

Church & Village News

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

September 2022



Chinook Low Flying Over Baconsthorpe
Photograph by Norman Allen

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safeguarding@dioceseofnorwich.org or
01603 882345

What's On

SEPTEMBER

Sat 3	10.00am	Hempstead Arts	Village Hall
Sun 4	10.00am	Hempstead Arts	Village Hall
Fri 9	10.30am	Hempstead Coffee & Catch-Up	Village Hall
Fri 9	7.00pm	Matlaske Quiz Night	Barningham Hall
Sat 10	9.00am	Norfolk Churches Trust Annual Bike Ride	All Villages
Sat 10	6.30pm	Edgefield Thai Evening	Village Hall
Sat 24	10.00am	Baconsthorpe Table Top Sale	Village Hall
Sat 24	11.00am	Corpusty Back in Time Event	Village Hall
Fri 30	6.00pm	Baconsthorpe Pop-Up Pub	Village Hall

Clash Diary

Oct 1 Corpusty Coffee Morning
Oct 15 Edgefield Quiz
Oct 22 Plumstead Dahlia Festival until Oct 29
Dec 3 Corpusty Coffee Morning
Dec 4 Matlaske Christmas Party
Dec 10 Edgefield Festive Evening

Holt Library

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

Post Offices

Baconsthorpe Mobile Post Office Van
Wednesdays 10.00am Village Hall

Corpusty Stores 587726
Monday-Friday 9.00am – 12.00noon

Itteringham Shop 587325
Monday + Thursday 9.00am-1.00pm

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>

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.

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

Mobile Library Van

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

22 Sept / 20 Oct / 17 Nov
Hempstead 3.40 NR25 6TL Telephone kiosk
Baconsthorpe 4.05 NR25 6LE Hare & Hounds
4.20 NR25 6LG Old Post Office
4.40 NR25 6LJ Council Bungalows
Times and dates sourced from Norfolk County website: <https://bit.ly/2AJdSGA>

Letter from Judy Rosser, Benefice Assistant Curate

Dear Friends

As I write today in mid-August, we are at the end of the second heatwave and longing for rain. So many weeks of drought and extreme temperatures. I hope by the time this reaches your letter box, our parched gardens and rivers have been refreshed and restored. I am reminded of a verse from Psalm 63:

O God, you are my God, I seek you,
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

We have certainly had a summer like no other, including a dramatic field fire close to where I live, along the Heydon Road and in other spots around the Benefice. Hopefully, there has been endless happy opportunity for swimming in the sea at our local beaches to compensate for our 'dry and weary' land. I suspect many have not been happy with the drought and all its environmental implications. We have all had to dig deep in ourselves to find water for refreshment and to safeguard against early fading.

This scorching summer has been a time of adjustment for us all and for myself to additional new roles and responsibilities. Being ordained in June, at Norwich Cathedral and now working as a chaplain at Kings Lynn's Queen Elizabeth Hospital, alongside ministry in our Benefice. The hospital is small and friendly for patients and staff alike. I have witnessed so many acts of love and tenderness towards others, at the peak of the heat. It is truly inspirational to be reminded of the abundance of human goodness and kindness in our communities and the wider world.

Sometimes, it is hard to remain upbeat about our world when there is so much war, famine, illness, disaster and worries about money.

When I am in need of comfort and rejuvenation, I bike up to St Peter's Church Corpusty, to relish both the vista and the Art and Memory exhibition of remembrance stones, which are full of truths and wisdom. They are well worth a proper look, as are the chapel ruins of the Mannington Estate. There is a large and striking locally hand forged crucifix in the square chancel amidst the beauty of the ancient stonework and tranquil environs. All truly restorative for the mind, body and spirit.

These closing words of the poet John O'Donohue are heartfelt, hopeful and worthy of reflection.

FOR PEACE

As the fever of the day calms towards twilight
may all that is strained in us come to ease.

We pray for all who suffered violence today,
May an unexpected serenity surprise them.

For those who risk their lives each day for peace.
May their hearts glimpse providence at the heart of history.

That those who make riches from violence and war
Might hear in their dreams the cries of the lost.

With every blessing

That we might see through our fear of each other
A new vision to heal our fatal attraction to aggression.

That those who enjoy the privilege of peace
Might not forget their tormented brothers and sisters.

That the wolf might lie down with the lamb,
That our swords be beaten into ploughshares.

And no hurt or harm be done
Anywhere along the holy mountain*

Judy

* from *BENEDICTUS: A Book of BLESSINGS* (Bantam Press)



The Benefice of Matlaske Church Services for September

4 th Sept Trinity XII		
8.30am	Eucharist	Hempstead
10.30am	Eucharist With blessings for the new path	Plumstead
4.30pm	Back Pack Blessing Service with Tea	Edgefield
5 th Monday Hog Roast		
4.30pm	Hog Roast with Vegan Option and Races	Corpusty Village Green
11 th Trinity XIII		
8.30am	Eucharist	Matlaske
10.30am	Eucharist	Saxthorpe
18 th Trinity XIV		
8.30am	Eucharist	Plumstead
10.30am	Eucharist	Baconsthorpe
25 th Trinity XV		
10.30am	Eucharist	Barningham Winter
5.00pm	Evensong	Edgefield
Wednesday 7 th September 9.00am Eucharist Saxthorpe followed by refreshments		

Benefice Harvest Festival



Sunday 2nd October - 5pm
Hempstead Church

Harvest Supper - 6pm
Hempstead Village Hall

Please let us know if you can join us for supper 577263



Support The Norfolk Churches Trust
Sponsored Bike, Walk, Drive...

Saturday 10th September 2022
9.00 am - 5.00 pm

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

Baconsthorpe

200 Club

£50 R Youngs, £25 J Benton, £10 R Hall, £5 S Wilson, R Honeyman, R Hall

Fête

On July 23 the sun shone and the crowds came armed with notes and coins eager to spend and enjoy the day. Two years have passed since the last fête and it was wonderful to see all the stalls opening up again. The Queen again put in an appearance complete with the important handbag; there was such a rush to the bric-a-brac stall that Jane could hardly keep up. Almost all the tombola prizes were won and a huge colander was needed to hold the raffle tickets. The village hall committee would like to thank everyone who prepared the hall; manned a stall; donated items; prepared refreshments and especially all those who came to enjoy the day. The grand total was £1,875.56! All fête paraphernalia has now been safely packed away into the posh new shed until next year.

Important Message from English Heritage

English Heritage has temporarily closed visitor access to the inner bailey of Baconsthorpe Castle while works are undertaken on the inner gate house. They apologise for any inconvenience caused and hope to reopen access in the autumn. Until then access is limited to the grassy area around the outer gatehouse.

Important Message from the Parish Council

Following the annual safety inspection of the play area in March, the parish council were advised that there should be a 'No Dogs' sign at the entrance to the play area to remind people of the UK guidelines which state that dogs should not be in play areas with the exception of guide or assistance dogs. A sign was put up but it is disappointing that some residents are ignoring it. Please do not take your dogs into the play area for their exercise as this is unacceptable. The village has so many footpaths and other areas where you can take your dog.

Village Hall News

We now have a lovely new shed at the Village Hall, for all our storage needs. Many thanks to Tom, Rick, Jonathan and John for their help in clearing the old sheds away and preparing the site.

Many thanks also to all of you that helped out at the fête on 23 July and to those of you who attended. It was a great success.

Table Top Sale – Saturday 24 September 10am – 1pm - £8 a table

Book a table to sell your goodies/unwanted items or just come along to get some bargains. Call Jane Warner on 07789 001094 to book a table. Tea and coffee available on the day.

Pop-Up Pub – Friday 30 September Cottage Pie is on the menu

Food is served from 6.30pm on a first come, first served basis. Please remember that the food is cooked and served by volunteers. Your kindness and support are appreciated.

Quiz Night – date in December to be confirmed, watch this space

200 Club – we still have some numbers available. A monthly top prize of £50 is there to win for just a £1 per month subscription



Hazel Martin
07879 414577

Piers Warner

Barningham Winter

Thank you to everyone who helped with the fête at the end of July in Matlaske. A really enjoyable and relaxed time was had by all, with good music, delicious pizzas and barbeques all washed down with beer, Pimm's and wine.

Well done to Dick and Debbie Fiddian who welcomed around 250 people into their garden at Upwood Farm in August. I have heard lots of glowing praise for how lovely the garden looked and how hard they both must have worked to keep everything looking in top condition during this dry, dry time.



Sara Buxton
577207

Edgefield

Children's Backpack Blessing Service

Backpack Blessing Service

Sunday 4th September

Edgefield Church

4.30pm start



Please bring your backpack

A simple gathering of those returning to nursery/school or work, to bless their backpack, lunchbox or tool case.

Including - Singing, prayer, activity and blessing followed by sandwich tea

The church has a loo, good parking & access.

Text 07941 985 635 re food allergies

We are trying something new. Following on from two successful children's events, we are offering a family-focused Sunday afternoon blessing service. This marks the new academic year and blesses all those fresh starts. See the details in the notice, and if you could indicate if you plan to come along, it will make preparing sandwiches so much easier. Thank you,



Richard Peaver
587486

Kay Harvey

Edgefield Parish Council

We are very pleased to have had the Silver Jubilee bench restored recently, which sits next to the silver birch by the pond. I can also report that we have had four successful evenings of pond maintenance, clearing the village pond of assorted reeds, etc. It has been nice to have seen many new faces joining in. We are very grateful for the help. Please look out for details of future evenings, as there is still much to do.

Mark Cook

Norfolk Churches Trust Annual Bike Ride and Walk

This event takes place on Saturday 10th September, and is a great way to raise money for your local church and others in need of restoration and repair. If you would like to join in by riding, walking, welcoming visitors to Edgefield Church for an hour or two, or sponsoring those taking part, please get in touch with Alison Mawson: 01263 587236.

Village Hall News

A reminder that our next event is a Quiz Night on Saturday, 15th October, at 7.00pm. £2.50 per head or £10 per team of 4. Tickets via request on our FB page or from me on 07946 854901. There will be a licensed bar and prizes! July's 200 Club winners were: 1st Dan Sa, 2nd Josie Manson and 3rd Vanessa Pascan.

Jim Frost

Thai Evening
10th September 6-8pm
Pad Thai Noodles with chicken or vegetarian
or
Massaman Curry with chicken or vegetarian
Vanilla Ice Cream with Fresh Fruit Salad
Please book a table and pre-book your meal choice
call Mike on 07729 972386

It is always charming to see and hear the Morris Dancers, whose music and dance conjures up the pastoral spirit of Olde England, and yet shows such a grasp of intricate patterns that it puts me in mind of the signallers outside Liverpool Street Station. It was great to see Matlaske folk having a go at the Morris dancing themselves without anyone having to call an ambulance for them!



The singers performed brilliantly in their various styles, both male and female. It is so pleasant to listen to such local talent. A nice touch was the performance of a John Denver song for Derek and Freda. Karen's performance with her backing group was hugely entertaining. Karen's voice has a rich contralto tone, but I am at a loss to describe those of her backers. Karen & the Banshees? No, that's unkind. Karen & Her Happy Oscillators? Actually I hear they're called Karen & The Tomcats! Whatever, it was very funny and a nice touch. Speaking as a lazy beggar who just turns up, eats, drinks and laughs, I congratulate everyone, from tent erectors to stall-holders to performers, on their hard work and success in making this fête such a fun community event. Well done!

Quiz Night

It's the first quiz night after Covid on 9th September. Come along to The Old Stables, Barningham Hall at 7pm and join Quiz Master Jim for a fun evening, enjoy a drink and filled baked potato. Entrance fee £5, maximum of 6 people per team. Book your table by e-mail to jim.shepherd123@btinternet.com or call 577521. If anyone could donate a raffle prize it would be greatly appreciated.

Congratulations

We are delighted to confirm that our resident and church warden Duncan Wood has been elected as an Associate Fellow of The Royal Historical Society (founded in 1868). The Fellows are mainly professional historians but Duncan has been recognised for his superb contributions to historical learning and not least in his excellent books *History of Matlaske, Volumes 1-3* and *Volumes 1 and 2 on Westwood Moravian Church in Oldham*. All are still available on Amazon UK. Matlaske is very fortunate to have had its history documented in such an accessible and interesting manner by Duncan, as his books will serve generations to come. They preserve lives, stories and environments long forgotten and without his research, diligence and eye for storytelling, some of the history may have been lost forever. Congratulations Duncan on this well-deserved honour and as villagers of Matlaske, we thank you for all your hard work and commitment to our local community.



Plumstead

Farewell and Welcome to the Village

We bid Alastair and Julie Brown farewell as they move out of Plumstead and thank them very much for their many contributions to the village over the years. We wish them well in their new home.



Harriet Rossi
577239

We also wish a very warm welcome to Larry and Michelle who have moved in to Field View in Cherry Tree Road, we look forward to meeting them once they have settled in and wish them all the best in their new home.

Work at St Michael's Churchyard

Following analysis of the ground in the area where the hedge was to be planted it has been decided that as the bank consists almost entirely of sand there will be no chance of a hedge successfully taking root. The working party has therefore been called off. Thanks to Brian Faulkner and David Ramsbotham for their efforts which have led to this conclusion.

Pumpkins & Dahlias in the Church

Our Pumpkin & Dahlia event will run from Saturday 22nd to Saturday 29th October. Look out for further details in the next newsletters. In the meantime, please let Catherine McMahon know if you are interested in contributing in any way. We use the event to raise money for the church through the sale of cakes, jams, crafts and books and so on.

Sponsored Cycle Ride

The annual cycle ride is due to take place on 10th September. Several people have already volunteered to help out with this so if anyone else would like to get involved please contact Eleanor Faulkner for more details on faulnereleanor@gmail.com.

Church Path Blessing and Memorial Service for Thomas Wormald

We are very much looking forward to this service on 4 September at 10.30 am when we will remember and give thanks for Thomas Wormald, who gave so much to the church and village, including most recently the wonderful new path. This will be blessed during the service and refreshments will follow. Do come along if you can.

Monday Morning Coffee at St Michael's

These morning chats continue every Monday at 10.30am, please do drop in. As well as the crafts and books on sale we now offer jams and jellies as well.

Saxthorpe with Corpusty

Your New Village Correspondent

This is my first contribution to *Church & Village News*, and on behalf of everyone I must first give heartfelt thanks to Sophia and Guy Hodgson, who made sure that news from Saxthorpe with Corpusty has appeared without fail through some particularly difficult times. To introduce myself, I have lived in the far reaches of Corpusty at Moor Corner for some 27 years. I confess to a background in journalism, having worked on the EDP for quite a few years. I changed from



John Birchall
584290

poacher to gamekeeper when I became Norfolk County Council's first press officer. A varied career at County Hall ended with managing communications during construction of the NDR, and I then had a couple of years on the much bigger A14 improvement around Cambridge. Here at Moor Corner, I am creating a wildlife haven in our garden (that's my excuse), while trying to grow at least some fruit and veg and keep a few rescue chickens. My wife Christine and I also keep bees, although don't claim to be experts. Things would be better if the bees read the right books - but every now and then we manage to get some honey. News items can be sent to me at birchalljc@aol.com

Corpusty & Saxthorpe Village Hall - better paper and clothes recycling!

The Village Hall has a newly refurbished paper bank bin on site (it's the blue bin in the parking lot). The Village Hall via its committee receives credits for the paper collected from the bin and those credits are exchanged for money with Norfolk County Council. We all have green bins for paper but if you have an excess or want to help the Village Hall, please place your unwanted paper (no cardboard) in the bin. There is also a separate purple bin from SCOPE for unwanted clothes and shoes. That bin will be soon replaced with an extra-large newly refurbished metal black bin. Do not hesitate to put your unwanted clothes and shoes in that bin. PLEASE, try and put your items in the bin and not in separate plastic bags placed next to the bin. Generally, only the items inside the bin are cleared when the truck comes to empty it. Many thanks.

Garden Event supports N&N Hospital Charity



Photo shows people enjoying themselves in Carol's garden

A Music in My Garden event held at her home in Little London by Carol Edwards raised £450 for the Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital Charity. It is 250 years since the N&N received its first patient, and the charity supports patients and staff. The event in Carol's garden was organised with the help of Maureen Chapman and Terry Bunting, with music provided by Terry's band Small Talk. It was a very successful day, with between 80-100 people attending, together raising £450.53p for the charity. Carol would like to thank everyone for coming and giving so generously. This is the second year Carol has opened her garden for such an event. Last year it was so people could celebrate coming through the first year of the pandemic.

Village Hall Diary Dates

The village hall's 'Back in Time' village history event on Saturday 24th September will include two showings (11.30am and 1pm) of a North Norfolk Productions audio-visual presentation exploring the past of the two villages and the surrounding area. The event, open from 3pm (not 4pm as

Corpusty and Saxthorpe Village Hall Committee and North Norfolk Productions proudly present...

Back In Time

A history of the villages and surrounding area

Exhibitions featuring...

- An extensive catalogue of photos
- Railway heritage
- Metal detectorists
- Old style games

And the main attraction...

A North Norfolk Productions large screen audio visual presentation revisiting and recounting the past of the two villages and the surrounding area.

Two showings, 11.30am & 1pm

Corpusty and Saxthorpe Village Hall
 Saturday 24th Sept - 11am-3pm
 Free Entry
 Craft Stalls - Refreshments available - Raffle

previously listed) and also includes a railway exhibition, metal detectors' display, lots of photographs, old-time games, refreshments, raffle and stalls.

The committee is running bi-monthly coffee mornings on the first Saturday of the month at the hall. The next two are on 1 October and 3 December. As well as coffee, tea and cake the October event will also have plants and books on sale, and the December one will include a Christmas wreath workshop.

1st Corpusty & Saxthorpe Brownies

We enjoyed a fun summer term of meetings doing plenty of outdoor activities and earning the Grow Your Own badge. We joined other Brownies and Guides from Aylsham District at a camp at Hautbois Activity Centre where we had a go at lots of challenges, got very wet building and testing rafts, sang songs around the campfire and tried to sleep in tents. Meetings start again on Tuesday 6th September and will be every Tuesday in termtime 5.45-7.15pm at Corpusty Village Hall. We have spaces and would welcome any

girls age 7-10 years who would like to join us for games, crafts, a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities and plenty of fun. We are also looking for new adult helpers so if you are over 18, and would like to find out more about volunteering for a challenging but rewarding and enjoyable role, please get in touch. Contact Alison Mawson (Brownie Leader) by email alisonmawson@hotmail.com or phone 587236 or mobile 07802619603

Future of Saxthorpe Church Survey

A survey on the future of Saxthorpe Church brought 41 responses and revealed strong support for keeping the church in use, with suggestions on widening the range of activities. Reasons given for visiting St Andrews were headed by key family events such as weddings, christenings and funerals, while other common uses were for community events, regular services, bell ringing and maintenance of the building. Some people valued the church as an ancient building, its peace and quiet and place in local history. Suggestions for expanding its use included concerts and films, keep fit, community classes and a cafe - although it was pointed out that these should not be at the expense of things already held in the Village Hall.

Lack of a toilet was seen as the biggest obstacle to expanded use - mentioned by 19 people - while uncomfortable seating and poor heating were also raised. The PCC has agreed that ways of providing a toilet should be looked into again, and that any new uses should not compete with the Village Hall. Many thanks to all who took part, and to Duncan Wood for his work on the survey.

The Village Gardener

To Plant a Garden is to Believe in Tomorrow



I have more than a slight sense of déjà vu as I write September's article as we are yet again in the middle of another heatwave. The lawnmower has not moved out of the garage for weeks and elements of the garden are looking very sorry for themselves. However, I have been watering certain areas of the garden as I have been very concerned about the wildlife we (sort of) share the garden with. About two weeks ago we discovered one poorly baby hedgehog out during the day and looking very sorry for himself and a few days later another one turned up also in a muddle. We took both the baby hedgehogs to a hedgehog rescue place

in Aylsham. Richard who runs the hedgehog rescue there said he had been absolutely inundated with baby hedgehogs, saying that the hot weather had impacted both their food levels and also that they were struggling to get enough water. Both ours were undernourished and dehydrated. I would urge anyone who thinks they might have hedgehogs in their garden to leave a largish but shallow dish of water out and to keep it topped up and to also consider putting up a hedgehog feeding station. These can be quite straight forward to construct and could make a big difference whilst the ground is too dry and hard for normal feeding. We have kept the walled garden watered and it is gratifying to go in there and hear several blackbirds happily scuttling about I am guessing the easier ground is making all the difference!

Now back to gardening and I am hoping by the time September kicks in things will be somewhat easier, for September is normally such a beautiful busy month, with possibly the loveliest light of the whole year. There is also both a strong sense of transition and also of completion in both the vegetable and fruit garden with lots of fruit and veg to harvest. We have put an honesty stall down the bottom of our drive just for our (very limited) surplus bits and bobs (This is NOT an Ad!) And whilst arranging it one morning I had a charming memory of helping my Nana when I was small decorating our chapel for the harvest service, admittedly the memory was mainly prompted by the amount of surplus courgettes and marrows I was trying to arrange nicely on the stall - something I very much remember trying to do with her - however, there is a limit to how decorative a marrow can be as I recall! Back to the harvest, do take time to harvest your produce well, if you have lots of spare apples and if they are unblemished wrap them in paper and store in boxes in a cool dry place, if blemished then don't store but instead cook and freeze. In the greenhouse keep feeding your tomatoes until they have finished fruiting completely. Any tomatoes that are still green and who won't ripen in time can be made into chutney, I have a really delicious recipe that I will pop in the article next month. In the flower garden keep dead heading to prolong the show for as long as possible. This is especially true with Dahlias who will keep producing like engines if you keep picking and deadheading. I have just recently invested in a pair of ergo snips for deadheading and I've been totally thrilled with them. They are light enough to not be a drag like normal secateurs can be, sharp and well-shaped so it's much easier to deadhead properly and cleanly and finally as they are sprung it's so much quicker which means you can get a lot more dead heading done in a lot less time and it feels so much less of a chore.

This month's question comes from Scott who asks what the trick is to growing coriander without bolting? A very good question, Scott! One that frustrates me regularly - I have almost given up growing this particular herb even though it is one of my favourites in the kitchen, but I did read just recently that the answer is to sow coriander in September and that you then should be able to cut and come again to April and May (I am presuming with some cover during the colder months). To be honest that seems like a really big ask, but my irritation at expensive teeny tiny bunches of coriander that seem to go nasty pretty instantly from the supermarket, means I will take up this challenge and report back! Finally, we would like to thank Lesley and Andrew Rainsford for their great email on containers for courgettes, which was really fascinating! Thank you both very much 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

Remembering Colin (Matthews)

Jonathan Cooper



Colin Matthews, well known and loved by all who knew him, sadly passed away on 29th May, aged 75. Colin married Ros in August 1967 and moved into Hempstead in 1977 after building his bungalow the previous year. Having served his apprenticeship with John Allison, Colin started his own business in 1968, later to be joined by his son, Guy. Colin, who was renowned for resolving plumbing problems at any hour during the day (or night) would always respond to anyone in trouble. Known as a cheerful figure around the village, Colin could be seen each year manning the Bowling for a Pig stall at the fête.

Colin's funeral at Cromer Crematorium was exceptionally well attended with over 100 people standing outside to hear many heartwarming tributes and stories from his life. Colin first water skied at the age of 16 and for the last time at the age of 74. He was known to be certainly one of the best water skiers in the area and usually frequented Morston, where, as requested, his ashes were sprinkled by his son Guy whilst skiing in tribute on a sunny afternoon in August.

If we all had a friend like Colin, the world would be a better place.

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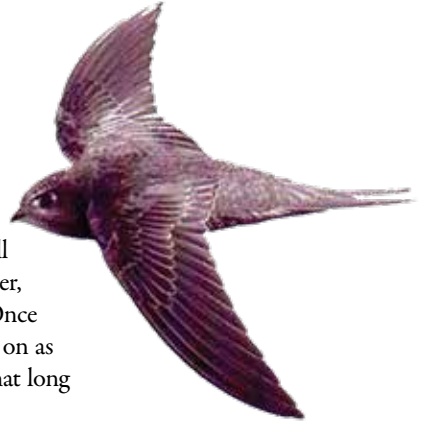
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Nature Watch – Swifts – Apus Apus

Arthur Pentney

These small, delightful birds are unique: they can fly at 70 mph in level flight, spend most of their lives in the air, travel 14,000 miles in a year to visit the UK, and – sadly – they are now yet another endangered species in decline.

To spot a swift you need to look up high in the sky. They do everything up there: feeding, sleeping, mating, bathing, and even collecting nest-making materials. These are all done on the wing. Arriving here from Africa in early summer, they will choose an old building to make their nest in. Once the young birds have fledged, they need to get their skates on as by August both they and their parents must prepare for that long journey back to Africa.



An interesting phenomenon concerning swifts is their so-called 'screaming parties'. I was fortunate to witness one of these myself a few years ago, a never-to-be-forgotten experience. Dozens of swifts swoop down together at high speed, making loud screeching noises at the same time. The reason for this unusual behaviour has never been fully explained.

Being insect eaters, the swift's decline has been caused by herbicides and insecticides. This decline has been rapid: their numbers have halved in the last twenty years.

The bird's swept-back wing format was copied by designers in the late 1940s to enable an aircraft to finally break through the sound barrier. One such world record air speed holder was the aptly named Supermarine Swift, but our bird had evolved that 'go faster' idea some millennia ago. Nature, eh?



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