

Church & Village News

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

March 2022



The River Bure upstream of Corpusty Mill

Photograph by Roger Last

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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Parish Council Chairs

Baconthorpe	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

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 Websites

www.hempstead-norfolk.co.uk

www.baconthorpe.org



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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 Bütkofer 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
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

What's On

MARCH

Fri 4	6.30pm	Baconthorpe Film Night - <i>Baby Done</i>	Village Hall
Mon 7	10.00am	Baconthorpe Church Cleaning	St Mary's Church
Fri 11	3.45pm	Hempstead Music	Village Hall
Fri 25	6.30pm	Baconthorpe Pop-Up Pub	Village Hall

Clash Diary

April 7	Hempstead Music	June 3	Barningham Platinum Jubilee Afternoon
April 9	Barningham Hall Valuation Day	June 4	Edgefield Platinum Jubilee Afternoon
April 23	Edgefield Bingo Night	June 5	Baconthorpe Platinum Jubilee Tea
April 24	Edgefield Church Concert	June 5	Plumstead Platinum Jubilee Celebration
May 14	Hempstead Yard + Boot Sale	July 23	Baconthorpe Fête
May 28/9	Plumstead Art Exhibition	Dec 10	Edgefield Festive Evening

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

Mobile Library Van

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 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

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

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

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

There is a legend in Glendalough in Ireland of a saint called Coemge (anglicised to Kevin). St Kevin was a 6th century hermit who became a Bishop. His story is one of prayer that is relevant I believe as we begin Lent with an Ash Wednesday service at Saxthorpe on 2nd March at 6pm.

Like many legends the story is outlandish. Kevin came from a wealthy family and was considered very handsome. His name means 'beautiful shining birth', as apparently his arrival in the world was painless. Such was his beauty that he was pursued by the equally beautiful Kathleen. On detecting her presence, he threw himself into a bed of nettles before hurling weeds at her so that he would not be distracted from his calling to a life of prayer.



In the hills of Glendalough he built a small hermitage, where every Lent during his time as a Bishop, he would return for silence and prayer for 40 days. His hermitage (which I have had the privilege of praying in) is very small. Once in prayer he stretched out his arms meaning his hands had to extend through the little windows of the hermitage. Lost in prayer, Kevin found a blackbird had alighted on his hand. Seamus Heaney captures the moment:

One turned-up palm is out the window, stiff
As a crossbeam, when a blackbird lands
And lays in it and settles down to nest.

Kevin feels the warm eggs, the small breast, the tucked
Neat head and claws and, finding himself linked
Into the network of eternal life,

Is moved to pity: now he must hold his hand
Like a branch out in the sun and rain for weeks
Until the young are hatched and fledged and flown.

Heaney's poem, which he often calls a meditation, continues

And since the whole thing's imagined anyhow,
Imagine being Kevin. Which is he:
Self-forgetful or in agony all the time

From the neck on out down through his hurting forearms?
Are his fingers sleeping? Does he still feel his knees?
Or has the shut-eyed blank of underearth

Crept up through him? Is there distance in his head?
Alone and mirrored clear in love's deep river,
'To labour and not to seek reward,' he prays,

A prayer his body makes entirely
For he has forgotten self, forgotten bid
And on the riverbank forgotten the river's name.



The Benefice of Matlaske Church Services for March

27th February Sunday Before Lent - Transfiguration

8.30am	Eucharist	Plumstead
10.30am	Eucharist	Matlaske
Please bring your palm crosses from 2021, so they can be burnt and mixed with oil to create ashes for Ash Wednesday		

2nd Ash Wednesday

6.00pm	Eucharist with Ashing	Saxthorpe
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6th Lent I

8.30am	Eucharist	Barningham Winter
10.30am	Eucharist	Saxthorpe

13th Lent II

8.30am	Eucharist	Baconsthorpe
10.30am	Eucharist	Hempstead

20th Lent III

8.30am	Eucharist	Edgefield
10.30am	Eucharist	Plumstead

27th Lent IV - Mothering Sunday

8.30am	Eucharist	Matlaske
10.30am	Mothering Sunday Service	Baconsthorpe
10.30am	Mothering Sunday Service	Saxthorpe

3rd April Lent VI

8.30am	Eucharist	Hempstead
10.30am	Eucharist	Barningham Winter

Wednesday 6th April 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.

Lent calls us into prayer. Some may think it is a calling to self-restraint; but that is to miss the point, it is a calling into flourishing and growth, like the blackbird. That is why Lent is in the spring.

I hope that as you imagine this strange saint at prayer you may find inspiration for your Lenten discipline. Can we turn ourselves towards God, finding time like Christ did in the desert, to be still in the presence of our Creator? Can we like the blackbird, rest in the palm of God's hand?

May you find peace and rest this Lent

David

Thank you Thank you Thank you

During Advent Rev David took an empty crib round to all the churches for the Sunday service. Everyone was invited to add to the crib new items for expectant refugee families. The response was staggering from church and community and all items needed were supplied. Vests, nappies, baby grows, sheets, blankets, teddies even a baby bath and pram. The baby items were delivered last week and very gratefully received. Your generosity has been amazing and a true blessing.

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 March 2022



Friday 1st April 2022

Baconsthorpe

February 200 Club

£50 R Bone, £25 L Rix, £10 T Benton Worboys, £5 H Rix, H Steel, R Honeyman

Each month I plan to try and include a section in the newsletter titled 'Did you know?'. We are lucky to live in a lovely village which has seen many changes over the years. I hope to include items of interest about the village and the people who live here past and present. If anyone has a memory that they would like to share I would be extremely grateful for your input.

Did You Know?

Apparently around the year 1520 Anne Boleyn was travelling home towards Blickling. As she approached Baconsthorpe there was a dreadful thunderstorm and the carriage stopped for her to take shelter at Pitt Farm – you may know it as the Baconsthorpe Meadows Campsite. The weather



Hazel Martin
07879 414577



was so inclement that she spent the night in the bedroom at the end of the house nearest to the road. If you can (without causing an accident) look up at the mullioned window above the wall. The inside of the room remains much as it was all those years ago. As we all know Anne would later become the second wife of Henry VIII and give birth to Elizabeth I.

Ronnie Carroll

It is with sadness that I report the death of Ronnie Carroll whose funeral was held at Baconsthorpe Church on Monday February 7th. Ronnie was born in Baconsthorpe in Dale's Yard. Ronnie worked for many years for John Seaman at Becket's Farm. We send condolences to all his friends and family.

Village Hall News

The Village Fête will be held on 23 July at the Village Hall from 2pm to 4.30pm. We will have all the usual stalls, games, refreshments and of course the stocks! Do let us know if you can help out on the day or with cakes/produce/books/prizes for the stalls: call Piers on 07493 227591.

The 200 Club still has some numbers available at £1 a month. Top prize is £50. If you would like a number for this monthly prize draw please contact secretary.baconsthorpevillagehall@outlook.com

Film Night Friday 4th March

March will feature *Baby Done*. This comedy sees wannabe-adventurer Zoe freak out when she falls pregnant to her long-term boyfriend Tim. As Tim embraces the prospect of fatherhood, Zoe attempts to rush through her dreams, ticking off items on her wish list. Doors and bar open 6.30pm, film starts 7.30pm. £5 on the door.

Pop-Up Pub Friday 25th March 6pm-10pm with sausages, mash and onion gravy plus a vegetarian option.

Piers Warner

Church News

We will be cleaning the church on Monday March 7th at 10am. If anyone is willing to join me at the church at this time, your help would be hugely appreciated. It would be lovely to meet, have a chat while doing a bit of hoovering and polishing! I will bring the croissants.

On Sunday 30th January we tried a new sort of service: Breakfast Church. The congregation met in the Village Hall where we enjoyed breakfast expertly prepared by Emma –thank you so much Emma. This was followed by the Sunday service including a play performed by the younger members of the congregation. This was a most enjoyable occasion and hopefully the first of many.

Country Mice
We are a Church based toddler and baby group for all families in our villages. Huge gratitude to Baconsthorpe Church who fund our group

We recognise family life in rural areas can be isolating and that covid restrictions have had a marked impact on both those under 5 years of age and those that care for them.

We increasingly see Grandparents caring for Grandchildren while parents work and parents working different shift patterns to cover child care. We therefore welcome grandparents, mums, dads or nannies. You can drop in occasionally or every week.

We aim to be supportive and friendly as well as providing a range of toys and activities for tiny babies to busy toddlers.

Tuesdays 10 to 12 noon at Baconsthorpe Village Hall £2 per family, adjustments for anyone struggling. Tel Kay 07943 985635

Cleaner needed in
Baconsthorpe
1-2 hours a week to
help with
light cleaning /
hoovering

Please call
01263 577459
for more information

Barningham Winter

Hilary Gibbons

We send our condolences to the Gibbons family following the death of Mrs Hilary Gibbons who lived at Dairy Farm, Barningham in the 1970s and 1980s. Her husband Viv was the foreman at Dairy Farm at that time.

Valuation Day

Look out your treasures and keep Saturday 9th April free as we are holding a Valuation Day with Keys of Aylsham in the Stables at Barningham Hall. More details in April's magazine.

Eco Award

St Mary's Church has won a Silver Eco Award for the churchyard. Thank you to all those who helped achieve this award and huge thanks to Thomas Courtauld who looks after the church yard so beautifully.

Jubilee Celebrations

On Friday 3rd June we are holding a tea party for the Jubilee celebrations at 4pm just inside the park gates (where the fete is held). Do keep this date free and we look forward to seeing you there. More details later.

Parish Council Clerk

Matlaske and Barningham Parish Council are looking for a new clerk for the Parish Council. More details can be found on the notice board in Matlaske or do email s.m.buxton@hotmail.co.uk



Sara Buxton
577207

Edgefield

Church News

At the Annual Meeting of Parishioners ('Vestry Meeting'), Angela Turner and Emma Cletheroe were re-elected as church wardens.

Concert in Church – a date for the diary

At 4pm on Sunday 24th April, The Samphires, a female vocal ensemble who perform across the county, will give a concert in Edgefield Church. It will last under an hour and the programme will include a wide-ranging variety of genres. Refreshments will be provided. Further details will appear in next month's Church & Village News.

Village Hall News

On Saturday 23rd April from 7pm we will be hosting a fun Bingo Night in the hall. Price £5, which will include a bowl of chips, plus a licensed bar. Tickets from any member of the committee. On Saturday 4th June we will be celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with an afternoon of feasting and music on the Green between 2pm and 6pm. We are inviting people to bring their own food for a communal feast and we will additionally supply cream teas plus a licensed bar. Further details to follow.



Richard Peaver
587486

Jim Frost

Proposed Community Green Space

The Parish Council has an opportunity to create a new community green space on land beside Canon Marcon Way. We are planning an imaginative and sustainable natural play area and community social space that will incorporate wildflower areas and the natural regeneration of trees and scrub alongside a designated nature reserve. We are looking for like-minded people to help in any way with this project. If you are interested in assisting and would like to look at our plans, please contact the Parish Clerk in the first instance: Amanda Yacoubian edgefieldpc@yahoo.com or 07894 061571. We would love to hear from you.

Anne Harrap

Catherine's Sponsored Cycle Ride

In May 2022, Catherine Longe from Edgefield will be taking part in a 3-day cycle ride covering 230 miles across Norfolk, Suffolk, and Cambridgeshire, in aid of East Anglian Children's Hospices (EACH), who support families and care for children and young people with life-threatening conditions. EACH rely on voluntary donations for the majority of their income and need to raise approximately £6 million per year to deliver their services. Any donations to help Catherine reach her £600 fundraising target would be gratefully received, either online at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Catherine-Longe1> or offline at Sunday services within the Benefice.

Farewell to Pauline 'The Postie'

Pauline Whatling has let it be known that, due to the wear and tear occasioned to her knees by many years of getting in and out of the van several times each day, she feels it is time to metaphorically hang up her postbag. She says that she has always enjoyed her work in the village and seeing the familiar faces, and that she will miss delivering our mail. For our part, we will miss her, and are grateful for her unfailingly cheerful and efficient work over the years.

Hempstead

February 200 Club

£50 F Feilden, £25 J Tyabji £10 R Carver, £5 J Smith, Anon and J Tomlinson

Bike Ride

I have just received Hempstead Church's portion from the Norfolk Churches Trust 2021 sponsored bike ride £2,488.41. WOW. May I thank all those that contributed with the organising, gaining sponsors, completing the cycle/ride/walk/drive itself as well as all those who actually gave so generously. It makes a tremendous difference to our little Church and will help with our plans for adding an accessible toilet, redecoration and tower repairs. Since the event's inception in 1983 more than £4 million has been raised for Norfolk's churches, which makes an enormous difference. Many thanks again.

Francis Feilden, PCC Treasurer

Music in Hempstead - Friday 11 March 3.45pm refreshments/ Music 4pm-4.30pm

You are invited to experience live chamber music in the village hall. We will be playing a selection of Trio Sonatas (violin, flute, bassoon and keyboard). There is no charge. Please be sensible with COVID precautions and 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. Last in series: Thursday, 7 April.

Ian Summers: 07712 755916



Diana Spalton
711117

Matlaske

Wendy Riches

Wendy passed away some weeks back and her funeral took place at St Peter's Matlaske on 14th February. She had been a fine servant of the local community in her role as church warden some years ago. Her health had not been good recently but when we saw her at David Wooff's funeral she looked serene. She will be missed.



Marion Shepherd
577521

Congratulations

To Mandy and Duncan Wood on the birth of a happy and healthy grandson down in Devonshire!

Save the Date

On Friday 3rd June there will be a tea party for the Jubilee celebrations at 4pm just inside the park gates (where the fête is held). Do keep this date free and we look forward to seeing you there. More details later.

Parish Council Clerk

Matlaske and Barningham Parish Council are looking for a new clerk for the Parish Council. More details can be found on the notice board in Matlaske or do email s.m.buxton@hotmail.co.uk

Plumstead

As Storm Eunice blasts across the UK I hope that everyone remains safe and well and that by the time we are all reading this we are enjoying a calm and sunny approach to Spring!

Village Pond

Anyone who walks or drives through Plumstead Green will have noticed changes afoot at the village pond towards the end of last year. Following a meeting held last November between members of the Parish Council, Charlie Ennals of FWAG and Andy Hines (an ecologist with Norfolk Ponds Project) it was decided that some of the trees and area around the pond needed clearing. This work was undertaken in early December and has made a huge difference in light reaching the area, which will hopefully improve the weed situation for the pond. Thanks go to all involved for their generous donations of time, expertise and hard work in keeping our pond area well maintained and at its best for supporting all the wildlife and flowers who have made this area their home.



Harriet Rossi
577239

Defibrillator

The Village is fortunate to have a defibrillator ready for use 24/7 located inside the old red phone box at the Flagpole Garden, Church Street, Plumstead, NR11 7LG.

The device can be used where a person has suffered a cardiac arrest and is unconscious, unresponsive and may well not be breathing.

IMPORTANT - DIAL 999 FIRST AND ASK FOR AN AMBULANCE.

The operator will inform you of the 4-digit code to unlock the cabinet and access the defibrillator. Despite lighting being present within the kiosk it is advisable to take a torch when it is dark. You do not have to be trained to use the device. It shows and tells you what to do. The defibrillator will not deliver a shock if it detects that one is not required. The device was acquired in 2015 and has to be maintained to ensure it is fit for purpose, this is funded by Plumstead Parish Council.

If you have questions about the defibrillator please contact Steve Price via clerkplumsteadparishcouncil@hotmail.com

What 3 Words App

For those who may be aware of this, the "what3words" app has been developed to assist in making defining locations much more precise. This is particularly helpful in an emergency as a person can be located to a 3m square spot anywhere in the world. This is particularly comforting if you are stranded or injured far from the beaten path, or are calling an ambulance and are unsure of your exact location. More information is available on the internet about this app for anyone who is interested in finding out more about it.

Art Exhibition

The village of Plumstead is home to many talents, not least our very own artist John Durdin. John has amassed an impressive collection of his own artwork inspired locally and from his travels abroad and has very generously offered to display these as part of the exhibition and sale to be held in Plumstead Church on 28 and 29 May. We look forward to welcoming you on those dates for the opportunity to appreciate local artists and support our church.

Events Equipment

Planning an outdoor event this year eg a family get together out of doors? We have a store of items such as tables, chairs, cutlery and crockery, bunting, gazebos, which are available for Plumstead residents to borrow and use, for a small donation: contact Eleanor on faulknereleanor@gmail.com for an inventory and more details.

Baptism

On March 20, at the 10.30am service at our church, we will be delighted to welcome 2yr old Phoebe Bowen into the church family, when she is baptised. Her baptism will be the first in our church for 19 years! The Occasional Offices of Baptisms, weddings and funerals happen very infrequently in such a small community as Plumstead. This will be a Benefice service and all are welcome to attend. Phoebe will be celebrating her 3rd birthday just 2 days later.

Plumstead Art Exhibition & Sale

May 28/29th in St Michael's Church

Local artist John Durdin has offered a selection of his wonderful oil paintings for this event.



For further details please contact

Kirsty O'Leary-Leeson

kirstyoleary@outlook.com

07918520204

Saxthorpe with Corpusty

Friends of Corpusty Primary School

We are looking for new members to join the Friends of Corpusty Primary School. If you have a child that will be attending the school in the future then please contact us and get involved. We are an established fun and friendly group that enjoy fundraising to benefit all the children at the school. We enrich the learning experience with new books, trips, workshops, celebration parties, playground equipment and musical instruments. It is incredibly rewarding to get involved with your child's primary school life. If you are interested then please contact us: friendsofcorpusty@gmail.com - we look forward to hearing from you.



Sophia Hodgson
587510

Cathy Stern

As Cathy Stern stands down as church warden after three years, the church family give her grateful thanks for all she did for the church and village. It was a difficult time with the pandemic but she did so much so well. A big Thank You.

Ann Poberefsky's Obituary



Ann was born in the East End of London in December 1942, the middle child of three girls. She attended John Howard Grammar School for Girls in Upper Clapton. Having met Aubrey at a young age, in 1959 just before her 17th birthday they married and left for life on a kibbutz in Israel. She returned to the UK in 1961, her elder sister having been diagnosed with terminal leukaemia.

Ann then resumed her education and graduated from Strathclyde University (the first of her two degrees)

with a BA in social science. Her first job plunged her straight into the deep-end working in the Family Services Unit at the largest council estate in Europe in one of the most deprived areas of Glasgow. She was determined to make a difference and over the next few years worked with the most troubled and dysfunctional families. Her goal was to keep families together and save as many children as possible from being swallowed into the care system. During these years Ann helped to improve the lives of countless mothers and children as she steadily rose through the ranks of the social services. Some of the women she helped themselves later achieved higher education and even university degrees.

In the early 1980s Ann and Aubrey moved to Highams Park in Essex where Anne continued her work in a senior position in family service units in the area. She tackled domestic violence and child abuse head on. She innovated holidays for children who had never seen the sea or the countryside, created a food bank before food banks had been heard of, ran classes for mothers to learn budgeting and cooking skills and provided toy banks for children. She was highly respected in her field and achieved her ambition of truly making a difference.

Close proximity to the M11 attracted Ann and Aubrey to North Norfolk where they bought a weekend cottage in the village of Wiveton. Retirement eventually enabled Ann and Aubrey to leave London altogether and relocate to North Norfolk settling in Saxthorpe. Ann took on the

role of manager at the Charles Road Day Centre for adults with learning difficulties in Holt – they couldn't believe their luck! Ann made some radical changes encouraging the attendees to enter educational programmes and gain qualifications that they had never previously imagined or thought possible and which would enrich their lives. Once again she truly made a difference.

When Ann herself finally 'retired' Aubrey was already involved in local government and as putting her feet up was not an option she too became active in local politics as well as charitable work and school governorship. Her accomplishments were numerous but she was particularly proud of being instrumental in helping create the Village Hall Community Centre for Corpusty & Saxthorpe as well as chairing the North Norfolk Alzheimer's Society. Although they both moved to Sheringham several years ago now Ann will always be remembered for both her contributions to our community and her warmth and generosity as a person.

Corpusty Church - Art & Memory

Merlin Waterson



There is much despondency about the future of rural churches. St Peter's Corpusty tells a story of decline, abandonment and near-collapse. Then, since 1975, there has been a step-by-step recovery. It now stands like a beacon on its hill overlooking north Norfolk, proclaiming just how much such a building can be loved, revived and cherished.

A long programme of conservation has now secured the structure, with tracery repaired and glass put back in the windows. In the last year the guardian of the building, the Norfolk Churches Trust, has supervised and paid for strengthening the piers of the tower, stabilising the plaster on the walls, putting in a wooden floor and providing disabled access through the north door.

Now it is safe to introduce the exhibition of inscriptions, as reported in the Church

& Village News of April 2019. The Lettering Arts Trust is loaning a collection of inscriptions in stone and wood, which demonstrate the outstanding skills of contemporary carvers. Others are being donated by a private benefactor. Some will be exhibited in the church, some in the churchyard. Inside the building there will be an exhibition explaining how such work can be commissioned and executed. The moving and installation costs are being paid for by the Behrens Foundation. Work on the transfer is due to start in March.



The repairs carried out over the last forty-five years have attracted grants and gifts for which St Peter's is specially eligible. It has not deflected donations from other churches in the benefice.

St Peter's will now serve three principal purposes. First of all it will continue to be a testament to at least six centuries of worship, prayer and meditation, with occasional services conducted by the Rector of the benefice and others. It is also particularly valued as a place of quiet contemplation. Second, it will show that the craft of fine lettering is still practised to the very highest standards, in an art form of exceptional beauty and permanence. The Diocese hopes that it can be a place where those wishing to commission a memorial can see what is possible. Finally, it will be available to the village

and particularly the school, so that these skills, particularly the art of lettering, can be appreciated. The creativity it represents needs to be widely shared. The church will also be a space for other exhibitions and arts activities, including small concerts.

If you are interested in helping and supporting this project, do please get in touch either with me, or the Norfolk Churches Trust.



Waxing Moon in Plumstead
Photograph by
Michael McMahon



History Watch - The Loss of Eleven Days in 1752

Arthur Pentney



Pieter Brueghel the Younger, *Paying the Tax (The Tax Collector)* oil on panel, 1620-1640

Ever wonder why our tax year runs from such an incongruous date as April 6th? Well, to know that you have to go back to pre-Christian times, 46 BC, and blame Julius Caesar! When not out and about trying to conquer various countries including Britain, he was also responsible for the Julian calendar as used by us until 1752. But there was an error of eleven minutes in the calculation of the solar year, the time it takes the earth to revolve around the sun. Fairly minor, you might say, but it resulted in one day's error every 128 years, moving the date of Easter (the Sunday after the first full moon on or after 21st March) further from the spring equinox with each passing year.

In 1582 an amended and more accurate calendar was implemented by Pope Gregory XIII, and in 1752 our parliament decided to adopt it, making an eleven day deduction to bring the old and new calendars into line. September that year was chosen and that month jumped from Wednesday 2nd September to Thursday 14th September. Not everyone was enamoured of this change, some thinking that their lives had been prematurely shortened, and the tax man was not happy either by the possible loss of eleven days' income. Just as mercenary in those days as now, the solution was to extend the tax year from its normal date, Lady Day, 25th March, to April 5th. Then in 1800 a further one day adjustment was needed due to one calendar requiring a leap year and the other not, moving the tax year date to April 6th – and there it stays, and there you have it.

Turkey was one of the last countries to stick with the old Julian calendar, and by the time they adopted the Gregorian one in 1926, thirteen days had to be removed – all for that eleven-minute error over two millennia ago. Makes you think, doesn't it?



Seagulls chasing tractor in Baconsthorpe - photograph by Norman Alan



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The Village Gardener

To Plant a Garden is to Believe in Tomorrow



March is such a good month for hope... we will have made it through the testing months of January and February that seem to stretch on relentlessly to the month of change. Despite the wild card intrusion of the Beast from the East four years ago, March tends to be the month of positive change. Whilst no guarantee of good weather, there is however the reassurance that spring is happening regardless of what else is occurring - the evenings are lighter, the days are longer and the garden is waking up with bulbs flowering and buds bursting - it's the start! We might still have to pick and choose the days we get out in the garden (as I write this it has been bucketing down all night and we have 40+ mph winds, so not entirely the right setting for some optimistic pottering) but there is the sense we are heading in the right direction albeit it in waders and wind breakers.

First up this month is the lawn. Do fight the urge to give it a good short back and sides and just go gently this month, the first cut of the year can sometimes be rather an ordeal so raise the blades on your mower and go into it gently rather than trying to take off too much and getting into a muddle. The trick is to keep your lawn as healthy as possible without resorting to expensive feeds, so after it has had its first trim give it the once over and see where it might need some help. There will be areas that have high traffic that will need re seeding (when its warm enough) and every lawn benefits from a through raking to remove any moss/debris that is blocking light and water getting through to your lawn. Our lawn has developed some rather damp areas in the last couple of years so instead of fighting drainage issues we are hoping to encourage some fritillary meleagris (snakes head fritillary) to thrive there instead, such beautiful flowers and a really welcome addition to the garden.

Lawns aside, there are plenty of other jobs in the garden. The start of the month is a good time to prune back anything that flowers on new growth so that's roses, late flowering clematis and buddleia. Any herbaceous plants you have can be rejuvenated this month by splitting and discarding the centre and re planting the vigorous outer parts of the plants in groups to reform a more healthy vibrant looking plant.

Now to the veg garden! Do check your soil temperature before you direct sow - no one thrives in chilly damp environment! If the ground has still not warmed-up enough then set seeds under cover and warm up areas outside with cloches instead before you direct sow, it's far better that seedlings grow strongly than limping through as they will be much more vital, healthier plants if you sow at the right time and in the right place.

Now for this month's question. Tina Ashby asks what should she do this month with her hellebores that have been spectacular this year? Good question! March is a great time to cut back all the leaves surrounding your hellebore flowers to get the absolute most out of their final show - especially good if they have been spectacular!

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