

Church & Village News

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

June 2022



Apple Blossom - Baconsthorpe
Photograph by Arthur Pentney

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

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01603 327827

Village Websites

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



WORLD LAND TRUST
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What's On

JUNE

| | | | |
|---------|---------|---|------------------|
| Wed 1 | 7.00pm | Baconsthorpe Village Hall AGM | Village Hall |
| Thurs 2 | 9.45pm | Saxthorpe & Corpusty Brazier Lighting | Village Green |
| Fri 3 | 2.00pm | Matlaske & Barningham Platinum Jubilee | |
| Fri 3 | 12.30pm | Hempstead Platinum Jubilee Lunch | Village Hall |
| Sat 4 | 3.00pm | Edgefield Platinum Jubilee Afternoon | Village Hall |
| Sun 5 | 12.00pm | Plumstead Platinum Jubilee | Flag Pole Garden |
| Sun 5 | 3.00pm | Baconsthorpe Platinum Jubilee Tea | Village Hall |
| Wed 15 | 7.30pm | Hempstead Village Hall AGM | Village Hall |
| Fri 24 | 6.00pm | Baconsthorpe Pop-up Pub | Village Hall |

Clash Diary

| | | | |
|---------|---------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|
| July 1 | Baconsthorpe Cinema | July 30 | Matlaske Pizza + Music in the Park |
| July 6 | Matlaske Coffee Morning | Sep 9 | Matlaske Quiz |
| July 7 | Hempstead Music | Oct 8 | Edgefield Organ Concert |
| July 8 | Baconsthorpe Church Clean | Dec 4 | Matlaske Christmas Party |
| July 23 | Baconsthorpe Fête | 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

Baconsthorpe Mobile Post Office Van
Wednesdays 10.00am Village Hall

Corpusty Stores 587726
Monday-Friday 9.00am – 12.00noon

Itteringham Shop 587325
Monday + Thursday 9.00am-1.00pm

Mobile Library Van

9 June / 7 July / 4 August

| | | | |
|-----------|-------|----------|-------------------|
| 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 |

30 June / 28 July / 25 August

| | | | |
|--------------|------|----------|-------------------|
| Hempstead | 3.40 | NR25 6TL | Telephone kiosk |
| Baconsthorpe | 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

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 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 |

Letter from the Rector - Reverend Canon David Longe

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

As this month kicks off with bonfires, tea parties and other events, all marking the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, it seems only right to write about the Queen.

There are, I believe, some incredible qualities to admire in the Queen. Some of these you may find if you brave the churchyards and follow the amusing corgi trails, but there is I think one quality that reflects her faith.

Steadfastness is not a fashionable quality. We don't shout from the rooftops about "how wonderfully steadfast she is", like we would about someone who is an amazing singer or athlete. Yet steadfastness is not just a wonderful quality, it is an essential quality. In the Bible the psalmist repeatedly writes "the steadfast love of the Lord endures forever" (Psalm 136). The repetition of this phrase reminds the readers of the psalm how God had been present through a whole series of events from Creation to the rescue of the Hebrew slaves from Egypt, and how God continues to be present through all we encounter.

The Queen's steadfast presence at the centre of our Nation has seen us weather all sorts of storms, from Suez to COVID and the tragedy in Ukraine. And not just storms that the nation has had to endure but storms which we have witnessed unfold in her own family. Through all she has remained steadfast in her service to all who make up this nation.

This time last year I wrote about the faith we understand the Prince Philip held, and it seems right to point to the faith of the Queen. At her coronation at Pentecost (Whitsun), the feast which celebrates the Holy Spirit descending on the disciples in Jerusalem, she was anointed and enthroned before and homage was paid. After this elevation to the highest state in our nation, she was invited humbly to kneel and pray and to receive communion.



I do not know, but I wonder, whether her steadfastness for the Nation and for her family, is bound up with her humility and prayer, which is reflected in Holy Communion; that while she is head of our Nation, she is firstly just like each and every one of us a child of God, who is valued and beloved in the sight of the Almighty.

Perhaps as we enjoy teas and bonfires, we can contemplate how we may be steadfast presences in our communities and for our families, as we mark the long reign and give thanks and hold her and this Nation in prayer.

With my prayers for joyous Platinum Jubilee celebrations for you all,

David



The Benefice of Matlaske Church Services for June

| 5 th | Pentecost | |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 8.30am | Eucharist | Edgefield |
| 10.30am | Eucharist | Plumstead |
| 12 th | Trinity Sunday | |
| 8.30am | Eucharist | Matlaske |
| 10.30am | Eucharist | Baconsthorpe |
| 16 th | Corpus Christi | |
| 10.00am | Eucharist | Matlaske |
| 19 th | Trinity I | |
| 10.30am | Eucharist | Plumstead |
| 3.00pm | Evensong | North Barningham |
| 26 th | Trinity II / St Peter & St Paul | |
| 10.30am | Eucharist | Edgefield |
| At this service Revd Judy Rosser will celebrate her first Eucharist having been ordained priest the day before at Norwich Cathedral Preacher: The Revd Helen Garrard, Lead Chaplain Norfolk Community Health and Care | | |
| 4.00pm | Evening Prayer | St Peter's Corpusty |
| Please bring your own chairs for the service and if the weather is fine do bring a picnic | | |
| 29 th | Easter VII | |
| 8.30am | Eucharist | Baconsthorpe |
| 10.30am | Church Walk | Matlaske |
| Return to Rectory at 11.30am for refreshments. Those who don't want to walk are welcome to meet at the Rectory at 11.30am. Bring dogs, wellies and possibly a brolly. | | |

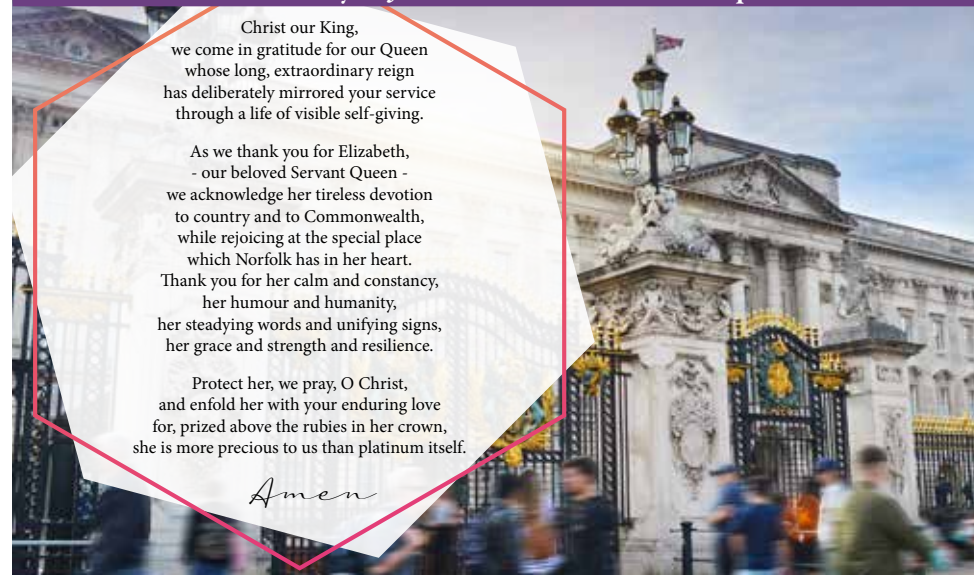
Wednesday 1st June 9.00am Eucharist Saxthorpe

Christ our King,
we come in gratitude for our Queen
whose long, extraordinary reign
has deliberately mirrored your service
through a life of visible self-giving.

As we thank you for Elizabeth,
- our beloved Servant Queen -
we acknowledge her tireless devotion
to country and to Commonwealth,
while rejoicing at the special place
which Norfolk has in her heart.
Thank you for her calm and constancy,
her humour and humanity,
her steadying words and unifying signs,
her grace and strength and resilience.

Protect her, we pray, O Christ,
and enfold her with your enduring love
for, prized above the rubies in her crown,
she is more precious to us than platinum itself.

Amen



Baconsthorpe

200 Club

£50 H Steel, £25 T Benton Worboys, £10 H Steel, £5 M Rowe, L Rix, R Hunt
We still have some numbers available and don't forget to renew your subscription if you pay annually by cash or cheque.



Take A Bow, Dad

As Father's Day approaches on June 20th it seems a good time to share this story. At the pop-up pub one Friday in July 2021 Tessa McCosh was explaining to my husband and myself about the loss of one of her guinea fowl to a fox. The bird in question, a female, had just hatched two chicks and Tessa was very pleased to tell us that the father had stepped up to diligently care for the two

chicks. Some weeks later the male guinea fowl and his brood arrived in our garden, having walked to Tuppenny Grove from The Rectory. Now a year later after 'dad' has carefully cared for the two little ones, they are still here in residence, inseparable and making an awful din! Below there are two photos of the family and you can see what a good job he did! Happy Father's Day.

Not Long Now To The Big Event

We are celebrating the Platinum Jubilee at the village hall on June 5th at 3pm with a free Afternoon Tea for all residents of Baconsthorpe. Please let Corinne know (577263) if you are able to attend. It would be lovely to see everyone.

The Passion Play

It was in the dim and distant past (actually March 12th) that our enterprising vicar came up with the idea that it would be lovely for young people of our parishes to take part in a passion play on Good Friday. He then broke the news to me that there was to be only one rehearsal and that would be the day before – so no time to learn lines then!



Bearing this in mind I want to applaud and thank the thirteen very young people who bravely donned costumes designed for 17 year-old students; rolled up their sleeves (literally) then willingly and patiently put my plans into action. There were many 'special

moments'. Pilate did not wear his crown as it fell over his eyes and made his head itch! Jesus washed the feet of his disciple in a salad bowl. Jesus carried a cross up the aisle that was so heavy Jeff Capes would have struggled! One member of the cast decided she would take part in her own outfit – a wise child (there was without doubt a princess at the crucifixion)

Finally, I want to thank the audience who filled the church and very kindly showed great appreciation of our efforts. Below is the cast list and above a few photos.

William Steel – soldier; Alexander Steel – Judas; Constance Steel – crowd; Olivia Bowden – crowd; Ethan Bowden – Pilate; Charlie Massingham – Jesus; Rex Longe – soldier; Xar Longe – priest; Molly Marsh – priest; Artie Longe – disciple; Nabi Abbott – crowd; Theo Abbott – disciple and Max Hill – narrator.



Hazel Martin
07879 414577

Baconsthorpe Village Hall Cinema Presents



Friday 1st July 2022
Tickets £5.00 on the door
Licensed Bar from 6.30pm
Film Starts 7.30pm
Director: Steven Spielberg
Ice Creams on sale in the Interval

creative ARTS EAST **12A**
Enquires: secretary.baconsthorpevillagehall@outlook.com
School Lane, Baconsthorpe, Holt, NR25 6LJ

Date for your diary – July 8th

St Mary's church is, I think, in need of a polish and spruce up again. If anyone is free on Friday July 8th to come and join me at 10am I would be very grateful. Coffee and croissants will again be provided. We whizzed around in one and a half hours last time and the time flew by.

Village Hall News

Pop-Up Pub Friday 24th 6pm-10pm The Village Fête will be held on 23 July this year, at the Village Hall. We are looking for bric-a-brac, books and cakes/buns for this event. Please let me know if you can help by supplying any of these items. Please contact Piers on 07493 227591.

Film Night Friday 1st July 6.30pm - film 7.30pm A one-off showing the latest film by Stephen Spielberg - *West Side Story*. Doors open at 6.30pm, film at 7.30pm. As it is a long film we will also have an interval. £5 on the door.

Village Fête 23rd July 2pm All are welcome. We need books, bric-a-brac and cakes, please. These can be delivered to the hall on Friday 15th July from 4pm to 6pm or Saturday 16th at 10am. Volunteers are also welcome.

Piers Warner

Barningham Winter

We say a big welcome to Natalia and Polina Zaliubovska who have moved to The Stables at Barningham Hall. Our thoughts are with them at this very difficult time.

The Patronal Service will be held at St Peter's North Barningham on the 19th June at 3pm.

Big thank you to Richard Seaman who took the bric-a-brac which was left over from the valuation day at Barningham Hall and raised over £85 from it which bought the total from this event to just over £534. Once again many thanks to all those who helped and contributed to this event. All the proceeds will go to St Mary's Church, Barningham Winter.



Sara Buxton
577207

Edgefield

Church News

Before I moved away from Rectory Road, I would often see Bebe Mason walking down the road to have coffee with her friend, Jean Wells. It was therefore very poignant when family and friends, and lots of grandchildren, came to Edgefield Church to services for each of them, Bebe and Jean, within two days of each other. Jean was then buried at Bodham, near her parents. They are much missed. Shortly afterwards we had a lovely Baptism Service for Luca Larryman, from Street Farm. Five members of Vladka's family came over from Slovakia for the service, relieved that travel restrictions were finally allowing them to come. An appreciative audience enjoyed an excellent recital on 24th April by The Samphires vocal ensemble and we hope to invite them back on a future occasion.



Richard Peaver
587486

Angela Turner

Village Hall News

Our Bingo Night proved a great success, with a packed hall, lots of prizes and even more laughter. A big thank you to everyone who supported us and came along.

April 200 Club winners: 1st Christine Todd; 2nd Glyn Rogers; 3rd Tina Clarke

Jim Frost

Hempstead

200 Club

£50 S Bowden, £25 C Matthews, £10 A McFyden, £5 L Matthews, D Spalton, M Thody

David Youngs sadly passed away peacefully at the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital on Sunday 24th April. Sharon Hannah writes: David had lived in Marlpit Lane for nearly 50 years and had enjoyed many years working on the family farm in Baconsthorpe. He was always at his happiest when remembering and retelling stories of his childhood and time spent on the farm. A very private man, he kept himself to himself, and yet, to those who knew him he was quite unique. Condolences to his family and friends.

John Shrimplin has also died, sadly. John came to 2, Marlpit Cottages to live with his sister Rita Piccoli and was often seen in the village walking his dog. When Rita developed dementia he looked after her as well as he possibly could for as long as he could. He was a very kind man, very nice to have a chat with and always very cheerful. He died on March 19th.

Queen's Jubilee Lunch Party - Last Call

Just a reminder that our village Jubilee lunch party takes place on Friday 3rd June, starting at 12.30pm. You will be welcomed with a glass of Pimms or a soft drink and there will be "fizz" for the loyal toast afterwards. Please bring your own food and to share with others. Two barbecues will be on hand for those who would like to barbecue their own. We hope children will wear fancy dress (prizes for the best) - grown-ups can too or deck out in red, white and blue. By the time you read this every household in the village will have received a bundle of raffle tickets for the Hempstead Church Jubilee Raffle and this will be drawn after the lunch. If weather permits, and we hope it



Diana Spalton
711117

will, the tables will be out in The Street which will be officially closed to traffic. We hope to see you for this very special occasion. We would appreciate help on the day – putting up bunting, setting up tables etc. Please contact Yvette Gibson (712460) if you can help.

The Mobile Library will be in the village on JUNE 30th so as not to clash with the Jubilee holiday.

Hempstead Church - sadly there has been some vandalism in Hempstead church around 21st May. If anyone knows anything about this please let the Rector, Revd David Longe, know (rector@matlaske.org.uk; 577252).

Music in Hempstead

As many of us know, Hempstead has been treated to several wonderful live mini-concerts put on by Ian Summers and his talented friends in the Village Hall. These take a great deal of organising as you can imagine but are so successful. We are to have another on Thursday, 7th July starting at 3.45 pm – so put the date in your diary now. Also, Ian is repeating an excellent performance he gave with John Bennett, baritone and Gill Smith, piano in Wells recently. This will take place in Gresham Village Church at noon on Tuesday, 14th June. There will be sandwiches, cake and cups of tea after the performance. All free celebrating the completion of work funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. I, personally, can thoroughly recommend it, by the way!



This year's crop of cygnets has arrived, nine in total, born on 9th May. Do have a look, if they are not about call "Swanny" and they will come! If you feed them, lettuce / clover (the green stuff not the margarine) or brown bread is preferred. Please also take care on the road as they seem very inclined to sit on it!

Francis Feilden

Hempstead Yard Sales

On Saturday 14th May, Hempstead welcomed visitors to yard sales all around the village and car boot pitches on the playing field. Refreshments in the Village Hall proved to be popular, as did the cake, plant and book sales. Everyone seemed to enjoy the social occasion, with the opportunity to provide some bargains for visitors, while raising £877 for Hempstead Village Hall and Church. Special thanks to Jo Sanders, Tony & Diane Collier, Mark Terry, Keith Hurrell, Jill & Dick Roy and Sharon Hannah (amongst others) for their valuable input. Maybe we'll do it again...

Hempstead Village Hall Annual General Meeting

This will take place on Wednesday 15th June at 7.30pm in the Hall. The committee still needs one or two new members to continue to serve the needs of the village. Please come along and volunteer or, even better, show your interest by phoning 715851 for further details.

Is There a Future for Hempstead Village Hall?

Last month Dick Roy, secretary of the Village Hall committee, reported that there was no response at all to the appeal for new committee members to fortify the diminishing band of willing members. This dismal result brings into focus the role of the Village Hall and its role in community life of Hempstead. Indeed what is a village hall for, apart from a space to hire for private events? Over the last twenty years the Hall has organised and led annual events such as the May Feast, quizzes and the Christmas Party and in conjunction with All Saints Church the very popular Fete and Dog Show, the annual Hempstead Arts show, and the monthly Coffee & Gossip. These events have been popular and well supported and valued. They have been resourced

from the good will of the organisers, the facilities of the Village Hall and dedicated helpers from the village and participation by the community. Is this model and these activities now past their "sell by date"? I am sure the majority of the people in the village would be sad to see the end of these annual community events. But there comes a time when the splendid people who have helped to run these events feel they have done their bit for the community and are in need of a well-earned rest. That time has perhaps now come. So now, what for the future? Perhaps the future has been answered. Recently we have enjoyed two 'one-off' events: the Open Gardens of last year masterminded by Jill Roy and the Yard Sale last weekend, led by Jonathon and Moira. Both were resounding successes. It is ironic that the hiatus in village activity caused by Covid and lock-down came at the same time as the village celebrated the purchase of the village hall freehold, after many years of negotiations with the owners. This success should now open the way to obtain grants for badly needed improvements and repairs. But if there is a will in the village for this, it needs a strong committee to take on these needs and for the continuation of community events. An injection of new blood is needed! Who will step forward? Will you? The next event in the Village is Friday 3rd June when the village will be celebrating the Queen's Jubilee with a street lunch party, hope to see you all there.

Mike Thody (Ex-chair)

Matlaske

100 Club

April: £25 Angela Gillard, £10 Michelle Leeder, £5 Shaun Boyhan
May: £25 Marion Shepherd, £10 Ingrid Wooff, £5 Ian Fitzpatrick-Swallow

Coffee Morning

Marion and Cherry are holding a coffee morning on Wednesday 6th July 10.30am at the rear of Blacksmiths Cottage. Do come along for a chat and refreshments.

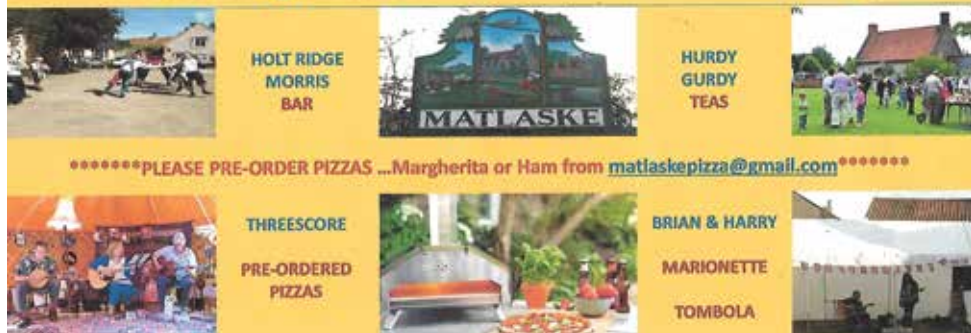
Thanks

Marion writes: I would like to thank Duncan for holding the fort for me over the last few months whilst I tackled some personal problems and for taking over from me to be the future correspondent for Matlaske.



Duncan Wood
570293

MATLASKE PIZZA and MUSIC at the GATE
Saturday 30th July 4.00-7.00pm
Barningham Hall Gate NR11 7AQ



Plumstead

Summer is finally here and the big Jubilee Celebrations for all our communities too, fingers crossed for sunshine on the Jubilee weekend!



Harriet Rossi
577239

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration

All Plumstead residents are invited to come to a celebration in the Flagpole Garden, next to the church, on Sunday 5th June. There, the Union Jack will be raised at 12 midday and a picnic style lunch has been arranged for all to enjoy. There will be pies, strawberries, beer, wine and soft drinks provided as well as a royal cake, please bring anything else you would like to enjoy in your picnic alongside these. There will also be music and merrymaking, followed by a toast to our Queen on this special day. Keith Harding's wonderful display of photos *Seventy Photos of Plumstead Village Life* will be displayed. We pray for balmy weather but, in case there isn't, gazebos and marquees will shelter us. We also offer our thanks and appreciation to our local benefactor who has made a very generous donation towards the festivities.



Macmillan Cancer Support Norfolk Coast Mighty Hikes

David Ramsbotham reports that he completed the full marathon on his Mighty Hike and did so in the very good time of 9 hours, 29 minutes and 3 seconds, putting him in 492nd place out of 1456 starters. On top of this he completed an extra 187 miles in training, so a very well done to you, David. He has raised £2,395 of his £3,000 target and is very grateful to all those who have given their support. If anyone would still like to donate the link to the relevant page is: www.justgiving.com/davidramsbotham.

Plumstead Church Path

At last, the new resin-bound, aggregate church path has been laid. This is an eco-friendly, permeable, weed-free surface which requires little maintenance. The steps into the church have been incorporated into the path, which means access to the building is much easier for all. The cost of this path has been covered, in large part, from the estate of Thomas Wormald who served the church as churchwarden for around 30 years. An additional £1000 has come from a grant from The Paul Bassham Trust and a small part from the church's Fabric Fund. A plaque in memory of Thomas will be erected in due course.

Food Bank

There is now a collection point in the church for donations to the Food Bank. Items needed are cereals, tins of tomatoes, fruit, vegetables, rice pudding, pasta sauce, squash, custard, tea and laundry liquid / powder.

Saxthorpe with Corpusty

Platinum Peal

It's been pretty quiet in St Andrew's bell-tower of late, but the Saxthorpe ringers will be celebrating Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee and to fit in with other bells across the country we will be ringing at 11.30am on Friday 3rd June, the same time as St Paul's Cathedral in London. A band of ringers from St Peter Mancroft, Norwich are going to attempt a peal at St Andrew's starting at 10.00am on the Thursday 2nd June. The same band will attempt a peal on the twelve bells at Mancroft that evening. The two towers house the lightest and heaviest rings of bells in Norfolk. A peal is a continuous ring of 5,040 changes with no repetition and on six bells it generally takes about two and a half hours. The 'weight' of a ring of bells is defined by the mass of the biggest bell, the tenor. At St Andrew's is 2.25 cwt (144 kg) which is very light in bell-ringing terms. There are six bells. St Peter Mancroft has twelve bells and the tenor is 37 cwt (1,925 kg). This is an exciting and significant target which has not been attempted before. I'll let you know how they get on.

Charles Tyndall, St Andrew's Tower Captain



Sophia Hodgson
587510

Jubilee Brazier

As part of the national celebration, on June 2nd a brazier will be lit on the village green at 9.45pm, the same time as braziers and beacons across the country. Please join the throng.

Unlocking St Peter's, Corpusty

The display of inscribed stones has been attracting visitors interested in fine lettering. The Norfolk Churches Trust would like to open the church more, and hopes two or three key-holders can be found to unlock and lock the church.

Depending on the time of year, this can be around 10.00am and before dusk. Fridays are already covered. Unlocking on Saturdays would be particularly welcomed, and ideally Sundays and weekdays as well. A key is available from the Spar stores, so it if there are days when unlocking is difficult, that does not greatly matter. Volunteers please contact Merlin Waterson (587610) or Cathy Stern (587014).

Barn Dance

On Saturday 14th May a barn dance was arranged for the community by the Corpusty & Saxthorpe Village Hall Committee. It was a rousing success with over 60 people attending. The Hall looked great, the food was very good, and many thanks to our excellent, professional caller, Tony Sundram from Gorleston. A fine time was had by all!

Stay & Play at Corpusty Primary School

The school is keen to let people know that it will be hosting a weekly stay and play session at the school. These sessions will start at half term and will take place on Wednesdays from 10am – 11.30am for all children under 5 and their grown-ups. The sessions will be free and include a small snack for the children and coffee and tea for grown-ups. The first session will be on the 15th.

Village Correspondent

I think that it is time for me to retire as correspondent. If you would like to be the next correspondent, please let me know.

Meet the Neighbours

Dick Fiddian from North Barningham



Dick was brought up in Cambridge, where his grandfather had been Headmaster of what was then called King's College Choir School. He was educated in Hastings and then at Gresham's School in Holt and spent many family holidays at Cley Windmill.

Having finished school Dick went to New Zealand and spent two years working his way round the North and South Islands. Dick returned to the UK, and thanks to an inheritance, bought a cottage in Holt which he renovated himself over several years. Having learned many useful skills, he then bought Upwood Farm, North Barningham in 1980. The house had stood empty for four years, also needed complete renovation and is now a beautiful home for him, his wife Debbie and their children, Charlie and Daisy.

Over the years Dick has gone from building fences to working for the National Trust where he did amongst other things empty the septic tank on Blakeney Point and put in the railings at Wimpole Hall. He has maintained woodland, made playgrounds – the one at Gresham Village School is still going strong – and done landscaping for the renowned garden designer George Carter. He has grown Christmas trees, is an expert digger driver and a totally practical person.

Next to the house at Upwood Farm there was a farm pit that was used as a dump. Dick has emptied the pit and created the most incredible garden there in the two acres next to the house. Dick and builder Sam built the first folly in 2015. It was supposed to be a grotto to use some of the architectural salvage items Dick had bought at auction, but it turned into a folly with a tower.

Since 2015 the number of follies has increased and every time you turn a corner there is something else to look at. There are structures, waterfalls, ponds, a bridge and a vegetable garden. The development of the garden has been an organic process. Dick draws what he wants and Sam builds it from the drawing making any adjustments as they go.

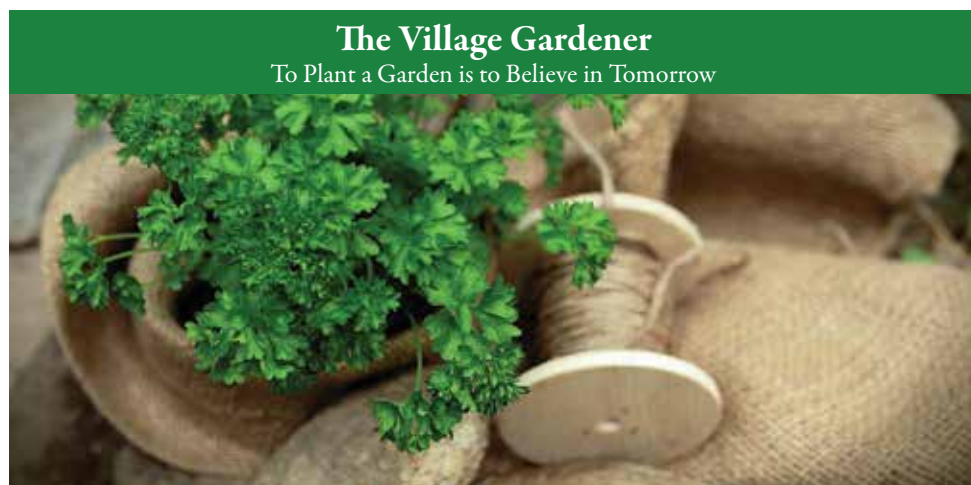
In 2018 Dick was badly attacked on the face by the family's rescue dog which accounts for the large scar on his forehead and now has another Labrador, appropriately called Digger, but this time owned from a puppy.

Dick first opened his garden to the public for the Norfolk Churches Trust in 2019. Since then, it has been opened for The Norfolk Gardens Trust in 2020 and this year it will be opening for the National Garden Scheme on 3rd August. Dick and Debbie have also hosted many private tours by gardening clubs.

The garden featured on the front cover of *Follies -The International Magazine* in the Spring 2020 edition and there was a four-page article in the *Norfolk Gardens Trust Magazine*, written by Roger Last from Saxthorpe, in the Autumn 2020 edition.

I would encourage anyone who likes gardens to visit Fiddian's Follies at Upwood Farm, North Barningham on 3rd August between 11am and 5pm for a truly magical experience and to take in the most beautiful views of North Norfolk behind the house. To see photos of the garden please visit; www.fiddiansfollies.uk.

Emma Youngs



As I write this at a somewhat ungodly hour in the middle of May, it feels as if June has kicked off early this year, it is just glorious! There is the delightful thrum of the dawn chorus (there has to be some advantages to being an insomniac!) and the light of a beautiful new day. The garden is a delight, for now we will gloss over our own somewhat hefty to-do list (extensive and possibly unrealistic) and just enjoy instead.

Still, within the realms of enjoyment there are plenty of jobs in the garden to be getting on with. First up is a gentle reminder to prune all early flowering shrubs if you haven't done so already. Make sure you give them some care afterwards, a good water/feed and mulch will set them up well for the next season. My next tip is to deadhead your roses properly: it's OK to just pull the heads off, but if you actually take the time to cut back to the first leaf below the spent flower you will then get a new shoot from that point, so it's a good habit to get into. Finally now the threat of frosts have passed, we can also happily plant out anything that's a bit tender. Not that we were inundated with frosts, it was more that they were at times a bit unexpected this year!

In the kitchen garden there is plenty to do, make time to sow carrots, French beans and sugar snap peas. For the last few years we have set our courgettes in two batches; it works well, just as the first lot have slowed down the second lot gets going, so instead of having an absolute flood of courgettes we get a steady amount throughout the season. Less emergency marrow chutney more finely griddled baby courgette slices...it is a lot less stressful! This month I will also try and find a space for overwintering chicories, it's tricky to find room this time of year but it always pays off in late autumn. The other task is to keep on top of the weeds as they really get going in June. I swear by Monty Don's tip of a sharp hoe on a sunny morning, then clearing them later in the day, it really does work.

In the greenhouse there is a sense of relief to be able to get stuff outside, which has been queued up waiting on the side-lines, then the focus can be on looking after the remaining inhabitants. Do keep an eye on the temperature in your greenhouse and consider dampening the floor down on really hot days to help keep the temperatures sensible.

Now to one of my favourite things to grow in the garden, which are herbs, as they can make so much difference to your everyday cooking, they just take it to another level. So I will be planting lots this month. I was listening to a good Sarah Raven podcast the other day when the golden tip for germinating parsley was alluded to but not actually mentioned. So here it is! Parsley germination takes a long time (about 21 days) but what I have always done is set the seed and then poured a kettle of boiling water over the said row of freshly set seeds. It may sound somewhat random but it does in my opinion work. The other tip I have is not to set basil too early in the year as it just sulks and can dampen off all too easily, I also read just recently to only water basil in the morning as it hates to sit in water overnight, I have taken note on that one too. Bizarrely I have been struggling with a lack of mint plants in our garden, so will be rooting some stems in water to plant out later this month. I was sent some beautiful alpine strawberry plants from my Mum's garden in Shropshire and they have completely crowded out the mint, something I thought was nigh on impossible (I think the clue was in the fact they survived being sent by Royal Mail 2nd class in a jiffy bag!!) I am not sad as they are so pretty and fruit well and are obviously very happy here... I have just missed the mint!

This month's question is regarding unruly rhododendrons. Tim Scott asks how and when he should deal with his. June is a good month for this, you can prune them back hard and for a while they will look rather resentful about it but they will come back and in better shape.

Finally a big thank you to Richard and Karen Boden who wrote to us regarding aquatic plants. It was most appreciated!

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

Michelle & Mick McCarter

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