

Church & Village News

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

October 2023



Approaching Plumstead from Matlaske End

Photograph by Mike Ray-Jones

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Parish Council Websites

Baconsthorpe
<http://baconsthorpepc.wixsite.com/baconsthorpepc>
Edgefield
<https://edgefieldparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk>
Hempstead
<https://hempsteadpc.wixsite.com/hempsteadpc>
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<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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What's On

OCTOBER

Mon 2 2.00pm	Hempstead Crafty Creations	Village Hall
Fri 6 10.30am	Hempstead Coffee & Catchup	Village Hall
Fri 6 5.30am	Saxthorpe Harvest Supper	Village Pond
Fri 6 7.00pm	Matlaske Quiz Night	Baconsthorpe Village Hall
Sat 7 10.00am	Edgefield Craft Fair	St Peter & St Paul Church
Tues 12 3.45pm	Hempstead Music	Village Hall
Sat 14 10.00am	Corpusty Defibrillator Training	Village Hall
Sat 14 6.30pm	Baconsthorpe Murder Mystery	Village Hall
Sun 15 4.00pm	Baconsthorpe Drama Group	Village Hall
Thur 19 10.00am	Hempstead Crafty Creations	Village Hall
Sat 21 10.00am	Hempstead Crafty Creations	Village Hall
Sat 21 5.00pm	Baconsthorpe Thai Cooking Demonstration	Village Hall
Sat 21 5.00pm	Edgefield The Samphires	St Peter & St Paul Church
Fri 27 10.00am	Baconsthorpe Pop-Up Pub	Village Hall
Sat 28 10.00am	Hempstead Craft Market	Village Hall
Sun 29 10.00am	Hempstead Craft Market	Village Hall

Clash Diary - see page 5

Post Offices

Baconsthorpe Mobile Post Office Van
Wednesdays 10.45am – 11.30am 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

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 Cottis

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>

Curate's Letter - Reverend Judy Rosser 01263 587584

Dear Readers

By the time this newsletter reaches your letterboxes, the harvest from the surrounding land will be near completion for another year.

For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven;
a time to be born and a time to die;
a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

Harvest festival celebrations will also have come to closure. All the hard work and effort of storing and processing the abundance from our land will be well underway. By the end of this month the clocks will change again too. The days will be shorter, as we move from one season to another and transition from Autumn and prepare practically for the season of Winter.

My thought for this month's newsletter is not so focused on the produce of the land we have harvested, but instead on our own individual and personal harvest of the fruit of the Spirit. The different sections of fruits in the image of the tasty fruits above, are a helpful metaphor to explain what these fruits (or qualities) of the Spirit are. Finally, how we can grow them abundantly in our daily lives and interactions with those we love and care for, in our families and community.

Fortunately, and unlike the food production industry, harvesting the fruit of the Spirit is not limited to one individual growing season. Instead, we grow throughout the full and endless changing seasons of our lives. Some years are richer than others and as our farmers exemplify, the continual effort of planting and plucking must go on, whatever the weather or surprising life events which come our way.

It can be testing to judge for ourselves how healthy and productive our spiritual gifts harvest has been. Those we are closest to us and know us well are often better judges than ourselves.

Sometimes any harvest can be a surprise, be it earthly or spiritual. A crop can grow well when it's not expected to or fail when conditions are perfect. Or perhaps an attitude of loving kindness and nonviolence by someone, towards a person who has harmed them can astonish us. 'The God of Surprises' by Gerard Hughes illuminates how God doesn't always work his purpose out in the way we might expect or hope for and often has surprises for us.

Inhabiting the fruit of the Spirit more wholeheartedly, can feel alarmingly out of our reach, when in Romans we are instructed: 'Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse them, and if your enemies are hungry feed them and give them something to drink.'

Romans 12. 20a

God has so often surprised us and the good news is that he continues to do so and will not let us down. This Autumn Season let us enjoy and share our spiritual gifts or fruits, be it a feast or a famine. May we learn how to grow in our hearts and show in our actions, those gifts which for now elude us. Happy and productive harvesting to you all.

With every blessing.

Judy



The Benefice of Matlaske Church Services for October

1st Trinity XVII		
10.30am	Eucharist	Matlaske
5.00pm	Harvest Festival	Edgefield
8th Trinity XVIII		
8.30am	Eucharist	Barningham Winter
10.30am	Eucharist	Plumstead
15th Trinity XIX		
8.30am	Eucharist	Saxthorpe
10.30am	Eucharist with Baptism	Edgefield
22nd Trinity XX		
8.30am	Eucharist	Hempstead
10.30am	Eucharist	Baconsthorpe
24^h		
10.30am	Children's Event	Edgefield
24th Sept 4th Before Advent / All Saints		
8.30am	Eucharist	Matlaske
10.30am	Eucharist	Barningham Winter
4.00pm	Children & Family Service	Edgefield
2nd Nov All Souls		
6.00pm	Reverend Canon Susan Gunner	Hempstead
5th Nov All Saints		
8.30am	Eucharist	Plumstead
5.00pm	Eucharist	Saxthorpe
Coffee: Plumstead Church, 10.30am every Monday Morning		
Coffee Cake & Chat: Saxthorpe Church, every Wednesday 10-11am		

Two Wildflower Meadows Kelling Hospital Grounds

Please help sponsor two new wild flower meadows by making donations of native wildflower seeds and/or money to buy seeds. A collection box is in the reception of Holt Medical Practice.

If you are able to volunteer to help prepare the ground in October please put your name and contact details in the collection box.

Clash Diary - to add an event contact

Corinne Youngs

577263 / corinne@avyoungs.com

Nov 9	Hempstead Music
Nov 9	Barningham Scrabble Evening
Nov 11	Baconsthorpe Craft Fair
Nov 30	Hempstead Music
Dec 3	Matlaske Christmas Party
Dec 5	Barningham Wreath Making
Dec 9	Edgefield Christmas Party
Dec 8	Baconsthorpe Christmas Quiz

Baconsthorpe

200 Club

£50 H Martin, £25 R Bone, £10 V Butler, £5 M Jackson, P Warner & R Youngs



Bike Walk Drive

Congratulations to everyone who bravely walked/cycled to raise money for Norfolk churches on such an incredibly hot day. Thanks also to Tessa for 'manning' St Mary's for most of the day. I believe she caught up on some brass cleaning! I could not resist including a photo of Constance on her bicycle and one of my dog Bunch who managed 11 churches – taken at St Peter's in Sheringham.



Hazel Martin
07879 414577

Did You Know? From Arthur Pentney

Did you know that Baconsthorpe church tower was on the first triangulation of Great Britain some 200 years ago? It literally put our village right on the map. It is listed by name on the Ordnance Survey map at the time and really puts us in the spotlight. The next nearest named point is somewhere down in Essex. There are some other trig points for Norfolk in the survey but Baconsthorpe is the only one named – fame or what?

Arthur says that sixty odd years ago Mr Hayman, head teacher of the school, asked him to go to the top of the tower to un-furl a flag that had become snagged. There were some lovely views from up there but the surveyors all those years ago would not have seen them as they took their observations at night using flares and lanterns to see the other trig points probably twenty miles away.

Update on Baconsthorpe Castle

Many of you will be wondering what on earth is happening at the castle as it is still covered in scaffolding. According to an article in *The Guardian* funds have been donated to English Heritage to train apprentices in the centuries old technique of 'flintknapping'. Apparently, the building they will be working on amongst others is to be Baconsthorpe Castle! Obviously, this is a huge project but work is set to begin next April. How exciting.

Baconsthorpe Drama Group

On Sunday August 20th the drama group gathered at Saxthorpe church to perform a slightly updated version of *The Good Samaritan*. My congratulations go to the wonderful cast – lines were learned; costumes found and acting perfected. This little group were so professional and the play was much appreciated by the audience. My thanks go to everyone who helped and supported me with this venture – providing refreshments; altering costumes and completing all the important jobs I forget!

Drama sessions resume at the village hall on Sunday 15th at 4pm as we now begin to prepare for the Nativity play which will be held at the church on December 22. Please pop that date into your diary! More details to follow but if anyone is willing to help decorate the church or would like to get involved in any way, please contact me – 07879414 577

Murder Mystery Play

As you read this newsletter the play is just two weeks away. The response has been incredible – all tables booked weeks ago and three teams waiting in reserve – what fun! Baconsthorpe obviously

loves a challenge! Remember doors will open at 6.30pm, time for you to order drinks and purchase raffle tickets for the hamper.

Please help us find Boris

Sharon Baker lives in chapel yard down the public footpath and her cat Boris has gone missing. He is just over a year old; he has no collar but he is chipped. He is a greyish tabby with white underneath. Sharon lives at No 3 in the yard and is anxiously waiting for news of her much-loved pet. If anyone can help her number is 07377 061807

A plea from me

If there is anyone in the village who would be willing to share news of wedding anniversaries, birthdays or any event please do contact me. This is your newsletter and I would love to hear from you. Also, if anyone in the village would like to take a turn at doing the flowers in church, please contact me. It can be for just one month and only involves two vases on the altar.

Village Hall News

Pop Up Pub – Friday 27 - shepherd's pie on the menu, served from 6.30pm, bar opens 6pm

Our grateful thanks to Rick and Holly ably assisted by Jonathan for the great music at last month's Pop Up. We now have a credit/debit card reader at the Pop-Up Pub so you do not always need to remember your cash!

Craft Fair Saturday November 11th from 10am until 2pm. Free entry, tea, coffee available. This is a great opportunity to buy unique, handmade Christmas presents.

Christmas Quiz Friday 8 December from 6.30pm. Food, fun, prizes! £10 per head. Please book in advance, call Emma on 07884 432412

200 Club – we still have numbers available with a top prize of £50 awarded every month for just £1 subscription! Call Piers 07493227591 or see the Baconsthorpe website for BACS details

Piers Warner

**Baconsthorpe
Village Hall
CRAFT FAIR**
Saturday 11 November
10.00am – 2.00pm
A great opportunity to
find a unique Christmas Gift

Barningham Winter

Thank you to all those who visited St Mary's Church on the very, very hot day of the cycle ride. Well done to you all.

We are holding a SCRABBLE EVENING at Barningham Hall on the 9th November at 7pm to start at 7.30pm. Please do come and enjoy this very special evening. The tickets which cost £12 will include wine and nibbles. There will also be a raffle. Please contact amelia@barninghamestate.co.uk if you would like to join us. All the money from this event will go towards St Mary's Church.

The very popular WREATH making is going to be held on Tuesday 5th December at 10.30am. Tessa Papworth is kindly going to instruct us on how best to make them. The cost of this event will be £25 which includes coffee, lunch and the materials needed to make a wreath. Please do contact amelia@barninghamestate.co.uk if you would like to join us. All the money from this event will go towards St Mary's Church.

Good luck to Matilda Courtauld who has gone to Newcastle University to read History. We hope you have the best of times, Matilda.



Sara Buxton
577207

Edgefield



Church News

We begin the month of October with our Harvest Festival on Sunday 1st at 5pm. We will have our usual service of thanksgiving for our harvest, followed by the Harvest Supper in the church. All are very welcome. The following weekend there is The Craft Fair, in the church, on Saturday 7th, from 10am to 5pm. Entry is free. There will be a widely varied array of crafts for sale, also a raffle, and refreshments for lunch and tea, and we would be grateful for any contributions of food and plants. There will also be a plant stall, just as the autumn planting time is upon us! Do come and support us all. On Tuesday, 24th October, there will be a children's craft/activity morning in the church from 10.30am – 12noon. Young people of all ages are welcome, as always.



Richard Peaver
587486

Amanda Watson, a great-great-granddaughter of Canon Marcon, is an artist living in New Zealand. She will be visiting Edgefield and will be painting a 5m x 2m canvas in the churchyard. She would be delighted if anyone would like to participate in this on 22nd or 23rd October. No artistic skill is required!

Angela Turner

Concert by The Samphires

Following the very enjoyable concert by The Samphires last year, the female vocal ensemble is returning to give another recital in the church at 5pm on Saturday 21st. The theme is a line from Tennyson, "There is sweet music here" (which is the title of one of the songs). Wine and cheese will be provided. Admission is free, but donations will be welcome!

Visitors from the USA

The Coleman family from Edgefield, South Carolina, were in England tracing ancestry in Suffolk but also decided to visit their English 'sister town.' Dawn and Terry gave them a tour of the Pottery and they were delighted to acquire some pieces to take home as mementos of their visit. Stacey Coleman said: "We absolutely loved our visit to Edgefield, UK - our 'sister city'! We made the headlines at home in *The Edgefield Advertiser* with this earth-breaking news. Can't wait to visit again."

Village Hall News

Our Christmas party will be held on Saturday 9th December from 7pm. There will be approximately 60 tickets available and as it is always a popular and fun evening, make sure you book early to avoid disappointment. Tickets from any committee member. The results of the August 200 Club and annual prize were as follows: £100 annual prize Alastair Baillie (80). 1st Prize: Ann Harrap; 2nd Prize: Ruth Stewart; and 3rd Prize: Chris Coe. This year prizes have doubled, so we will be giving away £50, £30 and £20 each month and the annual prize draw in August will be £200.



Hempstead

Hempstead 200 Club

£50 A Matthews; £25 L Lennox; £10 S Hannah; £5 A Loach; I Tyabji; J Neville

Autumn Craft Market

Hempstead Village Hall

Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th October 10am - 4m in the village hall. Local handmade craft stalls with all day refreshments including Breakfast Baps and Light Lunches. Come along and have a browse at the variety of crafts for sale. If you wish to book a stall, please contact lesley.lennox@project21.ltd.uk

Crafty Creations Mon 2nd 2 - 4pm - Macrame / Thurs 19th 10am - noon / Sat 21st 10am - noon

Coffee & Catchup Friday 6th 10.30am - midday

Music in Hempstead Tuesday 12th 3.45pm for 4pm Schubert's Octet. All Welcome.

Norfolk Churches Trust - Bike Ride - Sunday 9th September

This took place in glorious sunshine. Eight kind volunteers from the village manned the church in hourly slots and distributed well deserved drinks and cake kindly made by our village coordinator Yvette Gibson. Nine participants took part from Hempstead Parish and we are extremely grateful to them for the money they raised which is to be shared equally between Hempstead All Saints and the Trust. Lorne, Ivo and Charles Inglis walked to a total of 32 churches in Norwich, and Yvette Gibson completed an unbroken 25 years of taking part in the ride.

Charles Inglis has been Chairman of the Norfolk Churches Trust Bike Ride Committee for ten years and is retiring this year. The event has raised over £1.1M for Norfolk's Churches during this period. Three new people have joined the committee and Amelia Courtauld from Matlaske is now taking over as Chair.

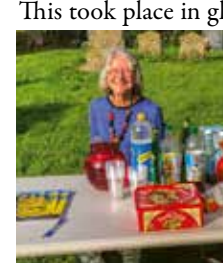
Hempstead Arts



Hempstead Arts 2023 has been another fantastic success, in this, its tenth year. Initially it was started as a Church Fundraiser by Su and Ian Summers in 2013, and its continuation this year is due to the hard work of Ian Summers and his committee of Francis Feilden, Diane Collier and Joanne Sanders. This year has raised over £3,000 with 37 artists displaying over 250 works of art. Many visitors enjoyed a wide variety of high quality paintings, sculpture, pottery, carvings, drawings and cards, all of which were for sale. In an attempt to keep the exhibition fresh and of interest to the people who regularly visit, two thirds of new artists were recruited this year, an approach that we hope



Jonathan Neville
07836 675369



village manned the church in hourly slots and distributed well deserved drinks and cake kindly made by our village coordinator Yvette Gibson. Nine participants took part from Hempstead Parish and we are extremely grateful to them for the money they raised which is to be shared equally between Hempstead All Saints and the Trust. Lorne, Ivo and Charles Inglis walked to



to also adopt for next year. There was an excellent team effort by Hempstead residents, mounting the exhibition, providing refreshments and running the administration desk. This is enormously appreciated by the committee and the wider community and the PCC would like to thank them all.

There was a happy, chatty atmosphere on a fabulously sunny weekend. The hall and outside area looked festive and welcoming with all the bunting and pagodas. The lunches and teas were a great success with one family from Edgefield bringing a group of friends to celebrate their daughter's birthday with a magnificent tea! Cakes, scones, bacon rolls and drinks were snapped up and much praised.

From the Church's viewpoint our main aim is to raise funds to enable repairs to the roof along with the longer-term plan of adding an accessible WC and to redecorated the interior of the Church. All parts of this are complicated and require various permissions, not to mention money but this is an excellent start.

Airlie Inglis (Church Warden)

The Hare & Hounds Remembered by David Coveney



Fred Ison was my grandfather and I remember spending several holidays there as a child in the 1950s. Fred met Major Southerland in a pub in Essex and they became friends. Major (I was always told this was his first name not his rank) invited my grandfather to keep house for him, along with his wife

Dora at his farm, Warren Farm in Kelling. Apparently at the time he ate only raw eggs and needed a change of diet. At that time Major, something of an entrepreneur, owned the farm and Kelling Heath and latterly the Hare & Hounds, which he assigned to my grandad to run for him. I have many happy memories of holidays on the farm, on the heath - in the first caravan ever installed - and in the pub. The Major was a bit of an eccentric to say the least, he would keep and tame a fox and a parrot would keep him company behind the bar. He would drive a Jaguar Mk 2 and I remember him taking me for a hair-raising drive across the heath in an open top - no windscreen Land Rover.

Grandad was much older than Major but he looked after him well and found him a cottage in Little Barningham to end his days. Dora, my step-grandmother lived on and ended her days in an old peoples home in Upper Sheringham. I was told there was a sad ending to the life of Major Southerland, who having disturbed a burglary at the pub was ever after suffering from post-traumatic stress which culminated in him shooting himself in the very pub I remember so well. I have fond memories of Peter Gunnet mentored by Major, though I believe he too came to an unfortunate end. I hope this is of interest to you as part of my early life which left me a great fondness for this part of Norfolk, which I return to whenever I can.



Matlaske

100 Club

£25 Colin Airey, £10 Kate Tansley, £ 5 David Longe

Woolly Jumpers

Two sheep have learned how to get out of Barningham Park to eat the juicy grass in the area we use for the fete. Early one morning, I saw them get back into the park by leaping half-way across one side of the cattle grid, twisting sharply and then leaping over the second half. This is proof that sheep are not as stupid as they look and should be eligible to stand for election to Parliament.



Duncan Wood
570293

Quiz Night - Friday 6th October 7pm - Baconsthorpe Village Hall

At last, Matlaske Quiz Night is back. Please note, change of venue to Baconsthorpe Village Hall. Entry fee £6 which will include a jacket potato and filling. There will be a raffle and drinks will be available. Teams of 6 max, book your table by e-mail: jim.shepherd123@btinternet.com or call 577521.

Help Needed....Opportunity to Sponsor a Fete Gazebo...

At our event in July, Hempstead kindly loaned us their 3 gazebos. Having these made the committee realise that we really need our own. We are therefore asking, if anyone would kindly give a donation towards the purchase. If you are able to, please email jim.shepherd123@btinternet.com or put your donation through the letterbox of Blacksmiths Cottage. Alternatively, you may wish to purchase one outright with your logo attached, in which case, we will be delighted to provide you with details. All correspondence will be treated confidentially.

Did you know?

If you have any old paint tins lying around and don't know how to dispose of them, you can dry them out by mixing in wood shavings or cat litter and stirring until the paint has been absorbed. When the paint completely dries out, you can put the cans in your general waste bin at home. Alternatively, you could post the details online at Freegle or The Freecycle Network, you never know someone may be able to use it. Find out more at www.norfolk.gov.uk/paint

Plumstead

Refurbishments to St Michael & All Angels

As some may remember, a decision was made in 2021 to make changes to the interior of Plumstead church so that it could better serve the needs of our small community.

The views of Plumstead residents were sought and after much discussion a plan was put together to give us a more usable space. Since then, the Parochial Church Council has been determined to raise funds to allow this to happen. We are getting there slowly.

The plans are as follows:

- The font will be moved to the northwest corner of the nave, but of course will still be accessible.
- 3 pews will be removed and we hope to be able to reuse them elsewhere in the building.
- Necessary repairs will be made to the fabric of the building as this work proceeds.



Harriet Rossi
577239

Looking ahead we hope to have a water supply so that a loo and washing facilities can be installed, but first the work set out above needs to be completed.

Everyone is of course welcome to visit the church to get a feel for what changes will be made and a plan will be on display. Encouragement and donations are always welcome and the parish giving page can be found at:

<https://www.paritygiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/plumstead-st-michael-nr11-7lg/>

Memorial for Jill Fisher

Jill, who was a long-time resident of Plumstead, passed away in February this year. She will be remembered especially at the 10.30am service in Plumstead church on 8th October. Those who knew Jill are invited to gather after the service at 11am for a drink in her memory, as many were unable to go to her funeral.

Norfolk Churches Trust Walk

Plumstead's David Ramsbotham has given us a summary of his day and preparation for the walk which took place on 9th September:

It was a very hot day but my training of walking 75 miles or so during the previous two or three weeks paid off. I started the walk at 5.45am visiting the churches at Plumstead, Baconsthorpe, North Barningham, Bessingham, Barningham Winter and Matlaske before breakfast. I then carried on visiting Little Barningham, Wickmere, Aldborough, Thwaite and Alby before finishing at about 12.15pm at Hanworth Church. The total distance covered was about fifteen and a half miles and it took five and a half hours of actual walking to complete. It was all worthwhile knowing that the money donated by my generous supporters [£1,765 at the last count] will be used to preserve our beautiful churches throughout Norfolk. Can you imagine what our villages and landscape would look like without them? Donations can still be made at www.justgiving.com/page/david-ramsbotham-1689508214183

Well done to David and all who have taken part both this year and in previous years raising money for our beautiful churches.

Saxthorpe with Corpusty

Sausage Sizzle Success

Glorious weather greeted the 'Great September Sausage Sizzle' held on the village Green at the beginning of September - and the event will be back again next year. More than 130 people enjoyed the pork and vegan hotdogs, and the games stalls, cake stall and races proved very popular. Reephams' Fire Engine proved a big attraction - and the firemen even joined the tug-o-war. Next year a September Sizzle will be held on Monday 2 September, 4-6pm. The £323 raised at this year's event will be used as a float for the 2024 event to ensure that it can continue. Thanks to all who made this year's event possible - especially Norfolk Fire Service and their firefighters.



John Birchall
584290

No Corpusty Bonfire

There will be no Corpusty Bonfire & Fireworks this year because of its overwhelming popularity and a shortage of volunteers. Last year's event - back after a two-year break - attracted around 3,000 people, and Bonfire Committee chairman Ciaran Chapman said it was becoming increasingly difficult to manage such a popular event safely.

The torch-lit procession through the villages and bonfire on the Green earned space in *The Times* in 2005 when it was described as 'no jolly fireworks fiesta, but a full-blooded tribal ritual.' There is a chance that Corpusty & Saxthorpe's biggest event will be back next year - if there is enough support at a meeting in the Village Hall at 7pm on Thursday 16 November.

Additional committee members and a new chairman will be needed because Ciaran has decided to step down after ten years in the role. "It was a hard decision, but we need younger people to take this up," he said. He hopes to be able to hand over to a new chairman at the November meeting. If you want to see the Bonfire back in 2024, be there!

Whatever its future, many thanks to Ciaran and the Bonfire Committee for all their work over many years.

Free Defib Training

Life-saving defibrillator training, free to anyone who can get along to Corpusty Village Hall at 10am on Saturday 14th October, is being offered by retired paramedic Ray Nash, who lives in Corpusty. Tea and coffee provided. Contact Caroline Randell 07528 149835 if you have queries.

Village Hall Meetings

If you are interested in what's going on at Corpusty & Saxthorpe Village Hall, why not come along to the committee meetings? These are open to the public, and suggestions are always welcome. If you're interested in becoming more involved we always welcome new committee members! Meetings are on Thursdays and start at 7pm. Next meetings 16 Nov / 18 Jan / 21 March / 16 May-AGM / 18 July

Fighting back on the Home Front by John Birchall

"Why is this kettle half full?" I shriek. "How many polar bears must starve before you just boil what you need?"

My children roll their eyes. This is deepest Corpusty. We are thousands of miles from Svalbard where hungry polar bears are a more pressing problem for their cousin. True, it got so hot last summer that apples actually cooked on the trees, and leaves on our tulip tree turned black. And there was that fire that swept along Heydon Road, stopped by the efforts of local people and the Fire Service. But this year, the good old British summer has re-asserted itself. Wildfires in Canada, floods then ground-baking heat in southern Europe - it's not exactly on our doorstep.

And what can we do about it anyway?

Quite a lot actually - and saving hard-earned cash at the same time. "Ah," say the kids. "That's what it's really about!"

Well, why not? And it needn't have any noticeable effect on our lifestyles. So here at Moor Corner we have the Empty Kettle Rule. In other words, water boiled in the kettle all gets used. The kettle's never left half-full of cooling water. Saves energy, CO2, and money. What's more, the water boils much faster. What's not to like?

"Do you really think us doing this is going to stop the glaciers melting?" A fair challenge, and the answer is no, not if it's only us. But if millions of households did this, it would make a real difference.

There are many other ways to make small changes in our daily lives that could add up in the same way. You've heard most of it: Cut a bit of time of the morning shower, and edge down the

temperature. Wash clothes at lower temperatures, and make sure it's a full load. And (cue more eye-rolling) stack the dishwasher to get as much in as possible.

Then there's all the stuff that's left plugged in, quietly humming and drawing power from the grid and money from our bank accounts. You know what I mean - X-boxes, TVs, various chargers. Some things are a pain if not left on standby - but does that have to be every hour of the day?

Small things asking no more of us than better habits and a little more thought. And with the reward of lower bills.

Next time: Cutting fuel spending without changing your car.

John Birchall is a former member of Broadland Climate Change Committee and was motoring writing for *The Evening News*.

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



Glorious October...one hopes! Although yet again I will not be predicting any sort of weather... just hopefully covering all bases!! As I write this it's (hopefully!!) been the last day of the heatwave in September...nearly everyone in the garden has enjoyed it (the dahlias especially!). But I have not, so I am quite looking forward to some grey days and drizzle as I have been positively wilting in the heat. The one good thing about the weather in September has been the stunning mornings all golden sunrises and dew-soaked lawns and beautiful autumnal mists, October...please take note we could do with much more of that this month!

Looking at my notes for October I can see 'prepare for frosts' circled and question marked, at present it feels almost ludicrous to be even contemplating frosts but our weather is so unpredictable and I remind myself that before the latest heatwave I had been looking out the thermals and ordering winter fuel...so here goes! Or rather preparation is what it's all about, so if you've got any frost vulnerable plants make sure you have fleece or sacking to hand to tuck them up in, or if you have anything that needs moving under cover, make sure that space is ready so that there's no last-minute drama if you need to haul them in a hurry.

October is such a good month for getting set for winter, so before the weather gets too dismal and challenging make sure you give your greenhouse a good sort out and clean for the coming

Continues on back page...

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months. If you've not used it for overwintering salad leaves before perhaps think about dividing off a section and insulating it so you can keep some tasty salad additions ticking over during the winter months. The other thing to think about is bare root planting, if you've been contemplating a change in your garden then bare root planting is such a good option, you might need more patience but we are both convinced you will have stronger and more robust trees or hedging with this option. So now is the time to clear that space whilst the soil is still easily workable in readiness for when the bare root season starts next month.

Having been caught out last year with the prolonged cold temperatures in the garden I will be ensuring our dahlias are more securely tucked up this year, I have found that some varieties are more susceptible than others, Café au Lait a beautiful creamy very light coffee coloured dahlia is pretty robust but my other favourite Thomas Edison a glorious deep magenta purple dinner plate dahlia is particularly sensitive to both the cold and damp but as he is so beautiful he is worth the extra care and effort. This year I have deliberately replanted him in the sunniest and best well drained spot in the walled garden...hopefully that and a nice blanket of mushroom compost will make all the difference. The other good stalwart in our dahlia patch is Sam Hopkins, who has a very dark almost black velvet red colour. A good strong and prolific flowerer, I have been really impressed with him as he works very well in a mixed bunch as his beautiful colour helps bring out the colour of the other showier dahlias. My only real disappointment in the dahlia department has been in choosing Obsidian, a very unusual star like dahlia in a deep dark purple with a yellow centre. My plan had been to use them like stars sprinkled in our bunches of dahlias (nice idea in theory!) however it is incredible fragile once picked so almost by the time you've brought all your dahlias into the kitchen ready to be arranged Obsidian will have (frustratingly!) lost most of its petals. But its absolute saving grace is as a single and very prolific dahlia the bees have had a great time, so I will dig them out of the dahlia patch and rehome them so we are both happy!

Finally, it's this month's question which is regarding the best time to plant garlic and other onion sets. October is such a good month for this, the soil is workable and the sets can get established before the all-important frosts that help create 'good bulbs'. 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.

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