

Church & Village News

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

February 2022

Hempstead Rainbow
Photograph by Jonathan Neville

Newsletter Team

Editor Michael McMahon
mjmc25@gmail.com

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Design, Advertising + Treasurer

Karen Hall 577547
karen@karenhall.co.uk

Distribution Heather De 577271

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Plumstead	Nick Fulford	577433
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Parish Council Websites

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

Local MP

Duncan Baker MP
Tudor House, Grammar School Lane
North Walsham, NR28 9JH
duncan@duncanbaker.org.uk
<https://www.duncanbaker.org.uk/>
Monday - Friday 9am – 5pm
01692 557140

County Councillor

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

Village Correspondents

Baconthorpe hazel.merlin1@gmail.com	Hazel Martin 07879 414577
Barningham Winter s.m.buxton@hotmail.co.uk	Sara Buxton 577207
Edgefield richardpeaver@gmail.com	Richard Peaver 587486
Hempstead dianaspalton@talktalk.net	Diana Spalton 711117
Matlaske jim.shepherd123@btinternet.com	Marion Shepherd 577521
Plumstead harrietwormald@hotmail.com	Harriet Rossi 577239
Saxthorpe with Corpusty saxthorpecastle@gmail.com	Sophia Hodgson 587510

District Councillors

Corpusty, Edgefield, Saxthorpe
Andrew Brown 07970 298695
andrew.brown@north-norfolk.gov.uk
Baconthorpe, Hempstead, Matlaske & Barningham,
Plumstead
Dr Pierre Bütikofer 838306
Pierre.Butikofer@north-norfolk.gov.uk

Church People

Rector Reverend Canon David Longe 577252
Assistant Curate Reverend Judy Rosser 587584
Lay Minister Gill Peat 734226
Authorised Worship Assistant Dr Alain Wolf 577292
Church Wardens
Baconthorpe Tessa McCosh 577611
Harry Steel 07711 890360
Barningham Winter Amelia Courtauld 577250
Edgefield Emma Cletheroe 587049
Angela Turner 587292
Hempstead Airlie Inglis 577440
Matlaske Thomas Courtauld 577250
Duncan Wood 570293
Plumstead Eleanor Faulkner 577868
Saxthorpe with Corpusty TBC

What's On

FEBRUARY

Fri 4	6.30pm	Baconthorpe Cinema - <i>Minari</i>	Village Hall
Mon 7	4.30pm	Baconthorpe Annual Parish Church Mtng	St Mary's Church
Mon 7	6.30pm	Plumstead Parish Council Meeting	Carpenters Cottage
Wed 9	4.30pm	Edgefield Annual Parish Church Mtng	St Peter's & St Paul's Church
Thur 17	3.15pm	Hempstead Music	Village Hall
Fri 25	6.30pm	Baconthorpe Pop-Up	Village Hall

Clash Diary 2022

Mar 11	Hempstead Music	June 5	Baconthorpe Platinum Jubilee Tea
April 7	Hempstead Music	June 5	Plumstead Platinum Jubilee Celebration
May 14	Hempstead Yard + Boot Sale	July 23	Baconthorpe Fête
May 28/9	Plumstead Art Exhibition		

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

Holt Library

9 Church Street, Holt NR25 6BB 712202
Tues 10am-7pm / Wed 2pm-7pm
Fri 10am-7pm / Sat 1pm-4pm

Post Offices

Baconthorpe Mobile Post Office Van
Wednesdays 10.00am Village Hall

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

Itteringham Shop 587325
Monday + Thursday 9.00am-1.00pm

Village Websites

www.hempstead-norfolk.co.uk
www.baconthorpe.org



WORLD LAND TRUST
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Carbon Balanced Paper. One of the most sustainable forms of communication that will reduce your carbon foot print and promote CSR. www.carbonbalancedpaper.com

Mobile Library Van

17 February / 17 March

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

10 February / 10 March

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

You will be required to wear a face covering. One customer (or one household of up to 3 people) at a time. Your contact details will be needed for test and trace. Hand sanitiser will be available and surfaces that are commonly touched will be regularly wiped down. Returned items will be quarantined for up to 72 hours. Times and dates sourced from Norfolk County website: <https://bit.ly/2AJdSGA>

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 - Reverend Canon David Longe

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

Dear All

"Hate put me in prison. Love is going to bust me out."

Michael Curry's excellent book, *Love is the Way*, relates the story of Rubin 'Hurricane' Carter. Carter is Rubin's slave name; Hurricane his boxing name.

Curry - the first African-American Presiding Bishop (Archbishop) of the Episcopal Church in the US – at one point uses Carter's story to illustrate that whatever we face we are called in prayer to transcend it. (Christ calls us not to look for that which is transient but that which is eternal (2 Cor 4.18).)

Carter, born in 1937, grew up in Clifton, New Jersey - a segregated society. As a young man he had a stutter which held him back: if someone teased him, he would punch them. Carter became one of the great boxers of the last century. In 1966 however he was wrongly convicted of murder and given a life sentence. Twice he lost appeals.

Lesra Martin, a Brooklyn teenager, didn't learn to read until he was sixteen when visitors to his school offered him extra tuition. One of the first books he read was Carter's *The Sixteenth Round*. Lesra wrote to Carter and eventually met him in prison. In the movie, *The Hurricane* (1999), the first words Carter says to Lesra are:

"We must transcend the places that hold us."

Lesra took up Carter's cause convincing lawyers to help, and after 5 years of argument, Carter is released. Carter explains that he has never conformed to prison life. He didn't speak to guards and refused the prison clothes, which lead to almost 10 years of solitary confinement. Carter said prison allowed him to find out who he really was, and that he would transcend the walls: "[e]very time I sat down to write, I could rise above the walls of this prison... I could look out... I could see Nelson Mandela in his cell writing... I could see Dostoyevsky... see Victor Hugo, Emile Zola."

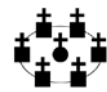
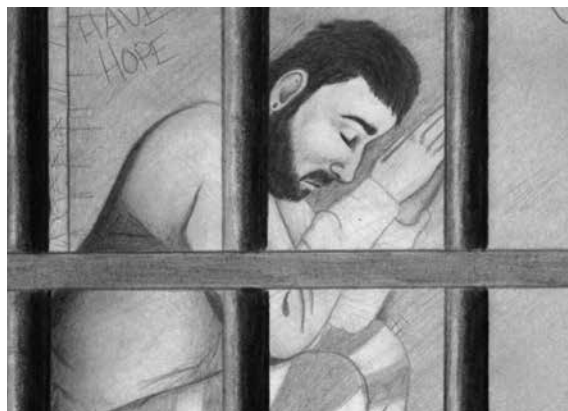
At times we all find ourselves hemmed in (I write isolating with COVID), overwhelmed by fear, concern, stress, anxiety, worry. Curry's point, which I agree with, is that love with imagination allows us to ascend, to transcend what we have before us. It takes us to a new place. This is the aim of prayer: to allow God to reveal God's purpose to us; to renew and refresh us. (It is not to get just what we ask for.)

Lent (starting on 2nd March) is a time of self-reflection, discipline and prayer. It is an opportunity to seek afresh the transcendent reality of God, to ascend to perceive God's vision for ourselves and the world around us. Neither Carter nor Lesra appear to profess Christianity, yet Curry makes it clear that the story is one of transcendence bringing hope, bringing freedom.

I commend this book (which is the Benefice's 2022 Lent book), the film, and the Lent Group.

With my continued prayers for you all,

David



The Benefice of Matlaske Church Services for February

6 th	4 th Sunday Before Lent	
8.30am	Eucharist	Matlaske
10.30am	Eucharist	Edgefield
13 th	3 rd Sunday Before Lent	
8.30am	Eucharist	Saxthorpe
10.30am	Eucharist	Hempstead
20 th	2 nd Sunday Before Lent	
8.30am	Eucharist	Baconsthorpe
10.30am	Eucharist	Barningham Winter
27 th	Sunday Before Lent - Transfiguration	
8.30am	Eucharist	Plumstead
10.30am	Eucharist	Matlaske
2 nd March	Ash Wednesday	
6.00pm	Eucharist with Ashing	Saxthorpe
Wednesday 2 nd 10.00am Eucharist Saxthorpe		

Lent Groups start on 9th March, 7pm at the Rectory, Matlaske (zoom options may be possible). The book we will be using is Michael Curry, *Love is the Way*, Hodder and Stoughton: 2020. For further information please contact: rector@matlaske.org.uk ALL ARE WELCOME.

FUNDS FOR THOSE IN NEED

The Church Wardens of the Matlaske Benefice would like to draw to the community's attention the following three funds should people be in need or know of people who need help:

1. Norfolk Citizens Advice – For advice and help with hardship
Kerridge Way, Holt, NR25 6DN 0800 1448848 / public@ncab.org.uk / www.ncab.org.uk
2. Norfolk Community Foundation - Providing support for individuals and small communities
5th Floor, St James Mill, Norwich, NR3 1TN
shinebrighter@norfolkfoundation.com / www.norfolkfoundation.com
3. The Matlaske Benefice Support Fund - Providing financial support within the Benefice
c/o The Revd David Longe, The Rectory, Matlaske
01263 577252 / rector@matlaske.org.uk, or administrator@matlaske.org.uk
If you would like to donate to the Benefice fund, please contact: treasurer@matlaske.org.uk



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

www.easyfundraising.org.uk

Baconsthorpe Village Hall Cinema

January - April 2022

School Lane, Baconsthorpe, Holt, NR25 6LJ

Tickets £5.00 on the door
Licenced Bar from 6.30pm
Film Starts 7.30pm



secretary.baconsthorpevillagehall@outlook.com



Friday 4th February 2022



Friday 4th March 2022

Baconsthorpe

December 200 Club

£50 M Rowe, £25 R Hall, £10 H Steel, £5 S Breeze, R Hall, V Butler

January 200 Club

£50 S Jackson, £25 S Wilson, £10 T McCosh £5 M Day, L Rix, P Mara

Looking Back

Events from December 2021 seem almost a distant memory but I feel it is important to recap and reflect on such a busy time. On Thursday December 16th six well wrapped-up village residents sang as lustily as they could to residents along Long Lane. Thank you to everyone who came out of your warm houses to listen and to give generously.

On Friday December 17th the Christmas concert took place in Baconsthorpe church. It was a lovely evening. Members of the Vocalights choir from Aylsham bravely found their way to Baconsthorpe with the help of sat-navs! Thanks to all who helped with the decorating of the church and to Tessa McCosh, Emma Youngs and Corinne Youngs for the provision of mince pies and mulled wine. The



Hazel Martin
07879 414577

church was warm and welcoming. We hope to find an excuse for another similar event in the future.

Many thanks to Jane Warner and Tessa McCosh who raised £175 for the village hall and church from the Christmas wreaths they made.

Looking Forward

Country Mice

This exciting group welcomes all mums, dads and grandparents. It caters for tiny babies and toddlers up to the age of four. The session consists of free play; some structured activities; snack time; then ends with a song and a story. Everyone is welcome from the Matlaske Benefice and beyond. The theme is 'looking for the rainbow'. The aims of the group are to be a place of belonging and a community for children; establish supportive and helpful relationships and to create an enabling environment for children and adults to flourish.

Annual Parish Church Meeting

This will take place February 7th at 4 30pm in Baconsthorpe church. All are welcome to attend.

Congratulations

Thursday 16th December was about the only really sunny day in December and was the date that Rachael Bone married Iain Milligan in Barningham Winter church. Rachael's parents are Celia and Richard Bone who live in Long Lane Baconsthorpe. Just to complete the day Rachael and Iain's son, Robin, was baptised at the same service so lots to celebrate in the Bone/Milligan family. We wish them all every happiness.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

It is proposed to hold a village tea party on Sunday 5th June to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Do let us know if you have any ideas about how to celebrate this very special day. We will keep you updated about the day's activities.

Allotment Available

If anyone is interested please contact Michael Day on 07768 816331

Village Hall News

Thanks to a grant from The National Lottery Community Fund we have now replaced the floor in the bar area, so this space is now usable again. We also plan to make some further improvements in this room to make it more attractive and user friendly.

Film Night Friday 4th February

We will be showing *Minari*. A Korean American family moves to an Arkansas farm in search of its own American dream. Amidst the challenges of this new life they discover the undeniable resilience of family and what really makes a home. Doors/bar open 6.30pm, film at 7.30pm. £5 on the door.

Pop-Up Pub Friday 25th February with Lancashire Hot Pot

To hire the hall for any occasion please contact Lee Rix:
secretary.baconsthorpevillagehall@outlook.com



Piers Warner

Barningham Winter

A very happy New Year to you all.

Congratulations to Roger and Jan Legge of Wells Farm Cottage who have become grandparents to a little boy, Rowan. We send our best wishes to them and Rowan's parents, Oliver and Amy.

Welcome to the new residents who have moved into Primrose Cottage and we do hope they will be very happy in their new home.

The Parish Council send their apologies to those who use the bottle bank on Matlaske Airfield. For some reason it was removed and we do hope to get it reinstated soon. Please DON'T leave any bottles there until it is. Thank you.



Sara Buxton
577207

Edgefield

Church News

Our Remembrance Sunday Service was led by the Rev Judy Rosser at the Village Hall. The following Sunday there was a splendid service when the Right Rev Dr Jane Steen, Bishop of Lynn, baptised three people and confirmed nine, including Claire, Lucy and Sarah Cletheroe, and Kevin Harvey, from the village. Our Carol Service was for all the Benefice, and 51 people came. We served mulled wine in the draughty porch afterwards, to be drunk outside to comply with Covid guidelines, and the weather was kind to us! Thank you to everyone who helped with decorating the church and providing and serving food and drink on both occasions. We continue to wear masks at all services.

We carry on as best we can, and very much hope that our Rector and his whole family are soon totally recovered from Covid.

We are very sad at learning of Lorna Ross's death. She was a busy farmer's wife, and totally involved in village life from when she arrived in Edgefield as a new bride at the age of 20. Her cake making was exceptional, and her flower arranging enhanced our church for years. She worked hard as Church Warden, and it was her foresight that meant we have an excellent car park, church kitchen and lavatory. We miss Lorna and Ian's involvement in our church life enormously. Our sympathy goes to Diana and Stuart and both their families.

Vestry Meeting and APCM

The Annual Vestry Meeting (also known as the Annual Meeting of Parishioners) will take place in the church at 4.30 pm on Wednesday 9th February. At this meeting, churchwardens are elected. Any resident of the parish whose name appears on the (civil) local government electoral roll (as opposed to the parliamentary electoral roll) is entitled to attend, and vote, at this meeting, whether or not they are churchgoers. The Vestry Meeting is followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Those whose names are on the church electoral roll are entitled to attend, and vote at, this meeting.

Angela Turner



Richard Peaver
587486

Village Hall News

November 200 Club 1st Peter Pointen, 2nd Carole Baker, 3rd Ray Major

December 200 Club 1st Barry Shillabeer, 2nd John Hardiment, 3rd Mary Millar Watt.

Look out on our Facebook page and in future editions of this publication for events taking place this year in the hall.

Jim Frost

Toad Patrol

The annual migration of toads and other amphibians to the Edgefield village pond will most likely begin this month. The migration can last anything from two to six weeks, weather depending. We always need volunteers willing to devote an hour or so once or twice a week during the migration to help save our wonderful wildlife as it makes the hazardous journey to the pond.

We have an enthusiastic team of "toad patrollers" and are always keen to welcome new volunteers. If you can spare the time to help local wildlife please give me a call or email. Many thanks. The Old Post Office (01263 587674) richard.sear@mac.com

Richard Sear

Hempstead

December 200 Club

£50 Y Gibson, £25 Anon, £10 J Tyabji, £5 Anon, J Shrimplin, A Lantaff

Christmas Bonus Draw

£5 . Udale, A Loach, C Moore, J Smith, D.Durst, R Culverwell

January 200 Club

£50 J Shrimplin, £25 R Mack, £10 A Pryce, £5 W Stevens, P Joseph, J.Tomlinson

Carol Singing

On Tuesday 21st December at 5.30pm, an enthusiastic group of Hempstead residents and friends of all ages, gathered by the Church gate for some Carol Singing around the village. It was a very jolly hour spent singing loudly and vaguely tunelessly?! We avoided potholes and puddles on our way and coaxed people to their front doors in various shades of dress including dressing gowns, onesies and a baby in a towel. We sang to two people who were apparently in the bath who we were assured could hear us! We collected £42 and a supermarket trolley token, so thank you to everyone who took part and all those who looked delighted to see us when we rang their doorbells. Happy New Year!

Airlie Inglis

Toad Patrols

Toads will start to migrate to Rookery Pit, near Green Farm west of Hempstead village, sometime in February, depending on the weather. Volunteer patrollers don't need to be available every evening, they work in pairs and usually do one or two 90 minute 'shifts' a week on a rota, between dusk and the first couple of hours of darkness. If you might be interested in becoming a local toad patroller, contact Tim Venes and Sarah Wilson (timvenes01@gmail.com, 01263 577200) to find out more.



Diana Spalton
711117

Hempstead Yard Sale Trail & Car Boot

Join in Hempstead Yard Sale Trail on Saturday 14th May. There will also be a car boot sale on the playing field with the Village Hall open for drinks and snacks on the day. Sell your unwanted stuff (antiques, treasures, toys, clothes, bric-a-brac, books, DVD's, garden stuff etc, etc.) from the comfort of your home. We'll arrange the advertising, maps, car parking, signs etc. Start sorting now. Times will be 10am until 3pm approx. If interested, please register your intent by either email: jneville@hempstead-norfolk.co.uk or Moira on 07973 712829 with your name and address. Cost per household £10 or £7 per pitch for the car boot. These fees to be donated to the Village Hall and Hempstead All Saints Church equally. If you would like more information please do not hesitate to contact us on the above email or mobile. If you are interested we do need you to register asap in order for us to advertise properly, plan maps and notices outside homes etc., in good time.

Village Website

For those interested in village current events and village history – the Hempstead village website has just undergone a major upgrade to include new pages, new information and many previously unseen photographs from days gone by, including an archive kindly supplied by Geoff Harris of this village. The noticeboard page will continue to be regularly updated to show details of current village news and events. If you have a few minutes with a cup of tea and a goodly supply of biscuits, please do take a look at www.hempstead-norfolk.co.uk

Covid Memorial Plaque

At the January meeting of the Parish Council Thomas Courtauld, Deputy Lieutenant of Norfolk representing The Lady Dannatt, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk presented the Parish with the Covid Memorial Plaque to express appreciation for the collaborative community action taken to support each other during the Covid-19 pandemic. Most, probably all, communities came together in these testing times and many other parishes in Norfolk have been similarly awarded. In Hempstead the immediate action we took was to deliver a leaflet to every house in the village to tell people whom to contact if they needed help of any kind and to appeal for volunteers to give that help. There was an impressive response; a significant number of people quickly came forward to offer help and were able to deal with requests for medication to be collected, for help with shopping and other practical matters. This was all very much appreciated and perhaps just as important people had the reassurance they were not alone in those anxious and worrying times and knew help was at hand if needed. As a small village we should expect to look out for each other and we did. That crisis may have passed and life is returning to a semblance of normality, but we know there are people in the village who live alone, not as active as they once were, without nearby friends and relatives. They may not need much by way of practical help but some might welcome the occasional visit or chat. Now the world is opening up, perhaps those of us who are active and busy widening our horizons could bear that in mind.

Music in Hempstead

On Thursday 17th February at 3.15pm you are invited to experience live chamber music in Hempstead Village Hall. We will be playing Louise Farrenc's *Nonet*. Please join us for refreshments at 3.15pm (half an hour earlier than usual). Music starts at 3.30pm and we should be finished by about 4 pm. There is no charge. Covid precautions: social distancing; face masks; take a covid test. Please let me know if you are hoping to come so that I can make a good guess as to how many chairs to put out. Thanks. Future Dates: Friday, 11 March; and Thursday, 7 April.

Hempstead Village Hall now belongs to the village and is in good financial health. This could be the beginning of a golden age of social events.

But The management committee is few in number and most available energy is devoted to running the Hall.

So Events like the fête, open gardens, coffee & catchup and the Queen's Jubilee celebrations in Hempstead all need your help.

We need Organisers for these and other new events. They would preferably, but not necessarily, become members of the committee. We welcome the Village Yard Sale due to take place on 14 May with a fresh organiser.

We are lucky that there is no shortage of volunteers to do all the individual tasks that make up a successful event.

Initially, phone chairman Mike Thody 711282 or secretary Richard Roy 715851 as a first step towards what is a rewarding thing to do for your fellow villagers.



Matlaske

100 Club

The first draw for this year will take place in February. Cherry and Marion would be grateful if you could let us have your £10 per number as soon as possible please. Many thanks to those who have already sent it to us. If anyone else would like to join please e-mail Marion at jim.shepherd123@btinternet.com and I will let you have details.



Marion Shepherd
577521

Carol Singing

A festive party toured the village just before Christmas, demanding money with melodies. Our fellow citizens made generous donations, quickly. Actually, the singing was surprisingly good, as Karen as a contralto was able to set the pitch at a happy level for all; and it was a lovely still evening. It was also cold, which made the mulled wine at the end most welcome. Thanks to all who sang or contributed!

David Wooff

David's funeral and burial took place at St Peter's on 7th December. The church was full. Moving tributes were paid by friends and colleagues to David's humanity, loving-care and achievements. As he was a man who did much to restore the fabric and fittings of St Peter's over the years, it was good to hear the organ played and the bell tolled. Our thoughts remain with Pauline and Ingrid.

Matlaske History Volume 3

This book (available from Amazon, £4.49 Kindle, £6.90 paperback) covers: the ordeal of the Revd Thomas Settle, a Rector of Matlaske who was lucky not to be hanged by the Archbishop of Canterbury; the mysterious swapping of the Thruston and Mott names at Barningham Hall; the stories that lie hidden in the Matlaske church registers; the grieving life of John Stanley Mott, whose beautiful young wife was killed in an horrific accident; and what Matlaske was like in the 1930s. The author's royalties go to Matlaske church funds. Many thanks to all readers.

Plumstead

Welcome one and all to 2022, may we all be blessed with health, happiness and hope. And a particular welcome to Richard Johnson, who moved to Woodfield Cottage from South Creak last November. Richard writes "A life long career in agriculture has embedded a deep appreciation of the countryside and the tranquillity it offers and hence the joy of finding such a peaceful and beautiful cottage in Plumstead Green. I fully intend to make Woodfield Cottage my long term home and would welcome being an active member of the villages. I work from home much of the time and would welcome you all to come and knock on the door and say 'Hi'".



Harriet Rossi
577239

Crib Service

The afternoon of the Tuesday before Christmas saw a gathering outside the front of Plumstead Church, Mary and Joseph were both present, as were angels, wise men and a variety of sheep. David Longe led this gathering in a lovely representation of the Christmas story, with all present involved in its telling. Thanks go to David for leading this and to Kay Harvey and Eleanor Faulkner for organising the service and providing essential costumes as well as some lovely treats for the children.

Christmas Star

Anyone who drove through or past Plumstead over the Christmas period will have noticed a brand-new star shining brightly into the darkness from the top of the church tower. This is down to the hard work of Nick Fulford in the making of the star and a generous donation from Alastair and Julie Brown. Many thanks to you for this lovely symbol of Christmas and hope.

Queen's Jubilee Weekend

As we have been blessed with an extra bank holiday in June to celebrate this momentous milestone of Her Majesty, Plumstead will surely like to organise a celebration that will bring the community together. This will take place at lunchtime on Sunday 5 June. Communities throughout the UK will be holding a Big Jubilee Lunch at that time. Hopefully lots of you will like to express their love and appreciation of Her Majesty by taking part. We have received a very generous donation from some residents of Plumstead and we are looking for volunteers to form a committee to organise the celebrations. If anyone would be able to assist please contact Harriet Rossi or Nick Fulford; their contact details are at the beginning of this newsletter. Please put this date into your diaries.

Lord Lieutenant's Plaque

We were honoured to receive a visit from Stephen Blackburn, Deputy Lieutenant, to present the village of Plumstead with the Lord-Lieutenant's Plaque following the Covid Lockdowns. The idea behind the plaque is to commemorate and recognise the community spirit which was seen in local communities in lockdown, where the most vulnerable and lonely were taken care of by neighbours and other community members. The plaque will be displayed in the Flagpole Garden in due course.



Help Needed

Churchyard biodiversity – in our anonymous village questionnaire, suggestions were put forward for improving the habitat for wildlife in the churchyard. It would be great to have one or two volunteers to work with the PCC to achieve this. There is a small grassy area already set aside for wildflowers but we need to plant a new hedge and a couple of small trees (as part of the Queen's Canopy) amongst other things. If you would like to help with this, please contact Eleanor or any member of the PCC.

Art Exhibition

John Durdin has generously offered some of his wonderful paintings to the church. We would like to put on an exhibition and sale in the church in May, when the light would be at its best. If you would like to help with organising and mounting this event, please contact Eleanor. Your assistance would be most gratefully received.

Coffee Morning Mondays

These have resumed in the church – do drop in for a coffee and a chat from 10.30am. Have you had a look at the craft and produce sale table and the bookstall in the church? Do come, browse and buy if you are tempted!

Village Furniture

Equipment for events, either community or private, is available to residents in the village. Tables, chairs, cutlery, mugs and table cloths amongst other items can be borrowed by contacting Eleanor on faulknereleanor@gmail.com, for a small donation, and an inventory is available on request.

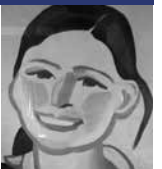
Fly the flag

Plumstead has a tradition of flying flags from the flag-pole next to the church to celebrate the birthday of residents as well as to commemorate other national events. If you would like to see 'your' flag flying this year please let us know your name and the date (no need to reveal your age!), either by email to the Clerk of the Parish Council or direct to the Flag Man (Keith). The flag for residents will usually be the Norfolk County flag and will fly from approximately 8am to 7pm giving you plenty of time to raise a birthday glass and watch your flag flutter! Contact: clerkplumsteadparishcouncil@hotmail.com / keithhard@hotmail.co.uk

Saxthorpe with Corpusty

Playground Fencing

The playground on the village green is unfenced. This had caused concerns to be raised for two reasons: first, the safety of children playing there, given the proximity of the road; and secondly, the risk to health due to dog fouling. In view of these concerns, the parish council is considering options for fencing the play area. If you either support or oppose the suggestion that the playground should be fenced, please inform the clerk to the parish council, Melanie Eversfield: c.parishclerk@gmail.com.



Sophia Hodgson
587510

Broadland Housing Association Development

Planning permission has yet to be granted for this development. There are ongoing discussions about the number of affordable dwellings and concerns relating to potential flooding. In the

last issue we requested suggestions for the possible uses for monies that may be available to the community should the development proceed, pursuant to Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. A few suggestions have been received and added to the list of options identified by the parish council. Such suggestions should relate to delivering or addressing matters that are necessary to make a development acceptable in planning terms, for example to support the provision of services and infrastructure, such as highways, recreational facilities, education, health, well-being and affordable housing.

Ann Poberefsky

Ann died on Friday 14th January at Kelling Hospital. She was a long-time resident of Saxthorpe and with her well known husband Aubrey (both a District and Parish Councillor) and contributed much to both Corpusty and Saxthorpe. A more comprehensive obituary should follow in the next edition of the News. Our warmest thoughts and deepest sympathies are extended to her family, especially of course Aubrey.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

This will be celebrated from 12 to 15 May this year. Suggestions about how the villages should celebrate this momentous occasion are invited. One idea is for a beacon at St Peter's Corpusty, to be lit on 4th June as part of the national celebrations: comments on this idea would be welcome. Please address your suggestions to Imogen Waterson: watersonimogen@gmail.com.

Nature Watch - Wild Geese

Arthur Pentney



If there is any better sight or sound than skeins of wild geese flying over our villages then I have yet to experience it. The first thing you notice is hearing them from some distance away. Where exactly are they? Look around, and – yes – here they come, two or three skeins all proceeding in the same direction, seeking out fields with sugar beet tops or early emerging corn to consume.

Author Henry Williamson shared this affinity with wild geese: in *The Story of A Norfolk Farm*, he describes their arrival thus: 'Hark, what's that? A strange jangling, honking, cronkling noise, the wild geese are coming in from the sea, this is the coast of the wild geese! Beauty was come again.'

Usually just one goose heads the vee, and no map or sat-nav is needed here: instinct bred over hundreds of years has brought

them from the Arctic wastes of Greenland to provide us here in North Norfolk with this wonderful annual spectacle. Long may it continue!

Nature Watch - Help Our Local Toads

Tim Venes

There are several ponds in our group of parishes that are used by toads, as well as frogs and newts, for breeding. Unlike the other two amphibians, toads are faithful to their birth pond. They migrate up to a mile or more at night during February and March back to this pond to breed.

For some ponds, this makes them particularly vulnerable to road traffic on migration to and from the pond, and they often use roads and tracks as it's easier for them to crawl along these than through thick vegetation. Also, male toads will often sit in roads where they can see around them, waiting for a female to grab and hitch a lift to the pond, where they are in 'pole position' for fertilising her eggs.

There are organised toad patrols by local volunteers to help toads and other amphibians get safely across roads near breeding ponds at Hempstead and Edgefield. If you'd like to help with these, please see the information under these parishes.

But you can also help by being aware of where toad patrols take place during February and March, watch out for warning signs, and drive carefully near these, to help both the toads and the patrollers (there are also patrols nearby at Selbrigg Pond and North Barningham).

And do please develop 'toad awareness' if you are driving on rural roads at night, especially in February and March, but also any time over the spring and summer, as toads still come out to hunt at night when migration is over.

They're most likely to be out in mild and wet or damp weather. If you drive reasonably slowly and watch the road carefully, you can see them on the road in the car headlights and hopefully avoid them with your wheels.

Not all local ponds with breeding toads have a patrol – please also be especially careful in early spring near Pond Hills, Hempstead and Plumstead Hall Farm up to Baconsthorpe. Thank you for helping our local toads!



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Somewhat belatedly may I wish everyone a Happy New Year! Hoping your start to the year was good. It has certainly been a mixed bag of weather in 2022 kicking off with the warmest New Year's Day I can ever recall; with an element of disbelief I actually ate my breakfast outside, but still felt no enthusiasm for a New Year's Day dip in the sea despite the ridiculously mild temperatures. Now as I write this we have a stunning and impressive frost, a proper old -school hoar frost that has somewhat tempered my gardening plans today, but that might also be to do with the huge pan of glorious Seville oranges that need attention. It's possibly the perfect combination a wonderfully sharp frost outside and the delightful smell of marmalade making inside... just heavenly! Once I've finished procrastinating with preserves, here are just some of the jobs on my to do list this month!

With absolutely no guarantees on what weather we will be landed with at present, I try and have a rolling list of prioritised tasks both inside and out so that everything hopefully gets done. Having a mixture of good weather and bad weather jobs seems to help. There certainly will be a lot of pruning going on, after the huge amount of growth in our hedges last year the plan is to revert back to doing two cuts a year. Last year's hedge cutting seemed relentless because of the sheer volume of growth, so two cuts feels like the right way to go. We had also been quite shocked by just how high the hedges had become in our 'walled garden'; it's curious how these things creep up on you... the lack of light had really affected the growth in some of our raised beds. So this year the plan is to keep the hedges lower and airier in there, which will with any luck help our two beautiful espaliered quinces that have been struggling with powdery mildew these last few years. Last spring we put in some soaker hose to ensure the quinces weren't becoming too dry (powdery mildew seems to thrive on trees and plants that are particularly stressed) but needless to say we then had the biggest rainfall last year. Ah, the irony of gardening!

In the veg patch there are cloches to go out to warm the ground for early sowing of carrots and lettuces; those of you that are super keen could also get your potatoes chitted at the end of the month. This year I think we will have a breather from potatoes as last year we had the most miserable time with blight and it just feels like the garden needs a break from it, and I am also curious to see if the impact of blight is reduced if I only grow tomatoes without potatoes nearby... I will report back on that one! In theory, our walled garden should be good for outdoor tomato varieties but they have been hammered with blight these last couple of years, so we shall see if this different approach works. Fingers crossed!

This month's question is regarding dogwood, and how to keep it looking its best. Late winter is the perfect time to prune dogwood: if you thin out the largest stems at their base, that will leave it open for new bright shoots that in turn will look vibrant and fiery next winter.

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

Michelle & Mick McCarter