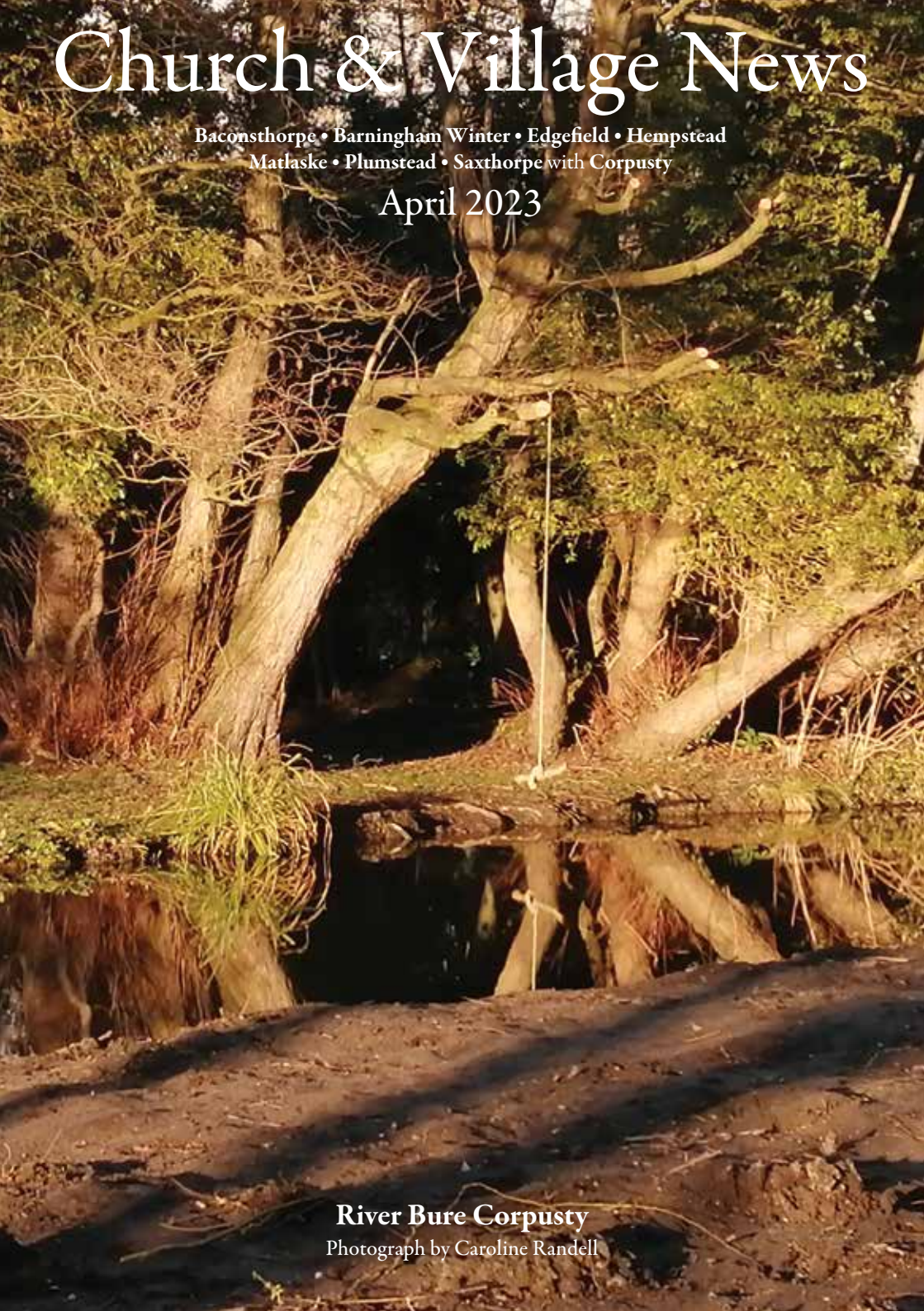


Church & Village News

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

April 2023



River Bure Corpusty

Photograph by Caroline Randell

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Matlaske & Barningham	Sara Buxton	577207
Plumstead	Nick Fulford	577433
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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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Rebecca Hill 07960 739593
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Angela Turner 587292
Hempstead Airlie Inglis 577440
Matlaske Thomas Courtauld 577250
Duncan Wood 570293
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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

APRIL

Fri 3	10.30am	Hempstead Coffee & Catch-Up	Village Hall
Wed 15	10.00am	Baconsthorpe Table Top Sale	Village Hall
Sat 15	7.00pm	Edgefield Bingo Night	Village Hall
Wed 5	10.00am	Plumstead Easter Garden	St Michael's Church
Fri 7	10.00am	Plumstead Cake + Produce Sale	St Michael's Church
Sun 23	10.00am	Barningham Charity Run	Barningham Hall
Fri 29	6.00pm	Baconsthorpe Pop-Up Pub	Village Hall

Clash Diary

May 6	Hempstead Coronation BBQ	July 29	Matlaske Fete
May 7	Baconsthorpe Coronation Tea	Oct 6	Saxthorpe Harvest Supper
May 7	Corpusty Coronation Lunch	Oct 7/8	Edgefield Craft Fair
May 8	Matlaske Coronation Tea	Oct 21	Edgefield The Samphires
May 10	Hempstead Tea + Fashion Show	August 6	Hempstead Fete
May 20/21	Edgefield Open Gardens	Sept 2/3	Hempstead Arts
July 15	Edgefield Edgefest		
July 22	Baconsthorpe Fete		

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

Post Offices

Baconsthorpe Mobile Post Office Van
Wednesdays 9.40am – 10.40am 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

13 April / 11 May

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's
Saxthorpe	4.10	NR11 7BL	Old Post Office
Corpusty	4.30	NR11 6QJ	Adams Lane

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

Sanders Bus Timetables

<https://sanderscoaches.com/timetables>

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

In March, a group of us returned from the Holy Land, a place of such beauty and alas such tragedy as the conflict fractures cultures and people. In this letter, I would like to share three incidents that shaped our trip.



First, we visited Aida Refugee Camp in Bethlehem. Formed in 1948, this camp came into being when the British Mandate for Palestine expired and the state of Israel was formed. For the Arab inhabitants this was known as the Nakba, the catastrophe: huge numbers were forcibly removed from their homes to refugee camps. Seventy-five years later the tents are now teetering buildings dwarfing narrow streets as there is no land to provide for the growing population.

Here we met B. He explained how Israeli soldiers often stormed their houses and arrested neighbours. B explained how he had been filming a raid when he was shot in the head. We asked B about the Israeli soldiers who now stand in solidarity with the Palestinians. He said "Unless they stand up to their government, they should all go home." I asked "What about reconciliation?" B paused; there was silence: we were shocked. The concept of reconciliation is evidently difficult. B responded that he felt the soldier who shot him was experienced and knew exactly what he was doing.

Next we visited Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum. Learning further about the horrors of the Holocaust left us distressed and speechless. I was devastated by what I saw including a presentation of the antisemitism that the Church's false dogmas had promulgated.

We were left with so many unanswered questions, knowing that millions of words have been written trying to address them. Why when the state of Israel was formed was there a Nakba? How could any institution, Church or other, engage in antisemitism? Where was the hope? Where is the peace?

Finally, we met G. G is a Christian (Christians are a tiny minority in the Holy Land – 2-3%) and a teacher at a school in Bethlehem. G explained how he had been driving with his family to buy groceries. Turning a corner, they met a barrage of Israeli gun fire. G was hit in the hip and face. His 12-year-old daughter was hit too. Climbing out of the car, G asked for medical assistance, but the unit would not let the ambulance approach. His daughter died in his arms. We were silenced. Then G said that he felt as a Christian he had to forgive. G began to reach out to Israeli families who had lost children in the conflict and joined *The Parents Circle*. This joint Israeli-Palestinian organisation of families who have lost a family member in the conflict works to end violence and achieve an accepted political agreement. G gave us the glimmer of hope we desperately needed.

On Good Friday Jesus cries from the agony of the cross, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do", showing not only how difficult forgiveness is but how vital it is in our broken and torn world. Jesus's cry in pain brings hope not that day, but unexpectedly two days later at the resurrection. Is this what gave G, in the midst of his grief and suffering hope? Does the resurrection mysteriously and beautifully offer hope and light?

I pray that whatever we face the light of Easter will be a light of hope for us all.

David



The Benefice of Matlaske Church Services for April

2nd April	Palm Sunday	
10.30am	Eucharist with donkey and palms	Edgefield
3rd	Holy Monday	
7.00pm	Compline with Meditation	Matlaske
4th	Holy Tuesday	
10.30am	Children's Activities Making bread to be used at Easter services	Edgefield
7.00pm	Compline with Meditation	Barningham Winter
5th	Holy Wednesday	
10.00am	Eucharist Followed by refreshments including Hot Cross Buns	Saxthorpe
7.00pm	Meditation & Prayer	Plumstead
6th	Maundy Thursday	
6.30pm	Enactment of the Last Supper Eucharist with Footwashing Preacher: The Venerable Catherine Dobson, Archdeacon of Lynn	Hempstead
7th	Good Friday	
2.30pm	Stations of Creation This service will be outside (please bring wet weather gear). In contemplating the event of Good Friday, this service (of about 30 to 40 minutes with activities) will focus on God and Caring for Creation. It will be followed by hot cross buns, cake and hot chocolate. Suitable for all ages.	Baconsthorpe
9th	Easter Day	
6.00am	Easter Dawn Service with the Holy Fire This service is early so that it coincides with sunrise and the sounds of an awakening day. A fire is lit to emphasis the power of the Light of Christ.	Corpusty
10.30am	Easter Day Service	Baconsthorpe
16th	Easter II	
8.30am	Eucharist	Barningham Winter
10.30am	Eucharist	Plumstead
23rd	Easter III	
10.30am	Eucharist	Edgefield
5.00pm	Evensong	Matlaske
30th	Easter IV	
8.30am	Eucharist	Saxthorpe
10.30am	Eucharist	Hempstead
3.30pm	Children & Family	Edgefield
Coronation Weekend Service Details		
6.00pm	Friday 5 th May Evening Prayer for the King	Baconsthorpe / Edgefield / Hempstead
7.00pm	Friday 5 th May Evening Prayer for the King	Matlaske / Plumstead / Saxthorpe
7 th May Easter V		
8.30am	Eucharist	Matlaske
10.30am	Commemorative Service for Coronation outside service, weather dependent	Barningham Winter

Baconsthorpe

200 Club

£50 M Day, £25 R Fiddian, £10 R Bone, £5 R Gee, H Steel, J Warner

There are numbers still available. It only costs £1 per month and you could be lucky. You can pay by bank debit. Account name: Baconsthorpe Village Hall; Sort code: 20-30-81; Account No; 90423106



Hazel Martin
07879 414577

Church Clear Up Day

This proved to be a jolly event and much was accomplished. Gravestones were straightened, cleaned and recorded; the main path was weeded and straightened and the inside of the church was given a good clean. Willing workers were rewarded with BBQ at Manor Farm. Thanks go to the Steel family including Panda who did a good job removing various hats and gloves; the entire Youngs family; Celia and Richard Bone; Simon Burton-Pye; David Hill and Jane Warner. There is still more work to do outside the church but a start has been made.



Welcome

A warm Baconsthorpe welcome goes to Emily and Siggi who have moved into Michael and John's house at the top of the lane by the water tower. We hope they with children Ray and Pearl will be very happy. I hope to say hello to them at the pop-up-pub on the last Friday of each month.

Sad News

It is with great sadness I report the sudden death of my neighbour Mark Pullinger. Many in the village will possibly not know him as we are a little isolated down here at Tuppenny Grove. Mark and his wife Helen moved to Baconsthorpe in May 2009 as he was 'head hunted' to take charge of Health and Safety at Norwich airport. Mark was a talented artist; he loved his dogs, his garden and was a keen cyclist, cycling often twenty miles each morning. Most of all he was a wonderful neighbour and was always ready to lend a hand when Stanley and I were in a muddle, especially with something technical!

Coronation Tea

You will see from the inserted invitation that residents of Baconsthorpe are all invited to the village hall on Sunday May 7th at 3pm to celebrate the King's coronation. This will again take the form of an afternoon tea and we do so hope everyone will attend. Please do let Corinne know if you are able to be there as it enables us to organise the catering. On that subject, if anyone would be willing to bake and donate a cake, we would be so grateful. Please let Corinne know if you are able to help.

Church Stall

Thanks again to all who continue to support the church by purchasing items from the stall. Presently there is a wide range of jams and marmalade available as well as fresh eggs.

Village WhatsApp Group

People who have recently moved to the village may not be aware that we do have a group called Baconsthorpe Support. I certainly find this very useful and I am sure others do for promoting events; reporting stray or missing pets or even road closures. Like the pop-up pub it is a means of

keeping people in contact with each with each other. If you would like to join, do contact Emma Youngs on 07884 432412 and she will add you into the group.



Further Information on the Brick Kiln

Following the article in last month's newsletter kindly supplied by Arthur Pentney, Richard Youngs has sent me a photograph of the brick in the wall at Ash Tree Farm. We can clearly see the inscription – 'THIS IS THE LAST BRICK MADE ON BLICKLING BRICKYARD 21.9.04. Apparently the Blickling brickyard is still visible from the Saxthorpe to Aylsham road and was brought back into use in the 1920s for a short while.

Village Hall News

Pop-Up Pub – Friday 28th 6pm Chicken Tray Bake from 6.30pm

Coronation Day Party – Sunday 7th May at 3pm

Village Fete – Saturday 22nd July at 2pm

Piers Warner

Village Hall

Table Top Sale

Saturday 15th April 10am–1pm
£10 a table to book call Jane on
07789 001094

Sell what you have or
come along and bag a bargain!

Barningham Winter

Little Lifts Trail Run

Sunday 23rd April 10am, Barningham Hall, Matlaske by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Courtauld and other generous land owners. If you would like to volunteer on the day, we would love to hear from you! Please email Georgie at georgie@norfolkcordial.com for details. For more information please visit: littlelifts.org.uk/event/little-lifts-trail-run-2023/ or totalracetiming.co.uk/race/420



Sara Buxton
577207

Coronation

Following King Charles III's Coronation on May 6th, Matlaske Parish Council would like to invite you to celebrate with a Picnic in the Park. This is to be held on Monday 8th May at 3pm. Come along to the park gates (where our fete is held) with a picnic and drink, listen to Threescore play, then enjoy some homemade cake and bubbly. Do wear a crown and bring along seating or anything else for your comfort.

Edgefield

Church News

Advance notice that we are planning to hold a Craft Fair in the church on Saturday and Sunday 7th and 8th October. It will be five years since the last event of this nature, and we look forward to repeating it. Also, the female vocal ensemble 'The Samphires', who gave an excellent concert in the church last year, are intending to make a return visit for a recital on Saturday 21st October. Before then, of course, there will be the Open Gardens weekend on 20th and 21st March from 12noon to 5pm each day. We need books, plants, cakes, raffle prizes and help on the days. Please contact Alison Mawson on 01263 587236 or email alisonmawson@hotmail.com if you can offer any of these.



Richard Peaver
587486

From Kay Harvey: On Tuesday, 4th April, from 10.30am till 12noon there will be a children's Easter activity morning at Edgefield Church. It is one year since we began children's activities in the holidays and we are delighted to share with you again. Please come for all the elements of the Easter Story told in appropriate ways for young children. Crafts include felt spider and wool web! Also decorating a biscuit like a burial tomb, making a tiny Easter Garden in a bottle, and much more.

As a follow-on from these special days, we are holding periodic Sunday afternoon gatherings for families. These are growing in popularity too, and are run along the 'Messy Church' style movement. It includes the Three Cs: Create, Christlike and Celebrate. We share a meal at the end. Tel: 07941 985 635 for more info.

Village Hall News

At the time of writing there are a few tickets at £5 left for our fun Bingo evening on Saturday 15th April at 7pm. Another reminder that Edgifest 6 will be on Saturday 15th July and orders are now being taken for tickets, which will go on sale in early May. For both events contact Jim on 07946 854901 or by email on James.frost59@hotmail.co.uk.

February 200 Club winners: 1st Tim Corballis (91), 2nd Gillian Lawrence (101) and 3rd Mark Cook (15).

Jim Frost

Edgefield Open Gardens

Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st May 2023
12 till 5pm

Entry tickets and maps to be purchased at Edgefield Village Hall NR24 2AL. £5 per adult to cover both days. Age 16 and under free

New gardens and Norfolk Flower Farm open this year

Ploughman's lunch and afternoon tea
Plant and book stalls. Raffle



All proceeds to Edgefield Church
Assistance dogs only please

Date for your Diary Hempstead Fete Sunday 6th August

Invitation to Everyone in Hempstead to our Coronation Lunch Party

Keeping up the tradition Hempstead will celebrate the coronation of HM Charles III with a Coronation Lunch Party in the Street on Sunday 6th May at 12.30pm. The road will be officially closed, the bunting will be up and tables laid in The Street. (If it rains we will de-camp to the Village Hall).

As with our very successful and jolly lunch party last year to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee everyone is asked to bring their own food and perhaps some to share with others and, if you like, be appropriately dressed in red, white and blue. Do come.

Crafty Creations

Easter Craft Workshop

Saturday 1st April 1.30pm to 4.30pm
Hempstead Village Hall
£5 per crafter

Fun for all the family with something for all ages to create for your homes at Easter

Spring Wreaths • Bunting
Floral Decorations • Egg Nests

Hempstead

Wine Tasting



Jonathan Neville
07836 675369

Hempstead's first Wine Tasting took place in the Village Hall on Friday 17th March. Fifty-two people enjoyed a selection of white, red and dessert wines supplied by Adnams. The wines were accompanied by and paired with cheeses, bread and biscuits. Everyone had table notes and Lee Newstead from the company provided a further commentary, giving a fascinating insight into the grape varieties and the vineyards.

Plumstead



Plumstead in Flower

Please see the poster showing all the wonderful joys of our Plumstead in Flower event, we very much hope to welcome as many of you as possible from far and wide to share this celebration with us. Once again, many thanks to the hardworking folks behind the scenes of these events planning and executing everything for us all to enjoy.

As part of the event we will be creating an Easter Garden and we call all children to come along and take part. This will be at 10am on Saturday 8th April, adults also invited. There will be drinks and biscuits on offer. If you would like to attend please bring some small flowers or a pot of primroses with you.



Harriet Rossi
577239

Matlaske

100 Club

£25 Karen Fuller, £10 Angela Gillard, £5 Pete Rushmer

David Linkhorn

We wish David a speedy recovery after his spell in hospital.

Coronation

Following King Charles III's Coronation on May 6th, Matlaske Parish Council would like to invite you to celebrate with a Picnic in the Park. This is to be held on Monday 8th May at 3pm. Come along to the park gates (where our fete is held) with a picnic and drink, listen to Threescore play, then enjoy some homemade cake and bubbly. Do wear a crown and bring along seating or anything for your comfort.

Churchyard

Many thanks to Thomas and Richard, who expertly felled and cut up unwanted fir trees along the western edge of St Peter's churchyard, allowing much more warmth and light into the area. It has banished gloomy afternoons and enhanced the beauty of the southern aspect of the church. The golden sunshine will also help to drive damp out of the ancient walls, no doubt as the Saxon builders and medieval restorers intended. Thanks too to everyone who helped to remove the foliage. Our next project is to get mains water laid on to the church, which will depend on success with the Heritage Lottery bid currently being finalised.

Little Lifts Trail Run, Barningham Hall

We are still in need of volunteers on the morning of Sunday 23rd April. A lot of job roles will only require 1-2 hours of commitment and may be within walking or cycling distance for you so if you could spare a few hours to help, we would love to hear from you! Please email georgie@norfolkcordial.com if you would like to be involved. Free refreshments will be provided.



Duncan Wood
570293

Saxthorpe with Corpusty

Coronation Celebration Planned

A Coronation Big Lunch is being planned for Corpusty and Saxthorpe and will be held on Sunday 7th May - the day after the Coronation of King Charles III in Westminster Abbey. The aim is to provide barbecue-style food for all, with people bringing a plate or two of food to share. Children will be able to take part in competitions to make the best crown and create a Coronation picture. If possible, it will be held at Corpusty Village Hall and playing field, starting at 12 noon. Look out for further details as plans are developed. The Coronation itself takes place on Saturday 6th May, led by the Archbishop of Canterbury. During the ceremony, the King will be crowned alongside Camilla, the Queen Consort. Monday 8th May is a Bank Holiday, so you can watch the crowning on Saturday, celebrate on Sunday and recover on Monday! Volunteers will certainly be needed to make sure all goes well. If you can help, please contact parish councillor Lesley Last on 07531 065959, email: lesley@saxthorpe.com



John Birchall
584290

Gill Peat

It is with great sadness that we report the death Gill Peat. For many years Gill was a Lay Reader serving at St Andrew's, and our thoughts and prayers are with her family and her friends. A short piece will be published about Gill in next month's Church & Village News.

Plea to Dog Walkers

Local farmers have asked people not to walk dogs across fields that seem to be unused. "We make hay crops from these fields, and dog poo can be dangerous to other animals. We will be stopping people as we see them. People need to understand that this is not unused land, it is farmed land and our livelihoods," said farmer Richard Harrold. Wherever you walk your dog, don't forget to clear up after you. Dog poo can contain bacteria and parasites dangerous to humans, especially children and pregnant women.

The Village Gardener

To Plant a Garden is to Believe in Tomorrow



As I (attempt to) write about the beauty and hopefulness of April, the house is being repeatedly buffeted and battered by 55mph winds which combined with threat of more sleet/snow is a tad off-putting. So far, this month has not played fair. Never has the adage 'March came in like a lion and out like a lamb' been more pertinent here – we can but hope it will sort itself out! And I do say this with both fingers and toes crossed. A slow start to spring can be tough to bear, the resilience that was to the fore in earlier winter months has been somewhat stretched thin. I am reminded that despite the nights drawing out (thank goodness) we have gone the longest stretch without any decent sun

and warmth by this time. But the year will turn, we will have our joyful Spring just not today - instead.

So, putting our best chirpy foot forward and choosing to ignore the horizontal sleet that I can now spy out of the corner of my eye, let's instead look at what we should hopefully be doing in the garden in lovely April.

Firstly, there are lots of hardy annuals that you should be able to be sow straight in to the ground – but here is where you'll need your common-sense, as there is no point sowing in cold ground, the seeds will either struggle to germinate or struggle to thrive, so you will need to wait until the soil has warmed-up. One solution is to cover your beds in black plastic which helps absorb more heat from the sun, and so warm the soil up. However, I like the trick of using lengths of guttering to get salad leaves, lettuces and annual herbs started in the greenhouse. This works well on lots of levels: the shallow dip of the guttering means the compost warms up nicely so the seeds germinate well and the seedlings thrive. The black plastic absorbs more heat in the greenhouse so again helps everything along nicely. It's best to use manageable effective lengths of guttering, so if (like us) you have raised beds, then cut your guttering to the width of your bed, which in turn will make the guttering easier

to manoeuvre and will be less wasteful of both compost and seed. So, the trick is when your seedlings are ready to go out, create a shallow channel where you would like your gutter seedlings to go. Then to break the seedling length into manageable sections and to push it out one section at a time. There is a knack to it, but once conquered it is ridiculously satisfying, as where there was sad, barren winter soil there will now be a whole new fresh bed of promise, and just for a moment, the veg garden can take on the charming wholesome look of Mr McGregor's garden in *Peter Rabbit*. Once the soil has properly warmed up, the year has got going and the guttering is no longer in service, I treat them like any other seed trays and clean them up and pack them away, just so they don't get inadvertently used for any roofing issues!

My final tip for April is to nudge you not to forget to harden any seedlings or young plants off properly before planting them out. The theory is to ease them into the idea of outside life gently so they keep a steady constancy of growth. You don't want leggy seedlings that will struggle and be miserable if they are put straight outside into the ground. So the idea is to bring them out for part of the day but then to bring them in again before the temperatures dip too much, do this for about a week before you put them out for good. It can feel like a bit of a faff but is really worthwhile as your plants will be that much more accustomed that they thrive and flourish!

NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME
Garden Open For Charity

Blickling Lodge
Blickling, Norwich, NR11 6PS

Sunday 28 May
12 - 5pm

Adults £6 Children free
Cakes available.

More information at ngs.org.uk

This month (instead of answering one of your questions) I would like to happily promote the NGS Open Gardens at Blickling Lodge, Blickling NR11 7HU on Sunday 28th May 12-5pm (pictured above). This stunning beautiful garden that borders onto the Bure is a joy to behold and well worth a visit. The Georgian house is surrounded by 17 acres of glorious parkland, with a charming walled kitchen garden, a formal yew garden which leads to the most delightful woodland and water garden. All in all 17 acres of utter tranquillity and a simply lovely way to spend an afternoon. This year the refreshments are all in aid of the Matlaske Benefice (a most worthy cause) and we both very much hope you can pop the date in your diary!

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

Michelle and Mick McCarter

Refreshments in aid of Matlaske Benefice

Nature Watch – Foxley Wood

Arthur Pentney



“Oh, to be in England now that April's there.” Like Robert Browning, April is certainly one of our favourite months: winter has been kicked into touch and springtime beckons.

There's so much to enjoy in this lovely period. My recommendation is to visit Foxley Wood in late April to see the profusion of bluebells there. This ancient woodland, some 6,000 years old, is a delight to visit at any time, but especially in April when the whole area seems to be carpeted with a lovely sea of blue. Certain rides may be roped off to avoid the bluebells being trampled on, but most of the wood is open for you to roam freely. This is not a visit to be rushed: allow about two hours to stroll around the various paths – perhaps take a picnic – and so let this unique atmosphere sink in.

It's hard to believe that what is now mostly deciduous woodland was once almost totally coniferous, the timber produced being used for pit props in the coal mines. Sanity prevailed, however, and with nature restored we now have one of the most attractive areas of ancient woodland in Norfolk, and, indeed, the whole country.

Since 1988 the wood has been under the auspices of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust, so its future is secure, which is just as well, as more and more of our county is now being subjected to concrete.

Apart from the bluebells, the wood is a haven for other interesting and rare species – white admiral and speckled wood butterflies, different breeds of owls, and 250 types of plants, so it's a great place for any nature lovers out there. Deer may also be seen. They can forsake the wood to enjoy early emerging corn and then, like lightning, leap across both the security ditch and fence and so back into the safety of the wood. Quite a sight, believe me – I have seen them do it.

The Wildlife Trust put out boards which give out interesting information about birds, trees and flowers etc. for you to absorb as your walk proceeds. So – give it a go. You will never forget it!

NB The wood is not open on Thursdays and dogs are not allowed.



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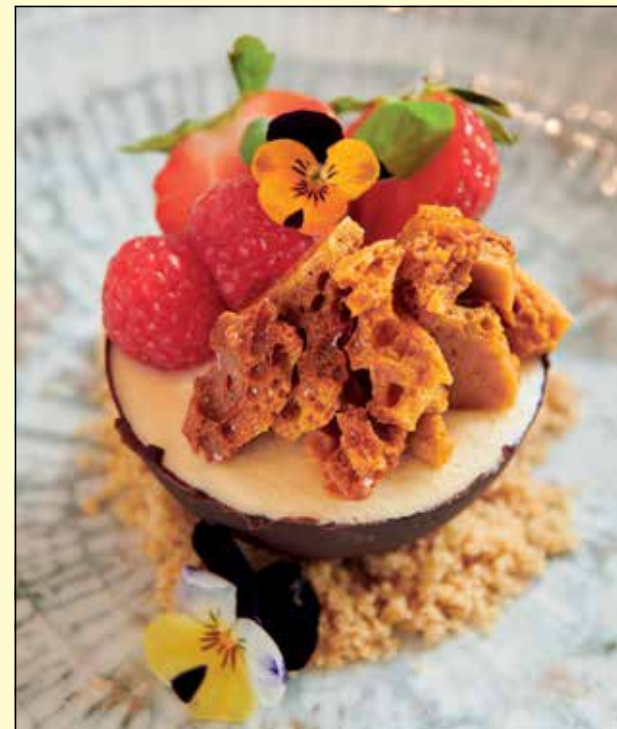
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