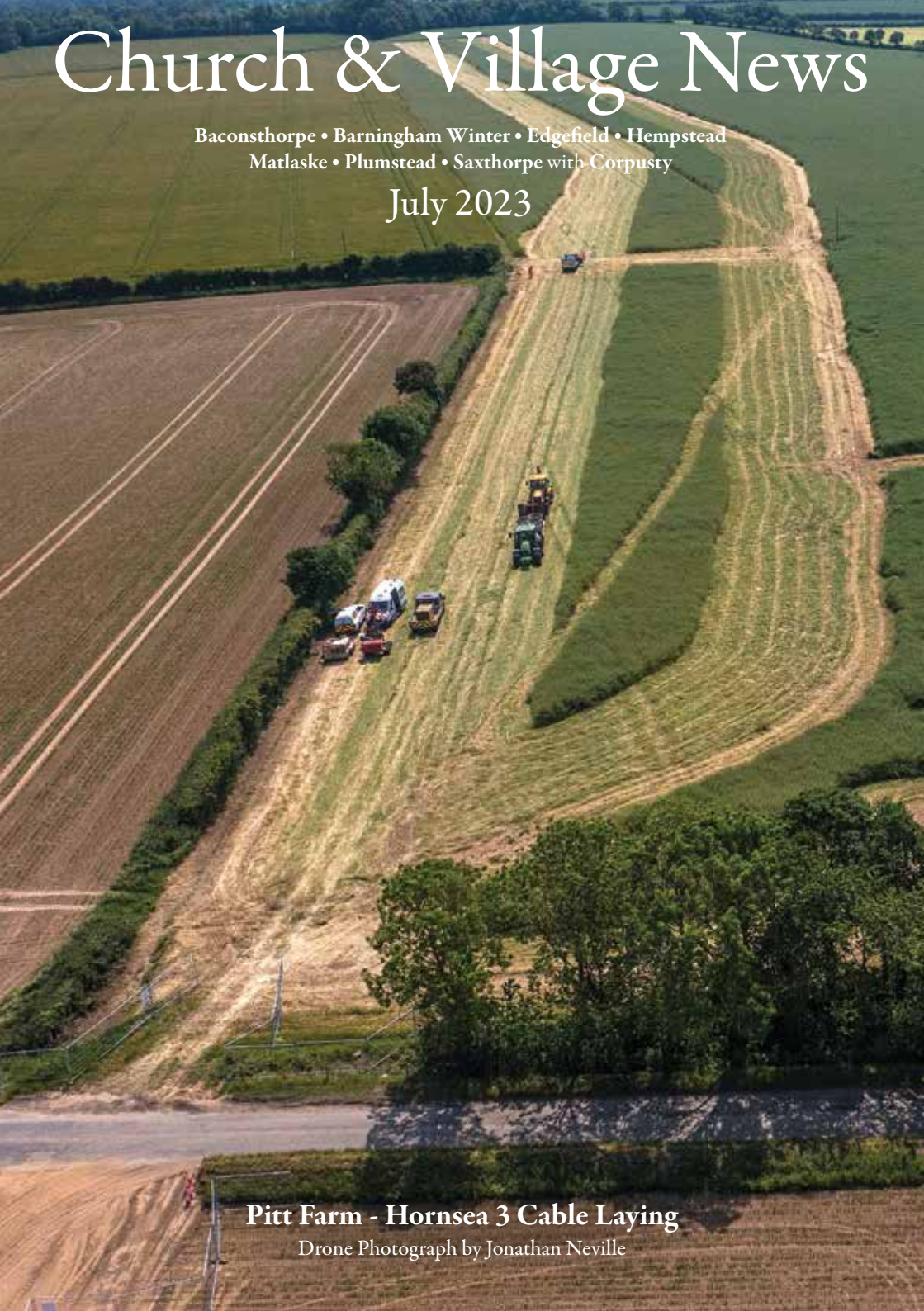


Church & Village News

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

July 2023



Pitt Farm - Hornsea 3 Cable Laying

Drone Photograph by Jonathan Neville

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| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|--------|
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| Edgefield | Mark Cook | 587735 |
| Hempstead | Paul Sanders | 713217 |
| Matlaske & Barningham | Sara Buxton | 577207 |
| Plumstead | Brian Faulkner | 577868 |
| Saxthorpe & Corpusty | Imogen Waterson | 587610 |

Parish Council Websites

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

Village Websites

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



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Assistant Curate Reverend Judy Rosser 587584
Authorised Worship Assistant Prof Alain Wolf 577292
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Harry Steel 07711 890360
B Winter Amelia Courtauld 577250
Rebecca Hill 07960 739593
Edgefield Emma Cletheroe 587049
Angela Turner 587292
Hempstead Airlie Inglis 577440
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Duncan Wood 570293
Plumstead Eleanor Faulkner 577868
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01263 577357 / cmcmahon161@gmail.com
Lawrence Williams
01263 577292 / trustlawrence@hotmail.com

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

What's On

JULY

| | | | |
|---------|---------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Mon 3 | 2.00pm | Hempstead Crafty Creations | Village Hall |
| Wed 5 | 10.00am | Matlaske Annual Coffee Morning | Blacksmiths Cottage |
| Fri 7 | | Matlaske Church Survey | |
| Fri 7 | 5.30pm | Plumstead Pond Life | Village Pond |
| Sat 8 | 10.00am | Matlaske Coffee Morning | Blacksmith's Cottage |
| Mon 10 | 7.30pm | Barningham Winter Parish Council Meeting | The Church |
| Fri 14 | 4.00pm | Edgefield Annual Church Clean-Up | The Church |
| Fri 14 | 5.30pm | Plumstead Pond Life | Village Pond |
| Sat 15 | 7.00pm | Edgefield Edgefest | Village Hall |
| Tues 18 | 7.00pm | Baconsthorpe Defibrillator Training | Village Hall |
| Thur 20 | 10.00am | Hempstead Crafty Creations | Village Hall |
| Fri 21 | 5.30pm | Plumstead Pond Life | Village Pond |
| Sat 22 | 2.00pm | Baconsthorpe Fete | Village Hall |
| Fri 28 | 5.30pm | Plumstead Pond Life | Village Pond |
| Fri 28 | 6.00pm | Baconsthorpe Pop-Up Pub | Village Hall |
| Sat 29 | 2.00pm | Matlaske Fete | Barningham Green |
| Sat 29 | 2.00pm | Hempstead Crafty Creations | Village Hall |

See page 14 for Clash Diary

Post Offices

Baconsthorpe Mobile Post Office Van
Wednesdays 9.40am – 10.40am Village Hall
Corpusty Stores 587726
Monday-Friday 9.00am – 12.00noon
Itteringham Shop 587325
Monday + Thursday 9.00am-1.00pm

Local MP

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

County Councillor

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

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Church & Village News. Apologies if contributed material is not published due to space constraints. All facts are believed to be correct at the time of going to press.

Mobile Library Van

Thursdays every 28 days next 8 June
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 Cottis
Saxthorpe 4.10 NR11 7BL Old Post Office
Corpusty 4.30 NR11 6QJ Adams Lane
28 July / 25 August / 22 Sept
Hempstead 3.40 NR25 6TL Telephone kiosk
Baconsthorpe 4.05 NR25 6LE Hare & Hounds
4.25 NR25 6LJ Council Bungalows

Times and dates sourced from Norfolk County website: <https://bit.ly/2AJdSGA> Tel: 01603 222303

Holt Library

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

Sanders Bus Timetables

<https://sanderscoaches.com/timetables>

Letter from the Rector - Reverend Canon David Longe

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

Dear All

Last month we remembered a saint call Barnabas. Remembering saints is a strange church tradition – why remember some people and not others, and what about those who go unnoticed? We remember saints in the hope that through reflecting on their lives we learn how to live better lives.

What can we learn about Barnabas? What we know about him is found in the New Testament. His name may have been Joses, but he is called Barnabas because it means Son of Encouragement, as I explain. He joins the disciples after Jesus has ascended to heaven. First, he sells a field which he pools with the other assets of the disciples to ensure there was “not a needy person among them”. (The church still pools funds to help those in need - for instance the Benefice Support Fund and the John Perry-Warnes Educational Fund, are provided for by generosity of folk in and connected to this Benefice to ensure that we can help those in need and those who are in education (see details on page 5).)

Barnabas was a Levite from Cyprus and shortly after joining the disciples he meets St Paul (aka Saul). Paul was hated, feared, a bully and a killer. Before converting to Christianity on the Road to Damascus, Paul had stoned St Stephen to death. So, after Paul had converted, he was not trusted. Barnabas met Paul and persuades the disciples also to meet him. It must have been tense and have taken immense personal courage of Barnabas to meet with Paul initially, and then extraordinary diplomacy for them to meet the disciples. Barnabas had ‘encouraged’ the disciples to meet Paul. Later he and Paul travel to a new church in Antioch where he rejoices in its work.

Yet things are not straightforward. After Antioch, Barnabas and Paul get into scraps. At one point Paul is stoned, thought dead, but survives. At another they disagree over whether John Mark should travel with them. They part ways, and although we don't think Paul and Barnabas meet again, they remain in correspondence and it seems they remain friends.

Barnabas was said to be martyred in Cyprus 61CE after preaching in a synagogue. There was a dispute, he was dragged out, tortured and stoned to death. John Mark witnessed this and buried him a secret place. 400 years later the location was revealed in a dream to Archbishop Anthemios who found the body with the Gospel of St Matthew on Barnabas' chest.

When in Church we hear these stories we are prompted to asks questions such as:

1. What strikes you about it?
2. What inspires you?
3. How do you react to someone who claims to have changed their ways? What sort of risk is this?
4. How do you rejoice when you see good works?
5. How can we contribute yet further to ensure in our communities – and beyond – there are no needy people?

May we all encourage each other to be generous and courageous like Barnabas,

David



The Benefice of Matlaske Church Services for July

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 2nd Trinity IV | | |
| 8.30am | Eucharist | Baconsthorpe |
| 10.30am | Eucharist | Plumstead |
| 9th Trinity V | | |
| 8.30am | Mattins | Barningham Winter |
| 10.30am | Eucharist | Saxthorpe |
| 16th Trinity VI | | |
| 8.30am | Eucharist | Edgefield |
| 10.30am | Eucharist | Baconsthorpe |
| 23rd Trinity VII | | |
| 8.30am | Eucharist | Plumstead |
| 10.30am | Eucharist | North Barningham |
| 30th Trinity VIII | | |
| 8.30am | Eucharist | Matlaske |
| 10.30am | Eucharist | Hempstead |
| 6th Trinity IX | | |
| 10.30am | Eucharist | Edgefield |
| 5.00pm | Evensong | Baconsthorpe |

Mondays 10.30am - Coffee - Plumstead

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

The John Perry-Warnes Educational Fund exists to help those in education who reside in the Matlaske Benefice (the parishes of Baconsthorpe, Barningham Winter, Edgefield, Hempstead, Matlaske, Plumstead, and Saxthorpe with Corpusty). If you would like to apply for this fund, please submit an application, stating why the funds are required along with the cost of each item, and a description of your educational situation. Please can all submissions be emailed to rector@matlaske.org.uk, or posted to The Rectory, The Street, Matlaske, Norfolk NR11 7AQ by 1st September 2023

HELP WITH ENERGY AND HOUSEHOLD COSTS

If you know anyone who need help with their energy costs please contact Revd David Longe: 01263 577252 rector@matlaske.org.uk

Cromer Food Bank can help with both food provisions and with household bills including pre-paid meters and meters paid on receipt of bills, gas, coal, oil and wood.

The Matlaske Benefice Support Fund can also help with the above and other issues that household may face.

Baconsthorpe

200 Club

£50 J Regis, £25 D Hall, £10 M Day, £5 L Rix, H Steel, H Steels



Church News

On Saturday June 17th at 2pm St Mary's welcomed 90 guests decked out in their finery for the marriage of Tiggy Elsdon-Powell to Edward Day. I could not resist sharing with you the picture of the beautiful entrance to the church created by Serendipity.

I know it is just a floor but at last this space in St Mary's can be used (I might of course be thinking of future dramas!) The old pews have all been sold to good homes and I am sure they are now enhancing various rooms. No doubt the resident bats will be miffed as the pews always showed evidence of their night time activities.

Defibrillator Training

On Tuesday July 18th at 7pm there is a training session at Baconsthorpe Village Hall. Our defibrillator is situated in the centre of the village by the bus shelter and just think a life might be saved if enough of us can confidently respond quickly.

Sunday Drama Group

On Sunday June 11th at 4pm I once again welcomed young people from the Benefice. The temperature was 24 degrees in Baconsthorpe and the tide was at a low ebb so I can forgive the young thespians for preferring the beach to the village hall. Nevertheless, those who attended had a wonderful time playing some new drama games and some old favourites. We did our first reading of our play *The Good Samaritan*. Some have already got their eye on a part. Next meeting is on Saturday July 14th at the village hall and I will cast the play, so do come along.

A Polite Plea For A Cake

By the time this edition of the newsletter arrives through your door, the village fete will be just three weeks away! This year we would love to have an impressive cake stall. Everyone loves a cake. If anyone in the village would be willing to make a cake for the stall please let me know (07879414577) or just bring it along. Huge thank you to the residents who have already kindly offered.

Save This Date

Yes I know it is a long way off – but here is the news you have all been waiting for! The next Murder Mystery will be in the village hall on Saturday October 14th. There will be a brand new script and



What a Sad Day

a new mystery for you to solve! Once again price will cover the food and the entertainment.

You will see from the photo that our beautiful, historic castle now looks more like a ship at sea, and to add insult to injury the scaffolding has recently been vandalised as still we wait for work to begin on the repairs. One day I hope we will once again be able to wander through the ancient walls.



Hazel Martin
07879 414577

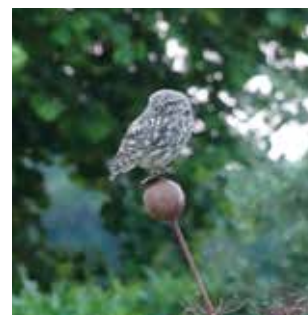


Village Hall News

Pop-Up Pub – Friday 28th 6pm Quiche and salads from 6.30pm

Village Fete – Saturday 22nd 2pm with stalls, games, teas, bar and the stocks! We will be accepting bric-a-brac on the Friday 21st from 5pm till 6.30pm. Cakes for the cake stall are always welcome and can be brought along at any time on the morning of Saturday 22nd. Contact Piers on 07493 227591 if you can help out. We hope to see you there.

Our thanks to Jonathan and Rick for installing a lovely set of new gates to the garden at the village hall.



The village hall is currently in a reasonable position financially and has benefited from some upgrades in terms of decoration – the new gates and the new shed. We thank all of those who have been directly involved in running the hall over the last year. We are always looking for people who would like to become more involved, so do let us know if you can help. We look forward to welcoming you to one or more of the events we have planned for the coming year.

Baconsthorpe Little Owl by Emma Youngs

Piers Warner

Barningham Winter

The next meeting of Matlaske and Barningham Parish Council will be held on Monday 10th July at 7.30pm in the church. At the last meeting of the PC we welcomed Lucy Raynor and Stacey Buckley to our council. If you have any questions for the council do email me.

Summer has now got here and it won't be long until harvest (hopefully). Please do be aware of the combines, tractors and trailers etc at this time of year. The drivers can't always see you especially if you are on behind them on a bike - so give them room and get right out of the way. They are big machines to manoeuvre on our small country roads.



Sara Buxton
577207

Edgefield

Church News

In just four weeks we have sadly lost Shirley Norton, Brian Slaughter and Mary Millar Watt (who was so nearly 100 years old).

To everyone who opened their gardens and helped in so many ways last month, thank you very much. You raised an amazing result of just under £5,000 for church funds. To maintain our lovely church for baptisms, weddings and funerals takes a lot of time and effort, and we badly need help. Cleaners, flower arrangers, and helpers in the churchyard in July, are in short supply. Could you possibly help us? On Friday, 14th July, at 4pm, we aim to have our Annual Church Clean Up. Strimming, raking, and weeding graves is more fun with other people, so do come and join us! Please!



Richard Peaver
587486



Enormous thanks to Margaret Hindson who is off to Australia on 24th July, to live near her daughters. She has sorted out our parish magazines for years, ready to go to those who deliver them door to door. Very best wishes for her new future. Would anyone like to take on that job? It's very quick.

Angela Turner

Village Hall News

Edgefest 6 on 15th July is almost here. Almost all the 200 tickets have been sold and pleasingly a large majority of those have been to people who live in Edgefield. A reminder that we will be having a 60/70/80s disco in the hall on Saturday 30th September - more details to follow. The May 200 Club results were: 1st M Smith (186), 2nd Charlotte Wheeler (219) and 3rd Jeff Witts (163). Members of the 200 Club will be visited during August to collect the money for 2023/24 and don't forget it will be £10 per member this year, but the prize money will be doubling.

Jim Frost

Church Accounts

Many will remember Gerald and Gwynneth Sibia, who now live in Sheringham. Gerald, a former Treasurer of our PCC, has kindly acted for several years as our Independent Examiner of Accounts. However, we both feel that it would be prudent to make provisional plans for such time as he will no longer be able to do so! If anyone knows of a person who might be willing to take on this not very onerous task, please let me know. No qualifications are required, apart from "the requisite ability and practical experience to carry out a competent examination of the accounts". Indeed, "anyone with basic book-keeping skills should be able to carry out the necessary work" (Practical Church Management, 4th Edition 2021). The person cannot be a PCC member, but may be a resident of the parish. We could, of course, employ a firm of accountants, but, since the church counts as a small charity, this is not required in our case, and would, anyway, involve unnecessary expense.

Richard Peaver

Hempstead

200 Club

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

Although, on the surface, all has seemed serene and quiet in the village over the last few weeks, several things have been going on - a Christening in the church, and in the village hall we've had several Crafty Creations sessions, Coffee & Catch-ups, Hempstead Music and Pilates. On the eastern outskirts of the village, the Hempstead bypass construction aka Hornsea 3 cable laying is gathering pace, laying bare huge swathes of fields.



Jonathan Neville
07836 675369



The Christening of Jack George Sanders and Shelby Ann Sanders took place on 30th April at All Saints Hempstead. Around 70 plus people attended, ranging in age from 7 weeks to 80 plus years. Reverend Canon David Longe officiated.

Hempstead Fete - Sunday 6th August

We need volunteers - your Village needs YOU! We are looking for cake makers, folk to help run a variety of stalls and a small army to help load and unload everything the day before. Anything you have

available in the way of bric-a-brac, books or prizes would be much appreciated too. Fete news and updates will always be on the Village Hall page of the website www.hempstead-norfolk.co.uk If you have any thoughts or queries do contact Jonathan Neville 07836 675369 jneville@hempstead-norfolk.co.uk or Lesley Lennox 07446 777660 lesley.lennox@project21.ltd.uk



Hempstead Crafty Creations

Mon 3rd 2pm to 4pm Topic: Sewing- Bunting / Thurs 20th 10am to Midday / Sat 29th 2pm to 4pm

The ladies have started a project in June to make new colourful bunting for the village. This will be making its debut at the Hempstead Village Summer Fete in August. Our very industrious crafters had a

great afternoon where the sewing machines whirred amongst the lively chatter for another fun packed afternoon. New crafters always welcome to join us at any of our meetings. Do contact Lesley Lennox 07446 777660 lesley.lennox@project21.ltd.uk or Moira Ratcliffe 07973 712829 grasshopper@fast-mail.net

Pilates

After a very well supported introductory class in June we will be starting a weekly Pilates class at Hempstead Village Hall from Monday 26th June at 5.15pm. Jane from Breathe Easy Pilates will be taking this group. Just turn up on the day, come along each week or just pop in when you can. £10 per session for pay as you go or £32 for a block of 4 classes. All abilities welcome just bring along a mat to use.

David Durst

David Durst passed away peacefully on Wednesday 21st June at Letheringsett Hall Care Home aged 100 and seven months. David's physical and emotional attachment to the village of Hempstead has been so strong for half a century, since moving into Marl pits in 1972 and continuing after he moved into Letheringsett Care Home in 2021 when sadly his health over-ruled his ability to stay at home. He was an active and enthusiastic member of the Hempstead community in both village and church affairs, serving on the PCC, thirty years as Church Treasurer, forty years recording Hempstead's weather, and at any opportunity up a ladder or entering into any activity going on, whatever it might be! Hempstead was his contentment; he was happy and proud to live there. There will be a memorial service at Hempstead Church on 1st August at 2.30pm.

Jenny Spencer-Jones, David's daughter

Plumstead

Church Wildlife

The wild patch in the churchyard has been looking lovely with a sea of cow parsley and a few champions. Some yellow rattle has been planted in the patch with the hope that it will gradually reduce the stronger grasses and plants. On Saturday 3rd June, 4 children, and a parent each, came with their magnifying glasses and hoops to search for bugs and record wild flowers in the churchyard. This was followed by a delightful picnic on the grass. The beginning of a bug hotel has been set up and is awaiting residents!



Harriet Rossi
577239

Pond Life Fridays - 5.30pm-6.30pm

With the dawning of some decent summery weather, Pond Life Fridays are back as of June 2023. Come along to Plumstead Village Pond, bring a drink and a nibble and have a relaxing catch-up. All are welcome, bring a fold-up chair if you want plus a bag for your rubbish. A great chance for a get-together at the end of the week to chat and enjoy each other's company.

Dates: July 7, 14, 21, 28 / August 4, 11, 18, 25 / Sep 1



Church Repairs

As far as the church repairs and the reordering work is concerned, we are awaiting builders' tenders and are applying for grants. The Duchy of Lancaster, the church's patron, has promised £5,000 so far – a good start. There will be a fund-raising effort in September, along with another floral event – ideas welcome.

Defibrillator Training – Plumstead

There are still a few places left for the defibrillator training at Baconsthorpe Village Hall at 7pm, on Tuesday 18 July. Please contact Steve Price 07895025261 if you wish to attend.

New Clerk for Plumstead Parish Council

At a meeting of Plumstead Parish Council on Thursday 1st June Maxine Hayes was appointed as the new clerk to the council. This was following a short period as interim clerk earlier in the year. We are very grateful to Maxine and look forward to working happily together for the benefit of the parish and community. She can be contacted on clerkplumsteadpc@gmail.com

Matlaske

100 Club Winners: £25 Julie Malabar, £10 Freda England, £ 5 Pip Dawkins

Parish Council

Many thanks to Richard Amis, who has now left his position on the Parish Council, for all his valuable input over the years. We know that he will continue to help out in the Village whenever he can.



Duncan Wood
570293

Coffee Morning

Come along on 5th July to our annual Coffee Morning which is held in the garden at the rear of Blacksmiths Cottage. There will be tea, coffee, savoury and sweet delights for you to enjoy. We will also be holding a raffle, any donations to this would be greatly appreciated. Look forward to seeing you all.

Matlaske Fete

Granny's attic is back at this year's fete. So now is the time to go through your cupboards. We would be grateful for donations of good quality bric-a-brac etc. Contact Cherry 577837 Cherrywestgate@hotmail.co.uk

Saxthorpe with Corpusty

Back with a Banger!

Last year's late summer hog roast on Corpusty village Green was so popular that planning for this year's event is already underway - but there will be a difference. After another hog roast to mark the King's coronation, this year's event will be a celebration of sausages. The Great September Sausage Sizzle will not only feature the traditional porky banger in its many guises, it will also serve up veggie and vegan versions that are now challenging for popularity at the dinner table. Put a date in your diary for Monday 4th September. The barbecues will be firing up in time for a 4pm start with a 6pm finish. The children's races and tug 'o war will be back, and the organisers have more ideas for the event, so look out for further details here and on notice boards.



John Birchall
584290

Marsham Belles Visit

The Marsham Belles handbell team are coming to St Andrew's Church on Wednesday 19th July for the 10am Coffee, Cake & Chat session. The group has been going for a number of years and have delighted audiences in many parts of Norfolk.

Meeting the funding challenges

Living with a glorious churches dating back hundreds of years brings both joys and challenges to the people who live with them. The latest report on the finances at St Andrew's Church has shown just how important new fund-raising activities will be in the months ahead. Costs have gone up, while people have found it hard to maintain contributions, with a projected deficit of up to £6,000 next year. Fortunately, there are a number of initiatives in train that should help close the gap. At St Andrew's the regular Wednesday morning Coffee, Cake and Chat sessions are providing a new social focus for the villages, as well as encouraging donations of over £250 since the beginning of May. Looking ahead, other social and fund-raising activities floated include a Harvest Supper, and a Christmas Tree, and next year Open Gardens and Allotments with a treasure trail. More on these as plans develop!

MATLASKE MUSIC and PIZZA IN THE PARK
Saturday 29th July 4.00pm-onwards
Barningham Hall Gate NR11 7AQ
FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY, LIVE MUSIC AND NO ENTRY FEE!
Follow us on facebook

GAMES
HOLT RIDGE
MORRIS
BAR

STALLS
TEAS
TOMBOLA
BBQ

*****PLEASE PRE-ORDER PIZZAS ...Margherita or Ham from matlaskepizza@gmail.com*****

THREESCORE
GRANNY'S
ATTIC
IS BACK!
RAFFLE

BRIAN & HARRY
FACE PAINTING
HOMEMADE
DESSERTS

Thanks, Mike!

Wildlife film produce Mike Linley packed out Corpusty Village Hall when he gave an illustrated talk covering 40 years of film-making. Organised by the Friends of Corpusty School, the talk raised £216 for outdoor maps on the playground wall.

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



July is the month of the year to get the most out of your garden... literally EVERYTHING is at full throttle, with abundance everywhere... what's not to love! Nearly the whole garden is at its best, the veg plot is running at max with a bounty of produce, the borders are a joyful profusion of flowers and it's (finally) warm enough to sit out in the garden at the end of the day. July has it all!

As I write this (in the middle of June) we have just seen our temperatures double in the past week. From thermals to heatstroke in the blink of an eye. Whilst the temperatures have been welcome, it has made the gardening experience somewhat more intense. I've found myself starting earlier and earlier in the morning, which in itself is an utter joy... catching the end of the dawn chorus has been magical – I even heard a cuckoo, something I have not heard for about six years here, which is encouraging. First thing in the morning is a great tip if you like me have found the evening gardening shift a bit too warm still. I have also divided the tasks that need doing into early morning ones and others that can be managed later with a good amount of shade. This has helped make the tasks that need doing feel much more enjoyable rather than a hot slog.

So first up is the greenhouse, most definitely an early morning task for me. Because of the fairly high temperatures we've been getting, it's worth making sure that your greenhouse has enough ventilation and being very strict with yourself with opening and shutting it every morning and night. Because we grow basil in amongst our tomatoes and aubergines and chillis I tend to water first thing in the morning so that the basil doesn't sulk if it's sat in water overnight. I then check over for any side shoots on my tomatoes and nip those out too. This time of year, you can practically see tomatoes growing, which is so reassuring after our long slow spring. I also start feeding the tomato plants as soon as the first truss of tomatoes have set.

Normally at this time of year we would be giving all our box balls a trim, however as there appears to be a lot of box caterpillars around (not here yet, touch wood) and because of how little rain we have had, we are holding off until September. The last thing your box plants need is to be trimmed when it's this dry, as basically the trimming can stress the plants and/or scorch the cut leaves which make them more susceptible to either box blight or box caterpillar. I for one would rather see a looser

shape to the box than a neatly trimmed box hedge besieged by blight. The final tip for this month (apart from 'keep deadheading' on repeat!) is to look out for mildew, especially on marigolds, roses, and courgettes. One way to rectify mildew is to ensure the plants are watered well when dry mulched when it is wet and if you take steps to improve the air circulation around the plants by removing excess foliage you can really make a difference.

Before this month's question, we would both like to thank everyone who came along to the NGS Open Gardens at Blickling Lodge at the end of May. We had a beautiful day with a record-breaking number of visitors. 678 of you turned out on a lovely sunny afternoon. Thank you!

Finally, this month's question is from Hannah Smith, who asks why she is struggling to get her parsley seeds to germinate. Parsley seeds are tricky and with a notoriously long germination time, this is partly because the seeds are coated with a germination inhibitor (helpful!) so one way round this is to gently soak your seeds the day before planting then dry them out on a piece of kitchen towel before sowing, they should germinate a lot quicker. Good Luck!

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

History Watch – Robert Walpole - A Norfolk Unworthy?

Arthur Pentney



Let's assume that in that *Pointless* TV programme, 100 people are given 100 seconds to name as many famous Norfolk people as possible. Nelson would surely top the list; feminists might go for Elizabeth Fry or Harriet Martineau; those with a social conscience might vote in George Edwards and Annie Higdon; but none, I wager, would name Robert Walpole. Result? A pointless answer has been achieved!

Why so? Here is a man who was our first and longest serving prime minister: surely this fact merits recognition? Well, perhaps not. Long service alone does not in itself bring acclaim, even 300 years later.

Robert Walpole was born into a wealthy family and allowed wealth and power to accompany him to Westminster as MP for Lynn. Insider knowledge allowed him to buy shares cheaply in the South Sea Company, an odious outfit linked to the slave trade. He then sold those shares at their height, at 100% profit, before – inevitably – the bubble burst, and thousands of other investors were left penniless. The proceeds allowed “Bob of Lynn” to build that grand edifice Houghton Hall, razing the existing village to the ground to obtain an unimpeded view from the house.

Walpole rose to the highest office via Paymaster to the Forces, First Lord of the Treasury, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and then Leader of the House of Commons. He represented the Whig (Liberal) party, but displayed all the dubious traits usually attributed to his Tory opponents – so much so, that they tried to get him to jump ship and join them, but without success.

Bribery, blackmail and insider trading were evident during his time in office, which led to accusations of him selling his services of power and being corrupt. For this he was impeached and spent six months in the Tower, but if anything, this enhanced his standing, making it appear that he was a martyr to the cause.

His tenure as Prime Minister was fortified by having the ear of both Hanoverian kings, George I and George II, together with the friendship of Queen Caroline. Those monarchs favoured Walpole and distrusted the Tories, believing them to be Jacobite sympathisers wanting the Stuart dynasty reinstated.

Despite his somewhat dubious reputation, Walpole was honoured in 2011 when his portrait appeared on a first-class stamp. The Royal Mail in their coverage of the issue spoke rather kindly of him: "Because of his homely ways and strong Norfolk roots, he was often known to friends and detractors as 'The Fat Old Squire of Norfolk'."

Perhaps we should let it rest there!

Clash Diary - to add event contact Corinne Youngs 577263/ corinne@avyoungs.com

| | | | |
|----------|------------------------------|---------|----------------------------|
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| Aug 6 | Hempstead Fete | Oct 7/8 | Edgefield Craft Fair |
| Sept 2/3 | Hempstead Arts | Oct 21 | Edgefield The Samphires |
| Sept 4 | Corpusty Sausage Sizzle | Nov 11 | Baconthorpe Craft Fair |
| Sept 30 | Edgfield Retro Disco | Dec 3 | Matlaske Christmas Party |
| Oct 6 | Saxthorpe Harvest Supper | Dec 8 | Baconthorpe Christmas Quiz |



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