www.winterton-on-sea.net - click on NEWS, then on link to Parish Plan
www.martham.gov.uk - click on Parish Council, then Parish Plan to see their questionnaire
www.salhousevillage.org.uk - Parish Plan proposal

SCULPTURE GARDEN in ALBY CRAFTS GARDENS

About 30 sculptures by Norfolk artists

Bank holiday weekend 25 - 26 - 27 - 28 August
10.00 - 5.00

Entrance £2.50

THWAITE COMMON

Purple knapweed, yellow fleabane, pink willowherb and mauve mint are flooding the common with colour now. Along the paths a few heather-like bartsia have just enough light to flower, and if you look closely you can still see tiny toads scuttling to safety in the overgrowth. This year flowers are occupied by numerous furry and busy black and tan bees (does anyone know what they're called?) Fruit is growing in abundance on sloe copses, wild apple trees and bramble bushes. Sloe gin for Christmas ?

The wheel is slowly turning towards autumn, but what a wonderful summer we've had!

AM

ALDBOROUGH COMMUNITY BUS

the third in a series of tales

The BUS TO NORWICH on the 3rd Wednesday in the month

This is the longest regular journey, but only because the bus starts by calling at Matlaske, Plumstead, Hempstead and Baconsthorpe before returning to Aldborough at **9.45**.

We then go to Calthorpe and Erpingham and stop in Aylsham by request.

Reaching our top speed just before the Airport (where we do not currently stop, but I'm sure we could for holiday travellers), we go right to the heart of Norwich, dropping off at Tombland, Castle Meadow and St Stephen's at around 10.30.

We depart at **1.30** for the return journey (regretfully lunch is not served on the bus), returning to Aldborough around 2.30 (Erpingham and Calthorpe a bit before this) and then dropping the passengers in the other villages.

The bus gets you much more into the centre than a car, is more convenient than the train, provides 3 hours in the city and, for a lot of passengers, is free.

Come aboard! The **September** trip is on the **20th**.

ALDBOROUGH GARDEN CLUB

All are welcome to the next meeting, on **Thursday 21st September at 7.30** in the **Church Room**. Mr P. Gooch will be the speaker and his subject will be **clematis**.

There were 47 exhibitors at the **Flower and Vegetable Show** with a total of 205 entries. The standard was excellent and everyone who took part enjoyed the day.

Overall Show Winner. Donald Cup: Pam Leeder

Ron Henshaw Cup, **Flower Section:** Joint winners, Stephen Haynes and Ann Geere
Aldborough Apple Trophy, **Vegetable Section:** winner David Daniels

Snelling Rose Bowl, **Cookery Section:** winner Pam Leeder

Flower Arranging: winner Pauline Hill

Pauline also won the shield for **Best in Show**.

Junior section A Overall Winner: Rachel Mumford

B Overall Winner: Rebecca Batch

ALDBOROUGH & THURGARTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Meeting on **Wednesday 20th September at 2.30** in the Church Room.

Speaker: Pauline Hill – With great pleasure (Poetry & prose)

Competition – An interesting limerick



ALDBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Next meeting on **Monday 4th September** at **7.30** in the CommunityCentre.

Editor's selection of items from the August meeting: John Padgham has retired as Clerk and Clare Thomson has taken over. 01263 768694; E mail maryclarethomson@yahoo.co.uk

- **Highways** have done successful work round the Green.
- **Drainage** of the top green. Grant availability is being investigated.
- **Blood mobile** – all slots had been taken at the recent visit.
- **Footpaths** – work is in hand on the Malthouse Lane section of the Weavers Way .
- **Bus services 744 and 95** (school buses) will no longer allow public access.
- Cllor Peter Willcox (NNDC) reported on the draft document of the **Local Development Framework**. Aldborough is in the draft with a recommendation of 20 houses over two sites near Wright's garage, half to be affordable housing. The public consultation period is from **midday on 25th September** for 6 weeks. (*Editor's note: please see below for further details.*) Public are welcome to attend and speak at regular meetings of the LDF at the Cromer Offices on the 1st Monday of each month.

The site specific proposal document can be viewed on line or at the NNDC offices (from 18th September).

There will be an Open Meeting to discuss the Aldborough & Thurgarton Parish Council's submission on 25th September, 7.30, in the Community Centre.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK INFORMATION UPDATE

(received by the Editor after the Parish Council meeting).

Will new planning approaches in North Norfolk affect you? To find out, why not drop into one of the exhibitions or view further details and the consultation documents on-line at www.northnorfolk.org/ldf ? The documents are important because they will guide planning in North Norfolk for the next 15 years. They will be available to view or download from Monday 18 September. They will also be available in paper copy or as CD ROM, from NNDC offices, at your local N.Norfolk Library, at any of the exhibitions, or by post (£10 for post & packing, CD ROMs mailed free of charge).

The public consultation takes place for six weeks from midday on Monday 25th September until midday Monday 6 November.

Exhibitions will be shown Monday – Friday, 9.30-4.00, at Cromer Council Offices throughout this period. There are district-wide venues including Holt, Sheringham, North Walsham; see local press or ask the Parish Clerk. **An evening exhibition will be shown on**

Monday 2nd October, 5.00 – 7.30 in Aldborough Community Centre.

Further information or guidance on 01263 516321 or 01263 516318

PLEASE NOTE: Only comments received between midday 25 September and midday 6 November will be accepted for consideration. Only comments accompanied by your name and contact address can be accepted. The preparation of documents is a public process and your comments cannot be treated as confidential. By submitting a comment you are agreeing that your details (including name and address) will be held on the Planning Policy database and (along with your comments) will be made available for public viewing.

Aldborough & Thurgarton Village Appraisal & Parish Plan **Launch Evening**

The Parish Council wants to know what you think about important issues affecting life in our village. The 2005 appraisal questionnaire covered many topics residents feel are important and the results of that consultation are now available in the form of a full colour twenty page report. It includes a plan of action from the Parish Council in response to the concerns highlighted from the replies in the appraisal.

You can be among the first to receive a copy by being in the **Community Centre at 8pm on Friday September 8th**, when members of the working party and Parish Councillors will present the results of the appraisal and discuss the plan.

Refreshments will be available.

CHARITY PLANT SALE

Come and buy shrubs and herbaceous plants – some unusual – for autumn planting.

Doctor's Corner, Aldborough

Saturday 16th September from 2.00p.m –5.00p.m

(Or at the same time on the Sunday if the weather is foul)

All proceeds shared between the **East Anglian Air Ambulance** and **PUMPA** – a charity for children with rare and devastating genetic diseases.

ALDBOROUGH COMMUNITY CENTRE

- **Saturday 2nd September from 10am - Table top sale.** To book please ring Ann 761587 or Sue 761310. **£5 a table** - proceeds towards extension fund. Refreshments will be available.
- **Art classes** are due to start on **Wednesday 20th September, 10-12noon** at the Community Centre. Please ring Sue 761310 for more information.
- We are pleased to announce that the **Dance Party for 8 - 11 year olds** will be continuing - please look out for posters.
- **Race Night** - another evening of fun and food will be held on **Saturday 21st October**. Tickets will soon be on sale at Spar and the Post Office.

ALDBOROUGH CHURCH has booked a table at the Community Centre on **2nd September**. Items for sale – plants, jams, cakes, bric-a-brac, books, etc, will all be welcome, but please no used clothes, electrical goods or large items such as furniture. Proceeds will go towards the costs of maintaining the churchyard.



In response to popular request, Aldborough Church invites you to **HARVEST SUPPER** in the **Church Room** on **Michaelmas Day, Friday 29th September, 7.15 for 7.30.**

A meal, entertainment and good company! Tickets restricted to 72 people, £6 for adults, £3 for 16s and under. Hot main course, vegetarian option. Soft drinks provided. A glass of wine as an optional extra for minimal cost. The emphasis will be on fun rather than fundraising.

Tickets available mid-September from the Post Office, David Waine, 577666, or Ruth Bayes, 768063.

ALDBOROUGH CHURCH ROOM

The **Tuesday evening Yoga class** with Pia Shell will begin again on **12 September**. and the **Thursday morning Yoga class** with Geraldine Entwistle will run again from **20 September**. These two are independently run classes.

TRACY'S SCHOOL DINNERS!

From September, school lunches at Aldborough School will be better than ever - we think they'll be brilliant. That's because Tracy Hindry is bringing the food service in house. Instead of making do with what she is sent, she'll be directly responsible for all the menus, all the cooking and all the ingredients. This means we'll be able to **spend more on ingredients**. we'll focus on **local produce** and we'll use **organic foods** whenever possible.

We're going to involve the whole school in this exciting new venture, looking at healthy eating, arranging tastings and discussing menu planning.

Come and join in the school meals revolution!

NEWS FROM ALDBOROUGH SCHOOL ECO-COMMITTEE

Our eco-committee has now completed another successful year of eco-action, very busy promoting and getting actively involved in environmental issues within and around school. These are just some of the projects that we've been busying ourselves with this year.

One of the first things was the repair and resiting of some of the bird and bat boxes within the school grounds ready for the spring season. To help the birds build their strength and survive the winter season eco-members (or eco-warriors as we've termed ourselves!) have regularly topped up the nut and seed feeders throughout the winter and early spring. Unfortunately the two hedgehog houses that had previously been put in the grounds had been disturbed and damaged so these needed to be repaired and put in different places. Great fun was had collecting branches to form a shelter around the home and then stuffing armfuls of autumn leaves into them to completely hide the home.

The energy consumption within the school is of great concern, especially in the colder, darker months. Eco-warriors have done their bit to highlight the need to switch off lights, close windows and doors and keep heaters to the minimum needed for comfort. The regular observations made show that there is a definite improvement and greater awareness by everyone.

As spring approached we took part in the national Spring Watch programme and also recorded the birds visiting the bird table outside the school canteen. Other activities have involved creating 3 worm bins for

vegetable waste and the acquisition of a large recycling bin for the use of not only the school but the local community as well. As an attempt to lessen the traffic to school and make the journey safer we have also helped to organise Walk to School and Bike to School events.

As an offshoot of the eco-committee we now have an eco-club which has been busy monitoring the biodiversity of both plant and animal life around the school, something everyone has really enjoyed becoming involved in. As part of this monitoring we are planning to hold a **Bat and Moth Watch** on the evening of **Wednesday 13th September**. It should be a great event, look for details nearer the time. We've also been busy creating flower borders to enhance the look of the grounds as well as general ground maintenance. We hope to be even more adventurous in the months to come with some big plans ahead if we can get the funding. Watch this space for further info in the future, we may be asking for volunteers to help!

A new and interesting development this year has been the coming together of representatives from the school cluster group eco-committees at two separate meetings. This has been a great opportunity to share ideas and to see what other schools have been doing and plan to do in the future. Further meetings are planned for the coming school year.

All-in-all it has been a successful and enjoyable year. Our school already holds the bronze eco award and after this year's hard work we should be gaining our silver award in the near future. We'll keep you posted.

VISIT by our local MP

On **Friday 8th September** Norman Lamb will be visiting **Erpingham Village Hall** at **12.00** and will be on **Aldbrough Green, near the village sign**, at **12.30**. If you have local concerns you would like to bring to his attention, please come and meet him.

Erpingham Village Hall 200 Club: Recent results

	£10	£5
17-7-06	161 L.Clark	60 S.Dennis
24-7-06	27 Mrs A Goreham	193 L.Payne
31-7-06	44 R.Cooper	135 P.Cox
7-8-06	186 P.Clarke	31 S.Lee

The next **Village Hall meeting** to which everyone is welcome is on

Wednesday 6th September at 7.30pm

This is an opportunity for everyone to be involved.

Come along and make a difference!!

HARVEST SUPPER

Erpingham with Calthorpe Village Hall

Saturday 23rd September 2006

7:00 pm for 7:30

Tickets are £10 each and are available from:

Billie @ The Spread Eagle;

or: Tony @ The Ark; or: Daphne @ Greenacre

Numbers are limited to a maximum of 70 people, so buy your ticket early and enjoy a relaxing meal and evening with neighbours and friends.

Your ticket includes *all* of the following:

- Hot Main course meal made with local produce, where possible, including jacket potato
- Dessert made from locally grown orchard fruit
- Lucky ticket number draw – several prizes
- After dinner entertainment
- A drink from the bar, or soft drink.

Drinks can be purchased during the evening from the Village Hall bar, provided by Billie Carder from The Spread Eagle, at a special Harvest Supper price.

All proceeds will go to the Village Hall – a registered charity, registration no. 1009281.

HARVEST FESTIVAL at Calthorpe Church the following day at 9.30am.

ERPINGHAM BOWLS CLUB

On Sunday, 6th August, the club hosted the Bowls competition for the North Norfolk Spastic Bowls League Mixed Pairs Cup. Pat Wright, Secretary of the League, welcomed the competing pairs on behalf of Eric Witham, Chairman of the League who was unable to attend in person on account of injuries received in a recent car accident.

After a minute's silence held in memory of Bob Nichols, a well-known and popular member, and a former Chairman of Erpingham Bowls Club, who had died the previous day, the competition began.

The eventual winners were Jo Borrett and Ronnie Hall from Cawston Bowls Club, with Jim and Janice Woolston from Erpingham Bowls Club as runners up..

At the end of a perfect bowls day, the sum of **£268** was raised for **SCOPE**

ERPINGHAM with CALTHORPE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Meeting on Wednesday **27th September, 7.30** in the **Village Hall**

“Dashing away with the Smoothing Iron” – Mr & Mrs Geoff Worton



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING
The world's biggest coffee morning
(organised locally by our own W.I.)
FRIDAY 29th SEPTEMBER

10am to 12 noon

in Erpingham with Calthorpe Village Hall

Coffee mornings are being organised nationally to support this worth while cause – caring for long term and terminally ill people.

Please come and support us. There will be plants, cakes and produce for sale (contributions welcome) as well as coffee and biscuits.

ERPINGHAM with CALTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting in the Village Hall on **Wednesday 13th September, 7.30.**
All residents welcome to attend.

'COME A-TROSHING WITH US!'

at Ingworth

Sunday 10th September

1.00 onwards

Follow the signs from the A140

Admission £3 Children free

Proceeds for Ingworth and Erpingham Churches

There will be more displays and stalls than at last year's successful Trosh as others involved with vintage farm machinery asked if they could take part in any future event. This type of popular activity is becoming limited because the people with the knowledge and the necessary skills are dying out. We are grateful to those who take up the challenge to maintain and demonstrate these pieces of equipment, part of our rural heritage.

Once again the Trosh will be on Mr Peter Spink's field, 'troshun' wheat instead of barley. Food and refreshments will be available throughout the afternoon, as well as many supporting stalls.

If anyone has equipment to display and would like to take part, please contact Alan Witham, 01263 761156, or David Davison, 01263 761560.

INGWORTH PARISH COUNCIL will meet on **Monday 4th September** at 7.30 in the Reading Room.

AYLSHAM COUNTRYSIDERS (the junior branch of the **Young Farmers, for 10 to 16 year olds**) - will recommence their meetings at the **Aldbrough Community Centre** as from **14th September** after the summer break. They meet fortnightly on Thursday evenings with an annual registration fee of £10 and a meeting fee of just £1.50. The new programme is action packed with a competitions day in November and a swimming gala in January so if you fancy meeting and making friends come along and see us. **The first two meetings are FREE!** Phone the YFC Office on 01603 731307 for more information on Countrysiders.

Moira Harrison

Charity Auction

The **Friends of Daybreak** support the work of the day-care centre of the **BREAK** charity in Sheringham caring for adults with learning difficulties. On **Saturday 2nd September between 9am and 1pm at St Andrew's Methodist Church Hall, Cromer Road, Sheringham** they are holding a Charity Auction, with Auctioneer Martyn Fox of Keys, of more than 50 lots donated by local individuals and businesses. They include; a day at Dunston Hall Leisure Club, rides in a vintage Bentley and a Ferrari, a trip on the Broads, a Family ticket for the Poppy Line steam train, a signed & framed Brian Lewis print, Family tickets to visit Pensthorpe Wildlife Park and the Queen's Sandringham Estate, Tea at the House of Commons, Travel & Admission to the Duxford Airshow in October, etc etc. Please come along and support this very worthy cause and go home with a unique purchase!

AYLSHAM MUSIC presents JUST JAZZ on Saturday 2nd September in Aylsham Church at 7.30pm. Entrance £6 Children under 16 £2



and also

A CONCERT FOR CELLO AND PIANO
at St Michael's Church, Aylsham
on **Thursday 21 September at 1.00pm**
Ivan McCready - cello

Helen Leek - piano

Bach - Schumann - Fauré - Saint-Saens (The Swan)
Entrance: £6 Children under 16: £2 Refreshments from 12.15pm

~~~~~

**WEA Aylsham Branch**  
**ANCIENT PERU**

**Tutor: Angela Rhys-Williams**

**from Wednesday 20th September for 10 weeks**

**at 2.00 in the Friends' Meeting House, Pegg's Yard, Red Lion Street, Aylsham**

£45 or £40 each for two at the same address. Courses are free to those on certain benefits.  
(You are welcome to try the first session.)

Further information from Ann Dyball, 01263 732637

~~~~~

BA FESTIVAL OF SCIENCE

The British Association for the Advancement of Science will be holding its **Festival of Science in Norwich** from **2 to 9 September**. The aim of the Festival is to celebrate the excitement of new scientific developments and provide a forum for discussion about the latest scientific issues. There are 3 interlinked programmes, with a line-up of around **200 events** during the week. For more details about the programmes, log on to www.the-ba.net.

As part of the BA Festival of Science

'SHELTER FROM THE STORM'
THE GREAT DEBATE

in Norwich Cathedral (in the Nave)

Friday 8th September 2006, 7.30pm - 9.00pm

John Polkinghorne FRS, Professor (Retd.) Mathematics and Physics, Cambridge University
The Rt Revd Graham James, The Lord Bishop of Norwich, Keith Tovey, Reader in Environmental Science University of East Anglia, The Reverend Phil Blamire - Chairman

Each debater will spend 10 minutes presenting their point-of-view on issues related to global warming and climate change. Issues that may be covered include:

- God is in charge - everything happens according to His will - man has no power and therefore no responsibility.
- The universe is a deterministic system - everything is governed by the laws of physics.
- God is in charge, but has made us custodians of nature; therefore we have a responsibility to manage our resources.
- Mankind is in charge – with a duty to manage our resources for the benefit of future generations.
- Gaia hypothesis – the earth is in charge (more accurately it is self-regulating) and we need to live in symbiosis with Earth..

There will follow an opportunity for interaction between the debaters and members of the audience. A 'Question-Time' style, chaired by Revd Phil Blamire.

All welcome - FREE entry, with a retiring collection

The major exhibition '**Changing the Climate, Changing Ourselves**' will also be open that evening from 6.30 - 7.30, and on daytime display at the east end of the Cathedral from **19 August to 15 September**.

HANWORTH COMMON

Quiz night at the **Memorial Hall** on **Saturday 16th September** at **7.30**.

Supper & pay bar. Tickets £5 from Aldborough Post Office, Landen Cottage, The Common, or 29 The Common, or by phoning 01263768765.

Please support our neighbours in their determination to keep their common.

STOP PRESS – IMMINENT THREAT TO YOUR POST OFFICE

(information from the Norfolk Rural Community Council)

Currently the Rural Post Office network is sustained by a 'Social network payment' which will stop in March 2008. The decision about what happens next will be taken by the Dept of Trade & Industry this autumn. They are likely to take this decision purely on the basis of commercial considerations, leading to the closure of still more small post offices and the loss of all the other services - pensions, benefits, banking – on which many members of the community rely. These losses will affect the most vulnerable people, the elderly, the disabled, and those without access to transport. At a time when the government is promoting greater local access to services any move to reduce the Rural Post Office Network would be detrimental to this policy.

What to do. If you agree, take action **now** and make your views known.

1) Sign the petition available on the Norfolk Rural Community Council website, www.norfolkcc.org.uk

2) Write to your MP*. A draft letter is available on the website. Highlight these points:

- Loss in local access to PO services
- Likely knock on effect to a shop providing additional services
- General community benefit
- Closure always hits the most vulnerable the hardest.

* write to Norman Lamb, MP, 15 Market Place, North Walsham, NR28 9BP

email: normanlamb@hotmail.com

or make sure you see him when he visits our villages on Friday 8 September.

Reduced transport support in 2007 for students 16+. A reminder:

The consultation period for this proposal ends on 18 September. To find out more about it, possible concessions and how to express your views, contact 01603 223391, or go to www.norfolk.gov.uk Meetings are being held across Norfolk for people to ask questions and some schools and colleges are holding drop-in sessions for students – use the same contacts to find out where. It will be too late to make representations after this date.

FROM THE EDITOR'S POSTBAG

Marcelle Eyles would like to thank all those who have given her so much support and kindness in the sad circumstances of her husband's sudden death.

THANKS for donations recently received from readers in Aldborough and Alby Common, from Erpingham & Calthorpe WI, and from Village Care.

Thanks to all the advertisers!

THE NEXT ISSUE Copy for the October issue please by **Sunday 10th September**. Time will be very tight that week, so **please send copy as early as you can.** Be warned, there will probably be no time for reminders or date checks!

Editor: Ruth Bayes, Chesterfield House, The Green, Aldborough, Norwich NR11 7AA. 01263 768063.
bayesaldborough@supanet.com