

Church & Village News

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

August 2018



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Hempstead Fête Saturday 5th August at 2pm

Photograph by Geoffrey Harris

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Parish Council Chairs

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	http://baconthorpepc.wixsite.com/baconthorpepc
Edgefield	http://edgefieldnorfolk.co.uk/theparishcouncil.shtml
Hempstead	hempsteadpc@gmail.com
Matlaske & Barningham	http://matlaskeparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk
Plumstead	http://plumsteadparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk
Saxthorpe & Corpusty	https://corpustyandsaxthorpeparishcouncil.wordpress.com

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
<http://www.normanlamb.org.uk/>
Office hours are Monday - Friday 9am – 5pm
01692 403752 daily between 10am – 1.30pm

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Saxthorpe & Corpusty saxthorpecastle@gmail.com	Sophia Hodgson 587510

District Councillors

Baconthorpe, Corpusty, Edgefield, Hempstead,
Plumstead, Saxthorpe
Georgie Perry-Warnes 538344
georgie.perry-warnes@north-norfolk.gov.uk
Matlaske & Barningham
Michael Knowles 825995
mike.knowles@north-norfolk.gov.uk

Church People

Interim Priest in Charge		
Father Michael Cartwright		577865
Lay Minister Gill Peat		734226
Lay Minister Judy Rosser		587584
Church Wardens		
Baconthorpe	Tessa McCosh	577611
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

AUGUST

Sat 5	2.00pm	Hempstead Fête	Village Green
Sat 17	7.00pm	Baconsthorpe Jumble Sale	Village Hall

SEPTEMBER

Sat 1	10am-5pm	Hempstead Arts Weekend	Village Hall
Sun 2	10am-5pm	Hempstead Arts Weekend	Village Hall
Sun 3	7.00pm	Plumstead Parish Council	Church
Sat 8	10.00am	Norfolk Churches Trust Annual Bike Ride	Church
Mon 17	7.00pm	Baconsthorpe Parish Council	Village Hall
Fri 21	7.00pm	Baconsthorpe Chandler Green	Village Hall
Sun 23	6.00pm	Baconsthorpe Michael Farewell	Village Hall
Sat 29	10.00am	Corpusty Table Top & Book Sale	Village Hall

Clash Diary

Oct 5	Matlaske Quiz
Oct 11	Induction of Benefice Priest
Oct 13-14	Edgefield Craft Exhibition
Nov 5	Baconsthorpe Parish Council
Nov 17	Plumstead Keith Skipper Evening
Dec 2	Matlaske Christmas Party
Dec 3	Plumstead Parish Council
Dec 15	Baconsthorpe Xmas Singalong
Dec 16	Baconsthorpe Xmas Party

If you are arranging an event please check with Corinne Youngs that there is not already an event being held that day. This will help prevent any clashes.

577263 / corinne@avyoungs.com

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Paul Boast: magic4@myself.com / 01263 577883

Regular Village Hall Events

BACONSTHORPE

Tuesday during term time	10.00am - 12noon	Diocesan Play Van - 07918 027092
Tuesday	7.30pm - 9.30pm	Carpet Bowls - 711320
Last Friday	6.00pm - 11.00pm	Pop-Up Pub

CORPUSTY

Second and fourth Monday	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Bure Valley Quilters & Stitchers
Second Tuesday	12.30pm - 3.00pm	Citizens Advice Bureau Outreach
Tuesdays during term time	5.45pm - 7.15pm	Brownies
Second Tuesday	10.00am - 12noon	North Norfolk Knitters Rita Taylor 587507 k2togp1@btinternet.com
First and third Thursday	10.00am - 12noon	Art Group Non-members £10 a session 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 £4 - Mike Thody 711282
Third Wednesday	7.30pm	Film Club

Mobile Library Van

2 Aug / 30 Aug / 27 Sept

Matlaske	12.30	NR11 7AQ	Old Post Office
Plumstead	1.15	NR11 7LG	Walnut Farm
Baconsthorpe	2.45	NR25 6LJ	Council Bungalows
	4.10	NR25 6LG	Old Post Office
Hempstead	3.20	NR25 6LE	Hare & Hounds
	3.40	NR25 6TL	Telephone kiosk

16 Aug / 13 Sept

Saxthorpe	11.50	NR11 7BL	Old Post Office
Corpusty	12.10	NR11 6QP	School
	12.40	NR11 7BU	Great Farm Cott's
	2.00	NR11 6QJ	Adams Lane
	2.15	NR11 6QL	3 Council Houses
	2.30	NR11 6QL	16 Council Houses
Edgefield	3.15	NR24 2AX	The Street
	3.40	NR24 2AL	The Memorial

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 published due to space constraints. All facts are believed to be correct at the time of going to press.

Letter from Father Michael
Interim Priest in Charge
Tel 577865

Sundays Only

My Dear Friends

After many years in the ordained ministry, I am well used to that old chestnut "Sunday is your busy day, isn't it, Vicar?". I love Sundays - it is a tremendous joy to celebrate the Holy Communion and to lead other services - but Sunday is, generally speaking, the most predictable day in the parson's week.

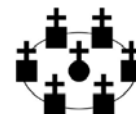
People - those who come to church and those who don't - are at the very heart of a Priest's work. Being available to listen - visiting the housebound - taking the Sacrament to the sick - meeting couples for marriage preparation - baptising, conducting funerals - taking school assemblies - attending far too many meetings(!) - visiting hospitals in Norwich, Kelling and Cambridge even. Writing sermons can also be a challenge.

Each year more and more parishes are amalgamated - lay ministry and many volunteers are much valued and needed. It is essential that congregations become more willing to worship in each other's churches - everybody needs to take this to heart - and we, as a Benefice, to use that well-worn phrase beloved of schoolmasters, "could do better". Sorry, but it's true.

There is a tremendous amount of good will towards the Church - recent very enjoyable and successful fundraising events at Baconsthorpe, Barningham Winter and Plumstead show just how many people want to help. We, for our part, need to reach out and be part of the many regular activities in the seven parishes. This is far more important than written 'mission action' plans which sound grand on paper but make very little actual difference. Why not invite a friend or neighbour to come to church with you? You remember that Jesus said to St Peter "feed my sheep, feed my lambs". That's your job and mine.

God bless you all

Father Michael



The Benefice of Matlaske

Church Services for August

5 th Trinity 10		
9.30	Eucharist <i>BCP</i>	Baconsthorpe
11.00	Matins <i>BCP</i>	Matlaske
12 th Trinity 11		
9.30	Eucharist <i>CW TL</i>	Hempstead
11.00	Morning Prayer <i>CW</i>	Saxthorpe
19 th Trinity 12		
9.30	Eucharist <i>BCP</i>	Barningham Winter
11.00	Eucharist <i>CW TL</i>	Edgefield
26 th Trinity 13		
9.30	Eucharist <i>BCP</i>	Plumstead
11.00	Matins <i>BCP</i>	Hempstead
6.00	Choral Evensong	Baconsthorpe
2 nd Sep Trinity 14		
9.30	Eucharist <i>BCP</i>	Matlaske
11.00	Matins <i>BCP</i>	Baconsthorpe

CW = Common Worship *BCP* = Book of Common Prayer *TL* = Traditional Language

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Matlaske 10am every Thursday

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Baconsthorpe

200 Club

£25 Richard Youngs, £10 David Youngs, £5 John Youngs, William Allard

Pop-up Pub

This will take place on Friday 31st August, supper will be a BBQ.

Raising the Roof Auction



As a result of the Live and Silent Auctions, the Raffle, Donations and the sale of Mungo McCosh's lino cut prints of the Castle we have raised to date £23,600 towards the cost of repairing the church roof following two major lead thefts, twice what we were hoping for. This is an amazing amount of money and was made possible by the generosity of friends and neighbours who gave lots to be auctioned and who came on the night to buy the lots. The auctions and wonderful web site were organised by Michael Day and John Shelley who

volunteered to take on this task and we cannot thank them enough because without them we would not have raised half the amount.

Jonathon Cooper came up with the idea of the raffle and single handedly sold over half the tickets. Carlos Garcia initiated the JustGiving page and prevailed upon his friends and clients to support it so generously. Finally thank you Emma, Karen Hall and Diana Muir for all your hard work in every area of the event. None of these people are on the PCC, but volunteered to help and without them we would not have achieved such a wonderful result. The raffle prizes and all the food and drink were donated so there were NO expenses. Again thank you to everyone.

National Lottery Grant

We are also delighted to announce that the church has received a project grant from the National Lottery of £95,000.00. The work at the church will start in September and should be completed by January 2019. In addition to repairing the roof, the project will strengthen links between Baconsthorpe Church and Baconsthorpe Castle with the creation of the Heydon's Walk (the Heydon family built Baconsthorpe Castle) in conjunction with English Heritage and the Norfolk Coast Partnership. A village website will be created in partnership with Baconsthorpe Village Hall, with areas for village events and village history. We will produce an updated guide book for the church, an animal trail created for children and a geocache will be located within the church. There will be bat nights to allow people to come and observe the bats living in the church. All very exciting!

Village Hall News

The Village Hall Committee would like to say a big THANK YOU to all those who helped at this year's Summer Fête. The weather was glorious, everyone appeared to enjoy themselves AND we raised £600 for the Village Hall and £600 for St Mary's Church.



Corinne Youngs
577263

Don't forget the JUMBLE SALE on Friday 17th August at 7pm. Free tea, coffee and biscuits. Donations for the sale may be left at the Village Hall during Post Office opening times (Tuesdays 1-4pm and Fridays 10am - 1pm). Thank you. Oh, and don't forget "an evening with CHANDLER GREEN" on Friday 21st September at 7.30pm. Tickets £7 pre-booked with Evelyn: 577315 or £8 on the door. Refreshments will be available.

As a result of the recent AGM, the Village Hall Committee remains the same.
Chair: Susan Belbin, Secretary: Karen Benton-Worboys and Treasurer: Kevin Delany.

Susan Belbin

Get Well Soon

To Heather Rix who has broken her foot in 3 places having fallen down the stairs. One foot is in plaster and the other in a boot so Poppy is doing a great job of looking after her Mummys ably assisted by Granny Tracey!

Barningham Winter

Thank you to all those who came and contributed to the concert which was held in St Mary's, Barningham Winter on the 30th June. Just over £600.00 was raised. Rosemary Kimmins led the choir, who sung varied pieces from Handel to Rutter that were all greatly enjoyed by the audience. Anna Hopkins was the flute soloist and Richard Peaver did a magnificent job as their accompanist. Thank you to all the wonderful performers who gave up their Saturday evening and gave us so much pleasure. Big thanks must go to Mr and Mrs Thomas Courtauld for hosting a drinks reception in their garden before the concert.

Huge congratulations to George Seaman who obtained at 2.1 degree in Agriculture and Agronomy. George has been studying at Newcastle University.



Sara Buxton
577207

Edgefield

Church News

What a splendid surprise! The sound of four strimmers working at our annual churchyard session was music to my ears! With the four members of the Ward family raking up, the main part now looks very tidy. Thank you very much indeed for coming to do such a good job. Any offers of help for the lower part?

We were greatly saddened by two recent deaths.

Dr Ian Keymer had a distinguished career as a veterinary pathologist, working for – among others – MAFF, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the Zoological Society of London, in such places as Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, the Falklands and Saudi Arabia. He published over 100 scientific papers and was always so willing to help with any animal problem; he will be sorely missed.



Richard Peaver
587486

Michael Banks, who retired to Saxthorpe, but never stopped working, took many, many services in our church, and his ministry was inspirational. Despite years of ill health, his strong sense of vocation remained with him, and we are so grateful for all his leadership and friendship.

Much sympathy and love to Janet and Judith.

Angela Turner

Village Hall News

Edgefest 3 was a huge success with nearly 200 people on The Green on a lovely summer's evening, which helped raise a lot of money for the Hall. With this in mind, our next project is to renovate and update the toilets and we are in the process of getting quotes. Look out for our next event, which will be a fun-packed Quiz night on Saturday evening, 6th October.

Jim Frost

Open Garden Weekend

We would like to thank everyone who supported us, who helped and gave prizes and donations when we had the garden open weekend on 16th and 17th June at Kinsfield, Edgefield. We are very pleased to tell you we made £2,365 for the Oncology Department at the N & N Hospital. Bebe's wish was for it to be shared between the radiotherapy department and the chemotherapy department. Thank you very much.

Joyce Kinsley & Bebe Mason

Hempstead

200 Club

£50 J Shrimplin, £25 M Wyer, £10 L Mack, £5 A Inglis, J Cooper, J Hurrell



Sharon Hannah
711769

Coffee & Gossip

A reminder that this month it is at Ash Tree Farm, Baconsthorpe on Friday 3rd August. It is such a pleasure to sit in Corinne's beautiful garden in the sunshine! Usual time, 10.30am to noon.



Happy Birthday to Iris Hicks who turned 90 in July. Iris celebrated this special occasion with family and friends at The Pheasant Hotel. Iris is a much loved lady and I think she is an icon and inspiration to all. Many times she has explained to me how to make perfect lemon curd, Christmas puddings, her knowledge is so precious and I believe she is the perfect mother, grandmother and great-grandmother and the dearest friend anyone could have. Hempstead loves you, Iris... and your sausage rolls!

Welcome

We give a warm welcome to Chris and Helen Watson who will be moving into the village in the next few weeks.

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Condolences

To Roy Collier and his family on the death of Viv.

Hempstead Fête, Sunday 5th August

A reminder that as you read this, the fête is almost upon us. We would be very grateful for any last-minute raffle prizes, tombola prizes, good bric-a-brac, children's toys, plants and produce, and books (both adult, teenage and children's). Donations can be left in the Village Hall from Tuesday 31st July to Friday 3rd August, 10am to 12 noon. On the day we need lots of cakes for the cake stall and the teas so hope you might be able to help us with these. Tents will go up on Friday 3rd at 2pm, help greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Children's Activity Afternoon

Lots of fun to be had decorating the church with flowers on Thursday 2nd August, followed by a picnic. Children and the young at heart are very welcome at 3pm. Everything provided and no charge.

Situation Vacant

It would be immensely helpful if we had another newsletter deliverer. Typically, each deliverer delivers about 15. If you feel you might be able to help, please ring Ian: 710702. Even offering to cover for holidays would be very gratefully received.

Play Reading Group

The next reading will be on Wednesday 15th August, refreshments from 7pm, reading starts at 7.30pm, in the Village Hall. If you are interested in joining the group, ring Su: 710702.

Hempstead Arts 2018, Sat 1st - Sun 2nd Sept

Village Hall, 10am to 5pm

Come along to Hempstead Arts, there is no entry fee and there will be refreshments available for purchase. This is the chance to be surrounded by local creativity of which there is plenty in many different styles and forms. Affordable, accessible and beautiful art is what makes this event so special. More details can be found on the back cover of this newsletter

Hempstead Village Hall NR25 6TL

**Arts Exhibition
& Sale 1-2 Sept**

HempsteadArts.co.uk

Sponsored Bicycle Ride

This year's Sponsored Bicycle Ride for the Norfolk Churches Trust (which can also be done on foot, car or pony) will take place on Saturday 8th September. It is a vital source of funds for our churches struggling to preserve their fabrics and keep in good repair and a fun way to help raise them - cycling through lovely countryside, visiting beautiful churches and refreshments provided on the way. More information on line at norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/bike-ride or contact Yvette Gibson: 712460. Thanks to the enthusiasm of our participants and the generosity of so many supporters we have raised record amounts in the last few years and hope we can keep this up.

Thank you

Thank you to Tim Greens for replacing the tap in the Gents at the Village Hall. Jobs like that are so helpful to keeping the Village Hall in good order.

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Matlaske

100 Club

£25 Roger Buxton, £10 Pauline Woof, £5 Vera Norman

Coffee Morning in the Garden of Blacksmith's Cottage



The sun came out to greet us again as it invariably does, and a good number were treated to a gentle, relaxed and enjoyable 'mardle' covering all and sundry topics.

The teas, coffees, cakes, scones and sausage rolls were all provided by Marion and Cherry, plus some from our local support-

ers to whom we offer our sincere thanks. Also, thank you to those who donated a raffle prize.

Marion and Cherry were the organisers and put in a lot of hard work which was very much appreciated by the recipients of the hospitality.

Matlaske Defibrillator Training

We are delighted to confirm that a new battery and set of pads have been installed for the defibrillator situated in The Street. This has been made possible thanks to the support through the picture quiz from last year and funds left from the first quiz night. Thank you to all who support. This local facility is available because of you. We can provide you with training on how to use it or just familiarisation with the equipment. This is provided free of charge by Jim Shepherd (Heartstart Qualified Trainer) and if you have no previous experience of using one or just want a refresher, please contact Jim: 577521.

Goodbye & Welcome

A very sad goodbye to Veronica who has moved from Norfolk Nest to Northamptonshire to be near her family. She will be missed by many. We now welcome Stacey and Sean to Norfolk Nest and hope that all will be happy in their new homes.

Plumstead

What an extraordinary Summer we are having - it does seem strange to be moaning about the heat and the lack of rain but our poor farmers and gardeners are desperately in need of the latter. There seems no sign of it yet though. Will this be a record or will 1976 remain the hottest summer recorded? Time will tell. However, this glorious weather was partly instrumental in the most successful fund-raising event put on in Plumstead's recent history.

Open Gardens & Summer Fair

Dear helpers from Plumstead and further afield, dear visitors to our Open Gardens & Summer Fair, together you made the occasion a wonderful success. Funds raised for the Parochial Church and Parish councils exceeded £5,000.



Mary Lintott
577718

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The event was titanic. At times for such a small village as ours, it felt like the World Cup and Wimbledon rolled into one.

The Summer Fair was held in a beautiful location on Malcolm Newberry's sheltered Lawn. The centre-piece, a striking marquee from which refreshments were served was combined with a traditional mix of stalls. There was no shelter from the heat and the volunteers performed wonders.

The success of the event was dependent on thorough organisation coupled with excellent publicity. For the former we had the tireless Alastair Brown and with the latter, Julie Brown was masterful leaving no avenue unexplored and making full use of Doreen Hebron's sparkling posters.

The effort put in by so many people makes it impossible to name everyone who deserves to be thanked. However, a few other giants behind the scenes were Steve and Carolyn Price, Eleanor Faulkner and David Logan.

Many people mentioned how much they enjoyed the gardens; the village is lucky to have such a large number of diverse and impressive gardens to be displayed. There is no doubt that they formed the cornerstone of the event. The raffle was a notable success; the procurement of prizes for the raffle, getting them printed and selling raffle tickets was a major undertaking.

However, all the other activities that went on were absolutely crucial. Putting on an art exhibition in the church, grass cutting, setting up and taking down of gazebos, tables and chairs, preparing and running stalls such as catering, book selling, bric-a-brac, car park supervising, cake baking, plant growing, the list goes on.

So many contributed towards our village event; we must congratulate ourselves, rest well, because rest assured there is bound to be something else to keep us occupied in the future! The Parochial Church and Parish Councils sincerely thank you all.

STOP PRESS - Keith Skipper Evening postponed to 17th November

Please put the change of date in your diary. More details to follow in due course.

The arrival of Grandchildren in the Village continues. Janice Wolf's son Jasper and his wife Nynke have a son, Vincent; and Mary and John Lintott have two additions to their family: to Melanie and Patrick, a daughter, Flora a brother for Alfie – and to Mark and Verity a son Theo. The next generation continues.



Saxthorpe with Corpusty

Sophia Hodgson
587510

It is sadness that we report the death of Rev Michael Banks. Our thoughts and prayers are with Judith at this sad time.

There was a big fire on the Matlaske Road on Sunday 15 July. Mercifully thanks to the firemen who have worked tirelessly all weekend on similar fires managed to save the area from being turned from serous to critical, though sadly 25 acres were burnt. Appliances from Carrow, Kings Lynn, Mundesley, Wells, Aylsham, Holt, Sheringham and Fakenham attended and crews in breathing apparatus used hose reel jets and compressed air foam systems to extinguish the fire.

Parish Council News

The Parish Council have resolved that the profits from the village bottle bank will be allocated to local groups and charities on a quarterly basis. If you belong to such a group and would be interested in receiving monies please contact Kirsty Cotgrove c.sparishclerk@gmail.com. When using public footpaths, the Parish Council encourages you to go equipped with secateurs to cut back any brambles or nettles etc, to avoid the paths becoming overgrown.

The Corpusty Telephone Box has now been beautifully re-painted, for which many thanks to Stephen Fenny for restoring it to its former glory. If anyone has any suggestions for decoration on the inside of the box, possibly photographs of the history of our twin villages or anything else appropriate please contact Kirsty Cotgrove (email address above).

Scams

On 1st August, there will be a public meeting at the Sports Hall, Woodfield Road, Holt regarding the risk of scams. Please feel free to attend. It is presumed that it is an all-day event.

Table Top Sale

Table top and book sale at Corpusty & Saxthorpe Village Hall 10-2.00pm September 29th



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You can leave feedback on all local hospitals, GPs, dentists, pharmacies and opticians, as well as child and adult mental health services, community health, care homes and social care.

Using its statutory powers Healthwatch use your comments to inform health commissioners about services which can be improved and also letting them know where services are working well, passing your praise directly to the teams providing the care.

Look out for regular roadshows held across the region or call 01953 856029. Healthwatch will be happy to speak to you directly or arrange a visit to your community group to capture feedback from your members.

Alex Stewart, Healthwatch Norfolk's chief executive said: "Health and social care in Norfolk is undergoing huge transformation, with greater focus on delivering more services in the community. Your voice really can make a difference".

For further information please contact:

Chris Andrews, Engagement Manager, Healthwatch Norfolk

chris.andrews@healthwatchnorfolk.co.uk

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Recipe of the Month

King Prawn Linguine in Tomato & Caper Sauce



- 250g king prawns
- 200g linguine
- 400g tin plum tomatoes
- 1 tbsp capers
- 2 cloves garlic crushed
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1/4 tsp dried chilli flakes
- 1/4 tsp dried marjoram
- 1 tsp sugar
- 1 tbsp tomato puree
- splash dry white wine
- 1 tbsp chopped parsley
- salt & pepper

Heat olive oil in a medium saucepan, add garlic and fry for one minute. Stir in tomato puree, chilli flakes and marjoram, cook for a further minute. Add splash of wine, tin tomatoes, capers, sugar and season. Bring to the boil then reduce heat and simmer until thickened.

In another saucepan cook the linguine according to packet instructions.

Just before linguine is cooked add the prawns to the tomato mix and cook until pink.

Drain linguine, combine with tomato mix, add the chopped parsley and serve.

The Village Gardener

To Plant a Garden is to Believe in Tomorrow



Well, as I write this today we have not had any rain (certainly not in our garden) since early June. All the water butts are empty, but the peach tree and lemon tree are the happiest I have ever known them! This is the first time in my life as a gardener that there has been no call to cut the grass, and whilst it's nice to not have that chore, as I look around I would like to see some more green! One task that is not put off by the heat is to remove any old summer fruiting raspberry canes. We had a somewhat depleted raspberry harvest this year as the local deer found the new shoots particularly tasty! Last year it was the new shoots on roses... now that was a dark day. If Bambi hasn't already had a go, do prune your blackcurrant bushes (remove a quarter of the branches to make room for new growth) your gooseberry bushes will also need cutting back on the side shoots to five leaves. Last but not least, finish your summer pruning of your apple trees by cutting back all the side shoots.

Now to the veg patch! Whilst it's not been a bad year for blight, if you've had this unpleasant visitor, do remember to cut off the affected tops. The tubers shouldn't be affected, but I have noticed they don't tend to store as well as unaffected tubers. Try and keep an eye on your runner beans if you've got them: everyone loves young beans, but no one likes a present of huge tough beans.

August is a good month to revamp the herb garden. Give all your woody herbs a good trim, and they will reward your efforts with good fresh growth that will, when the thyme(!) comes, be robust enough to cope with any early frosts. The other plant that is a real joy to cut back is lavender, this ensures the plant remains compact and happy rather than going woody and dying back in the middle.

This month's question is from Ben Dover who asks what will happen if I don't get around to dead-heading my climbing roses? All is not lost, Ben! Come the Autumn you will have some lovely colour from the rose hips in your garden, or for display in your house.

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

Mick McCarter


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Hempstead Arts Exhibition & Sale



On Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd September the annual art exhibition and sale in Hempstead Village Hall will take place from 10am-5pm each day. Entry is free.

Hempstead Arts started in 2013 when the PCC of All Saints Church were trying to think of ways to raise money to pay their Parish Share. A member of the PCC said that in a previous parish where he lived they had an art sale and hence Hempstead Arts came into being.

There is always a variety of interesting things to see; paintings, jewellery, sculpture, pottery, photography and stained glass. What the committee most treasure is people visiting to appreciate the art without there being any obligation to buy. As much as this is a sale it is also a community event where people can come and meet friends and enjoy coffee and cake or a bowl of soup together.

Every year each artist is asked to donate a small piece of work to be sold in the *Pot Luck Sale*. Tickets cost £5.00 and you choose a numbered envelope which has a piece of art inside, you have no idea what is inside other than one of the exhibiting artists has created it.

The prices of the artworks for sale varies but there is a maximum price of £250.00 set by the committee. There is also a large number of cards made but the artists available from £1.50.

The catalogue for this year's sale will be available to view at www.hempsteadarts.co.uk from August. For more information about the sale or to apply to exhibit please e-mail info@hempsteadarts.co.uk

Emma Youngs



Baconsthorpe Castle by Mungo McCosh

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