

# Church & Village News

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

May 2023



**Aurora Borealis over Baconsthorpe**

Photograph by Tim Venes

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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](http://www.baconsthorpe.org)  
[www.hempstead-norfolk.co.uk](http://www.hempstead-norfolk.co.uk)  
[www.plumstead.org.uk](http://www.plumstead.org.uk)



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## Village Correspondents

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Baconsthorpe</b><br>hazel.merlin1@gmail.com       | <b>Hazel Martin</b><br>07879 414577     |
| <b>Barningham Winter</b><br>s.m.buxton@hotmail.co.uk | <b>Sara Buxton</b><br>577207            |
| <b>Edgefield</b><br>richardpeaver@gmail.com          | <b>Richard Peaver</b><br>587486         |
| <b>Hempstead</b><br>jneville@hempstead-norfolk.co.uk | <b>Jonathan Neville</b><br>07836 675369 |
| <b>Matlaske</b><br>duncan.wood@cantab.net            | <b>Duncan Wood</b><br>570293            |
| <b>Plumstead</b><br>harrietwormald@hotmail.com       | <b>Harriet Rossi</b><br>577239          |
| <b>Saxthorpe with Corpusty</b><br>birchalljc@aol.com | <b>John Birchall</b><br>584290          |

## District Councillors

Corpusty, Edgefield, Saxthorpe  
Andrew Brown 07970 298695  
[andrew.brown@north-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.brown@north-norfolk.gov.uk)  
Baconsthorpe, Hempstead, Matlaske & Barningham, Plumstead  
Dr Pierre Bütikofer 838306  
[Pierre.Butikofer@north-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:Pierre.Butikofer@north-norfolk.gov.uk)

## Church People

**Rector** Reverend Canon David Longe 577252  
**Assistant Curate** Reverend Judy Rosser 587584  
**Authorised Worship Assistant** Prof Alain Wolf 577292  
**Church Wardens**  
Baconsthorpe Hazel Martin (designate) 07879 414577  
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 Corp Lesley Last (designate) 587782  
Jill Perry-Warnes (designate) 584 221

**Safeguarding Officers**  
Catherine McMahon  
01263 577357 / [cmcmahon161@gmail.com](mailto:cmcmahon161@gmail.com)  
Lawrence Williams  
01263 577292 / [trustlawrence@hotmail.com](mailto:trustlawrence@hotmail.com)

Safeguarding concerns please contact the Police on 999 or Diocese of Norwich Safeguarding Team [safeguarding@dioceseofnorwich.org](mailto:safeguarding@dioceseofnorwich.org) or 01603 882345

## What's On

### MAY

|         |         |   |                           |
|---------|---------|---|---------------------------|
| Thurs 4 | 7.00am  | <b>Local Elections</b>                        | Baconsthorpe Village Hall |
| Fri 5   | 10.30am | <b>Hempstead Coffee &amp; Catch-up</b>        | Village Hall              |
| Sat 6   | 5.00pm  | <b>Hempstead Coronation BBQ</b>               | Village Hall              |
| Sun 7   | 3.00pm  | <b>Baconsthorpe Coronation Tea</b>            | Village Hall              |
| Sun 7   | 12.30pm | <b>Corpusty Coronation Lunch</b>              | Village Hall              |
| Mon 8   | 3.00pm  | <b>Matlaske Coronation Picnic in the Park</b> | Barningham Hall           |
| Wed 10  | 2.00pm  | <b>Hempstead Tea + Fashion Show</b>           | Village Hall              |
| Wed 10  | 7.00pm  | <b>Plumstead Annual Parish Meeting</b>        | St Michael's Church       |
| Sun 14  | 11.00am | <b>West Beckham NGS Gardens Open</b>          | Chestnut Farm             |
| Mon 15  | 7.00pm  | <b>Hempstead Village Hall AGM</b>             | Village Hall              |
| Sat 20  | 10.00am | <b>Edgefield Open Gardens</b>                 | Throughout the village    |
| Sat 20  | 2.00pm  | <b>Hempstead Craft Creations</b>              | Village Hall              |
| Sun 21  | 10.00am | <b>Edgefield Open Gardens</b>                 | Throughout the village    |
| Fri 29  | 6.00pm  | <b>Baconsthorpe Pop-Up Pub</b>                | Village Hall              |

## Clash Diary

|         |                               |          |  |
|---------|-------------------------------|----------|--|
| June 1  | Hempstead Music               | Sept 2/3 | Hempstead Arts   |
| June 7  | Baconsthorpe Village Hall AGM | Oct 6    | Saxthorpe Harvest Supper   |
| July 15 | Edgefield Edgefest            | Oct 7/8  | Edgefield Craft Fair   |
| July 22 | Baconsthorpe Fete             | Oct 21   | Edgefield The Samphires  |
| July 29 | Matlaske Fete                 |          |  |
| Aug 6   | Hempstead Fete                |          | Contact Corinne Youngs to add your event 577263 / <a href="mailto:corinne@avyoungs.com">corinne@avyoungs.com</a> |

## 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](mailto:duncan@duncanbaker.org.uk) [www.duncanbaker.org.uk](http://www.duncanbaker.org.uk)  
Monday - Friday 9am – 5pm 01692 557140

## County Councillor

Steffan Aqarone  
[steffan.aqarone.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:steffan.aqarone.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk) / 01603 327827

**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.

## Mobile Library Van

**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  
**5 May / 30 June / 28 July / 25 August / 22 Sept**  
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> Tel: 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>

## Letter from the Rector - Reverend Canon David Longe

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

Dear All

The Easter Story is irrational, illogical and unreasonable.

Imagine, for a moment, finding the tomb empty on Easter morning? What's your first thought? A robbery? Mary Magdalene arrives first at the tomb. When she finds it empty, she runs to the disciples to tell them. They all return and she is left weeping outside. Turning she sees a gardener. The gardener asks her why she is weeping, and then she recognises that it is not the gardener but Jesus. Did this change Mary's life? I suspect it did – for the second time in her life Jesus turned everything upside down (the first time was when he cured her).

Easter is meant to turn things upside down: it is meant to show Jesus in a new light. To show that even the grave is no barrier to God. It is not rational, rather we are invited to engage with the story on a deeper more emotional level that connects us to our very essence: to our souls.

Perhaps we don't think we need to do this. Perhaps we don't believe in the idea of a soul. Life is straightforward. The Easter Story seems sweet, quaint, but irrelevant. Or perhaps things are not so easy, and we are weighed down with difficulties.

Imagine then, for a moment, that we take the story extremely seriously: Jesus heals people and he is so compelling that we follow him – literally word for word, deed for deed. What would our world look like? Would it mean we would seek always speak good of our neighbour? That we are always generous? That if someone did something bad to us, we would seek (as best we could) to forgive? Would this show that our kindness, generosity and love is needed and valued? The Easter Story for all its irrationality evidently changes lives: it changed Mary's, the apostles and throughout the centuries it has touched and transformed countless individuals.

Let me finish with a story of a conversation between two friends, one a recent convert, the other unbeliever:

"So you have been converted to Christ?"

"Yes."

"Then you must know a great deal about him. Tell me: what country was he born in?"

"I don't know."

"What was his age when he died?"

"I don't know."

"How many sermons did he preach?"

"I don't know."

"You certainly know very little for a man who claims to be converted to Christ."

"You are right. I am ashamed at how little I know about him. But this much I know: Three years ago, I was a drunkard. I was in debt. My family was falling apart. My wife and children would dread my coming home each day. Now I have given up drink; we are out of debt; ours is a happy home. All this Christ has done for me. This much I know of Christ!"

So Easter may be irrational, illogical, and unreasonable, but it is also transformative.



## The Benefice of Matlaske Church Services for May

|                  |   |                   |
|------------------|---|-------------------|
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | <b>Coronation Prayers for the King</b>  |                   |
| 6.00pm           | Hempstead, Baconsthorpe, Edgefield Followed by refreshments   |                   |
| 7.00pm           | Plumstead, Matlaske, Saxthorpe Followed by refreshments   |                   |
| 7 <sup>th</sup>  | <b>Coronation Weekend</b>   |                   |
| 8.30am           | Eucharist   | Matlaske          |
| 10.30am          | Commemorative Service for the Coronation  | Barningham Winter |
|                  | All welcome, dogs on leads, activities for children, outside service (inside if poor weather), refreshments |                   |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Easter VI - Rogation Sunday</b>  |                   |
| 8.30am           | Eucharist   | Baconsthorpe      |
| 10.30am          | Rogation Walk   | Plumstead         |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Ascension Day</b>  |                   |
| 10.00am          | Eucharist   | Matlaske          |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> | <b>Easter VII</b>   |                   |
| 8.30am           | Eucharist   | Edgefield         |
| 10.30am          | Eucharist   | Saxthorpe         |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Pentecost (Whitsun)</b>  |                   |
| 8.30am           | Eucharist   | Hempstead         |
| 10.30am          | Eucharist   | Baconsthorpe      |
| 4 <sup>th</sup>  | <b>Trinity Sunday</b>   |                   |
| 10.30am          | Eucharist   | Barningham Winter |
| 5.00pm           | Evensong  | Matlaske          |

### Wednesday Weekly - St Andrew's Saxthorpe

10.00am Coffee, Cake & Chats

From June the first Wednesday of each month will be followed with Eucharist at 11am



## Baconsthorpe

### 200 Club

£50 M Day, £25 T B Worboys, £10 H Steel, £5 L Rix, R Hall, S Wilson



### Church News

What a busy Easter weekend it has been in the church. On Good Friday everyone was invited to share in the Stations of Creation. Out in the churchyard families followed the journey made by Jesus on the day of the crucifixion. This was then related to the suffering of the natural world that we see all over our planet today. This was followed by Hot Cross buns and hot chocolate. On Easter Sunday, how lovely it was to see the church filled with people on that special day.



Hazel Martin  
07879 414577

### Flower Rota

Flowers in the church are always appreciated by all and my thanks go to everyone in the past who have taken on this task. If anyone in the village would be willing to help in the future a monthly rota could be put together. Please give Corinne a call on 01263 577263 if you can help.



### A Walk Around the Village

My thanks go to Emma Youngs for sending me this wonderful photograph of Ray and Franie Howell taking Susie the pig back to the allotments. Apparently, according to Peter Howell, she would have just paid a 'visit' to the boar owned by Bruno Stasi who lived at The Hollies. Halcyon days!!

If anyone has any interesting or old photographs that they are willing to share I would be so grateful, especially if you have some background information. These could then be shared in the newsletter.

### Gentle Reminder

In the last edition I enclosed details and a flyer inviting all the village to Afternoon Tea at Baconsthorpe Village Hall to celebrate the coronation. Please do let Corinne know on 01263 577263 if you would like to attend then the baking preparations can begin!

### Baconsthorpe Castle

Many of you will have seen the barricades around the castle as work became necessary to make the building safe. I am now informed that work started on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and will hopefully last approximately eight weeks so could be open for visitors in the summer!

### Save the Date

On the second Sunday of every month, I plan to run a drama group for children aged approximately 7 to 14 years old. This will take place at the village hall from 4pm to 5.30pm. The first meeting is Sunday May 14<sup>th</sup>. The sessions will include drama games and drama activities. If you have any queries or need more information, please contact Hazel on 07879414577 or to express your interest administrator@matlaske.org.uk



Photograph by Norman Allen

### Up-date on the Brick Kiln

My thanks go to Tommy Worboys for the following – apparently the brick kiln was situated along The Street at what is now known as 'Ten Acres'. Also included on the site at the time was the White House and the land behind to the north and east down to Blind Lane. At the building of the village school in 1816, Mr Warnes supplied 4,000 bricks from his kiln in Baconsthorpe. The kiln is shown on 'Bryant's' map of 1825 and the tithe map of Baconsthorpe in 1839. The kiln, with other lots, was put up for auction in 1843 by Sophia Warnes the proprietor.



### Village Hall News

**Pop-Up Pub – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> 6pm** Deluxe macaroni cheese 6.30pm  
The Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall Committee will be held on Wednesday 7 June at 6.30pm in the hall. All are welcome to attend.

The Murder Mystery event in March was a great success with over 50 people enjoying an evening of 'sleuthing' and dining. Many thanks to the cast and director, Hazel, along with those serving the food, for a great evening. Only one team managed

to solve the mystery – congratulations go to 'The Four Rs', a team who included Adrian and Tracy Rudd and Heather and Carl Rix. We hope to have another Murder Mystery event later in the year, so watch this space.

The Village Fete is on Saturday 22 July this year from 2pm. We are always happy to have contributions of cakes or bric-a-brac, and any volunteers to help are very welcome, contact me on 07493 227591.

Piers Warner

### Country Mice

Country Mice baby & toddler group continues to grow. They have been awarded a National Lottery grant to assist with rental costs, healthy snacks and some large more flexible furniture. All mothers and carers of the group received a card and a pot of daffodils for Mothering Sunday and the children had a story and Easter egg hunt to end the term. Our Leader has been invited to an interview on Poppyland radio and to a reception at the houses of Parliament to talk about the importance and value of Church based toddler groups in the community.

## Barningham Winter

Congratulations to Joe and Olivia Buxton on the arrival of their second son Zachary Benedick Jacob who was born on Holy Saturday. Brother for Rudy.

We send our best wishes to Mrs Dorothy Parker of Common Farm who has been in hospital recently after a fall. We hope she makes a speedy recovery.

Please note at the local election which is taking place on the 4<sup>th</sup> May at Baconsthorpe Village Hall you are now required to have photographic identification to vote as described on your polling card. The voting hours are between 7am and 10 pm.

### Picnic in the Park - Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May

Following King Charles III's Coronation, don't forget to pack up your picnic and come along - see last month's magazine for details. Three Score won't be playing but we are delighted to have Joan's Silver Pin (Pete, Felicity and Tom) entertaining us with their music. Cake and bubbly will be provided. Let's hope for a sunny afternoon and we look forward to seeing you all there.



Sara Buxton  
577207

## Edgefield

### Church News

We start May with the Coronation. The day before, on Friday 5<sup>th</sup>, we have Evening Prayer for The King in Edgefield Church at 5pm. On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am there is a special open-air service at Barningham Winter Church, in the grounds of Barningham Hall, Matlaske, for our whole Benefice. Everyone is very welcome to both, so do come.



Richard Peaver  
587486

We very much hope to see everyone at our Open Gardens weekend. Do bring lots of friends and family. Tickets @ £5 (age 16 and under free) from the Village Hall, 12noon – 5pm each day. Ploughman's lunches and afternoon teas will be available as well as plant and book stalls. Another date for your diaries is 14<sup>th</sup> July at 4pm when we aim to have our annual churchyard clear-up evening. Strimmers, rakes, forks, etc, all needed, and as many people to help as possible.

Kay Harvey and her team will be organising the following free events for children at the church in the coming weeks:

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May 10.30am – 12noon free event around the theme of 'using our senses in prayer'

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June 11am – 3pm village trail, finding tiny doors of fairies and other 'wee folk' £2 per child over two years; collect a map, make a wand and begin at the church. (Refreshments available in the Village Hall half way point.)

Angela Turner

### Edgefield Open Gardens

Sharp-eyed readers of this column will have noticed in last month's CAVN that the Edgefield Open Gardens was announced as being planned for March. This should, of course, have read Saturday and Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> May. The careless proof-reader was too busy spotting notes in other contributors' eyes to notice the beam in his own!

Richard Peaver



### Village Hall News

The fun bingo evening was a tremendous success. A full house (get it?!) had a fun packed evening with a host of prizes being won. Edgefest 6 is coming on 15<sup>th</sup> July and tickets will be on sale in early May. Over 50 pre-orders have already been made, so book early to avoid disappointment. March 200 Club winners were: 1<sup>st</sup> Robin Keighley (228), 2<sup>nd</sup> Sarah Mavilio (43), and 3<sup>rd</sup> Clare Mawson (171).

Jim Frost

### Edgefield Toad Patrol

I'm delighted to report that we welcomed some new, enthusiastic patrollers this year, meaning that a good number of us were out and about covering the main migration routes around the pond each evening. The migration started at around the end of February and continued until late March. A cold February and a milder, wet March had the desired effect of encouraging the

amphibians to the water. In terms of toads saved from the roads (ie ones we secured physically to the pond) the numbers compared to last year were down dramatically, by nearly 30%, from 382 last year to 283 this year. Toads tend to live some distance away from the pond and travel further than other amphibians. We are unclear as to why there was a decline – there could be a number of environmental factors. Numbers do fluctuate each year and of course we have no idea how many make the journey in the early hours without our help.

On a positive note, numbers of great crested newts more than doubled to 35 (17 last year) so a more sustainable population may be beginning to develop. Common Newt numbers remained similar (256 last year and 239 this year) and frogs leaped to a satisfactory total of 118 this year compared to 102 last year.

Let us hope we now have plenty of spawn and ultimately many more generations of amphibians enhancing and beautifying the ecosystem of the lovely village pond for decades to come.

Richard Sear

## Hempstead

### 200 Club

March: £50 R Matthews; £25 T Scarff; £10 M Williams; £5 M Thody, A Freegard, R Matthews  
April: £50 J Tomlinson; £25 Ro Jones; £10 N Sanders; £5 C Lister, J Hurrell, I Summers

Coffee & Catch-up Friday 5 10.30am Village Hall

Church Instagram @hempsteadallsaints do follow!



Jonathan Neville  
07836 675369



### Church Gates

The church gates have been cleaned, the fencing creosoted and the right-hand post replaced. William Mack supplied the labour and the new post was supplied by Charles Inglis.

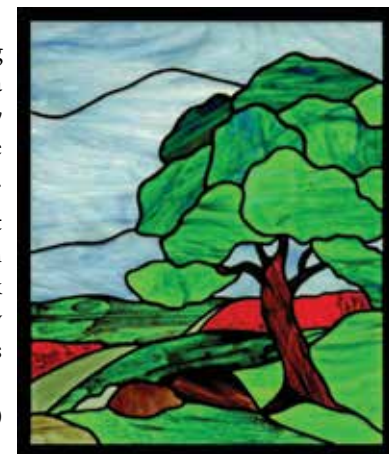
William Mack with the cleaned gates - his father Henry Mack, was Church Warden from 1958 - 2008

### Mothering Sunday

Hempstead hosted one of two of the Benefice Mothering Sunday services, which was very well attended with a congregation of 45. The new stained-glass window *Poppy Fields* made by Church Warden Su Summers before she died, now installed in the Apse, was blessed by David Longe.

A retirement promise was to learn something new. It turned out to be more than one 'something', starting with learning to play the harp, and then by learning to work with glass. Both have been a challenge, but immensely satisfying. I love the natural world and my work in glass usually reflects this.

Su Summers 1949-2020







Photograph by Airlie Inglis

Beautiful posies were given out by the children to all those who attended, and extra posies were delivered to those around the village who couldn't come to the service. The posies were made by some of the ladies on the church flower arranging rota, Rose Carver, Lis Hill, Jo Hurrell, Airlie Inglis, Mo Williams, Janice Wolfe and Christine Sewell. Thank you to Catherine McMahon for rescuing us with her organ playing.

The following week a church and churchyard working party arrived for a thorough spring clean and sort out. Everywhere is now looking pristine and well managed after a terrific effort by volunteers who gave the church a thorough spring clean inside, and outside the yew

bushes were cut back and hedges trimmed. Many thanks to Christine and Adrian Sewell, Aileen and Russell Mcfayden, Diane Collier, Francis Feilden, Mo Williams, Rose Carver and Charles and Airlie Inglis. For those who bought chain saws, hedge cutters and vacuum cleaners we are particularly grateful. The cost of regular grass cutting has been made easier by the purchasing of several more 200 Club tickets by village residents, for which we are very grateful. If anyone else would like to buy some numbers they are £12 a year, available from Francis Feilden.

**Community BBQ to celebrate the Coronation** Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May 5pm onwards  
Bring along your picnic chairs and join us for a fun family evening on the playing field next to the church. Some food will be provided but please feel free to bring along some extra food and of course your drinks. Let's celebrate the new King with a fun get-together - get those Red White & Blue clothes on and join the party!

**Ladies Afternoon Tea & Fashion Show** Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm in the village hall  
Full Afternoon Tea with Fashion Show by 'It's All About Me'. The hall will be decorated with various vintage and occasion clothes and accessories. Please feel free to come along dressed as if you were going to the coronation to join in the fun afternoon. Tickets are £20 per person including a glass of bubbles and canapes. For full details and to book, contact Lesley Lennox: [lesley.lennox@project21.ltd.uk](mailto:lesley.lennox@project21.ltd.uk) / 07446 777660

## Plumstead

I hope everyone had a very blessed Easter and enjoyed the many Easter activities offered across the parishes. Now as we move through Spring let's hope for some more stable and warmer weather, especially for our Coronation weekend.



Harriet Rossi  
577239

### Plumstead in Flower

A big Thank You to all who took part in the recent Plumstead in Flower event and the special mini fete with Morris Dancing on Easter Monday. Despite the incredibly wet weather on Monday, those who were there



Photograph by Mike Ray-Jones

had a most enjoyable time. The Morris dancers heroically succeeded in dancing under a gazebo, nimbly avoiding guy ropes and tent pegs in the process! Over the 9 days £498.52 was raised towards church funds - a very worthwhile amount. Thank you.

### Bunting for the Coronation

There is plenty of red, white and blue bunting in the village store for anyone who would like to borrow it. Don't forget that there are also tables, chairs, cutlery, china, a barbecue and other useful items in the store, for anyone in the village to use. A small donation would be welcome. Contact Eleanor if you would like to put some bunting up in honour of the occasion or use any other items from the store.

### Prayers for the King

On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May 7pm at Plumstead Church there will be a short service of prayer and reflection on the evening prior to the coronation of King Charles III. All are very welcome.

### Plumstead Annual Parish Meeting & Plumstead Parish Council Meeting

The Plumstead Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 6pm at Plumstead Church, followed by AGM and first meeting of Plumstead Parish Council. The Annual Parish meeting is an opportunity for any to come and express thoughts and ideas concerning our village so all villagers are very welcome to come along and attend.



Photograph by Mike Ray-Jones

## Matlaske

### 100 Club

£25 Inigo Westgate, £10 Olivia Wicks, £5 Sam Pointer

### Picnic in the Park

Following King Charles III's Coronation, don't forget to pack up your picnic and come along to the Picnic in the Park on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May as advertised in last month's magazine. Three Score won't be playing but we are delighted to have Joan's Silver Pin (Pete, Felicity and Tom) entertaining us with their music that afternoon. Cake and bubbly will be provided. Let's hope for a sunny afternoon and look forward to seeing you all there.

### Matlaske Fete

Granny's attic is back at this year's Matlaske Fete, so now is the time to go through your cupboards. We would be grateful for donations of good quality bric-a-brac etc. Contact Cherry on 577837 or email [cherrywestgate@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cherrywestgate@hotmail.co.uk)



Duncan Wood  
570293

## Saxthorpe with Corpusty

### Remembering Gill Peat

Gill Peat, who died in February, was a long-standing member of St Andrew's Church, along with her husband John. Both were Lay Readers. They lived in Post Office Lane, Saxthorpe, having moved to Norfolk from RAF Valley in Wales.

Gill's enthusiasm for creating engaging services lasted long into retirement. She went to enormous trouble in preparing her services, particularly the address.

Gill had a passion for caring for those in need and was instrumental in setting up 'Toys & Tins', gathering toys for the Salvation Army and tins for the food bank. Younger members of Corpusty and Saxthorpe will remember Gill helping at Families Together in the Village Hall and reading Bible stories. Her last ministry was leading monthly services at Oulton.

The life of this prayerful, humble woman was one of goodness, and this was at the heart of her ministry. She was much loved and will be sorely missed. The love and prayers of all who knew Gill go to her family, especially her four children.

### New Village Hall booking number

Corpusty Village Hall can now be booked by calling Diane Oliver on 07377 327268, or email [dio1@mail.com](mailto:dio1@mail.com)

### Sunrise Service at St Peter's



Photograph by James Deveson

David Longe, was another step in restoring its place in the local community - aided by croissants and bacon butties after the service. Thanks to all who made this possible.

### Icons at St Peter's

There will be another chance to visit St Peter's for a community event when an Exhibition of Icons will be on view from 23<sup>rd</sup> June to 1<sup>st</sup> July. All are welcome at an evening preview (6.30pm) on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>, and the exhibition, held with permission of the Norfolk Churches Trust, includes a 5pm Evensong service at the church on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June.



John Birchall  
584290

A special sunrise service on Easter Sunday at St Peter's Church, Corpusty, brought the hope of the Easter Sunday message to more than 30 people, and for the church itself.

St Peter's came close to demolition before it was rescued by the Friends of Friendless Churches in the 1980s, taken forward more recently by the Norfolk Churches Trust. The 6am Easter service, which began with the lighting of a Holy flame in the churchyard by Rector

with the Permission of  
The Norfolk Churches Trust

### Exhibition of Icons

St. Peter's Church  
Corpusty

23<sup>rd</sup> June to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June Preview Evening at 6.30<sup>pm</sup>  
All are welcome

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Evensong Service at 5<sup>pm</sup>

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June Exhibition open 11.00<sup>am</sup> to 5.00<sup>pm</sup>  
Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June Exhibition open 11.00<sup>am</sup> to 7.00<sup>pm</sup>  
Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July to Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July  
open 10.00<sup>am</sup> to 4.00<sup>pm</sup>

For information please visit  
[www.norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk](http://www.norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk)

### Coronation Hog Roast!

Don't miss the Hog Roast at the Coronation Big Lunch at the Village Hall and playing field on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May from 12noon. Bring your own picnic and drinks and boost it with sumptuous slices from the roast (first come first served!). Children can enter competitions for the best crown and best coronation picture. If you can help on the day, please contact parish councillor Lesley Last on 07531065959, email: [lesley@saxthorpe.com](mailto:lesley@saxthorpe.com)

## The Village Gardener - To Plant a Garden is to Believe in Tomorrow

Beautiful May! There is something so special about the optimism and positivity of May - the slate is washed clean (so to speak) and the garden newly invigorated with energy after the long slog of the winter. That's the theory anyway! After our particularly long and testing winter we are all so impatient to have spring here so we can get going properly in the garden. However, the trick is (I think) to be really aware of how your garden is, or rather how the weather is and how it's impacted your garden. As I write this, we are still in rather a cold patch and the ground certainly isn't warm enough yet for seeds to germinate successfully or for young tender plants to thrive. So, to accommodate our rather slow spring this year I am making full use of the greenhouse so that I can use that as a holding bay for young plants until the ground warms up. As the year is a bit behind it's best to focus on tasks that can be done rather than trying to overrule the weather. If a seed packet says a certain month is when a seed should be set or when a young plant should be put out, check to see how your garden is, if it feels like the soil is warm enough then great go ahead but if it feels like it's not there yet, then hold back, be patient and the right time will come!

A good task to get done in the border and one that isn't temperature dependent is to get all your plant supports in now before your plants need them, then they can grow strongly and the new growth will quickly cover up the supports. However carefully you try to prop a plant up that has collapsed, it's never the same, so the old adage of a stitch in time is very true in this case. One bonus of the late spring has been the slower than usual re-emergence of weeds, so this is the perfect opportunity to get on top of them before the (hopefully) warmer temperatures give them too much of head start. A sharp hoe can work wonders and will save your back, but 'sharp' is key, so remember to set your hoe up (use a sharpening stone) before you get going. Another bonus to a slow spring is the extra window of time that we can now utilise for a reshuffle of any plants we didn't get to move earlier in the year - small mercies!

A year or so ago we were asked for some advice on how to grow zinnias successfully in our Norfolk climate, and since then I have stumbled upon the best tip for growing them and one that I have utilised, and that is to not set them out until it is warm enough (for yourself) to comfortably sit outside of an evening in your garden. Zinnias need it to be warmer longer throughout the day, no nasty dips as the evening gets going. The same can be said for basil too, as they are also very susceptible to the cold. Once we hit that glorious moment, when you're not sitting outside in copious thermals, then you know you can set them out and they will happily thrive - like us!

This month (instead of answering one of your questions - back to normal next month) I'd like to remind you about the NGS Open Gardens at Blickling Lodge, Blickling NR11 6NF on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May 12-5pm. It is the most beautiful of gardens, with a Georgian house surrounded by 17 acres of glorious parkland, a delightful walled garde, stunning woodland and water garden. Refreshments are all in aid of the Matlaske Benefice and we both very much hope to see you there!

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



## Nature Watch – Back Lane, Hempstead

Arthur Pentney



“The rolling English drunkard made the rolling English road...”

GK Chesterton

Hempstead originally having two pubs perhaps had more inebriates than usual, as its roads are very much of a rolling kind. The steep ninety-degree bends just after the Old White Horse is one example, and the road up through Pond Hills is another. But one road, Back Lane, takes a more reasonable straightish path and so perhaps was created by the more sober of Hempstead’s inhabitants.

And an actual road it is, there are no footpath or bridleway signs here – yes, this is a proper county road, theoretically maintained by the local authority. Our track is reminiscent of roads from a bygone age, so let’s take a stroll along its 300-yard length, enjoy the tranquility and observe anything interesting by way of nature study as we go along.

This so-called ‘road’ has benefited greatly by having one fairly highish hedge on its southern side, thereby avoiding any sprays from the nearby field drifting into it, and leaving so much of its surroundings unspoilt. Butterflies in particular have had a tough time in the last thirty years or so, so it’s good to see them out of harm’s way along this little gem. Pick a sunny day and you may well see a variety of different species: Meadow Browns, Ringlets, Painted Ladies, Small Tortoiseshells, all flitting around or feeding on some specially selected flower or plant. Enjoy these wild flowers whilst strolling along in the tranquillity of this lane. So, let’s allow its hedge to remain – don’t ask the council to maintain it, leave it just as it is, a quiet getaway in an increasingly noisy, busy and polluted world.

Thanks to Jonathan Neville for his accompanying drone shot.



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

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