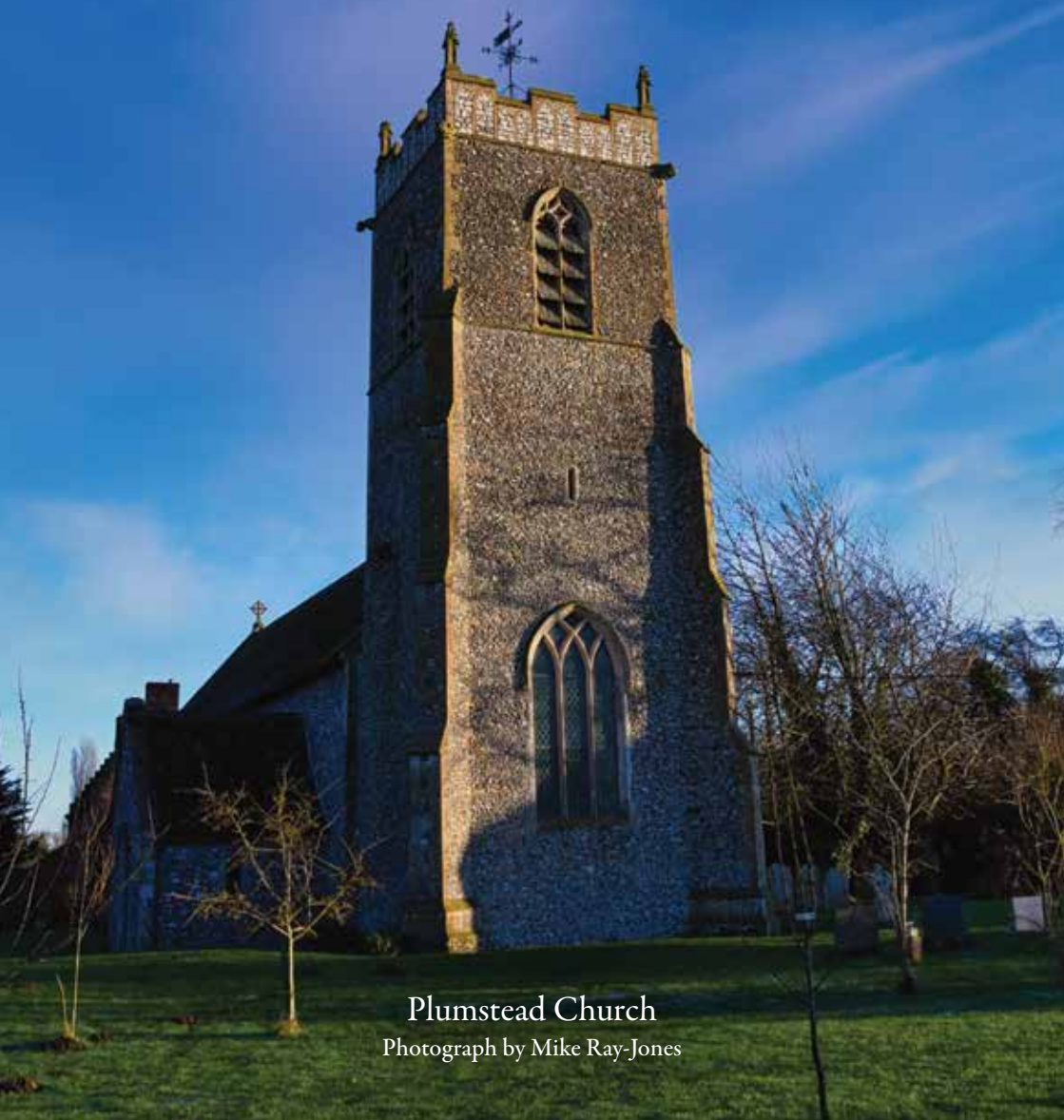


Church & Village News

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

February 2023



Plumstead Church
Photograph by Mike Ray-Jones

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Parish Council Chairs

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|--------|
| Baconsthorpe | Jonathan Cooper | 577527 |
| Edgefield | Mark Cook | 587735 |
| Hempstead | Paul Sanders | 713217 |
| Matlaske & Barningham | Sara Buxton | 577207 |
| Plumstead | Nick Fulford | 577433 |
| Saxthorpe & Corpusty | Imogen Waterson | 587610 |

Parish Council Websites

Baconsthorpe
<http://baconsthorpepc.wixsite.com/baconsthorpepc>
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>

Village Websites

www.baconsthorpe.org
www.hempstead-norfolk.co.uk
www.plumstead.org.uk



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Village Correspondents

| | |
|--|---|
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| Edgefield richardpeaver@gmail.com | Richard Peaver 587486 |
| Hempstead jneville@digitalwild.co.uk | Jonathan Neville 07836 675369 |
| Matlaske duncan.wood@cantab.net | Duncan Wood 570293 |
| Plumstead harrietwormald@hotmail.com | Harriet Rossi 577239 |
| Saxthorpe with Corpusty birchalljc@aol.com | John Birchall 584290 |

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andrew.brown@north-norfolk.gov.uk
Baconsthorpe, Hempstead, Matlaske & Barningham, Plumstead
Dr Pierre Bütikofer 838306
Pierre.Butikofer@north-norfolk.gov.uk

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Assistant Curate Reverend Judy Rosser 587584
Lay Minister Gill Peat 734226
Authorised Worship Assistant Dr Alain Wolf 577292
Church Wardens
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Harry Steel 07711 890360
B Winter Amelia Courtauld 577250
Rebecca Hill 07960 739593
Edgefield Emma Cletheroe 587049
Angela Turner 587292
Hempstead Airlie Inglis 577440
Matlaske Thomas Courtauld 577250
Duncan Wood 570293
Plumstead Eleanor Faulkner 577868
Sax with Corpusty TBC

Safeguarding Officers
Catherine McMahon
01263 577357 / cmcmahon161@gmail.com
Lawrence Williams
01263 577292 / trustlawrence@hotmail.com
Safeguarding concerns please contact the Police on 999 or Diocese of Norwich Safeguarding Team safeguarding@dioceseofnorwich.org or 01603 882345

What's On

FEBRUARY

| | | | |
|----------|---------|---|---------------------------|
| Fri 3 | 10.30am | Hempstead Coffee & Catch-Up | Village Hall |
| Sat 4 | 10.00am | Corpusty & Saxthorpe Coffee Morning | Village Hall |
| Sat 4 | 10.00am | Baconsthorpe Church Yard Tidy + BBQ | St Mary's Church |
| Sat 4 | 10.30am | Hempstead Table Top Sale | Village Hall |
| Tues 7 | 6.00pm | Annual Parochial Church Council Mtg | Baconsthorpe Village Hall |
| Sat 11 | 2.00pm | Hempstead Introduction to Crafty Creations | Village Hall |
| Mon 13 | 7.30pm | Baconsthorpe Murder Mystery Play Mtg | Village Hall |
| Thurs 16 | 3.45pm | Hempstead Music | Village Hall |
| Sat 18 | 10.00am | Saxthorpe Snowdrops | The Old Rectory |
| Fri 24 | 6.00pm | Baconsthorpe Pop-Up Pub | Village Hall |
| Sat 25 | 10.00am | Corpusty & Saxthorpe Litter Pick | The Duke's Head |

Clash Diary

March 4 Baconsthorpe Craft Fair
April 15 Edgefield Bingo Night
May 20/21 Edgefield Open Gardens
July 22 Baconsthorpe Fete
Sept 2/3 Hempstead Arts

Contact Corinne Youngs to add your event
577263 / corinne@avyoungs.com

Post Offices

Baconsthorpe Mobile Post Office Van
Wednesdays 10.00am Village Hall
Corpusty Stores 587726
Monday-Friday 9.00am – 12.00noon
Itteringham Shop 587325
Monday + Thursday 9.00am-1.00pm

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

Mobile Library Van

16 February / 16 March

| | | | |
|-----------|-------|----------|-----------------|
| Matlaske | 12.30 | NR11 7AQ | Old Post Office |
| Plumstead | 12.50 | NR11 7LG | Walnut Farm |
| Edgefield | 2.15 | NR24 2AL | The Memorial |
| | 2.35 | NR24 2AX | The Street |
| Corpusty | 15.00 | NR11 6QP | School |
| | 15.40 | NR11 7BU | Great Farm Cott |
| Saxthorpe | 4.10 | NR11 7BL | Old Post Office |
| Corpusty | 4.30 | NR11 6QJ | Adams Lane |

9 February / 9 March / 6 April

| | | | |
|--------------|------|----------|-------------------|
| Hempstead | 3.40 | NR25 6TL | Telephone kiosk |
| Baconsthorpe | 4.05 | NR25 6LE | Hare & Hounds |
| | 4.25 | NR25 6LJ | Council Bungalows |

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

For all enquiries please call 01603 222303

Holt Library

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

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 Ádám Bak - Visiting Hungarian Priest
 Revd Canon D Longe 577252 / 07881 950294 / rector@matlaske.org.uk



Dear All

Let me introduce myself. My name is Ádám Bak, I am a Hungarian priest and I spent a short period here at Benefice for a very special reason.

I am on the process to recognise my Holy Orders in the Church of England. William Gulliford, who is in charge with my transition and a good friend of David Longe, had the idea, it would be very supportive to see this kind of ministry in England.

I don't want to bore anyone, especially not those who heard my sermon.

I would rather share my experiences in your villages, and about the graces, I have received.

To be honest, I was a little scared at first that I was going to spend ten days in the middle of nowhere.

The next day, when Father David and I walked around the grounds, I remembered from my childhood, the beautiful stories of Beatrix Potter, Agatha Christie, her rural murders or what I am currently reading, the Grantchester mysteries. In that moment I knew, I am not in the middle of nowhere, but in the middle of British reality.

I was, and still I am, fascinated by old buildings and churches. I can touch the history and I am able to connect it, because these buildings are not museums but spaces in use.


I had also a number of amazing meetings with you and that was, what I appreciate a lot. Maybe you didn't realise it, but the conversations with you were the most significant experiences. They were supportive and I saw clearly, that this place, the middle of nowhere for you, and in these days even for me, the middle of everything, the place what you keep in your hearts.

I am very thankful, and I do hope that I could continue my ministry perhaps somewhere in this area. That challenge would be for me to build the Kingdom of God in a lovely place, with charming people.

Thank you for spending time to read this short article, and please keep me in your prayers.

Ádám Bak

FIVE-WEEK LENT COURSE & REFLECTIONS
Wednesday 1st March at 7 pm
Week 1: Judy Rosser's (venue tbc)
Weeks 2-5: Alain Wolf, Park View, The Street, Matlaske, NR11 7AQ
 Free reading materials will either be emailed to participants or accessed online
 For further details please contact Dr Alain Wolf
 ajew2@hotmail.co.uk or 01263 577292

|  The Benefice of Matlaske Church Services for February | | |
|---|--|-------------------|
| 1 st | Wednesday Eucharist followed by refreshments | Saxthorpe |
| 5 th | 3 rd Sunday Before Lent | |
| 8.30am | Eucharist | Baconsthorpe |
| 10.30am | Eucharist | Matlaske |
| 12 th | 2 nd Sunday Before Lent | |
| 8.30am | Eucharist | Saxthorpe |
| 10.30am | Eucharist | Hempstead |
| 14 th | St Valentine's Day - Tuesday | |
| 10.30am | Children's Heart-Shaped Activities | Edgefield |
| 18 th | Saturday | |
| 6.00pm | Eucharist | Plumstead |
| 19 th | Guest Preacher Revd Phil Blamire - ex-Rural Dean of Holt | |
| 10.30am | Eucharist | Edgefield |
| 22 nd | Ash Wednesday | |
| 6.30pm | Eucharist with Ashing | Saxthorpe |
| 26 th | Lent 1 | |
| 10.30am | Eucharist | Baconsthorpe |
| 3.30pm | Children & Family | Edgefield |
| 5 th March | Lent 2 | |
| 8.30am | Eucharist | Edgefield |
| 10.30am | Eucharist | Barningham Winter |

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS
 All seven parishes will be holding their annual Parochial Church Council meetings on Tuesday 7th February 2023 at 6pm in Baconsthorpe Village Hall
 Anyone in the benefice may attend this meeting

MATLASKE BENEFICE ADMINISTRATOR
 The Benefice is recruiting an administrator to start work on 1st October 2023
 The administrator does office work at the request of the Rector, should have a working knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel and Publisher, attend Benefice meetings, take minutes, shops for church supplies, is a team player, has a complete understanding of confidentiality and is familiar with and sympathetic to the Anglican Church. This is a part-time role and will require between 5–10 hours a week, working from home and the Benefice Office. Remuneration to be negotiated. If you would like a copy of the job description or an informal conversation please email: administrator@matlaske.co.uk
 Applications will include a CV, proof of administrative experience and two references and should be sent to the Benefice Administrator, Ash Tree Farm, Baconsthorpe, Holt, NR25 6LF
 by Tuesday 14th February 2023 / Interview Date – Tuesday 14th March 2023 at Edgefield Church

Baconsthorpe

200 Club

£50 J Regis, £25 R Hall, £10 M Day, £5 J High, E Youngs, E Youngs
£50 Y Marra, £25 M Strong, £10 W Peck, £5 P Marra, R Hall, H Steel

'Twas the night before Christmas

Well actually it was December 23rd when a very brave band of young actors assembled in St Mary's Church ready to perform the long awaited 'living nativity'. Sets were in place around the church; Joseph's house; the hillside for the shepherds; the sheep were in their pen and very well behaved; Elizabeth's house was ready; a palace for the three wisemen was furnished with maps and books and 'Mouse' the donkey was in the tower eager to make his grand entrance.

Rex Longe as narrator led out the cast with the first verse of *Once In Royal David's City* and so the story of the nativity began, watched by a packed church. There were certainly moments to treasure:

A tiny shepherd twirling his crook like a baton;

Two tiny angels stealing the show and burying themselves in hay;

Young Poppy Rix as pregnant Mary riding the donkey down the aisle and berating Joseph for not booking a place at the Inn;

Two very contented sheep who dozed through the proceedings including five carols!



Hazel Martin
07879 414577



My thanks go to all who contributed but especially the cast who were so well behaved, learned lines and gave everyone a nativity to remember.

Unfortunately, the pen that the sheep were housed in has gone missing. It was placed momentarily outside the church before being stored in the barn. No doubt someone thought it was unwanted. However, we would love it returned ready for next year.

A Murder is About to be Committed in the Village Hall

On March 24th I plan to stage a Murder Mystery play in the village hall. To achieve this I shall need adult actors. Cast needed: 4 females, 2 males and a narrator. Please let me know if you are

interested as it would be lovely to cast from the villages. I am suggesting that our first meeting/get together will be Monday February 13th in Baconsthorpe Village Hall at 7 30pm. Call or text me on 07879 414577 for more information or to express interest or grab me at the Pop-Up Pub.

Notes and dates for your diary

Country Mice will be holding their Tuesday sessions at Edgefield village hall on February 7th as the village hall is being decorated. There is always a warm welcome to everyone at this group wherever they meet.

On March 4th at 10am everyone is invited to attend St Mary's Church for 'a clean up day'. This promises to be a jolly gathering with a BBQ and refreshments to sustain the helpers. Please do come along.

In the last edition of the newsletter I mentioned meeting with Kim Brittingham from the USA who was working on a book concerning her ancestral connection to Baconsthorpe and Hempstead. Well, she has done it! The book has arrived in the post and there is a lovely message of thanks to the Baconsthorpe Ladies. If anyone wants further information please contact me.

Finally, a gentle reminder that dogs should always be kept on a lead on public footpaths.

Village Hall News

Pop-Up Pub – Friday 24th at 6pm Chilli Con Carne from 6.30pm

On Saturday March 4th we will hold another Craft Fair from 10am – 2pm. Come and find some unique hand-crafted gifts, along with refreshments. If you would like to book a sales table please contact Lee Rix at secretary.baconsthorpevillagehall@outlook.com

We have a number of great events planned for the coming year including tabletop sales, craft fairs, a murder mystery evening, the village fete, a quiz night and of course the Pop-Up Pub. The hall is also available to hire for your own event at £10 an hour and has been newly redecorated.

200 Club – we still have some numbers available. Every month you could win £50 and it only costs a £1 a month to take part. You can pay by bank debit using the following details: Account name: Baconsthorpe Village Hall; Sort code: 20-30-81; Acc No: 90423106. Sign-up now and support your Village Hall.

Piers Warner

Baconsthorpe Village Hall
CRAFT FAIR
Saturday 4 March
10.00am – 2.00pm
Unique Gifts + Refreshments
To book a table contact:
secretary.baconsthorpevillagehall@outlook.com

Barningham Winter

The Advent Carol Service took place at St Peter, North Barningham on 27th November. The congregation was smaller than usual, perhaps reflecting the fact that we had failed to advertise the service in the newsletter as we generally do, but the atmosphere felt right. There is no accounting for it. There are years when the atmosphere is particularly happy. This was one of those years! The carols and lessons were much as usual, the five lessons read by people from the different parishes of the Benefice and although fewer people came, they came from all over the Benefice and beyond. It is always good to see such a coming together.



Sara Buxton
577207



Kind and generous neighbours put themselves out to provide sausage rolls and mince pies, which were much appreciated by all. Our thanks go to them, to Richard Peaver who played the keyboard to accompany the hymns and last but by no means least, to Rev David Longe, our Vicar, for conducting the service. Happy New Year to all!"

Thank you to all those kind people that braved the very chilly day and supported the Barningham DIY

wreath making event in December. The wreaths that everyone made were fabulous. We managed to raise £330.00 for our little church which is an amazing amount and will be much appreciated by all. Thank you to Mrs Courtauld for allowing us use of The Stables and to the 'helpers' who gave a lot of support to make it a successful event.

At the Barningham & Matlaske Parish Council meeting huge thanks were given to Mr Derek England who after many years of sitting on the council has decided to retire. His input to the council over the years has been much appreciated and thanks were also given to his wife Freda who has in the past always kept an eye on the bottle and paper banks and got them emptied etc when required. Thank you, Derek and Freda. Because of Derek's retirement there will be a vacancy on the council. Please do come along to the next meeting on the 8th March if you would like to see what goes on. The meetings are held in the church at 7.30pm. The AGM is in May. At the meeting we were lucky enough to meet Coralie Martin who is a community connector at NNDC. She explained her work to us at the council which is to promote and support groups across our local communities. Coralie and her team have a wealth of information regarding community groups, local food hubs and warm spaces and you can contact them at www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/tasks/your-community/community-connectors email: communityconnectors@north-norfolk.gov.uk or phone 01263 513811.

Edgefield

Church News

The Annual Vestry Meeting (also known as the Annual Meeting of Parishioners) will take place in Baconsthorpe Village Hall at 6pm on Tuesday 7th February. (For the first time, all the parishes in the benefice will be holding their meetings simultaneously, and at the same venue.) At this meeting, churchwardens are elected. All those whose names are on the church electoral roll are entitled to attend, and vote at this meeting. In addition, any resident of the civil parish of Edgefield whose name appears on the 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 immediately by the (ecclesiastical) parish's AGM, known as the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Only those whose names are on the church electoral roll are entitled to attend, and vote at, this meeting.



Richard Peaver
587486

Second-Hand Bookstall

May we remind everyone that in the church there is a large selection of second-hand books, of all kinds, most of them in very good condition. Anyone is welcome to come and take whatever they would like. (We would, of course, be grateful for a donation – anything between 1p and £1m though if it is nearer the latter, please let the Treasurer know!)

Children's Events

Since April 2022 a small team at Edgefield Church have been arranging children's activities in the church. We started with a full free Easter craft/activity morning, which led to subsequent events on a Tuesday morning in school holidays. We create space for toddler play, plus crafts and things to make for primary and secondary aged children, plus refreshments. Families from the village have become regulars and it's a great social event. The next is on Tuesday 14th February from 10.30am to 12.00noon all things red and heart-themed.

Edgefield Church has a history of Sunday school, and many fondly remember those days. As an experiment, a Sunday afternoon gathering was arranged for families to attend a 'Back Pack blessing' service for those returning to schooling or work. It was so well received that we ran other Sunday afternoons in October, November and January. We covered the topics of light and friendship/hospitality. Our next date is Sunday 26th February, from 3.30pm - 5pm. The format for the Sunday afternoon is a 20-minute session with two songs, a story around a theme, prayers and a blessing with a picnic tea afterwards. For more information, and to book, please email administrator@matlaske.org.uk.

Kay Harvey

Edgefield Toad Patrol – come and join us!

During late February and early March each year the amphibians make their annual migration to the village pond from the surrounding gardens and countryside. The toad patrols successfully placed over 650 toads, newts and frogs from the danger of the road and lane to the safety of the pond last year. A group of enthusiastic patrollers made this success story possible. Do you want to be part of saving our local wildlife? We would very much welcome additional volunteers to join the teams and help save our amphibians in Spring 2023. If you are interested, please contact me on Richard.sear@mac.com or 01263 587674.

The migration normally starts around mid-February, if mild and wet, through to beginning of March, dusk until 9pm. We create a rota, have a WhatsApp group for updates and volunteers are normally only required two evenings a week. A very rewarding few hours a week for our volunteers mean that the amphibians of Edgefield continue to thrive in our wonderful village pond in the future.

Richard Sear

Village Hall News

Our next event will be another of our ever-popular Bingo Nights, to be held on Saturday 15th April at 7.00pm. Tickets £5 from any member of the committee or call Jim on either 07946 854901 or 01263 587110. December winners of the 200 Club draw were: 1st Debbie Parsons (216), 2nd Mike Jones (148) and 3rd Michael Chadwick (1).

Jim Frost

Edgefield Parish Council

Huge thanks to the Village Hall Committee who have helped to pay for the installation of extra guttering taking rain water from the roof of the village hall to the village pond. This is beautifully clean rain water and will help to keep the pond topped up, hopefully helping to 'future-proof' it from another 'Summer of 22'!

Hempstead

200 Club

£50 A Matthews, £25 A Tyabji, £10 L Mack, £5 C Lister, I Summers, R Culverwell

As from the March issue, Jonathan Neville has very kindly agreed to take over as Village Correspondent. I am not in such good health as I was when I took it over. I am sorry to give it up but happy that Jonathan is going to do it. His email address is: jneville@digitalwild.co.uk and mobile: 07836 675369.



Diana Spalton
711117

Coffee & Catch-Up Friday 3rd 10.30am-12noon Get together in the village hall warmth.

Music in Hempstead

Thursday 16th 3.45pm refreshments for 4pm music in the village hall.

Two quintets by Malcom Arnold - full of humour.

Hempstead Toads will be Active This Month – Volunteers Welcome

Toads will start to migrate to Rookery Pit near Green Farm, west of Hempstead village, sometime this month depending on the weather. Generations of toads have used this local pond for breeding, as well as other local ponds such as at Pond Hills, Edgefield and Selbrigg. Left to their own devices, the toads manage the journey from their winter/living quarters and back well enough, but they're not well adapted to road traffic and if they have to cross roads they're at high risk. To help more to survive the migration, a group of volunteers is active at Rookery Pit during early spring. 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 (timvenes01@gmail.com, tel: 07876 322406) to find out more.

Even if you can't offer to help with patrols, you can still help local toads and other amphibians (frogs and newts) 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.
- 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 in mild and wet or damp weather, as toads still come out to hunt at night when migration is over. 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.

Thank you for helping our local toads!

Christmas Party

On Saturday 10th December we were so pleased to be able to celebrate Christmas at the village hall for the first time since 2019. The hall was resplendent with Christmas decorations and beautiful tables set-up for the three-course meal. Party games and a Twelve Days of Christmas themed raffle added to the evening. This free event provided by the village hall was well attended - especially considering we were up against the Football World Cup and Strictly. All those that attended had a lovely evening, with lots of compliments to the organising team led by Lesley Lennox. A great start to the Christmas season. We look forward to an even better event at Christmas 2023!

Introduction to Crafty Creations
Saturday 11th February—2.00 - 4.00 pm
HEMPSTEAD VILLAGE HALL

This very informal meeting will have a selection of crafts for you to look at. These may be processes you are aware of or new creations you have not thought of before. We hope to inspire you to join this new local group. We are very open to new ideas from you. We will start this group using regular get-togethers at the Village Hall, where you can bring along items you may be working on and may want a little bit of help and/or advice from others. You can just use these get-togethers to get inspired and perhaps start something new. We hope that this group will help you to make new friends with similar interests. We are open to having these meetings at times to suit those that are interested to join us, whether that be during the week, evenings or weekends.

Going forward, we may organise small or more intensive workshops where we have expertise and these would probably be booked on separate days and may incur costs.

Preparation: What to make, where and how to get started
Process: Learn to trust it, let go of perfection & have fun
Power: Develop confidence in your natural skills and ability

Lesley Lennox: 07446 777660 / Moira Ratcliffe 07973 712829

Plumstead

Very best wishes to all at the beginning of 2023, may this year be blessed and fruitful for all.



Harriet Rossi
577239

Christmas Benefice Service, Candlelit Carols & Nativity



Once again, our flower arranging team excelled themselves with the seasonal decorations in the church for Christmas. Seven children and one donkey called Mouse played parts in the Nativity with Carols, and our small church looked full with family and friends. Thanks to all involved in organising all the events over Christmas and thank you also to all those who participated, with special thanks to Mouse and his owners, I understand he behaved impeccably and performed his role with great skill.



Coffee Mornings

Monday morning coffees continue - do drop in sometime. Sometimes there are four of us and sometimes as many as ten! There are some challenging and beautiful jigsaws for sale on the book stall - just the thing for these wintry days.

Sad Farewells

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the passing of two former members of our community. Shirley Candler, wife of the late David Candler, rector of the Parish for quite some years, died at the end of November last year. Janet Brandon Cox, previously resident of Plumstead and wife of the late artist Hugh Brandon Cox, also passed away, in December last year. They will both be remembered with great fondness by those who knew them and our thoughts are with their families.

Plumstead Flags

As you all know we have a tradition of flying 'birthday' flags. It's not compulsory, but it can give a little extra smile to your special day. If anyone would like to add their name to the list, particularly if they are new to the village, please let Keith know. Traditionally we fly the Norfolk County flag for birthdays and the Union Flag for other commemorations. The list for 2023 will be updated at the end of February and available on the flag-pole noticeboard. Contact Keith at: keithhard@hotmail.co.uk

Matlaske

A very warm welcome to our new villagers: Karen, Dave and family; and Pip and Simon. It was great to meet Pip and Simon at the very well attended Midnight Mass at St Peter's on Christmas Eve. It's good to hear too that Jeremy and June are settling well into their new home, having moved away.



Duncan Wood
570293



Thanks to the very kind support of the local community, the Ukraine plant stall in Matlaske was able to raise £185 through plant sales over the latter part of last year. With the help of Gift Aid, the total amount came to £231.25, and this has now been donated to the DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. Hearty thanks to everyone who donated plants for the cause and to those who have given the plants new homes! And a big 'Well done!' to Georgie who organised all this.

Saxthorpe with Corpusty

A Glimpse of Spring at The Old Rectory

We all need something to look forward to after the post-Christmas January blues, so give yourself a glimpse of Spring by visiting the gardens of The Old Rectory, Saxthorpe on Saturday, 18th 10am-12noon. The many varieties of snowdrops should be at their best provided we don't get extremes of weather between now and then. There will be fresh croissants and coffee available in St Andrew's Church from 10am, with voluntary donations requested. Please use the church car park. The Old Rectory is just across the road from the church. The money raised will be shared between the appeal for generators for Ukraine and the fund for repairs to the church roof.



John Birchall
584290

Village Hall Coffee Morning Saturday 4th 10am-12noon

Join the Litter Pick! Saturday 25th 10am at The Duke's Head

A community litter pick organised by the Parish Council. This is a good time of the year to spot litter on verges and under hedgerows. Equipment will be provided. Meet outside the Duke's Head at 10am. While some litter occurs accidentally, most is dropped deliberately or carelessly, much of it from cars and other vehicles. According to Google, 30 million tonnes of litter is collected from UK streets every year - enough to fill four Wembley Stadiums - although that's not where our litter will be going!



Help Peter & Val Support Children's Hospices

The last piece goes in the 1,000-piece jigsaw you started at Christmas - and what then? Val and Peter Johnson at Corpusty Village Stores have the answer - give it to them to help the East Anglian Children's Hospices carry on their extraordinary work. Val and Peter have already raised £1,000 for EACH by collecting and selling books and jigsaws through lockdown, but they are not stopping there. "We set ourselves a target of £1,000, but we are keeping going.

Anyone can donate books or jigsaws, and if they buy them, they can bring them back when they have finished" said Peter. So, if you have finished that jigsaw or book and want another for the long winter evenings, take it to Corpusty Stores and support EACH by finding yourself a new one. EACH supports families going through the most difficult times. Find out more on Facebook or at www.each.org.uk

Parish Freezes Precept

At its January meeting Corpusty & Saxthorpe Parish Council agreed not to increase its precept. This means that there will be no increase in the amount the parish will be asking Council Tax payers to find. However, most of the Council Tax is made up of levies by the County and District Councils and the police. If you are struggling with Council Tax demands, check with North Norfolk District Council to see whether you are eligible for a reduction.

Mini-Roundabout Ruled-Out

A traffic-calming mini-roundabout at the junction of the B1149 Holt road with Briston Road has been ruled out after a study arranged by Corpusty & Saxthorpe Parish Council. The mini-roundabout was proposed to reduce speeding in the north end of Saxthorpe, as outlined in the Neighbourhood Plan. Unfortunately the County Council's Highways engineers found that sight lines are not good enough. They will be looking at other measures, and the Parish Council has commissioned 'gates' at entrances to the village to remind drivers that they are entering a built-up area. However, this will not be as expensive as the mini-roundabout, leaving the Parish Council with capital that can be spent in other ways. A small working party will put forward proposals to the next PC meeting. Anyone with ideas on this should contact Imogen Waterson, chairman of the PC, or come to the meeting on Wednesday 8th March.



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The Village Gardener

To Plant a Garden is to Believe in Tomorrow

First of all, and I appreciate somewhat belatedly, may I wish everyone a Good New Year! Although I find myself quite taken with the phrase left in a friend's Christmas card which was 'Winter well' somehow this conjures up a kinder solution to the January-February blues. Unless you are actually made of Teflon (possibly a preferable option for these two testing months) I would defy anyone to have a Good January or February, too much pressure too much expectation, but 'Winter well' feels a lot cosier and far more reasonable. These months are difficult but joy of joys when we get to the end of February (the one blessing of the aforementioned month, which in my humble opinion is the hardest of the year, is that it only has 28 days...hurrah for small mercies!) we will have daylight from 7am to near enough 6pm. Also, by the end of February there will be those lovely tiny glimpses of Spring that work so hard to lift our spirits. There will be light at the end of the tunnel!!

So, what needs doing in the garden in February? As I write this it is blowing a rather nasty spiteful rain horizontally at the house, so today is for planning and for seed catalogues and a cosy fire. But if we get a few garden do-able days then the following would be a good start.

If the ground will let you then mulching is the way forward, it works wonders at suppressing perennial weeds, helps retain moisture in dryer months and helps improve the structure and condition of the soil. I would also suggest just checking on any supports and structures round the garden, nothing more demoralising than losing something treasured just because its support gave way. Plenty of pruning in the garden to be done too, remember to always ensure your blades are sharp enough and task appropriate, if you use anything that's not quite up to the job you risk making not only a hash of it but also damaging the plant in question. I would suggest feeding-up any fruit trees after pruning, either a sulphate or potash to help give your trees a lift especially after last Autumn's bumper harvest.

If you are hoping to grow potatoes this year then now is the time to both order and by the end of the month chit your potatoes. I will admit to passing again on growing potatoes like last year primarily because the tomatoes I did grow last year didn't get blight...hurrah! It could have been the fiercely hot summer that kept blight at bay, but I'd rather not take the risk. It was a joy to grow tomatoes and not have them succumb to the unhappiness of blight. You can start your tomatoes seeds off in February but my gut says March; in my opinion tomatoes like to grow fast, they don't like to have to look and fight for light. Better to wait for March and grow them strongly than have them limp through from February. Chillies however are a different ball game altogether, they take a long time to get going so the sooner you get them started the better.

Finally, back to 'Winter well': my two biggest tips, is firstly to make a cheerful batch of Seville Marmalade, especially on one of those horizontal rain days, your home will smell glorious and there is something so uplifting about making a jarful of sunshine that you can hand out to friends and family. Secondly, I would have pots of bulbs in the house - it's kind of like watching Spring on hyper speed, as they tend to come to flower quite quickly but it's still a joy and it does remind you that Spring is only round the corner.

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

Michelle & Mick McCarter



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History Watch – Norfolk Flooded, January 31st 1953

Arthur Pentney



Exactly seventy years ago, an unholy trinity resulted in terrible flooding along our coast. A combination of low pressure, gale force winds and high spring tides cumulated in a twenty-foot high wall of water breaching the shingle banks protecting the coastal villages such as Cley and Salthouse. Once breached, there was nothing to stop this inundation. The force of the water broke down doors, destroyed houses, and swept people away to drown. This all occurred in the evening with no daylight which made the tragedy all the

worse as recalled to us by a friend who was living in Salthouse at the time. Lights went out, water flooded in, the family were forced upstairs, climbed out of a bedroom window, abandoning their home and possessions. As dawn broke, their house and several others were no more – a desperate situation made even more poignant by hoards of sightseers, scavengers and looters now in the vicinity. Other houses were so badly damaged that they had to be demolished, new dwellings being built further inland up towards Bard Hill, safe from future flooding.

Over 300 lives were lost in these East Coast floods of 1953, the worst post-war disaster to hit the country. But spare a thought for Holland: much of their land is below sea level and was totally inundated by the same tidal surge. 1,500 of their residents perished.

The accompanying photo, taken at Cley some two miles inland, gives a sense of the power this flood had, a boat being the only viable means of travel at the time! When visiting Blakeney, check out the height of the 1953 tides marked on a building on the quay. It gives a real insight into just how high the water came up to on that day.

On two occasions since 1953 similar storm surges of equal intensity have occurred, when again there was some flooding and damage, but the shingle banks, now greatly reinforced, did their job, and people, houses and property remained generally safe. Once bitten, I suspect!



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