

# Church & Village News

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

May 2019



Cherry Tree Road, Plumstead  
Photograph by Karen Hall

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Baconthorpe	Jonathan Cooper	577527
Edgefield	John Seymour	587504
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/theparishcouncil.shtml">http://edgefieldnorfolk.co.uk/theparishcouncil.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**

Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP  
Unit 4, The Garden Centre  
Nursery Drive, Norwich Road  
North Walsham, NR28 0DR  
[norman.lamb.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:norman.lamb.mp@parliament.uk)  
<http://www.normanlamb.org.uk/>  
Office hours are Monday - Friday 9am – 5pm  
01692 403752 daily between 10am – 1.30pm

**County Councillor**

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

**Village Correspondents**

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<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**

Baconthorpe, Corpusty, Edgefield, Hempstead, Plumstead, Saxthorpe

Georgie Perry-Warnes 538344  
[georgie.perry-warnes@north-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:georgie.perry-warnes@north-norfolk.gov.uk)

Matlaske & Barningham

Michael Knowles 825995  
[mike.knowles@north-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:mike.knowles@north-norfolk.gov.uk)

**Church People**

<b>Rector</b> Revd Canon David Longe	577252
<b>Assistant Priest</b> PTO Revd Brian Faulkner	577868
<b>Lay Minister</b> Gill Peat	734226
<b>Lay Minister</b> Judy Rosser	587584

**Church Wardens**

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	Merlin Waterson	587610
	Heather Monks	587118



## What's On

### MAY

Thur 2	7.00am	<b>District Council Polling Day</b>	Local Village Halls
Fri 3	10.30am	<b>Hempstead Coffe &amp; Gossip</b>	Village Hall
Thur 9	7.00pm	<b>Baconsthorpe Village Hall Committee Meeting</b>	Village Hall
Fri 10	6.00pm	<b>Baconsthorpe Wine &amp; Cheese</b>	Village Hall
Fri 10	7.00pm	<b>Matlaske Quiz Night</b>	Barningham Hall Old Stables
Sat 11	10.00am	<b>Baconsthorpe Church Clean + Clear + BBQ</b>	Church
Mon 13	6.00pm	<b>Plumstead PC Meeting</b>	Church
Tues 14	10.00am	<b>Plumstead Christian Aid Coffee Morning</b>	Church View
Sat 18	7.00pm	<b>Hempstead May Feast</b>	Village Hall
Mon 20	7.00pm	<b>Baconsthorpe Parish Council AGM</b>	Village Hall
Thur 30	3.45pm	<b>Hempstead Music</b>	Village Hall

### JUNE

Fri 14	6.00pm	<b>Plumstead Late Fête</b>	Church Farmhouse
Sat 22	11.00pm	<b>Edgefield Open Gardens - until 6pm</b>	Around the Village
Sat 23	11.00pm	<b>Edgefield Open Gardens - until 6pm</b>	Around the Village
Sat 29	6.00pm	<b>Edgefield - Edgefest 4</b>	Village Hall

## Clash Diary

July 10	Matlaske Coffee Morning	Oct 4	Matlaske Quiz
July 27	Matlaske Fête	Oct 5	Edgefield Bingo
Aug 4	Hempstead Fête	Oct 6	Hempstead Jerusalem Talk
Aug 17	Baconsthorpe Fête	Nov 11	Baconsthorpe PC meeting
Aug 31	Hempstead Arts	Dec 7	Hempstead Christmas Party
Sep 1	Hempstead Arts	Dec 7	Edgefield Festive Event
Sep 2	Plumstead PC Meeting	Dec 8	Matlaske Christmas Party
Sep 16	Baconsthorpe PC meeting	Dec 9	Plumstead PC Meeting
		Dec 15	Baconsthorpe Christmas Party

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 during term time	10.00am - 12noon	<b>Church Mice Play Group</b>
Tuesday	7.30pm - 9.30pm	<b>Carpet Bowls - 711320</b>
Last Friday	6.00pm - 11.00pm	<b>Pop-Up Pub</b>

### CORPUSTY

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

### EDGEFIELD

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

### HEMPSTEAD

First Monday alternate months	7.30pm	<b>Parish Council Meeting</b>
Tuesday	10.00am	<b>Charcoal Drawing £4 - Mike Thody 711282</b>
Third Wednesday	7.30pm	<b>Film Club</b>

## Mobile Library Van

<b>9 May / 6 June / 4 July / 1 Aug / 29 Aug</b>			
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
<b>16 May / 13 June / 11 July / 8 Aug / 5 Sep</b>			
Saxthorpe	4.10	NR11 7BL	Old Post Office
Corpusty	2.45	NR11 6QP	School
	3.40	NR11 7BU	Great Farm Cott's
	4.30	NR11 6QJ	Adams Lane
	4.50	NR11 6QL	16 Council Houses
Edgefield	1.55	NR24 2AL	The Memorial
	2.15	NR24 2AX	The Street

Please note that route times have changed and one of the stops in Corpusty has been stopped.

## Post Offices

<b>Baconsthorpe Village Hall</b>	
Tuesdays	1.00pm – 4.00pm
Fridays	10.00am – 1.00pm
All services	
<b>Corpusty Stores</b>	587202
Monday-Saturday	9.00am – 12.00noon
All services including Euros	
<b>Holt Library</b>	712202
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.

## Letter from the Rector - Revd Canon David Longe

577252 / 07881 950294 / djhlonge@gmail.com

Dear All

There are two virtues at the heart of Christianity: humility and love. They are difficult to define, yet easy to recognise. In other words, we know them when we see them.

For the church we see these two virtues revealed during Holy Week, the week before Easter (I write this on what is known as Holy Monday). During Holy Week we remember how Jesus was hailed as a king on Palm Sunday, had supper with his friends on Maundy Thursday, was crucified and died on Good Friday and how he rose again on Easter Day.

I want to describe, briefly, what happens on Maundy Thursday. Its an evening of drama, that ends with Jesus being betrayed by a friend and placed in prison. The evening starts with Jesus eating with his friends; during the meal he breaks bread and passes around the cup of wine, and describes how the bread is his body and the wine is his blood. (The church has debated exactly what happens at this moment for many centuries.)

Jesus then does something unexpected: he takes a towel wraps, it around his waist and with a bowl of water, he carefully goes round to each of his disciples and washes their feet. Then having washed their feet he says:

For I have set you an example, that you should also do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. John 13.16

He is saying that we should wash each other's feet. We should care for each other.

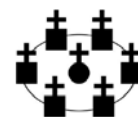
Such acts of true humility are rare. Yet last week I read about another one. South Sudan's independence was only recognised in 2011, making it one the newest countries in the world, yet for most of its existence it has been in civil war. Recently a fragile peace deal was agreed. In order to help the people, the Archbishop of Canterbury and Pope Francis invited the South Sudanese leaders to the Vatican. At the end of the meeting, the Pope also did something unexpected. He said:

To you who have signed the peace agreement, I ask you as a brother: stay in peace. I am asking you with my heart. Let us go forward. There will be many problems but they will not overcome us. Go ahead, go forward, and resolve the problems. You have begun a process. May it end well. There will be struggles and disagreements amongst you, but let this be within the community – inside the office, as it were – but in front of the people, hold hands, united; so as simple citizens you will become fathers of the nation.

Then the Pope walked towards the leaders, knelt down and kissed their feet.

This act of love and humility shocked them. May we all, this Easter Season, shock those around us through our humility and our love.

David



## The Benefice of Matlaske Church Services for May

5 <sup>th</sup>	Easter III	
9.30	Eucharist	Matlaske
11.00	Matins	Baconsthorpe
12 <sup>th</sup>	Easter IV	
9.30	Eucharist	Saxthorpe
11.00	Matins	Barningham Winter
19 <sup>th</sup>	Easter V	
8.00	Eucharist	Edgefield
10.30	Rogationtide Service	Baconsthorpe Castle Barn
Please bring a picnic for after the service with junior pop-up choir		
26 <sup>th</sup>	Easter VI	
9.30	Eucharist	Hempstead
11.00	Matins	Saxthorpe
2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Easter VII	
9.30	Eucharist	Baconsthorpe
11.00	Matins	Matlaske

### Eucharist Services

Saxthorpe 9am Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> / 15<sup>th</sup> / 29<sup>th</sup> May

Matlaske 10.30am every 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday - 23<sup>rd</sup> May

Followed by coffee, tea and cake at 11am - all welcome to either or both

### ART COMPETITION - EXTENDED DEADLINE!

The Rector is offering two £25 prizes for the best adult and children's design for a postcard to be used to welcome newcomers to our seven villages.

Entries to him by email or post by 31<sup>st</sup> May- contact details on page 6

No pictures of the churches please - but one possibility might be for a card with one finely drawn word on it: 'Greetings!!'

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## Baconsthorpe

### 200 Club

£25 Russell Harrod, £10 Sophie Blake, £5 Peter Cope, David Youngs

### Pop-up Pub - Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May - fish and chips for supper

### Plant Sale - Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 10am

Come along to the Old Rectory for the Annual Plant Sale and Coffee Morning.  
This is a chance to buy plants, stroll round the beautiful Old Rectory garden and  
enjoy a coffee and home-made biscuits which are included in the £2.50 entry ticket. Proceeds to  
the church.

### Village Wine & Cheese Get Together - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 6pm

Hosted by the Parish Council, Village Hall Committee and Parochial Church Council, this is  
a chance to come along and say what events you would like to see happening in the village. It is  
also a chance to meet your neighbours, and there will be games and suitable refreshments for the  
children. Admission free.

### Church Spring Clean & Churchyard Tidy - Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 10am

We are asking you to come along and help spring clean the church and tidy the churchyard. All  
help will be welcome and we will finish with a barbeque to thank everyone for their hard work.

### Play Van



On Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April we said farewell to Lesley Gurney who  
has run the Diocesan Play Van for the last three years. The  
warmth of Lesley's welcome and her care and attention to the  
children, parents and carers who have used the Play Van will  
be much missed and we wish her well. Wonderfully, the Play  
Group will continue – known as Country Mice – and will be  
run by Baconsthorpe PCC and parents in the community.  
We are so grateful to the Diocese of Norwich for providing  
this service free of charge for the community for so many  
years, and hope it will continue for many years to come.  
Country Mice Play Group will meet on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April in  
the Village Hall and every Tuesday during term time.

### Village Hall News

Bingo! Nice to be able to report another successful evening with an excellent turnout for our  
Easter themed Prize Bingo. Sincere thanks to all who attended and to our loyal volunteers who  
made it all happen.

A warm welcome to Lee Rix who has joined the Village Hall Committee in the role of Secretary,  
taking over from Karen Benton Warboys following her resignation due to work commitments,  
although Karen is staying with us as a Trustee. The next Village Hall committee meeting is on  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm - all welcome.

Village website: www.baconsthorpe.org



Corinne Youngs  
577263

Susan Belbin

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## Barningham Winter

All quiet on the Barningham front this month but we can report that lots of Duke of Edinburgh Award hikers have been seen.

Like the swallows, they are a feature of the early summer!



Sara Buxton

577207

## Edgefield

### Church News

The young chestnut tree near the tower in the churchyard was diseased, so it has been felled. We did not want dead branches to fall on anyone, or on the nearby graves. The far yew tree, grown from seed by Anne Walker, had grown enormously since it was planted in 2000, and that has been pruned, pending more work next winter.

Preparations for Edgefield in Flower, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> June, continue. We only have five gardens opening this year, but they are all excellent and there will be plenty to see. Could anyone supply some plants for the Plant Stall at The Old Rectory, or books for the Book Stall in the church? We badly need help with raising money to keep our lovely church in good order. Any raffle prizes anywhere? Emma will be in need of cakes!

At the Vestry Meeting prior to the church APCM on 8<sup>th</sup> April, Angela Turner and Emma Cletheroe were re-elected as churchwardens. (A reminder for next year that any resident of the parish who is a local government elector is entitled to attend, and vote, at that meeting.) The PCC is also delighted to welcome Suzanne Longe as a member.

Angela Turner

### Village Hall News

A reminder this month that Edgefest 4 is getting ever closer and tickets are already selling fast, so to ensure you enjoy what is always a great evening contact either Jim Frost on 587110 or Dawn Hulbert on 587379 to secure your tickets (at £10 each) for Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June from 7.00pm.

Jim Frost

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## Hempstead

### 200 Club

£50 J Roy, £25 P Hawkey, £10 D Durst, £5 A Lantaff, A Loach, C Lantaff

### Coffee & Gossip

Please join us for coffee, tea and cake in the Village Hall any time from 10.30am  
till 12 on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

### May Feast - Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> 7pm for 7.30pm

As usual please bring a raffle prize (no need to wrap)  
and your own drink for the evening. Vegetarian and  
special diets are catered for but please let Jill Roy  
know when you book. It is enormously helpful to  
us if we know well in advance for catering purposes  
so please ring Jill, from 3<sup>rd</sup> May, to book your place  
715851. Adults £10 and children under 13 £5. For  
this you will get roast gammon (or veggie option),  
baked potato and salad, and a choice of fabulous  
puddings. It's a bargain! See you there.

### Toad Migration at Rookery Pit

Well, the toads have all returned home after a puzzling (for us anyway, it probably made complete  
sense to the toads!) few weeks of patrolling. It was hard to predict which nights they would come  
all through the migration. However, in the end we moved 2,662 toads to safety, very close to last  
year's total, but sadly lost 247 to traffic. I can't thank the patrollers enough for turning out night  
after night for our toads. We are supported by people from Holt, Blakeney, Hunworth, Corpusty,  
Briston and Baconsthorpe as well as from Hempstead and I am hugely grateful for their interest  
in helping us each year. Thank you too, to considerate drivers coming into, and leaving the village  
during the migration.

Su Summers

### Music in Hempstead - Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May 3.45pm

We are delighted to present another mini-concert in the village hall - all welcome. Berwald's Grand  
Septet (clarinet, bassoon, horn, violin, viola, cello and double bass). Refreshments at 3.45pm and  
music starts at 4pm. There is no charge for this event. More details from Ian Summers 710702 or  
email [ian@isdata.co.uk](mailto:ian@isdata.co.uk)

### Polling Day - Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May

Don't forget to use your vote, electing councillors to North Norfolk District Council, 7am to  
10pm in Hempstead Village Hall.

### The Church Organ

Robin Carver has been researching the history of the organ. The PCC records show that it was  
moved from the body of the church to its present position in the gallery in 1963. Can anyone  
remember where it originally stood in the church? If so please call him on 577306.



Sharon Hannah  
711769

## Hempstead May Feast

Sat, 18 May at 7 pm for 7.30 pm

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## Matlaske

### 100 Club

£25 Vera Norman, £10 Michael Batterham, £5 David Longe

### Fête

Our annual summer fête is being held on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July. We need some helpers on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July to put up the tents and stalls. If anyone could kindly help, please let Steve (577736) or Thomas (577250) know. Please like and share the Matlaske Summer Fête Facebook page, which will be updated for this year's fête during the next few weeks.



Marion Shepherd  
577521

### Quiz Night

Don't forget Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May, 7pm in The Old Stables for our first quiz of the year. Please come along and support us and if you are able to donate a raffle prize (to Cherry or Marion) it would be greatly appreciated.

### Millennium Tree

A big thank you to Ian Fitzpatrick-Swallow for clearing the offshoots around our tree, which had got quite big. The tree now looks lovely and can flourish.

### Matlaske Eucharist

Please note that the Eucharist will now be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 10.30am. Following the service there will be coffee, tea, cake and a chance to have a chat together at 11am. All welcome to either or both.

### St Peter's Church Reference Library and Local History Display

We are delighted that a bookcase has kindly been donated after last month's appeal. It is ready in the church to have its shelves filled with appropriate books on local history, geography, nature and Christianity. If you are able to help with either books or a screen or display board, or local history photos with captions, then please contact Jim Shepherd, St Peter's Treasurer, in the first instance, on 577521. Thank you.

### Voting

You will all by now have received your voting cards for 2<sup>nd</sup> May and hopefully noticed that our polling station has been moved to Little Barningham. Matlaske Parish Council were aware of this and wrote to NNDC asking them to reconsider, as this is further for us to go. There is no parking and this is going to have a dramatic impact on the residents of Little Barningham. Unfortunately, NNDC did not respond to the letter and went ahead with this change. Perhaps whilst you are voting, it may be an idea to point this out to the officials at the polling station, so that they can feed back our concerns.

### Threescore

Some exciting news about our fabulous local folk band, Threescore! Over the last few weeks, they have been in the recording studio again and will soon be putting the finishing touches to their new CD. For those of you who have seen and heard them at the Matlaske Fête, you will know that they write and perform traditional music to a very high standard. Once the CDs become available, you will be among the first to know, via the newsletter.



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## Plumstead

### Village Spring Clean

To my knowledge this is the fourth year that the Parish Council have organised the Spring Clean around the village. It is wonderful that volunteers don their gloves and armed with bin liners and litter pickers search the allotted lanes for rubbish to keep our verges and hedgerows tidy. During the week commencing 8 April, 17 volunteers from the village cleared up litter around Plumstead and the surrounding area. As well as ten bags of rubbish, there were 4 tyres, a whole car



Mary Lintott  
577718



bumper, an old rusty road sign, buckets and much more. Thanks to Carolyn Price (Clerk) who organised the event, and a big thank you from the Parish Council to all those involved. A record number of volunteers!

### Church News

Don't forget the Christian Aid Coffee Morning on Tuesday May 14<sup>th</sup> 10am to 12noon, at Eileen's house, Church View, Church Street. If wet it will be in the church. It is open to all the Benefice. There will be a raffle, a cake and a bring and buy stall. Do put the date in your diary and come and support it.

### Plumstead's Late Fête Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June 6 - 8 pm Church Farmhouse

We are returning to an old fund-raising favourite - our Late Fête. It will be the usual mix of stalls, games and a raffle with of course wonderful refreshments. Offers of help and items for the stalls and tombola would be much appreciated. Please contact Eleanor Faulkner 577868 or Mary Lintott 577718.

PS I saw my first swallow on 16<sup>th</sup> April - surely summer is not far away!

## Saxthorpe with Corpusty

### No News is Good News

After the excitement of the neighbourhood plan, I have no news to report. As spring is well and truly upon us it may be that we are all preoccupied by the joys of blossom and birdsong!

### Corpusty & Saxthorpe Play Group

I would like to ask for volunteers to run the Corpusty & Saxthorpe Play Group on Friday mornings. I will soon not be able to run it and so I am looking for someone to take it over. Please contact me at: elisabethjensen84@hotmail.com if you are interested.



Sophia Hodgson  
587510

Beth Dvelys

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## The Village Gardener

To Plant a Garden is to Believe in Tomorrow



Photo © Saviour Bees

Thank goodness for May! Possibly the loveliest month of the year...if the weather is behaving itself! As I write this we could do with a good rain and with an eye to this we are thinking more and more about catching what rain we do get. So our recently erected greenhouse now has two connected downpipes that go into a water butt...every little helps and will be happier water for the greenhouse too! It was a cheap fix as well as all the pipes came to £8 off the shelf, if it had been packaged as greenhouse water butt 'kit' it would have cost three times as much. Our next project on the horizon is to fit a seep hose inside the greenhouse. If this is run off the water butt, we will save loads of water and time too!

Meanwhile out of the greenhouse there are an awful lot of 'tasks'! Successional seed planting in the veg patch is a good one to get your head round. A steady stream of veg is the aim here, so for those seeds that have a quick turnaround I would suggest writing 2-3 weekly prompts for yourself on the calendar. In the flower bed finish planting out your sweet peas and don't forget to keep tying in any new growth. It makes all the difference to sweet peas to do this so all the plants energy will then go into growing, not in keeping itself stable.

A rather nifty idea has come to my attention in the last few weeks: we are all concerned about bees and some clever folks at Saviour Bees have come up with a recycled card that fits in your wallet that has three emergency sugar water pouches within it that you can revive bees with. Such a clever idea and one that means we can all do our bit! For more information: <https://saviourbees.co.uk/>

Finally a bit of self-promotion! The garden I have worked in for many years (Blickling Lodge) will be opening its gates on May 19<sup>th</sup> for the NGS. Obviously, I am biased, but it is a beautiful garden and well worth a look. With 17 acres of park and garden, it makes for a lovely afternoon and if there is more incentive required, there will be tea and cake too.

This month's question is from Iris Day, who asks if mid spring is the best time to sow grass seed. Well Iris it's not the best...that title is taken by autumn, when the soil has had a whole summer of sun on it (hopefully!) and is nice and warm so that germination is quick. But as a second best, mid-spring will do but make sure you water it well if it doesn't rain.

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

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## Meet the Neighbours

Piers Warner from Baconsthorpe



Piers spent his childhood holidays in the Norfolk Broads area and enjoyed it so much that he and his wife Jane continued to make regular trips to Horning. Over the years they found themselves gravitating to North Norfolk and both thought it would be lovely to live near Holt. Having visited at all times of year they were not put off by the long winters and decided to buy their first home in Baconsthorpe in 2002.

At the time Piers was working in London at Tate Britain and renting a flat in Kent. They would come up at weekends and during their holidays. He finished working at Tate last December having been there for nineteen years. When Piers started working at Tate Britain he was responsible for the Visitor Services Department. This covered everything from ticketing to ensuring the safety of the exhibits.

Over the years Piers's remit changed and expanded to include managing the front of house teams, security, building maintenance, housekeeping and various building projects at Tate Modern, Tate Britain and at the Tate's administrative offices. This was no mean feat, last year Tate Modern had 6 million visitors and Tate Britain 1.5 million. Piers was also instrumental in putting on events as he was the only licensee for the Tate sites in London. Fashion shows, Late at Tate, private views, exhibition launches and family education events all required Piers's input and were an important source of funding as the government has reduced its financial support for the arts.

Back in Baconsthorpe, Piers and Jane moved from The Street to Long Lane fifteen years ago and in January of this year they moved here permanently, no more dashing backwards and forwards to Kent. It has always been important for them both to be part of a community and for the last three years they have been invaluable in the running of the Pop-Up Pub on the last Friday of the month in Baconsthorpe Village Hall. They both enjoy volunteering and see this event as a great way to meet their neighbours, make friends and connect with the local community.