Church & Village News

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

June 2023

Hempstead Dawn

Photograph by Jonathan Neville

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Parish Council Websites

Baconsthor	pe
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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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2

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Safeguarding concerns please contact the Police on 999 or Diocese of Norwich Safeguarding Team safeguarding@dioceseofnorwich.org or 01603 882345

What's On

IUNE

		Jertz	
Thurs 1	3.45pm	Hempstead Music	Village Hall
Fri 2	10.30am	Hempstead Coffee & Catch-up	Village Hall
Sat 3	12.00noon	Plumstead Bug Hunting	Church
Sun 4	11.00am	Edgefield Fairy Trail	Church
Mon 5	2.00pm	Hempstead Crafty Creations	Village Hall
Wed 7	10.30am	Baconsthorpe Village Hall AGM	Village Hall
Fri 9	6.00pm	Corpusty Secrets of Film Making	Village Hall
Sun 11	4.00pm	Baconsthorpe Young Drama Group	Village Hall
Thurs 15	10.00am	Hempstead Crafty Creations	Village Hall
Fri 23	6.30pm	Corpusty Icons Exhibition	Church
Sat 24	2.00pm	Hempstead Crafty Creations	Village Hall
Fri 30	6.00pm	Baconsthorpe Pop-Up Pub	Village Hall

Clash Diary

Matlaske Church Survey July 7 Edgefield Edgefest July 15 July 22 Baconsthorpe Fete Matlaske Fete July 29

Aug 6

- Hempstead Arts Sept 2/3 Saxthorpe Harvest Supper Oct 6 Edgefield Craft Fair Oct 7/8 **Edgefield** The Samphires Oct 21

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

Post Offices

Hempstead Fete

Baconsthorpe Mobile Post Office Van		
Wednesdays	9.40am – 10.40am	Village Hall
Corpusty Stores		587726
Monday-Friday	9.00am - 12.00no	on
Itteringham Sho	Р	587325
Monday + Thursc	lay 9.00am-1.00pm	ı

Local MP

Duncan Baker MP Tudor House, Grammar School Lane North Walsham, NR28 9JH duncan@duncanbaker.org.uk www.duncanbaker.org.uk Monday - Friday 9am – 5pm 01692 557140

County Councillor

Steffan Aquarone

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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

Dates not published at time of goint to print			
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 Cotts
Saxthorpe	4.10	NR11 7BL	Old Post Office
Corpusty	4.30	NR11 6QJ	Adams Lane

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 / 07881950294 / rector@matlaske.org.uk

Dear All

I did not sit down to write this letter about the coronation, but having met someone today who has lived through 4 Monarchs, I find myself compelled to. Compelled - and please forgive me those who have coronation-fatigue... I suspect our Monarch might have this too - because I think right at the heart of this bizarre and ancient tradition is something that speaks to us of how to live our lives well.

The coronation service is intriguing: a Welsh Kyrie Eleison, a champion, swords, spurs, celebrities lost in the Abbey; and I was intrigued, less by Katy Perry but more (unsurprisingly) by the significance of the reading from the Gospel of Luke.



In this reading Jesus is at the start of his ministry in the Synagogue in Nazareth. He gets up, unrolls the scroll (the Hebrew Scriptures are kept in large scrolls in synagogues) and reads from Isaiah chapter 61.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised...

He sits. All eyes are fixed on him. It is tense. then, there is an uproar: Jesus is driven from the synagogue to the brink of a hill. It appears to be over. Yet, mysteriously, he is unharmed and passes through them to safety.

What does it mean? Is the King to speak truth to power? Is this what our late Queen did when she met with Prime Ministers each week? How is the King meant to heal the broken-hearted, preach deliverance to the captives, give sight to the blind, and set those who are bruised free? It is a confusing and impossible task, particularly as the Monarch appears powerless, thrust into a position of huge responsibility with the eyes of the world upon him. It is not an enviable position.

This, I think, is the heart of it. Jesus appeared powerless at Nazareth and powerless when the crowd caught him and put him to death in Jerusalem. Here, at his weakest, we discern extraordinary power: modelling love and forgiveness. He even prays for his persecutors: "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do".

Is this a model for our King and for us? It seems the King understands this, when he prayed: "... Grant that I may be a blessing to all thy children, of every faith and conviction that together we may discover the ways of gentleness and be led into the paths of peace."

The coronation is compelling, not because of pomp, but because at its heart it speaks of the gentleness and peace, service and duty of Jesus, in a way that is humble, provoking us I hope to consider again how we approach our lives and those around us.

With my prayers for all in this Benefice,

4

David

	The Benefice of Matlaske Church Services for June	
4 th	Trinity Sunday	
10.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Eucharist Fairy Door Trail Evensong	Barningham Winte Edgefiel Plumstea
8 th	Corpus Christi	
10.00am	Eucharist	Matlask
11 th	St Barnabas	
10.30am 4.00pm 5.00pm	Eucharist Youth Drama Group - Village Hall Taizé Service	Edgefiel Baconsthorp Matlask
18 th	Trinity II	
10.30am 3.00pm	Eucharist Evensong Celebrating 50 years of the Churches Conversation Trust's care of	Hempstea North Barninghar of St Peter's Church
24 th	Icon Exhibition - see page 13 for details	
5.00pm	Evensong	Corpust
25 th	Trinity III	

	•	
10.30am 3.30pm	Eucharist Children & Family Service	Matlaske Edgefield
2 nd July	Trinity IV	
8.30am 10.30am	Eucharist Eucharist	Baconsthorpe Plumstead

Wednesdays 10am - Coffee, Cake & Chat -St Andrew's Saxthorpe



Baconsthorpe

200 Club

£50 J Benton, £25 J Cooper, £10 P Warner, £5 T Venes, H Steel, R Youngs

Church News

Hats off to Adrian Rudd for the repair of the wall in front of the church. An absolutely fantastic job.

Hazel Martin 07879 414577

On the eve of the Coronation, May 5th, a short ^{07879 414577} service was held in Saint Mary's church followed by a toast to the new King, and refreshments provided.

On the morning of the Coronation, I hope that some of you will have heard the church bells ringing to announce the impending event. However, our very old church bells are in dire need of attention. On May 24th they are being checked by Ellacombe Bells regarding restoration.

Finally, I am happy to inform everyone that the old pews in front of the Hayden memorial in Saint Mary's church have been removed thanks to the intrepid Adrian Rudd and his wheelbarrow. Also, thanks to Richard Youngs for transporting and storing the pews, and to Emma Youngs for selling them all very quickly. Funds will now go towards replacing the old floor where they were situated. Do come and visit.



Blue Bells

Despite a lack of clement spring weather this picture was taken by Norman Allen, a short distance from Tuppenny Grove. It reminds us what a beautiful part of the country we live in. Just in front of the blue bells there is a gap made by the deer that regularly cross into the wood.

A Lovely Surprise

On Sunday May 14th in the village hall we gathered at 4pm to greet young people from our Benefice for the first drama club meeting. The clock on the wall was showing 4 minutes to 4pm and only three children had arrived. Keira and her sister Lola, Molly Marsh arrived on a bike, bless her, then at 4pm suddenly children poured in. I was so relieved. 20 children with ages ranging from 6 to 12. They certainly had a wonderful time playing a range of drama games. My thanks go to the vicar and Kay Harvey for preparing and distributing pizza and ice cream; to my good friend Angie Mansell in role of secretary; and to the lovely Emma Clitheroe for helping with all the drama games. More fun than farming surely? Roll on the next session on Sunday June the 11th, same time same place.



A New Arrival

Finally, there is a new member to the parish of Baconsthorpe. Bunch is just eight weeks old and has yet to grow into those huge ears. She is keeping Stanley and myself very busy. Unfortunately, my cats left home immediately!

If you have a new addition, please do send me a photo.

Thank You

I am sure everyone in the village would like to send thanks to Yvonne Law for the design of our very own



Coronation mug. Baconsthorpe has now been connected to this important historical moment.

Village Hall News

Pop-Up Pub – Friday 30th 6pm Fish Pie from 6.30pm



The Coronation Tea Party was greatly enjoyed by the 40 or so residents who attended on Sunday 7th May. A superb range of sandwiches, scones and cakes were provided and our thanks must go to Corinne, Emma and Víllage fête Saturday 22 July - 2pm

Village Hall

stalls · games · stocks teas · barbecue · bar

ALL WELCOME!

Annanan

Richard Youngs, along with Rosemary Hardingham and others who made this whole event such as success.

The Village Fête is taking place on Saturday 22 July at the Village Hall from 2pm. Donations of cakes, produce and a bit of your time to help out would be greatly appreciated.

We still have some 200 Club numbers available. You can win £50 every month, if you are lucky, for just a £1 a month subscription. See Village Hall website for details or contact Tom Benton Worboys. Piers Warner

Barningham Winter

Thank you to Pete, Felicity and Tom (Joan's Silver Pin) who delighted us with their music at the Coronation Picnic which was held in the park on Monday, 8th May. The rain held off and everyone enjoyed their picnics whilst listening to music on this memorable occasion. Mr Thomas Courtauld read out a message from our new King.



577207

It was lovely to see so many keen runners on the 23rd April who started their run at Barningham Park. A perfect day for the run and it was good to hear that so many people had enjoyed themselves.

Annual Patronal Festival at St Peter's Church, Sunday 18th June at 3pm

This will be the fiftieth such service held in the church every year since responsibility for its care was transferred to The Churches Conservation Trust (formerly known as the Redundant Churches Fund) so that in a sense, it is a sort of wedding anniversary. As such, we intend to offer appropriate refreshments after the service and hope that people from all over the Benefice and beyond will join us for the occasion. Many older residents will recall that the church was made redundant in the nineteen sixties, when its furnishings and bell were removed. The intention was that the monuments too would be removed in due course and sent to the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, and the building itself would remain a skeletal ruin on the skyline. All this would have come about, were it not for the great efforts of Derek Palgrave and his wife, Pamela, who visited the church in the early seventies and were horrified to find it abandoned. It is thanks to their efforts and persistence and to the custodianship of the Trust that the church still stands today. Let us give thanks!

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Edgefield

We were all so very sorry to hear of Shirley Norton's sudden death. What a shock for Chris and Guy. Sincere condolences to both of them.

Church News

The main event this past month was the Coronation of HM The King, which was marked with prayer services in the parish church and across the benefice. Angela Turner

as Richard Peaver 587486 er

Village Hall News

At the time of writing, we have sold around 130 of the 200 available tickets for Edgefest, which means you will need to hurry if you want to attend. It's on Saturday 15th July, between 6pm and midnight. Tickets are £10 from Jim Frost - james.frost59@hotmail.co.uk or 07946 854901 - which include a hog roast. There will be a licensed bar.

April's 200 Club winners were: 1^{st} Lee Clarke (242), 2^{nd} John Hamblett (114) and 3^{rd} Nigel Harrison (127).





Fairy Trail

Kay Harvey and her team are organising a trail around the village for children on Sunday 4^{th} June, from 11am– 3pm. Although supernatural tiny beings are arguably non-Christian (!), this should be a fun event for young people. The starting point is the church and we ask for £2 per child to help with the cost of teas and cakes in the Village Hall.

Hempstead

200 Club

£50 MThody, £25 YGibson, £10 J Keen, £5 J Buxton, L Mack, G Harris

Music in Hempstead Thursday June 1st 3.45pm for 4pm Village Hall. Mozart's *Octet For Double Wind Instruments*. Dates for your diary: Thursdays 12th October; 9th and 30th November



Jonathan Neville 07836 675369

Coffee & Catch-up Friday 2nd 10.30am Village Hall

Hempstead Crafty Creations Mon 5th 2pm-4pm / Thurs 15th 10am-noon / Sat 24th 2pm-4pm



Coronation BBQ

With the inclement weather forcing a change of venue the village BBQ in celebration of the Coronation went ahead in the village hall and was a resounding success. Our BBQ chefs stoically cooked under our new gazebo, whilst those that braved the weather enjoyed the generous offerings of food inside the hall. A great evening was had by all with the hall resounding to the chatter of those gathered and the occasional clatter of the giant Jenga hitting the floor.

Ladies Afternoon Tea & Fashion Show

With a wealth of items lent for our village event, we were able to have a brilliant afternoon show to raise funds for our hall. The wonderful assortment of clothes dated from a 1919 wedding dress to present day items, allowed all those that attended to view this brilliant showcase of fashion through the ages. Surrounded by these displays the ladies all enjoyed a sumptuous home cooked afternoon tea.



Village hall AGM

Monday 15th May saw the village hall committee hosting their AGM and we were pleased to have a few attendees from the village. We are happy to say that all the committee agreed to stand again for the following year and help maintain the current input into bringing new and interesting get togethers in our hall.

The hall finances are on an even keel and we are keeping our heads above water with the few events we have had during 2022. We do however need to keep the current impetus going with more new events and fund-raisers to be able to keep open and providing a hub for the local community.

So far the last year has seen some regular activities reinstated since the pandemic closures and some new groups started. The now regular meetings for our new Crafty Creations group have been a success and continue to bring new people into the village hall. One-off events like the Wine Tasting evening and our recent Ladies Afternoon tea have been a success and we hope these type of events may go for strength to strength in the future. We thanked those that have supported these events and hope to encourage more support in the future.

The village hall is here for everyone so if you have any ideas of events you would like to see we are always here to listen to your ideas and take them on board. Thank you

Are you willing and able to help by joining a small group of volunteers to make up a working party to smarten up our village hall? We are looking to get together a small group in the village that can help with various jobs that need doing to maintain our hall. There are some small and some larger jobs that need doing currently that we would like help with. If you are able to help in any small way please let us know. Thank you. Contact either Richard Roy on 01263 715851 or Lesley Lennox on 07446 777660 for more information.

Hempstead Toad Report 2023

This year we recorded 1831 toads moved from the road (both arriving and leaving), with 102 toads lost (about 5.5% of those 'saved'). We also recorded 33 frogs, 3 smooth newts and one great crested newt. The migration period seemed very compressed into a couple of weeks this year, the great majority of these being recorded from 12th to 25th March. Many thanks to all of you who undertook patrols!

Tim Venes

Plumstead

Now that summer is hopefully upon us, or imminently so at least, we should be able to enjoy some outdoor activities in our beautiful parish.

Plumstead Parish Council

At the AGM of Plumstead Parish Council held on Wednesday 10th May Brian Faulkner was elected chair of the parish council and Nick Fulford vice-chair. We thank them and all of the councilors for the work they continue to do for our parish.

Evening Entertainment

Are you a musician or a magician? Do you enjoy reciting poetry or doing dramatic readings? If so, would you like to take part in a summer's evening of light entertainment in early July? All who are interested, please get in touch with Eleanor Faulkner 577868.

Coffee in the Church

Monday morning coffees in the church will continue through the summer most weeks, except on Bank Holidays. Do come along, even if just occasionally, for a mardle over a cuppa.



Bug Hunting in Plumstead Saturday 3rd from 12noon

We have joined 'Churches Count on Nature' week and invite all who can, especially children, to come and see how many bugs and interesting plants we can find in our churchyard. You are welcome to bring your own picnics, magnifying glasses, bug collecting pots and so on.

Harriet Rossi

577239

We will provide recording sheets, drinks, and shelter if necessary.

We also hope to be able to start building our first bug hotel, and you can help by bringing things to fill it, such as pine cones, hollow sticks, old canes, straw, wood chips, bark, dry leaves, bits of broken terrace pots, and your own ideas!

Village Defibrillator

As most Plumstead villagers are aware, we have a defibrillator located within the old red BT kiosk on the Flagpole Garden.

It has been some years since our initial training on the device took place. Although no training is required to use the defibrillator it would be good to get as many villagers as possible familiar with its use, so that confidence can be gained.

A training session has been organised (for Plumstead residents only) to take place at 7pm on Tuesday 18thJuly at Baconsthorpe Village Hall, which will be provided by Paramedics of the East Anglian Ambulance Service.

Please contact Steve Price via email at steveprice30@hotmail.com or mobile 07895025261 if you would like to attend.

Matlaske

100 Club Winners: £25 Mavis Hughes, £10 Terry Baynes, £ 5 John Coulton

Weather permitting, a Norfolk archaeologist will be in Matlaske at 11 am on Friday 7^{th} July to carry out a ground penetrating radar scan of part of St Peter's churchyard. The area we are interested in is just to the east of the big east window.



On that spot for many centuries stood a chancel, which suddenly fell down during a church service in 1726. The then rector and churchwarden only survived because Duncan Wood all the roof timbers and rubble fell outwards.

The church register contains a very excited note from the rector thanking God for their miraculous deliverance! We are interested in finding out just how big the chancel was, and we hope the radar scan will detect the old foundations.

We are also curious about how many 'lost' graves there might be under the old chancel area, and it's possible (though less likely) that the radar scan might be able to detect some of these.

By tradition, priests were buried under the chancel, so that area might be where the Revd Thomas Settle (1555-1622), who spent many years in prison for his opposition to the Archbishop of Canterbury and was lucky not to be executed like some of his fellow radicals, is buried.

Matlaske residents who would like to watch the survey are welcome to do so, but of course we will need to give our archaeologist space to carry out the survey safely and effectively.



Saxthorpe with Corpusty

New Clerk for Parish Council

Amanda Yacoubian has taken over as Clerk to Corpusty & Saxthorpe Parish Council. The new contact email for the Clerk will be c.sparishclerk@gmail. com. Amanda was welcomed to the role at the council's Annual Meeting, when the Chairman, Imogen Waterson, reported on a year that had seen the council supporting celebrations for both the Queen's Jubilee and the Coronation of King

John Birchall 584290

Charles III. There was also a popular end-of-summer hog roast on the Village Green, which also saw the welcome return of the Corpusty Bonfire, drawing a record crowd. Work carried out on the river Bure should help reduce flooding on the Green. Traffic problems, especially speed on the main road from Holt into Saxthorpe, remain unresolved, although new 'gates', emphasising to drivers that they are entering a village, have been paid for and are awaited.

Coffee, Cake & Chat at St Andrew's

The new Wednesday morning Coffee Cake & Chat at St Andrew's Church is becoming a weekly diary date for a growing number of people in the villages. Tea, coffee, cakes and good company are on offer every Wednesday morning from 10am. The get-togethers were launched in May following the success of the Snowdrop Morning at the Old Rectory, which included coffee and croissants in the church and showed how much people enjoyed the chance to socialise in relaxed atmosphere.



Secrets of Wildlife Film-Making

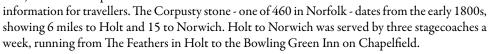
Globe-trotting wildlife film producer Mike Linley will be revealing secrets from 40 years of film-making when he gives a talk at Corpusty Village Hall on Friday 9th June (6pm for 6.30pm).

Mike, who lives in Heydon, has grandchildren at Corpusty Primary and the talk will help the school raise money for large outdoor maps of the world, UK and Norfolk to go on the school playground wall. Mike's years behind the camera have

taken him from the frozen polar regions to the tropics and into the oceans, and his award-winning films have featured on ITV, BBC, Discovery and National Geographic. The event is bound to be very popular, so don't be late! £5 cash on the door, children under 14 free.

Corpusty Milestone Restored

Corpusty's ancient milestone, once on the verge of slumping into the hedge near the Green, has been rescued and restored, thanks to Tony Langford from the Norfolk Milestone Society, with the help of Andy Bell. In the days before signposts (let alone satnavs) milestones provided essential



Plant Stall Funds Food Bank

Filling up gaps in herbaceous borders and spaces in empty larders can go together if you buy plants from the Food Bank plant stall on Heydon Road, Corpusty (opposite the school). Run by Caroline Randell with plants donated by several keen gardeners living nearby, the stall has raised almost £1,000 for the Food Bank since 2020.

Icon Exhibition at St Peter's Church Corpusty

The Exhibition opens with a preview evening Friday 23rd June at 6.30pm when all are welcome. Canon David will take an Evensong Service in the Church on Saturday 24th at 5pm.

Iconographer Judith James will be exhibiting her work done during a three-year study period she has recently finished with the Prince's Foundation and previously shown in the Prince's Chapel in London. This work was featured in a

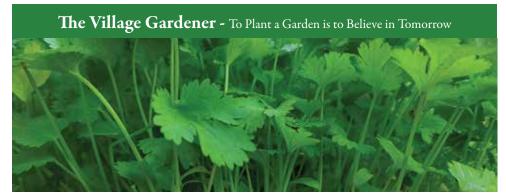




February *Songs of Praise* BBC programme. Those wanting more information on icons can see a four-minute clip through link: https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0f07bxg

She will be supported with exhibits by local Horsford iconographer Maggie Rose-Horner and 3 other artists who will be showing work connected to the Church, local North Norfolk landscape scenes in paper cut-out medium and, for the first time, a curated collection of 19th Century ceramic lustre

plaques. These Victorian era plaques bear transfer printed religious text, embellished with floral borders and hand painted decoration.



Whilst May is a close contender, June is my favourite month of the year in the garden, you still have all the energy of the fresh spring greens but they are now combined with the stunning colours, beautiful fragrance and hopeful warmth of June. Nothing is jaded everything is at its best - what's not to love! We have all thoroughly earned this year's summer, it has been long slog of a winter followed by a very slow spring, only a fortnight ago with all the rain we had had combined with a raise in temperature,

With the Portfolk Churches Trust The Norfolk Churches Trust Exhibition of Icons

St. Peter's Church

Corpusty

did all the leaves finally unfurl and everything properly got into its stride. Thank Goodness! This big jump forward has meant that suddenly the growth in the garden has easily doubled - great for a summer show but tricky for weeding, so now is the time to get on top of it. We fortunately do have so much more light in the evenings, which with a bit of domestic re-jiggling can be put to good use. June can make you feel like the garden is running away from you, which in a sense it is as there is so much growth and vitality. To combat this, I am a great believer in lists, if you get everything down on paper that needs doing then somehow it's easier than holding everything in your head. I have also been known to break the tasks down even further to quick 15-to-30-minute tasks and longer projects. It means I can seize the moment if I have a spare half an hour or so to move the garden forward. It's also a great way of being realistic about your work load enabling you to plan more effectively so that your garden remains therapeutic and enjoyable rather than overwhelming and daunting.

So as the above has intimated there are one or two jobs to get done in the garden! But before we get going, I wanted to update you on the coriander we set in late September last year, as to my absolute astonishment it came through all our long cold months and for the last two months it has given us a steady and prolific supply. Only now is it bolting. An absolute result! I am now going to sow my next batch in a slightly shadier but damper spot in the garden to see if I can get it to thrive there too, through the warmer months.

There are lots of plants waiting to go straight outside from the greenhouse but I will be giving them a few days of acclimatising before that happens. So, I will be bringing them out of the greenhouse during the day and then tucking them back up at night, so they can harden up. Hardening up means ensuring steady growth rather than stop start growth, if I just planted straight out of the greenhouse, the shock of not only adjusting to being planted outside but also adjusting to outside temperatures and weather would stall the growth and make the plant that much more vulnerable.

June is the month for successional sowing, be that lettuce leaves or a second wave of courgettes etc. We did this last year with our courgettes and it meant we had a steady supply throughout the summer rather than all and then nothing. I am finding with the cost of living being so testing that it makes me even more conscious in the garden of not wasting anything. Successional sowing is so good for that, then you don't get great gluts that can feel so wasteful, so planning is key! Same goes for deadheading. If we dead-head regularly we get the most out of our plants and efforts. It's a good habit to get into. Tasks aside, June is the month to really enjoy and appreciate our gardens - let's hope the weather is on our side! An event to look forward to this month is Itteringham Open Gardens on 18th June between 11am to 4pm, a charming selection of gardens and well worth a visit.

This month's question is from Linda Davis regarding a reluctant wisteria, Linda writes that she has had the wisteria now for two years with no sign of flowers. Wisterias, whilst delightful, can be tricky. One tip, whilst unhelpful in this case, is to buy your wisteria initially when it is flowering. It's kind of proof that it can do it as some wisterias can be slow burners to get into flowering mode. The second tip is to be really brave when you prune in February, as the trick is to prune them back hard to their initial framework until they are flowering profusely, then in future years you can let them expand. Hope that helps!

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

Michelle & Mick McCarter





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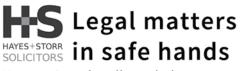


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