

# Church & Village News

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

September 2023



**Steam-powered cars fill-up with water on Saxthorpe & Corpusty Bridge**

Photograph by Carol Brown

## Newsletter Team

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

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

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## Parish Council Chairs

Baconsthorpe	Jonathan Cooper	577527
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](http://www.baconsthorpe.org)  
[www.hempstead-norfolk.co.uk](http://www.hempstead-norfolk.co.uk)  
[www.plumstead.org.uk](http://www.plumstead.org.uk)



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## Village Correspondents

<b>Baconsthorpe</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> jneville@hempstead-norfolk.co.uk	<b>Jonathan Neville</b> 07836 675369
<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> birchalljc@aol.com	<b>John Birchall</b> 584290

## District Councillors

Corpusty, Edgefield, Saxthorpe  
Andrew Brown 07970 298695  
[andrew.brown@north-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.brown@north-norfolk.gov.uk)  
Baconsthorpe, Hempstead, Matlaske & Barningham, Plumstead  
Dr Pierre Bütikofer 838306  
[Pierre.Butikofer@north-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:Pierre.Butikofer@north-norfolk.gov.uk)

## Church People

**Rector** Reverend Canon David Longe 577252  
**Assistant Curate** Reverend Judy Rosser 587584  
**Authorised Worship Assistant** Prof Alain Wolf 577292  
**Church Wardens**  
Baconsthorpe Hazel Martin 07879 414577  
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 Corp Lesley Last 587782  
Jill Perry-Warnes 584 221

**Safeguarding Officers**  
Catherine McMahon  
01263 577357 / [cmcmahon161@gmail.com](mailto:cmcmahon161@gmail.com)  
Lawrence Williams  
01263 577292 / [trustlawrence@hotmail.com](mailto:trustlawrence@hotmail.com)

Safeguarding concerns please contact the Police on 999 or Diocese of Norwich Safeguarding Team [safeguarding@dioceseofnorwich.org](mailto:safeguarding@dioceseofnorwich.org) or 01603 882345

## What's On

### SEPTEMBER

Fri 1 5.30am	<b>Plumstead Pond Life</b>	Village Pond
Sat 2 10.00am	<b>Hempstead Arts</b>	Village Hall
Sun 3 10.00am	<b>Hempstead Arts</b>	Village Hall
Mon 4 2.00pm	<b>Hempstead Crafty Creations</b>	Village Hall
Mon 4 4.00pm	<b>Corpusty Sausage Sizzle</b>	All villages
Sat 9 10.00am	<b>Norfolk Churches Trust Bike Ride</b>	All villages
Thurs 21 10.00am	<b>Hempstead Crafty Creations</b>	Village Hall
Sat 23 10.00am	<b>Plumstead Michaelmas Fair until Sat 30</b>	St Michael's Church
Fri 29 10.00am	<b>North Barningham McMillan Coffee Morning</b>	Green Farm
Fri 29 10.00am	<b>Baconsthorpe Pop-Up Pub</b>	Village Hall
Sat 30 2.00pm	<b>Hempstead Crafty Creations</b>	Village Hall
Sat 30 7.00pm	<b>Edgefield Retro Disco</b>	Village Hall

## Clash Diary - to add event contact Corinne Youngs 577263/ [corinne@avyoungs.com](mailto:corinne@avyoungs.com)

Oct 6 Saxthorpe Harvest Supper	Oct 28-29 Hempstead Craft Market
Oct 6 Matlaske Quiz	Nov 11 Baconsthorpe Craft Fair
Oct 7-8 Edgefield Craft Fair	Dec 3 Matlaske Christmas Party
Oct 14 Baconsthorpe Murder Mystery	Dec 8 Baconsthorpe Christmas Quiz
Oct 21 Edgefield The Samphires	

## 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](mailto:duncan@duncanbaker.org.uk) [www.duncanbaker.org.uk](http://www.duncanbaker.org.uk)  
Monday - Friday 9am – 5pm 01692 557140

## County Councillor

Steffan Aquarone  
[steffan.aquarone.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto: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

**26 October / 23 November / 21 December**

Matlaske 12:40 NR11 7AQ	Old Post Office
Plumstead 13:00 NR11 7LG	Walnut Farm
Baconsthorpe 14:30 NR25 6LJ	Council Bungalows
	14:55 NR25 6LE Hare & Hounds
Hempstead 15:05 NR25 6TL	Telephone kiosk
Edgefield 15:45 NR24 2AL	The Memorial
	16:10 NR24 2AX The Street
Corpusty 16:35 NR11 7BU	Great Farm Cotts

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

Dear All

Martin Scorsese's 2016 film *Silence* based on the Japanese author Shūsaku Endō's book of the same name is harrowing. It traces the story of the arrival of Christianity in Japan and I believe poses important questions for us to consider, such as: What do we value in this life? What is freedom? What might we be prepared to die for?

We may think these questions are irrelevant, but I disagree. We only need to consider what is around us, as we look at the fires devastating communities over the summer to the restrictions imposed on women in Afghanistan, to realise these questions deeply matter shaping our context and our future.

Such was the rapid growth of Christianity in Japan in the 17th Century that the authorities banned it in 1614. Yet as the ban didn't stem the growth, the authorities introduced *Fumie*: converts were made to trample on brass images of Jesus or Mary (see image above).

*Fumie* became an annual practice, even for those who were ill or Buddhist monks. Refusal led to torture, including being suspended upside down over a pit of excrement with a small incision made in their heads, until agreeing to trample on Christ. Some who denied Christ later repented and became known as *Kakure Kirishitan* (hidden Christians).

In *Silence*, Rodrigues, a Jesuit priest, hearing that his mentor, Ferreira, has apostasised (denied Christ) is determined to go to Japan. On arriving he and a colleague meet Christians who for decades have kept the faith and are delighted to have a priest in their midst. The authorities learn of the two priests, and so torture and kill the parishioners, before the priests themselves are captured.

Rather than physically torture Rodrigues, he is made to listen and watch the torture of his parishioners and to meet Ferreira, who urges also him to deny Christ. Eventually as Rodrigues raises his foot on the *fumie* a/Christ's voice speaks: "Trample! Trample! I more than anyone know of the pain in your foot. Trample! It was to be trampled on by men that I was born into this world. It was to share men's pain that I carried my cross." As he rests his foot the cock crows (read: Matthew 26:69-75).

Later, Rodrigues now married and a practicing Buddhist, is writing tracts against Christianity with Ferreira. He dies and Scorsese provides an image of the dead Rodrigues holding a small cross. Was he a hidden Christian?

Having begun with 3 questions, I close with two more to ponder:

1. What do you think about those who did not deny their faith yet were tortured and died, and many doing so to protect Rodrigues?
2. Where was God in the midst of all of this (where was Emmanuel, God with us)? When the ban on Christianity was lifted in 1873, 20,000 Christians were found (there are 1.92m today – c. 1-1/5% of the populous). However had everyone been martyred Christianity would have died too.

For me, praying for those who are suffering and those who face persecution is essential.

With my prayers for all in this beautiful place,



*Fumie*

David



## The Benefice of Matlaske Church Services for September

<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sept Trinity XIII</b>		
10.30am	Eucharist	Baconsthorpe
5.00pm	Evensong	Matlaske
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday</b>		
10.30am	Children's craft event	Edgefield
<b>9<sup>th</sup> Saturday</b>		
Norfolk Churches Bike Ride		
<b>10<sup>th</sup> Trinity XIV</b>		
8.30am	Eucharist	Baconsthorpe
10.30am	Eucharist	Barningham Winter
<b>17<sup>th</sup> Trinity XV</b>		
8.30am	Eucharist	Plumstead
10.30am	Eucharist	Edgefield
<b>24<sup>th</sup> Sept Trinity XVI</b>		
8.30am	Eucharist	Saxthorpe
10.30am	Eucharist	Hempstead
4.00pm	Children & Family Service	Edgefield
<b>30<sup>th</sup> Saturday</b>		
4.00pm	Angels and Harvest	Plumstead
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Oct Trinity XVII</b>		
10.30am	Eucharist	Matlaske
5.00pm	Harvest Festival	Edgefield
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Trinity XVIII</b>		
8.30am	Eucharist	Barningham Winter
10.30am	Eucharist	Plumstead
Coffee: Plumstead Church, 10.30am every Monday Morning		
Coffee Cake & Chat: Saxthorpe Church, every Wednesday 10-11am		



## Baconsthorpe

### 200 Club

£50 R Hall, £25 P Hall, £10 J Regis, £5 H Steel, £5 M Cooper, £5 R Hall

### Church News

At evensong at St Mary's Church on August 6<sup>th</sup> the wedding banns were read to announce the impending marriage of two couples from Baconsthorpe. The service was followed with a drink to wish them well.

### The Village Fête



Although the fête was mentioned in the last newsletter, I just want to thank again all those from the village who helped and manned stalls, despite the rain and all those who came and supported us in true British fashion. I cannot resist a mention for the cake stall which was very popular and to thank people from the village who responded to the call and baked cakes. I include a photo of your endeavours and a photo of our youngest baker,



Harry, busy making buns. Well done Harry and thank you Heather for the picture. Perhaps next year lots of you will send a picture of a young baker!

### Murder Mystery Evening

Yet another update on the Murder Mystery evening at Baconsthorpe Village Hall on Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup> – in case you missed my previous promotions! Posters and fliers are now ready so will be much in evidence everywhere especially at the pop-up pub. Cast are meeting next week as we have new members and will soon be starting rehearsals. Five tables have now been reserved so to avoid disappointment contact Lee – [villagehall@baconsthorpe.org](mailto:villagehall@baconsthorpe.org) if you want a table. Admission is £13 per person which covers the entertainment and your supper. This time we are serving baked potatoes with a choice of fillings and a homemade pudding. There is also a special raffle prize. Prizes will be awarded to the team who successfully identify the murderer.

### Bike Walk Drive

Calling all walkers and cyclists. It's that time of year again when we can all help to maintain our beautiful churches by doing a sponsored bike ride or sponsored walk visiting as many churches as possible. This will be my first time I am ashamed to say but I am setting off with dog on my planned route.

### Village Hall News

**Pop Up Pub** – Friday 29 - curry and rice on the menu, served from 6.30pm

**200 Club** – the chance to win £50 each month for just £1 per month subscription. A reminder that annual subscriptions are now due. To sign-up for a number please contact Piers or set up a monthly BACS payment online to Baconsthorpe Village Hall. Account number = 90423106 . Sort code = 20-30-81 and mark it 200 Club.



Hazel Martin  
07879 414577

## Barningham Winter

It is with great sadness that we report that Mrs Dorothy Parker died at her home Common Farm, Barningham Winter on the 25<sup>th</sup> July. Dottie will be greatly missed by us all. Always so willing to help at any event and a great supporter of the local community she will be hugely missed by us all. Her funeral took place at St Mary's church, Barningham Winter on the 10<sup>th</sup> August. The little church looking at its prettiest in the sunshine was full with both her family and friends from far and wide. We send all her family our condolences.



Sara Buxton  
577207

Michelle French of Green Farm, North Barningham NR11 7LA is hosting a McMillan coffee morning on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September from 10am. Please contact Michelle at [michelle.french@cama.co.uk](mailto:michelle.french@cama.co.uk) or on 07970 164144 if you would like to pop along and support this worthwhile charity Michelle would love to see you.

It is the Norfolk Churches Trust sponsored cycle ride on the 9<sup>th</sup> September. We do hope that you will be able to support this popular annual event.

## Edgefield

### Edgefield Church Autumn Craft Fair - see next page

### Village Hall News

Our next event is a 60s/70s/80s disco on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September 7pm - midnight. Tickets at £10 (to include buffet) are selling fast. Contact Jim on 07946 854901. Winners of the June 200 Club were 1st Jeremy Goldney (87), 2nd Catherine Witts (160) and 3rd Marion Thorne (75) and the July winners were 1st Michelle Sheehan (32), 2nd Patrick Morgan (4) and 3rd Andrew Rainsford (61).



Richard Peaver  
587486

Jim Frost

## Hempstead

### Hempstead Fête - 6<sup>th</sup> August

After an extremely wet 5<sup>th</sup> August setup day! Despite the unsettled weather that resulted in a slightly lower turnout, over £3,000 was raised to be split between the Church and the Village Hall. A huge thank you to all the volunteers and everyone involved!



Jonathan Neville  
07836 675369

# EDGEFIELD CHURCH

# AUTUMN CRAFT FAIR

Saturday, October 7th  
10am - 5 pm

Showcasing Local Artisans

FREE  
ENTRY

STALLS - RAFFLE -  
FOOD - FUN

Edgefield Church  
Sweetbriar Lane  
NR24 2AF

///ties.burglars.wardrobe

For more information call  
01263 585 046

On behalf of the PCC I would like to thank ALL those involved, and supported Hempstead Fête this year. The clouds parted, and wind dropped (slightly) for a great afternoon with many people attending an afternoon of happy fundraising for the Church and Village Hall. Next year Hempstead Church will have the north side re-roofed as the battens have become mushy and has leaked on occasions and a beam has cracked. Therefore, all fundraising is greatly appreciated!

Francis Feilden

## Hempstead 200 Club

£50 J Neville; £25 J Buxton; £10 W Stevens;  
£5 R Carver; I Tyabji and J Loach

## Crafty Creations - September

Mon 4<sup>th</sup> 2 - 4pm - Cyanotype & Painted Stones  
Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> 10am - midday  
Sat 30<sup>th</sup> 2 - 4pm

## Norfolk Churches Trust - Bike Ride

This annual event is nearly upon us; I'm sorry I forgot to put a reminder in last month's newsletter. You don't have to cycle to participate - you can walk (with or without a dog), run, drive or ride by pony to visit some of our magnificent churches in lovely countryside and help raise much needed funds. It's not too late to join up - download forms and information from the website: [norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/bike-ride](http://norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/bike-ride) or contact me direct. I realise that this will be my 25<sup>th</sup> year participating so clearly, I can't stop now. I'm grateful to all those who have sponsored me in the past and hope you will urge me on again this year. And I hope lots of others will join in and take part too - just sign up some sponsors and visit as many churches as you can: it's a good, fun day out - really! If you can spare an hour or two to greet visitors to our church on that day, please let me know :Yvette Gibson 712460.

## 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary for Robbie & Linda West



Happy 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mum & Dad

Love from Pamela, Richard, Michelle, Robert,  
Amy, Lola and Alice xx

## Hempstead Village Christmas Party

After our successful village Christmas Party in 2022 we would like to have another one this year. However, I am unable to organise this myself (as I did last year) due to family commitments. I am therefore asking anyone

that would be happy to volunteer to be part of a larger group organising and bringing together this event for December 2023 to get in touch as soon as possible. If we have enough people this will mean we can spread the workload for all involved. Let's hope we can make this happen again this year. Please contact me at [lesley.lennox@project21.ltd.uk](mailto:lesley.lennox@project21.ltd.uk). Thank you.

Pilates on Monday afternoons at 5pm in the village hall.

Tenth Year

Hempstead Arts  
Exhibition & Sale

Free Admission

Hempstead Village Hall NR25 6TL //insist.warms.pink

2-3 Sept 2023  
Sat-Sun 10 am-5 pm

Over 200 exhibits by over 35 Artists

## Matlaske

### 100 Club

£25 Rob Whitwell, £10 Kelly Bayne, £5 Matilda Courtauld

### How I Met My Fête in Matlaske on 29 July



The first thing that struck me was Splat the Rat, gleefully managed by the Rector and his sons and daughter. I had a mystical vision of all the rats in the parish seeking sanctuary in the church. There was some excellent guitar playing from Harry and Brian which, was more than virtuoso, followed by some charming accordion playing. Pete and his pals in Threescore delighted my ears too. Tradition was important to Fiona, who

taught some eager folk the ancient art of percussion dancing. "Music in your ear, and out your feet", she said. Her grandfather had taught her. "It's a dying tradition but we can help to keep it alive." Adults and children alike leaped to the challenge. It looked like hard work to me, pounding those hard squares. I tapped my feet all the way to that Aladdin's cooler box of beer and chose another bottle, named after Wainwright the hill walker. As a Lancastrian, I was rather pleased with this. Mandy decided we should eat at this point, and led me to Jim and Marion's stall, where those good burghers of Matlaske were cooking great burgers. Every good burger deserves a delicious pudding - the home-made profiteroles shrieked 'Eat me!' - so I did. Granny's Attic was so overflowing that I thought we might need to find a structural engineer to prop the stall up. Tina and Richard's raffle was excellent. I enjoyed bumping into people and having long conversations. Colin and I discussed the next Remembrance Service at RAF Matlaske. As the sun slowly fell in the sky, James played beautiful, reflective music on his guitar. I looked around, contentedly. People from all sorts of backgrounds were being happy together here. I thought, this is what fellowship is. This is what freedom is. This is England. To all those who worked so hard to make the day a great success, many thanks and a huge 'Hurrah!' To Andy and the good folk of Hempstead who lent us their gazebos, we salute you for saving us from sunstroke... though, actually, come to think of it.... No, no, it was the beer.

**Quiz Night** Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm Baconsthorpe Village Hall £6 including jacket potato

### The Lost Chancel

On 4<sup>th</sup> August, local archaeologist Michael De Bootman and his colleague Jason carried out a ground-penetrating radar survey of St Peter's churchyard in the area just outside the big east window, where a chancel and high altar once stood. That chancel fell down suddenly during a service in 1726. Could we find lost graves? No. That was not really a surprise, as grave infill is much the same as the surrounding soil, so the radar scanner can't easily 'see' the grave-cuts. What was surprising was that we found no trace of the old chancel's foundations either. One possible reason is that the medieval foundations were dug out and re-used after the walls collapsed. Some of the old chancel masonry can be seen in the churchyard wall along The Street. Another possibility is that the chancel never had good foundations in the first place, which might explain why it fell down.



Duncan Wood  
570293

## Plumstead

### Norfolk Churches Trust Sponsored Walk & Cycle Ride - 9 Sept

So far from Plumstead we have David Ramsbotham, Eleanor Faulkner, Catherine McMahon, Mike Ray-Jones and his sister and 3 families planning to take part, there is still time to sign-up, so please dust off your bikes and walking shoes and join in! It is a lovely way to support our fine churches and a great opportunity to give as many as you can a visit. If you would like to support any of the participants, please visit [Justgiving.com](http://Justgiving.com) and search for the name of the person.



Harriet Rossi  
577239

### Michaelmas Fair - Saturday 23 September

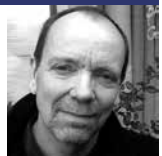
All our welcome to our Fair at St Michael's Church, please do come along and join in. Please bring all items for sale, and Angels, to the church in the week preceding the Fair. Donations of cakes (labelled with ingredients) would be most welcome for the teas in the afternoon on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>. Please leave them in church on Friday, or Saturday morning.

Children are invited to take part in an Angel Hunt in a version of the Elf on the Shelf! - the Angel on the Altar! Bring your completed card to a short church service on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> at 4pm to receive a small gift. There will also be angel-related crafts for children.

## Saxthorpe with Corpusty



Congratulations to Brian and Heather Monks on their recent Diamond Wedding Anniversary. Brian and Heather have been unstinting in their support for church and community, between them serving on the PCC for near on 25 years, including churchwarden and custodians of St Andrews during that time. They met in Sheffield and married in south Wales before building themselves a home in Bamford in Derbyshire. Their roots are now firmly in Saxthorpe and Corpusty, and family and friends helped them celebrate in their garden, with the sun banishing the rain clouds in the nick of time.



John Birchall  
584290

### Classic Cars Brave Rainstorms

On 5<sup>th</sup> August we welcomed the Norfolk Open Churches Classic Car Run to St Andrews, along with lots of local residents who despite atrocious weather came along to see the fine array of vehicles. Everyone was treated to hot drinks and cake. It was a slow start. Half an hour in and we were wondering who had the most freezer space to store the cakes. How wrong we were - it was a complete sell out! To see a group picnicking in our church was something special. Thanks to everyone involved (and there were many).

### Top Tenor to Sing at Harvest Supper!

Internationally acclaimed tenor Rory Carver will be singing at a Harvest Supper at Millers Barn, Saxthorpe on Friday 6 October. Rory has strong links with Corpusty and Saxthorpe through his wife Harriet. They were married at St Andrew's in 2021 and moved to Norfolk last summer before welcoming daughter Persephone a few weeks later! He teaches singing at Gresham's School and from his home in Norwich. Tickets are £20 a head, including two courses and a glass of wine or beer - proceeds to St Andrew's Church - contact Lesley Last on [lesley@saxthorpe.com](mailto:lesley@saxthorpe.com).

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



August in the garden can be a month of contradictions: on the one hand you can have an abundant harvest and glorious show of flowers, on the other hand your garden can start to look somewhat jaded after the long spring and summer months. But help is on hand if your garden needs a bit of a lift! The other thing to remember is that August is very much a transitional month where we have one foot in summer the other stepping into autumn, and it's better to embrace that than be in denial! So, if your garden like ours is looking a bit spent in August, then the trick is to sharpen up the edges to help give it a lift, so give your hedging a trim and give your lawn edges a good cut too, both these will help pull the garden together. The other trick is to persevere with your dead heading to help keep your borders looking their best, it really does make a huge difference. Pots and planters will not only need daily watering but would also benefit from a good liquid seaweed fertilizer to get the most out of them.

So, looking forward to autumn in your kitchen garden it's worth working out which herbs you'd like to have on hand for your cooking. At this time of year, mint can look a bit sorry for itself, but fortunately mint responds quite well to radical revitalization. If like us you grow it in a pot (or in our case a metal bucket . . . pre drilled plenty of drainage) then you tip the whole plant out, chop it in half with a spade (I did say it was radical!) and re-plant the best-looking half. This rather drastic action seems to trigger the plant into putting on a lot more fresh growth, which is exactly what you want from mint. I have grown a lot of our herbs this year in galvanised buckets, which I have been really happy with. I have stuck with one type of herb per bucket and they have all really flourished. Whereas terracotta looks lovely, the smaller pots tend to dry out too quickly, but the buckets have worked really well and they look charming! I will still grow what I call my fresh green herbs in the raised beds like flat leaf parsley and dill and coriander and those three are very much on my list for re doing in August so I've got them for the autumn winter months. There will also be a concerted campaign to ensure there is a good sowing of autumn winter lettuce leaves too, to ensure there is some fresh leaves for the months to come.

All this forward thinking means we must take care to not forget to look after what we have now in the kitchen garden, and here that is primarily the tomatoes in the greenhouse, as we are now in the race to get as many ripened as possible, the best way to do that is to strip the lower leaves from the plants, this helps the tomatoes ripen (literally because the leaves are no longer shading the fruit) As the weeks pass you can keep stripping off the leaves until you mainly have just ripening fruit. Do keep an eye out for blight too, ventilation is key for (hopefully!) keeping that at bay. I have stuck with my resolve on not growing potatoes in our garden and last year (touches wood) was the first

year our tomatoes didn't get blight, which was just a joy. It is a sad price to pay but fortunately we do have a few really good honesty stalls out our way who sell freshly dug new potatoes . . . Thank goodness!

This month's question is from Joan White who wrote in saying she struggles to keep her large planted terracotta pots looking good in late summer, as I alluded to earlier any plant displays you have in pots do require you to go the extra mile this time of year. First up are some tips for when you plant up the pots next year and a confession! If you are planting in terracotta pots... whilst they are beautiful you will lose more water from them (evaporation from the porous terracotta) so a good tip is to line them with old compost bags to slow this process down. I would also think carefully about what compost you use in spring. Don't choose one you know dries out quickly, you need a good quality compost that retains moisture well. Now to the confession! We have moved (nearly) completely away from terracotta pots here to galvanised, which is much more our look but I also feel they are much easier to look after. We had lost too many clay pots to frosts and whilst it is preferable to 'bring' under cover any vulnerable terracotta pots before the frosts, logistically that just doesn't work here.

Now to how to look after them well now, the trick is to remember that even if you've used a good quality compost, most of the 'food' so to speak will have been used up by this point in the season. This is where watering with a good quality seaweed feed once a week is essential and when we get to September I would up that feed again just to get a last good 'show' from your pots. Hope that helps! 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

## Nature Watch - A Very Hardy Fuchsia!

Arthur Pentney



A pair of dilapidated cottages once stood on the plot where we now live. On either side of the old front gate were two fuchsia shrubs, never attended to for years but still in good condition and flowering all the same.

To maintain a link with the old cottages the fuchsias were dug up, transplanted, and have survived perfectly well ever since. It is my belief that these must now be all of a hundred years old, surely a tribute to the hardy nature of a plant whose origins go back to South America. These fuchsias have survived world wars, several terrible winters, frosts, snow, drought... what an achievement to their resilience.

Of the occupants of the old cottages we know nothing other than their eating and drinking habits: numerous cockle shells and empty beer bottles were frequently dug up! But they must have been keen gardeners, with an eye for visual appeal to any visitors to their property, hence the two fuchsias they left behind.

And this fuchsia story continues: our daughter, Sally, has taken cuttings back to Yorkshire. I bet they can survive up there – they've done pretty well so far!

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At St Andrew's there will be a warm welcome for all visitors and Charles Tyndall  
is looking for helpers to meet and greet at the church during the day.

If you can spare an hour or two,

please send an email to [charlestyndall@btinternet.com](mailto:charlestyndall@btinternet.com).

Biscuits or spare fruit from the garden to offer our visitors would also be good.



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