

# Church & Village News

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

February 2020



Replacement of the clock - St Mary's Church - Baconsthorpe  
Photograph by Emma Youngs



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## Newsletter Team

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## Parish Council Chairs

Baconthorpe	Jonathan Cooper	577527
Edgefield	TBC	
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	<a href="http://baconthorpepc.wixsite.com/baconthorpepc">http://baconthorpepc.wixsite.com/baconthorpepc</a>
Edgefield	<a href="http://edgefieldnorfolk.co.uk/the-parish-council.shtml">http://edgefieldnorfolk.co.uk/the-parish-council.shtml</a>
Hempstead	<a href="mailto:hempsteadpc@gmail.com">hempsteadpc@gmail.com</a>
Matlaske & Barningham	<a href="http://matlaskeparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk">http://matlaskeparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk</a>
Plumstead	<a href="http://plumsteadparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk">http://plumsteadparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk</a>
Saxthorpe & Corpusty	<a href="https://corpustyandsaxthorpeparishcouncil.wordpress.com">https://corpustyandsaxthorpeparishcouncil.wordpress.com</a>

## Local MP

Duncan Baker MP  
 Tudor House, Grammar School Lane  
 North Walsham, NR28 9JH  
[duncan@duncanbaker.org.uk](mailto:duncan@duncanbaker.org.uk)  
<https://www.duncanbaker.org.uk/>  
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## County Councillor

Steffan Aquarone  
[steffan.aquarone.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:steffan.aquarone.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk)  
 01603 327827

## Village Correspondents

<b>Baconthorpe</b> <a href="mailto:corinne@avyoungs.com">corinne@avyoungs.com</a>	<b>Corinne Youngs</b> 577263
<b>Barningham Winter</b> <a href="mailto:s.m.buxton@hotmail.co.uk">s.m.buxton@hotmail.co.uk</a>	<b>Sara Buxton</b> 577207
<b>Edgefield</b> <a href="mailto:richardpeaver@gmail.com">richardpeaver@gmail.com</a>	<b>Richard Peaver</b> 587486
<b>Hempstead</b> <a href="mailto:su@linaria.co.uk">su@linaria.co.uk</a>	<b>Su Summers</b> 710702
<b>Matlaske</b> <a href="mailto:jim.shepherd123@btinternet.com">jim.shepherd123@btinternet.com</a>	<b>Marion Shepherd</b> 577521
<b>Plumstead</b> <a href="mailto:mary.lintott57@btinternet.com">mary.lintott57@btinternet.com</a>	<b>Mary Lintott</b> 577718
<b>Saxthorpe &amp; Corpusty</b> <a href="mailto:saxthorpecastle@gmail.com">saxthorpecastle@gmail.com</a>	<b>Sophia Hodgson</b> 587510

## District Councillors

Corpusty, Edgefield, Saxthorpe  
 Andrew Brown 587250 / 07745 907774  
[andrew.brown@north-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.brown@north-norfolk.gov.uk)

Baconthorpe, Hempstead, Matlaske & Barningham,  
 Plumstead  
 Dr Pierre Bütikofer 838306  
[Pierre.Butikofer@north-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:Pierre.Butikofer@north-norfolk.gov.uk)

## Church People

<b>Rector</b> Revd Canon David Longe	577252
<b>Lay Minister</b> Gill Peat	734226
<b>Lay Minister</b> Judy Rosser	587584
<b>Authorised Worship Assistant</b> Dr Alain Wolf	577292
<b>Church Wardens</b>	
Baconthorpe Tessa McCosh	577611
Harry Steel	07711 890360
Barningham Winter Amelia Courtauld	577250
Edgefield Emma Cletheroe	587049
Angela Turner	587292
Hempstead Ann Udale	713656
Su Summers	710702
Matlaske Thomas Courtauld	577250
Plumstead Eleanor Faulkner	577868
Saxthorpe Judith Banks	587319
Cathy Stern	587014



## What's On

### FEBRUARY

Thurs 6	3.45pm	Music in Hempstead	Village Hall
Mon 10	6.30pm	Plumstead Parish Council Meeting	Jasmine House
Sat 15	10.00am	Saxthorpe Snowdrop Walk	Old Vicarage
Tue 25	8.00am	Corpusty Pancake Breakfast	Duke's Head
Thur 2t	TBC	Matlaske Scrabble Evening	Barningham Hall

### MARCH

Sun 15	11.00am	Baconsthorpe PCC APCM	The Manor
Mon 16	7.30pm	Baconsthorpe Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Sat 28	7.00pm	Edgefield Quiz Night	Village Hall

#### PANCAKE DAY

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February  
Join us for a  
pancake breakfast  
The Duke's Head, Corpusty  
8am - 8.45am



### Country Mice Playgroup



Baconsthorpe Village Hall  
School Lane NR25 6LJ  
Tuesdays 10am - 12pm

Toys, crafts and fun for all  
Refreshments provided  
£2 per family

Contact Ruth 07880 200303

## Clash Diary 2020

May 2	Baconsthorpe Fashion Show
May 4	Plumstead PC AGM
June 27	Hempstead Open Gardens
June 28	Hempstead Open Gardens
July 11	Edgefest 5
July 25	Matlaske Fête
Aug 15	Baconsthorpe Fête
Sep 7	Plumstead PC
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**

## Regular Village Hall Events

### BACONSTHORPE

Tuesday	10.00am - 12noon	Country Mice Play Group
Tuesday	7.30pm - 9.30pm	Carpet Bowls - 711320
Second Wednesday	7.30pm	Book Club - All welcome
Third Thursday	10.30am	Community Coffee - All welcome
First Friday	6.30pm	Cinema NB May will be second Friday
Last Friday	6.00pm - 10.00pm	Pop-Up Pub

### CORPUSTY

Second and fourth Monday	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Bure Valley Quilters & Stitchers
Tuesdays during term time	5.45pm - 7.15pm	Brownies
Second Tuesday	10.00am - 12noon	North Norfolk Knitters Rita Taylor 587507 k2togp1@btinternet.com
Friday during term time	9.30am - 11.30am	Toddler Group

### EDGEFIELD

Third Monday	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting
First Tuesday	2.30pm	Tuesday Club
Second Wednesday	2.00pm	Ladies Club
Last Thursday	10.30am	Coffee Morning

### HEMPSTEAD

First Monday alternate months	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday	10.00am	Charcoal Drawing £10 Mike Thody 711282
Third Wednesday	7.30pm	Film Club
First Friday	10.30am	Coffee & Gossip

## Mobile Library Van

### 13 February / 12 March / 9 April

Matlaske	11.40	NR11 7AQ	Old Post Office
Plumstead	12.25	NR11 7LG	Walnut Farm
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

### 20 February / 19 March / 16 April

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

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

## Post Offices

### Baconsthorpe Village Hall

Tuesdays	1.00pm - 4.00pm
Fridays	10.00am - 1.00pm
All services	

### Corpusty Stores

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

### Holt Library

9 Church Street, Holt NR25 6BB	712202
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 pub-  
lished due to space constraints. All facts are believed  
to be correct at the time of going to press.

## Letter from Licensed Lay Minister- Judy Rosser

Dear Friends

Whilst thinking about what I would like to share with you all this February, I began to think of spring and new beginnings. In particular I recalled the poem by William Wordsworth composed in 1804 about daffodils, which we all so look forward to at this time of year entitled *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*.

I wandered lonely as a Cloud  
That floats on high o'er Vales and Hills.  
When all at once I saw a crowd  
A host of dancing Daffodils;  
Along the Lake, beneath the trees.  
Ten thousand dancing in the breeze.



I am sure that many of you will already know this poem well and if not, it is so worth enjoying for the first time. The image of golden yellow daffodils is both powerful and inspiring and a reminder that the earth is stirring after winter and will bring forth new life.

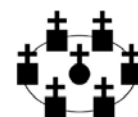
In the life of the church year in February, Christmas has passed and preparations for Lent begin to stir like the spring bulbs. Just as bulbs have to be looked after each year to ensure they flower well, we are no different. Lent can be a time when we pay a little more attention to our spiritual beliefs and ensure they are cultivated and cared for. There can be quite severe and sometimes misleading associations with Lent about banishing our daily pleasures. I prefer to focus on taking something up and developing new life enhancing daily rituals. For example, more walking in some of our surrounding countryside, with time to stop and admire the beauty of the earth and quieten the mind. Like the daffodils, Lent can be a time of creativity and beauty, where we can manifest our faith more fully and richly in preparation for the Easter Passion. Think big and you really can do it! Renew your faith in action!

There will be in the Benefice too, a Course for Lent, with the details being advertised in this magazine by our Rector David Longe, involving reading and discussion with other group members. Don't forget the Contemplative Prayer Group at Corpusty Community Hall too, on Mondays at 5pm, which I look after. Please check dates first though, as we generally break in the school holidays, but will be running for the majority of Lent. We begin with some inspiring words or a poem, observe silent prayer for 20-30 minutes and then we speak together, finishing just after 6pm. You will be extremely welcome to join us. When it is warmer and lighter, we plan to decamp to Corpusty Church for our summertime meetings.

Finally, and unusually for me, I will be spending the first week of Lent in the Holy Land on the Diocesan Pilgrimage. May this February and your Lenten preparations be a time of fruitful connectedness with your beliefs and all those whom you love.

And then my heart with pleasure fills,  
And dances with the Daffodils.

Judy



## The Benefice of Matlaske Church Services for February

2<sup>nd</sup>

Candlemas

9.00

Eucharist

Baconsthorpe

11.00

Matins

Hempstead

5.00

Evensong

Matlaske

9<sup>th</sup>

Third Sunday before Lent

9.00

Eucharist

Saxthorpe

11.00

Eucharist

Edgefield

16<sup>th</sup>

Second Sunday before Lent

9.00

Eucharist

Hempstead

11.00

Matins

Matlaske

5.00

Evensong

Baconsthorpe

23<sup>rd</sup>

Next Sunday before Lent

9.00

Eucharist

Plumstead

11.00

Matins

Saxthorpe

5.00

Evensong

Barningham Winter

Please bring your palm crosses to burn at the end of service and make the ash for Ash Wednesday

25<sup>th</sup>

Shrove Tuesday

8.00

Pancake Breakfast

Dukes Head, Corpusty

10.00

Pancakes & Play, Country Mice

Baconsthorpe Village Hall

26<sup>th</sup>

Ash Wednesday

6.30

Eucharist with Ashing

Edgefield

Visiting preacher the Reverend Canon Peter Midwood. (Peter, a Yorkshireman, spent the majority of his ministry in the Yorkshire Dales, having previously been a teacher; he is a Canon Emeritus of Ripon Cathedral.)

1<sup>st</sup> March

Lent I

9.00

Matins

Plumstead

11.00

Eucharist

Baconsthorpe

5.00

Evensong

Matlaske

Throughout Lent we will be exploring the Anglican 5 marks of Mission, which are: (i) To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom; (ii) To teach, baptise and nurture new believers; (iii) To respond to human need by loving service; (iv) To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation; (v) To care for creation.

### Mid-Week Eucharist Services

Saxthorpe 9am Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> / 19<sup>th</sup> Followed by coffee and tea  
Matlaske Rectory 10.30am Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> Followed by coffee, tea and cake

### Lent Course starting 4<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm, Matlaske Rectory

We will be reading *Be Still & Know* (1984) by the late Archbishop Michael Ramsey  
If you would like a copy please contact the Rector or Corinne Youngs

## Baconsthorpe

### 200 Club

December: £25 Peter Hall, £10 Will Peck, £5 Karen Hall, Evelyn Massingham,  
Christmas Extra: £5 Piers Warner, Pauline Fuller

### Pop-Up Pub

The village hall now has a full premises licence so it can run events with a bar. As it would be quite complicated to have the Pop-Up Pub and village hall both using the same bar stock and facilities it has been decided that the Pop-Up Pub will become part of the village hall. It will be run by the same volunteer team and will be exactly the same as it has always been, but all the finances will be taken care of by the village hall and they will retain all of the profits from now on.

To date the Pop-Up Pub has donated over £3,000 to the village. The most recent donations were to pay for the village hall hire for Community Coffee and Book Club for a year (£384.00) and for the gazebo in the playground to be repaired (£390.00). This leaves a balance of £3,279.50 that will be given to the village hall. Supper on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb will be curry.

**Community Coffee** The third Thursday of the month, 20<sup>th</sup> February.

### Book Club

The book club meeting day has changed to the second Wednesday each month at the same time of 7.30pm. It's been decided to bring our own books to discuss which it's hoped will be fun and informal. The next meeting will be Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February.

### Church Clock

When passing the church do look up at the tower. The clock face has been completely renovated, re-gilded and looks wonderful. Next the winder is being electrified, so no longer will anyone have to risk life and limb climbing the ladder and pulling the heavy weight!

### PCC APCM

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the Parochial Church Council is on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 11am at the Manor. Anyone is welcome to attend this meeting.

### Village Hall News

After a busy period in December with the Christmas Party and various other events taking place, January has been rather quiet. However, this will all change in February as we commence the first of our Film Nights at the Village Hall on Friday 7 February, with the showing of *Judy*, starring Golden Globe winner, Renee Zellweger. The film is set in 1968 when showbiz legend Judy Garland arrives in Swinging London to perform a five-week sold-out run at The Talk of the Town. As she prepares for the show, battles with management, charms musicians and reminisces with friends and adoring fans, her wit and warmth shine through. Even her dreams of love seem undimmed as she embarks on a whirlwind romance with Mickey Deans, her soon-to-be fifth husband. The doors and Bar will open at 6.30pm film will start at 7.30pm. Tickets - £4.50 on the door. We look forward to seeing you and put a note in your diaries for the following Film Night dates – Friday 6 March; Friday 3 April; Friday 8 May. As always if you would like to help with any activities please contact us via email [baconsthorpe.villagehall@gmail.com](mailto:baconsthorpe.villagehall@gmail.com)



Corinne Youngs  
577263

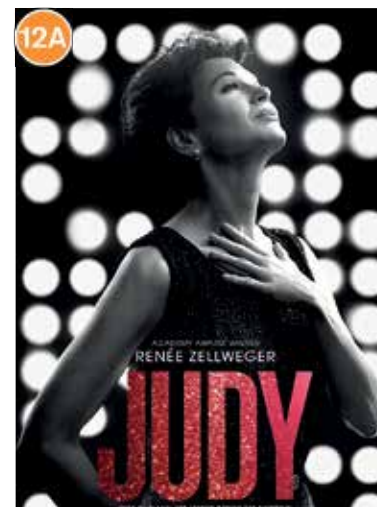
Piers Warner

# Baconsthorpe Village Hall Cinema

**February - May 2020**

[baconsthorpe.villagehall@gmail.com](mailto:baconsthorpe.villagehall@gmail.com)  
School Lane, Baconsthorpe, Holt, NR25 6LJ

Tickets £4.50 on the door  
Licenced Bar from 6.30pm



**Friday 7th February 2020**  
**Doors Open 6.30pm**  
**Film 7.30pm**



**Friday 6th March 2020**  
**Doors Open 6.30pm**  
**Film 7.30pm**



**Friday 3rd April 2020**  
**Doors Open 6.30pm**  
**Film 7.30pm**



**Friday 8th May 2020**  
**Doors Open 6.30pm**  
**Film 7.30pm**





## Barningham Winter

Thank you to all that came along to the wreath making workshop at The Stables, Barningham Hall. Mrs Tessa Papworth guided us on how to make a perfect Christmas Wreath. A lovely morning was had by all and over £400 was raised for St Mary's Church. Many thanks to Mr and Mrs Thomas Courtauld for allowing us to use the stable and for all the work they put into this successful event.

The ashes of Jellicoe and Betty Riseborough, who lived in Matlaske for many years, were interned next to their son Peter at St Mary's Church, Barningham on the 11<sup>th</sup> January. There was a small service conducted by the Revd David Longe.



Sara Buxton  
577207

## Edgefield

### Church News

A very Happy New Year to everyone! The snowdrops in the old churchyard will be out in a week or two, so do go and enjoy them. Encourages one to think spring is not far off! The church architect has done her Quinquennial Report for the Diocese, always a nervous moment for us. Fortunately, she has not found any really drastic problems, but there is still a lot of work to be done. Is there anyone out there who likes rubbing down woodwork and treating it with preservative? Come the summer, there are gates and doors in need of TLC. Do please get in touch with Emma or myself if you would like to come and help us with that or other maintenance. We are in need of another kind person to help with cleaning the church. There is a good vacuum cleaner there! Please, please, come and help.



Richard Peaver  
587486

Angela Turner

### Village Hall News

Our first event of 2020 will be a fun quiz night for teams of 4 to be held on 28<sup>th</sup> March, starting at 7.00pm. There will be a licensed bar and homemade soup and bread, all for £5 per head. A date for your diary: Edgefest 5 will be on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July, with music from the Honky Tonks and a hog roast! An evening not to be missed!

Jim Frost

### Toad Patrol

After a highly successful presentation late last year given by John Heaser about the life and perilous times of amphibians in our pond, we are in the process of finalising details for our 2020 toad patrol. Volunteers who gave their email addresses after the presentation will be contacted separately. If anyone else is interested in helping to save our threatened amphibians, please contact Richard Sear on 587674 or richard.sear@mac.com.

Richard Sear



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## Hempstead

### 200 Club

December: £50 T Scarf £25 K Hurrell £10 C Inglis £5 I Bassett J Smith M Thody  
Christmas Bonus Draw £5: B Harmer, S Pailing, J Sanders, C Lister, L Wall  
January: £50 S Thurston £25 S Price £10 M Thody £5 J Roy E Buxton D Sewell

**Condolences** to the Hannah family on the death of Bruce's father, Brian.  
Brian Hannah was a leading light in local politics and will be much missed in so  
many spheres of life in North Norfolk.

**Coffee & Gossip** will be held on Friday February 7<sup>th</sup> between 10.30am and noon in the Village  
Hall and we look forward to seeing you for coffee/tea and cake, and a catchup with friends..

**Welcome** to Ian and Christine Moore who have moved into Wayside. We hope they will be very  
happy living in our village.

### Christmas Party

What a splendid evening! Fabulous food and a jolly singsong, not to mention the never-ending  
raffle, and the company of our friends new and old to celebrate the Christmas season. Thank you  
to everyone who contributed in any way: the caterers, ably marshalled by Liz Buxton and Yvette  
Gibson, those who made sure there was a warming glass of mulled wine to greet us, the little choir  
which led the singing, and those that sold raffle tickets and then tried to keep the attention of the  
assembled throng during the draw! Finally, when the fun was over, there was a stalwart team who  
washed up, and cleaned the hall leaving it spruce for a children's party next day. Thank you to so  
many people for making it an evening to remember.

### Crib & Carols Service

We had a lovely service in a beautifully decorated and candlelit church, with children from far  
flung places who were visiting relatives in the Benefice (Orkney, London, France and Belgium), as  
well as from Hempstead and Baconsthorpe. Thank you to William and Nicol who read beautifully,  
ably supported by adults Diane, Harry and Sue. Thank you also to Stephen who played the harp  
once more for us and Richard who played the organ. And, of course thanks to David for taking the  
service and to everyone who came and sang so lustily. After the service we all enjoyed refreshments  
together and it was a really lovely start to Christmas.

### Music in Hempstead

The next event is on Thursday February 6<sup>th</sup> with clarinet, bassoon and piano in a programme  
which features the players in different combinations, with music by Mozart and Beethoven. As  
usual, there will be tea and cake at 3.45pm followed by music from 4pm lasting half an hour. All is  
free and Ian hopes to see you there.

### Film Club

Don't forget Film Club on 20<sup>th</sup> February in the Village Hall. We'd love some new members. Details  
of the films are always on the hall porch noticeboard. We had a bonus meeting in December which  
was very festive, being greeted with mulled wine (very good!) and sausage rolls (also good, I'm



Su Summers  
710702



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told!). Then a showing of Jacques Tati's *Jour de Fête* preceded by a Laurel and Hardy short *Dirty Work*. Altogether an evening of laughter and convivial company. Thank you to Yvette and Mike for giving us this extra treat!

### **Rookery Pit, Hempstead, Toad Patrol**

If there is anyone interested in joining the toad patrol this year, roughly mid-February to the beginning of April, and would like to know more about it, please ring Su 710702. Full training is given!

Happy New Year to you all.

## Matlaske

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. During the coming months please do let me have any news and special occasions that you may like to have included in the Newsletter.



Marion Shepherd  
577521

### **100 Club**

Starts again in February. Those of you who have not already given this year's money to Cherry or Marion, could you please do so asap, so that you are in this month's draw.

### **Christmas Party**

Baconsthorpe Village Hall, the venue of our annual party, was full to capacity once again. Father Christmas gave presents to the children attending and entertainment of a festive nature was provided by Pete Griggs. Catering was courtesy of The Norfolk Pie Man with desserts made by Marion and Cherry. The festive hamper was won this year by David & Kate Tansley and a bumper raffle ensured that many went home with something. A great way to start the festive season.

### **Dr Alain Wolf**

A service was held at St Peter's Church, Matlaske on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January, where Canon David Longe completed the Commissioning of Matlaske resident Alain Wolf, as Authorised Worship Assistant in the Matlaske Benefice. It was a memorable and moving service enjoyed by the congregation of some 45 worshippers.

### **Revd Brian Faulkner**

During the above service David Longe was able to express gratitude and thanks on behalf of the parishioners for the selfless work of both Brian and Eleanor Faulkner and presented them with a gift of appreciation from the Matlaske benefice. Whilst they will continue to live in Plumstead, Brian will now be returning to support his old benefice of Scarrowbeck.

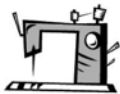
### **Take A Walk On The Wild Side**

At a cost of just £9.99, Matlaske resident John Pakenham's new book *Walks On The Wild Side* is an exciting tale of his amazing 1200 mile walk in the early 1980s. He explored the unforgiving environments of the volcanic desert around Lake Turkana in Northern Kenya, where he was accompanied by the local Turkana and Samburu tribesmen. It's a ripping yarn of an everyday battle



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for survival (only just), where he truly explores the extreme terrain. John and his wife Maureen are supporters of the Matlaske Fête and it would be great to support the launch of his new book. This is available through Eye-books on their website: www.eye-books.com

## Recycling

Whilst it is an easier option to place your bottles and papers in your green recycling bin, Matlaske Parish Council benefit financially from those items disposed of in the bins provided at the entrance to Matlaske airfield. Funds are very limited in the Parish Council and your efforts would be gratefully appreciated to enable the councillors to use the funds locally on your behalf for Matlaske amenities.

## Matlaske Pedestrian Speeding!

We received an e-mail of apology from a Matlaske village resident, having clocked up a walking speed of 38mph on the village speed sign! The resident agreed to elect for a walk awareness course, rather than a fixed penalty as this was his first offence. A few hours later another e-mail confessing to a walking speed of 40mph was received. We have suggested that our resident may be a prime contender for the British Olympic walking team! Seriously though, apologies for the speed sign, which behaved erratically, due to its battery running down. Thank you to Richard Amis who maintains the sign and changes its position, in both fair and foul weather.

## Plumstead

Clare Lucas, Eli and Max welcome Ada to their family. Many congratulations to you all.



Mary Lintott  
577718

## Parish Council News

Brian Faulkner is stepping down from the Parish Council after six years and from being its Vice-Chairman for two. On behalf of everyone in our village, thank you, Brian, for the time you have spent on village matters, on your attendance and contributions in meetings and on providing physical help on occasions such as hedge planting and spraying the ragwort in the meadow, and we are grateful, too, that you intend to remain on the grass cutting rota on the flagpole garden and churchyard. Brian has also been the 'flag raiser' and this job has kindly been taken over by Keith Harding. (If any of our residents would like to be included on the 'birthday list' please inform our Clerk, Carolyn Price.) Brian is going back to doing what he used to do in the places where he used to do it. He is to be congratulated in coming out of (semi) retirement and returning to full-time ministry.

It would be greatly appreciated if we could find some more volunteers to join the team of grass cutters. The mower is owned by the Parish Council so no need to bring your own. More volunteers could mean that each person might only do two or three cuts a year. Please get in touch with the clerk, Carolyn Price.

Dates for future meetings

Monday 10 February: 6.30 pm at Jasmine House, Church Street

Monday 4 May (Annual Meeting): 6.00 pm at Plumstead Church

Monday 7 September: 6.30 pm (venue tbc)

Monday 7 December: 6.30 pm (venue tbc)

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Sunrise over Baconsthorpe in January  
Photograph by Norman Allen



Sunrise over Matlaske in January  
Photograph by Jim Shepherd







## Plumstead - continued

### Church News

Much of the writing in this magazine is spent on cajoling people to give to the Church - for the running of it, the Parish Share or the endless jobs that need to be done to prevent the building from going into disrepair. However, it is important to note that last year some of our collections went to three very worthy causes. EACH, the Royal British Legion, Norfolk Churches Trust and the Lent Appeal towards a Diocese in N India in the fight against modern day slavery and finally the Midnight Mass Service to St Vincent de Paul Society ([svp.org.uk](http://svp.org.uk)) - if you look them up you will see they do wonderful work locally. Plumstead also hosted on behalf of the Benefice a coffee morning for Christian Aid.

## Saxthorpe with Corpusty

### St Andrew's Church News

The Christmas Tree Festival seems a long time ago, but it needs to be said that the organisers were very grateful for all the effort made by the tree decorators, and supporters of the event over three days. Sixteen trees were decorated by the various groups in the two villages, and they gave a fitting atmosphere for the Toys and Tins service. The local Salvation Army have sent a very warm 'Thank you' for all the gifts and tins, donated at the service, which they will distribute to needy families. The arrival of Santa Claus was an added bonus and proved very popular with the young members of the congregation. The offertories from the festival, £1,400, have gone towards the essential alterations on the north side of the church. Thanks must also be given to the flower arrangers who decorated a tree and who provide beautiful arrangements throughout the year and particularly splendid ones for this Christmas season. The 'Market Gardeners of Corpusty' tree was in place for the memorial service of Mrs Joyce Rouse, which was a fitting memento of the family's long- standing connection with the village.

The Candlelight service on Christmas Eve was, as usual, very well attended with about 150 present. Many comments of 'best ever' have been heard, so thanks to the organisers, and participants, not least the candle bearer, Effie Newstead, and Edward Beales, who provided chocolates for the end.

Please make a note for your diary. You are warmly invited to a walk through the snowdrops, at The Old Vicarage, Saxthorpe, on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February between 10am and 12noon. Imogen and Merlin Waterson invite you to see the many varieties of snowdrops in their garden. Please park in the St Andrew's car park and enjoy fresh artisan croissants from Siding, also biscuits, coffee or tea in church before crossing over the road for the walk. A suggested donation of £5 would be appropriate.

### Tower Lights

A special thanks to Niven Last and the staff of Church Farm for once again providing and installing the decorative Christmas lights on the church tower. A wonderful festive beacon.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Corpusty & Saxthorpe Brownies

The Brownies enjoyed a fun filled Autumn term. We have been looking at how we can improve our environment starting with doing a litter pick at the village centre. We've done cooking and a range of crafts including making bug hotels, fat balls for the birds and Christmas decorations. An outdoor activity day at Hautbois saw us climbing, doing archery and tackling the obstacle



Sophia Hodgson  
587510

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course. We took part in the Remembrance Day service and sang a carol at the Toys and Tins service, having decorated our own tree for the Christmas Tree Festival. We are very grateful to the Bonfire Committee for their generous donation which will enable us to have even more exciting adventures. We meet on Tuesdays during term time 5.45-7.15pm at Corpusty Village Centre. There are spaces, so if any girl aged 7-10 years would like to join us, please contact me on 587236.

Alison Mawson

## Bottle Bank

This is a reminder that the bottle bank in the centre of the village brings in a small revenue to the Parish Council, which is offered out regularly, to be taken up by local groups. The Parish Council would therefore like to encourage the use of the bottle bank by villagers, over the Council green bins, to support local community groups.

## Calling Local Groups

If you are a local group or are looking to set up a group in the community then the Parish Council has a small amount of money on offer to help with activities. If you would like to be considered for a grant then please email the Parish Council Clerk, Kirsty Cotgrove at: [c.sparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:c.sparishclerk@gmail.com)



Newly Re-Thatched Apse at Hempstead Church  
Photograph by Ian Summers



## Norfolk Remembered



### Good Old Hempstead

I have been thinking recently about the village and the changes which have taken place since I was a child in the 1930s, and decided to put pen to paper in case anyone was interested. Visually, Chapel Lane has changed the most. The Knoll was a field on which there was a cricket pitch. Further up on the same side was a small wooden dwelling and then the two

flint cottages. The Chapel was operative and the council houses were also built. Opposite Wayside in The Street (then the pub) were allotments for the White Horse Cottage tenants. Of course, the barns at Brownwood, Pine Farm and Church Farm look very different since they have been developed.

Life in the village revolved almost entirely around agriculture. Almost all of the men worked on the farms and the various seasonal activities were exciting for the local children. Harvest time was the best. All the children would gather in the fields with sticks, plus a few adults with guns – the idea being to despatch the rabbits as they ran out of the corn. Rabbits were a very important addition to the diet, and it was equally important for the farmers to have them culled. When the sheaves were being carted to a stack, a small boy would sit on one of the horses pulling the wagon. When the wagon had to move on, he would shout 'Holdyer.' This was so that the men didn't fall off the wagon. Another bit of excitement was when the 'threshing tackle' came to thresh the corn stacks in the fields. There was the huge steam engine, the 'drum' and the elevator which was worked by a horse; all well worth watching!

The annual village fête was also exciting. I remember a competition for the children one year. You had to pick as many wild flowers as you could and display them suitably. Obviously, the child who collected the most won! There was a Bowls club, and the playing field was the green in those days. I think it was pretty active in the summer months.

Hempstead never had a shop, though a few essentials could be bought in the White Horse. Rose Cottage was the Post Office and the letters were delivered by a lady with a bicycle. She never rode the bicycle, but pushed it all around the village and outlying farms every day. Milk was delivered from a milk float from Baconsthorpe. A van from the ironmongers in Holt came around weekly, delivering, amongst other things, the all-essential paraffin for our oil lamps. Bread was available from Hempstead Mill.

Those lucky enough to have a radio had to take their accumulator to Holt once a week to be 'recharged'. This mostly took place on a Friday, which was market day in Holt and an important day, locally, therefore.

If you lived in Hempstead, you either cycled or walked to Holt. There were four cars in the village, one of which was owned by the innkeeper. He supplemented his income by rabbiting with ferrets, and he took his equipment around in a very small car. He also did a bit of taxi work when required.

There was a flourishing branch of the Women's Institute in the village and there seemed to be quite a few activities in the Village Hall, including, of course, whist drives and occasional concerts. I am sure that there were very many villages in which life was much the same as in Hempstead, but which have also changed considerably.

Diana Spalton



### Valentine's Day

That Norfolk tradition of 'doing different' showed up clearly in its way of celebrating St Valentine's Day on 14<sup>th</sup> February. Not for us merely the traditional sending of sentimental unsigned cards to a loved one. No, the Norfolk way was to leave small gifts at our friends' doors, knock loudly and then run off before the door was opened, the sender thereby able to remain anonymous. The leaving of these gifts however was just the start of the evening's entertainment, for as the night progressed, a more humorous side to the proceedings took over. Doors would be knocked on as usual, but no one would be seen and no gift left. Another joke was when a 'Snatch Valentine' was left – as the door was opened, the 'gift' was snatched away, having had a piece of string attached for the purpose. Sometimes an up-ended broom was put against the door only to fall indoors as the door was opened. On occasion, a heap of manure might be left on the door step, or as the door was opened a dead rat thrown in!

My friend David Y recalled a humorous episode from his childhood when at Quarles, near Wells, a shoe box containing just a few fly buttons was sent as a Valentine to be passed all along the row of cottages as the evening progressed. Inside was a note saying "We have done those things we ought not to have done, and left undone those things which we ought to have done up!"

The Norfolk Valentine tradition carried on well into the 1950s, when perhaps the lure of television and incomers from other areas allowed this old entertaining custom to die out. Nowadays we appear to be left with Hallowe'en, a poor substitute in the writer's opinion.

Arthur Pentney

## The Village Gardener

To Plant a Garden is to Believe in Tomorrow



First off, I would like to wish you all a belated Happy New Year! Next, I would like to go straight into this month's tasks. February I feel can have its little flashes of glory but mainly it is a bit of a slog and a robust stoical disposition to the trickiest of months is the way forward!

Unless we have a latter day miracle I am presuming the ground will still be way too soggy to work on this month, so instead it's all about indoor prep. Make sure you get all your seeds that need a long growing season set promptly. This will need to be in a propagator or similar, my household has just recently invested in a couple of light growing systems, last year we struggled with light levels so lots of our seedlings were 'leggy' which make for rather vulnerable plants. I will report back! It is worth looking at the light levels where you do propagate your seeds it can make a huge difference to the vitality of your seedlings, you don't want them to be struggling to find light, that's when they put on 'panicky' leggy growth. I think I would hold fire from setting any seeds in the garden yet till the ground dries up a bit. Instead work out your calendar for successional growing, so that when sowing does get going you will have a constant supply of veg. If you're a fan of early rhubarb, do dig up the crowns and put into pots in the greenhouse so you can cover them and then force them for those wonderful early shockingly pink stems, that will lift anyone's spirits!

There's not a huge amount that is possible to do with lawns at the moment as the ground is so water-logged; you could pinpoint really troublesome spots and attempt to improve the drainage by spiking the ground with a fork and back filling with sand, but only if you don't damage more of the lawn in the process by trampling on it... less might be more at this moment. Do also check if you have any waterlogged pots around the garden, make sure these are emptied and left free draining in case we do get a frost, a tedious task but it can save much heartache. If you're desperate to be outside and the weather permits, stick to hard ground and keep clearing and tidying where you can.

Finally keep your eyes peeled for those little flashes of glory, it won't be long before the aconites and snowdrops get going and we can all look towards longer brighter days!

This month's question is from Arthur Fielding who asks "How do I refresh the soil in my raised beds?" Good question, Arthur! The best way to do this is to dig them over and remove any old plants and roots, etc. Then spread new compost on top, about 2 inches worth, and then mulch to keep in the moisture. You could also take it a step further by looking into cover crops to provide nutrients for the following seasons. Also look at the soil itself, does it dry out too quickly? This means you need to add some organic matter to the soil to aid water retention. If your bed is holding on to too much moisture then you need to add sand to the soil to aid drainage. Hope this helps!

Do keep the questions coming in! Email me at [redmaple@btinternet.com](mailto:redmaple@btinternet.com) - as ever the most interesting question will be published next month.

Mick McCarter



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## Meet the Neighbours

Janet Keymer – Edgefield



Janet was raised and educated in Blackpool before going to Liverpool to study physical education. She then spent an extra year at college in Surrey studying dance and movement and then went and taught in Liverpool, Devon and Dorset.

At the age of twenty-five Janet went to teach in Canada. During the school holidays Janet and a friend went on a camping trip in the Rocky Mountains. They had been warned that bears might be around so they must not keep the food chest in their tent overnight. This was sound

advice as one night both girls woke up and could hear a bear shaking their tent. In the morning a very nervous Janet and friend ventured out of their tent to find a bear had indeed found their food chest and torn it to pieces to get at the food inside.

Returning to the UK Janet took a job teaching in Woodforde Green and met Ian, who was the pathologist at London Zoo, and they got married. After Philip was born they moved to the Old Smithy in Edgefield in 1974. Janet then began her long teaching career at Gresham's School in Holt where she taught biology, dance and games. Janet could be found at school on Christmas Day (and every other day of the year) feeding the animals and fish that lived in the biology department.

Janet has fond memories of Edgefield having lived there for forty-seven years. She remembers one dreadful winter when the snow was very thick. She and Ian ran out of coal and had to take a sledge to a neighbour to load it up with more coal and the milk had to be delivered by tractor. Janet has been a member of the PCC, helped at the village hall and was an instrumental team member revitalising the village pond which had to be drained and cleaned to make it environmentally stable.

Janet and Esther (the Burmese cat) will be moving to Cornwall in February to be near to her son Phillip, his wife Louise and their children, Alex and David. Her grandchildren have already worked out how they can visit Janet on the way back from school!! Whilst not on Granny duty Janet will continue to enjoy photography, playing bridge, natural history, reading and keeping up to date with sporting events on the telly. Naturally, she will miss many friends from here but has plenty of room for visitors in Cornwall!

Emma Youngs