

Church & Village News

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

May 2021



The Calm After The Storm – Plumstead

Photograph by Michael McMahon

Funky Bunny Hunt

Following the success of the Christingle packs which David Longe gave to every primary school aged child in the benefice at Christmas, plus those at Corpusty Primary School, for Easter every child was given an Easter bag.



These were full of an assortment of things including an activity book created by David. The back page gave details of the Funky Bunny Hunt. Each churchyard had a different number of Funky Bunnies hidden. The children were asked to hunt for them and there was a competition to see if anyone could visit all seven churchyards and tell us the total number of bunnies hidden.

The answer was forty-four and Toby Mayes-Snelling of Corpusty sent in the correct number – very well done, Toby, and your prize is on its way.

If you had a child who did not receive a pack, we did try very hard to include everyone, please phone me on 577263 and we will make sure your child is included in the next event.

Corinne Youngs



Easter at Hempstead Church - photography by Airlie Inglis

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Parish Council Chairs

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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

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

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Lay Minister Gill Peat	734226
Lay Minister Judy Rosser *	587584
Authorised Worship Assistant Dr Alain Wolf	577292
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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
	Duncan Wood (acting) 570293
Plumstead	Eleanor Faulkner 577868
Saxthorpe with Corpusty	Kevin Beales (acting) 585067
	Cathy Stern 587014

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Saxthorpe with Corpusty

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

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 mjmc25@gmail.com
Cathy Stern 01263 587014 cathy.duffy5@yahoo.com
Corinne Youngs 01263 577263 administraor@matlaske.org.uk



Increase donations for Matlaske Benefice with easyfundraising. By signing-up on-line you will help to raise money for the benefice whenever you shop on-line. While it's not possible to hold fetes etc, the benefice's income is suffering. This is an easy way of supporting the benefice at no extra cost to yourself – all you have to do is sign-up, select Matlaske Benefice as your chosen charity and shop on-line!

www.easyfundraising.org.uk

GOVERNMENT IMPOSED RESTRICTIONS HAVE CAUSED THE
MAJORITY OF EVENTS TO BE POSTPONED FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE
THIS INCLUDES REGULAR EVENTS

What's On

MAY

Mon 10 6.00pm **Plumstead Annual Church Meeting** St Michael's Church

Clash Diary 2021

June 19 + 20 Edgefield Open Gardens
June 26 + 27 Hempstead Open Gardens
July 24 Edgefest 5
July 31 Matlaske Fête
August 1 Hempstead Fête & Dog Show
Sept 6 Plumstead PC
Dec 6 Plumstead PC

Post Offices

Baconsthorpe Village Hall

Please note that this has now closed

Corpusty Stores 587202
Monday-Saturday 9.00am – 12.00noon
All services including Euros

Itteringham Shop 587325
Monday + Thursday 9.00am-1.00pm

The Church & Village News is grateful
for the support of the National Lottery
Community Fund



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.

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

Holt Library

9 Church Street, Holt NR25 6BB 712202
Mon Wed Sat 9.30am-1.00pm
Fri 9.30am-6.00pm

Mobile Library Van

13 May / 10 June / 8 July / 5 August

Matlaske	11.40	NR11 7AQ	Old Post Office
Plumstead	12.25	NR11 7LG	Walnut Farm
Edgefield	1.55	NR24 2AL	The Memorial
	2.15	NR24 2AX	The Street
Corpusty	2.45	NR11 6QP	School
	3.40	NR11 7BU	Great Farm Cott's
Saxthorpe	4.10	NR11 7BL	Old Post Office
Corpusty	4.30	NR11 6QJ	Adams Lane
	4.50	NR11 6QL	16 Council Houses

6 May / 3 June / 1 July / 29 July

Hempstead	3.40	NR25 6TL	Telephone kiosk
Baconsthorpe	4.05	NR25 6LE	Hare & Hounds
	4.20	NR25 6LG	Old Post Office
	4.40	NR25 6LJ	Council Bungalows

You will be required to wear a face covering

One customer (or one household of up to 3 people)
at a time

Your contact details will be needed for test and trace

Hand sanitiser will be available and surfaces that are
commonly touched will be regularly wiped down

Returned items will be quarantined for up to 72 hours

Times and dates sourced from Norfolk County
website: <https://bit.ly/2AJdSGA>

Letter from the Rector - Reverend Canon David Longe

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



Dear All

To write this letter finally I watched an episode of the third series of *The Crown* which depicts (with much embellishment) part of the journey of faith of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh.

I watched this episode because it is said to depict part of the Prince's journey of faith; and last month many of us would have witnessed the last act of this journey as the Prince was buried at St George's Chapel, Windsor.

Both the previous Bishop of Norwich and the Archbishop of Canterbury have spoken of the Prince's faith: it is said he would interrogate a preacher on their sermon; and that he spent 18 years preparing his funeral, from selecting a beautiful passage of scripture (Ecclesiasticus 43.11-26), to the bagpiper and even down to the bolts that held his coffin onto the Land Rover which was adapted to become a hearse.

So why watch *The Crown*? In this episode Prince Philip has become increasingly irritable. The church bores him with the preacher droning on so long that he declares he has had enough of Sunday church. By contrast he is absorbed by Armstrong walking on the Moon in 1969. For him the church is ineffective and dull whereas the astronaut is the epitome of courage and achievement.

He is then thrilled at the prospect of meeting Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins whom he hopes can answer some of the big questions about the universe. He is disappointed: the astronauts appear only interested in whether he has a bagpiper for an alarm clock rather than the larger questions about life.

This is unfair on the astronauts - Collins is said to have broken bread and spoken words from scripture on the Moon - the scene, however, emphasises that the Prince is having a crisis, and the episode concludes with him humbly admitting things are difficult and asking for help from the Dean of Windsor.

Had the Prince through this crisis returned to church? May be. What we do know is that he and the Dean of Windsor founded St George's House "as a place where people from right across society

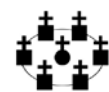
who are in a position to make a difference might gather together to grapple with issues pertinent to our contemporary world" (not in 1969, as *The Crown* suggests, but in 1966).

The Crown is largely fictional; but the point is made that the church is a forum where some of the large questions can be placed.

In preparing his funeral and in choosing that particular reading Prince Philip, I hope, has made us think. To think about our mortality: we are but in a transitory world. And in doing this helped us look to the eternal. It is easy to focus on the here and now; it takes courage to look beyond and contemplate the bigger questions in life.

For as Ecclesiasticus 43.11 states: *Look at the rainbow, and praise him who made it; it is exceedingly beautiful in its brightness.*

David



The Benefice of Matlaske Church Services for May

2 nd	Easter V	
10.30am	Eucharist	Matlaske
5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Baconsthorpe
9 th	Easter VI	
10.30am	Eucharist	Saxthorpe
5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Barningham Winter
16 th	Rogation	
10.30am	Eucharist	Baconsthorpe
5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Edgefield
23 rd	Pentecost	
10.30am	Eucharist	Barningham Winter
5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Hempstead
30 th	Trinity Sunday	
10.30am	Eucharist	Edgefield
5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Plumstead
6 th June	Trinity I	Easter Sunday
10.30am	Eucharist	Hempstead
5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Matlaske
Wednesday 12 th 10.00am Eucharist Saxthorpe		
Thursday 13 th Ascension Day 9.00am Eucharist Matlaske		

Baconsthorpe

Frosts in April and a lot of them. What a nightmare for all gardeners protecting their precious plants, added to by several weeks of no rain. At this point I have to say, before all the farmers scream at me in anger, an even bigger nightmare for them. However, lockdown is slowly easing and the wonderful health service is injecting us all with the most amazing speed and efficiency, for which thank you. For us lucky ones living in this beautiful place the spring flowers are an absolute joy.



Corinne Youngs
577263

John Youngs

We were so sad to hear of the death of John Youngs after a long illness. Our thoughts and prayers go to Pam and all his family.

Post Office

Kelling Post Office is changing hands and there will no longer be the twice weekly visit (Tuesday and Friday) to Baconsthorpe village hall.

Library Van

Now some positive news. The Library van will again be visiting the village – on 6th May at 4.20pm at the old Post Office.

Plants

Tessa is still putting plants out on the church stall – generally on Saturdays.

Village Hall News

With the prospect of COVID restrictions easing we plan to relaunch the Village Hall 200 Club in June. We will write to those who currently have numbers, so watch out for a letter through your post box. If anyone wants to participate please contact us at baconsthorpe.villagehall@gmail.com as we have a few numbers still available. We also plan to start holding some events in the summer, COVID permitting, so watch out for these. From 17 May the village hall can be used for events, subject to the COVID guidance in place at the time. Booking enquiries can be made via the email address.



Sugar Beet Collection at Baconsthorpe Castle - Photograph by Norman Allen

Barningham Winter

Barningham has had another quiet month but a little activity has been taking place at St Mary's Church with the film crew from October Films using this whilst making a documentary about American Engineering. People have enjoyed visiting the little church.

Lots of sheep have been put out to graze with the new little lambs and cows have been put out to grass after a long wet winter inside. They are all enjoying the fresh grass but with the cold nights and sunny days we now need a nice warm rain to keep the grass growing. Please be careful when you are walking near them and keep your dogs on a lead. Dogs carry the disease neospora in their faeces and if it gets into the cow it causes a horrible infection which makes the cow miscarry. Cyclists also take care please as it will be silage making time soon and more tractors and trailers will be on the road.



Sara Buxton
577207

Edgefield

Church News

We have had two lovely services in the church this last month. There was a Service of Commemoration for Prince Philip, arranged at very short notice, and held the day before his funeral. Then we had the usual planned service on the Sunday with Alain Wolf giving the sermon. We were joined by ten gorgeous little labrador puppies! They were well bedded down in a cage at the back of the church with one of the Rector's children in with them for company. They were very quiet during the service, and much enjoyed afterwards by many of us! The primroses in the churchyard have been beautiful this year, after all the snowdrops earlier.

Suzanne Longe kindly organised a "sale" of daffodils on The Green and in the church, with donations requested for the church. Despite, sad to say, some pilfering, over £100 was raised as a result. Thank you to all who helped arrange this, and to everyone who contributed.

Angela Turner

Village Hall News

Tickets for Edgefest 5 on 24th July will be on sale by the time you read this. Book early to avoid disappointment. It will sell out this year!!

200 Club winners for March: 1st John Hamblett, 2nd Vi Mavilio, 3rd Shirley Norton

Jim Frost

Toad Report

A great team of dedicated patrollers ventured out after dusk from mid-February and throughout March to ensure the safety of the annual migration of amphibians to the village pond. A much colder early March prolonged the migration by two weeks up until beginning of April.

Toad numbers are down on last year (probably due to the weather) but frogs and newts more than compensated with significantly higher numbers than in the last two years. Something for us to



Grateful Amphibians

monitor in the future. The vast majority of frogs were crossing the main road to the pond, which is why it is so important that we patrol during the migration season. Most of the toads come from the fields and gardens opposite the pond on The Green side; the newts similarly.

Final tallies: 364 toads, 166 frogs, 185 smooth newts and 16 great crested newts – all safely placed in the pond. A great effort and big thanks to all patrollers!

Richard Sear

Hempstead

200 Club

£50 M Thody, £25 J Cooper, £10 R Hall, £5 J.Wood, J Hurrell, R Mack

Congratulations to Jessica and James Keen on the birth of their son, Alfred Dexter, in March. Also congratulations to Lisa and Jason Matthews who celebrated 25 years of marriage in April.

Thanks

Thank you so much to everyone including rota commitments notwithstanding, who also placed floral arrangements in the Church porch at Easter. They were absolutely delightful gladdening both the heart and eye at this important time in the Church's calendar. You're stars.



Diana Spalton
711117

Diane and Mo

Playing Field

At long last the very overgrown vegetation at the back of the Playing Field has been dealt with. On Saturday 27 March a suitably equipped working party of 12 assembled and completed within two hours what had appeared to be a daunting task. The view from the Playing Field has changed but more to the point it is now possible to get behind the fence to repair it. Thank you to everyone who helped and particularly Diane Collier who took time off from labouring to bring coffee and biscuits and to Jonathan Neville for the 'before and after' photographs.

YG



Matlaske

100 Club

£25 Karen Neill, £10 Felicity Rushmer, £ 5 Kate Tansley

Get Well

Here's a get well to my Mum, Ruth March who has just had two ten-day spells in hospital in the space of six weeks. The last one having broken her hip just two weeks after being discharged. I know she can't wait to be back to doing her own cooking and gardening!

Ruth would like to thank everyone for their cards and best wishes.

Matlaske Fête

Look out for a special announcement in next month's issue, when we hope to have some exciting news about a different style of fête this year.

Thank You

To the land owners who kindly maintain permissive and public footpaths across our area. These have never been more important to us during the last twelve months and our pleasure at being able to go for a walk in our beautiful countryside is never taken for granted. Many thanks.



Marion Shepherd
577521

Plumstead

The news every day seems a little more promising and the road map looks as though it continues to provide the way out of the difficult times we have lived in for the past year. Nature, as I often mention, has a way of by-passing what occurs in our material world and I can report that I saw my first swallow on April 14th. Only the one but let's hope they will return to this corner of the UK in numbers.

Parish Council News

In Plumstead (living in or passing through the village) you may have noticed that the millennium village sign has reappeared at last. The parish council is very pleased that it could be restored to its former glory in time for spring and feel that it something of a sign of hope as we emerge from difficult times.

You may also have spotted a new flag flying in the Flagpole Garden. The flag's design is the banner of arms attributed to the first Earl of Norfolk, Ralph de Gael. This 12th-century design has been associated with the county ever since, appearing on maps and books and of course forming the basis of the county council arms awarded in 1904. But this design was only recently formally adopted as the Norfolk county flag in 2014. The Union flag will continue to be flown on days of national importance, such as the Queen's birthday, while the Norfolk flag will be flown on days of more local significance, such as villagers' birthdays. Please contact the parish council if you would like this done for YOUR special day! The parish council on everyone's behalf would like to thank Keith Harding for taking on the role of raising the flag for our village. He is kept busy with the many official and local birthdays and events that are celebrated.

We also wish John Durdin a very happy 95th birthday. The elder statesman of our village and still spends many hours working in his garden.



Mary Lintott
577718



Catherine at the first round-up

The annual rhythm of the wildflower meadow requires the area to be grazed and as usual this year Roy and Mary Keasley's sheep did a wonderful job of keeping the grass down. However, moving them all to Green Farm proved a little more complicated than had first been anticipated. The initial attempt moved a couple of them down the road to their new pasture with the intervention of only five or six people but as for the other two it required a more concerted village effort. In the end about ten of us, with the addition of a couple of local walkers, managed to corral them towards home. It was a fun way to spend an hour although I think most of us ran more than we had done in a while! So now the pond and wildflower meadow are free to develop into its glorious abundance, so do come and see the beautiful cowslips which start the wildflower season before they are over. Take part in the cowslip survey perhaps.

www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/discover-wild-plants-nature/cowslip-survey

But please try not to disturb the goose who may still be nesting or tending her young near the water's edge.

Festival of Thanks



The Festival of Thanks and the Funky Bunny Hunt enabled the church not only to celebrate Easter but also gave an opportunity to those who wished to come and say thank you. Maybe for the NHS, a life saved, those who developed the vaccine, or finally being able to see family again. Whatever the reason there was time in a peaceful beautiful setting to do just that. The same wonderful group of flower decorators came together to produce the most stunning display of daffodils and Spring flowers. It was truly a vision to behold. How fortunate we are to have a group who enjoy working together and the process of creating something special. We were very lucky to have the daffodils donated to us

from the McNeil Wilsons who (you may well have seen) have fields of bulbs in West Beckham. We are very grateful to them for their generosity. We had many complimentary comments and the added bonus of raising £180 for the Church.

Thank you to James Deveson for the wonderful photographs.



Saxthorpe with Corpusty



Graham Sinclair

Graham was a barrister specialising in property law. He died at home on Sunday 28 March aged sixty-three. He and his wife, Ceinwen, moved from Little Barningham in 1990 and settled in Corpusty to raise their family. For some years he was a member (including time as vice-chair) of the parish council, contributing his skills, wisdom, and knowledge to the council and thus to the entire community.



Sophia Hodgson
587510

A modest man, Graham wore his expertise lightly. He spent many hours perusing ecclesiastical archives and parish council minutes from the 1920s and '30s to clarify who owned a small but important part of the cemetery at St Peter's church, Corpusty. He clarified the obscure and complicated legal relationship between the village hall committee and the parish council and thus responsibility for the village centre and playing field (a matter which only he and possibly one other person in the whole world ever seemed to understand fully); and he advised about many other legal questions to help the parish council. Had the community paid commercial rates for such advice, the bill could have run into many thousands. Without his skills, we would all have been poorer.

Graham was born and brought up in Northern Ireland during the worst of 'the Troubles', events which directly affected him, his family and community. It was in Ulster that he first developed his love for hill walking, joining the Mourne Ramblers while still at school.



In the 1970s he crossed the water to study law at University College London, filling his spare time by becoming the photographer for the students' newspaper and spending many happy weekends travelling to the Lakes or Snowdonia with the college mountaineering club. After graduating, he

undertook his professional training. In 1981 he joined a set of barristers in Norwich: the obvious location for someone so keen on mountains! Perhaps to make up for the shortage of mountains, he took up canoeing. He later extended his professional skills by qualifying as a mediator and more recently was appointed a part-time property tribunal judge.

He combined a humane sense of the subtle ways in which 'the law' and 'justice' might not always be identical. In his professional life and in his work for the parish council, it was evident that he sought to find balance between these weighty considerations. His deep sense of duty, responsibility and justice was apparent to all of those who worked with him on the parish council or who knew him socially or professionally. We appreciated his tinder-dry sense of humour (often indicated by the most fleeting of smiles and occasionally by a broad grin), his calmness, sound advice, his quiet commitment to the community. Those who knew him socially appreciated his love of bow-ties and bright waistcoats, good wine, real ale and – on occasions – shared in his remarkable collection of malt whisky.



We were not surprised to hear that Graham asked for his ashes to be scattered in the Scottish Highlands. Our love, thoughts and condolences go to Ceinwen, Cameron and Fiona.



Joe Dawes

Deborah Brown says of the long-term partner of her sister Jenny:

Sadly, I'm writing to tell you that Joe Dawes died on 24 March after a short illness aged 87.

Joe lived in the village for around 30 years till he and Jenny moved to Reepham in 1998, but he continued to work here until he retired in 2018. Joe had also done quite a lot of work in the church. He made some of the pews and a choir stall. He also did some renovation work on the rood screen as well as making the gate from the car park.

Joe was a very talented woodworker and carver. His work can be found throughout the country and beyond. He made wonderful furniture, also a lectern for Sotheby's in New York, and three misericords for Norwich Cathedral. He carried out conservation work in many churches/cathedrals across the country as well as making village/town signs including those for Edgefield, Weybourne and Sheringham. This is just a small selection of the many projects Joe was involved with throughout his long woodworking career.

Many people in the village knew Joe and I'm often asked how Jenny and Joe are when I'm out walking. Because he was known to so many in the village, I thought it might be an idea to put something in the newsletter.

Merlin Waterson adds:

Joe had a reputation nationally for exceptional skill and sensitivity, both as a conservator of historic carving and as a superb craftsman in wood. His lasting memorial in St Andrew's will be the pew he assembled for the chancel, in memory of Simon Monks. It incorporated one very fine medieval pew end, and for the other end Joe carved his own design of poppy head, incorporating roses and bulrushes. Joe's work complements the medieval carving perfectly, and his skill is unsurpassed.

When they lived in Great Yard, Jenny and Joe were the kindest and most thoughtful of neighbours.

David and Anita Morton

David and Anita have published their autobiographies.

David was encouraged to write his by Elton John & Rod Stewart – indeed the front cover photo was taken on Richard Branson's island. He was born in the same hospital as some of the Royals and today is still in contact with the palace as he gives talks on royal buildings. He also has a history in music, engineering and other fields all of which are outlined in his book.

Anita is a very respected cook with a long history of living in other countries and notably opened and ran the Heydon Tea Room. She gives talks to many groups across the region and her granddaughter, whom she influenced and taught, now works at Delia's Carrow Road.

David and Anita have decided to donate some of the proceeds of sale to St Andrew's church. Copies of their books can be obtained by phoning them on 587709. They will be happy to deliver.

Corpusty School 100 Club

The Friends of Corpusty Primary School are looking for new members to join their 100 Club, to help raise funds for our village school. For £12 per year, you will be in the mix for 3 cash prizes each month - £25, £15 and £10. Please contact Pat Sharp at Corpusty Primary School or at the SPAR if you would like to join. Your support will be appreciated.

Keep the Bure Clean

A villager reports having regularly seen dog owners depositing dog dirt in the river. Dog (and other) excrement is reported to be highly toxic and lethal to aquatic life (including invertebrates and their eggs) even in very low concentrations, and very dangerous to human health too.

If you witness this practice, please explain its irresponsibility, requesting that it is not repeated and/or report it to the Environment Agency, with as much evidence as is available, so that appropriate action can be taken.

Rubbish!

Clare Everitt writes: I just wanted to say a very big THANK YOU to the lovely lady I met on a Saxthorpe public footpath last month, who was gathering up litter in a sack. This is something I have 'meaning to do' for some time too. Anyway, she inspired us and we went and gathered six bin liners of plastic rubbish from the roundabout plantation footpaths – an unfinished task as yet! Thanks to the other kind people in the villages that also do this (either on the organised litter picks a couple of times a year or individually) it is really appreciated. Even if you pick up just one piece of rubbish while out on your walk, that is a great contribution...



Roe Deer - Photograph by Jonathan Neville

Meet the Neighbours

Mandy Honeyman – Baconsthorpe



Mandy moved to Baconsthorpe in 2019. She and her husband, Rick, bought Stores House, a property ripe for renovation and exactly the project they were looking for.

Mandy was born and bred in West London. By her thirties, having been a typesetter and running a design studio, she went to work for *The Independent* newspaper. She worked in four different roles at the newspaper, finally as the paper's PR manager. But the IT training she received from the paper would serve her well throughout all the careers that followed.

Mandy had always dreamt of going to film school. Taking a leap of faith, she left *The Independent* and spent two years studying film making in Bournemouth whilst living in a converted stable in the countryside and began to plan how she could escape an urban life to create a rural one. The one thing that she realised was that her fledgling film and TV career was incompatible with her wish to live outside of London.

She found a renovation project in Linton in Cambridgeshire and studied towards a Web Development Certificate from the Open University. Mandy went to work at Linton Village College as their web developer. Here she encountered a young man who was gifted but failing at the school, Mandy was encouraged to create a personalised alternative curriculum and the success of that effort led to the school supporting Mandy obtaining a teaching qualification. She taught Information Communication Technologies (ICT) and Media Studies. She was a founder of the Computing at Schools group and served on the Royal Society advisory committee producing a report that led to the computing curriculum all schools are now following.

Mandy became an Associate Lecturer at the Open University, and having left the school, she then studied for a Master's qualification in on-line and distance education, gaining it just after Mandy and Rick moved to the USA in 2015. In the US they were fulfilling the ambition of building a house and to spend more time with both their families who lived in America.

In 2019 they returned to the UK and decided they wanted to live by the sea. Mandy spent many weekends and holidays in Norfolk as a child and after having had a good look round Rick found Stores House, their perfect project.

Not one to sit still, Mandy is now back working for the Open University, starting at Norwich City College, and is leading one of the 34 computing hubs – training teachers, she also does exam marking (on the side). Rick and Mandy are still looking for renovation projects, so let them know if you know of a good one!

Emma Youngs

East Anglian Childrens Hospice



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The Village Gardener

To Plant a Garden is to Believe in Tomorrow



Beautiful May! With any luck as we head into May the air will sweeten and hopefully there will be a bit (fingers crossed) of warmth! Always lots to do in May so first stop the veg patch...

If you haven't done so already then pinch out the tops of your broad bean stems, they are utterly irresistible to black fly but once the tips are removed the fly should move on somewhere else. Do finish planting your main crop potatoes and don't forget to keep earthing them up to stop the light getting to any growing tubers. Keep setting peas and mangetout, I think one of the most cheering sights in the veg garden is when the first shoots of the pea plants get going. Remember to put in the twiggy sticks as supports too. Keep cutting your asparagus if you're fortunate enough to grow it, very fresh asparagus is like a completely different veg to the off the counter variety - one for the to-do list if you've not tried growing it before. It is a commitment to grow as you will need patience and a dedicated space but I think it's really worthwhile. There are lots of seeds to get in the ground once the last risk of frost has gone, I write that somewhat nervously as we have had quite a run of hard frosts as I write this so do try and hold off if you can, or possibly if you're desperate to get stuff going make sure you've got lots of fleece to throw over anything vulnerable - just in case! Quick reminder - please don't forget that at this time of year your hoe is your best friend to help try and keep weeds in check.

Now to the fruit garden! Give your strawberries a good weed then spread straw all around them to keep the fruits off the ground which will not only deter slugs but will also keep the soil off any fruits. Raspberries will need your attention too as they will need the new growth tying in, and thin any canes that are causing congestion. Raspberries need to be about 6 inches apart for them to thrive.

We are hoping to revamp our water areas this year - last year it was impossible to buy pond plants, hopefully this year will be easier. If you have water lilies these would benefit from splitting if they have become congested. Do remember to use aquatic compost when you re-pot them. Top-up or replace your oxygenating plants if they are looking a bit worse for wear too.

This month's question comes from Emma Southgate who asks when is the best time of day to take soft wood cuttings? Ideally the best time is first thing in the morning when the parent plant you are taking the cutting from is still full of water, and if you also pop your cutting straight into a plastic bag you will have hopefully retained enough water in your cutting to make for a more successful rooting. Hope that helps! Do keep the questions coming in! Email us at redmaple@btinternet.com as ever the most interesting question will be published next month - keep safe!

Michelle & Mick McCarter