

# Church & Village News

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

July 2022



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations - June 2022

## Newsletter Team

**Editor** Michael McMahon  
mjmc25@gmail.com

**Copy Date** third Wednesday of the month  
20 July / 17 August / 21 September

**Design, Advertising + Treasurer**  
Karen Hall 577547  
karen@karenhall.co.uk

**Distribution** Heather De 577271

**Print** Barnwell Print Ltd, Aylsham 732767

**Postal Subscriptions**  
£15 per year Corinne Youngs 577263

To download previous editions visit:

[www.churchandvillagenews.org.uk](http://www.churchandvillagenews.org.uk)

## Parish Council Chairs

Baconthorpe	Jonathan Cooper	577527
Edgefield	Mark Cook	587735
Hempstead	Paul Sanders	713217
Matlaske & Barningham	Sara Buxton	577207
Plumstead	Nick Fulford	577433
Saxthorpe & Corpusty	Imogen Waterson	587610

## Local MP

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

## County Councillor

Steffan Aquarone  
steffan.aquarone.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk  
01603 327827

## Village Websites

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



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By using Carbon Balanced Paper through the World Land Trust on this publication we have offset 53kg of Carbon & preserved 10sqm of critically threatened tropical forests.

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## Village Correspondents

<b>Baconthorpe</b> hazel.merlin1@gmail.com	<b>Hazel Martin</b> 07879 414577
<b>Barningham Winter</b> s.m.buxton@hotmail.co.uk	<b>Sara Buxton</b> 577207
<b>Edgefield</b> richardpeaver@gmail.com	<b>Richard Peaver</b> 587486
<b>Hempstead</b> dianaspalton@talktalk.net	<b>Diana Spalton</b> 711117
<b>Matlaske</b> duncan.wood@cantab.net	<b>Duncan Wood</b> 570293
<b>Plumstead</b> harrietwormald@hotmail.com	<b>Harriet Rossi</b> 577239
<b>Saxthorpe with Corpusty</b> saxthorpecastle@gmail.com	<b>Sophia Hodgson</b> 587510

## District Councillors

Corpusty, Edgefield, Saxthorpe  
Andrew Brown 07970 298695  
andrew.brown@north-norfolk.gov.uk  
Baconthorpe, Hempstead, Matlaske & Barningham, Plumstead  
Dr Pierre Bütikofer 838306  
Pierre.Butikofer@north-norfolk.gov.uk

## Church People

**Rector** Reverend Canon David Longe 577252  
**Assistant Curate** Reverend Judy Rosser 587584  
**Lay Minister** Gill Peat 734226  
**Authorised Worship Assistant** Dr Alain Wolf 577292  
**Church Wardens**  
Baconthorpe Tessa McCosh 577611  
Harry Steel 07711 890360  
B Winter Amelia Courtauld 577250  
Rebecca Hill 07960 739593  
Edgefield Emma Cletheroe 587049  
Angela Turner 587292  
Hempstead Airlie Inglis 577440  
Matlaske Thomas Courtauld 577250  
Duncan Wood 570293  
Plumstead Eleanor Faulkner 577868  
Sax with Corpusty TBC

**Safeguarding Officers**  
Catherine McMahon  
01263 577357 / cmcmahon161@gmail.com  
Lawrence Williams  
01263 577292 / trustlawrence@hotmail.com

**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.

## What's On

### JULY

Fri 1	7.00pm	<b>Baconthorpe Cinema</b>	Village Hall
Wed 6	9.45pm	<b>Matlaske Coffee Morning</b>	Village Green
Fri 8	10.00am	<b>Baconthorpe Church Clean</b>	Village Hall
Sat 23	3.00pm	<b>Baconthorpe Fête</b>	Village Hall
Fri 29	6.00pm	<b>Baconthorpe Pop-Up Pub</b>	Village Hall
Sat 30	12.00pm	<b>Matlaske Pizza in the Park</b>	Barningham Hall

## Clash Diary

Sep 9 Matlaske Quiz  
Oct 8 Edgefield Organ Concert  
Dec 4 Matlaske Christmas Party  
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@ayyoungs.com

## Holt Library

9 Church Street, Holt NR25 6BB 712202  
Tues 10am-7pm / Wed 2pm-7pm  
Fri 10am-7pm / Sat 1pm-4pm

## Post Offices

**Baconthorpe Mobile Post Office Van**  
Wednesdays 10.00am Village Hall

**Corpusty Stores** 587726  
Monday-Friday 9.00am – 12.00noon

**Itteringham Shop** 587325  
Monday + Thursday 9.00am-1.00pm

## Mobile Library Van

**7 July / 4 Aug / 1 + 29 Sept / 27 Oct / 24 Nov**  
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

**28 July / 25 Aug / 22 Sept / 20 Oct / 17 Nov**  
Hempstead 3.40 NR25 6TL Telephone kiosk  
Baconthorpe 4.05 NR25 6LE Hare & Hounds  
4.20 NR25 6LG Old Post Office  
4.40 NR25 6LJ Council Bungalows

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

## Parish Council Websites

Baconthorpe <http://baconthorpepc.wixsite.com/baconthorpepc>  
Edgefield <https://edgefieldparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk>  
Hempstead <https://hempsteadpc.wixsite.com/hempsteadpc>  
Matlaske & Barningham <http://matlaskeparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk>  
Plumstead <https://plumsteadpc.wixsite.com/plumsteadpc>  
Saxthorpe & Corpusty <https://corpustyandsaxthorpeparishcouncil.wordpress.com>



## Letter from the Rector - Reverend Canon David Longe

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

Dear All

I began writing this on the feast day of St Anthony of Padua.

Anthony was a friar, following the rule of St Francis in terms of simplicity and humility. There are many stories associated with him, including how he became the patron saint of lost things, but I wanted to share with you the story that caught my imagination -

Gustav Mahler even turned it into a song in his song cycle *Des Knaben Wunderhorn* (do Google it), based on a sixteenth century poem by the priest Abraham a Sancta Clara. It is a witty tale, with a twist.

The story, echoing St Francis preaching to the birds, is that one day Anthony arrived to find no one in church and so he decided to preach to the fish in a river. Entranced by his voice the fish gather to listen. This so intrigues the locals, and as they listen they come to understand the love of Christ through Anthony's eloquence.

Reading the poem and reflecting on the climate crisis, it becomes even clearer, I think, of how much we need to learn from nature. For nature doesn't need our words, it needs our actions.

This is the way of Jesus: he teaches us to be in awe of creation and to tread gently.

I hope you enjoy the twisty tale below and I pray that we all may find something wonderful to learn in the nature around us.

St Anthony arrives for his sermon  
and finds the church empty.  
He goes to the rivers  
to preach to the fishes;  
They flick their tails,  
which glisten in the sunshine.  
The carp with roe  
have all come here,  
their mouths wide open,  
listening attentively.

No sermon ever  
pleased the carp so.

Sharp-mouthed pike  
that fight continuously  
have come here, swimming hurriedly  
to hear this pious one;  
No sermon ever  
pleased the pike so.  
Also, those fantastic creatures  
that are always fasting -

the stockfish, I mean -  
they also appeared for the sermon;  
No sermon ever  
pleased the stockfish so.  
Good eels and sturgeons,  
that banquet so elegantly -  
even they took the trouble  
to hear the sermon:

No sermon ever  
pleased the eels so.

Crabs too, and turtles,  
usually such slowpokes,  
rise quickly from the bottom,  
to hear this voice.

No sermon ever  
pleased the crabs so.

Big fish, little fish,  
noble fish, common fish,

all lift their heads  
like sentient creatures:  
At God's behest  
they listen to the sermon.

The sermon having ended,  
each turns himself around;  
the pikes remain thieves,  
the eels, great lovers.

The sermon has pleased them,  
but they remain the same as before.

The crabs still walk backwards,  
the stockfish stay rotund,  
the carps still gorge themselves:  
the sermon is forgotten.

The sermon has pleased them,  
but they remain the same as  
before.



As St Anthony preaches to the fish, the people are intrigued

David



## The Benefice of Matlaske Church Services for July

3 <sup>rd</sup>	St Thomas	
10.30am	Eucharist with Baptism	Hempstead
5.00pm	Evensong	Baconsthorpe
10 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity IV	
10.30am	Eucharist	Matlaske
5.00pm	Evensong	Barningham Winter
17 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity V	
10.30am	Eucharist	Plumstead
24 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity VI	
8.30am	Eucharist	Hempstead
4.00pm	Pet Service All Creatures Great + Small Are Welcome	Saxthorpe
31 <sup>st</sup>	Trinity VII	
8.30am	Eucharist	Edgefield
10.30am	Eucharist	Baconsthorpe
7 <sup>th</sup> August	Trinity VIII	
8.30am	Eucharist	Saxthorpe
10.30am	Eucharist	Barningham Winter
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> July + 3 <sup>rd</sup> August 9.00am Eucharist Saxthorpe followed by refreshments		

## LOOKING FOR A HOME

After six years of faultless tenancy, the property I currently rent is being sold and I have been given notice to vacate by the end of July.

I am urgently searching for an affordable long term rent in Holt, or near villages, for myself and my well behaved Jack Russell. A patch of garden and a parking space would be a bonus.

I would be very grateful to hear of anything suitable. References available, many thanks,

Malcolm Mellor

malcolminletheringsett@gmail.com  
Mob 07798 753765 Home 01263 712400

## Before the Ending of the Day

Piano & Choral Music for Midsummer

Chopin ~ Debussy  
Chilcott ~ Tallis ~ Palestrina



Philip Adams ~ David Ballard

16th July 19:00

St Peter's, Sheringham

Tickets £12; Under 18's free  
Box Office: 01263 822 347  
www.sheringhamandcromerchoral.org.uk

Norfolk County Council  
Registered Charity: 281 467

## Baconsthorpe

### 200 Club

£50 I Benton Worboys, £25 K Rix, £10 M Rowe, £5 T McCosh, P Hall, R Youngs

### And We All Had a Wonderful Time



Preparations for the big day, Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup>, began in earnest with the decorating of the village hall thanks to Piers Warner, Harry Steel, Michael Day and Jonathan Cooper. This was followed at 11am by a trusty band of sandwich makers; our thanks go to Tessa McCosh, Ro Hardingham, and Jane Warner who also provided the flower decorations. Cakes were generously provided by Yvonne Delaney, Lizzie Jordan, Joy Thurtell, Sophie Gibbs, Dianne Wade and Pam Youngs. And so a feast to feed the 5000 was presented!

It was a wonderful day. The rain did not worry us as we were safely tucked up in the hall. Approximately sixty people attended. Amongst the chatter and the laughter, the sound of children with trumpets from their gift bags all added to the atmosphere.

Even the Queen popped in for a photo with Rosie and later helped to plant the Rowan tree in the village hall garden to mark her Platinum Jubilee. This was supervised by Pip decked out for the occasion.

### Take A Bow Jonathan Cooper

On a balmy evening Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup> at Baconsthorpe Village Hall people gathered for a 'Vinyl Night'.



Hazel Martin  
07879 414577



This was the brainchild of Jonathan, an ex-DJ, to raise money for the dreadful Motor Neurone Disease. It proved to be a very popular night culminating with an Auction of Promises which included a vast range of promises. There was: a delivery of compost; a helicopter ride; a chance to have your septic tank emptied! Also to be auctioned is a ride in a hot air balloon.

The event was held in honour of Colin Matthews. Sadly Colin died shortly after this event from this cruel disease. Our thought go to all his family. The event raised £1,650 and donations are still coming in. Jonathan wishes to thank everyone who contributed.

**Village fête**  
Saturday 23 July - 2pm

Village Hall

stalls • games • stocks  
teas • barbecue • bar

ALL WELCOME!

## Baconsthorpe Village Hall 200 Club Monthly Draw

**WE STILL HAVE SOME NUMBERS AVAILABLE.**

**Top Prize Each Month £50.00.**

**For just £1.00 per month Subscription.**

**You've got to be in it to Win it!**

**Payment can be made in the following ways**

**Cash, Cheque or BAC's**

Enquires on 07500 047732 or via email to  
secretary.baconsthorpevillagehall@outlook.com.

### Gentle Reminder

I hope to have a little gathering of willing helpers to spruce up the church on Friday July 8<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at 10am and coffee and croissants will be available.

### Village Hall News

**Village Fête 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2pm** Featuring all your favourite stalls and games, along with teas, barbecue and bar. The stocks will again be a key attraction, along with the produce, plants, raffle tombola, books and bric-a-brac. If you have bric-a-brac to donate please bring it to the hall on Friday 15 July between 4pm and 6pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Pop-Up Pub Friday 29<sup>th</sup> 6pm-10pm** There will be a barbecue and hopefully dry warm weather!

**Film Night Friday 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

Later in the year we plan to run a Table Top Sale; A Quiz Night; and a Craft Fair. More dates and details to follow.

Piers Warner

## Barningham Winter

A huge thank you to all those who helped with the Jubilee Tea, it was great to see so many people come along from Matlaske and Barningham and have a good get together with a glass of bubbly, sandwiches and cake on a lovely sunny afternoon. The Parish Council gave each child of the parish a special jubilee coin. Covid plaques were presented at this event by Thomas Courtauld as Deputy Lord-Lieutenant to Marion Shepherd and Colin Airey for everything they had done during covid in Matlaske and Barningham. Our special thanks to them. ery many thanks to Marion who did so much to organise the jubilee event.



Sara Buxton  
577207

## Edgefield

### Church News

Judy Rosser will be priested at Norwich Cathedral on 25<sup>th</sup> June, so, by the time this is published, she will have taken her first Communion in our church on 26<sup>th</sup> June 26. Many congratulations and a big welcome to her in her new role. On 31<sup>st</sup> May, Kay Harvey, assisted by her team of helpers, organised another very successful children's activity morning in the church, which was greatly enjoyed by everyone who came.



Richard Peaver  
587486

Denis Hindson died suddenly on 27<sup>th</sup> May, and we send our deepest sympathy to Margaret, and their two daughters, Carole and Sue, who rushed over from their homes in Australia to be with her. Margaret writes: "Denis was brought up in Huddersfield, winning a scholarship at school. He was an architect, designing schools, etc. He was talented in so many ways. He was very musical, taught himself to play the piano, and later took up the cornet, achieving a high standard. He produced many beautiful watercolour paintings, exhibiting at many exhibitions. He studied Landscape History and Field Archaeology, obtaining a Certificate from the University of Cambridge. Denis played cricket and golf, and occasionally tennis with our daughters. Certainly a man of many talents, and greatly missed."

Angela Turner

### Edgefield Parish Council

Following a successful Cheese & Wine evening and the lighting of the Jubilee Beacon, we would like to thank everyone who attended and supported the event. We are very pleased to have installed a new bench on the Green overlooking the pond, in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and we are due to refurbish the Silver Jubilee bench soon.

Mark Cook

### Village Hall News

Our Jubilee Tea Party on the Green was a great success, despite the rather cool weather. Between 130 - 150 visited us during the afternoon and feasted upon their own picnics and our home-made cream teas. Once again it was lovely to see so many of the local community getting together. Our next event is a quiz night, which will be held in October. Date to be confirmed.

May 200 Club winners: 1<sup>st</sup> Linz Surridge-Smith; 2<sup>nd</sup> Sue Rowe; 3<sup>rd</sup> Gemma Keogh

Jim Frost

## Hempstead

### 200 Club

£50 C Moore, £25 I Summers, £10 I Hicks, £5 C Feilden, D Spalton, D Lister

### Music in Hempstead

Due to a shoulder injury, this will, now, not take place on July 7<sup>th</sup>, but will be postponed until the Autumn. We all wish Ian a speedy recovery.

Mo Williams would like to know if anyone has lost an Anchor Ovenware square baking dish 8 x 8 x 2.25 inches. If so do call her.



Diana Spalton  
711117

A Hempstead resident for the past 40 years, Tim Geens has died, sadly. He was well-known for being very ready to help anyone with a plumbing problem until recently when he has been in poor health. We shall miss him and we send our condolences to his children and his ten grandchildren.

Sadly, Colin Matthews died at the end of May. He and Roz had been in the village since the late 1970s. There will be more about Colin in next month's copy. In the meantime we send our condolences to Roz and all his family.

### Hempstead Yard Sale

Many thanks to Moira and Jonathan for organising the yard sale in May, and Jo and Pam for providing teas in the village hall as well as all those who made so many excellent cakes, contributed, or came and bought items. £444 was donated to Hempstead Church.

### Church Vandalism

A 'moment of madness' took place between Friday and Saturday 20/21 May when 4 panes of original stained glass were broken (by hymn books being thrown at them from inside the Church) as well as children's play table and chair broken and other minor damage. The stained glass is expensive to repair and initial estimates are that this will cost about £2,500, which will delay the planned toilet installation, decoration and tower repairs. It will also take many months as, like most things, there is a backlog. If anyone knows any details of who may be responsible, they should phone Crimestoppers 0800 555111 or Norfolk Police 101 ref: 36/38297/22. As other minor incidents have also occurred recently, reluctantly, the PCC have installed 24/7 CCTV both internally and in the churchyard. 'Smile you're on CCTV' notices have also been installed.

### Village Street Party & Raffle

A happy street party, helped by good weather and quality booze, took place outside the Village Hall on June 3<sup>rd</sup> to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee. Over 70 residents came and shared food and stories. Thank you to all who organised, helped and generously donated. Yvette Gibson and Airlie Inglis must be thanked in particular. Airlie having organised a raffle raising £981, which will go towards the costs of repairing the above.

Francis Feilden

## Matlaske

### 100 Club

£25 Jenny Rance, £10 Karen Neill, £5 June Bere

### Donny March

It is with sadness we report that Donny died on 2<sup>nd</sup> June. He was the oldest resident of Matlaske aged 96 and was born at Blacksmiths Cottage (now the home of his daughter and her family) on 26<sup>th</sup> July 1925. For several years Donny could be seen whizzing around Matlaske on his mobility scooter many times each day; this gave him the freedom to have a chat with anyone who was about. His wife Ruth predeceased him by 85 days, they will be greatly missed.

Matlaske hosted a Church Walk on 29<sup>th</sup> May, in place of morning service. This involved a pleasant ramble over lanes and footpaths, with short stops for prayer and contemplation of God's beautiful



Duncan Wood  
570293



handiwork. It was a Benefice do, so we all took the opportunity to get to know folk from other villages. Refreshments and stand-up comedy from the turkey-cock at the Rectory brought the ramble to a mirthful conclusion.

Our Jubilee Party in the front of Barningham Park was a huge success, especially for this writer who took a beer glass to a wine-only do. The sun shone, conversation sparkled, food tasted delicious, and good humour abounded. This was a chance to get to know neighbours better. Thomas Courtauld, as Deputy Lord-Lieutenant, made a fine speech and proposed a toast to Her Majesty (who as the Duke of Lancaster is patron of the church living of Matlaske; this Lancashire-born churchwarden made sure to put up the ducal coat-of-arms in his window!).

Peter and Felicity Rushmer would be grateful for the donation of raffle prizes for Matlaske and Barningham's Pizza & Music in the Park event on 30<sup>th</sup> July. Please contact them on 01263 577795 if you have any goodies they can collect from you, or alternatively deliver them to 2 Barningham Place, Matlaske, when passing.

We look forward to another great get-together with top-class singing and dancing.

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

HOLT RIDGE MORRIS BAR      HURDY GURDY TEAS

\*\*\*\*\*PLEASE PRE-ORDER PIZZAS ...Margherita or Ham from [matlaskepizza@gmail.com](mailto:matlaskepizza@gmail.com)\*\*\*\*\*

THREESCORE PRE-ORDERED PIZZAS      BRIAN & HARRY MARIONETTE TOMBOLA

## Plumstead

### Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration



The rain came down in the morning but the residents of Plumstead armed themselves with raincoats and brollies and made a spectacular turnout at midday. The rain obligingly stopped and we all thoroughly enjoyed some delicious pies, tasty drinks and wonderful cakes. The Queen was toasted under a proper



Harriet Rossi  
577239



British grey sky and everyone said how very nice it was to be able to have such a gathering, see people and have a good catch up. The 70 years of Plumstead display in the church was a lovely touch and many saw familiar faces among the photographs.

A massive thank you once again to all those who organised the event, prepared food, provided drinks, put up the marquee, baked cakes and generally made this something really special and memorable. Thanks also to our very generous benefactor.

### Bonsai Success

Congratulations to Dave Tull whose Cherry Plum bonsai was in the Federation of British Bonsai Societies' display that won a gold medal at the Chelsea Flower Show. The display was televised and shown on BBC2 at 8pm on 6<sup>th</sup> May, which is still available to view on BBC iPlayer. Presenter Joe Swift specifically commented on Dave's tree in the broadcast.



### Plumstead Art Exhibition

Thank you to all who helped with putting on and running the recent Art Exhibition and Sale, with special thanks to Kirsty O'Leary-Leeson and Jonas Rossi for their particular expertise. The event was a celebration of the work of local artists and was enjoyed by all who visited. Most of the paintings were the work of John Durdin and many of his paintings were sold. He has generously donated 80% of the takings (£2,715) to the church, for which he served as churchwarden for 30 years, until 2015. The remaining 20% (£613) has gone to support a conservation trust which is run by his son, the well-known Norfolk naturalist Chris Durdin.

### Monday Morning Coffee at St Michael's

With the recent better weather, we have been having coffees sitting in the sun outside the church on Monday mornings. Do drop in for a coffee or a chat from 10.30am onwards. There are crafts, books and jigsaws for sale and don't forget to look at what is for sale on John Durdin's plant stall outside the Old Post Office.

### Welcome to Plumstead

We welcome new residents to Ivy Cottage. Mike and Melissa and their lovely dog Ruby have just moved in, we wish them much happiness in their new home and look forward to seeing them around the village once they have settled in. We also wish a fond farewell to Ann Baglin who, with her late husband Richard, contributed much to village life during their many years here.

### Plumstead Village Pond & Meadow

The meadow behind Plumstead village pond has produced an abundance of wild flowers this year to delight the senses. All are welcome to enjoy it by following the mown path from the pond area.

**Stop Press** - barbecue available to borrow from village store. Contact Eleanor 01263 577868 or [faulknereleanor@gmail.com](mailto:faulknereleanor@gmail.com)



## Saxthorpe with Corpusty

### Golden Wedding

Many congratulations to Jackie and Alan Baker, who celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on 13 May.

### Village Hall News

Following on the success of the Barn Dance our next big event will be a Back in Time Festival - village history and old-time fête games. This is likely to be held on 3 September but the date will be confirmed in a later issue of this magazine.



Sophia Hodgson  
587510



We are also holding bi-monthly coffee mornings / sales table - see village notice boards for the dates. Come along with friends / meet your neighbours.

### Village Correspondent

My vision of villagers jostling for position to become the next correspondent has not been fulfilled. As yet, no one has come forward.

If a volunteer has not arrived by next month, I shall compile the News for August, but that will be my last month, so please, don't be shy.

Children from Corpusty Primary School observe and note species of flowers and insects as they explored at St Andrew's Church, Saxthorpe, as part of the nationwide scheme in June for *Churches to Count Nature*.



## The Village Gardener

To Plant a Garden is to Believe in Tomorrow



July I feel is when the garden has really got into its stride, there is an almost fragile beauty to June whereas by July, summer has most certainly arrived! All we can do is hope and work to keep up with it, whilst also taking some time out to enjoy it. Everything is happening everywhere!

First stop this month is the border, take the time to clear out any early flowering biennials that have had their day, like sweet rocket and sweet william, you've just enough time to pop in some half-hardy annuals like cosmos to replace them. If your flowering geraniums in the border are looking a bit sorry for themselves after they have finishing flowering then you can cut them right back remembering to feed water and mulch and you will get some lovely regrowth of leaves to chirp everything up. If you've grown annuals for picking this year then your best tip is to keep picking! Otherwise they will run to seed and then grind to a halt. Don't forget to pinch out the growing tip on your annuals so they bush out nicely.

Now to the veg patch! This is the first time in many years I have not grown potatoes, we've had a really rough time with blight these last few years and it just felt like the right moment to have a break, although I will admit I am missing them now! I did hear something very interesting on one of Sarah Ravens podcasts (a thoroughly recommended listen whilst pottering in the garden). She was describing the use of the mustard family as fumigants for the soil. Whilst blight is airborne I am wondering whether to try growing a green 'mustard' crop to clear the soil up prior to growing either potatoes or tomatoes here next year. I am growing tomatoes solely in the greenhouse this year and so far so splendid - I do say that whilst clutching a piece of wood! I am also wondering about growing some mustard greens in there next spring, something like mizuna for a sort of soil check/clean up, it is food for thought! Lots of other jobs in the veg patch whilst everything is growing so abundantly, don't forget to pinch off the growing tips on your courgettes and squashes (and keep up with your watering). If you do this the plant will branch out, which should increase your crop yield. This goes for cordon tomatoes too once they have grown to a certain height, you want the energy to all go into fruit, not into more plant growth. As soon as the fruit start to develop, that is the point when you want to start feeding them every week too.



One of my jobs this week is to reset my parsley, I had a nice short row that had just germinated in one of our raised beds, when practically the whole row was taken out and a round shallow 'bed' was left instead. I had thought that our Sweetheart cat had decided that this was her bed of choice for the week, I had been patiently waiting for her to choose somewhere else to bask only to discover it was a pheasant who had adopted it, I don't know who was more surprised me or him when I found him there last week! So instead of even attempting to evict him (as he appears quite determined) I will grow the parsley in pots and plant them out when they are good and strong, my hope is to get a nicely spaced row of plants rather than the slightly patchy row I get from direct sowing. Well, that's the plan!

This month's question is from Liz Castle and partner who have been having limited success with their wildflower patch which has been thoroughly taken over by grasses. It sounds to me as if the ground is too fertile and the grasses are getting the upper hand before the wildflowers can get going. One thing you can look into growing is Yellow Rattle to help reduce the fertility of the patch. Yellow Rattle is semi-parasitic so actually lives off the grasses which then really curtails their growth and gives the wild flowers a chance to take off. There are loads of articles to be read on this, some thought should be given to possibly growing a variety indigenous to this area too if possible. The other solution would be to remove the top soil in the area you want for the wildflowers, however Yellow Rattle might well be a far less 'back breaking' solution!

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.

Michelle & Mick McCarter

## Bike Ride - Charles Inglis



Last year turned out to be another fantastic year, with the event raising a staggering £130,156 for Norfolk Churches. 711 gallant people took to their bikes, laced-up their walking or running shoes, braved the sea or used transport that included boats, horses, tandems, mobility scooters, cars and buses. I am pretty sure it must have been the biggest charity fund raising event in Norfolk last year.

Our local area did phenomenally well with Holt Deanery coming first place, by raising £22,164. Hempstead and Baconsthorpe came first and second respectively in terms of top performing parishes. The benefice 'triathlon team' led by David Longe played a big part in the success locally. Harry Steel from Baconsthorpe will be the winner of the Prince of Wales Certificate as he raised the most money last year.

I want to stress that it is a really good way for people to have some fun exploring Norfolk's magnificent churches, taking some exercise and raising money for your local church and the Norfolk Churches Trust. A new Norfolk Churches Trust website has gone live which will make the whole process of registering easier and finding out how to take part.

<https://norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/bike-ride/>

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## Nature Watch - Red Poll Cattle

Arthur Pentney



Our Suffolk neighbours are proud of their livestock 'trinity': Suffolk sheep, the Suffolk horse, and Red Poll cattle. Well, I'll concede the sheep to them certainly, but their claim to the horse is debatable, and the Red Poll is as much a Norfolk animal as one from Suffolk.

The breed is actually the result of inter-county co-operation. Initially, Norfolk had its Norfolk Red, a horned animal predominantly for beef, and Suffolk the Suffolk Dun, a polled (ie no horns) and lighter coloured animal used for milk production. The happy cross-breeding of these two using a Suffolk Dun bull resulted in what was to become the Red Poll breed. The bull via its DNA ensured that the new breed was to remain without horns.

The Red Poll then is dual purpose, producing both beef and milk. The animals are long lived, docile, hardy and they thrive well in adverse conditions, leading them to be exported all over the world. They soon gained favour with the landed gentry of the two counties and examples could be seen on the great estates including Melton Constable, Benacre, Sandringham and Raveningham. The nearest herd to us that I recall was owned by Colonel Batt at Gresham Hall, and it achieved many awards at the county shows.

Although their numbers have declined in recent years, Red Polls can still be found in our county. Drive out to Kate and Will's place at Anmer, and like me, you may be lucky enough to see a herd grazing in the meadows there in their natural environment. Our photograph, taken at the Royal Norfolk Show has a young handler with an equally young Red Poll showing to advantage the attractive dark red colouring typical of the breed – as inherited from its Norfolk ancestor, of course!