

Church & Village News

Baconsthorpe • Barningham Winter • Edgefield • Hempstead
Matlaske • Plumstead • Saxthorpe with Corpusty

September 2020



Water Lilies on the River Bure
Photograph by Roger Last

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www.churchandvillagenews.org.uk

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Edgefield	Mark Cook	587735
Hempstead	Paul Sanders	713217
Matlaske & Barningham	Sara Buxton	577207
Plumstead	Nick Fulford	577433
Saxthorpe & Corpusty	Imogen Waterson	587610

Parish Council Websites or Email Addresses

Baconthorpe	http://baconthorpepc.wixsite.com/baconthorpepc
Edgefield	https://edgefieldparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk
Hempstead	hempsteadpc@gmail.com
Matlaske & Barningham	http://matlaskeparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk
Plumstead	https://plumsteadpc.wixsite.com/plumsteadpc
Saxthorpe & Corpusty	https://corpustyandsaxthorpeparishcouncil.wordpress.com

Local MP

Duncan Baker MP
Tudor House, Grammar School Lane
North Walsham, NR28 9JH
duncan@duncanbaker.org.uk
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01692 558458

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steffan.aquarone.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk
01603 327827

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Plumstead mary.lintott57@btinternet.com	Mary Lintott 577718
Saxthorpe & Corpusty saxthorpecastle@gmail.com	Sophia Hodgson 587510

District Councillors

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andrew.brown@north-norfolk.gov.uk
Baconthorpe, Hempstead, Matlaske & Barningham, Plumstead
Dr Pierre Bütikofer 838306
Pierre.Butikofer@north-norfolk.gov.uk

Church People

Rector Revd Canon David Longe	577252
Lay Minister Gill Peat	734226
Lay Minister Judy Rosser	587584
Authorised Worship Assistant Dr Alain Wolf	577292
Church Wardens	
Baconthorpe	Tessa McCosh 577611
	Harry Steel 07711 890360
Barningham Winter	Amelia Courtauld 577250
Edgefield	Emma Cletheroe 587049
	Angela Turner 587292
Hempstead	Airlie Inglis (acting) 577440
Matlaske	Thomas Courtauld 577250
Plumstead	Eleanor Faulkner 577868
Saxthorpe	Kevin Beales 585067
	Cathy Stern 587014

What's On

THE MAJORITY OF EVENTS ARE CANCELLED OR POSTPONED
UNTIL COVID-19 IS UNDER CONTROL
THIS INCLUDES REGULAR EVENTS AND THE MOBILE LIBRARY VAN

What's On

SEPTEMBER

Mon 7	TBC	Plumstead Parish Council Meeting	TBC
Sat 12	9.00am	Norfolk Churches Trust Annual Bike Ride	All Villages
Wed 16	TBC	Matlaske Parish Council Meeting	TBC
Thur 24	7.00pm	Baconsthorpe Village Hall AGM	Village Hall
Sun 27	11.00am	Baconsthorpe Treasure Hunt	Ash Tree Farm

Clash Diary 2020

Oct 23	Hempstead Quiz
Dec 6	Matlaske Christmas Party
Dec 7	Plumstead PC

If you are arranging an event please check with Corinne Youngs that there is not already an event being held that day
577263 / corinne@avyoungs.com

Post Offices

Baconsthorpe Village Hall

Tuesdays 1.00pm – 4.00pm
All services

Corpusty Stores

Monday-Saturday 9.00am – 12.00noon
All services including Euros

Holt Library

9 Church Street, Holt NR25 6BB
Mon Wed Sat 9.30am-1.00pm
Fri 9.30am-6.00pm

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Church & Village News. Apologies if contributed material is not published due to space constraints. All facts are believed to be correct at the time of going to press.

Useful Organisations

Silverline: 0800 4708090

www.thesilverline.org.uk

Confidential, free helpline for people aged over 55 open 24/7 offering info, friendship, advice; links to local groups and services; regular friendship calls. They also protect and support older people who are suffering abuse and neglect.

The Samaritans: 116123

Whatever you are going through the Samaritans will listen.

Social Services in Norfolk: 0344 8008020

Childline: 0800 1111 www.childline.org.uk

Helps anyone under 19 with any issue they're going through - big or small. Free, confidential and available any time, day or night.

Village Contacts for Co-ordinating Help & Support

Barningham Winter & Matlaske

Revd David Longe	01263 577252	rector@matlaske.org.uk
Marion Shepherd	01263 577521	jim.shepherd123@btinternet.com

Baconsthorpe

Harry Steel	01263 577686	harrysteel73@gmail.com
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Edgefield

Emma Cletheroe	01263 587049	ecletheroe@live.co.uk
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Angela Turner	01263 587292	ajtuner@btinternet.com

Hempstead

Yvette Gibson	01263 712460	yvettegibson@pondhills.co.uk
Su Summers	01263 710702	su@linaria.co.uk

Plumstead

Carolyn & Steve Price	01263 577401	clerkplumsteadparishcouncil@hotmail.com
Mary & John Lintott	01263 577718	mary.lintott57@btinternet.com

Saxthorpe with Corpusty

Andrea Bell, Cathy Stern and Imogen Waterson	01263 587998	covidcommunityteam001@hotmail.com
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Foodbank Voucher Distributors

If anyone is in need of food please contact the following who can authorise vouchers for the local Foodbank (we can arrange for individuals to deliver food if necessary):

Revd David Longe	01263 577263	rector@matlaske.org.uk
Michael McMahon	07748 754550	mjmcm25@gmail.com
Cathy Stern	01263 587014	cathy.duffy5@yahoo.com
Corinne Youngs	01263 577263	administraor@matlaske.org.uk

Local Initiatives for Support

Fakenham Food Service is offering free home deliveries in a 15 mile radius. Their details can be found on their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/fakenhamfoodserviceltd/

The **Love Holt** initiative has a page on their website of useful information: www.loveholt.com

Norfolk Online community noticeboard: www.norfolkonline.co.uk/

Norfolk County Council:

www.norfolk.gov.uk/care-support-and-health/health-and-wellbeing/adults-health/coronavirus

Letter from the Rector - Revd Canon David Longe

577252 / 07881 950294 / rector@matlaske.org.uk

Dear All

I am often asked: "what is the point of church? Surely it is so out of touch... it's irrelevant". Sometimes I am told the church is a cult or a sect (it is neither if one accepts the mainstream definitions of these words).

Such comments are part of the territory of being a parish priest, and while I disagree with them, I understand their origin. The church can be perceived as wrapped in caring for its ancient buildings, in a muddle over sex, and fighting over the Bible and the myriad of books that it contains - poetry, history, letters and mystical writing (I do recommend reading the Song of Solomon).

The problem is that these issues detract from what the church is really about: showing through action and prayer the love that was shown to us by this extraordinary figure Jesus Christ. It is the love of Christ for all that is the focus; everything else needs to be measured by this. The question is not whether it's relevant; the question is: "does the church show the love of Christ in all it does?". This is the marker by which it should be measured.

Early on in Lock-down, the church in the Benefice made two decisions:

First, we would ensure - to the very best of our ability - that with the Parish Councils we would care for all those in our community as best we can. The aim was that no one would be left wanting - all could access shopping, prescriptions, or a friendly voice if they were lonely. I pray that all who needed help received it. From what I understand we succeeded in this because of the incredible and selfless work of volunteers.

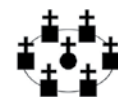
Second, we felt that we had to in some way provide some worship. With the help of some amazing individuals in the community a virtual service was born, with a virtual choir. This led to over a 100 people from the Benefice participating in the service, whether singing, reading, preaching or leading the prayers. The challenge was, and to a greater extent we succeeded, that we would not have the same person read twice.

Lock-down has eased, and we are all nervous about what the next step may be. Whatever the next step is, it is clear to me that we are a community (or 7 communities) that know how to care for each other. We knew it instinctively before lock-down and put it into action these last months. This should give us confidence that we will survive.

And as for the church: whatever the comments (and whatever our mistakes, for which I apologise for I know we all fall short of the mark) we will continue to serve, and through this service radiate the love of God through Jesus Christ. For that is our *raison-d'être*.

I continue to keep the Benefice, and all who pass through, and work in this corner of God's creation in my prayers, day-by-day.

David



The Benefice of Matlaske Church Services for September

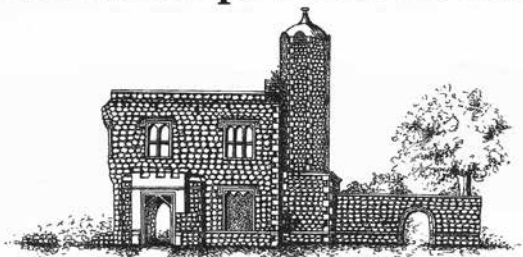
Virtual Services: We are moving to having virtual services monthly. We are hoping that each community will be able to take 'ownership' of each service, with the readers, and those leading the prayers, and pictures all being from one particular parish. September's Virtual Service will be published on 26th September and will be led by Baconsthorpe. For further details please contact the Rector, Revd David Longe.

Services in Church: All services follow strict COVID-19 guidelines, as published by the Church of England. At the time of publication, it is still not possible to open the smaller churches of Barningham Winter, Hempstead, Matlaske and Plumstead for public worships. All churches with in the Benefice are open for private prayer.

Norfolk Churches Bike Ride: The Rector, David Longe, is planning to start the Bike Ride at St Peter's Sheringham, before running to the sea and swimming to Beeston Regis, and from there bicycling around the parishes in the Benefice. If you would like to join him or sponsor him on this venture (which is somewhat weather dependent), please let him know.

2 nd	Mid-Week Service	
9.00	Eucharist	Saxthorpe
6 th	Trinity XIII	
10.30	Eucharist	Baconsthorpe
13 th		
10.30	Eucharist	Edgefield
20 th		
10.30	Eucharist	Saxthorpe
27 th		
10.30	Eucharist	Baconsthorpe
30 th	Mid-Week Service	
9.00	Eucharist	Saxthorpe

Baconsthorpe Treasure Hunt



Drawing by Yvonne Law

Sunday 27th September 2020
11am – 4pm

By foot, by bike or by car £5.00 per group

Starting and finishing at Ash Tree Farm
where Refreshments will be available
All proceeds to St Mary's Church, Baconsthorpe
Treasure Prize for Winning Team



For more information contact Corinne on 01263 577263

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Baconsthorpe

Our harvest is all safely gathered in and already next year's crops are being sown. The blackberries are ready to gather and the evenings are beginning to draw in, autumn gently approaches.

Congratulations to Richard and Celia Bone whose grandson and first grandchild, Robin Miles Milligan, arrived on 30th July. He is the son of Rachael and Iain who are very happy parents, albeit sleep deprived! We send love to all the family and wish Robin a long and peaceful life.

Greetings also go to Pete Marra who has just reached a milestone birthday. This seems an appropriate occasion to thank Pete for the numerous repairs and jobs he has done and is always doing around the village – usually unasked, he just gets on and does them. Thank you Pete and many happy returns.

The Parish Council have erected new swings in the playground, which will doubtless provide hours of fun for the children of the village.

Sunday services continue to be held, outside the church with hymns, weather permitting, or inside the church, no hymns and wearing masks, when raining. The virtual You Tube service now happens once a month. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3SRmYGfa8vpzhIIQqPR3A>

Treasure Hunt

An event to announce! On Sunday 27th September there will be a Treasure Hunt around Baconsthorpe. It will be held from 11am to 4pm starting at Ash Tree Farm where you will receive your map and clues. The entrance fee is £5 per group of treasure hunters and you can walk, bike or if necessary drive the route to solve the clues and try to win the treasure! Refreshments will be available at Ash Tree Farm and all proceeds will go to the church.

Village Hall News

The Baconsthorpe Village Hall Committee will hold its Annual General Meeting on 24th September at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. Local residents are welcome to attend. Social distancing and other COVID measures will be in place.

We have reviewed whether the Pop-Up Pub could be reopened and concluded that it is not practical to do so within the current Government guidelines. It would put so many constraints on how it would have to be managed that it would undermine the whole purpose, which is to hold a social evening for the village where people get to mix with their neighbours. So regrettably we won't be reopening the Pub. However, we are considering if we can hold any other events that would meet the guidelines and give some opportunity for limited interaction.

Deer spotted by Yvonne Delaney in her garden



Corinne Youngs
577263



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Barningham Winter

We send our very best wishes and good luck to Phoebe O'Sullivan who has gone to Hunter Valley Equine to gain experience of equine reproductive medicine in the Southern Hemisphere stud season. She was sent immediately into strict quarantine as all the passengers arriving into Australia were taken direct to a Sydney hotel with armed police escort.

St Mary's Barningham Winter will, of course, be open for the Norfolk Churches Trust bike ride.



Sara Buxton
577207

Edgefield

July 200 Club Winners

1st Stuart Ross, 2nd Jeremy Goldney, 3rd Tricia Cox

Church News

We are lucky that, with a larger church, we are now having a service here every three weeks. With social distancing, we have to spread out so much, and the smaller churches cannot manage to fit in enough people.

We would love to have more people taking part in the Norfolk Churches Trust Cycle Ride. With good sponsors, it raises much needed funds for one's church, and an interesting day of visiting other churches in the area and being well exercised! Iain and Alison Mawson do a tremendous job each year, and would love others to be involved too.

I suspect we will not be able to have our normal Harvest Supper this year, which is very sad. Let's hope everyone is keeping well in these strange times.

Angela Turner

Village Hall News

As I constantly tell people that all the money we raise goes towards maintaining and improving the hall, here is a list of what we have done over the last eight years:

The main hall ceiling completely re-insulated and redecorated, store room re-floored, ceiling re-insulated, a new double glazed window and additional shelving. Surround sound, PA system, projector camera, screen and blackout blinds in the hall. In the kitchen, new commercial microwave and dishwasher, refrigerated drinks cupboard and deep freeze, Rangemaster oven, kitchen hatch, radiator, storage waste bin cupboard, new boiler and extra worktops installed. Toilets reconfigured and redecorated, new flooring in passageways, toilets and kitchen. Ten new metal drinks tables and a custom-made tombola box. During Covid closure we have redecorated the hall, kitchen and passageways, as well as having external re-pointing work and internal plastering completed. In total these works have cost over £60,000.

Jim Frost

Edgefield Tuesday Club

As you will know, there have been no events in the hall, including ours. At present all the speakers are on hold but happy to come back when possible. For now we will wait until after Christmas and see how things progress in general. Look after yourselves Keep in touch on 587661 or 587379.

Dawn Hulbert

Village website: www.hempstead-norfolk.co.uk

200 Club

£50 M Thody, £25 J Matthews, £10 J Tomlinson, £5 P Doy, Mary Scarff, E Buxton



Su Summers
710702

Lock Down Down Under

Bridget and I set off on a six-week visit to New Zealand financed by our four children. After a brief recovery from jet-lag and a tour of the South Island we heard of the impending lock-down, while still travelling. Luckily, with two or three days to spare, Jen, our daughter, got accommodation for us via Facebook with a hockey friend of hers who had an empty AirBnB.

The first active case in NZ was on February 28th. By March 19th the borders were closed to all bar NZ residents (with 14-day self-isolation). Then, two days later, a four-tier lock-down was imposed.

What was allowed: Exercise for one hour no more than five km from home base; essential shopping for food, medicine, etc; one person per household 'bubble' as the designated shopper. Exhortations to wash hands etc. on TV (not quite as bad as US TV). Grateful for Netflix!

Ubiquitous hand sanitiser at shops with screens erected for the protection of staff and customers, with most people being respectful of two-metre distancing. Police had occasionally to persuade people to obey the lock-down and the cells were sometimes used. A government minister was subjected to the ire of Jacinda Ardern (PM) and was demoted (he would have been sacked had his role in government not been crucial in the emergency).

Teddy bears and other soft toys started appearing at windows to brighten up the lives of the many children (and adults). We like to think we were the trend setters in this as our granddaughter's 'Power Ted' had been given the task of protecting Bridget on our travels and he was at the window on the second day of lock-down.

We had a pleasant, leafy park virtually on our doorstep, with nice views of the hills to the south of Christchurch. There was also a small park nearby and a riverside walk. We count ourselves very lucky both in our accommodation and as the care home close to us had several Covid related deaths.

NZ is a lovely cosmopolitan country and the Kiwis are an open and friendly lot with few exceptions. It is a country well worth visiting, when it becomes possible!

They were generous in opening their homes to young travellers in the lurch (no job, no accommodation). Many Kiwis themselves however were hit very hard financially! 20% of their GDP comes from Tourism and there were about 100,000 tourists in the country when lock-down began. We got back home four months later than planned!

Robert Watters

Congratulations

1) After five years fitting her studies around an active family life, Sharon Hannah has been awarded a BA Hons (2:1) in History from the Open University/Oxford University. She has now set her sights higher to study for a Masters Degree in Classical Studies.

2) Many congratulations to James Buxton who completed a triple marathon in just over 13 hours on 25th July. Thank you to all the sponsors who helped him to raise over £4,000 for Prostate Cancer UK in memory of his grandfather Ted Hotblack.

Churches Cycle Ride

Yvette Gibson (712460) would be delighted to provide sponsorship forms to any would-be cyclists who would like to take part in this worthwhile annual event in support of the Norfolk Churches Trust and Hempstead All Saints' Church. An unusual event in the weird year in that it still taking place.

Hempstead Village Correspondent

I've reached the stage when I must relinquish my role as Village Correspondent. Anyone with an interest in village news would be well equipped to step forward (710702).



Swallow over Hempstead by Liz Buxton

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Matlaske

100 Club

£25 Veronica Cheney, £10 Karen Neill, £5 James Boyd

Matlaske Fête

The bunting was up and the sun made an appearance, but it was such a shame that we could not hold our fête as we know it. However, there was a nice socially distanced gathering for picnic in the park, followed by Holt Ridge Morris Men.

We were also entertained with some magnificent Hurdy-Gurdy playing and a marionette puppet.

It was lovely to see the decorated doors and gates in our village. Donny March looked at all these and judged that the winner was Sally Chandler followed by Pete and Felicity Rushmer (helped by grandson Fin) and Duncan and Mandy Wood in joint second place. The weirdest vegetable was won by Cherry Westgate with her funny courgette and best decorated cake by Matilda Courtauld. The online auction and quiz dates will be announced soon.

Get Well

We wish David Wooff all the best after his operation at the N&N and hope his recovery is speedy. Thinking of Pauline and Ingrid also, as in these trying times visiting is very restricted.

News For Matlaske

Your village correspondent would love to hear from you if you have any contributions for future newsletters.

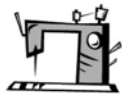


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Plumstead

August is often a quiet month for news since many of us are away on holiday. Covid is encouraging many of us to remain in the UK and the beaches on the coast are full (when the sun is shining and its not thundering!). However, Plumstead can boast its first public event since the beginning of the lock-down.



Mary Lintott
577718

The Parish Council has now gone into event organising with a VJ Celebration at the Flagpole Garden on 15th August. Twenty-seven people were not put off by the East Coast drizzle and enjoyed a pleasant sociable event. Particular thanks to Michael McMahon for supplying the appropriate music. This consisted of music on his phone being played wirelessly through a speaker and his 78 rpm record player!

NF

Thank you too to all those who helped organise the event especially Nick Fulford who was the brainchild behind it.



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Wildflower Meadow

The wildflower meadow has been cut in preparation for the sheep appearing at some point in the autumn to keep the grass grazed. It survived the intense sun and lack of rain this summer so it will be interesting to see which flowers benefited and go on to proliferate next year.

Saturday 12th September Sponsored Cycle Ride - Norfolk Churches Trust

The Norfolk Churches Trust has been responsible for the repair and maintenance of a large number of Norfolk Churches for many years and in 2016 we received a grant of £7,000 towards the last tranche of work that was done on the church at that time. It is important to keep supporting their work since without it many of our church buildings would be in a very sorry state of repair. So if you are able to cycle, sponsor or even sit in the church on that day we would be very grateful. Please get in touch with Eleanor on 577868. You can also give directly to her on her Just Giving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/eleanor-faulkner3>

Pumpkins Dahlias Etc

Our Autumn Event on 31st October is still on the calendar so do keep feeding your pumpkins and ensuring that your dahlias are in fine form. We do hope to go ahead with this event and in our next issue we will be giving you more information about it. We shall be adhering to all the regulations that are stipulated for public events. However, it is, of course, very dependent on the situation with virus over the coming weeks.

PCC Meeting

Finally it was agreed at the last PCC meeting that we would no longer support the use of plastic trays and floral foam for our flower decorations in the Church. Amazingly, oasis can take up to 500 years to degrade and can easily enter the water courses and ultimately the sea. (I am sure many of us have seen the disturbing sequences on some of David Attenborough's programmes.) We have been using it for many years with abandon without a thought to the consequences so it is time to make a change. This is all in line with the proposed policy of the Diocesan Environmental Policy.



Saxthorpe with Corpusty

St Andrew's Church News

After a year of incredible service, Judith Banks has stepped down as Church Warden, and we are delighted to announce that Kevin Beales has agreed to become a Church Warden of St Andrew's Church. Brian Monks has stepped down as Fabric Officer, after many years of service - his work around the church will be a joy to the community for many years to come; and we are delighted to announce that Charles Tyndale has agreed to become the new Fabric Officer. We are so grateful to Judith, Kevin, Brian and Charles for all they give to the church and community.

We are sad to relay that Edna Rosemary Sanders (née Wright) died on 26th June 2020 aged 94. She spent time in West Africa, and her final years in Aylsham. Edna was born in Corpusty on the Heydon Road and raised in Adams Row. There will be an internment of ashes at Saxthorpe at a later date.

We are also sad to relay the passing of Mary Coates (16th May 1936 to 5th August 2020). Mary (née Casekey) was married to Eric (who died in 1998) lived the majority of her married life on the Heydon Road in Corpusty and her final years in Aylsham. Mary's funeral was held at Saxthorpe on 12th August. The family wish to thank the community for all their love and support for Mary over the years.

Churches Trust Bike Ride

The annual Norfolk Churches Trust sponsored cycle ride and walk is on Saturday 12th September. We are looking for volunteers to greet visitors at St Andrew's Saxthorpe and St Peter's Corpusty. If you can cycle or walk as well to raise some money that would be great. If you can spare an hour to sign people we would be very grateful and email charlestyndall@btinternet.com to be involved.

Participants can pick up sponsorship forms from 1st Sept at St Andrews or download from the Norfolk Churches Trust website. Signing in at churches will be touch free. Bring your own refreshments, water only available at churches.

Highways News

Issues identified by villagers in the traffic survey responses are with the Highways Authority. The Parish Council is pressing the HA to provide a positive response to these issues. Progress will be reported.

Pelipods

The Parish Council has been pressing BT Openreach to re-site the unsightly pelipods that dominate the car park of the telephone exchange.

BT Openreach has confirmed that in response to the concerns expressed, the pelipods are to be removed.

Bonfires

There have been recent instances of bonfires being lit when the wind direction has swept smoke across the villages. Please only light bonfires when the wind conditions are appropriate.



Sophia Hodgson
587510

Doing a Harvest - Part One

The fifth in a series of recollections by Arthur Pentney



One of the biggest changes seen in my lifetime has been in agriculture. My friend David Y summed it up, recalling that in 1955 when he was in the harvest field leading a horse-drawn wagon, hollering "Holdgee!" ('Hold', for the men on the wagon to hold tight, and 'Gee', for the horses to gee up), whereas today, the whole operation is carried out by one combine with the operator doing virtually nothing as the machine is being guided by satellite navigation – quite a change!

As the harvest in those earlier years was very labour intensive, it was inevitable that children did their bit to help out. The long August break from school was referred to as the 'harvest holiday', and examination of early school registers showed that if the harvest was delayed to (say) September,

then school attendance was rapidly reduced accordingly.

Before the advent of combines, the field was cut by a binder which then tied up the corn into 'shoofs' (sheaves) and threw them into the field. The binder, originally designed for three horses to pull, was later converted to be drawn by a tractor running on TVO - tractor vaporising oil. The binder could not start its work until the headland (field edges) had been cut by scythe to save the tractor trampling down the corn. To see an experienced operator, usually an older man, using a scythe was a revelation. Properly set up and adjusted, the scythe seemed to make the work look almost effortless.

Next, the binder could move in. As a boy, it was my job to sit on the binder seat making sure that the height of the cutting blade was correct, and that the shoofs were tied up properly. This quite boring job was made lighter by a pocket full of boiled sweets and chewing gum, and the three breaks, dinner, elevenses and fourses, when a drink of cold tea was traditional in these parts. On occasion there was the chance to chase a rabbit when one decided to bolt for cover out of the corn. Chasing one close to the hedge, two of us boys were stung in the backs of our legs by shot from a twelve-bore. Fortunately, because the range was too great or the barrels were well worn, the shot did not penetrate our skin. No 'health and safety' in those days!

'Shocking up' (stooking) took place as the corn was cut. The shoofs were picked up two at a time and stood in rows to dry off for a few days prior to carting. Shocking could be quite an unpleasant job if the crop was barley. The harn, those sharp hair-like pieces of growth worked their way through your clothing causing nasty irritation, making your arms red and sore.

We hope to move on to carting, stacking, and 'troshing' next time.



The Village Gardener

To Plant a Garden is to Believe in Tomorrow



September is a month to relish: August can sometimes feel like summer has stretched itself too thin. But September is or rather can be just glorious... fingers crossed!

There have been noticeable successes and failures in the veg patch this year. Our outdoor tomatoes have sulked and struggled and been complete prima donnas, whilst the cucumbers have discreetly and somewhat secretly supplied us with a fantastic supply. After the success of the pumpkin patch last year, we have moved the sites for the climbing courgettes to the same spot, with

much (hurrah!) increased productivity and lots of scrabbling for yet more recipes with courgettes in them. We used the climbing courgette called Black Forest, which I would highly recommend; they produce lovely courgettes with an almost nutty quality to them. They have also coped well with being in very large pots in the walled garden, the key is just to water lots. This year we put our basil in a different style cold frame with more light coming in at the sides and the difference has been astounding, we have had repeated cuttings from the last two months. The plants have all been strong and vital whilst last year they too sulked and looked miserable.

Now onto the tasks for September. Now is the time to lift onions and leave them to dry out before you store them. If you want to have a supply of winter lettuces this is a good month to set them off in, just tuck them on the end of a row under a cloche, in a few months' time you will be grateful you took the time to do this. In the fruit garden, if you're fortunate enough to have a peach tree you will need to remove all the shoots that produced fruit, this will set you up nicely for next year's crop. The strawberry patch will also need some TLC. If you've gone to the trouble of potting up runners, they will be ready to plant out in a new bed, remove any unwanted runners and hoe and weed well between the plants. We grew two varieties this year: Cambridge Favourite that just romped away aside, whilst the variety Christine dragged its heels. As we have found a variety that works well in our soil....we will be moving Christine to pastures new.

In the border, take time to cut down perennials, but leave as much foliage as possible. Both rambling roses and climbing roses will need their shoots that have flowered removing, it's also worth double checking your bush roses haven't grown any suckers too. Finally, do put supports in for your dahlias, for those all too frequent blustery days!

This month's question is from T Williamson, who asks "My lawn is looking rather sorry for itself, is September a good time to re-seed?" Our answer is yes, it should be the best time of the year as you have the whole of the summer's heat in the ground so germination should be quick, but keep an eye on waterfall and if we have a dry September you might need to get the hose out.

Do keep the questions coming in! Email us at redmaple@btinternet as ever the most interesting question will be published next month.

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